



Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

Volume 50, Number 1

Our 50th Year!

Summer 2023

From the president

It's amazing how things happen – and June's program on Albert Rodman Fox is just one recent example. Three years ago, led by Andy Mace and Trustees Joan Fuess and Dee Erickson, SLHS successfully applied for and received a grant from the Pomeroy Foundation for a historic marker at the Fox Mansion. In Fall of 2021, we tried to track down Fox descendants so we could invite them to the marker dedication. That research led to an article in *Historical Highlights* (which was picked up by the *New York Almanack*) and a "star turn" by actor Norm Eik portraying Albert Fox in 2021's *Amazing Graves 3* program at the Sand Lake Union Cemetery.

Two Fox descendants now living in California were unable to attend the dedication, but they donated Fox family heirlooms in the form of a three-piece set of brass girandoles that once adorned the mantel in their parents' and grandparents' homes, as well as Albert Fox's. Those girandoles, now part of our collection, were featured in this past June's program, which Carolyn Fox and Marion Fox Barnett joined from California via Zoom.

After the June presentation was over, two audience members came up to discuss their own research: one into George Washington Demers, a Troy newspaperman who was an associate of the Foxes (and who named his son Albert Fox Demers); and another who has been researching the older generations of Foxes (Albert's father Isaac and beyond).

And Albert's younger daughter, Eunice Fox Knowlson, will be "joining us" at this September's *Amazing Graves*. The connections – and the story never ends.

West Sand Lake Firehouse Update. Last April, a working group of the West Sand Lake Fire Department voted to approve the demolition of the historic 1873 West Sand Lake Firehouse as part of their \$11 million plan for a new building. In May, the SLHS trustees adopted a resolution opposing this plan and encouraged fire district leadership, the Town of Sand Lake and other interested parties (including SLHS) to get together to discuss ways we might save the historic building. Later that month,

In this issue:

We'll wrap up our look back at the Troy & New England Railway history, again, primarily from the perspective of contemporary newspaper articles, as well as how it continues to "impact" the town!

SLHS representatives attended the Sand Lake Town Board meeting. On June 14, SLHS trustees and members participated in a community workshop at the West Sand Lake firehouse. On July 11, a small group met with WSLFD leadership and the project's architects to further those conversations and explore alternatives.

As a result, the WSLFD postponed their planned August referendum vote on the proposed plan and is reconsidering their plan. At the community workshop held August 23, the possibility of holding a "two-tier" referendum (planned for December), with one proposition for the new firehouse and a separate one for rehabilitating the old building was discussed. Under this plan, the WSLFD would relocate the current historic fire apparatus and retain

ownership and control of the historic building, but, as yet, the WSLFD has no plan for future use or occupancy of the old firehouse.

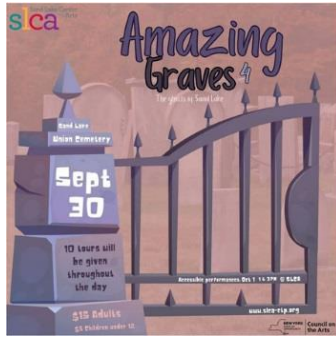
While it is encouraging that discussions are ongoing, there is still no plan in place. Our priority (as SLHS) is to preserve the historic building and find some appropriate future use, so the building can be an asset to the town. The possibility of moving the building seems to be cost-prohibitive.

The historic 1873 West Sand Lake firehouse is the oldest remaining firehouse structure in Rensselaer County. [Notably, the 1913 "hall" addition was one of the first of its kind in the area. – Ed.] Preserving the building will have significant long-term benefits for our town: preserving the "village character" of much of West Sand Lake, creating a focal point celebrating Sand Lake's history, attracting new businesses and homeowners, and many others. We can do these things and have a new firehouse, too.



Amazing Graves returns. back for its fourth installment! Horatio Averill, Smith “Big Thunder” Boughton and Sheriff Willard Griggs, Hazel Drew, our Civil War veterans -- including Moscow! -- have all been part of *Amazing Graves*. Who will appear this year?

This year’s version will feature eight “apparitions,” some new and some favorites from prior years. In a change this year, *all* outdoor presentations will be on



Saturday September 30, beginning at 10:00 a.m., in the Sand Lake Union Cemetery. On Sunday, October 1, there will be two indoor (sit-down) performances at 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on stage at the **Sand Lake Center for the Arts**. There will be *no* outdoor tours on Sunday. Tickets, reservations, and information will be available through the Arts Center (<https://www.slca-ctp.org/>).

Amazing Graves is presented by the Amazing Graves committee, the Sand Lake Center for the Arts and our actors and writers, in collaboration with the Sand Lake Town Library, the Sand Lake Historical Society, the Sand Lake Union Cemetery and local sponsors. – *Peter Finn, President*

Upcoming programs and events

1 **September 12**, 7:00 p.m., presented remotely at Sand Lake Center for the Arts. *Last Pick: A Baby Boomer’s Boyhood*, a book talk by **Pierce O’Donnell** about growing up in Sand Lake in the 1950s and ‘60s. O’Donnell’s memoir has been described as “a whimsical warmhearted autobiography of a twelve-year-old who became a great trial lawyer.” A graduate of Georgetown University and Yale Law School, he has been named “one of the 100 most influential lawyers in America,” and “one of California’s top entertainment lawyers.” He is a best-selling author and has written more than 200 articles and six books. The September program will recount his early life in Averill Park, his well-known family, and such childhood pursuits as Little League, the Boy Scouts and becoming an altar boy.

