



# Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

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Our 48th Year

Fall 2021

## From our president

I can't believe that I am looking at the last two months of 2021 arriving; unbelievable!

SLHS has had some really well attended events recently. We had the dedication of the Fox Mansion roadside historical marker from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. Special thanks to current owners Gretchen and Lawrence for allowing us to come into their home (I could almost see Albert sipping punch, a tasty "brew" made by Dawn Vink) and for allowing us to have the marker put on their property. If you get a chance, please take a ride by 2805 NY43! We lucked out with the rain, the food and drinks were great, and it was so good to see so many people. Special thanks to Joan Fuess and the rest of the Fox Mansion Committee. The amount of work and research required by Pomeroy to get a grant for a marker is quite time consuming, and rightfully so.

I'm still excited how well received and how wonderful the presentation was put on by **arts letters & numbers** on Faith Mills. They could not have gone out of their way more than they did to make us feel so comfortable and to inform us. We were able to tour a couple of the rooms on the second floor of the Faith Mills, find out about some of the history of the Wynantskill, and also to find out "who are those strange people who walk on the Mill Hill," as they referred to it, from **arts letters & numbers** (<http://www.artslettersandnumbers.com/> or like them on Facebook). We also learned The "twins" are the two apartments side-by-side that some mill workers lived in. Now the teaching staff and some of the people who come from out of town from all over the world to Averill Park to take classes put on by the **arts letters & numbers** stay there.

We are delighted to able to gather at the Knowlson House, the home of the Berti's in Sand Lake, again this year for our Holiday gathering. I've invited Melody Basalt Howarth to come. She, among other things, does doll repair. She will also fill you in on her other activities (some of you may know that she is the Town of Nassau Historian). In addition to the canned goods the Berti's have us bring for Doors of Hope, I'm asking everyone to bring a doll to be donated to Joseph House in Troy. They have families who actually stay in the homeless shelter over the holidays; having some toys for the little ones will be nice and I know well appreciated.

And on that note, In the words of the people from **arts letters & numbers**, "Peace and love" for your holidays however you celebrate them.— *Jackie Tremont, President*

## Upcoming programs

- 1 **November 9: "Sir, what do we do with all the dead?" Mortuary practices during the American Civil War.** Today's military considers care for its fallen comrades to be a sacred duty with zero tolerance for mistakes and timely and compassionate notification of next of kin. However, that was not always the case. Prior to the Civil War, service members who died in battle were typically left to decay or buried in place, under primitive conditions, with few provisions for positive identification or notification of family members. Noted Civil War historian Robert W. Shuey will discuss how and why the Civil War marked a major turning point in military mortuary affairs and spurred the Nation into far better caring for its fallen heroes, establishing national cemeteries, and setting the stage for

## In this issue:

We look at the life of Albert R. Fox, as well some "highlights" of the 34-year tenure of Fox's life in the mansion he built circa 1847 in what now is the hamlet of Sand Lake. It's also the site of a new roadside historical marker placed there, thanks to a grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. We'll also look at the dedication of the marker on October 3. All that plus upcoming programs, a recap of recent programs and events, and more!

subsequent national days of remembrance such as Memorial and Veterans Day. Robert W. Shuey is a retired geologist and charter member of and frequent presenter for the Sand Lake Historical Society. In addition, he is a member of the Capital Civil War Roundtable, 125th New York Regimental Association, Da Buffs (Civil War enthusiasts who share their expertise as well as listening to speakers) and a published author of *Socket Bayonets of the Great Powers – A Collector's Guide*. **7:00 p.m., Court Room at Sand Lake Town Hall, 8428 NY Route 66, Averill Park NY 12018**

1 **December 14: *Holiday party***. Members and guests are asked to **bring a covered dish to share, a canned good or other nonperishable for Doors of Hope, a doll for Joseph House, and your memories of Christmas past**; trustees provide desserts. Melody Basolt Howarth, Sand Lake native, doll restorer and Town of Nassau Historian, will speak on dolls and other topics! **6:00 p.m., Knowlson House – the home of Ron and Barbara Berti, 42 Schumann Road, Sand Lake.**

1 **January 11, 2022: *Sand Lake Show and Tell II***. What's in your attic, cellar, closet, junk drawer? Old bottles and such from Sand Lake Springs, Village Shop gift boxes, glass slag from Glass Lake, photos, posters and??? It's part of your history, but it's also part of Sand Lake's history! **7:00 p.m., Court Room at Sand Lake Town Hall, 8428 NY Route 66, Averill Park NY 12018**

1 **February 8, 2022: *Abel Brown, pastor and abolitionist***. SLHS member and trustee Peter Finn will talk about the one-time pastor of Sand Lake Baptist Church in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Recent programs

1 September 14: Sand Lake Town Historian Bob Moore updated us on *Amazing Graves III*, which will be presented on October 16th at the Sand Lake Union Cemetery, as well as the latest on the new Hazel Drew book coming out this December. Bob also spoke on Iroquois culture, using original artwork to present the Iroquois creation story.

