

ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
13213 BROADWAY
ALDEN, NY 14004

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

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THE GRANNYTOWN GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Alden Historical Society, Alden NY 14004

Published Quarterly

October 2007

alden.erie.gov

WHY GRANNYTOWN?

The story is that when the early settlers met in 1823 to decide on the name for their town which had been newly separated from the Town of Clarence, Seth Estabrook suggested "Alden". He said the town was as small and as sweet as his mother-in-law, a lineal descendant of John and Priscilla Alden of Mayflower fame. Realizing their town had been named after a grandmother, the settlers affectionately referred to Alden as "Grannytown" for some years.

OFFICERS

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

TRUSTEES

<i>Fred Blowers</i>	<i>Sal Sardella</i>
<i>Judy Hotchkin</i>	<i>Ralph Stoos</i>
<i>Joe Kipfer</i>	<i>Roberta Vincent</i>
<i>Carl Matthies</i>	<i>Paul Werner</i>
<i>Marlene Roll</i>	

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 to ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

DUES

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

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
.....
PHONE..... E-MAIL.....

SEND TO:

Alden Historical Society
13213 Broadway
Alden, NY 1400

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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.

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 December.

Special Children's Activity 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. 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Autumn-Winter Season of the Alden Historical Society. We have some interesting programs for the up-coming months and some long-range projects to get started . As always the support of our membership will help to make these successful. We do need volunteers for many different things such as hosting at the museum on Saturdays between 10-2, helping with a fall clean-up inside and out, and participating in the monthly meetings. We look forward to enriching our community. Remember this newsletter is coming to you as a member (are your dues up to date?) so please pass it on to others and encourage them to join us.

Roberta Vincent

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Annual Meeting

According to the revised constitution that the membership adopted earlier this year, the next annual meeting will be held Thursday November 8, 2007. Five slots will need to be filled on the Board of Trustees. Names of nominees put forth by the Nominating Committee will be announced in the Alden Advertiser. Please be sure to attend the meeting, to vote for the people who will conduct the Society's business, and to be informed about what happened this past year.

Laura Loehr

ARCHIVIST REPORT

ALDEN and THE SUPREME COURT

This summer, the historical society received copies of documents which connect Alden to the United States Supreme Court. They were given by Douglas Cartwright who is the grandson of A.Y. Bennett, founder of the Bennett Manufacturing Company.

When the estate of Mrs. Bennett was settled in 1970, the Internal Revenue Service declared that insufficient estate taxes had been paid for some mutual funds. The Treasury Department ruled that taxes must be paid according to the price at which they could be purchased - the public offering price. Mr. Cartwright, as executor believed the taxes on mutual funds should be based on the price at which they could be sold, since heirs are interested in selling - not buying.

Mr. Cartwright then instituted a lawsuit arguing that the Treasury Department regulation was not reasonable. The case was tried in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of N.Y., The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and in 1973 it was argued before the U.S. Supreme Court on January 16, 1973. As a result the Treasury regulation was ruled unreasonable.

This was a much - watched case since it was estimated that at the time there were 70 billion dollars worth of mutual funds in the hands of people who could be expected to die within the next forty or fifty years. If the treasury department could not collect at the higher public offering value there would be an estimated loss to the government of \$560,000,000.

The lawyers for the case said that there was so much interest in the case that the Supreme Court was packed. The entire Appellate Section of the Tax Division of the Department of Justice had taken the day off to attend.

Most cases are argued for the Government by assistants to the Solicitor General. This one was handled personally by the Solicitor General.

The documents, which we have, contain many more interesting facts and copies of newspaper articles about the case. It is exciting to know that this all had its start with the estate of Mrs. Bennett.

If you would like to look at these papers, stop at the museum. They are filed under "Bennett Manufacturing - Court Case."

As a side note-the Bennetts lived at 1532 Emerson St.
and Douglas Cartwright grew up at 1531 Emerson St.

Ruth Davis

CURATOR'S CORNER

As we look ahead to the new program year, it is also time to reflect upon the past summer. The Saturday open hours have continued to bring visitors. Many times they are Alden folks who have never toured the museum. Sometimes they are people looking for specific information, and other times they may be former Alden folks looking to reconnect or to show spouses their hometown's past.

