



Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

Volume 50, Number 4

Our 50th Year!

Spring 2024

From the president

As you've certainly have heard by now, SLHS will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary May 16th at Old Daley on Crooked Lake, the site of our organizational meeting in 1974 – and yet another reminder of how connected Sand Lake's history is...to a lot of things!

Old Daley – the Crooked Lake Hotel – is on Crooked Lake – which is connected to Glass Lake -- where Albert Fox had his glassworks – and flows into the Wynantskill, powering the mills on Burden Lake Road and down through West Sand Lake, and, with all that water added from Henry Burden's lake (actually three, engineered by West Sand Lake's Burton Thomas), turned...), turned the great wheel at the Burden Iron Works in Troy, which kinda won the Civil War, since all those Union horses needed shoes. No Burden Lake, no Kay's, no Gilded Age Troy, no hit HBO series, either. The Wynantskill parallels the original colonial-era Albany Military Road, traversing Sand Lake before the town's existence, over the mountain to Deerfield (and therefore Boston), a notation on Burgoyne's map before his Redcoats got stopped and the Revolutionary War turned. James Gill Averill's Troy and New England Railway – the trolley from Albia to Averill Park – follows the creek and passes by such town landmarks as Stop 13 Road, the Arlington House, and the site of Averill's Park Hotel which was originally Scrams Collegiate Institute. Charles Nalle, the escaped former slave later rescued by Harriet Tubman on the streets of Troy, worked at Scrams and Adam Blake, the son of the formerly-enslaved, ran the hotel before opening Albany's Kenmore. The trolley brought throngs of wage laborers from booming Troy and made Averill Park Averill Park, rebranded Sand Lake to the more tourism-friendly Crystal, where the gangster Legs Diamond spent his summers (and inspired William Kennedy to write that book) and whose amusement park featured a horse named Mascot (who didn't need shoes), not to be confused with Moscow (who did), and transported Hazel Drew to her unsolved demise, without whom the Twin Peaks TV series likely would not have existed. Our Wynants Kill flows past the Sand Lake Union cemetery, where the graves are amazing, final resting place for numerous war veterans and Anti-Rent warriors Sheriff Willard Griggs and Smith "Big Thunder" Boughton, whose activism changed New York politics, and in sight of the Sand Lake Baptist Church, where radical abolitionist and underground railroader Elder Abel Brown preached, and helped create American history. Sand Lake, where Teddy Roosevelt vacationed,

In this issue:

The Nominating Committee (Peter Finn, Bud Whitney and Linda Cooke) has proposed, and the trustees approved, the following nominations for trustee: Linda Henchey, Doug Kelley, Dave Post, all for second three-year terms; Pat Reidel for a three-year term to replace Holli Boyd-White, who has served two three-year terms; and Anja Stehr Carr to fill the last year of a three-year term (due to resignation of Alicia Clark). One vacancy remains, that being the last year of a three-year term that had been filled by Joan Fuess. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the Annual Meeting on May 14. Please contact Pete Finn or Bud Whitney if you are interested in becoming a trustee!

We would also like to express our everlasting thanks to Holli and Joan for their service!

Elsewhere in this issue, we wrap up our first half-century with a period news account of the capture of Charles Nalle, other notable anniversaries in 2024, and the return of a notable one-time Averill Park "resident"! All that, "From the president" ... and more!

Eleanor Roosevelt lunched, baseball hero Elroy Face played, Vietnam war hero George Quamo lived, and where Jerry Lewis was a soda jerk before playing one on the silver screen and before he met his wife, Patti Palmer, who sang with Jimmy Dorsey's Orchestra at ... The Crooked Lake Hotel.

Join Teddy Roosevelt, Legs Diamond, and your neighbors, "come as we were" and, together, let's all make more Sand Lake history at our 50th Anniversary Gala, May 16th. Cut-off is May 1st: please buy your tickets today.

Again, thanks to Bob Harris's notes from back then, we have the following list of those who joined the Society in its first year. We acknowledge and thank our Charter Members (***bolded and italicized*** names are also current members): Ruth Allen; Lynn Baldwin; Pauline Basolt; Mr. & Mrs. Carl Beck; Jane Bowman; Luke & Bernadette Bresnahan; ***Grace Briscoe***; Kenneth Brock; Madolyn Carpenter; Alpheus Coon; Margaret Diamond; George (Bob) Dunworth; Mr. & Mrs. Don Edmans; Norma & Arthur Fagnant; Kathy Fasco; Barbara & Richard Flanagan; Joyce French; Alan & ***Joan Fuess***; Ruth Fuess; Doris Gallant; Helen Guy; Lynn Harris; Susan & ***Robert Harris***; ***Mary Pat Hart***; Thomas Hart; Marilyn Hayner; Mary Hilt; Marjorie Hixon; Lillian Howarth; ***Nancy & Douglas Kelley***; Catharine Langford; Gladys Larkin; Patricia Lazarony; Joan Leaman; Martha & George B. Leckonby; Jr.; Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Leidner; Dorothy & Louis Leitgeb; Anne & Robert Lilly; ***Andrew Mace***; Katharine & H. Lansing Mace; Marilyn Martin; Constance Mason; Ada Miller; ***Jim Miller***; Ruth & Raymond Miller; Edmund Moore; Elizabeth Mosher; Kay Moss; Annetta Moul; Dorothy

McEntyre; Paul Nash; Walter Nash; Jerry Oestrick; Edna Pierce; Martin Pryor; Edwina Randall; Clyde Rescott; Olive Rescott; Shirley Rescott; Bonnie Romer; Agnes Rounds; Judy Rowe; Sarah Rutherford; Mrs. James Ryan; Mrs. Robert Ryan; Loraine Schreiner; Barbara & Daniel Sekellick; Mary & ***Robert Shuey***; Glenn Snyder; Rosemary & Stan Supkis; Fern Suplee; Louise Taylor; Audna Tifft; Jewel Toca; Mary & Marshall Trumble; Ruth & John Udvary; Beryl, Stephen, Daniel & Yvonne Vannier; Jane & Kenneth Van Praag; John Van Wormer; ***Charles Viens***; Patricia Lynn Wagner; Rita Wagner; William Walsh; Myra Wehnau; John Wilfred; Annette Yanus; Sanford Young; Elinor Zaki.

