



# The Grannytown Gazette

The Newsletter of the Alden Historical Society

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Karen Muchow

## Curator

Kris Rogers

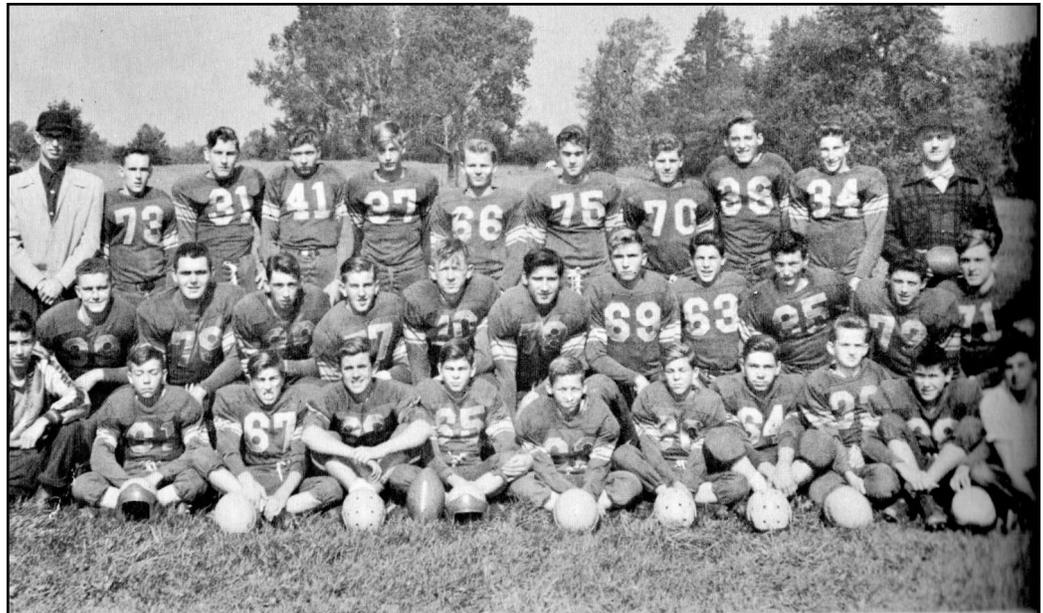
Historical Society Historian

## ACS Football

An article in the September 4, 1952 issue of the Alden Advertiser began thusly: "The 1952-53 school year introduces a new era in the football annals of Alden Central School. This year Alden is taking another step in bettering its athletic program by switching from Six-Man Football to the original game of Eleven-Man."

Six-man high school football had been developed in 1934 by Stephen Epier in Chester, NB as an alternative means for small, rural high schools to field a football team during the Great Depression. It was played on an 80 yard long by 40 yard wide field, although, according to the rule book, it could be played on a normal size eleven-man field. (100 yds by 53 1/3 yds). Instead of the usual 10 yards to gain a first down from the line of scrimmage, 15 yards had to be gained. In offense, three players had to be on the line of scrimmage. All six players were eligible receivers.

Scoring was the same as eleven-man football with the exceptions that a point after touchdown attempt with a kick was worth two points, a running or passing PAT was worth 1 point. Field goals were worth 4 points, instead of 3.



First Row, L. to R.: R. Kidder, Manager; D. Coakley, P. Spillane, B. Irish, D. Wise, G. Garrison, D. Wise, L. Schmidt, F. McCarthy, M. Fleming, R. Hahn, Manager. Second Row: T. Roll, B. Coyle, C. Lynch, R. Neeland, G. Miles, D. Peebles, R. Mueller, E. Chauncey, C. Woodard, M. Cole, A. Nuwer. Third Row: Mr. Richardson, Assistant Coach; D. Ewert, D. Wiles, R. Rider, J. Woodard, R. Mansfield, F. Yax, N. Weber, J. Sievenpiper, C. Chauncey, Mr. Schaefer, Head Coach.