1 **October 10**, 7:00 p.m. (SLTH): **Marty Podskoch**, retired teacher and author of eleven books, including *Adirondack Civilian Conservation Corps Camps: Their History, Memories and Legacy of the CCC*, will present on the CCCs and Company the 219th Co., which was located at what became nearby Cherry Plain State Park in 1962. 2023 is the 90th anniversary year of the CCCs, and Marty hopes to hear about any relatives or descendants still in the area who were part of the CCCs. [Please see also back page for proposed amendment to the Bylaws, to be voted on by the membership on October 10.]

1 **Sunday October 29**, 11:00 a.m. (Sand Lake Center for the Arts): **Roadside historical marker dedication event**, thanks to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation.



1 November 14, 7:00 p.m. (SLTH). Our fearless Sand Lake Town Historian Bob Moore will present his annual update on historic happenings about town (and probably something else he has three months to figure out!).

1 December 12 (Sand Lake Center for the Arts). Our **Annual Holiday Gathering** returns to SLCA. More information to follow.

1 January 9, 2024, 7:00 p.m. (SLTH). Another edition of *Show and Tell: What’s in Your Attic? What Rabbit Hole are you Exploring Now?* Let’s share what we have. Always fun.

1 February 13, 7:00 p.m. (SLTH). Historic re-enactor **Clifford Mealy** presents *Charles Nalle!*

Unless otherwise noted, programs are held at 7:00 p.m. in the Court Room of Sand Lake Town Hall (SLTH), 8428 NY 66, Averill Park. Watch your email, the website and Facebook for any updates on programs!

Please note that *most* programs are “live-streamed” and recorded and may be viewed online. Direct links will be found on our website as soon as we get same; click on “[Programs](#)” at the top of the home page. Or, go to the Town of Sand Lake website.

Past programs

1 **Tuesday, May 9: Rescheduled Program on the Rensselaer Glass Works, in conjunction with our Annual Meeting.** *Phil Bernnard* of the National Bottle Museum joined us to discuss Rensselaer Glassworks: history of the works, the workers, owners, and the technology of glassmaking in the 18th and 19th centuries. The evening also included our *Annual Meeting*, featuring the reelection of *Bud Whitney* to a second full term, as well as new Trustees *Bob Katz*, *Timothy Hoffay* and *Megan Kownikowski*. (One vacancy remains, but that will be filled soon!)

1 **Sunday, May 21:** Annual Fundraising Gala, at Arlington House. [SEE article elsewhere – Ed.]

1 **June 13: The Pretty Fantastic Mr. Fox** (with special guests). [SEE “From the president” article on previous page – Ed.]

The Troy & New England Railway

Part II

In the Summer 2018 issue of *Historical Highlights*, we looked back to 1905, more or less, thanks to an article by Herbert A. Calkins, writing in *The Times Record*, Troy, N. Y., Thursday Evening, July 12, 1945. Calkins imagined what a ride on the Troy & New England Railway might have been like on a typical summer day that year!

In this past Spring's issue, we went back mostly to old newspaper accounts and related stories, with other references and information taken from a terrific publication from about 50 years ago by two of SLHS's charter members! For Part II of this article, we'll continue chronologically, picking up where we left off after 1907, when "the Troy and New England ceased to exist as an independent trolley company franchise and all obligations of the Troy and New England railroad turned over to the Delaware and Hudson Railroad company and to be operated through the United Traction company!"

1914

Reichard's and Snyder's Aroused.

Residents and property owners of the Snyder Lake and Reichard Lake section will organize auxiliary associations to co-operate with the Sand Lake Board of Trade [SEE box at right - Ed.] to secure improved railroad facilities. A meeting was held at the cottage of Charles Caldwell at Reichard's, and a similar gathering will be held to-night at Snyder's. - [Troy] *Semi-Weekly Times*, June 30, 1914

RAILROAD COMPANY'S ANSWER.

Troy and New England Informs Sand Lake Board of Trade That It Gives Good Service - Service Commission Will Decide.

At the meeting of the Sand Lake Board of Trade Saturday night The Troy and New England Railway Company submitted its answer to the charges of the board that the service is inadequate and the road is out of date. The company answered that the road "is one of the finest in the state and is in first-class condition." It further stated that thousands of dollars had been spent putting it in good condition. The answer claimed there was plenty of power to operate the cars, and there was never any serious danger from cars jumping the tracks. The Transportation Committee of the board will have a meeting to discuss the answer and will arrange a hearing before the Public Service Commission. Inspectors of the

commission will visit the road and investigate conditions. Attorney Harry P. Humphrey, attorney for the Board of Trade, held a conference with Mr. Mott of the Public Service Commission and was informed that the commission would fix a date for a hearing. It was upon Mr. Humphrey that the answer of the company was served. One of the members said to-day: "The foolishness of the company's answer that cars never jump the track was apparent last night, when scores of people had a narrow escape from injury when a car jumped the track coming from Averill Park to Troy."

SAND LAKE BOARD OF TRADE.

Lively Meeting at the Fire House—To Appeal to Public Service Commission To-morrow for Better Railway Service—Oiling tile Roads—Telephone Trials

There was a large attendance at the Sand Lake Board of Trade at the fire house Saturday night. President Mahony announced standing committees and reports were received. The Committee on Railroads reported that it would take the petitions to the Public Service Commission to-morrow morning—The petitions have been

signed by nearly 400 persons, and the committee feels confident that the commission will act promptly. It was found that the oil to oil the state roads had been shipped to Lebanon. The committee went to get it, but part had been used by the contractor. The State Department, however, assured the committee that more oil would be forthcoming within a week or ten days. The streets will be oiled immediately upon its arrival.

