



The Grannytown Gazette

The Newsletter of the Alden Historical Society

716-937-3700

www.aldenhistoricalsociety.org

www.facebook.com/aldenhistoricalsociety

aldenhistoc@gmail.com

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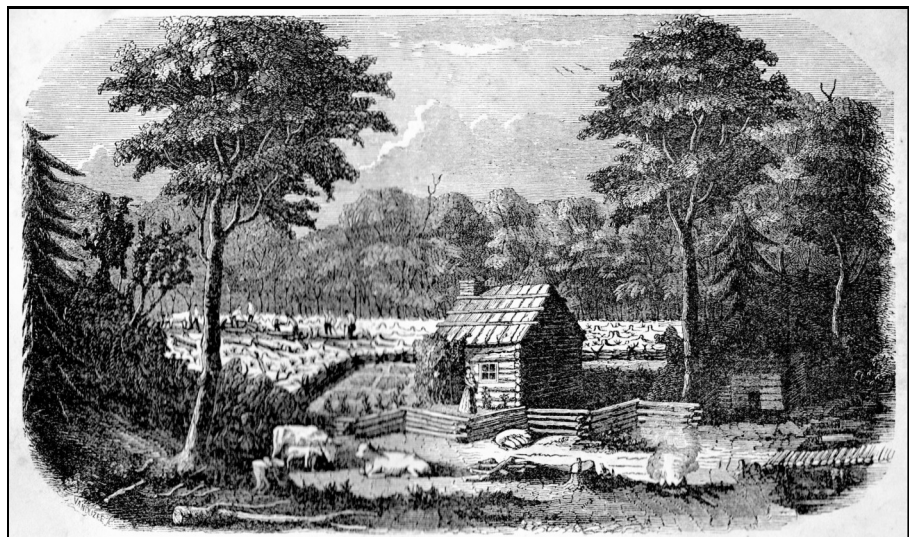
200 Years Ago

The year is 1822. Alden is still part of the Town of Clarence, although no longer in Niagara County, but in the new Erie County. The act of the New York Legislature to separate the towns of Alden and Erie (Newstead) from Clarence would not be passed until March 27, 1823.

Alden was known as Alden in the legislation, so the town meeting to select a name, had already taken place. The Town of Erie would decide to change its name to Newstead because of confusion with a former town named Erie, and because some of their mail was being sent to Erie, Pennsylvania. Unable to decide upon a name, they turned the decision over to Millard Fillmore, then a representative in the New York Assembly. Fillmore in turn consulted with his wife who suggestion "Newstead" after poet Lord Byron's ancestral home in England. (The act to change the name passed in April 1831.)

It is difficult to determine the population of Alden in 1822, as both the 1820 and 1830 federal censuses include Alden in Clarence. The 1840 census appears to be clearly Alden with a population of 2129; 1101 males, 1028 females. Those under the age of 20 number 1144, age 20 and above number 985. The population for 1822 would most likely be less as there would be settlers moving in during those 18 years between 1822 and 1840, although there was also movement west to Michigan, Illinois and other Midwestern states.

The first frame house is being built in the village; all the rest are log cabins, with some improvements from those early 1810-1812 cabins. The same is true for the areas outside the village. The Willis and Webster families in the Town Line area have been joined by other settlers. Both Nathan Willis and John Webster have sawmills on Cayuga Creek.



continued

In Alden Center (Sandridge) John C. Rogers has built a grist mill near his sawmill on Eleven Mile (*Ellicott*) Creek. Amos Herrick has purchased a large tract of land near the Rogers mill and has moved from Clarence, having to cut his own road a considerable portion of the way. A.C. Burdick has settled in the area called West Woods (*Westwood Road*), as has Stephen Church.

The first house has been built in Millgrove by Moses Case from Onondaga County. Jonas Van Wey moved into the area about the same time. There are just a few houses in the Crittenden area, one belongs to Edmond Badger (*elected Supervisor in 1823*).

The only congregation in town is the Presbyterian Society having been organized in 1813. They are still meeting in the schoolhouse in the village. There is a doctor now, John Harrington; also a store, run by Calvin Bishop, Seth Estabrook having closed his store on Mercer (*Sullivan*) Road a few years ago. Amos Bliss's tavern east of the village has also closed. There is still no post office. We must go to Clarence to get our mail. We have to go to Clarence, too, for Town meetings.