1 October 12: A lot packed into a very well-attended program at the former Faith Mills / **arts letters & numbers** on Burden Lake Road! A brief tour, description of how some of

the areas were used, video presentation on the Wynantskill, information on **al&n**, and mention of the upcoming Amazing Grave 3, featuring "The Ladies of Faith Mills" and other portrayals. The program was recorded, and we hope to have a link to that soon!

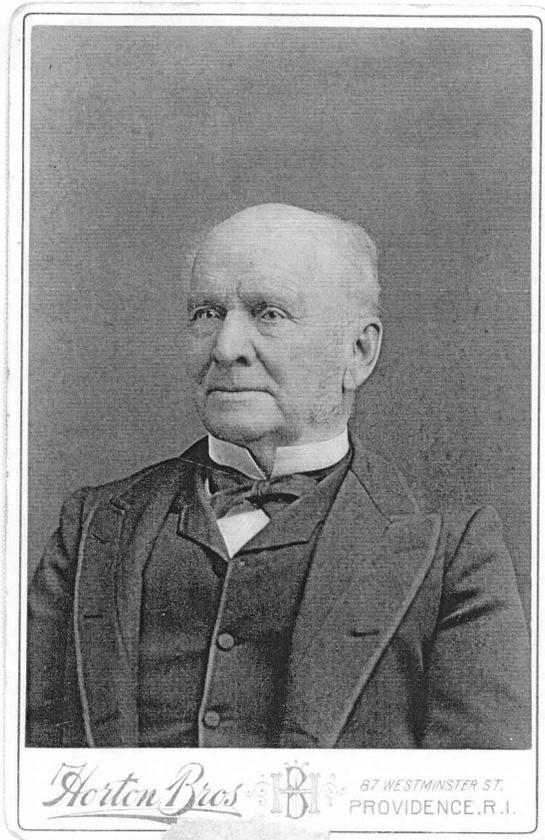


### Fox Mansion marker dedication

On Sunday, October 3, the Sand Lake Historical Society dedicated the town's newest roadside historical marker, commemorating the Fox Mansion in Sand Lake. (Above: *The moment of the unveiling, featuring several Fox family descendants lending a hand!*) There were over 40 in attendance, including Fox family descendants and other former residents (or their descendants) of the house itself, neighbors and special guests. Special thanks to Larry Corbett and Gretchen Griesler (and their two children!) for letting us into their home and for agreeing to a marker on their lawn, and to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for a grant to fund the marker. Thanks also to the "Pomeroy Committee" (Dee Erickson, Joan Fuess and Andrew Mace), Sand Lake Town Supervisor Nancy Perry, the Town Highway Department (for setting the pole) and to the Sand Lake Historic Neighborhood Project.

## Albert Rodmond Fox

We know Albert Rodmond Fox from his house, the Fox Mansion, but what do we know about the person, Albert R. Fox? Consider that Mr. Fox built his “mansion” in 1847, when he was only 37 years old, and then sold it in 1881, when he was 71. There was more to Albert R. Fox than his mansion.



Albert Rodmond Fox was born on February 10, 1810, and came of age during one of the most dynamic periods in American history. During the early 1800s, the country found its footing. Fifty years after the Declaration of Independence there was a new generation of leaders. It was a time of internal improvements (infrastructure!) – new roads, canals, railroads and, eventually, the telegraph – and the industrial revolution. Fortunes were made – and lost. It was a time of social reform as well: circuit-riding preachers; new schools and churches; causes like overseas missions, temperance, and abolition. And Albert R. Fox of Sand Lake was in the middle of it all.

Fox’s father, Isaac B. Fox, formed a partnership with Nathan Crandall and Abraham V.P. Gregory in 1818 to acquire the Rensselaer Glass Factory on the outlet of Rouse (or Mighel’s) Lake – Glass Lake today. The business changed hands several times in the ensuing years and eventually was bought back by Isaac and leased (and subsequently sold) to his sons, Albert R. and Samuel H., who formed the

partnership A.R. & S.H. Fox in 1839. Albert was 29 years old and Samuel was 22.