(Provisional Charter granted by the Board of Regents of The University of the State of New York, Education Department, on June 27, 1975)

If you see any names of people you know, please have them contact one of us as soon as possible, as we'd like to recognize them!

– Peter Finn, President

Upcoming Programs and events

- 1 **Friday, April 26:** Fourth Annual ***National Historic Marker (Cleaning) Day***, sponsored by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation.
- 1 **Saturday, April 27:** ***Sand Lake Spring Clean-Up Day***, Butler Park starting at 8:30 a.m. Rain date May 4.
- 1 **Tuesday, May 14 7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting.** Election of Trustees, annual report to the membership, “welcome home” to *Mascot* (explanation elsewhere in this issue), and more!
- 1 **Thursday May 16, 6:00 p.m. 50th Anniversary Gala at Old Daley on Crooked Lake.** Tickets available at <https://sandlakehistory.org/gala2024>
- 1 **Tuesday June 11, 7:00 p.m. Heroes of the Anti-Rent War.** SUNY Oneonta professor *Roger Hecht*, author of *Freemen Awake!: Rally Songs and Poems from New York's Anti-Rent Movement* will present a literary history talk on the Anti-Rent War.
- 1 **Saturday, June 15,** is the Sand Lake Baptist Church's annual ***Strawberry Festival***, a tradition dating back to around 1959, this year featuring tours and historical displays!
- 1 **October 6: Hazel Drew “Legends & lore” Historical Roadside Marker** installation and dedication, followed by a book talk; more details in the Summer issue!

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 can be found on our website; click on “[Programs](#).” Past Programs recorded can be viewed from our website; click on “[Videos](#).”

Past:

- 1 **March 12: History of Beer-making in Rensselaer County.** Roger Savoy of Homebrew Emporium and Emporium Farm Brewery “tapped” us into Rensselaer County beer history.
- 1 **April 9: Trolleys, Trails, and (Maybe) Sand Lake, Too!** Matt Kierstead of Milestone Heritage Consulting presented an illustrated talk on the Albany Hudson Electric Trail and how rail trails can transform communities. Garrett DeGraff shared thoughts on our own Troy and New England Railway, its potential as a public trail, and steps being taken toward that goal.

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: *Eva Juliette Dacier* (2025), *Joan Fuess* (2024), *Timothy Hoffay* (2026), *Linda J. Henchey* (2024), *Bob Katz* (2026), *Doug Kelley* (2024), *Megan Konikowski* (2025), *David Neubauer* (2025), *David Post* (2024), vacant (2025).



An “eyewitness” account: The capture of Charles Nalle

Our anticipation of the (unfortunately canceled) February program on Charles Nalle, combined with spotting a newspaper clipping in the vast Averill “archives” (in the joint Town/SLHS collection) led to trying to find that clipping in the original newspaper. A bit of searching, and we were fortunate enough to find not only that, but – to put it in context – the article that was being responded to by Horatio Averill, essentially an “eyewitness” account, as best as we could, just as it was printed, errors and all!

What follows here is that account of the events that transpired that April day in 1860, said account including a not-too-flattering mention of Averill. It was that mention to which Averill responded.

It is worth noting that “Horatio” Averill was erroneously referred to as “Horace” Averill in this and other period newspaper accounts; unfortunately, that error has been perpetuated to this day in some histories.

Troy Daily Times. Tuesday Afternoon, April 28, 1860

A “Jerry Rescue” in Troy.
ARREST OF A FUGITIVE SLAVE.
HABEUS CORPUS ISSUED BY JUDGE GOULD.HIS
RESCUE FROM THE OFFICERS.
RECAPTURE IN WEST TROY,
AND SECOND RESCUE
GREAT EXCITEMENT AND RUNNING FIGHT.
Full Particulars of the Affair.

For the first time in the ten years during which the Fugitive Slave Law has been in operation, an attempt was made in this city yesterday to execute its previsions upon an unfortunate colored man, who it is claimed “owes service” to a master in Virginia, from whom he escaped something more than twenty mouths since. The effort was unsuccessful. Amid more excitement and turbulence than has in many a year been witnessed in this generally peaceful and order-loving city, the slave was rescued from the officers of the law, and under the escort of those of his own color, who declared their readiness to defend him if necessary with their lives, hurried off, *en route* for Canada. The circumstances of the case are as follows:

A bright, intelligent negro, about 28 years of age, Charles Nalle, by name, while working in October, 1858, upon the plantation of his “massa” Hasbrough, down in Culpepper county, Virginia, began to think amid the intervals of cotton picking and quartering, that it must be a very pleasant thing to own one’s self,—to be the proprietor of one’s own flesh and bones, and the master of one’s own conduct. Nalle was not perhaps much to blame for this. Under the peculiar operation of Southern customs, he had been made up in good share of white blood and brains, and of course the instinctive Anglo-Saxon love of independence was in him. So, one quiet night, on the 19th of October, Nalle cut sticks for the North, leaving Mr. Hasbrough disconsolate, and about one thousand dollars out of pocket. Assisted by some friends, he went to Columbia, in Pennsylvania, where he first took up his quarters, with a wife and children who are said to be now living there; but subsequently, finding this situation somewhat too warm for

comfort, he removed and came Northward, *via* the underground railroad,—by the advice of friends who apprehended that there was no danger of his being followed so far, taking up his quarters in this city. Since, he has been variously employed in this vicinity, at first as a teamster, afterward with Mr. Schram in the town of Sandlake, and finally as coachman for Mr. Uri Gilbert, of this city, from which position he was suddenly and violently removed yesterday, probably to find his next home somewhere in the British dominions.