Thomas Farnsworth from Vermont has started the first industry in town, a tannery. It is located on Spring Creek along the road to the north.. Farnsworth is the man building the frame house in the village. He has purchased 206 acres in the village from Aaron Bunce and has a large farm.

More people have died and been buried in the Village (*Evergreen*) Cemetery since the first burial of John Carl Kranske in 1813. Among them are Elvira Dayton, infant daughter of William and Ruth Dayton; William Eels, infant son of Tercius and Mary Eels; Capt. Joshua Hendee, Revolutionary War veteran; Bird Cook, husband of Mary; and Oliver Udell, husband of Lucinda.

Our roads are unpaved, muddy in the spring and best traveled in the winter when snow fills in the holes and ruts. There are only 6 "streets" in the village—Church St. (1820), West Main (1817), State Road (*Broadway*), Buffalo St. (*Broadway*), North St. (*Crittenden St.*), and the Alden-Cowlesville Rd. (*Exchange St.*).

In the township there are Cayuga Rd. (*Broadway*) (1815) leading to Lancaster; Crittenden Rd. (1820) from Crittenden to Newstead, surveyed by Edmond Badger; Billo(w) Rd. (1812); Buckwheat Rd. (1816); County Line Rd. (1820) south of the State Road surveyed by Edmond Badger, north of the state road (1816); Buffalo-Batavia Rd. (*Genesee St.*) (1810); Henske Rd., Sullivan Rd. to County Line Rd.(1816); Millgrove-West Alden Rd. (*Sandridge Rd.*) (1816); North Millgrove Rd. (1817); North Rd. (1820); Rundel Rd. (1821); Siehl Rd. (1819), surveyed by Edmond Badger; Sullivan Rd. (1813); Townline Rd. from Westwood to Genesee (1819), surveyed by Edmond Badger; West Alden Rd. (*Cayuga Creek Rd.* (1816).); West Main St. (1817); and Westwood Rd. (1819), surveyed by Edmond Badger. Some of the longer roads have been added in sections as easements have been gained.

Two of the newest settlers have arrived, all the way from New Hampshire, Seth Estabrook's in-laws, Moses and Hannah Alden Hebard. Ol' Moses looks frail, but Hannah is small and feisty, just like our town that bears her name.

Karen Muchow



New Hours for the Heritage Center

We are pleased to announce a new open house time and day for the Alden Heritage Center. Starting April 2, 2022, the Heritage Center will be open to welcome visitors from 11 am to 1 pm on the first and third Saturday of each month. We hope that the change of hours from Sundays to Saturdays will allow more people the opportunity to stop by and view our collection while other activities, such as the Alden Farmers Market, are happening in the Village.

2022/2023 Programs



Please watch the Alden Advertiser, our website, and Facebook for announcements of new programs to be offered, starting in September.

Message from the President

Alden celebrates their Bicentennial!

Town of Alden Sets Bicentennial Weekend for July 28-31



Christopher Gust

Mark your calendars. The Town of Alden plans to hold a series of community events leading up to the Town's 200th anniversary on March 27, 2023. Coming soon is a large Bicentennial Weekend celebration, to be held from Thursday, July 28 thru Sunday, July 31. Several traditionally popular events, including the Taste of Alden, a Kids Day, fireworks, a Big Parade, beer tents, live music, the Alden Auto Show & much more will occur over a fun-filled 4-day weekend as summer kicks into high gear. See the bicentennial's web site at www.alden200.com or their new Facebook page for the latest updates on the schedule of events. The Historical Society is planning on participating in the parade. We'll have photos in the next issue of the Gazette.