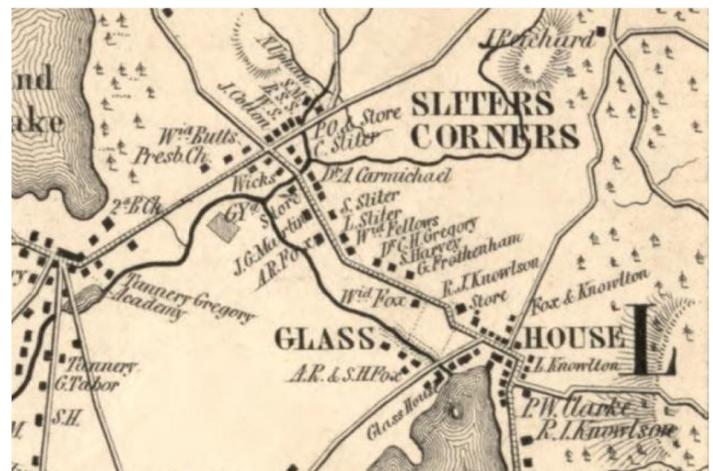
Albert Fox was a well-educated man. He was an early graduate of The Albany Academy (and quite possibly a student of Joseph Henry who taught mathematics and science there) and would have had a classical education in a time when schooling was limited. He went on to the Rensselaer School (now R.P.I.) in Troy, graduating with honors in 1830, in only the school’s fifth graduating class. In later years, Fox would serve as President of the RPI Alumni Association.

By 1847, the Fox brothers’ Rensselaer Glass Works was a success. Both Albany and Troy were booming, with the development of the Erie Canal and the railroads, and finished window glass was shipped along the plank road (approximately today’s Route 43) from Sand Lake to the Albany ferry at Bath (Rensselaer), directly opposite the Erie Canal basin. The Foxes purchased a second glass factory in Durhamville, Oneida County, along the Erie Canal, in 1845. Samuel took over its operations, and soon the Foxes were the largest glass manufacturers in New York State.

In 1849, legislation was enacted to form the Albany and Sandlake Plank Road Company, which acquired the interests of the earlier Eastern Turnpike Company. Fox would later serve as its President. Years later, he co-founded the Albany, Sand Lake and Stephentown Railroad which would have linked Albany to Sand Lake and on to Stephentown, connecting with the Harlem Valley line to New York City as well as the Boston and Maine. Fox had big plans for Sand Lake.

The Fox Mansion was a symbol of that success – and Albert Fox’s commitment to his hometown.

Albert’s father, Isaac, passed away at the age of 57 in 1847, just as his son’s mansion was being completed. His mother, Eunice, remained living on Fox lands, in a house that still stands on Schumann Road, until her death in 1881, at the age



of 91 – the same year Fox sold his manor house to James K. Averill.

According to 1854 maps, Fox properties extended from what is now Cemetery Lane in Sand Lake to Glass Lake Road, from the Wynantskill to Route 43&66 and what is now Schumann Road (before the 43&66 bypass), and included property on the east side of Schumann, as well. This was the Fox farm.

The glassworks burned on Christmas Eve in 1852, never to be rebuilt. But Albert and Samuel continued in the glass business, with operations in Lanesborough, Massachusetts (Berkshire County), and Durhamville, on the Erie Canal, in Oneida County. Albert became General Agent for the glass business in Durhamville as well as the glassworks in Berkshire County. Water privileges (spillway rights) at Glass Lake were consolidated and eventually became part of the Wynantskill Improvement Association, which controlled stream

City at 120 Broadway (in the original Equitable Life Building, the first office building in the world with passenger elevators).

**November 3, 1847:** The Wednesday Evening edition of the *Evening Express* reported on the previous day's elections. *"The Whigs have swept the State, as with a tornado. What calls itself 'democracy' is prostrated in all quarters. All our candidates on the State ticket, headed by HAMILTON FISH [Lieutenant Governor under John Young], and MILLARD FILLMORE [Comptroller], are elected by such immense majorities that it is hardly worth the while to figure them up."*

(Included in those victories was that of Albert R. Fox to the 12<sup>th</sup> State Senate District. At this time, Fox also served on the Executive Committee of the Rensselaer County Agricultural Society.)