While at Sandlake, Nalle unfortunately made the acquaintance of one Horace [sic] F. Averill, a penny-a-liner, shyster lawyer, awhile seventh-rate reporter for a seventh-rate newspaper, and particularly known from an affair of embezzlement which at one time necessitated his residence in the New York Toombs—the particulars whereof were duly given in the public prints at the time. This poor specimen of humanity, being employed by Nalle to write his letters—his thoughtful Southern masters had provided against his being able to do it himself—took advantage of the confidence reposed in him, wormed himself into the fugitive’s secrets, and when he had learned as much as was necessary, wrote, one more letter than Nalle had invited him to—the said epistle being to inform the bereaved Hasbrough, away down in Culpepper county, Virginia, where he could find his missing property.

Naturally enough, of this information the Virginian was not slow to avail himself. He went before one Latham, a notary public, and made affidavit that he had a clue to the whereabouts of his missing Nalle,—likewise of a colored man named James, otherwise known as Jim. Banks, in whose company he evacuated the cotton plantation.—Banks, who was claimed as a chattel of P. Nalle, Administrator, and John J. and Eliza Richards, was likewise residing in Troy until night before last. There is no particular information as to his whereabouts at this writing.

Next, Mr. Hasbrough [sic] procured an agent, in the person of Mr. Henry J. Wall, who, armed and provided with the county seal of Culpepper, came hitherward in quest of the vagabond flesh. Of course, the informer was here to guide, the law to enforce, everything to favor. A *faux pas* in the case of Banks, who get an inkling, of an approaching storm, and escaped out of the wet on Thursday night, prevented his arrest; but the thing worked more handsomely in the case of Nalle. A warrant was procured for him from Commissioner Beach, which was placed in the bands of Deputy United States Marshall Holmes, with directions to execute the same.

About 11 o’clock yesterday morning, Nalle was sent out from Mr. Gilbert’s house to procure some bread at an adjacent baker’s—an unpretending errand, which was destined to have a somewhat exciting termination. For as Nalle was plodding along in the innocence of his heart, all unthinking, the United States, in the shape of its appointed Marshal, pounced down upon him, and informed him of the demand for his person in Culpepper county, Virginia. So, the family did not get the bread. Nalle failing to return, a son of Mr. Gilbert started to make inquiry for him. He went to the house of Mr. Wm. Henry, a colored man who keeps a grocery on Division street, and with whom the missing man boarded. Mr. Henry had not seen Nalle, but he saw signs which led him to suspect the true state of the case. He at once set on foot inquiries, and learned of the arrest.

After Nalle was arrested, though he struggled vigorously, the hand-cuffs were speedily fastened upon him, and he was hurried to the office of U. S. Commissioner Beach. There the job was speedily done. In fact, it had all been done before, the paper made out, and everything necessary for the rendition of the prisoner accomplished, hours previous to his arrest! All that was necessary was to go through the formality of an examination, swear the

owner's agents, Wail and Parr, and the informer, Averill, declare the negro a slave, and order his return.

Mr. Henry and other friends of Nalle, determined to try the law in his behalf, informed Mr. M. I. Townsend of the occurrence, who proceeded to the office of the Commissioner, for the purpose of defending the prisoner. But he found the case tried and the decision rendered. Nalle had been condemned without even the shadow of a hearing in his behalf, and all that was necessary, was to await the time for the departure of the team that should carry him to Virginia. Of course, the prisoner had not admitted that he was a fugitive, and opportunity should have been given him to introduce testimony in his own cause. But that would not consist with a plan under which the case had been tried and decided before the man was arrested. Finding that he could do nothing with the Commissioner, Mr. Townsend began to draw up the necessary papers for a writ of *habeas corpus*, to take the fugitive before Judge Gould.

Meanwhile, a crowd commenced to gather upon the sidewalk in front of the Commissioner's office, an alarm of fire was sounded, and indications of the storm which was to follow manifested themselves. Mr. Henry harranged those around. He told them that in the building near which he stood, there was an intelligent colored man, confined for no other crime than that of not owning himself, that he had been condemned, and if they looked, they would soon see him brought out to be carried off to the plantations of the South, and whipped to death. He asked them whether they were willing to stand quietly by, and see the thing done? Yet the major portion of those who heard him were for maintaining the law, however much it was opposed to their feelings to see the man carried back into slavery. But as the crowd increased, so did the excitement. The news had been rapidly disseminated in all parts of the city, and throngs hastened to the scene of excitement; a large proportion of them being colored men, and of course friendly to the prisoner, and opposed to his surrender. Three or four white men became conspicuous in the crowd, in urging and planning for a rescue, and it very soon was made evident that if the prisoner was carried off, it must be by force of arms, and that if the claimants succeeded in returning their property to Virginia, it would only be after a severe struggle, in which blood might be shed. The ball was commenced by an attack on Mr. David Brockway, who had made himself conspicuous in denunciation of the arrest, for which a man named Vandenburg and other irate Democrats attacked and tore his coat from; top to bottom.