The Telephone Service.

The toll telephone service was then taken up, and it was recalled that about a year ago The New York Telephone Company had promised 'interchangeable service upon the consolidation of the two systems. A special committee was named to take the matter up at once, and it will also ask a different "listing," as Sand Lake and Averill Park residents are now listed under West Sand Lake.

The Standing Committees.

Following are the standing committees as named by President Mahony: Transportation—Dr. E. E. Reichard, Clifford Hastings, John Taylor, Arthur Wager, Fayette Thomas, William Hilke. W. B. Gillette and George Shriner. Public Improvements—Arthur M. Peek, Philip J. Barsan. R. M. Kennedy,

George B. Wiltsie and John Schuman. Insurance—H. Patchin, Charles Smith, Arthur Larkin, Norman Vickery and Melvin R. Hastings. Membership—Fred Shoemaker, B. I. Cusack, Douglas Hastings, H. Burton Carr and William H. Gardner. Publicity—H. P. Humphrey, Joseph B. Rider, W. B. Gillette, Theodore Bayer and F. P. Dolan. Taxation—J. C. Cotton, K. Rendert, E. M. Hack, Dr. F. L. Kretcker and H. A. Tillson. Special Committee on Telephone Service—Joseph B. Rider, Dr. E. E. Reichard, George B. Wilson, W. R. Gillette and Fayette Thomas. - Troy Times, July 13, 1914

SAND LAKE BOARD OF TRADE.

Business Men and Residents Form Association to Work for Community's Good—Officers Chosen at Public Meeting.

Sand Lake residents met at Cusack's Hall Saturday afternoon and organized the Sand Lake Board of Trade. The organization starts with sixty-six members. These officers were elected: President, William D. Mahony; Vice President, Arthur M. Peck; Secretary, Fred A. Shoemaker; Treasurer, Elmer E. Reichard, M. D. It is the intention of the organization to get to work at once for better trolley service between Troy and Sand Lake, more frequent cars and through cars to Troy being the especial features. The Ferry Street grade, which always proved an obstacle, is the principal bone of contention. The Board of Trade will also take up the matter of oiling roads and keeping the highways in good repair.

A committee of five on by-laws and of eight on transportation and roads were named at Saturday's meeting. Another meeting of the board will be held Friday night, when the Committee on Bylaws will report.

The Committee on Laws, for the Sand Lake Board of Trade includes Harry P. Humphrey, G. B. Wiltsey, C. C. Hastings, J. B. Rider and J. C. Catton. The Committee on Railroads and Roads includes Dr. E. E. Reichard, Fayette Thomas, C. C. Hastings, W. H. Hilke, George Shriner, J. H. Taylor, A. E. Wager and W. B. Gillette. - *Semi-Weekly Times*, June 30, 1914

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NEW TROLLEY KICK BY AVERILL PARK

Troy and New England Road Included in Charges Against United Traction.

HEARING SET FOR DEC. 10

Patrons Say Service is Inadequate, That Cars Wobble and Are Poorly Lighted.

Another complaint against the management of the United Traction Company will soon be filed with the public service commission, it was announced yesterday, at a hearing before the commission. The matter before the board was the dissatisfaction of the residents of Averill Park and adjacent communities with the manner in which the Troy and New England railroad conducts its affairs. One complaint was that it failed to run its cars from Averill Park to Franklin Square, Troy, and that passengers must now change cars at Albia.

Peter C. Dugan, attorney for the railroad, objected when it was sought to introduce evidence on this point and argued the United Traction company and the Troy and New England road were separate corporations and that an order against the United Traction company directing it to accept the through cars could not issue from a proceeding in which it had no part.

Harry F. Humphrey, attorney for the complainants, thereupon announced his intention of lodging a new complaint with the commission, covering the through car phase of the case, and including the United Traction company as a joint respondent with the Troy and New England road. The hearing was adjourned until December 10, on the understanding that in the meantime the new complaint would be served and the traction company given an opportunity to answer.

In the course of the testimony in the complaint, the question of the alleged dilapidated condition of the cars, poor lighting and overcrowding was taken up.

W. B. Gillette, an artist who said he traveled hundreds of miles every year on trolley cars between Boston to Chicago, said the Troy and New England cars "wobbled like a jelly fish." He asserted that frequently they swayed fully six inches from side to side. He said there were only five lamps in the Troy and New England cars and that the light was so dim as to make reading impossible. He said also on one occasion that the seats had been taken out of the

Averill Park station by boys playing cards on the platform, and that women in the waiting room had to stand. He also told of instances of overcrowded cars.

Others who testified along the same lines were Arthur M. Peck, who said in addition to serving the immediately contiguous territory, the Troy and New England road afforded the only means for residents of Berlin, Nassau, and North Green bush to reach Troy; Dr. A. R. Kreicker, John Taylor and Messrs. Thomas and Lewis, of Sand Lake. - *The Knickerbocker Press*, November 26, 1914.

1915

AVERILL PARK.

The three larger hotels of the village have been extensively repaired and improved. The interior of the Lake View has been renovated and done in white and a row of electric lights has been placed around the entire porch, adding to the appearance of the building and to the illumination of the village. Dining and dancing halls have been added to the Averill Park House and Travelers' Rest...

A matter brought before the Town Board recently was the condition of a bridge near stop 13 on the Troy and New England Railroad. Mr. Duffy told the board that at present it was difficult for a heavily loaded wagon to pass over the bridge. Commissioner Fredenburgh said it would cost about \$150 to make the repairs. [*Troy*] *Semi Weekly Times*, May 25, 1915

1916

BACKS THE SUPERINTENDENT.