But, whenever possible, Albert Fox chose to conduct business in Sand Lake, welcoming visitors and business associates to his home.

There was much more to Albert Fox than being a manufacturer and a merchant. Albert, his father Isaac, and Mary Gregory were all founding members of the Sand Lake Baptist Church in 1831. Albert and Mary would marry eighteen months later. Albert Fox was a member for the rest of his life, serving his last 25 years as senior deacon. Naturally, it was Fox who wrote the initial history of the congregation in 1883, identifying himself on the cover humbly as the only remaining "constituent member" of the congregation.

Albert Fox served in several church-related leadership positions. He was a Trustee of Madison University (later Colgate), which was founded in 1819 as a Baptist seminary, from 1855 until his death, serving on the board alongside William L. Marcy, the former New York Governor, U.S. Senator, and Secretary of both War and State [and, briefly, a Sand Lake resident circa 1800 – Ed.]. (Coincidentally, Colgate lies just 20 miles south of Durhamville). He also was on the Board of Managers of the American Baptist Missionary Union and served as Vice-President the Rensselaer County Sunday School Union and Treasurer of the Hudson River Baptist Association.

Locally, Fox served on the board of the newly formed Sand Lake Union Cemetery (located across the creek from his house!) and was a benefactor of the Sand Lake Institute. His son-in-law, Harvey Boone (who was married to Fox's daughter Fannie) founded the Brookside Institute, next door to the Fox Mansion; in 1860 there were nine students in

**January 31, 1863:** An ad in the *Troy Daily Times* notes dissolution of two companies, that of "A. R. Cox (sic) & Co., Albert Fox being authorized to settle business of both A. R. Fox & Co. and Fox, Howland & Co.

Dissolution.  
THE FIRM OF A. R. COX & Co. is this day dissolved by mutual consent. The business of the late firms A. R. FOX & Co., and FOX, HOWLAND & Co., will be settled by Albert R. Fox, who is hereby authorized to settle the same. - Troy, January 31, 1863.  
ALBERT R. FOX,  
JOHN H. PHILLIPS.  
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flows on the Wynantskill for the mills of Sand Lake and eventually powering Henry Burden's Ironworks in Troy.

Albert Fox continued on in other businesses as well. From 1855 to 1858, he was a partner in the F. Wager and Sons Stoveworks at 275 River Street in Troy (with a foundry at 279-293 North Third St), boarding at 1 Washington Place (at Washington Park) when he wasn't at home in Sand Lake. By 1860 he was a partner in the Troy flour business, H.T. Howland & Co. at 43 River Street; Henry Howland was married to Albert's younger sister Julia, so Albert was using his business acumen and contacts to support a family member (in what was likely a struggling business given Western competition).

In 1862, Fox became President of the Sandlake Plank Road Company, a position he held until his death in 1892. With Horatio Averill, in 1870, he formed the Albany, Sandlake and Stephentown Railway Company; by 1876 they had acquired over one-third of the 30-mile right-of-way, spent over \$10,000 on surveys and engineering (\$2.2 million in today's dollars), and opened an office in New York

residence, ranging in age from 10 to 18 (all boys). Harvey Boone went on to become editor of the *Syracuse Journal*.

Politics was in Fox's blood, too. He was a Whig, the progressive party of the era. According to one author, Whigs believed that it was the responsibility of governments to shape an environment conducive to progress, reform, and improvement. When Albert ran for State Senate in 1847, he was described as "a man of acknowledged talents and genuine Whig principles [with] a keen perception of the corruption of the times." Fox served in the New York State Senate from 1848-49 and helped usher through the legislation that separated the town of Poestenkill from Sand Lake.

In these roles, Fox would have been part of the split both in the Whig party and in the Baptist Church into northern and southern factions over the question of slavery. There has been much discussion about Fox's involvement in abolition and the underground railroad. Former Sand Lake Town Historian Judy Rowe speculated that Fox & Co. wagons were used to transport of escaping former slaves from Bath (Rensselaer) to Sand Lake and Berkshire County, citing the presence of a free Black community near the Lanesborough glassworks. She also contended that Charles Nalle (another escaped former slave) was employed by the Foxes at the Sand Lake glassworks as a teamster. Historian Scott Christianson, a former resident of the Fox Mansion and author of *Freeing Charles: The Struggle to Free a Slave on the Eve of the Civil War*, stated that Charles Nalle stayed for a time with the Foxes before moving to a cottage on the grounds of Scram's Institute, where he worked before relocating to Troy. Fox also was a Deacon of the Sand Lake Baptist Church when militant abolitionist Elder Abel Brown was hired as its pastor in 1840, only to dismiss him a year later for being too radical. So, it's possible Fox may have been a quiet supporter of the abolitionist cause but not involved in the underground railroad, which, as an illegal activity, might have

jeopardized his position in the community and his political and business interests.

