



The Grannytown Gazette

The Newsletter of the Alden Historical Society

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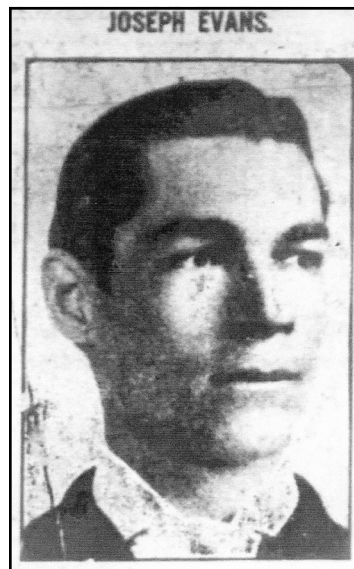
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Joseph Evans, Teacher, Indian Schools

An inquiry from Larry C. Skogen, PH.D., President Emeritus, Bismarck State College, Bismarck, North Dakota brought attention to a little-known Aldenite. Dr. Skogen is researching Indian educators, 1900-1909, and questioned whether the Joseph W. Evans (1868-1909) buried in the Alden Union Cemetery on County Line Road was the Joseph Evans he was researching. The birth and death years matched and he is buried next to his parents, George and Helen (Ellen), information that matches information given in Joseph's obituary printed in the December 10, 1909 *Buffalo Evening News*.



A search through census records and newspaper articles determined that Joseph W. Evans buried in Alden was Joseph W. Evans, Indian Educator.

He was born in Alden December 9, 1868, the son of George and Helen (Ellen) Crittenden Evans. George and Helen first appear in the Alden census in 1870. George's occupation is listed as currier so we can assume he worked at the tannery. In subsequent censuses, his occupation is listed as farmer, and their place of residence shifts between Alden and Darien.

Joseph had two older sisters, Clara and Lila, and a brother, George, twelve years younger. Clara married Charles Weinholtz, a farmer. She died in 1916. Lila married George Clark, also a farmer. They had one son, Alva John. Lila

died in 1914. George married Julia Wolfe of Darien. He died in 1943.

Joseph attended the Normal School in Buffalo and taught in the district schools in Alden and surrounding communities. In 1891, this item appeared in the Darien Center news: "Our school now numbers 45 students. We have a very competent teacher in Mr. Joseph Evans of Alden." At the close of that winter term, this item appeared: "Mr. Joseph Evans closes school here Friday after a very successful term." In April 1897, he served as substitute for Professor J.P. Abbot, teacher and principal of the Alden Village School, who had been called home on account of the severe illness of his mother.

Then, in November 1898, the *Buffalo Times* reported that Joseph W. Evans of Alden had been appointed teacher in the Grand River, North Dakota, Indian School at a yearly salary of \$600. By 1900, he had transferred to the Chilocco Indian Industrial School in Oklahoma. It was there he married a fellow school employee, Adaline O'Brien from Minnesota, a seamstress.

The students at Chilocco, like students at other Indian schools, spent half the day in "vocational" training, although for girls, especially, "the girls' productive labor was more important to sustain the institution than as training for employment." (*They Called It Prairie Light*, continued)

The Story of Chilocco Indian School) Adaline probably worked in the sewing room with the girls making dresses, shirts, sheets, pillowcases, etc., etc.

The couple visited Joseph's parents for a few weeks in July of 1901 when Joseph presented a paper at the Congress of Indian Educators in Buffalo. His paper was titled, "Resolved that Indian children need more instruction in practical and mental arithmetic." He said that in working problems from books, Indian children do not always comprehend what they are doing, but frequently work them mechanically. "Teach them from everyday practical methods," he explained. "The Indian who is taught this way will understand and advance rapidly. Afterward he can make his own rules."

They returned to Chilocco and their only child, Lucille Kathleen, was born October 15, 1902, in Oklahoma City. By 1907, the family is living in the Northwest, first at Yainax Indian Boarding School in Oregon, where Joseph was assistant superintendent and Adaline, again a seamstress. When Yainix became a day school, they transferred to Colville Indian School in Washington.

