



The Grannytown Gazette

The Newsletter of the Alden Historical Society

716-937-3700

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aldenhistsoc@gmail.com

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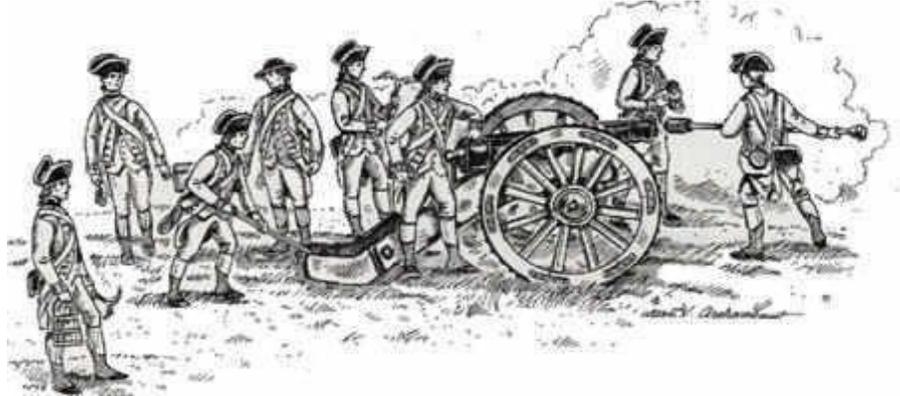
Curator

Kris Rogers

Archivist

Town and Village Historian

Karen Muchow



Alden's Revolutionary War Veterans

Records show that nine Revolutionary War veterans are buried in Alden cemeteries.

Two are buried in the Town Cemetery on Sandridge Road:

William Snow born in Rochester, Massachusetts January 10, 1753. He enlisted in the Massachusetts Militia three times, first to fight in the siege of Boston, then in the battles of New York City and White Plains, and then as a guard unit for Springfield, MA. He married Ruth Butler in Springfield in 1792. The family moved to Alden in the summer of 1810. Son Silas later married and moved west to Ohio. Daughter Ruth, born in Vermont in 1794, married Ephraim Sumner in Vermont in 1809. They had four children. Ephraim had five children by his first wife. William Snow died February 18, 1834.

Oliver Standart, born March 17, 1766 in Boston, Massachusetts, was a private in the Massachusetts Line Continental Army. He married Nancy Hancock, niece of John Hancock, the first signer of the Declaration of Independence. They had three sons. The family moved to Locke in Cayuga County, New York and then to Alden in 1812. Two of the sons became successful businessmen in Elma; the other son moved west to Wisconsin. Two of Oliver's grandsons were killed in the Civil War. Oliver Standart died August 2, 1841.

The other seven veterans are buried in the Alden Evergreen Cemetery:

Timothy Baylies born October 5, 1763 in Massachusetts, son of Nicholas and Abigail. He served in Capt. Benjamin Reed's Company of Col. John Rand's Regiment of the Massachusetts Army. It is said that at the age of seventeen he fought with Washington's army at West Point at the time of Benedict Arnold's treason. He married Hannah Wood in 1788; she died in 1845 in Randolph, Vermont where the family had moved. The couple had four daughters and one son. Nicholas died in 1800 at the age of five. Daughter Hannah Arlotta married Ziba Durkee. Their son, Charles, resided on the first farm on County Line Road, south of Broadway. Timothy Baylies died in 1852 in Darien. His headstone is inscribed with this: First Practicing Physician in the Town of Randolph, Vermont".

continued

James Cheesborough (Chesebrough) III born December 31, 1761 in Stonington, Connecticut, son of Lucy and James, Jr. He served as a private and fifer in the Rhode Island Coast Guard. His father also served in the war. James III also served in the War of 1812, being discharged in 1815. He married Nancy Larkin in about 1784. They had eleven children—seven sons and four daughters. James died March 24, 1848; Nancy in 1850.