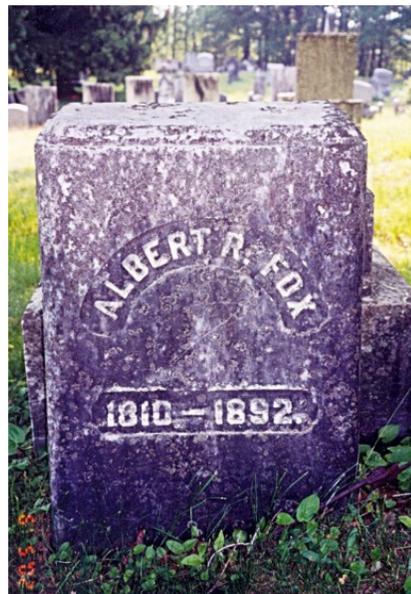
Another Fox-related mystery involves the sale of the Fox Mansion to James K. Averill in 1881. Historian Peter Shaver stated that the sale of the house (plus an additional 90 acres of land) was likely due to "money problems" resulting from Fox's never-built railroad. Both the properties and the remaining interests in the railroad were passed to the Averills. Years later a portion of the right-of-way in Sand Lake was used by James Averill for the Troy and New England Railway, the trolley connecting Averill Park to Troy. The Hoosac Tunnel was completed in 1875, shifting rail routes through Rensselaer County. Or, perhaps Fox was unwilling or unable (or too ethical!) to compete businesswise in post-Civil War Troy. Or, simply, by 1881, the 71-year-old Fox chose to retire from business and public life and "downsize," moving into the house next door (on Schumann Rd) with his son Samuel A. Fox and family. His mother Eunice had just died (at 92). His wife Mary had passed away in 1869 (at the age of 58), his son-in-law Harvey Boone in 1875 (age 39), and his youngest son Abraham Gregory Fox in 1876 (age 24). In the 1880 census he listed his occupation as "retired merchant."



Albert Fox died in 1892 in the house across the street (on what now is Schumann Road), home of his daughter Eunice and her husband Andrew Knowlson. His obituary described him as "a gentleman of the old school" who "occupied many positions of trust," a man of "refined tastes" who welcomed "intelligent visitors" to his home, "one of the most hospitable in the county, and its charming grounds, well stored library" and known for "his urbanity, cheerfulness and modesty and made friends wherever he went."

Unlike the Averills, our hamlet of Averill Park is not named after the Fox family (as it could well be). There are no monuments to Albert R. Fox, other than his home. Fittingly, Albert's wife Mary's

headstone in the Union Cemetery is elaborate while, beside it, Albert's is quite modest. – Peter Finn



## The Fox Mansion – Part One

**A mostly chronological look at some history of the property, mansion and its occupants**

**May 6, 1843:** A Warranty Deed conveys some 17.5 acres from Uriah M. Gregory to Albert R. Fox. That deed includes mention of provisions of the

conveys all rights to said spring *“with the privilege of laying down water pipe below frost through the lands of said Sliter to said spring and also to repair said spring and water pipe and cover the same so as to keep it secure, clean and wholesome and to use one inch caliber pipe from the spring or to draw*

The Albert R. Fox House, built c. 1847, is a large Greek Revival frame residence located on a 2.5-acre lot in the hamlet of Sand Lake, town of Sand Lake, Rensselaer County, New York... The residence is of frame construction on a partially exposed foundation of mortared stone cut into long rectangles. It is symmetrically composed, with a two-story, five-bay wide and four-bay deep main block flanked by one-story, two-bay wide wings on the north and south sides. The wings are recessed one bay from the main facade. A large two-story rear wing projects from the southernmost bays of the rear elevation. The main part of the house and the flanking wings are largely intact from the date of construction, with the exception enclosed porch on the south side of the south wing that was added in the early 20th century. The rear wing is original to the house but has been altered – its current appearance dates to c. 1950.