I worked with the Alden Recreation Department for a three-day history program in late July. Marlene Roll and I spent the first day with the group of twelve youngsters at the Henskee Road Schoolhouse. Marlene showed slides on the history of the school and then we spent a mini-school day—reading, 'riting and doing 'rithmetic. The children spent "recess" playing "Pom Pom Pullaway" and "Annie, Annie Over." Frank Geyer told the group how he played "Annie" when he went to a one-room school.

On the second day the group walked the village from the Town Park to Henry's Candy marking a map with all the buildings they saw.

Back at the schoolhouse we compared photographs of the buildings in 1909 to what they had seen. Each child then made a drawing of one of the buildings. The drawings are on display at the Historical Society.

The third day of the program was spent at the Historical Society. The children identified some artifacts that were used one hundred years ago. After a brief tour of the building, the children went on a scavenger hunt locating items such as a chamber pot, a Neeland's bottle, and a dummy rifle. They also made butter using one of the churns, and had lemonade.

A Girl Scout troop enjoyed the Scavenger Hunt in August. They were quite diligent in locating all the items. They want to return to do the "Bathtub Hunt," having spotted many of the paper tubs.

The temporary displays for September are "Greetings From Millgrove" and "Our Menagerie."

ARTIFACTS RECEIVED THIS SUMMER

Present and former Aldenites continue to be generous in donating items to the Historical Society. We have received nearly 100 items since January. Among the latest received are: several children's history resource books, a 1940's girl's straw hat, WW II Civil Defense booklets,

three homemade walking sticks, a WW I Red Cross Nurse's pin, vintage wedding cake toppers, 1926 class autograph book, two 1920's composition dolls, homemade doll clothes, a child's caned rocker, a 1916 wicker doll buggy, a mile marker (Buffalo 22 mi, Batavia 18 mi) and Neeland's Milk neon sign.

DONATIONS

If you wish to donate artifacts to the museum please contact Karen Muchow at 937 6400. Our collection policy states that donations should be things that have an Alden connection. Monetary donations are also appreciated and may be designated as memorials.

Karen Muchow

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

OCTOBER 11 2007.....*Remembering the Oct. 12/13, 2006 Snowstorm*



The “October Surprise Storm” is nearly one year old and yet trees are still being trimmed or removed and stumps ground. Our guest speaker is Mr. Robert Hamilton, a Lead Meteorologist from the National Weather Service in Buffalo. Mr. Hamilton researched this storm and will make a presentation looking at the extraordinary meteorology behind the storm and compare it to other early season storms during the past 125 years.

NOVEMBER 8 2007..... *Veterans Of Foreign Wars and the American Legion*



Trustee Marlene Roll along with Dave Czarnecki will be on hand to discuss the history of the VFW and the American Legion. They will point out the differences of these two organizations as well as share what their goals are and what is important to war veterans.

Marlene served in the Army Reserve 1986-1994 with one tour in Operation Desert Shield/Storm as an Operating Room Technician. She is currently commander of Alden VFW Memorial Post 7967.



Dave is a member of both the Alden VFW Memorial Post 7967 and the Alden American Legion Post 1317. He served in Viet Nam 1970-71 (Army) and is Past Commander of the Alden VFW Memorial Post and Past Erie County Commander.

Everyone is welcome to come and share their stories or ask questions about the VFW and the American Legion.

DECEMBER 13 2007..... *Artistry of Chocolate Molded Design*



Trustee Sal Sardella comes from a family with a long history of chocolate molded candy making. It began with his father who worked for Merchens in the early '30's. After returning home from service Sal began making chocolate molded candy for several organizations for their fundraisers. Over the years Sal has collected many chocolate molds. Not only will he have some of these molds on hand for us to examine but he will also give us some background on mold making, the different types, where they were made, the materials used and some appreciation for the art of mold making.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

*Susan Sabers Chapman
Diane Casell (life)
Howard Ehrenheim*

*Ardie Edenhofer
Audrey Senecal*

*Nancy Taylor
Norm Taylor*

WEB PAGE FOR ALDEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND SOCIETY

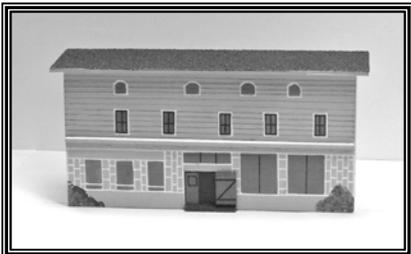
Thanks to Mr. William Sivecz we now have a link for the Alden Historical Society from the Town of Alden web site. To access the site go to:

alden.erie.gov

and click on to the appropriate link:

Alden Historical Museum and Society

Alden Assessor William Sivecz manages this site while the County of Erie administers it. Mr. Sivecz would very much appreciate that updates to this site be submitted to him in digital format for ease of attaching the data. His address is siveczw@alden.erie.gov.