[Image depicting the building at First and State streets in Troy taken from the article "Out of Egypt on the Hand of a Little Lady" by Jean M. Hoefler, New York Alive, May/June 1986, pg. 32-35; from Hart Cluett Museum website]

In the room with Nalle, the Commissioner and the claimants, were several policemen. At different periods, colored men, friends of the prisoner, were admitted one at a time, until there were some half-dozen of them in the office. Outside, the stairways and hall were besieged by an impatient throng, anxious to obtain admission. Near the window opening upon State street from the hall was a

somewhat antiquated colored woman, who at a later, period became an active spirit of the *melee*, and who was said to be in some way related to the prisoner. She was provided with a signal to prepare these on the outside for an attack, when the prisoner should be brought forth.

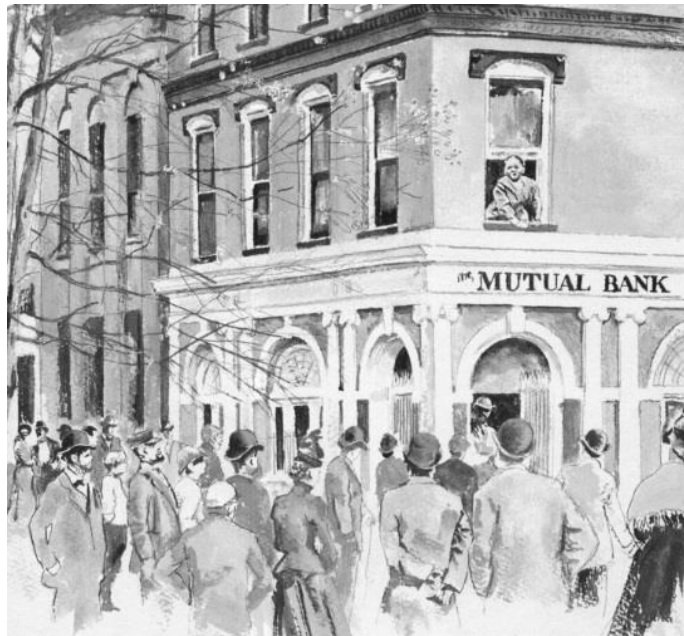
Recorder Moran, acting Mayor in the absence of Mr. McConihe, was applied to for protection to the officers, and under his order, the whole police force, under command of Chief Quinn was ordered to the scene. The officers took possession of the stairway, and in a solid body barricaded the Commissioner's office.

About half-past 3 o'clock, Nalle, who was sitting, heavily handcuffed, beside one of the swing windows opening upon State street, managed, with his elbow, to push open the sash, and leaping up quickly, endeavored to jump to the sidewalk below. His body was some three-quarters out, and his essay would undoubtedly have been successful, had not Mr. Walter P. Tillman, who was standing near, seized him, and, with the assistance of Marshal Holmes, drawn him back. This episode caused the wildest excitement in the crowd, and cries of "Let him down!" "Come, old boy!" "Catch him!" and "That's it!" prevailed.

Just before 4 o'clock, Mr. Townsend served the papers of *habeas corpus*, and preparations were made for taking the fugitive before Judge Gould, that an examination into the facts, which was denied him before the Commissioner, might be had. The writ directed Marshal Holmes to bring the body of Nalle before Judge Gould forthwith, from this mandate there was of course no escape, and preparations were at once made for obeying it. The Chief of

Police and his men were ranged along the stairway, to prevent the crowd from rushing upon and rescuing the prisoner. Just before he was brought out, several persons ran down the stairs to distract those outside, and did draw off some, but the 'posted' were not to be thus deceived; they waited for the preconcerted signal from the old colored lady. This came in a moment after, and Chief Quinn was seen going down the stairs, followed closely by Nalle, in his shirt-sleeves and bare-headed; Marshal Holmes being upon one side and Deputy Sheriff Upham upon the other.

The scene became became instantaneously one of great excitement. The moment the officers reached the sidewalk, they were surrounded by a crowd, the inner circle of which was composed of resolute colored men, who at once commenced a vigorous attempt at rescue. Marshal Holmes and Deputy Upham were several times struck, pulled, and pushed from point to point, while between them, the poor fugitive seemed likely to be torn in pieces. The city policemen were very soon separated from the other officers, and left fighting promiscuously in the midst of a crowd of perhaps two thousand persons, who were swaying to and fro like billows, shouting, laughing, and swearing, according to their several inclinations. Near the corner of State and First streets, Deputy Upham was torn from the prisoner. The crowd, under the mistaken idea that he still retained his hold, rushed upon him with great ferocity, but he defended himself manfully, knocking right and left with a will, and protecting himself from very serious injury, although he was somewhat bruised. This



divided the crowd, Marshal Holmes going forward with his prisoner as far as Congress street, without much difficulty.