The main block has heavy flat pilasters dividing each bay on all elevations (except the rear) that support a deep frieze and bracketed cornice. Originally, the cornice was surmounted by stylized crenellations that were removed a number of years ago. The wall surfaces are clad with flush horizontal siding. The low hip roof has two short brick chimneys, on the north and south slopes, and each has three decorative terra cotta chimney pots that may be original but are more likely date to later in the nineteenth century. The five-bay facade of the main block has a full-width one-story open porch with Ionic columns supporting a deep entablature. Stone steps lead up to the porch. The porch has a flat roof with a balustrade of rectangular panels with diagonal cross pieces. The central main entrance is framed with flat pilasters supporting a heavy entablature and has a recessed, one-panel single door flanked by etched glass sidelights and a transom. On the exterior is the original louvered door that was likely removed in the winter months. The first-story openings flanking the entrance contain paired floor-length French windows, each with three lights. On the second story the five windows contain six-over-six double-hung sash. All of the windows are original and have exterior louvered shutters, likely also original. The deep entablature of the front porch continues along the front bays of the north and south elevations of the main block and across the open front porches on both wings. The decoration of the wings echoes the main block, with pilasters framing the bays, and balustrades framing the flat roofs. There are also French windows on the front bay of the main block facing the porches of the wings. Each wing has stone steps leading up to the porch, a single entrance door and a window with six-over-six double-hung sash... – *Peter D. Shaver, from the application for National Register of Historic Places status. The photo below likely dates from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Note that the “fountain” has been filled in. It was dug out again in the late 1950s or early 1960s when Lillian Sproule owned the mansion.*

original lease, namely, *“the yearly rent of 1 3/4 bu. of wheat to be delivered at the office of William P. Van Rensselaer on January 1 of each year; subject to the right of proprietor of manor to take what land may be adjudged necessary for the purpose of building mills and the cutting and using wood and timber for same”!*

**August 5, 1845** (recorded March 12, 1847): Another Warranty Deed appears to convey an additional 17.5 acres from Gregory to Fox, *“excepting and reserving the triangle lot as deeded by me to Daniel M. Gregory on Nov. 17, 1809 anow [sic] owned by Isaac B. Fox.”*

**August 10, 1845** (also recorded March 12, 1847): A Deed from Uriah M. Gregory to Albert R. Fox provides for the “water privilege by aqueduct or otherwise” of the spring on the land of Lewis Sliter. A Quit Claim Deed dated July 31, 1847 (and recorded August 4, 1847) further

*what water will run through inch hole-yet permit him to put down a water pipe with a one and a half inch caliber.”* (This is the first mention in any deed of “A. R. Fox’s dwelling house”!)



**November 3, 1847:** The Wednesday Evening edition of the *Evening Express* reported on the previous day's elections. "The Whigs have swept the State, as with a tornado. What calls itself 'democracy' is prostrated in all quarters. All our candidates on the State ticket, headed by HAMILTON FISH [Lieutenant Governor under John Young], and MILLARD FILLMORE [Comptroller], are elected by such immense majorities that it is hardly worth the while to figure them up." (Included in those victories was that of Albert R. Fox to the 12<sup>th</sup> State Senate District. Fox would serve only that one term, from 1848-49. At this time, Fox also served on the Executive Committee of the Rensselaer County Agricultural Society.)

**April 1, 1850** (Acknowledged April 16, 1856, and recorded November 24, 1857): A Warranty Deed from Silas Sliter and Frances Sliter, his wife, conveys "about ½ acre of land" to Albert R. Fox.

**December 25, 1852:** Fire destroyed the Glass Works for what would prove to be one last time, after which Fox received an offer to rebuild at the Berkshire Glass Factory in Berkshire County, Massachusetts. In 1853 he removed all remaining equipment, tools, and some workers to Berkshire County. Final dissolution of the Sandlake enterprise took place in 1854; the ad below appeared in the *Troy Daily Whig*: **Dissolution. The Firm of A. R. and S.H. Fox, who have been engaged in the manufacture of Window Glass and general merchandise, is**

**DISSOLUTION. THE FIRM OF A. R. & S. H. Fox, who have been engaged in the manufacture of Window Glass and general merchandise, is this day dissolved by mutual agreement. Albert R. Fox, of Sandlake, is the only person authorized to collect for and settle the concerns of the late firm. ALBERT R. FOX, SAMUEL H. FOX.**  
Sandlake, December 1st, 1853. 65

this day dissolved by mutual agreement. Albert R. Fox, of Sandlake, is the only person authorized to collect for and settle the concerns of the late firm...

