

THE GRANNYTOWN GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Alden Historical Society, Alden NY 14004

aldenhistsoc@gmail.com

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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 Intermediate Classes Visit the Historical Society

Eleven classes of third and fifth grades discovered a treasure just a few short blocks from their school. The treasure? The Alden Historical Society!

The fifth grades spent half the day at the Henskee Road Schoolhouse in the Town Park where they took on the names and ages of students who had actually attended that school. Divided into three "classes", they did reading lessons taken from old textbooks and worked arithmetic problems on slates, under the guidance of Teacher Sandy Dussault. Recess took them outside (weather permitting) for a spirited game of "Annie, Annie Over." Inside recess included chalkboard games and play with Jacob's Ladders. After recess it was time for a good old-fashioned Spelling Bee.

The other half of the day was spent at the Historical Society building. Using the various displays, the Curator told the story of Alden. Ample time was given for the students to tour each room and to attempt the several "Try-Its" such as the vintage Viewmaster, dialing a rotary phone, typing on the typewriters, using the cash register, and playing the xylophone. The students then made a thermal toy (used to collect the soot from kerosene lamps), churned the most delicious butter and went on the Great Bathtub Hunt looking for thirty-six numbered paper bathtubs located all over the building. Why bathtubs? Because of Alden's famous Blackwater Baths.

The third grades also went on the Bathtub Hunt as a way of seeing what displays and artifacts the Society offers. They first used photographs, postcards and artifacts to learn about Alden's story as they colored in nine-patch quilt blocks. They had looked at some of the Society's quilts and wondered about the stories behind some of the pieces in the quilts.

Perhaps the experiences can best be described in the words of one of the thank-you letters received:

I would like to thank you for letting my class and me go to the Alden schoolhouse and museum. You put a lot of time and effort into your job. I learned many things. I learned how to make butter with a churn and saw some fossils that were found in Alden. Also, the black water baths were so cool to hear about! At the school house, I learned that children of all ages learned in one classroom. It was a great experience to learn about the history of Alden! I would like to return soon!

Eighth Grade "Walk-About"

The middle school art classes of Mrs. Kersten and Mr. Wehr took a walking tour of Alden in early June. These classes have been involved in the paintings for the Alden Book Project.

Providing information at five "stops" along the route were Society members Conrad Borucki, Gil Dussault, Sue Galbraith, Karen Muchow and Roberta Vincent.

Conrad covered Railroad Street, from Bennett's to the Erie Railroad Station. Gil told about the businesses in the village business district along Broadway. Sue gave the history of the Bandstand, Legion Hall, ACTS, and took the students for a brief tour of the Henskee Road schoolhouse. Karen told about the two gifts to the village from Colonel and Mrs. Joseph Ewell—the Ewell Free Library and the Alden Presbyterian Church with brief tours of the interiors of both buildings. Roberta gave a brief history of the Alden Evergreen Cemetery and conducted a hunt for information about some of the people buried there.

The walking time between stops was enhanced by the scavenger hunt Mr. Wehr had devised—counting Century Houses, looking for a family on Mechanic St. whose name rhymes with fun, etc.

Karen Muchow, Curator

Recent Acquisitions

2011 ACHS Yearbook Student Congress
Girl Scout Items Jean LeBlanc, Kris Rogers
Doris Brade, Leta Beyers
Salt Cellars Janet Koelbl
Village Minutes Books Alden Village Board

Karen Muchow, Curator



Pictured above from left to right: Carl Matthies, Sharon Schmitz, Ann Matthies, Bill Dabb, Thelma Dabb, Judy Hotchkin, Roberta Vincent, Sue Muench, Laura Airey, Ralph Davis, Ruth Davis, Sal Sardella, Carol Borucki, Janet Koelbl, Conrad Borucki, Kyle Kavanagh, Gil Dussault, Sandra Dussault, Joe Anzalone, Fred Blowers, Keith Stone

On May 12, 2011 members of the Alden Historical Society met for a guided tour of the Clarence Historical buildings and grounds. Pictured above is a Conestoga wagon which was recently rebuilt by Amish craftsmen. This type of wagon was used for long-distance freight transportation in North America during the 18th and 19th centuries.