Nehemiah Estabrook born August 27, 1749 in Mansfield, Connecticut, son of Nehemiah and Abigail. He served under George Washington, enlisting September 22, 1774 and discharged October 24, 1774. He later reenlisted and served in Col. Chases's regiment in the Battle of Saratoga and was discharged June 11, 1777. He married Elizabeth Slapp in 1771. They had ten children, all born in Lebanon, New Hampshire. The family came to Alden in 1810 along with Joseph Freeman, husband of daughter Nancy. Family lore has it that when Nehemiah heard that Buffalo had been burned by the British during the War of 1812, "he got out his sword, ground off the rust, and (was) determined to enlist again in defense of flag under which he had fought for seven long years; he was finally dissuaded." Nehemiah and Elizabeth were founding members of the Alden Presbyterian Church. Nehemiah died in 1826, Elizabeth in 1824.

Capt. Joshua Hendee born July 14, 1748 in Connecticut, son of Joshua and Elizabeth Hendee. He served with Chase's Regiment of the New Hampshire Militia in 1777. He married Lydia Woodward in 1772 in New Hampshire. They had at least three sons—Roswell, Asel and Homer. Lydia died in Vermont in 1812 so it is assumed that Joshua moved to Western New York after that. He is listed as joining the Alden Presbyterian Church in 1818. He died November 6, 1819.

Matthew Lindsley born May 12, 1763 in Connecticut, son of Matthew and Ruth. He was a private in the Massachusetts Continental Army. He married Mercy Beardsley in Connecticut, March 10, 1784. She died in 1818, living behind at least three daughters. Daughter Ruth (1787-1824) married William Dayton, son of Lyman and Abiah Dayton. Her sister, Clarissa (1802-1885) married Herbert Dayton, brother of William. Daughter Mary (1790-1876) married and moved to Ohio. Matthew later married Abiah Dayton, his daughters' mother-in-law. Matthew Lindsley died April 5, 1839.

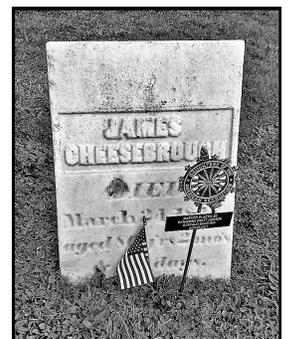
Ebenezer "Ebba" Peck born July 18, 1759 in Connecticut, the son of Simeon and Ruth. Records show that he was in service at least two times during the American Revolution. One, he served with Col. Jonathan Chases's Regiment of the New Hampshire Militia when they marched to Ticonderoga in 1776 and second, again with Col. Chase when they marched to Saratoga in 1777. Ebba married Margaret Taggart in 1794 in New Hampshire. They had six sons and one daughter. Margaret died in 1837 and is buried in Alden Evergreen Cemetery, along with their sons John and Willis. Ebenezer Peck died October 13, 1841.

Darius Waterman born August 12, 1760 in Connecticut, son of Darius and Mary. According to unsourced family records, he served almost continuously from August 1776 to May 1783, either in land regiments or at sea. His wife Ann Waterman died in 1826 and is buried in Cortland County, NY, as is his daughter Mary who died in 1836. The 1840 census shows 79 year old Darius living with his son-in-law Tercius Eels in Cortlandville, NY. Darius died January 26, 1846 and his name is inscribed on the Eels monument in the Alden Evergreen Cemetery.

Biographies courtesy Archivist Karen Muchow

Revolutionary War DAR Marker Ceremony

On September 23, the Alden Historical Society held a brief ceremony at Alden Evergreen Cemetery in which four veterans of the American Revolutionary War were honored with historical markers from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. After Boy Scout Troop 160 presented the U.S. flag for the Pledge of Allegiance, Society President Christopher Gust read biographies of the four patriots while Trustee and D.A.R. member Jennifer Strong placed the markers at the respective grave sites.



Photos courtesy Trustee Larry Kocher

continued

Honored were Joshua Hendee, Ebenezer (Ebba) Peck, James Chesebrough, Jr. and Oliver Standart. Mr. Standart is buried at the Alden Town Cemetery. Rev. Pam Lupfer, Pastor of the Alden Presbyterian Church, said a period-specific prayer to close the ceremony. The Historical Society thanks the Katharine Pratt Horton Buffalo Chapter of the D.A.R. for sponsoring the markers.