**January 1, 1857** (Acknowledged August 7, 1858; recorded March 19, 1859): A deed conveys from "James S. Knowlson and Jane E. Knowlson, his wife - to - Albert R. Fox...about 36 acres of land more or less..."

**January 31, 1863:** An ad in the *Troy Daily Times* notes dissolution of another company, that of "A. R. Cox (sic) & Co., Albert Fox being authorized to settle business of both A. R. Fox & Co. and Fox, Howland & Co., the latter involved in flour.

**Dissolution.**  
**THE FIRM OF A. R. COX & Co.** is this day dissolved by mutual consent. The business of the late firms A. R. Fox & Co., and Fox, Howland & Co., will be settled by Albert R. Fox, who is hereby authorized to settle the same. - Troy, January 31, 1863.  
ALBERT R. FOX,  
JOHN H. PHILLIPS.  
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**January 31, 1864:** "Arson in Sandlake" was the headline in the *Troy Daily Times*.

"About 12 o'clock yesterday forenoon, fire was discovered issuing from a second-story window in the beautiful residence of Hon. Albert R. Fox, at Sandlake. The family were absent at the time in attendance upon church, with the exception of a girl who was in the lower part of the building, and a boy—a scholar at Brookside Institute, located upon the same grounds—who had recently been expelled and was under discipline for misconduct. The flames had got under strong headway before being discovered, and it at one time seemed impossible that the building could be saved. But by a most providential coincidence, the Baptist and Presbyterian congregations were both dismissed at the time, and a very large number of persons were at once assembled, working with almost superhuman energy to save the property of their esteemed townsman. A fountain full of water a few feet from the house, and a reservoir on the second story, supplied means for extinguishing the flames, and they were confined to the point where they originated—the building being saved with a damage of \$2500 to \$3000, which is covered by insurance. The fire was undoubtedly the work of an incendiary, and circumstances tend very clearly to fasten suspicion upon the guilty person. Several robberies were committed in connection with the graver crime. There was neither stove nor register within many feet of the point where the flames were started, and no fire for many days upon that floor. The door of the room in which the burning commenced was open a few minutes before its discovery, when nothing was wrong. It was closed when those first alarmed reached the spot.—The exercises of the term at Brookside will not be interrupted by this event."

A small ad in the Thursday Evening, **November 5, 1868**, edition of the *[Albany] Evening Journal* noted that "the office of the Albany and Sandlake Plank Road company is removed to the

**THE OFFICE OF THE ALBANY AND SANDLAKELAKE Plank Road Company is removed to the residence of Albert R. Fox, Sandlake, by order of the Board of Directors.**  
DOL dc&wit A. R. FOX, Secretary.  
A. STRATTON would beg leave to inform his

residence of Albert R. Fox, Sandlake, by order of the Board of Directors..."

**April 1, 1881:** A Warranty Deed notes the sale of property amounting to 18-666/1000 acres, including the mansion, to James K. Averill for the sum of \$21,500 [about \$575,450 in 2021 dollars – Ed]. A later quit claim deed conveys all rights, title and interest, etc., in the land including the spring "through, over, under and upon the lands formerly of...Lewis Sliter and now occupied by Joel Peck..." It appears that Albert Fox held a \$10,000 mortgage.

[We will continue the story, beginning with James K. Averill's purchase of the Mansion, in our Winter issue. – Ed.]



interest from us and from other places and groups in the Capital District. And you might see things you won't see in our newsletter or on the website!

Our page is getting noticed more and more! Late in 2020, we hit **700** likes. Earlier this year, we reached number **800**. In early October, we reached (and quickly surpassed) **900** likes! Congratulations to Tracy Shoemaker, our 900<sup>th</sup> "like"! As has become custom, she will receive a complimentary one-year membership (in this case, extension of an existing

membership)! As we go to press, we stand at **925** "likes" (of a total of **1002** "followers" of the page)!

New on Facebook two years ago was **Sand Lake (NY) History**, a companion *group* to our **Sand Lake Historical Society page**. This *group* allows members to share information and to ask or answer questions about our Town's history. That group currently has over 800 members!

And there's always our website, [sandlakehistory.org/](http://sandlakehistory.org/)! Recent additions include a large section on "World War I in Sand Lake," an expansion (and still a work in progress) of a newsletter feature from Fall 2018!