Also on site is a log cabin built in the early 1820's and was relocated in the early 1900's from Goodrich Rd. It was first occupied by the Goodrich family and last occupied by "Grandma Landow sometime in the 1970's. It is unique in that it has a stair way to a second floor and a fireplace that is built inside the cabin on the exterior wall.

The tour continued inside the museum with many more interesting items to see from days gone by.

Robert Airey Memorial



We are very grateful to Mrs. Laura Airey for the beautiful addition of new bushes and landscaping on the left side of the building facing Broadway. They were generously donated to the Society by Mrs. Airey in memory of her late husband Bob who was well loved and respected in the Alden community and in the Historical Society. Take a look the next time you visit the Building.

It really looks special! Thank you Laura.



With Deepest Sympathy

The Alden Historical Society extends heartfelt sympathy to the family, friends and relatives of Clayton F. Liegler who passed away April 5, 2011, at the age of 91. Clayton joined the Society in 1976 and was a lifetime member.

A Call For Volunteers

If you are interested in the history of Alden, like meeting people, and want to help your Society, please consider becoming a Saturday or Thursday house sitter. The Society building is open every Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm, and beginning in January, every Thursday from 6-8 pm. We encourage volunteers to consider a two hour period.

The Society's own "Green Team" keeps the grounds attractive. They are always looking for helpers. Expertise in gardening appreciated, but not necessary.

Help is needed computerizing the collections records. We have a computer program to input the information.

We have a new DVD recorder on hand but need someone with the skills and interest in converting our VHS videos to DVD format.

Housekeeping gives our historic building tender loving care from dusting and vacuuming to washing windows and curtains.

For more information or to volunteer, leave a message at 937-3700 or e-mail aldenhistsoc@gmail.com.

Karen Muchow, Curator

Century Houses Needed

The editors of THE GRANNYTOWN GAZETTE are seeking **Century Houses** to feature in future newsletters. If you are the proud owner of an Alden home at least 100 years of age, we would like to hear from you. Help us to convince potential home buyers of the benefits of owning and maintaining a home loaded with memories and unique features. We invite you to share with our readers a brief written history of your home. Copies of previously submitted "Century Houses" are available as models to assist you in the task of writing the history. Please leave a message at 937-3700 or e-mail aldenhistsoc@gmail.com.

Historical Society Open First and Third Thursday Evenings

Beginning in January 2011, the Alden Historical Society added open hours every first and third Thursday of the month from 6-8 pm, in addition to the Saturday hours from 10 to 2 pm. This is to offer availability to people who are unable to visit during Saturdays. The Society has no charge for admission, but donations are gratefully accepted. Come enjoy this free benefit!

The Society is encouraging its membership to volunteer to assist during these additional open hours in order to maintain a minimum of two adults in the building at all times.

Notes from the President

Dear Member,



I am pleased to report that an effort by the Board of Trustees to upgrade the security of the building on Broadway has been successful. A committee of three, Paul Werner, Fred Blowers and I were able to secure an acceptable bid by an alarm company to fully cover the building with fire, smoke and intrusion protection at a reasonable cost. This action should ensure that the valuable artifacts in the building and the beautiful building we have are protected for future generations.

We are very grateful to Town of Alden Supervisor Ron Smith and the Town Board for their leadership and support in this endeavor. They too recognize the valuable community historical resource we have and took responsible action to assist the Society in the upgrade.



We were saddened to learn recently of the passing of our dear friend and supporter, Arlene Cooke. Arlene was a Town Councilman and Liaison for the Historical Society for many years. At our last Board meeting in early June, we paused for a moment of silence in her memory. Her service to our Alden community was long and dedicated. She will be missed by her friends, family and constituents. We are pleased that Councilman Ron Snyder has been appointed by the Town Board to be our new Liaison.



Kudos to our devoted Curator, Karen Muchow, for her tireless effort to develop and improve our educational historic programs for the children of Alden. Recently, we conducted successful programs for the ACS 5th grade, some 3rd grade students, and a historic walking tour for some 8th graders. All the reports and comments were very positive, and we are looking forward to becoming more of an educational resource for the Alden Schools in the future.