Sand Lake Board of Trade Wants Charles F. McClellan Retained on Railroad.

Troy, March 30.—Members of the Sand Lake Board of Trade at a spirited meeting last night adopted a set of resolutions to be presented to Charles F. Hewitt, general manager of the United Traction company, Albany. The resolutions call for the retention of Charles F. McClellan as superintendent of the Troy and New England railroad. It is said that Superintendent McClellan has received notice from General Manager Hewitt that his services will no longer be required after April 1 next. The reason given is that Superintendent McClellan had his road tied up for...hours during one of the heavy snow storms this month. The members of the Board of Trade say that it was utterly impossible to keep the road open and that the treatment given Superintendent McClellan is unjust. - *Albany Evening Journal*, March 30, 1916

TROY CAR STRIKE HITS COLLAR SHOPS Thousands of Workers Unable to Reach Factories as Trolley-men Quit.

AVERILL PARK MAROONED

Troy and New England Road Tied Up Also, Although Not Allied With United Traction Company.

Troy, generally, was prepared yesterday morning for the sympathetic strike on the part of the Troy local of the Amalgamated Association of Street Railway Employees, and early risers waited only for a short time for their scheduled cars and then hailed busses or hiked to their work. Busses were plentiful. It seemed as though every vehicle that ever was propelled by gasoline was hauled out and put into commission as a jitney. There were not jitney fares, though, the lowest transportation price being ten cents. The fare to Albia from the central part of the city was fifteen cents and the same was charged to North Troy. It cost Cohoes residents twenty-five cents to get into and out of Troy. Watervliet folk paid a dime.

Many departments in the big collar factories were short of help during the morning. Thousands of the women employees were

unable to get to their machines on time but in most of the factories the stragglers were allowed to work as soon as they arrived, the rule barring workers more than an hour late being more than an hour late being suspended temporarily...

Striking trolley men were seen everywhere in the crowd. All were orderly and they seemed to feel that it is to be a finish tight between their organisation and their employers. The North Troy and Albia car barns were closed tight all day. Two policemen from the second precinct were on duty at the Albia station and two men from the fourth precinct were stationed at the North Troy barns. No strikers went near the barns after the last crews turned in their cars yesterday morning. Nearly 100 Troy men who have been staying at Averill Park and other Rensselaer county resort, on the line of the Troy and New England railroad were marooned yesterday morning when their regular cars did not show up. All of the Troy and New England employees belong to the Troy local of the Amalgamated association and quit their posts with the United Traction men, although the Troy and New England is not one of the roads allied with the United Traction. - *Knickerbocker Press*, October 4, 1916

1917

SAND LAKE BOARD OF TRADE.

Committee Arranging for Annual Banquet—Half-Fare Privilege for School Children to Be Taken Up With Public Service Commission.

...The Transportation Committee of the Board of Trade, which has been negotiating with the officials of the Troy and New England Railway in an effort to have the half-fare privilege for school children extended to that line, has received a communication from General Manager Hewitt stating that the school year is so far advanced it was thought best to defer the matter until later. Dr. E. E. Reichard, Chairman of the committee, states that there are more than thirty pupils from points along the line attending school in Troy, who would be benefited by a cheaper fare on weekly school tickets. The committee expects to take up the matter further with the Public Service Commission. - *Troy Times*, March 12, 1917

1919

For Sale ads in the September 27, 1919, edition of the *Troy Times* included a Farm at Snyder's (Stop 10) and

SNYDER'S, Stop 10—Trolley line and state road; 30 acres, camp site location; vegetable, fruit, berry and chicken farm; good two-family house, electric lights, slate roof. Price reduced to \$6,000. Terms. Slade, Gay Bldg.

the Arlington Hotel at Stop 22.

ARLINGTON HOTEL property, Stop 22, Troy and N. E. R. R.; 15 room house, newly painted and papered, concrete cellar, slate roof, electric lights, conveniences, running water, ice house, carriage shed, one acre; \$5,500. Slade, Gay Bldg.

1921

TOWN BOARD OF SAND LAKE GIVES ITS CONSENT Approves Application to Run Buses From Glass Lake to Poestenkill Town Line.

The Town Board of Sand Lake this afternoon unanimously approved a petition of the K. L. W. M. Bus Corporation for the

operation of a line of buses between the town line of Poestenkill and Glass Lake, all in the town of Sand Lake, and set a hearing on the proposed line for Saturday, March 21, at 2 o'clock in Crape's Hotel In Sand Lake.

Two applications were received, one from the K. L. W. M., Inc., and the other was from Joseph P. McLaughlin of this city. Town Committeeman Hastings objected to the bid of Mr. McLaughlin on the ground that it was not regular, and moved that it be laid on the table. This action was taken.

Former Senator P. El. Draper, appearing for the corporation, explained that it would be necessary to advertise the application for 14 days so that a public hearing could be held.

Attorney Draper outlined the proposition of the company and announced that this morning at a meeting of the Town Board of Poestenkill a resolution was passed not to accept section 26 of the transportation corporation law, which requires the consent of a town for the operation of a bus line. This makes it unnecessary for the K. L. W. M. Corporation to get permission to operate through the town of Poestenkill.

For School Children.

At the suggestion of members of the Town Board of Sand Lake, Mr. Draper with the consent of the K. L. W. M., which he represents, agrees to amend the petition to include a section and provide half fare for school children between 7 and 5 o'clock, similar to the opportunity given by the United Traction Co.

Fare Rates.

