

THE GRANNYTOWN GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Alden Historical Society, Alden NY 14004

Published Quarter

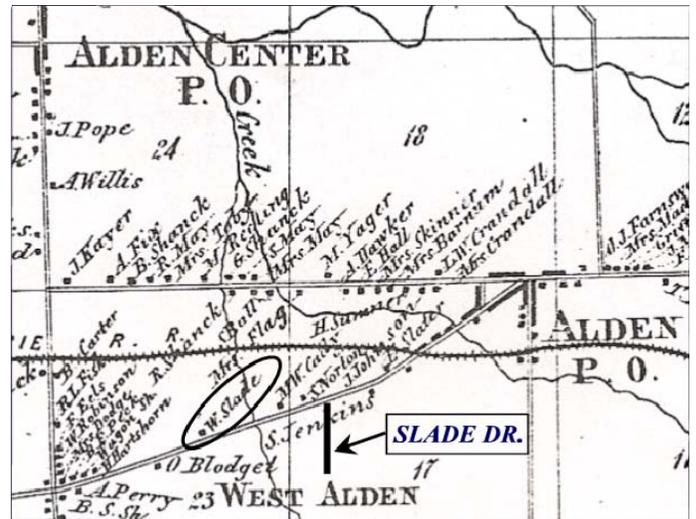
April 2008

alden.erie.gov

SLADE DRIVE...NEW STREET IN ALDEN

There is a new street in town. Slade Drive (see map at right) is a very short street and there are no houses on it, but there is the possibility for extending it farther south. For now, it provides access to Tops' parking lot from the east. It's good to know that the Village Board chose to name the street after one of Alden's early families.

Samuel Slade came to Alden in 1811 and bought farmland along Broadway just west of the present village. His son William was born there in 1824. The Slade home was located at what is now 12686 Broadway (shown circled on map). That house may have elements of the original Slade home.



ALDEN NY 1866

Assessor records at the Historical Museum, which go back only as far as 1851, show that William Slade owned 86 acres at that time. The next year he had 111 acres. By 1893 he had only four acres. According to articles written by Ralph Stowell, at Alden's first town meeting in 1823, Samuel Slade was chosen to be Commissioner of Public Schools. Records at the museum also indicate that in 1865 William Slade was elected Town Supervisor.

William Slade's obituary, which is on file at the museum, does not give the year of his death, but the Rev. Scott Moore and the Rev. Dr. P.J. Pockman conducted the services. That would be sometime between 1912 and 1916, since Dr. Pockman was the Presbyterian minister during those years. Mr. Slade was an active member of the Presbyterian Church and had served as leader of the choir for many years. He was tenor singer in the choir for most of his life.

William and his wife Elizabeth had three sons – William, Jr., Fred and Samuel. We know Fred was born in 1852. Fred and Samuel left Alden at an early age and went to Nebraska and later to Iowa. When Fred was widowed, he returned to the area and opened a piano and music store in Buffalo. Most of that time he lived in Alden and was organist for the Presbyterian Church. After his father's death, he moved to California.



Wm. Slade Sr. (front) with sons: William Jr., Samuel & Fredrick

(Continued on back)

Fred Slade's obituary states that he was accustomed to making frequent trips from California to Alden to visit his many friends. His last trip was in 1937. That would mean that there was a Slade connection to Alden for well over one hundred years. There are few other families who can claim such a long connection with our town.

When the Presbyterian Church was built in 1910, the Slade sons generously donated the money for a stained-glass window in memory of their parents William and Elizabeth. The window which is behind the choir loft is the Christmas scene of the visit of the angels to the shepherds. This beautiful window is another reminder of the Slade family.



INSCRIPTION AT BOTTOM OF WINDOW

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
WILLIAM AND ELIZABETH SLADE
BY THEIR SONS



SLADE DR. LOOKING NORTH AT BROADWAY

It seems fitting and proper that we have Slade Drive as a reminder of the family who contributed to the early development and growth of Alden.

Ruth Davis, Archivist

SPECIAL MEETING FOR PROPOSED LANDSCAPING

There will be a meeting on Thursday April 3rd. at 7 p.m. at the Historical Building to discuss the proposed landscape project. Conrad Borucki has agreed to head up the Garden Group and is asking for ideas, plants and labor.

Members with interest or concerns are invited. All ideas and comments are welcome.