Joseph died December 8, 1909, one day shy of his forty-first birthday, in Daisy, Washington, following an operation for appendicitis. His parents were notified by telegram and his body was brought to Alden for burial. His daughter was only eight years old.

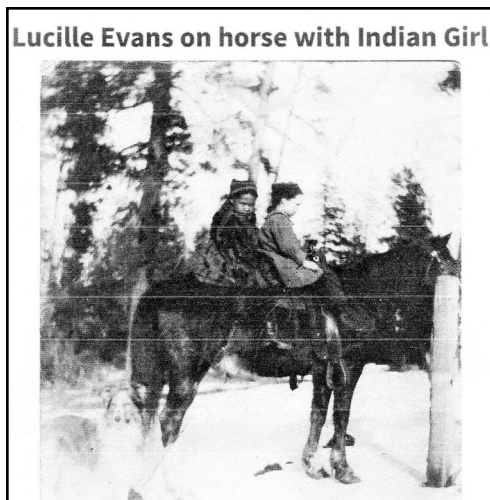
After his death, Adaline transferred as a housekeeper to the Fort Totten Indian School in North Dakota, but a year later permanently resigned from the Indian School Service. In 1910, Lucille was living with her uncle John O'Brien in Minnesota and Adaline was in Ashland, Wisconsin working as a milliner. In 1913, Adaline and Lucille moved from Ashland to Medina, Wisconsin, and then in 1914 they moved to a homestead in Montana. It was there that Adaline died May 1, 1919. She was buried in Wisconsin. Lucille was sixteen.

Lucille married Chauncey Allen in Hamburg, NY, April 28, 1924. For those of you who dabble in genealogy, you know how puzzling this can be. An orphan in Montana, married five years later in Hamburg. Lucille must have come to visit, or live with, George, her father's brother, then living in Hamburg. His wife's sister Charlotte was the mother of Chauncey. Another mystery solved.

Whether any of the schools Joseph and Adaline worked at were involved in the deaths and burials of Indian students that have recently come to light is unknown at this time.

Joseph's obituary in the December 10, 1909, *Buffalo Evening News* said this: "He was one of Alden's bright and highly honored young men and his death will be greatly mourned by his friends."

Karen Muchow



Lucille Evans on horse with Indian Girl

Curator's Corner



At the base of the stairs in the Heritage Center is a display case filled with ordinary looking pottery. Millgrove, one of the hamlets in the Town of Alden, had a pottery as early as 1850, run by Hugh M. Case. In 1866, George Suess, a potter from Germany, bought the land and kiln and made red ware from the red clay dug on a neighboring farm. (North Millgrove Road)

The display cabinet holds examples of the products produced by Suess Pottery including bowls, storage jars and a unique sunbonnet dryer. Check it out on your next visit.

Kris Rogers

Message from the President

Two steps forward. One step back.

The Alden Historical Society welcomed the opportunity to present our monthly programs to our membership and community after an 18-month hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We decided to start with an outdoor program, and we chose a walk of the Alden Evergreen Cemetery to draw attention to the final resting places of several men and women who were prominent during Alden's formative years. It's an idea we have been discussing for quite awhile and now seemed the right time. I was honestly hoping for 10-15 people to attend but was very surprised to have 30-35 people join us for the walk. It was wonderful to be able to present Alden's history once again to the public and engage in-person with the community.



With our first program a success, we plan a return to the location that typically hosts our monthly programs, the Alden Community Center. However, with the spread of the Delta variant and the Town of Alden's recent adoption of Erie County's guidance on the use of indoor facilities, we have decided to suspend our plans to resume our monthly indoor programs. The increased restrictions included mask requirements regardless of vaccination status, health screening questions of all attendees and the enforcement of six-foot social distancing. We find that the logistical challenges of adhering to the new guidelines for programs are too great to overcome. We also believe that the safety and health of our volunteers, members and the community at large outweigh the desire to resume our program schedule. We will closely monitor any future guidance issued by the Town of Alden and communicate it to our membership through our Facebook page, web site and Alden Advertiser. Stay tuned...