Town of Alden Bicentennial Weekend

July 28th to 31st, 2022

<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, July 28th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15th Annual Alden 5K Race For Scholarships, 6 pm • Taste of Alden presented by Alden Chamber of Commerce, 5 pm • Live music, 7 to 11 pm • Beer Tent & more 	<p style="text-align: center;">Friday, July 29th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live music by Nerds Gone Wild, 8 pm to midnight • Big Fireworks display at 10 pm • Civil War reenactors at Town Park • Community Camp Out night at Town Park, 7 pm • Beer Tent, food & more
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, July 30th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kids Parade at noon • Kids Day Events to follow at Town Park. Inflatables, magician, petting zoo, human sno-cone machine & more • The Big Parade at 6 pm with marching bands, fire companies, floats, community organizations, etc. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, July 31st</p> <p>18th Annual Alden Auto Show at Town Park & Alden High School parking lots. Proceeds to benefit Mercy Flight. Hundreds of cars & bikes. Live bands throughout the day. Show awards. AJFC to host a chicken BBQ. 9 am to 5 pm</p>

www.alden200.com

Celebrating the Past, Creating the Future

Events & times subject to change.

 Find us on Facebook

PLEASE!
Visit our Website

www.aldenhistoricalsociety.org



*Alden
Historical Society*
Established 1965

Curator's Corner



A new display at the Heritage Center showcases five of our wedding gown collection. There are also cake toppers on the sideboard shelf in the parlor.

Until the mid- twentieth century, most women wore their best dress to be married. Very wealthy families may have copied Queen Victoria and purchased a fancy, white gown but ordinary people rarely did. We highlight dresses from the 20's, 30's, 40's, 50's and 1970's. Pictured is Laura Olsen Airey's gown from 1950.

We hope you will visit soon and get a glimpse of weddings in the past.

Kris Rogers

Sadly Missed



Harriet E. Aldinger January 22, 1935 - March 30, 2022

Aldinger-Harriet E. (nee Gerould) of Alden, NY March 30, 2022. Beloved wife of the late Robert W. Aldinger, Jr.; dear mother of Margaret (Jack) Gornewicz, Linda (John) Jagusiak, Douglas Aldinger, Kathleen (Daniel) Ciesla, Wende Wesolowski, Sam Ramos and the late Kenneth Aldinger; also survived by 11 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren; predeceased by one grandson, Brett; sister of the late Florence Brown and Alan Gerould.



Paul L. Henry September 4, 1936 - March 31, 2022

Henry-Paul L. of Alden, NY passed away unexpectedly March 31, 2022. Beloved husband of the late Nancy (nee Schifferle) Henry; dear father of David (Pamela), Robert and the late Douglas Henry; grandfather of Rebecca, Catherine, Kayla, Alan and April; brother of Carolann (Donald) Sawyer; Paul was the former owner of Henry's Candy in Alden, NY.



Richard B. DeVita May 1, 1940 - April 9, 2022

Beloved husband of Constance "Connie" DeVita, dear father of Lisa Ann (Christopher "Chip") Willis and Pamela Anne (Daniel Vona) Zawistowski, grandfather of Timothy, Christopher (Cheylane), Brittany (Derek), Michaela (Matthew), Michael, Carmela, Joshua, and Vinny, ; also survived by 8 grandchildren; brother of Sandra (James) Gilbert, Judith (Sam) Amatuzzo, James (Wanda), Marilyn Miller, Daniel (Rhonda) Knotts, William (Eve) McGee and Don (Betty) Shannon; also survived by several nieces and nephews.



Edward H. Small Jr. October 28, 1932 - May 14, 2022

89, of Alden died May 14, 2022 at home with family following a short illness. Husband to Beryl for 66 years and father of Mary (Ken) Little, Edward (Mary Jo) Small, Robert (Brenda) Small and Constance (Jeffrey) Bunger. Loving grandfather of Cicely, Eddie, Erin, Emily, Sarah, Eric, James and Ethan and loving great grandfather of Abilene. Edward was always a church member and lay reader at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church He was a founder of the Alden Baseball league where he coached the Alden Lions teams through the years. With his wife, he faithfully managed the Alden Marilla Community Food Pantry for almost 15 years.



Joyce Cain - (nee Lines) December 29, 1931—June 3, 2022

Age 90, of Holden, MA, at the Dodge Park Senior Home in Worcester, MA. Joy was born in Buffalo, NY. She spent her childhood years in Alden, NY, and attended Alden High School. She was predeceased by her husband, Stuart F. Cain. Joy is survived by her son, Stuart A. Cain (Kristine Yont Cain) of Holden, MA, three grandchildren: Douglas, Michael and Elizabeth Cain and her niece, Kathy (Boulton) Barlup, of Camp Hill, PA.