**WAHL BROTHERS
REPLICA**



**OLD PHOTO OF ALDEN
VILLAGE LOOKING S.E.**

Wahl Brothers
The Old Reliable Store

SATURDAY SPECIALS
Come and see what we have to offer on Saturday of this week.

A Santous Coffee, regular 30c	25c
Hay Picking Tea, regular 50c	50c
Black and Green Gun Powder Tea	45c
Washing Powders, reg. 5c/pkg.	4c

Dry Goods, Groceries, Canned Goods,
Patent Medicines, Rugs, Notions, Men's
Furnishings, Men's, Ladies and Children's
Shoes and Rubbers.

Fruits and Vegetables in Season

AD IN PAPER OCT. 1914

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.

NEW BOILER FOR THE MUSEUM

Hats off to our town officials for voting to install a new boiler in the museum. The Alden Town Board voted unanimously for it at the September 4, 2007 meeting. Work is to be completed well before the heating season. Petschke Plumbing and Heating will do the work.

RECORDS OF THE CHARTER MEMBERS

Do you know what has become of many of the charter members of the Historical Society? While checking records for the 40th anniversary party in June, we discovered that many of those records are missing, and we'd like to fill in the gaps. Check out the list of Charter Members on the framed list in the Ruth Davis Meeting Room, and please give Laura Loehr details about the people you remember. It will help to keep our own history records more accurate.

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS MYSTERY PHOTO?



Drive way in front of the high school

This aerial photo was taken in the village of Alden on the North side of Broadway. Do you know where? Answer in box to the right.

HOUSE BUILT BEFORE 1907?

If your house was built before 1907 than it would qualify to be one of Alden's Century Homes. Your home has earned the right to proudly wear a century home plaque. Alden 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.

For more information contact Marlene Roll at: 937 4549.

CENTURY OLD HOUSE

12603 W. MAIN ST.

ALDEN, NY

Al and Marion Fox, owners/residents of our "Century Old House", offer the following historical account of their home.



RECENT PHOTO OF THE FOX RESIDENCE



1950's PHOTO OF THE FOX RESIDENCE



Marion Fox & Bernie Nuwer in back of house
"Elegant outhouse" also in back of house

September 1929 was the beginning of the Fox family living on W. Main St., Alden NY.

Our parents bought an old run down house and barn (which had been built in the 1860's) for \$3500. There were 10 acres of land, which extended to the railroad tracks.

In the first year the barn was repaired so Mom and Dad could raise cows and chickens. Next came the house with a few new windows, repair the pump on the well, added an entrance, some new doors, a sink and a few cupboards. The cellar was a dirt floor with a coal bin so coal could be burned in the stove for winter heat. The pipe from the stove extended through a bedroom upstairs for heat.

The cistern which was in the back of the house had rain water from the roof and was heated on the stove and used to wash clothes etc. There was no electric in this house. We were fortunate to have gaslights in the kitchen, living room and one bedroom. Our elegant "outhouse" sat near the back of the house. Later on our parents made a little money on the farm and Dad worked at Bennetts so we could have some improvements. The house was painted and more new windows added.

In the 1940 and 50's we got running water, electric and a furnace put in. New siding was put on and in 1950 our house looked pretty good.

The big remodeling came in 1995. The down stairs was completely remodeled with the addition on the west end. This made the living room and down stairs bedroom larger.

The upstairs is basically the same where we still have the old plank doors with the original thumb latch handles. With the new windows, insulation and modern siding the house looks great even though the original plank walls are still in place.

The small cellar is now a basement with a cement floor and paint on the large foundation rocks. The pump and well in the back of the house are still used to water flowers etc.

This house has been our home for 78 years.

Al & Marion Fox