Here, again, the rescuers overtook him, and the fight was renewed with much bitterness. The more law-abiding citizens, among whom were a number of colored men, were for allowing Nalle to be taken before Judge Gould. Others maintained that the only result would be to have him remanded back to the Commissioner's custody, and that delay might prove fatal to him. The most conspicuous person opposed to the legal course, was the venerable colored woman, who exclaimed, "Give us liberty or give us death!" and by vehement gesticulations urged the rescuers on. Here the scene became more exciting. An officer drew a revolver, and pointed it at the head of one of the rescuers, threatening to fire. One colored man knocked his arm up, and another held a knife at his throat. The pistol was put away. Twenty times the prisoner was taken from the officers, and twenty times they recovered him. Colored women rushed into the thickest of the fray; the venerable Moll Pitcher of the occasion fighting like a demon, and losing all her gearing save a dilapidated out-skirt. At last, the force of the mob prevailed. Fighting all the way, the crowd got Nalle down Congress street to the dock. Here another stand was made. Holmes and Upham had abandoned the prisoner; their hands being completely mummified by blows from clubs, chisels and the like. But Quinn clung to him desperately. The last stand was made in the rear of F. A. Fales' store below Congress street. Here a concerted feint was made, which distracted the attention of the officers and the crowd and enabled two picked men to seize Nalle and run him off. They were a block below before the absence of the fugitive was discovered, and then a pursuit was commenced; but it was too late. Nalle was run down to the foot of Washington street, and there placed upon a skiff, with another colored man—the latter having directions not to allow the boat to land under any circumstances. It was the intention of the rescuers to procure a steamer, and so carry Nalle off. But the colored man proved a paltrion, jumped out, and left the fugitive alone. The ferryman therefore took him across the River and landed him.

Nalle started to run up to the main street. But his arrival had been anticipated, and the spectacle of a fleeing, hand-cuffed man, at once excited attention. Officer Becker, by advice of Wm. L. Oswald, arrested the fugitive before he had passed many rods from the dock, and assisted by officer Brown, conveyed him to the office of Justice Stewart, which is in the second story of a brick building on the main street, and near the ferry dock. Thither he was followed by Postmaster Grattan, Mr. A. J. Morrison and others, all armed, and determined to prevent a rescue.

Ten minutes had hardly elapsed before the steam ferry boat, which had been taken by storm on this side, landed at the West Troy deck about three hundred of the rescuers—among them the inevitable Moll Pitcher of the occasion. The building in which the fugitive had been placed, was at once surrounded, in order to prevent his being taken out from the rear, and a few determined persons made preparations to "storm the castle." Two of our reporters, in their intense desire to be in a favorable position to "obtain the news," were borne ahead of the attacking party up the stairs. The officials politely welcomed their visitors with a salute of 'pistolry,' which perforated the hat of a barber employed by Peter Baltimore, wounded badly in the thigh a segar-maker named Richard S. Redy, who works for T. C. Wright, in West Troy, near the Arsenal, and shaved off a side whisker from a farmer named William Barnhart, taking with it a small slice of cheek. The suddenness of the fire drove the assailants down, but they soon returned, armed with whatever missiles they could seize. A volley of stones and clubs at this time disconcerted the aim of the officers. No one was hurt by their shots, but officer Brown was badly bruised with a paving stone on the side of the head. A reporter at

the head of the crowd was the first to enter the door. A stalwart colored man, named Martin, attempted to follow him. As he did so, he was struck a violent blow with a hatchet by a person behind, the effect of which was to stun him. He fell heavily in the door-way, in such a manner as to prevent its being closed. This enabled those behind to reach over, seize the fugitive, who was near the door, and hurry him down the stairs—a couple of bullets whistling after him. An animated run down the street commenced. Near the Postoffice, a farmer was compelled, after much pulling and tugging, to take Nalle and a colored man named Parker, on board. But the wagon had gone but a few rods when it gave way under the pressure of the crowd. Meanwhile, a colored man named Hank York was procuring a horse from Witbeck's stable. With this, in a few moments, he overtook the party near the Arsenal wall. Nalle was hurried into the wagon, and with York and Parker, both heavily armed, started off on the Shaker road. A cold chisel and file were likewise provided, to remove Nalle's shackles at convenient opportunity. A show of pursuit was made, but without success. Nalle's friends have information to-day that he is safe, and there is no danger of another arrest.

—We have simply stated the facts, and leave those who will to judge of them. The parties who engaged in the rescue, justify themselves on the ground that all the proceedings before Commissioner Beach were illegal and *ex parte*, no opportunity being afforded him for defence, inasmuch as he was condemned before he was arrested, and the merest farce of an examination had, none of his friends being informed of the fact, and the Commissioner hastening to a decision without giving him any opportunity to procure counsel. Still, the resort to mob law is a desperate one, and can only be justified by the most flagrant wrong.

—Nobody defends the cause of Averill. Whatever may be the opinions of people relative to the Fugitive Slave Law, the character of an informer, and especially of an informer who garbs his pitiful meanness under a guise of friendship, is one not to be admired. Averill was carried away in a close carriage. Had the excited colored men caught him after they learned the facts, he would hardly have escaped with life.

—The colored men were particularly active. They fought with desperation from first to last. Revolvers, clubs and bowie knives did not intimidate them.

—Chief Quinn drew a revolver, but instinctive humanity prevented him from using it. Ald. McKeon employed a club from which friends and foes suffered about equally. Other parties drew weapons, but so far as we can learn, none were used on this side [of] the River.

—The matter was the only topic of conversation last evening, and of course all sorts of opinions were expressed. Mr. Averill was in particular request, and had he been found, would have been summarily disposed of. Some rabid people were for calling out the Artillery; but it is needless to say the thing would not have been done.

—Nalle's hands and wrists were badly mangled by the shackles in pulling and hauling him to and fro. His clothing was nearly torn off, and when placed in the wagon near the Arsenal, he was completely exhausted.