In the meantime, the Alden Heritage Center remains open on the first and third Sundays of the month from 1 to 3 pm and we are welcoming visitors. Please note that we will implement a requirement for masks to be worn by all visitors, regardless of vaccination status. Also, be sure to pick up an Erie County Heritage Passport and take advantage of visiting as many as you can of the wonderful historical buildings and museums throughout the fall season. There is still much to see and enjoy in Western New York, despite our continued challenges.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Christopher Gust



Black Water Baths Featured on "Unknown Stories"

Pete Gallivan, of WGRZ's Daybreak program, featured Alden's Black Water Bath era for an episode of its "Unknown Stories of WNY" series that aired on July 27. Mr. Gallivan interviewed Town & Village Historian, Karen Muchow on the porch of St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, the former Original Black Water Baths and the only one of the three bath houses still standing. You can view the episode by going to wgrz.com and clicking the "Unknown Stories of WNY" link.

Christopher Gust

Spotlight on A Business Member...Law Offices of Michael W. Cole, PLLC

This small hometown law firm, located at 13349 Broadway, places equal emphasis on responsiveness and service as they do on legal advice and counsel. They make it a point to support their clients from the very beginning all the way to the very end of a case. They specialize in Family, Divorce and Civil matters, along with Bankruptcy, Real Estate, Business and Criminal cases. Michael is a hometown native, graduating from Alden High School and from SUNY Buffalo Law School in 2000. He is presently serving as one of two Town Justices.



For more information, please call 716-937-9150 or go to their website, www.michaelcolelaw.com.

Karen Muchow

Election of Trustees and Annual Business Meeting Cancelled November 11

The Town of Alden recently adopted, for all town-owned buildings, Erie County's guidance for holding indoor events. The guidance includes health screenings, mask mandates regardless of vaccination status and six-foot social distancing at all times. These restrictions will make it too difficult for us to hold our programs and we have regretfully cancelled our Annual Potluck Dinner and Election Business Meeting.

The Alden Historical Society membership will vote on six trustee positions by November 11, 2021. With the retirement of Gil Dussault and the passing of Larry Kocher, two trustee positions opened. They are being filled in the interim by Sue DeWitt and Greg Kent, until the annual meeting, when those positions will be filled to complete the original terms: Gil's term will expire in Dec. 2022, and Larry's term will expire in Dec. 2023.

Additionally, the terms of trustees Elli DeFilippo, Sue Galbraith, Christopher Gust, and Lynda Tucker will be ending. All four have indicated a willingness to serve for the next three-year term. The positions filled by the interim candidates Sue DeWitt and Greg Kent will also be on the ballot. There will be a write-in line for nominations. There will also be amendments to the constitution's bylaws on the ballot. Ballots will be mailed or emailed. If you do not receive a paper ballot or an electronic ballot, please contact us by email at aldenhistsoc@gmail.com and one will be sent to you.

New Trustee Nominees

Hello! I'm Sue DeWitt, one of the Society's newly-appointed Trustees. I'm a lifelong resident of the Village of Alden (except for one year in Northern Virginia which I would prefer to forget). I'm a graduate of Alden Central High School and St. Bonaventure University and am within six months of wrapping up a 32-year career with the federal government.

I am the daughter of Merle and Sharon Rozler and the granddaughter of Bill and Eleanor Rusher, long-time local businesspeople. My husband Mike and I have been married 31 years. We don't have any kids but I fully expect Mike to come home with a new furry family member any day now.

I'm a voracious reader. I also love to travel. My dream trip is to drive the length of Route 20, born of a childhood love of tracing routes on an old paper road map.

I look forward to becoming more involved with the Society, especially once I retire, and to seeing all of you at the Heritage Center in the near future.



I was born and raised in Alden. I trace my roots in Alden to my Great-Great Grandfather George Uebelhoer who settled in Alden in the 1850's after having immigrated to America from Alsace-Lorraine. I grew up living on the original homestead and former dairy farm of George Uebelhoer, located on Broadway between Four Rod and Boncliff Dr.