As many of you know, your Historical Society has recently taken steps to become more community active and accessible to the Alden public. We are a valuable community historic resource with the prime mission to preserve, protect and present the history of Alden to its residents. Our position to expand our public activities is not without cost. We are finding that dues do not cover our expenditures. Many of our members are life members and pay nothing each year. Periodically we will conduct a fund raiser to cover our shortfall, but sadly, that is not enough.

At this time I am appealing to each and every member who believes in the mission as we do ...to dig deep and help us financially to the best of their ability. Any gift is important and appreciated. Our needs are small, but we have a serious shortfall in the income category and truly need your help. Send us whatever you can afford. We cannot continue to operate forever this way. Thank you for your support.

Thank You

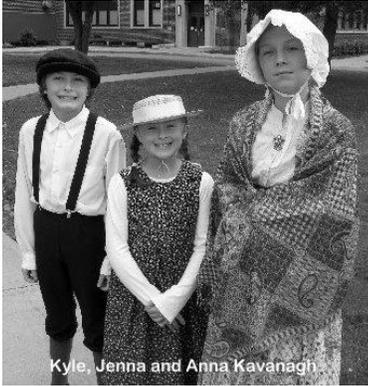
To the Alden Intermediate School PTO for the generous donation for educational programming.

To Patti Mooney for her donation to offset some of the expenses of the fifth grade tours.

Gil Dussault, President

The Alden Hook and Ladder Fire Company Heritage and Reunion Carnival Annual Parade

Once again the Alden Historical Society participated in the Firemen's Parade. This year the theme was the secession of the Hamlet of Town Line from the Union. The float featured the original desk used in 1861 to sign the Articles of Secession.



A special **thank you** to all those who helped with the float:

Mary Stone, Kris and Patrick Rogers, the Foss family, Jamie Plant, Bridget Ciupek, Sean McMahon, Kyle and Jenna Kavanagh and Scouts from Troop 117, Joe Gallina and Peter Krickovich.



A Test For "Old Kids"

1. After the Lone Ranger saved the day and rode off into the sunset, the grateful citizens would ask, "Who was that masked man?" Invariably, someone would answer, "I don't know, but he left this behind." What did he leave behind?
2. When the Beatles first came to the US in early 1964, we all watched them on The _____ Show.
3. "Get your kicks on _____."
4. "The story you are about to see is true. The names have been changed to _____."
5. "In the jungle, the mighty jungle, _____"
6. "Nestles makes the very best _____."
7. What "takes a licking and keeps on ticking?" _____
8. Red Skeleton's hobo character was called _____.
9. Red always ended his television show by saying, "Good Night and _____."
10. The cute little car with the engine in the front was called the VW. What nicknames did it have? _____

ANSWERS

1. a silver bullet, 2. Ed Sullivan, 3. Route 66, 4. protect the innocent, 5. the lion sleeps tonight, 6. chocolate, 7. the Timex watch, 8. Freddy, the Freeloader, 9. God Bless, 10. Beetle or Bug

HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUILDING

The ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S many exhibits are located in the Alden Historical Society Building at 13213 Broadway in the village, across from the 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 every Saturday from 10 to 2 pm and the first and third Thursdays from 6-8 pm from March to December..
Tours for individuals and groups may be arranged by calling 937-3700, 937-6400 or email aldenhistsoc@gmail.com

MEETINGS:

Program meetings are generally held at the Alden Community Center on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 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. Many times a guest speaker is present. You are very welcome to come and share your memories and experiences about the evening's program. Afterwards enjoy an informal social complete with homemade refreshments.

Trustee meetings are held at the Alden Historical Building at 8:00 pm. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month in February, April, June, August, October and December (even-numbered months). The trustee meetings are open to the membership.