—The following were the papers upon which the rendition was attempted:

• THE WARRANT.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *Northern District of New York*, ss:

To the Marshal of the U. S. for the Northern District of New York, his Deputy, or any or either of them :

In the name of the President of the U. S. of America, you are hereby commanded forthwith to apprehend Charles Nalle, now alleged to be in your district, a colored person charged with being a

fugitive from labor, and with having escaped from service in the State of Virginia, (if he may be found in your precinct) and have him brought forthwith before me, one of the Commissioners of the U. S. for the said district, and as such authorized to exercise the powers that any Justice of the Peace, or other Magistrate may exercise and respect, to offenders, under and by virtue of the 33d Section of the Act of the 24th of Sept., 1789, entitled "An Act to establish the Judicial Courts of the U. S.," then and there to answer to the complaint of Henry J. Wale, of Stevensburgh, Culpepper County, Virginia, agent and attorney of Blucher W. Hausbrough of said county and State, alleging under oath that the said Charles Nalle owes service or labor to the said Hausbrough in the State of Virginia, and while held to service there under the laws of the said State of Virginia, escaped into the State of New York aforesaid, and praying for the restoration of said Nalle to the said Blucher W. Hausbrough, and then and there before me to be dealt with according to law.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this writ with yours doings therein before me.

{seal.} Witness my hand and seal at the City of Troy, in said District, this 26th day of April, 1860

MILES BEACH, U. S. Commissioner, for the Northern District of New York, in 2d Circuit.

CERTIFICATE OF RENDITION.

I, the undersigned, one of the Commissioners of the Circuit Court, of the U. S. for the Northern District of the State of New York, and as such authorized to execute the power that any Justice of the Peace or other magistrate of any of the U. S. may exercise in respect to offenders, under and by virtue of the act of the 24th of September, 1789, entitled "An Act to establish the Judicial Courts of the United States—"

Do hereby certify, That on the 26th day of April, 1860, at my office in the city of Troy, Rensselaer county, and State of New York, Henry J. Wale, of Stevensburgh, Culpepper county, Virginia, made affidavit and presented proofs before me, showing that Charles Nalle, was a negro slave, belonging to Blucher W. Hausbrough, of Culpepper county, in said State; and that the said Chas. Nalle, for many years prior to the month of October, 1858, And that the said Chas. Nalle, on or about the 13th day of said month, in said year last aforesaid, and while so held in service or labor, did escape therefrom, and from the said county of Culpepper, and State of Virginia, into the State of New York, and that the said Henry J. Wale was the agent of the said Hausbrough, duly authorized by power of attorney in writing acknowledged and certified under the official seal of Forsyth M. Latham, a Notary Public, in and for said county of Culpepper, in which Co. said power of attorney was executed, to pursue and reclaim the said Charles Nalle. And the said Henry J. Wale having thereupon applied to me as such Commissioner for a warrant for the apprehension of the said Charles Nalle, as a fugitive from service and labor, I did on the said 26th day of April, 1860, issue a warrant under my hand and seal, directed to the Marshal of said District, and his deputies, or either of them, commanding them forthwith to apprehend the said Charles Nalle, and bring him before me to answer said complaint.

And I do further certify, that on the 27th of April, 1860, the said warrant was duly returned to me by John L. Holmes, one of the deputies of the said Marshal, then having in custody before me the said Charles Nalle, under and by virtue of the said warrant; and that the said Henry J. Wale, as such agent aforesaid, did then and there claim the said Charles Nalle as a person who was held to labor or service as aforesaid in the State of Virginia, and who had as aforesaid escaped therefrom. Whereupon I did at the time and place aforesaid, hear the case of the said claimant and the proofs and allegations of the parties.

And I do further certify, that then and there satisfactory proof was made to me by various affidavits, in writing, duly taken by and before said Forsyth M. Latham, a notary public as aforesaid, and by him certified under his official seal as such notary, he being authorized to administer oaths under the laws of the said State of Virginia as was then sworn to me by the certificate of F. Manzy, Clerk of the County Court of the said county of Culpepper, under the seal of said Court, attested by Edward A. Freeman, the presiding Justice of said Court, and also by other satisfactory proof, that the said Charles Nalle, on or about the 15th day of October, 1858, was a negro slave, the property of Blucher W. Hausbrough, of Culpepper county aforesaid, and was then in said county, held to service, or labor, by him, and had been so held for many years, immediately previous thereto, and that the said Charles Nalle, at the time last aforesaid, and while so held as aforesaid, did escape from said service, or labor, and from the said State of Virginia, into the State of New York, and I did so then and there decide and determine as to each of the aforesaid matters.

And I do further certify, that it was also then and there shown to me, by affidavit and deposition, that the said Charles Nalle, so arrested and brought before me was the identical person whose services or labor was claimed as aforesaid. And that the said Charles Nalle does in fact owe service or labor to the said Hausbrough, in the said county of Culpepper, and I did then and there so determine as to each of the aforesaid matters.

And I do further certify, that it was then and there shown to me by affidavit and deposition, that the said Charles Nalle, so arrested and brought before me was the identical person whose services or labor was claimed as aforesaid. And that the said Charles Nalle does in fact owe service or labor to the said Hausbrough, in the said county of Culpepper, and I did then and there so determine as to each of the aforesaid matters.

And I do further certify, that it was then and there shown to me by the aforesaid power of attorney, in writing acknowledged and certified as aforesaid, that the said Henry J. Wale was the duly authorized agent of the said Blucher W. Hausbrough, to pursue and reclaim the said Charles Nalle, and I did then and there so determine.

And I do therefore hereby authorize the said Henry J. Wale to take and remove the said Charles Nalle, back to the said State of Virginia, whence he escaped as aforesaid, and to use such reasonable force and restraint as may be necessary under the circumstances for that purpose.

Witness my hand and seal this 27th day of April, 1860.