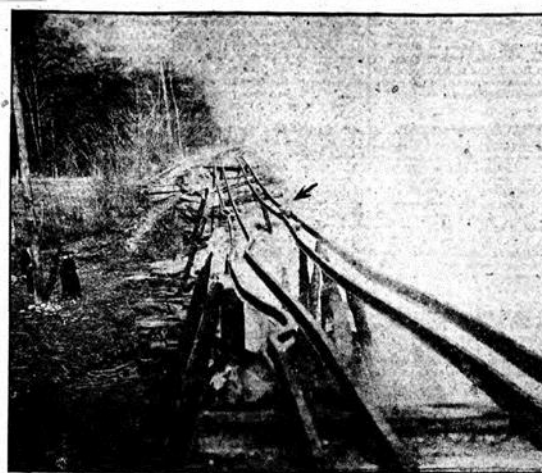
The fare rates of the petitioner are: Glass Lake to Averill Park, five cents; Averill Park to West Sand Lake, 10 cents; West Sand Lake to Wynantskill, 10 cents; Wynantskill to the city of Troy, Brunswick line, five cents; Wynantskill to any point in the city of Troy, 15 cents. The fare from the Albia station to Averill Park charged by the Troy-New England line was 24 cents.

To Go Before Commission.

The K. L. W. M. Corporation may now go before the Public Service Commission for a certificate of necessity as soon as it gets permission from the Troy Common Council to operate over Troy streets. This permission is expected this week, - *Troy Times*, March 4, 1921

An article in the *Troy Times* for March 24, 1921, recounted a fire that destroyed the trestle over the Wynantskill at Brookside Park early that morning;

BURNED TRESTLE ON TROY AND NEW ENGLAND RAILWAY.



Scene of yesterday morning's incendiary fire, which destroyed the wooden bridge over the Wynantskill near Brookside Park. The arrow points to one of the several gasoline or oil cans found at the trestle.

SEE *Historical Highlights*, Vol. 45 No.1. Summer 2018: image on this page from that article. It would be some two months before a temporary trestle

could be erected:

To Open T. and N. E. Road.

...The Troy and New England Railway line will be open by Saturday, according to Assistant General Manager Lynch, and it is understood that women of Averill Park have requested The United Traction Company to give them the use of the first car run over the lines. Seventy-five laborers, imported from New York city, are engaged in building a temporary trestle at Brookside Park to replace the one destroyed by fire. This trestle calls for a detour from the main line and is being built on a lower elevation than the previous one. The one under construction now will be used until such time as the permanent trestle is ready, but may remain standing for use in case of an emergency. When the Troy and New England line is opened the trolley company plans to give an hourly car service until

this week, following which the company expected to maintain a regular schedule from that time forth. He asked each of the persons present to act as a vigilant committee to help detect the persons guilty of destroying the company's property, this latter being taken to mean the destruction of the trestle at Brookside, which is now being repaired temporarily, pending the erection of a permanent structure.

Others who opposed the measure were Chris Crape and Mrs. James K. Averill, wife of the man whom Averill Park was named after. Those speaking in favor of granting the consent were attorney McNamee and Harry Warger. The latter contended that the establishment of such a line would benefit the community at large inasmuch as it would furnish the residents of those localities served by this new line, with additional transportation facilities. - *Troy Times*, May 26, 1921

1924

As evidenced by the half-page newspaper ad in the *Knickerbocker Press* for June 29, 1924, reproduced here, the Town of Sand Lake continued to "develop" as a resort area, with the opening of the Algonquin Park and Algonquin Inn at Reichard's Lake. Note the "Free Trolley Service" offered! Other, smaller ads on that page included ones for Boarer's on Crystal Lake, Crooked Lake Hotel, Brookside Park, along with an ad from K. L. W. M. Inc., showing daily schedules for their "Averill Park and Albany" and "Snyder's Lake and Albany" bus lines. The "end" was near for the Troy and New England Railway as a passenger line!

ANNOUNCING THE OPENING OF

Algonquin Park and Algonquin Inn

7 1/2 Miles From Troy State Road All the Way On Reichards Lake, West Sand Lake 8 Miles From Albany State Road All the Way

CANOEING — BATHING — FISHING

JULY 4th

Dancing Afternoon and Evening Music by Algonquin Orchestra

Swimming Races, Diving Contest, Canoe Races, Row Boat Races, Regatta on Lake

Baseball 3 P. M.—Laureate Boat Club vs. Lansingburg K. of C.

Newly Furnished Camps For Rent Guest Accomodated at Algonquin Inn
Old Town Canoes For Rent Reasonable Rates Week-End Parties—Home Cooking—Extra Fine Beds

A 15 MINUTE TROLLEY SERVICE ALL DAY AND EVENING

— A FREE TROLLEY SERVICE —

Chartered Cars leave Fulton and Third Sts., Troy, at 9:30 A. M., 2:30 P. M.—Evening 7:30
Chartered Cars leave Albia at 9:45 A. M., 2:45 P. M.—Evening 7:45

GRAND DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS

such time as the travel warrants. - *Troy Times*, May 26, 1921

Elsewhere in that same edition:

AGAINST BUS LINE.

Town Board of Sand Lake Refuses Consent to Operation of Autobuses between Albia and Averill Park—Taxpayers Favor Troy and New England Railway Operations.

By a vote of six to one the Town Board of Sand Lake refused to grant consent to Edward W. Knapp, John G. McNary and Willis D. Larkin, of Sand Lake, and Chester I. Wendell of North Greenbush, petitioners, to run a bus line between Averill Park and Albia over the county highway known as No. 195, at a public hearing at Crape's Hotel in Sand Lake yesterday afternoon. Attorney John P. McNamee of this city appeared for the petitioners and Assistant General Manager Thomas J. Lynch, represented The United Traction Company and Troy and New England Railway in opposing the granting of the consent.