Article courtesy President Christopher Gust

President's Message

What is a "patriot"? Besides our football rivals in New England, a patriot is defined by the Oxford Living Dictionary as "a person who vigorously supports their country and is prepared to defend it against enemies or detractors." The term is most commonly applied to those men who joined the fledgling Continental Army in their fight for a brand-new nation to win freedom from the British Empire some 240 years ago. These men, some in their teens, left their friends, family and livelihood to join a fight against a powerful foe in the struggle for an uncertain future. Scary times, indeed... Our community should be honored that at least four of these courageous men chose to call Alden home in the later years of their lives within the young United States of America.



In September, your Alden Historical Society placed well-deserved markers at their grave sites, noting their service to our country in the fight for Independence. Without their efforts, and the efforts of countless men and women – all patriots, there would be no United States of America. The Society thanks the Katharine Pratt Horton Buffalo Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution for providing the historical markers. We also give special thanks and appreciation to Trustee and D.A.R. member Jennifer Strong for performing research and applying for official recognition of these patriots within Alden; Historian Karen Muchow for researching the personal and family histories; and Trustee Susanne Galbrath for helping coordinate our marker-placing ceremony. Meanwhile, our monthly programs at the Community Center resumed in September with a unique look at the 1901 Buffalo Pan American Exposition through the eyes of attendees. Conrad and Carol Borucki have an interesting schedule of programs planned for the coming months and we hope that you will have the opportunity to attend some of them.

As always, we appreciate everyone who are members of the Alden Historical Society and we welcome those who have joined us recently with a new paid membership. If you are reading this issue of the Gazette and are not a current member, please consider joining the Society. We also always appreciate current lifetime members who make donations in lieu of dues. Thank you!

We thank you for your interest and support.

President Christopher Gust

Newly Cataloged items

- Bixby Shoe Polish Bottle- Karen Muchow
- 1947 Alden Central School Yearbook-Karen Muchow
- French's Teenage Party Guide-Patty Overoff
- Hamilton Beach Instructions 1948- Patty Overoff
- Alden Glass Works Canning Jar-Doris Brade
- 1919 Alden High School Diploma- Janice Wigley
- 1929 Irving Berlin Dance Music for Piano-Clair Traver
- 1950's children's clothes and shoes- Sandra Dussault
- Chicken Painting by Mrs. John Sandman c.1900- Sue Galbraith
- 1969 Village Centennial and 1973 Town Sesquicentennial Scrapbooks- Elli Defilippo
- 1951 Wedding Suit and Purse- Sandra Dussault

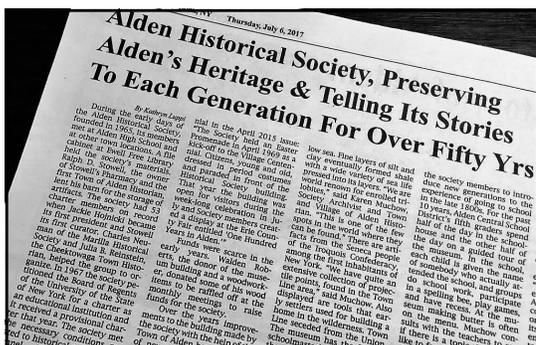


Photos by Kris Rogers



Thank you, Alden Advertiser

We thank the [Alden Advertiser](#) for the full-page article on the Alden Historical Society and our building in the July 6th edition and the two-page spread of color photos from our collection and displays. We encourage everyone to support our local newspaper, which has been in business since 1914, and to visit our building the first and third Sundays of the month, from 1 – 3 pm.



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Photos and captions courtesy Christopher Gust

A Fresh Coat of Paint



Thanks to the [Town of Alden](#) and the Parks & Building department for stripping down and repainting our access ramp over the summer. Looks great!

Photo and caption courtesy President Christopher Gust

Grannytown Gazette Scrapbooks

Past issues of the Grannytown Gazette are now in our collection. There are many interesting articles spanning many years. The Grannytown Gazette can also be viewed at www.alden.erie.gov.