MILES BEACH, U. S. Commissioner for the Northern District of New York, in 2d Circuit.

AFFIDAVIT OF WALE.

Before MILES BEACH, U. S. Commissioner.

In the matter of Charles Nalle, U. S. of A., Northern District of New York. ss :

Henry J. Wale being duly sworn says that he is the agent of B. W. Hausbrough, who claims the said Charles Nalle, for whose return to service, the Commissioner acting in this matter, has issued his certificate that he has reason to apprehend that the said Charles Nalle will be rescued by force from his possession before he can be taken beyond the limited of the State of New York, and he prays that the officer arresting said Nalle may retain him in his custody and return him to the State of Virginia, whence he fled.

HENRY J. WALE.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 27th day of April, 1860. MILES BEACH, U. S. Commissioner for the Northern District of New York.

Incorrect.

A rumor prevailed in town this morning that Nalle and his friends had been captured in Schenectady. A dispatch thence at 2 ½ o'clock informs us that this is false. Relative to an alleged capture in Syracuse, a gentleman of that city replies to our dispatch, "Guess not."

Troy Daily Times. Tuesday Afternoon, May 1, 1860

Mr. Averill Explains
Troy, April 30, 1860.

To the Editor of the *Troy Daily Times* : The statements contained in your paper of Saturday in reference to my connection with the case of Chas. Nalle are in every particular untrue. I never wrote a letter for Charles Nalle to his master or any other person, never read one to or for him, and what is more, I never knew, bowed or spoke a single word to him in my life until the 27th inst.,— the day of his apprehension—and I will give \$100, (and give security for its payment,) to any person who will make affidavit, which cannot be successfully contradicted, to a contrary state of facts. I was not a witness in the case nor connected with it in any manner except as an attorney for the parties, retained by them in a regular professional capacity ; but as such I admit that I did attend before the Commissioner, assisted by W. A- Beach, Esq., as counsel. The claimants informed me that letters written for Charles to his/friends South had been intercepted, and his whereabouts thus ascertained through parties living in New York, who suggested my name to them as an attorney, but I neither wrote them nor knew the contents of these letters. As you have been quick to give vent and currency to rumors, I trust that you will be equally ready to do me the justice of inserting this statement of facts. Horatio F. Averill.

—The Arena has the following in regard to Mr. Averill : Will Mr. Averill inform us, whether he did not in the street, on Friday afternoon, in the presence of M. I. Townsend and Judge Robertson say, that he (Averill) was not the informer, but that Mr. Crosby of Sandlake was? And whether the plea of personal innocence now is any better than the charge against Mr. Crosby was then ? Or if he did not write personally to the Virginia owner of Nalle, whether in order to fish "a case," he did not induce the New York parties to write to Virginia for him ? And if he did not undertake to play the part of an informer, what was hanging about Gilbert's a " [expletive] smelling" for? And who, whether in Virginia, or anywhere else, would think of employing. Mr. Averill for any service but that of a spy or informer ? What else but his reputation for capacity in business of this sort ever placed him in a position which enabled him to speak of Hon. Wm. A. Beach as *his* "associate counsel?" That Mr. Averill charged Mr. Crosby with being the informer in this case, we have the most explicit testimony. And he charged what was grossly untrue. Mr. Crosby is a true man, and utterly incapable of playing such a disgraceful part. Under all the circumstances, people will judge for themselves as to the location and Identity of the " [expletive] in the fence."

Troy Daily Times. Wednesday Afternoon, May 2, 1860

H. F. AVERILL.—We trust that our readers will pardon us for bringing this individual once more to their notice. It will be seen by the annexed correspondence how far any statement or denial made by this man can be relied on:

SANDLAKE, April 30, 1860.

M. S. CROSBY, Esq.—Dear Sir : I have heard there was a report is circulation about here to the effect that I had stated you retained

me on behalf of the claimants of the negro Charles Nalle, and that the information of his whereabouts came from you. I write this to say that I have made no such statement, and to exonerate you from any such imputation. I have never exchanged a word with you respecting the negro or his claimant, whatever. It was stated that you formerly resided in Virginia near where Nalle was raised, and upon being asked what I knew about it, I replied that I understood such to be the fact. I repeat that the report is untrue and so is every statement that I have seen or heard respecting myself and this case. I never knew or spoke to the negro until the day of his arrest.

Yours, respectfully,

H. F. AVERILL

Troy, May 1st, 1860.

M. S. CROSBY, Esq.— Sir : on Friday last, H. F. Averill was charged by the undersigned, Martin I. Townsend and William Henry, with having betrayed Charles Nalle to his alleged master in Virginia. He denied it. We then called his attention to the fact that he had lived in the same town with Nalle and was now active in getting him run off. He said he was acting on a retainer through persons in New York. We then asked him how it was that the persons in New York or the master in Virginia learned where Charles was, Townsend stating that he knew Mr. Scram, and that he never could have betrayed any man. Averill then said he could tell us how this news came to get to Virginia. There was a Mr. Crosby in Sandlake who had kept school in Virginia and knew Charles there, and he understood the information was sent to Virginia through him.

Up to this time the undersigned had never heard of Mr. Crosby. Truly yours,

MARTIN I. TOWNSEND,
WILLIAM HENRY.

We were present at the conversation between M. I. Townsend and H. F. Averill, above mentioned, and heard the same. It is in all respects correctly stated.

ALVAH C. VAIL,
GEO. H. PATTEN,
JOHN H. HOOPER.
G. ROBERTSON, JR.

Troy, May 1st, 1860.