After the roll-call, Chris Crape presented a petition signed by 307 voters of Sand Lake, opposing the granting of the franchise, while attorney McNamee offered a similar petition containing the signatures of twenty-five taxpayers and twenty-five voters of West Sand Lake favoring the establishment of the proposed line. Mr. Lynch, in speaking in opposition, stated that The United Traction Company was expending \$3,000 to get the Troy and New England line in condition so that service might be resumed on Saturday of

Another ad in that same newspaper's July 2 edition described Crystal Lake Park's "Bathing, Fishing, Games, Dancing and Riding Devices," along with "Music by Earl Ward's Crystal Lake Society Orchestra"!

1925

Busses Take Place of Averill Park Trolleys

The Troy and New England Railway is idle today after thirty years of service. The last car to pass over its rails arrived at the Averill Park station last midnight from Albia with a handful of passengers and Ward Cunningham, the operator.

A new era in transportation will rise with the break of dawn this morning, when a bus line will be instituted to replace the trolley service. Busses will operate between Glass Lake and Albia under a temporary permit granted by the K. L. W. M. Inc., pending the outcome of a hearing Friday before the Public Service Commission. - *Cohoes American*, April 1, 1925

ALDERMAN WILL HAVE BUSY TIME NEXT WEEK

Petitions of the K. L. W. M. Bus Corporation and the Troy, Wyanntskill and Snyder's Lake Bus Co., for right to operate out of this city on a bus route between Averill Park and Troy, will come up at a public hearing in the City Hall Tuesday night. Both companies have ordinances in the Common Council, and the

petitions will be heard by the Special Traffic Committee of the Council.

The K. L. W. M. Co. has been successful in obtaining a clear right of way between Glass Lake and the city limits and only the permission to operate from the local terminal on State Street to the Albia line is necessary for a clear right of way.



A permit granted the K. L. W. M. Corporation a year ago, by the Council, to operate from the local terminal, was revoked last month by the Council after Joseph F. McLaughlin introduced a petition of the Snyder's Lake Bus Co. for the privilege. The Council charged that the K. L. W. M. had failed to exercise the privilege which it had been granted in failing to operate buses over the route. Shortly after, the K. L. W. M. Corporation presented a petition for reconsideration of the privilege.

It is expected a number of residents along the route of the bus line will attend the hearings to urge the Aldermen to allow the K. L. W. M. petition. Merchants are also interested and will voice their approval of the ordinance. - *Troy Times*, April 11, 1925

1929

K.L.W.M. LINE TAKEN OVER BY TRACTION CO. Capitol District Transportation Interests Make Important Purchase.

The Capitol District Transportation Co., a subsidiary of the United Traction Co., has purchased the K. L. W. M., Inc., bus line, according to an announcement made by Chester Wendell, President of the K. L. W. M. This line operates buses from Troy and Albany to Averill Park and Glass Lake and the purchase will give the transportation company a clear field in its proposition to establish a bus line between Troy and Rensselaer under the suburban company's franchise through the town of North Greenbush. The company now has an ordinance pending before the Traffic Committee of the Troy Common Council giving the company permission to establish buses as far south as the city line on the Greenbush Road. The purchase from the K. L. W. M. will give the railway company all the franchise necessary outside of Troy to link the city with Rensselaer because the K. L. W. M. holds a franchise for a line from the city limits to DeFreestville, although no buses are operated. The K. L. W. M. also operates between DeFreestville and Rensselaer on the Glass Lake-Albany route. In the future the buses will be able to pick up passengers along its entire route... - *Troy Times*, May 1, 1929

Was that the end of it all? Not at all. It's known that the T&NERR line was used at least once more around 1926, this time as a freight line, when the fabled carousel that graced Crystal Lake Park until 1960 was brought here via rail from Ford Park in Green Island. Almost half a century later, much of the old right-of-way was re-utilized for municipal sewer lines for the town.

Meanwhile, a few recognizable landmarks from the trolley days remain, if you know what you're looking at, among them the former Cedarhurst Hotel (later Grange Hall, behind Bonded Concrete), the former Clum's Hotel on Orient Avenue in Averill Park, or the Arlington House! Now, in 2023, parts of that old right-of-way just might become useful again. Witness this news item (excerpted from the Friends of the Sand Lake Community Trail Facebook page):

Walking trail planning grant

On July 26, the Sand Lake Town Board unanimously approved the acceptance of a \$15,000 trail planning grant and will be bidding on an engineering resource to conduct the work. The grant for phase 1 planning of a walking trail has been extended to go beyond Orient Ave through the town walking trails park and reach the new side path on Rt 43 that ends at the AP Post Office. This will be a multi-phase approach with the proposed phase 1 going from Edgewood Drive. The long-term vision is to maximize use of the existing trolley trail, where the town already owns the property.

* * * * *

Annual Fundraising Gala

Our Annual Gala was held on May 21, 1:00-5:00 p.m., at the Arlington House in West Sand Lake. The building dates back to the late 19th century and has been known as the (Old) Journey's End, Elk Horn Hotel and Arlington Hotel. It was also Stop 22 on the Troy & New England Railway. Our theme this year was "Trolleys, transportation, hotels and recreation."



Thank you to our trustees for working together to put on another spectacular event. Thank you Bob Moore for bringing in information about the West Sand Lake Firehouse to gather signatures on a petition to save the historic firehouse building. Thank you Mike and Jen Slavin for bringing in stakes and ties from the original trolley line found while building their home on Rt 43. And of course thank you to our members and sponsors who help us reach our financial goals every year by supporting our event.