Editor Lynda Tucker

Century Houses

They have stood the test of time, and tower among the backdrop of Alden. They are the Century homes, scattered across Alden's landscape. Although we will always accept information on any century house, we are now focusing on the 100+ yr old houses located in the town. If you are interested in being included in either book, please email us at: AldenHistSoc@gmail.com. Don't forget we have Century House signs for sale for \$45.



Trustee Sue Galbraith

Rochester TV Station Visits Historical Society



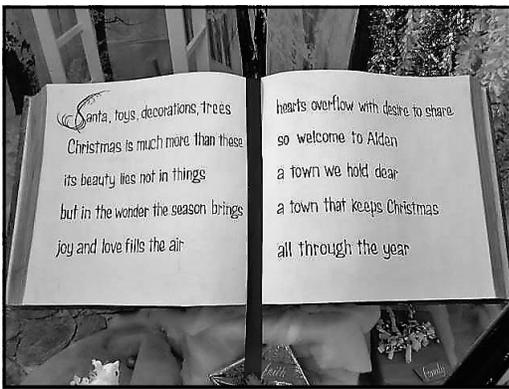
The Alden Historical Society received a visit by reporter [Nina Porciuncula](#) from [WHEC TV](#) News 10 in Rochester on August 16th to do a story about Town Line's (undocumented) secession from the Union in 1861 and reunion in 1946. She conducted interviews, took a tour of our building, and visited the marker the Historical Society placed in 2013. The story aired on WHEC's 5:30 pm newscast that evening.

Photo and caption courtesy President Christopher Gust

Historical Society Earns 4th Place Ribbon at the Erie County Fair

Each year, the Erie County Historical Federation invites its member organizations to create displays for the Erie County Fair. The 2017 theme was *Christmas Traditions in Our Town*. For its display, the Alden Historical Society chose to follow a suggestion offered by society member Carol Borucki. Carol recommended that since Christmas is about “giving,” perhaps the Alden display ought to focus on the spirit of giving, not just at Christmas, but throughout the year, as in Ebenezer Scrooge’s quote from *A Christmas Carol*, “I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year.” Toward that end, the display recognized several local charitable organizations/initiatives: Alden Car Show, Alden Community Scholarship Foundation, Alden Fire Dept., Alden Kiwanis Club, Alden Marilla Food Pantry, Andrew’s Army, Christmas in the Park, Heart & Hands, Neat Repeats, Pet Food Pantry, and Winterfest.

The Alden Historical Society is pleased to have been awarded a 4th place overall ribbon for our themed display at the Erie County Fair. With about 15 area historical societies represented, there were many wonderful interpretations of “Christmas Traditions in our Town”. A huge thank you goes out to the volunteers who made our display come together, including Conrad & Carol Borucki, Gil & Sandy Dussault, Larry Kocher, Carl Matthies, Carolyn Burger, Sue Galbraith, Paul Henry & June Beyers, Michelle Dussault, Kyle Kavanagh, Elli DeFilippo & Lynda Tucker.



Photos and article courtesy President Christopher Gust and Vice President Elli DeFilippo



The Hidden Light of Northern Fires

Daren Wang, the founding executive director of the Decatur, Georgia Book Festival, has just released his first novel. The setting of the novel is Town Line where Daren lived as a young boy. His family lived in the half-converted barn behind the Willis-Webster house on Broadway.

As Daren says in the Prologue: “Like most, my childhood home imprinted me. Years later I went looking for its history and fell down “a rabbit hole of wonder.”

What Daren found was the story of Mary Willis, whose father Nathan Willis, built the house and farm in the 1820s. Nathan Willis and John Webster were early settlers of what would become the hamlet of Town Line, straddling the border between Lancaster and Alden.

The year is 1861 and Mary has graduated from Alfred University, bringing home strong abolitionist ideas. She is said to run an Underground Railroad station in a shed on the farm. Now enters Joe Bell, a fugitive slave from Virginia. He is wounded in a dog attack and Mary nurses him back to health. A deep relationship develops between them.



Willis home

The Town Line Secession is covered as well as the transporting of slaves to Buffalo for escape into Canada.