Our Condolences

State Assemblyman Norris Visits the Heritage Center



On May 19, 2022, the Alden Historical Society welcomed New York State Assemblyman, Michael J. Norris (144th District) and his Chief of Staff, Paul Bologna, to the Alden Heritage Center for a tour.

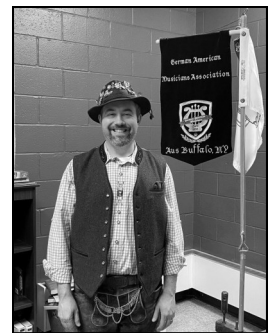


Assemblyman Norris later presented Historical Society President Christopher Gust, Trustee Renee Nelson and Alden Town & Village Historian Karen Muchow a citation from the New York State Assembly honoring the Historical Society for its continued service to the community. (Photo Credits to Paul Bologna)

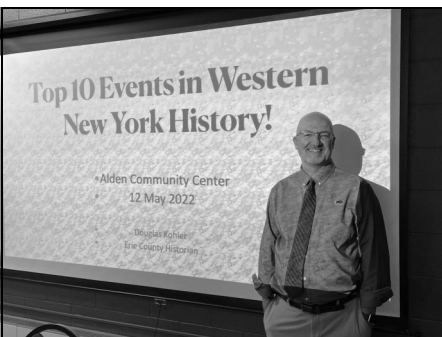
Christopher Gust

German-American Culture at the Community Center

We thank Alden resident Herbert Schmidt III for his presentation on German-American Culture in Western New York for our April 14th program at the Alden Community Center. Herbert detailed the differing cultural regions in Germany and spoke of several prominent Germans in WNY history, food and drink traditions, and the importance to preserve German-American culture for future generations.



County Historian Presents Top 10 Moments



For the Historical Society's May program at the Alden Community Center, Erie County Historian, Doug Kohler, presented his personally selected Top 10 Moments in Western New York History. He selections included the formation of the Great Lakes during the last Ice Age to the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway. His knowledge and enthusiasm for local history was clearly evident and his presentation was very well received. We hope to have him back for another program

Christopher Gust

"The Grove"

On June 9, Alden Town and Village Historian and Historical Society Archivist Karen Muchow gave a presentation on the history of "The Grove," more commonly known as bandstand park, but officially named Alden Firemen's Park since 1987.

The land for the park was donated to the town by Thomas Farnsworth, Sr., who purchased 230 acres of land in Alden when he moved here from Vermont in 1821. Surrounded by homes and businesses, the park has served as a hub for village/town activities, hosting art shows, chicken barbecues, Memorial Day and Veterans' Day observances, Christmas in the Park festivities, Grange Fairs, Halloween Spooktaculars, July 4th celebrations, band concerts, and many other events.



The bandstand was erected in 1935 as a memorial to those who served in WW I. During WW II, commemorative wooden slats identifying the names of all those who served from Alden and surrounding communities were posted on the bandstand, which still serves as a gathering spot for community events today. in the future!

Elli DeFilippo

Individual Renewals

Battista, Carol
Creighton, Helen
Daluisio, Angelo
DeVita, Connie
Galbraith, Sue
Giczkowski, Helen
Grenier, Gregory
Hanson, Christopher
Kent, Gregory
Kotlowski, Marlene
Kubiak, Monica
Loehr, Laura
Manicki, Michael
Nebrich, Beverly
Nelson, Gloria Reich
Reich, Edward W.
Rickard, Nancy
Satkowski, Charleen
Schall, Donna
Schmidt, Marion
Senecal, Audrey
Staples, Florence
Strong, Jennifer
Tucker, Lynda
White, Eleanor
Wieder, Rhonda

Couple Renewals

Becker, Richard & Marie
Borucki, Conrad & Carol
Butler, Gerald & Marian
Downhower Jr., Francis & Judith
Francis, Larry & Donna
Hoffman, Keith & Michelle
Kegler, Richard & Betty
Matthies, Carl & Ann
Rickard, Paul & Joanne
Savage, Richard & Karen