Among the topics to be considered will be:

- Project feasibility and practicality
- Design considerations/modifications
- Financial resources
- Procurement of plantings and materials
- Physical labor
- Maintenance
- Community and organizational involvement

With commitment and involvement from our community, this project has the potential to evolve into an oasis of relaxation and inspiration for future as well as present members. We hope to see you on April 3rd.

Curator's Corner

Visitors often ask where or how we got the artifacts in our collection. The answer of course is from people like you. In the early days of the Society, some items were purchased in order to have items to display, but 90-95% of our collection is from Aldenites or people with Alden ties. We continue to receive artifacts and ephemera (papers and photographs).

Recently we received an ice cream scoop used at the soda fountain in Stowell's Pharmacy (now Alden Pharmacy.)



Another treasure received was a scrapbook believed to have belonged to Florence Lyon, a teacher at the school in Crittenden in the late 1940's. The photographs show a picture of what school life was like in our district schools—playing in the snow, teacher included; Arbor Day activities; community picnics. The pages of the scrapbook were extremely brittle and some of the photos were attached with materials that would eventually destroy them so the photos have been removed and put in archival sleeves to protect them.

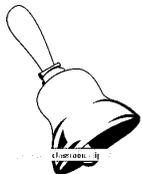


An interesting sidelight to the Crittenden scrapbook is that we also own a book written by the same Florence Lyon titled Come, on Teacher detailing her life as a teacher in rural schools beginning at the school in Letchworth Park. There is a chapter on the Crittenden kids; however, the names have been changed to protect the innocent, or maybe the guilty!

If you come across things that tell about life in Alden's past, consider donating them to the Historical Society for not only our visitors to see, but also for future generations to study. You may call me at 937-6400, or drop in on a Saturday 10:00 – 2:00 to see if the items are something to add to our collection.

Karen Muchow, Curator

School Break History Days



School Break History Days are planned for third, fourth and fifth graders on days when school is not in session. The activities take place at the Alden Historical Museum and center on the collections in the museum. Because of space limitations pre-registration is necessary. Refer to the last page for the spring schedule of our School Break History Days.



Karen Muchow, Curator

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

APRIL 10, 2008..... *Polish Customs and Traditions*



Come join us as we journey through the year in the life of a Polish family. You will learn of the special customs of major holidays as well as the seasons.

Michelle Kisluk of Alden is the founder and director of the Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY. She will talk about the wonderful traditions of her heritage and display some Polish items such as paper cuts-outs, Easter eggs, folk costumes, and more. Polish traditions are still practiced here in Western New York today.

This event is family oriented, so please bring your children for a fun and educational evening out.

MAY 08, 2008 *Town of Alden – 185th Anniversary*

Happy Birthday, Alden!

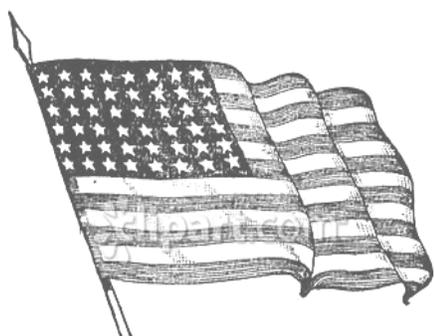
*Town of Alden
185 Years Old!*

On March 27, 1823 the Town of Alden was separated from the Town of Clarence of which it had been a part of since 1808. Before then it had been part of the town of Willink. Thus 2008 marks the 185th anniversary of the “birth” of Alden.

Come celebrate this anniversary with a brief trip down history lane and all the trimmings of a great birthday party.

Curator Karen Muchow will guide us down this history lane.

JUNE 12, 2008..... *Flag Day*



Our June program is just in time for reminding everyone to replace flags that show signs of distress from winter wear with a new, fresh flag. But what do you do with the old flag, and what is the proper way to display a flag? Well, we will be sharing the history and etiquette of displaying the stars and stripes to give a better understanding of our great flag. We will also discuss some military customs to help set the tone of patriotism for the summer parades and holidays to follow.

Please feel free to bring in retired flags to be properly disposed of.

Marlene Roll, commander of Alden VFW Memorial Post 7967 and trustee of the Alden Historical Society, will be our guest speaker.

Your Culinary Skills Requested

At each meeting the membership is treated to delicious refreshments by volunteers. Now is the time to sign up to impress us with your culinary skills! The Secretary has a volunteer list that needs to be filled in for the meetings in 2008. Please speak with Laura Loehr to sign up.