### 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](mailto: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 will be offered the opportunity to opt out. We're happy to add members whose email address was not on file; just let us know! This will supplement any notifications on the School Closing Network (local TV stations and newspaper websites) or on our Facebook page and website.

### Officers and Trustees 2021-2022

**Officers:** *Jacqueline Tremont (2022)*, President; *Holli Boyd-White (2024)*, Vice President; *Peter Finn (2022)*, Recording Secretary; *Ann Winnicki (2022)*; Corresponding Secretary; *Nancy Perry (2023)*, Treasurer.

**Trustees:** *Sharon Dawes (2022)*, *Linda Henchey (2024)*, *Doug Kelley (2024)*, *Michael Perry (2022)*, *David Post (2024)*, *Jim Powers (2023)*, *Michelle Mosher Schultz (2023)*, *Wayland Whitney (2023)*.

### Seen at the Fox marker dedication

Above *Left*: Linda Wells and June Foltz, descendants of the Averill family (James K. Averill purchased the Fox Mansion in 1881).

Above *Center*: Kenn Fox is a descendant of Albert R. Fox.

Above *Right*: Betsy Lee Judkins and her two grandsons. BetsyLee is the granddaughter of Lillian Sproule, who owned the Mansion from about 1953-73 and ran the renowned *Yesteryears Antique Doll Museum* during that period.

*Below*: A sizeable contingent from the Fox family.



### SLHS on Facebook

If you haven't already done so, find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/SandLakeHistoricalSociety/](https://facebook.com/SandLakeHistoricalSociety/)! It's a great place to get the most up-to-date news on meetings and events, along with other items of



Sand Lake Historical Society  
**Membership Application/Renewal 2021-2022**  
*(Please print clearly)*

New Member  Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

\$100 per Lifetime (Individual) \_\_\_\_\_ \$150 per Lifetime (Family – two persons) \_\_\_\_\_

Would you prefer to receive newsletter via: Email  or Postal Mail  *(check only one)*

Do you have any particular historical interests or expertise? If so, please let us know:

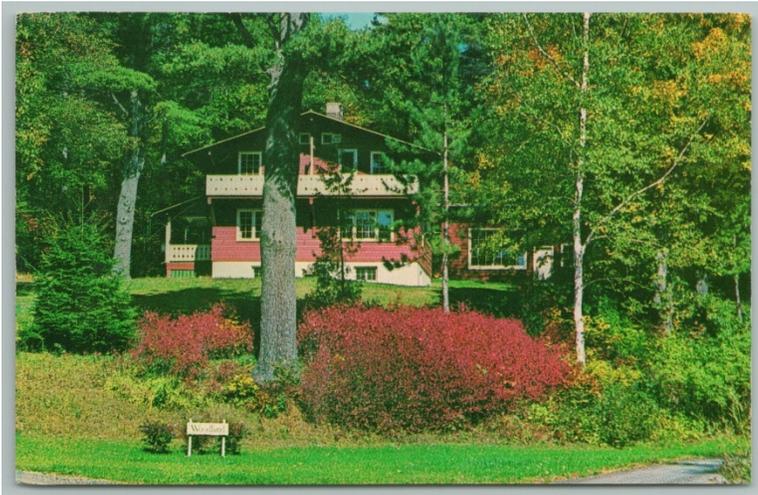
\_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to *Sand Lake Historical Society*. Mail to:  
Sand Lake Historical Society, Post Office Box 492, West Sand Lake, New York 12196

**Fall 2021**

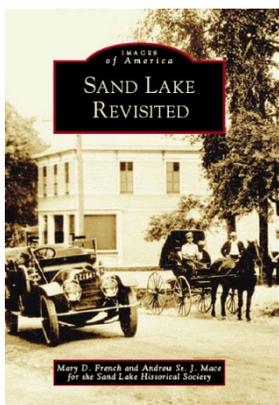
**NOTE: Memberships run from June 1 through May 31.  
New memberships will be good through 5/31/2022!**



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### Do you recognize this?

This image is from a “real photo post card” likely dating from the 1950s. It is described on the back as “Swiss Chalet: located in the hills north of Glass Lake, Sand Lake, N. Y. ...” More about this and how it relates to various aspects of Sand Lake history in our Winter issue!



<https://sandlakehistory.org>  
E-mail: [sandlakehistory@aol.com](mailto:sandlakehistory@aol.com)

**Historical Highlights 48:2**

*Andrew Mace, Editor/Publisher*



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