Family Renewals

Bowman, Ron & Judy
O'Hara, Vincent & Kerry
Redman, Scott & Erin
Stoltman, Adam & Kristen

New Members

Sitzman, Brett & Dawn

Donations in Lieu of Dues

Burke, Jane

Memorial Donations

Casell, Marlyn in memory of Robert A. Casell
Casell, Marlyn in honor of Mark & Diane Casell

Donations

Batista, Carol
John & Mary's for use of photographs
Kingswell, Michael & Diane
Merle, Helen

Bicentennial Flag Presented to the Society on Memorial Day

During Alden's Memorial Day Ceremony on May 30, Alden Town Supervisor Brett Sitzman presented the official Alden Town Bicentennial US flag to the Alden Historical Society for safekeeping until the Town's 200-year anniversary date of March 27, 2023. Receiving the flag was Historical Society President, Christopher Gust. The circa 1823, 24-star flag was crafted by Penny Marble and is currently on display at the Alden Heritage Center. (Photo credit of ceremony to Rick Penny)



Christopher Gust



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 11 AM to 1 PM the first and third Saturday 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

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Phone.....Email.....

Please make checks payable to Alden Historical Society

Mail to:

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, Susanne Galbraith, Jennifer Strong

Collections—Jane Burke, Sandy Dussault, Kyle Kavanagh, Karen Muchow, Renée Nelson, Kris Rogers

Publicity/Newsletter—Lynda Tucker - Editor, Elli DeFilippo, Susanne Galbraith, Christopher Gust, Carl Matthies, Karen Muchow, Renée Nelson

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

Audit—Elli DeFilippo, Jennifer Strong, Christopher Gust, Carl Matthies

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

Fundraising—Sue DeWitt, Jane Burke, Elli DeFilippo, Sandy Dussault

Nominating—Jane Burke, Elli DeFilippo, Sue Galbraith

Budget—Sue DeWitt, Christopher Gust

Historical Marker/Signs—Christopher Gust, Sue Galbraith, Karen Muchow, Jennifer Strong

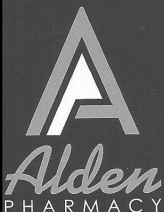
Members are welcome to serve on any of the committees. Contact us at 937-3700 or at aldenhistsoc@gmail.com.

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. Sue Galbraith






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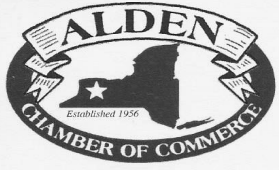
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ALDEN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Established 1956

13500 Broadway
Alden
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716-937-6177

www.aldenny.org
email: secretary@aldenny.org
www.facebook.com/aldenchamber



LAW OFFICES OF
MICHAEL W. COLE, PLLC

Michael W. Cole
Attorney and Counselor at Law

13349 Broadway Street
Alden, New York 14004
(716) 937-9150
Fax (716) 937-9580
mcole@michaelcolelaw.com




NS
NEILL & STRONG

JENNIFER L. STRONG, ESQ.

NEILL & STRONG ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS P.C.



office 716.937.3353
jstrong@neillstrong.com
13166 Main Street, Alden, NY 14004
www.neillstrong.com



Thomas A. Steffan
Attorney at Law

Cooke & Steffan, Attorneys

13132 Main Street
Alden, NY 14004
Ph: (716) 937-9111
Fax: (716) 937-4508
Email: tsteffan@cookeandsteffan.com

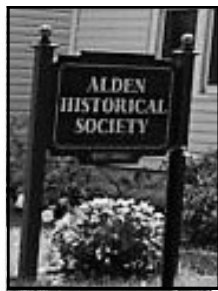



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MISSION STATEMENT

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.



*Chartered by the Board of Regents
New York State Education Department*

*Alden Historical Society
13213 Broadway
Alden, NY 14004*

Find us on Facebook.com/AldenHistoricalSociety

on the web at www.aldenhistoricalsociety.org

and by email at aldenhistoc@gmail.com

We appreciate the support we receive from the Town of Alden.

Thank you.

www.alden.erie.gov