We had nearly 100 people in attendance -- standing room only! We also added 15 people to our membership roles at this event, and we are very grateful for these new members. And, thanks to the contributions of multiple individuals and businesses in the Sand Lake area, we were able to raise an additional \$1100 from 50/50, raffle item donations and silent auction sales.

We started a new annual event at this gala -- we honored two local businesses as a thank-you for their support of the SLHS and for maintaining historic buildings in Sand Lake. This year's recipients were Kevin and Janice Tighe of



TBA and Ed and Carol Murray of Arlington House.

Thanks also to **Sponsors: Pete and Liz Finn, Garrett & Shellie DeGraff, Ben & Alyssa Spingarn, Maria & Craig Woche**r.

Donors and Supporters: Arlington House, Bob Moore Sand Lake Town Historian, Bud Whitney / W3 Designs, Chuck Viens, Crossroads Restaurant, Doug Kelley, Photo Collage and Autographs, Eva Dacier, Fifth Tier Baking Studio, Gipfel Coffee,



Holli Boyd-White and Drew White, Jackie Tremont, Jeanne Stewart Pottery, Jim Powers, Lakeview On Crystal Lake, A Little Bitta Sewing, LPB Designs, Minor Key Brewery, Maid Spotless Cleaning Services, Michelle Mosher Schultz, NAPA Auto Parts / Averill Park Auto Supply, Rebecca Klimek, Ryan Smithson, Sand Lake Center for the Arts, Sand Lake Historical Society, Sand Lake Town Library, Taborton Mountain Photography.

Special Guests: Kevin and Janice Tighe of TBA, Ed and Carol Murray of Arlington House ...and the many Sand Lake Historical Society members who helped organize and set up! – Holli Boyd-White, gala chair

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws

This amendment, to be voted on by the membership at the October 13 meeting, is intended to add additional membership categories. *Italic text* is new, ~~double-strikethrough text~~ is to be deleted.

Article III. Membership and Dues

Section 3.01 THERE SHALL BE ~~EIGHT (8)~~ TWELVE (12) MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS. Those who are interested in the history of the town of Sand Lake and who apply for membership in an appropriate classification as outlined below and who tender the necessary dues may therefore become a member:

- (a) Individual ~~Active~~ Membership. Any shall be eligible.
- (b) Family Membership. Any family or group, all of whose members reside at a single address, shall be eligible.
- (c) Researcher. Any shall be eligible.*
- (d) Historian. Any shall be eligible.*
- (e) Preservationist. Any shall be eligible.*
- (f) Student Membership. A person between the ages of thirteen (13) and twenty-two (22) enrolled in a recognized educational institution shall be eligible.
- (g) Contributing and Sustaining Membership. A person, group, or firm offering special support to the objectives of the Society shall be eligible.
- (h) Complimentary Membership. Such membership may be awarded at the discretion of the Board of Trustees, and shall be limited to a term of twelve (12) months from date of issue.
- (i) Lifetime *Individual* Membership. Such membership may be awarded to an individual upon payment of a one-time fee.
- (j) Lifetime Family Membership. Such membership may be awarded to a family or group, all of whose members reside at a single address, upon payment of a one-time fee.*
- (k) Honorary Lifetime Membership. Such an honor may be conferred upon any person whose activities exemplify the purposes of the Society and who have made an outstanding contribution. Honorary Lifetime Members may be elected by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members present at the Annual Meeting, upon nomination by the Board of Trustees.
- (l) Honorary Membership. Such membership shall be conferred upon the positions of Superintendent of the Averill Park School District, Supervisor of the Town of Sand Lake, Sand Lake Town Historian, and Director of the Sand Lake Town Library.

Short takes

At the Averill Park High School 2023 awards ceremony, Sand Lake Historical Society Memorial Awards, in memory of Edna Ryan Wells, were presented to seniors **Luke Cellucci** and **Jason Strickland**.

Historic Eastfield Foundation's Founders Day 2023, Eastfield Village's Annual Open House, will be September 23, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. \$20; pay at the gate – children free!

Sand Lake "favorite son" **Elroy Face** joins fellow Pirates Dick Groat, Bob Friend and Kent Tekulve in the Pittsburgh Pirates Hall of Fame 2023 induction class! Often referred to as the "Baron of the Bullpen," Face was a "pioneer of modern relief pitching and the archetype of what came to be known as the 'closer'." Here in town, the field at Butler Park is named on his honor.

SLHS member notification list

Those of you who have shared your email address with us should be familiar with our list called "slhs-members@googlegroups.com." This is an *announce-only* list to quickly get word to members regarding cancellations, postponements and/or program reminders; it is *not* a discussion list. Postings generally run about 1-2 per month, and you can always opt out (although we hope you won't).

We would love to add members whose email address was not on file; just let us know. It's our best

chance to get important news out quickly (such as the postponement of our March 14 program)! This list supplements notifications on the School Closing Network (local TV stations and newspaper websites) or on our Facebook page and website.

