

SAND LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FACTS AND ARTIFACTS

December 1974

"The industries of the town have been manifold and important, the excellent water-power of Wynantskill affording special opportunities in this direction. The earliest prominent industry of the town was the manufacture of glass at Glass Lake. The glass company of Sloanesville, Albany Co., purchased 5000 acres of land near Glass Lake of Stephen VanRensselaer about the year 1800. James Kane, Mr. Brown, and others, were the early movers in the enterprise. The blowers were mostly Scotchmen. William Richmond was prominent in the undertaking. He went to Scotland disguised as a bag-pipe player, with a patch over his eye, to induce workmen to come to this country."

Above is an excerpt from Nathaniel Sylvester's History of Rensselaer County, 1880.

Reprints of the section pertaining to the Town of Sand Lake will be made available soon through our society.

We are: The Sand Lake Historical Society, P.O. Box 492, West Sand Lake, N.Y. 12196
We meet: the second Monday of each month at the Church of the Covenant, Averill Park.
Our purpose is: to promote the appreciation and preservation of materials relating to the history and culture of the Town of Sand Lake.

The Officers include: Trustees: Bernadette Bresnahan
Louis Leitgeb
Gertrude (Judy) Rowe
President: Robert Harris
Vice-President: Beryl Vannier
Corresponding Secretary: Nancy Kelley
Recording Secretary: Joan Fuess
Treasurer: Shirley Rescott
Custodian: George (Bob) Dunworth

December 9th we will meet to share in the spirit of Christmas Past. Please bring any old ornaments, books, toys, postcards or traditions of Christmas Past to display. Refreshments will be served.

January 13th Bob Shuey, current Captain of the Rescue Squad of the Averill Park Fire Department will present "The Development of a Volunteer Fire Department in Central Rensselaer County". He will combine slides with his talk and display artifacts of Fire Department equipment dating between 1780-1920.

"Preserving the Past - Enriching the Future" is our motto. A logo contest was held and the prize money was divided between Stephen Vannier for the above slogan and Florence Leidner for the figure of the glassblower. Their presentations and the other entries are on display this week at Averill Park High School.

BICENTENNIAL NOTES:

The era of the American Revolution was 1773 to 1783 with specific emphasis placed on the year 1776. As we quickly approach the 200th anniversary of our nation's independence, the Town of Sand Lake Bicentennial Commission is in the process of planning the programs that will be implemented to celebrate this event in the community.

The Town Board under the supervision of Mr. Sid Gallant has been instrumental in initiating the formation of this Commission and has, under the directive given to

local municipalities by Governor Wilson, given its full support to the Commission.

A total of forty organizations within the Town of Sand Lake have been asked to select a representative to serve on this Commission, thus involving a wide segment of the population.

The first meeting of the Commission was held on November 6th. At this time, thirteen groups were represented. Roger Young and Bonnie Romer were chosen co-chairmen of the Commission. Three sub-committees (Activities, Finance and Publicity) were established to facilitate the coordination of activities.

Project proposals will come from two sources: those to be carried out by the Commission and those to be carried out by specific organizations. All groups wishing to participate in the Bicentennial celebration will be asked to submit their proposals as soon as possible to the Sub-Committee on Activities to assure clearance on the calendar and to avoid duplication.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 1975 at 8:00 P.M. at the Town Hall.

(Bonnie Romer)

The Historical Society Ways and Means Committee co-chaired by Paul Nash and Madolyn Carpenter has been asked to propose a calendar of Bicentennial events for our society to be submitted to the Town Commission.

CHARTER MEMBERSHIPS are still available through May, 1975. 89 persons have joined in the seven months of our existence.