I attended St John the Baptist school and Alden Central Schools graduating in 1993. Following graduation from Alden High School I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps serving from 1994 to 1997. Upon my return to the area, I attended Erie Community College where I majored in history until entering into law enforcement. I have a 10 year old son and currently reside in the Village of Lancaster.

Gregory Kent

Alden Evergreen Cemetery Walk



The Historical Society held its first program since March 2020 with a guided walk at Alden Evergreen Cemetery. We thank the 30-35 people who attended. It was wonderful for the Society to be able to interact with the community again. The walk began with a brief history of the cemetery by Historian Karen Muchow. A remembrance of the victims of the 9/11 Attacks and those soldiers lost during the Afghanistan War was then given by former Alden Town Supervisor, Bud Milligan, at the Brett Gornewicz Memorial.

Society President Christopher Gust led the group to each grave site at which a volunteer read a historical account of that

individual's role in the formative years of Alden. The grave sites of Hannah Alden Hebard, Seth Estabrook, Ralph Phineas Stowell, Joseph Freeman, Thomas Farnsworth, Clara Armstrong, Dr. Levinus Cornwell, Joseph Ewell and William Milliman were featured. We thank our guest presenters, Dick Koelbl and Jean Weisbeck, for assisting.

Christopher Gust



Schoolhouse Receives New Paint

The Henskee Road Schoolhouse, located at Alden Town Park, recently received a needed fresh coat of paint on the exterior and new landscaping plantings. The Alden Historical Society extends to Bill Rogers, Scott Dwyer, the Alden Parks Department & the Alden Garden Club a hearty THANK YOU for your efforts. Looks great!

Schoolhouse Reopens to Public



We were pleased to open the Henskee Road Schoolhouse to the public during the Alden Lancaster Art Show on Sunday, September 12. Located at the Town Park, the one-room schoolhouse that once served as District #11 until 1929 was open for viewing from 11 am until 1 pm. The schoolhouse had not been open to the public in over two years. We gave 17 visitors a unique look at a simpler time when Alden children from first to eighth grade all studied and learned in one room.



Christopher Gust



www.aldenhistoricalsociety.org



**Alden
Historical Society**
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Individual Renewal

Amy Froebel

Couple Renewals

Richard and Connie DeVita

Donation

Clarke and Jane Burke in memory of Larry Kocher

Memorial Donation

In Memory of Larry Kocher who loved God, his country, his wife Shirley, his family, his friends and the Alden Community. He is greatly missed and will never be forgotten. The Dussaults----Gil, Sandy and Family

Dear Century Home Owner



In 2020 we sent out 100 letters and applications to our Century House owners on: Broadway, Cary, Cayuga Creek, Crittenden, Four Rod, Exchange, Old Wende, Pohl and Zoeller Roads. This year we just sent out letters to owners on: Genesee, Henskee, Keiffer, Lesswing, Main, North, North Millgrove, Peters Corners, Reinhardt, Rundal, South Newstead and Sullivan Roads. If you reside in a Century House in any of these locations and did not receive correspondence, please let us know. Please contact Sue Galbraith at mustangcov@aol.com for information and an application. There is no charge to be included in the book, and century house signs are available for \$47. Sue Galbraith

★ We have many items to purchase, including throws with photos of Alden ★
★ buildings; books, including *Reflections of Alden* and *150 Objects and* ★
★ *Photos of the Village of Alden*; Alden Central School Yearbooks; 50th ★
★ anniversary mugs and other items. Items may be purchased on our ★
★ website, www.aldenhistoricalsociety.org. ★



Will You Help?



The Historical Society is looking for members who may be interested in assisting as volunteer docents when our building is open on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month and during special events. If you can help, please contact one of our Trustees, call 937-3700 or email aldenhistsoc@gmail.com. Training is available for new docents. Thank you!

Our Sympathy



Robert M. Rice February 04, 1937 - July 20, 2021

Beloved husband of Barbara (nee Whissel) Rice, dear father of Debra (Rich) Lepertine, Tammy Foster and the late Scott K. Rice; loving grandfather of Elisa Rice, Amanda, Joe (Anna) and Michael Lepertine, J.J. and Devin Foster; brother of Jack (Carol) Rice, Judy Vernon and the late George "Bud" Rice.