Laura Loehr, Secretary

WEB PAGE FOR ALDEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND SOCIETY

alden.erie.gov

click on the following link:

Alden Historical Museum and Society

All GRANNYTOWN GAZETTE newsletters are posted on this web page

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

NEW LIFE MEMBERS:

Kenneth Akerboom
Douglas Cartwright
Pat (Williams) Fullen
Kris Rogers
Margaret Rose

Ken Akerboom received his life membership as a birthday gift. Happy Birthday Ken.

NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS:

Helen Creighton
Bernie & Ellen Schenkler
Wayne Weinsheimer

RENEWED MEMBERS:

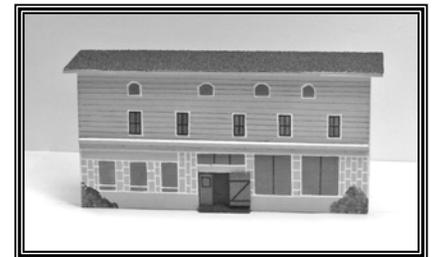
Conrad & Carol Borucki
Deloris Drogi
Keith & Michele Hoffman
Carl & Ann Matthies
Richard Savage
Ron & Violet Savage

LANDMARK COLLECTIBLES

The newest replica is the Wahl Brothers building. The store was established on April 1, 1884 by William Wahl in partnership with August Wentz. The general store held this name for 61 years, despite the changes in partners over the years. It then became Momberger's Department Store, Diana's Fashions, Special Things, Paul's Bike Shop, and presently (2007) Alden Medical Supply (located at 13185 Broadway).

The price for this replica is \$25.00 and is available now. You can call Marlene Roll at 937-4549 or stop in at the Historical Society on Saturdays from 10am to 2pm.

If you are interested in acquiring one of the former replicas call Marlene and she will put you on a list.



HOUSE BUILT BEFORE 1908?

If your house was built before 1908 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 Museum on Saturday. Plaques cost \$35.00 each.

MUSEUM:

The museum is located in the ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUILDING at 13213 Broadway in the village, across from the bank. The purpose of the museum is to show how the people of Alden have lived and worked and played. Here you may study the everyday things they made, used, wore, and cherished.

MUSEUM HOURS:

The museum is open to the public every Saturday from 10 to 2 pm.
Also open during the Alden Art Show in Sept. and during Christmas-in-the-Park in early Dec.
Special School Break History Days are planned for school holidays.
Tours for individuals and groups may be arranged by calling 937-6400 or 937-9256.

MEETINGS:

Meetings are normally held the second Thursday of each month from September thru June. The business meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Everyone is invited to attend...doors open at 7 pm so you have time to tour the museum.
An interesting and informative program follows a brief business meeting, many times with a guest speaker. You are very welcome to come and share your memories and experiences about the evening's program. Afterwards stick around for a social complete with homemade refreshments and informal socializing.

OFFICERS

President.....Roberta Vincent
Vice President... Sal Sardella
Secretary.....Laura Loehr
Treasurer Ralph Davis
Curator..... Karen Muchow
ArchivistRuth Davis

Society Historian . Janet Koelbl
Alden Town Historian:
..... Leonard Weisbeck
Alden Town Board Liaison:
..... Arlene Cooke
Editor Carl Matthies
PublicityJudy Hotchkin

TRUSTEES

Ralph Davis Marlene Roll
Judy Hotchkin Sal Sardella
Joe Kipfer Ralph Stoos
Laura Loehr Roberta Vincent
Carl Matthies Paul Werner

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

New members are always welcome. Your support will ensure that our museum will continue to grow and prosper for years to come. Please make your check out as noted below.

DUES

Single\$5.00
Family\$10.00
Lifetime \$50.00

NAME
ADDRESS
.....
PHONEE-MAIL.....

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 ALWAYS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED.

DATES TO REMEMBER for SPRING 2008

NOTE: "SBHD" denotes: School Break History Days...see page 4

Apr. 03.Trustee Meeting

Apr. 10 General Meeting.....Topic: "Polish Holidays"

Apr. 16.SBHDTopic: "Arbor Day" At the Schoolhouse

May 08 General MeetingTopics: "Town of Alden - 185th Anniversary"

June 05.Trustee Meeting

June 12.General Meeting.....Topic "Flag Day"

ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
13213 BROADWAY
ALDEN, NY 14004

Prst Stad A
Postage Paid
Alden, NY 14004
Permit No. 6

alden.erie.gov



ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM
Chartered by the Board of Regents
New York State Education Department 1971