

# THE GRANNYTOWN GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Alden Historical Society, Alden NY 14004

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[www.alden.erie.gov](http://www.alden.erie.gov)

## 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.

## *CENTURY HOUSE* *1402 EXCHANGE STREET* *ALDEN, NY*

**Dan and Laurie Moultrup, owners/residents of our featured “Century House” offer the following historical account of their home:**

We have called 1402 Exchange Street home since September of 1983 when we purchased it from Laurie’s mom, Virginia Fleckenstein. Our son Aaron was 10, and our daughter Lindsey was almost 2 at the time.

According to the deed, the land was designated Lot No. 17 in Township 11 and Range 5 of the Holland Land Company.

The earliest transaction shows the property and house being sold in 1819 from Wilhem Willink to Aaron Bunce for \$1017.00.



*Photo taken in 1850*

The original home had a large living quarters with a stone foundation, carriage house and small barn. Unfortunately, a fire damaged the main structure.

Thomas Farnsworth purchased the property in 1821, and by 1850 the property had switched hands 8 times. In 1878 Julia Butler was deeded the home as a wedding gift. At age 18 she wrote in her diary of walking to the train station at Exchange and Railroad Streets to view the 21<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Civil War soldiers as they passed through Alden.

Ownership had changed 12 more times from 1880 to 1951 when Laurie’s parents, Al and Virginia Fleckenstein, purchased the property.

Continue on backside

Over the course of 50 years Al remodeled the house room by room.



In 1991 we added a second level consisting of a master bedroom and bath that overlooks the backyard and gardens. A den/computer room overlooks Exchange Street. In 1992 the family room was remodeled – a vaulted ceiling and skylights provide much appreciated sunlight to the west side of the house.

Our home has seen much life and activity in its almost 200 years. With the addition of grandchildren, we expect the trend to continue for many more!

*Dan and Laurie Moultrup*

**From the Secretary's Desk:**

A revised Constitution and Bylaws document was approved by the members in attendance at the Annual Meeting on November 13, 2008. Please notify Laura Loehr if you would like an updated copy. Members are asked to participate in the Standing Committees of the Historical Society. We need you!! There is no way that the Trustees can conduct all the business of the society by themselves. Descriptions of the duties of each committee are listed in the Constitution and Bylaws. Listed below are the committees and the help that is needed. There should be one Trustee and at least one society member for each committee.

- Membership Committee**.....at least one society member needed
- Publicity Committee**.....at least one society member needed
- Building and Grounds Committee** .....at least one society member needed
- Collection Committee** ..... Chairperson Keith Stone would welcome more members
- Fundraising Committee** .... we have 1 volunteer, more members would be welcomed
- Program Committee** ..... we have 2 volunteers, more members would be welcomed
- Nominating Committee** .....elected at the Annual Meeting Nov. 13, 2008
- Audit Committee**..... one society member needed

Please let us know of your willingness to help by contacting us now. You may leave a message by calling the historical building at **937-3700**, e-mail Secretary Laura Loehr at [lawloehr@gmail.com](mailto:lawloehr@gmail.com) or contact any member on the Board of Trustees.

*Laura Loehr, Secretary*

## **Membership Committee**

### **Membership Directory**

The Society plans to publish an annual Membership Directory, with the names, addresses and phone numbers of our members. This will facilitate getting to know one another a little better! We'll also be able to let you all know who the Trustees are, as well as the members of standing committees. If you would prefer **not** to have your address and/or phone number published, please contact the Secretary, Laura Loehr, in writing by January 31, 2009, at the Historical Building (13213 Broadway, Alden, NY 14004).

*Laura Loehr, Membership Committee*

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### **Curator's Corner**

I have been working with the Collections Committee in inventorying our collections. This is a time consuming, but very necessary, chore. We have found some items without acquisition numbers, and some items that do not fulfill the Society's mission "to preserve, promote and present the history of the Town of Alden and its people." The job then becomes one of deciding what to do with these items.

The first avenue is to see if another historical society would have a need for the item. I have found some papers—wills, deeds, receipts—which other societies in New York or Connecticut might like to have. I will be contacting them to pass along the papers.

You may have items that you would like to give to the Historical Society. In giving them, you sign the items over to the Society so be sure you check with family members first. Then be sure the items have an Alden connection. How will your items help us tell the story of Alden to our visitors? What are the stories that go along with your items? If you think the items have value, please have them appraised before giving them to us. We cannot appraise them, nor do we recommend appraisers.