Alden Heritage Center

The **Alden Historical Society's** many exhibits are located in the village at the Alden Heritage Center, 13213 Broadway, across from Alden State Bank. The mission of the historical society is to preserve, promote and present the history of Alden and its people.

HOURS:

The **Alden Heritage Center** is open to the public from 1 PM to 3 PM the first and third Sunday of each month, **EXCEPT during January and February.** Tours for individuals and groups may be arranged by calling 937-3700 or 392-4295.

MEETINGS:

Program meetings are generally held at the Alden Community Center on the second Thursday of the month at 7 PM. Notices will be published in the **Alden Advertiser** in advance of the program. Open to the public, these programs are both informative and interesting, often featuring a guest speaker. You are very welcome to come and share your memories and experiences about the evening's program, followed by an informal social complete with homemade refreshments. In the event of inclement weather, we will postpone when Alden school activities are closed.

Trustee meetings are held at the **Alden Heritage Center** at 7 PM. Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month in February, April, June, August, October and December. Trustee meetings are open to the membership.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New members are always welcome. Your support will assure that the Alden Historical Society will continue to grow and prosper for years to come.

Please note: The membership year is April 1 through March 31, with the annual renewal due by April 1.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

ANNUAL DUES

Single \$12.00

Couple \$20.00

Family \$25.00

Business \$50.00

Please include your Business card

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Lynda Tucker, Membership Secretary

Alden Historical Society

13213 Broadway

Alden, NY 14004

DONATIONS AND MEMORIALS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

NOTE: Donations are not tax deductible

Membership—Lynda Tucker, Clarke Burke, Susanne Galbraith,

Jennifer Strong

Collections—Jane Burke, Sandy Dussault, Kyle Kavanagh, Karen Muchow,

Renée Nelson, Kris Rogers

Publicity/Newsletter—Lynda Tucker - Editor , Clarke Burke, Elli DeFilippo,

Susanne Galbraith, Christopher Gust, Carl Matthies, Renée Nelson

Program/Refreshments—Renée Nelson, Sandy Dussault, Elli DeFilippo

Building and Grounds— Conrad Borucki, Christopher Gust, Jennifer Strong

Fundraising—Jane and Clarke Burke

Nominating—Jane Burke, Elli DeFilippo, Sue Galbraith

Audit—Lynda Tucker, Carl Matthies

Budget—Clarke Burke, Christopher Gust

Historical Marker/Signs—Christopher Gust, Clarke Burke, Karen Muchow,

Jennifer Strong

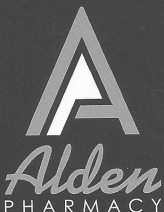
Members are welcome to serve on any of the committees. Contact us at 937-3700 or at aldenhistsoc@gmail.com.

Century Homes



Although we accept information on any century house, we are now focusing on the 100+ yr old houses located in the town. If you are interested, please email us at: AldenHistSoc@gmail.com. We have Century House signs for sale for \$47. Sue Galbraith






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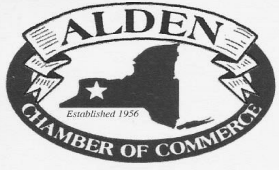
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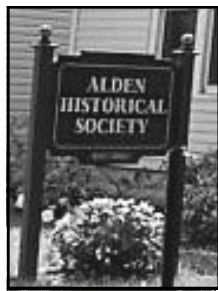
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MISSION STATEMENT

The Alden Historical Society, founded in 1965, is a volunteer supported organization whose mission is to preserve, promote, and present the history of the Town of Alden and its people.



Alden Historical Society
13213 Broadway
Alden, NY 14004

Find us on Facebook.com/AldenHistoricalSociety

and on the web at www.aldenhistoricalsociety.org

*Chartered by the Board of Regents
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We appreciate the support we receive from the Town of Alden.

Thank you.

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