

ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2006

OFFICERS

President.....Roberta Vincent Society Historian..... Janet Koelbl
Vice PresidentSal Sardella Alden Town Historian:
Secretary..... Laura Loehr Leonard Weisbeck
Treasurer..... Ralph Davis Alden Town Board Liaison:
Curator Karen Muchow Arlene Cooke
Archivist Ruth Davis Editor Carl Matthies

TRUSTEES

Fred Blowers Sal Sardella
Judy Hotchkin Ralph Stooß
Joe Kipfer Roberta Vincent
Carl Matthies Paul Werner
Marlene Roll

Meetings are held every second Thursday from September thru June. 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 home made refreshments and informal socializing.

MUSEUM:

The museum is located in the ALDEN HISTORICAL 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.

OPEN HOUSE:

*The museum is open to the public every Saturday from 10 to 2 pm.
The museum will also be open during the Alden Art Show on Sunday September 10 and during the "Christmas in the Park" festivities in December from 2 to 4 pm.*

MONTHLY PROGRAMS:

- September Meeting 09-14-2006CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
The Alden Chamber of Commerce is currently celebrating 50 years of service to our community. The Alden Chamber was formed in 1956 to support business, industry, institutions, organizations and individuals as a means to enhance the quality of life for our residents. President Christopher Gust and Executive Secretary Barbara Hoskyns of the Alden Chamber will be present to give an informative talk about the history and current events of the Chamber.
- October Meeting 10-12-2006..... BENNETT MANUFACTURING COMPANY**
In 1906, A. Y. Bennett established a metal working plant for the manufacture of dashboards for horse-drawn vehicles. When these became obsolete the plant re-tooled to produce other metal products. One of the best known items has been the square waste receptacle. Come and watch a video from the museum files showcasing Bennett Mfg. Co. and afterwards share memories you may have regarding the company.
- November Meeting 11-09-2006.....PRESIDENTIAL SCANDALS**
Mr. Greg Kinal, a teacher at Pembroke Central School, will be our guest speaker. Mr. Kinal is a member of the Erie County Historical Federation Speakers Bureau and promises to make this a very enlightening evening. Learn some very interesting facts that just may surprise you regarding some of our past presidents.
- December Meeting 12-14-2006..... ORIGIN OF CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS**
Mrs. Laura Loehr will lead us in a discussion about the origin of some Christmas customs that many of us hold dear. You are welcome to share Christmas customs that have been traditionally observed with your family. Then afterwards we will enjoy a festive treat, a little bit of Christmas spirit along with some hot refreshments to warm you up.

PHOTOS BY ALDEN ADVERTISER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Once again our past year has been a successful and busy one. I wish to thank all the officers, the trustees and the membership for their dedication and hard work this past year. Also many thanks to the Town of Alden for supporting our budget and for maintaining our building and grounds.

Roberta Vincent, President

CURATOR'S REPORT

It's been a busy nine months. Former Curator, Ruth Davis, has done a superb job of organizing the Society's collection of artifacts, and now I am in the process of locating each item as it is described in our acquisition book, noting its location, whether it be in storage or on display. It is hoped to eventually computerize these records.

I have also been highlighting items from the collection in monthly displays. We have so many wonderful artifacts that it has been fun to pull some out of storage or gather them from their permanent display space to bring attention to them.

The every Saturday summer open houses have brought many new visitors to the museum. Most of them have been Alden residents who have never visited before. The comments have been; "This is great! I never knew we had this. I've got to come back to look again. I couldn't take it all in." If you haven't visited in some time take advantage of the open hours. You will probably see something you never noticed before.

Karen Muchow, Curator

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

While going through materials which are filed in about eight drawers of the cabinets in the museum, I have discovered many items with which I was not familiar or which I had forgotten. It has become a real treasure hunt. With the new archival quality folders and improved labeling, our files will be safer and easier to use. Eventually the information should be catalogued.

Now the folders range from AGRICULTURE through WORLD WAR II. Everyone is invited to visit the museum and look through some of the materials which have been collected over many years.

Ruth Davis, Archivist

ALDEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The first photo shows the building sometime between 1897 and 1915. The Maria Bowman family is shown on the porch. This property was first sold by the Holland Land Company in 1819. Aaron Bunce bought the parcel of 230 acres. He sold the land to Thomas Farnsworth and his wife in 1821. We assume that at least part of this house may have been built while they were the owners.

During the 1840's the deed changed hands four times.

Frederick Lord purchased the property in 1852 and his family owned it for twenty-six years

Lucy Hart was the owner between 1878 and 1897. At the turn of the century the Bowman family lived here.

Arthur J. Roberts and his wife Alice bought the house from Dr. Carlos Bowman in 1916. They lived here for fifty years. Arthur died in 1958. Alice lived here until her death.

Her nephew, Walden Roberts, purchased it in 1967 and presented it to the Town of Alden in memory of his wife, Frances Young Roberts.

CENTURY OLD BUILDINGS

If you own a century old building in Alden and would like to have it featured in our newsletter please contact any member or call Carl at 937-7433.

LANDMARK COLLECTIBLES

Currently there are 18 landmarks in the collection. Two new landmark buildings will soon be available for purchase, hopefully before Christmas. They are the Simme Meat Market building (currently Henry's Candy store) and the Wahl Bros./Momberger's store (currently Alden Medical Supply). The two new models will sell for \$25.00 each while those of the former collection remain \$23.00 each. Call Marlene Roll at 937-4549 for a complete list.

NOTEPAPER AVAILABLE

The Historical Society has made available notepaper and envelopes with a picture of the Alden Historical Building. Cost is \$5.00 per pack of 6 with envelopes and is available at the Alden Historical Building or from any member.

MEMBERSHIP

New members are always welcome. Your support and effort will ensure that our museum will continue to grow and prosper for years to come. Annual dues are \$5.00. Life Membership is \$50.00.