[One last follow-up from the] *Troy Daily Times.*
Tuesday Afternoon, June 9, 1896

A Relic of Slavery Days.

Henry La Tour York, a well known colored resident, has an interesting relic of slavery lays. When Charles Nalle, the fugitive slave, was taken from officers in Troy by a number of white and colored people, Nalle was rowed in a boat across the river to the vicinity of the Rock house. From there he was hurried back of West Troy and placed in a farmer's wagon. Mr. York followed the slave as far as the flats near Niskayuna, and there knocked the shackles from Nalle's wrists. A shackle which Mr. York retained was displayed in C. T. Moore & Co.'s store this morning. The instrument, rusty and broken, shows where a chisel parted the clasp.

Notable anniversaries

We're in good company regarding anniversaries, as this year also marks the 50th anniversary of both the Historic Albany Foundation and the Hudson-Mohawk Industrial Gateway. Yet another notable anniversary right here in Sand Lake is 175th anniversary of the...

Sandlake Association for the Mutual Protection Against Horse Thieves

After passage of a bill in the 1849 session of the New York State Senate incorporating the group, the notice below was posted:

NOTICE

The legislature of the State of New York having passed an act incorporating Jacob Hegeman, Andrew Link, Burton A. Thomas, Coonrad Snyder, Henry D. Uline, John I. Vosburgh, Harman Westfall, Philip C. Hayner, David Fellows, George Uline, William Hegeman, Wynant Youngmans, and such other persons as may hereafter be associated with them into an association for mutual protection against horse thieves, NOTICE, therefore, is hereby given to those mentioned in said act of incorporation, and to all others who may wish to become members of said association, that a meeting of said association will be held at William Sliter's Inn, in the Village of West Sand Lake, in the Town of Sand Lake, County of Rensselaer, and State of New York, on Saturday, the 28th day of April, 1849, at 2 o'clock P.M. for the purpose of electing officers of said association, receiving members, making by-laws and regulations, and transacting such other business as may legally come before the association.

[signed]

Jacob Hegeman

Burton A. Thomas

Dated at West Sand Lake April 14th, 1849

So read the announcement of the first meeting, some 175 years ago this month! And so many familiar names from the early history of the town!



[The photo above is from the Troy Times Record of January 12, 1950, showing the 101st annual meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church. Seated are Davis S. Moore, George D. Anson and Wilbur C. Goewey; standing are George Cipperly, Clarence Bink, Stanley Pfeiffer, H.B. Britton, C.A. Wicks and Joel Hitchcock.]

SLHS Charter member Mary Pat Hart gave us a brief history of the group in the Fall 1998 issue of *Historical Highlights*. It has been some time since a

missing or stolen horse has been recovered, the last such recovery having taken place over 100 years ago. Yes, the group has been somewhat dormant for the past several years, but it still exists, and we suspect those remaining members would be as willing to work towards recovery of such horses now as they have been over the last 175 years!

“Lost” horse returned!



Granted, this is not directly related to the preceding article, however, a horse long “missing” from the Town is now safely “back home”! After a long journey that started in the late 1800s in NYC and led to Lansingburgh, Green Island, Averill Park, Half Moon and – eventually to Texas – “Mascot,” one of the 58 animals that graced the carousel that entertained so many at Crystal Lake Park (now Crystal Cove) from 1926-1960, returned to our Town this past March. *[Image above shows Mascot and longtime ‘caretaker’ Bill Benjamin just prior to Mascot’s return to Sand Lake!]*

Longer-term members may remember the writeup in our Fall 2009 issue of *Historical Highlights* <https://sandlakehistory.org/historical-highlights/back-issues/HH36-1.pdf>, where Bill Benjamin detailed conservation of Mascot and research on the carousel. Bill was most generous in donating Mascot to us!

Plans are to have Mascot on permanent display at Sand Lake Town Hall; meanwhile, you’ll be able to welcome him back at our Annual Meeting May 14!

Dues could be due?

The Sand Lake Historical Society membership year runs June 1-May 31. So some of you could be due for renewal. If you receive a paper copy, your label will indicate your “year” of renewal. If you receive it via email, we’ll remind you specifically if you’re due this year. We do hope you’ll all stay with us as we enter our second 50 years!

In Memoriam

The Sand Lake Historical Society notes with profound sadness the recent passing of member Shirley Larkin Butterfield.

"COME AS WE WERE"
ATTENDEES ARE ENCOURAGED TO DRESS-UP AS
A SAND LAKE RESIDENT (OR VISITOR) FROM ANY
TIME IN OUR HISTORY!

SAND LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUPER GALA TO CELEBRATE 50 YEARS!

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024

6 PM-10 PM

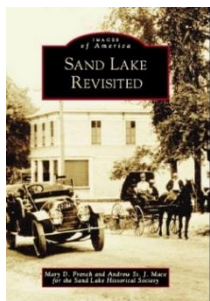
**OLD DALEY ON CROOKED LAKE
2339 NY ROUTE 43, AVERILL PARK**

**GUEST OF HONOR: KATHY T. SHEEHAN,
RENSSELAER COUNTY AND TROY CITY
HISTORIAN, AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
HART CLUETT MUSEUM**



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Historical Highlights 50:4

Andrew Mace, Editor/Publisher



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Sand Lake Historical Society Membership Application/Renewal 2024-25

Join or renew online at sandlakehistory.org/join

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

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

Grand total enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to *Sand Lake Historical Society*

Mail to: Sand Lake Historical Society, PO Box 492, West Sand Lake, New York 12196

NOTE: Memberships run from June 1 through May 31; new memberships run through May 31, 2025!

Spring 2024