Alden readers will come across many familiar scenes—the bridge over Cayuga Creek on Townline Road, the toll gate on Broadway in Cheektowaga, the Michigan Avenue AME Church, the Erie and Central Railroads, the Alden depot. And many familiar names—Willis, Webster, Wilhelm, Pride, Dodge, Kidder, Leander Willis and more.

It is important to remember that this is a novel, based on research and facts, but still a novel. Once read, you will find it difficult to drive through Town Line without remembering scenes from the book.

Archivist Karen Muchow

Historical Society at Community Organizations Day



The Historical Society participated with an informational table for Community Organizations Day at the [Alden Farmers Market](#) on Sept. 9th. Raffle tickets for a chance to win a 'Reflections of Alden' book, Community Cookbooks, commemorative mugs & keychains were available for purchase.



Membership applications and information on our 2017-18 Program season were also available. We thank everyone who stopped to say hello.

Photos and article courtesy President Christopher Gust



POTLUCK DINNER

Join Us! November 9

6 PM

Please bring a dish to pass, place settings and your appetite!



**Find us on:
facebook®**

Alden Art Show Winners



It was a beautiful day on Sunday, September 10th for the 60th Annual Fall Art Show. The show included 20 artists, 4 photographers, 7 crafters and several student artists. The Alden Fire Dept. had their annual chicken BBQ, the Alden Ewell Free Library held a used book sale and the Alden Historical Society was open for guided tours. Two of our Historical Society Trustees won awards: Best in Show was Morning Glow, in acrylics, by Conrad Borucki and the Superintendent's Residence at the Erie County Home and Infirmary, in oil paints, by Trustee Sue Galbraith in the Landmark Contest. The residence is located on the corner of Home Road in the Town of Alden.

The Erie County Home and Infirmary was a catch all for the sick and poor. The original portion was built in the 1890's on 152 acres on Walden Avenue.

This home was built in 1928 and it must've been a sight in its grandeur. This 2 story house boasts 8 bedrooms, 2 fireplaces, 4 full and 1 half baths with

a total living space of 3,383 square feet and was home to the families of countless Superintendents.



A county run facility, it was announced in 2010 that the ECH&I would be closed and the patients relocated to the new Terrace View Nursing Home located next to the Erie County Medical Center.

Sadly the building has been vacant for many years. It has fallen in disrepair and time has taken its toll. The fate of this home and the Infirmary buildings is undetermined.

Photos and article courtesy Trustee Sue Galbraith

Historical Society Centenarian



The Historical Society's oldest member, Josephine Michaud, became 102 on November 30, 2016. She was nearing her 103rd birthday when she died June 8, 2017. Although a native of Vermont, Jo and her husband Stanley moved to Emerson Street in Alden, where Jo resided for the next 65 years. She was a 4-H leader and active in Home Bureau. She continued to enjoy reading and knitting into her 100s. Jo was predeceased by her husband Stanley and daughter Susan. Surviving Jo are her two daughters Claudia Villafranca and June Smith, as well as two grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Visiting the 1901 Pan-Am Exposition

After a summer break, the Alden Historical Society resumed its monthly programs at the Alden Community Center on September 14 with a visit by Historian and Pan-American Expert, Susan Eck. Ms. Eck gave a vivid presentation on the 1901 Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, using a unique first- person perspective, by describing the experience an actual attendee would have encountered. She skillfully used rare photographic images and verbal accounts of attendees, beginning with boarding a train at the Exchange Street Depot in Alden for the trip to Buffalo and then taking a crowded trolley transfer to the exposition's Delaware Avenue gate. Lush gardens with various sculptures greeted attendees once they entered the eastern gate. Soon, the grand esplanade came into view and attendees could tour the various exposition buildings, with demonstrations of new technologies, world cultures and food samplings. A trip up the elevator in the Electric Tower revealed a stunning panoramic view of the entire fairgrounds with the sound of cascading water mimicking the great Niagara Falls from below. As dusk fell, the entire exposition was lit by thousands of 8-watt bulbs which adorned the exterior of the exposition buildings, creating a stunning sight unseen before by those in attendance. Ms. Eck closed the program by recounting the last few months of the Exposition before the gates closed in November and the exposition buildings were torn down, except for the New York State Building, which became and remains today, the home of the Buffalo History Museum.