We are grateful for all the people in the last forty years who have given items to the Society. We find that now our display space and storage space is at a premium so we may have to be more selective in our acceptance, but don't let that discourage you. You may have just the things that we need.

### **We Have "Found" Her!**

Histories written about Alden have stated that Arunah Hibbard's daughter was the first white child born in Alden. Up until now she has been nameless. In doing a genealogical research of the early settlers of Alden, she has been found. Arunah's daughter was Emily, born April 23, 1811 in Clarence, Niagara County, New York. Of course in 1811, Alden was still part of Clarence and Erie County had not yet been formed from Niagara County. Emily married Dr. Ira Packard April 27, 1829 in Yorkshire, New York. They had five children. Emily died April 2, 1889 in Sturgis, Michigan. Emily's parents had also moved to Sturgis and are buried there.

*Karen Muchow, Curator*

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### **Collections Committee**

The Collections Committee, consisting of Karen Muchow, Roberta Vincent, Buddy Czechowski and Keith Stone, are presently working on inventorying the Society's collections. We are in need of volunteers to help with this undertaking. The committee is also developing a display on how Alden got its name.

If you have any ideas for displays please send them to Committee Chairman Keith Stone at [Stoneyge@localnet.com](mailto:Stoneyge@localnet.com) with the subject line: "Historical Collections Committee". This will avoid their from going into a spam file.

The Collections Committee will meet on January 17, 2009 at 10:00 am, at the Historical Building. We invite any member with an interest in helping to join us at this time. Thank you.

## Archivist's Article

### Home Court – Homécourt

In the 1992 Town of Alden Street Directory there is no street called Home Court. When the next directory was published in 1995, there were twenty-eight homes listed there. More interesting than the growth-spurt for the village, was the way its name was selected and the events which followed.

Although Home Court is a very American name, developer Thomas Aiken and his wife Louissette decided to use the name of her home-town, Homécourt which is located in France.

When Mrs. Aiken returned to France in 1998 for one of her frequent visits, and mentioned that there was a street in Alden named after the city, some of the officials were excited and declared that Alden was their "sister City". They sent to the Alden Historical Society a plate which was crafted in a well-known French pottery. The beautiful and intricate plate, which is on display in the museum, shows the insignia of the town of Homécourt.

A year later, on August 11, 1999 Homécourt was due to experience a total eclipse of the sun. A local potter made souvenir plates to commemorate the occasion. Mrs. Aiken returned to Homécourt in order to view the eclipse and brought one of those plates to Alden. It too is on display at the museum along with a commemorative postage stamp and envelope.

Although most folks may not realize it, Alden has a street with a French name (slightly altered) and a sister city in Europe.



*Home Court at W. Main St.*



*Plate from Homécourt, France  
commemorating total eclipse*



*Plate from Homécourt, France  
with Homécourt insignia*

*Ruth Davis, Archivist*

## Notes from our Historian

### EARLY ICE SKATING RINK

How many remember the ice skating rink behind the drug store (Alden Pharmacy)? In the thirties a group of young men would make a hockey rink by flooding the parking lot area. After a year or two, and with the help of the late Judge George Wilson, the group built a rink off Broadway about where the Value store is. A local hockey team was formed and they played other area teams. When the team wasn't practicing or competing the kids in town were able to skate.

*Janet Koelbl, Historian*

# WELCOME NEW & RENEWED MEMBERS

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS:

Phyllis Cohen  
Sue Muench  
Amy Stone  
Daniel Stone  
Jeffrey Stone  
Jim Wagner

## NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS:

June Beyers  
Helen Giczkowski  
Adam Rutkowski  
Dean Sterlace

## RENEWED MEMBERS:

Doris Brade  
Laura Loehr  
Steve Malovich  
Ron Savage  
Vi Savage

## BUSINESS MEMBER:

The Elwood-Jordans Agency Inc.

## NEW FAMILY MEMBERS:

Kevin, Tanya, Mikaela and  
Brianna Quinn  
Matthew & Antoinette Shriver

## BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS:

The Alden Historical Society accepts business memberships, annual dues is \$45.00. The Elwood-Jordans Agency Inc. is the first business to apply for membership. Mr. Brooks D. Bowman, president of Elwood-Jordans Agency, encourages other local businesses to join of the Alden Historical Society.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

Please note that as of Jan. 1, 2009 membership dues have increased to the amounts noted below. 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.