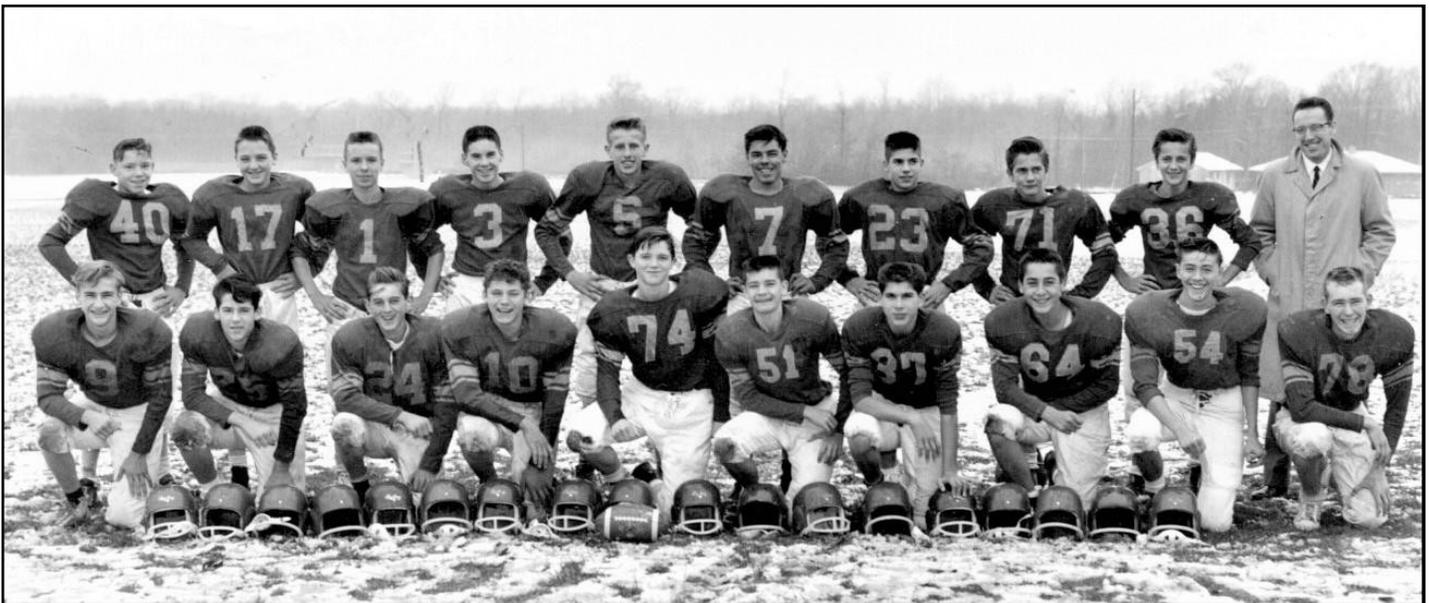
The change to eleven-man football meant that Alden would change from the Genesee Orleans County Six-Man League to the newly formed Oatka Football Conference comprised of teams from Livingston, Wyoming and Erie Counties. Alden's opponents would be Letchworth, Attica, Warsaw, Perry and Akron.

*Continued next page*

The games would be played on Saturday afternoons instead of after school on Friday afternoons. This change would allow more spectators to attend the games. All home games and practice sessions would be held at the Town Park.

The coaches, Mel Schaefer and Phil Richardson, felt that fans could expect a “more grueling, hard hitting type of football.” With more boys on the field, more blocking in the line was needed to open up any one of six holes instead of two as in Six-Man.

The games that year:	Alden at Letchworth	Alden 18 Letchworth 2
	Warsaw at Alden	Alden 6 Warsaw 0
	Akron at Alden	Alden 0 Akron 32
	Bye Week	
	Alden at Attica	Alden 0 Attica 20
	Alden at Perry	Alden 27 Perry 14
	Attica at Alden	Alden 32 Attica 0



It was concluded at the end of the season that Eleven-Man Football was here to stay at Alden Central. It proved that the jump from six to eleven men was not too great to be made in one year, and that Alden could more than hold its own against schools of its own size or even larger.

The following players earned Varsity football letters: Tom Roll, Jim Sievenpiper, Charlie Chauncey, Jim Woodard, Charles Lynch, Norm Webster, Charlie Woodard, Frank Yax, Dick Neeland, Jerry Miles, Al Nuwer, Dick Mansfield and Dan Wiles. Leading Scorers were: Tom Roll (27 pts), Charlie Chauncey (25 pts), Charlie Woodard (18 pts), Jim Woodard (7 pts), and Dick Neeland (6 pts).

We wish the 23-24 ACS football team the best. Go Bulldogs!

*Karen Muchow*

## *Hometown Hero Booklets*

Almost 150 Hometown Hero banners adorn your journey into the Village of Alden, along Broadway, Church Street, Crittenden Road and West Main Street, leading up to the Memorial in the Town Park. Now you can learn more about these honoree, their lives, their histories and some, their sacrifices.