OFFICERS

President..... Gil Dussault
V. President Roberta Vincent
Secretary..... ...Kris Rogers
*Treasurer.....*Elli DeFilippo
*Curator.....*Karen Muchow
*Archivist.....*Karen Muchow

TRUSTEES

Society Historian Fred Blowers
Alden Town Historian Kris Rogers
Alden Town Board Liaison Leonard Weisbeck
*Editors.....*Elli DeFilippo/Carl Matthies Bill Dabb Sal Sardella
*Publicity.....*Judy Hotchkin Ronald Snyder Elli DeFilippo Keith Stone
Judy Hotchkin Paul Werner

Welcome New & Renewed Members

RENEWED MEMBERS:

Sue Galbraith
Beverly Nebrich

BUSINESS MEMBERS:

Alden Community Scholarship
Foundation
Alden Advertiser
Alden State Bank
Neill & Strong, Attorneys LLC
The Elwood-Jordans Agency Inc

RENEWED FAMILY MEMBERS:

Bernie & Ellen Schenkler
Keith & Michele Hoffman

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

New members are always welcome. Your support will ensure that the Alden Historical Society will continue to grow and prosper for years to come. Please make check payable as noted below. Thank you for your support.

DUES

Single	\$8.00	Name.....
Family	\$12.00	Address
Lifetime.....	\$75.00
Business....	\$45.00	Phone.....	Email.....

A check payable to: *ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY* may be mailed to:

Judy Hotchkin, Membership Secretary
Alden Historical Society
13213 Broadway
Alden, NY 14004

DONATIONS AND MEMORIALS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

Please remember

The Alden Historical Society in your Estate Plans
A bequest in your memory or in memory of someone you love
can help preserve the heritage of our community

aldenhistsoc@gmail.com

Phone 937 3700

A special thank you to the ALDEN ADVERTISER for donating membership cards to the Alden Historical Society.

Judy Hotchkin, Membership

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Summer has arrived!!

The historical society will be taking a well deserved break in July and August to enjoy the warm and sunny days of summer. Please be sure to attend our very special program to be held at the Town Line Lutheran Church in September as noted below.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2011 150th Anniversary Secession from the Union 7pm, Town Line Lutheran Church

This program will focus on the secession of Town Line from the Union 150 years ago (1861) and its re-entry in 1946. Our presenters, many of them long time residents of Town Line, will share their knowledge and enthusiasm of this remarkable and unique story. There will be dozens of photographs, maps, artifacts, memorabilia and verbal accounts. The program will be in the large meeting room of Town Line Lutheran Church on Town Line Road just north of Broadway and will begin at 7 PM. There are plenty of parking spaces and there is elevator access within the building.

Below are articles taken from the old Courier Express in reference to the secession:

Courier Express February 21 1937 and September 3 1933



Sympathize with Confederacy- Town Line had so many Southern sympathizers that it took action unparalleled in the United States north of the Mason-Dixon Line at the beginning of the Civil War. Town Line, by a majority vote of its citizens, seceded from the Union. Almost 500 miles away from the nearest Confederate State, the obscure settlement was an isolated but loyal patch of the Confederate States of America. While the rest of Erie County sent thousands into battle for the Union, it is believed at least five men from Town Line went South and fought for the Bonnie Blue Flag of the Confederacy.

Majority for Secession - Feelings about the war ran high in the Hamlet. They came to a head in the late part of 1861. In a stormy embittered meeting the community's 125 voters one night, after a stormy session, voted 85 to 40 for secession and cheered Jefferson Davis. Town Line, fourteen miles from Lafayette Square, became a part of the Confederacy.



Our local volunteer firemen at Town Line have kept the memory alive with a shoulder patch they wear on their uniforms that reads: "LAST OF THE REBELS 1861-1964, TOWN LINE, NY-FIRE DEPT."

You are invited to join us right near where it all took place 150 years ago in "downtown" Town Line.

AUG. 10 to AUG.21, 2011 Town Line Secession Display Eire County Fair

Be sure to visit the display designed and erected by members of the Alden Historical Society in the Historical Building of the Erie County Fair. The display commemorates the 150th Anniversary of the secession of Town Line from the Union in 1861.

**ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DATES TO REMEMBER
SUMMER 2011**

PROGRAM MEETINGS	TRUSTEE MEETINGS 8 PM, Historical Society Bldg
JULY.....Summer Break	
AUG. 10-21.....Town Line Secession Display Erie County Fair	AUGUST 4 Historical Society Bldg. Members Invited
SEPT. 8Town Line Secession 7 PM, Town Line Lutheran Church	

ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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