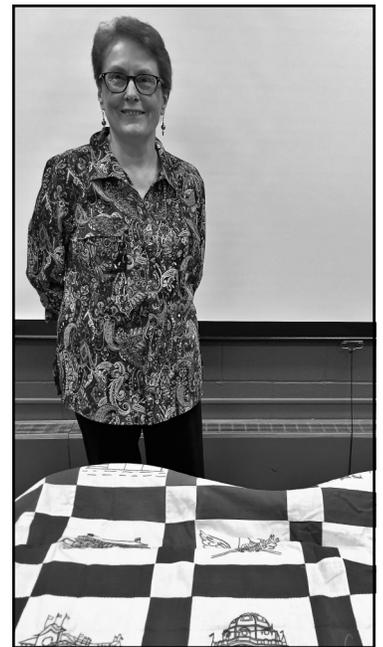


Photo and article courtesy Christopher Gust

Sadly Missed

SARDELLA - SALVATORE— Former Society Trustee

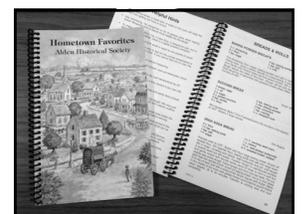


September 18, 2017, age 84. after a long illness. Beloved husband of Mary Ann; loving father of Susanne M. , Charles L. and Jonathan P. (Wendy) Sardella; cherished grandfather of Jared and Sabrina; caring brother of the late Sarah (late George) Mirasola, Anna (late Sam) Di Gesare, Josephine (late Herman) Manguso, Bessie (late Clinton) Shaw, Mary (Wesley) Bray and Paul (late Josephine) Sardella; also survived by nieces and nephews.

Historical items now offered at Alden Pharmacy



By popular request, the Historical Society's "Reflections of Alden" and the "Hometown Favorites" community cookbook are now available for purchase at the [Alden Pharmacy](#). The Reflections book is \$25 and the cookbook \$10 and would make nice gifts for Alden residents and transplants, alike. We thank the Alden Pharmacy for their support!



From our Facebook post

FALL PROGRAMS

OCTOBER 12 ALDEN LANDMARK DESTROYED 7 pm

It has been 25 years since a spectacular fire destroyed the Pfeil Beanery on Railroad Street. Brett Sitzman, Alden Fire Chief at the time of the landmark's burning, will share his account of the blaze along with actual film footage of the beanery and its destruction in 1992.

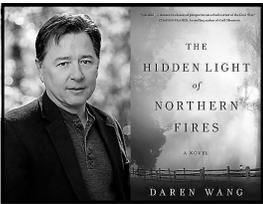


NOVEMBER 9 ANNUAL POTLUCK SUPPER AND BUSINESS MEETING 6 pm

Dinner will begin at 6 pm. Please bring a dish to pass – casserole, salad or dessert – and your place settings and your appetite. Rolls, butter and beverages will be provided. The annual meeting will be brief and will begin at 7 pm; reports will not be read aloud and the election of four trustee positions will be voted upon. Trustee nominated are: Conrad Borucki, Clarke Burke, Larry Kocher and Jennifer Strong. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

ALSO

NOVEMBER 9 MR. DAREN WANG NOTE: 7:30 pm after the potluck supper and meeting



After the potluck dinner and annual meeting, you are invited to hear special guest speaker Daren Wang, author of the book *The Hidden Light of Northern Fires*. Mr. Wang's book is of particular interest, in that the novel is rooted in the remarkable, but little known, history of "the only secessionist town north of the Mason-Dixon line – Townline, NY. Please note if you are not attending the dinner and meeting, although welcome, you can join us to hear and meet Mr. Wang at 7:30 pm

DECEMBER 14 THE ALAMO 7 pm

This program is a special treat. Mr. Tom Shobert will be sharing his expertise on the 'Alamo', a highly celebrated battle in American history. Mr. Shobert, in addition to possessing extensive knowledge on the subject, has amassed an extremely impressive collection of Alamo and Alamo related memorabilia.