SLHS on Social Media

Facebook Page: [facebook.com/SandLakeHistoricalSociety!](https://www.facebook.com/SandLakeHistoricalSociety/)

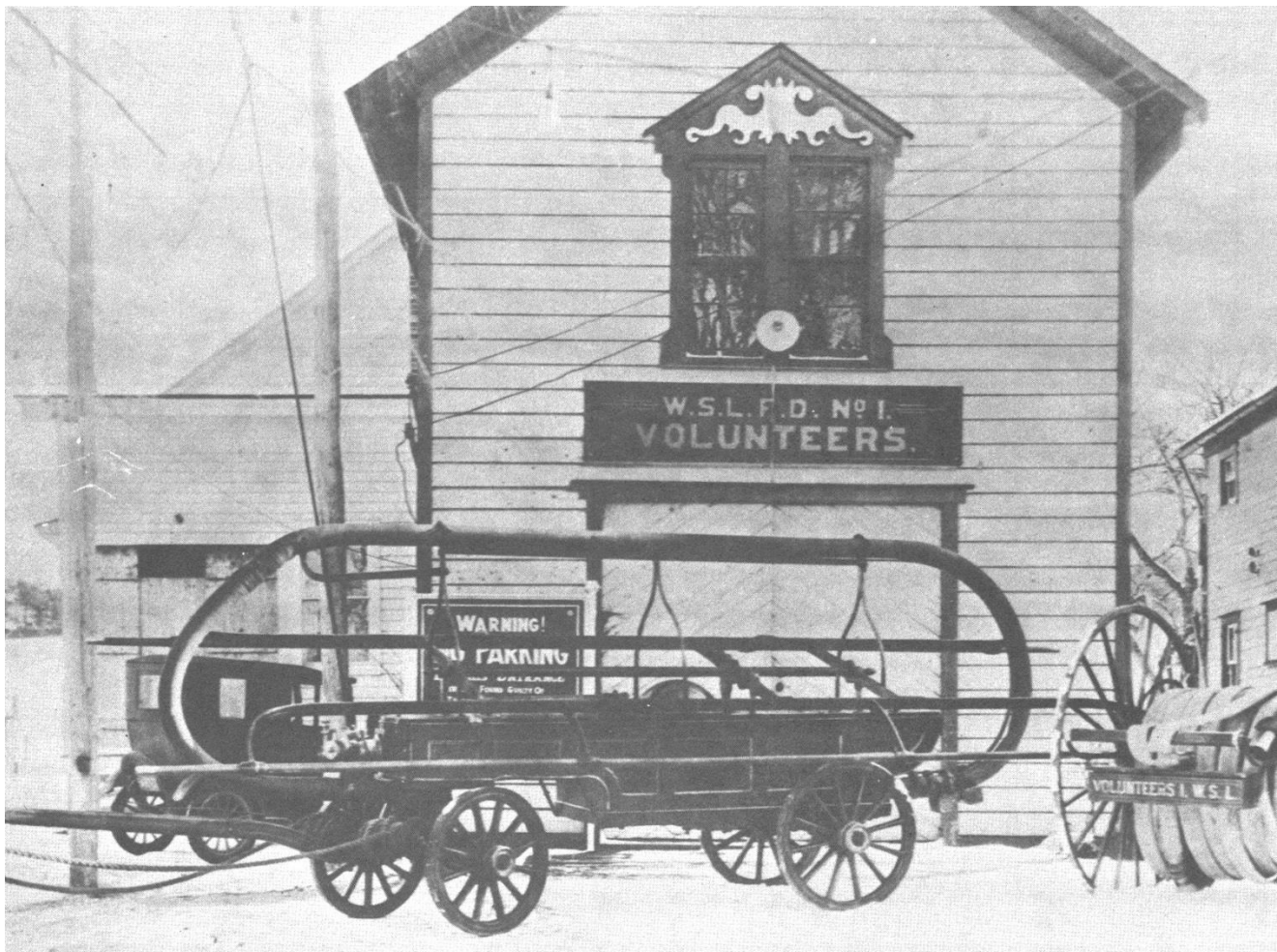
Facebook Group: **Sand Lake (NY) History**
https://www.facebook.com/groups/1404845909647237/?ref=profile_plus_visit_group

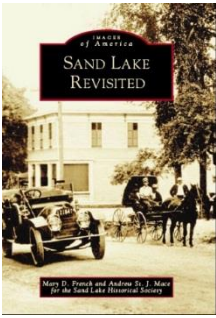
Instagram (new): https://www.instagram.com/sand_lake_historical_society/

Officers and Trustees 2023-2024

Officers: *Peter Finn (2025)*, President; *Holli Boyd-White (2024)*, Vice President; *Rebecca Hoffay Klimek (2025)*, Recording Secretary; *Ann Winnicki (2025)*, Corresponding Secretary; *Wayland Whitney (2026)*, Treasurer.

Trustees: *Alicia Clark (2025)*, *Eva Juliette Dacier (2025)*, *Timothy Hoffay (2026)*, *Linda J. Henchey (2024)*, *Bob Katz (2026)*, *Doug Kelley (2024)*, *Megan Kownikowski (2025)*, *David Neubauer (2025)*, *David Post (2024)*. Currently, there is one vacancy.





<https://sandlakehistory.org>

E-mail: sandlakehistory@aol.com

Historical Highlights 50:1

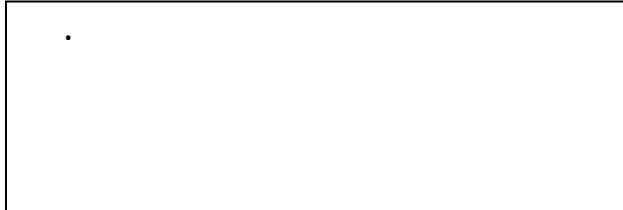
Andrew Mace, Editor/Publisher



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Sand Lake Historical Society Membership Application/Renewal 2023-24

Join or renew online at sandlakehistory.org/join

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Phone _____ E-mail _____

\$3 per Student (13-22) _____ \$10 per Individual _____ \$15 per Family _____

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NOTE: Memberships run from June 1 through May 31.

Summer 2023