## 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 1400

DONATIONS AND MEMORIALS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

ALDEN HISTORICAL BUILDING PHONE No. 716 937 3700

# MONTHLY PROGRAMS

JANUARY 08, 2009.....Recollection of a Civil War Surgeon  
7:00 pm at the Alden Community Center



Member Conrad Borucki will be our Civil War veteran and read an article that was published in the Buffalo Courier Express in 1920. It was written by Laura Airey's grandfather about Laura's great grandfather Dr. William Varian, telling of his many experiences as a Civil War Surgeon. If you or someone you know has a Civil War veteran in your family tree this would be your opportunity to credit him for his service.

FEBRUARY 05, 2009.....Trustee Meeting  
7:00 pm at the Alden Historical Bldg.  
Open to the Membership

FEBRUARY 12, 2009.....History of Alden Presbyterian Church  
7:00 pm at the Alden Community Center



*Photo by Alden Chamber of Commerce*

You may recognize the photo on the left as the Alden Presbyterian Church but maybe not the 1830's photo on the right of the Presbyterian Church that was used for about 75 years.



Members Ruth and Ralph Davis, Janet Koelbl, and Karen Muchow of the Alden Presbyterian church will be present to give a historic review of their church.

MARCH 12, 2009.....Alden's Irish Connection  
7:00 pm at the Alden Community Center



*Ireland*

This program will focus on the Village of Alden's very first settler, Moses Fenno from Ireland, and the War of 1812. Plans are to retain a speaker on the War of 1812 from the Buffalo & Erie County Historical Federation. More details will be in the Alden Advertiser as the date approaches.



*War of 1812*

## ALDEN HISTORICAL BUILDING:

The ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S many exhibits are located in the Alden Historical 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 Building will be closed the month of January to facilitate the job of inventorying.**

**Regular Saturday hours, 10 am to 2 pm, will resume on February 7.**

It is also open during the Alden Art Show in Sept. and during Christmas-in-the-Park in early December.

Tours for individuals and groups may be arranged by calling 937-3700 or 937-6400.

### MEETINGS:

**Program meetings** are held at the Alden Community Center on the second Thursday of the each 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 7:00 pm. Meetings will be 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.....*Roberta Vincent

*Vice President.....*Ralph Stoos

*Secretary.....*Laura Loehr

*Treasurer.....*Ralph Davis

*Curator.....* ...Karen Muchow

*Archivist.....*Ruth Davis

*Society Historian.....*Ellen Schenklera  
*Alden Town Historian*

Leonard Weisbeck  
*Alden Town Board Liaison*

Arlene Cooke

*Editor.....*Carl Matthies

*Publicity.....*Judy Hotchkin

### TRUSTEES

Fred Blowers

Ralph Davis

Judy Hotchkin

Laura Loehr

Carl Matthies

Marlene Roll

Sal Sardella

Ellen Schenkler

Ralph Stoos

Roberta Vincent

Paul Werner

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## LANDMARK COLLECTIBLES

### Simme's Meat Market

Built circa 1905 and located at 13237 Broadway at the corner of Kellogg St. it was the original site of the Simme's Meat market. In later years the Randall & Parson Meat Market and then Garas Meat Market would also call it home. In the late 60's a change in service came with Foley's Auto Parts. It shifted again in November 1976 with the opening of Henry's Candy & Gifts, which continues today. The building has gone through some small changes to include the removal of the two-story smokehouse located on the south or back side of the brick building and the addition of a block building at the same location.



The price for this replica is \$25.00. You may call Marlene Roll at 937-4549 or stop in at the Historical Building on Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm to place your order for this collectible or for any of the former collectibles.

### HOUSE BUILT BEFORE 1909?

If your house was built before 1909 it will qualify to be one of Alden's Century Homes. Your home has earned the right to proudly wear a century home plaque. Alden's Century Homes are (with the owner's permission) photographed. These photos are kept in the historical society's archives. Century home plaques can be purchased from the Alden Historical Society by calling Marlene Roll or stopping in at the Historical Building on Saturday. Plaques cost \$35.00 each. Phone No. at the Historical Building is **716 937 3700**.

**Marlene Roll,** *Century House*

**ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
DATES TO REMEMBER  
WINTER 2009**

**PROGRAM MEETINGS**

Alden Community Center, 7 pm

January 8 .....Civil War Surgeon

February 12 .....Alden Presbyterian Church

March 12..... Alden's Irish connection

**TRUSTEE MEETINGS**

Alden Historical Building, 7 pm

February 5.....Members Invited

ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
13213 BROADWAY  
ALDEN, NY 14004

[www.alden.erie.gov](http://www.alden.erie.gov)



ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Chartered by the Board of Regents  
New York State Education Department

Prst Stad A  
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Alden, NY 14004  
Permit No. 6