Alden Historical Society's 8th Annual Bake Sale *Celebrating "Christmas in the Park"*

Saturday, December 2, 2017 11 am – 4 pm

13213 Broadway, Alden, NY (across from Alden State Bank)

Baked goods may be dropped off at the Historical Society building at 10 am the day of the sale. Please support our bake sale offering goodies donated by our members and friends of the Society. Cash donations in lieu of purchases and donations are also greatly appreciated. The museum will be open for public visitation during the sale, with docents available for guided tours. Call Chairwoman Sandy Dussault, at 716-937-6246 for more information.

Trustee Gil Dussault



Merry
Christmas



Membership—*Lynda Tucker, Clarke Burke, Susanne Galbraith, Jennifer Strong*

Collections—*Jane Burke, Sandy Dussault, Larry Kocher, Karen Muchow, Kris Rogers*

Publicity/Newsletter—*Lynda Tucker, Clarke Burke, Elouise DeFilippo, Gilbert Dussault, Susanne Galbraith, Christopher Gust, Carl Matthies,*

Program/Refreshments—*Conrad and Carol Borucki, Sandy Dussault*

Building and Grounds—*Larry Kocher, Conrad Borucki, Doris Brade, Christopher Gust*

Fundraising—*Gilbert Dussault, Jane and Clarke Burke*

Nominating—*Jane Burke, Elouise DeFilippo*

Audit—*Lynda Tucker, Clarke Burke*

Budget—*Clarke Burke, Christopher Gust, Larry Kocher,*

Historical Marker/Signs—*Christopher Gust, Clarke Burke, Gilbert Dussault, Larry Kocher, Karen Muchow, Jennifer Strong*

Erie County Fair—*Gilbert Dussault, Elouise DeFilippo, Sandy Dussault, Susanne Galbraith, Kyle Kavanagh, Larry Kocher*

Historical Society members are invited to join the standing committees

Historical Society Building

The **Alden Historical Society's** many exhibits are located in the village at the Alden Historical Society Building, 13213 Broadway, across from Alden State Bank. The mission of the historical society is to preserve, promote and present the history of Alden and its people.

HOURS:

The **Alden Historical Society Building** is open to the public from 1 PM to 3 PM the first and third Sunday of each month, **except during January and February.** Tours for individuals and groups may be arranged by calling 937-3700 or 937-6400.

MEETINGS:

Program meetings are generally held at the Alden Community Center on the second Thursday of the month at 7 PM. Notices will be published in the **Alden Advertiser** in advance of the program. Open to the public, these programs are both informative and interesting, often featuring a guest speaker. You are very welcome to come and share your memories and experiences about the evening's program, followed by an informal social complete with homemade refreshments. In the event of inclement weather, we will postpone when Alden school activities are closed.

Trustee meetings are held at the **Alden Historical Society Building** at 7 PM. Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month in February, April, June, August, October and December. Trustee meetings are open to the membership.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New members are always welcome. Your support will assure that the Alden Historical Society will continue to grow and prosper for years to come.

Please note: The membership year is April 1 through March 31, with the annual renewal due by April 1.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

ANNUAL DUES

Single \$12.00

Couple \$20.00

Family \$25.00

Business \$50.00

Please include your Business card

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Please make checks payable to Alden Historical Society

Mail to:

Lynda Tucker, Membership Secretary

Alden Historical Society

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Alden, NY 14004

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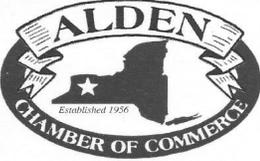
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Born, raised, lives and practices in our community, Attorney **JENNIFER STRONG** is your neighbor and is here to help.

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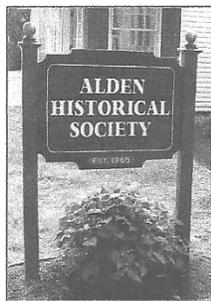
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ALDEN, NY

MISSION STATEMENT

The Alden Historical Society, founded in 1965, is a volunteer supported organization whose mission is to preserve, promote, and present the history of the Town of Alden and its people.



Alden Historical Society
13213 Broadway
Alden, NY 14004

Find us on Facebook.com/AldenHistoricalSociety

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