Over three have been honored as the Chamber of Commerce Citizens of the Year. What three have been Town Justices? Which two brothers died exactly 10 years apart? Who has a grave site at Alden Evergreen Cemetery, but is buried in Arlington Cemetery? You can learn all this and so much more in the Alden Hometown Hero's booklet. The booklet is available at the Village Hall Monday – Friday 9-4, and the Alden Heritage Center first and third Saturdays from 11-1. Don't delay- the banners will be taken down the middle of November and stored till next year and there are only a limited amount of books available for \$3 each.

*Sue Galbraith*

## Message from the President

I would like to take this time to thank our volunteers, whether they are members of the Board of Trustees, our Archivist, Curator or Historian. We also need to thank those that volunteer to Docent at the society and those who attend our programs. The Alden Historical Society is searching for interested persons to join them in learning about, and preserving, Alden's rich history. "Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."

Volunteers and members are essential to the Society's mission. There are many ways to help

### Volunteers are needed to:

- Be a docent at the Alden Heritage Center
- Be a docent at the Henskee Road Schoolhouse
- Hand out materials at the Alden Community Center
- Serve on committees. Present committees include:
  - o Membership
  - o Collections
  - o Publicity/Newsletter
  - o Program/Refreshments
  - o Building and Grounds
  - o Fundraising
  - o Nominating
  - o Audit
  - o Budget
  - o Historical Marker/Signs



Thank you for your consideration on this matter, Volunteers do not necessarily have the time: they just have the heart.

Sue Galbraith

## Curator's Corner - 208 Years of Alden Schools

Alden Intermediate School principal, John Mikulski, invited Kris Rogers, Alden Historical Society Curator, and Karen Muchow, Alden Town and Village Historian to present a program on the history of the Alden Central School District as one of the choices for the ACS staff on August 29.

Historian Muchow traced the history from the very first school in 1815 (a log cabin) to the thirteen district schools in the township, to centralization, thru the building boom of the 1960s, and the various additions through the years. Photos of the various school buildings, and some classes of students from the Historian's files helped the attendees visualize the 200+ years.

The photo here is of the District #12 schoolhouse in Crittenden. It was one of three one-room red-brick schoolhouses in the Town. Do you know the locations of the other two?



Karen Muchow/Kris Rogers

## Save the Date!



Make plans to join us for an **Open House** on Saturday, **December 9, 2023**, at the Alden Heritage Center. If you haven't visited lately, this will be a great day to come back. The Center will be decked out in holiday décor with special exhibits for the season and treats will be available. See you there!

Sue DeWitt

## *Historic Hull Family Home Summer History Camp*

The Alden Historical Society offered two scholarships to the Hull Family Home and Farmstead Summer History Camp. Two students from Alden Intermediate were selected: Savannah Cole and Haydin Erny. The students attended the camp where they learned about the history of the Hull family and participated in activities geared to resemble life on a farm in the early 1800's. The activities included performing household chores and working with vintage tools, textiles, and crafts. They played period games, participated in an archaeological dig, and assisted with cooking and food preparation. Additionally, they observed a presentation by Revolutionary War re-enactors as well as learning about Native American life, making cornhusk dolls and practicing the fundamentals of lacrosse.

Both Alden students enthusiastically reported that they very much enjoyed the camp and the activities. They were grateful for the opportunity to add to their knowledge of early settlers' lives by experiencing what their lives were like. The Society plans to continue offering two scholarships each summer. Information about applying for the scholarships will be made available in early 2024.

*Elli DeFilippo*

## *Alden & Newstead Create Joint Display for Erie County Fair*



In honor of the Bicentennials shared by the Towns of Alden and Newstead in 2023, the Alden Historical Society shared its booth at the Erie County Fair's Historical Building with the Newstead Historical Society, working together to jointly establish a display. Items from the collections of Alden and Newstead's respective Societies were presented during the Fair in August to represent key industries and businesses that were instrumental in the development of the respective towns. The display earned an Honorable Mention ribbon after the judging of 20+ other historical societies participating. Thank you to Pat Pearce from Newstead, and Christopher Gust, Sue DeWitt, Mike DeWitt, Sandy Dussault and Karen Muchow from Alden for planning and setting up the display. Special thanks to Mark Casell for lending a milk can to help represent the farming industry.

*Christopher Gust*

## *5th Grade Students Hosted*



The Alden Historical Society hosted fifth grade students from Alden Intermediate School June 12-14. Students alternated between the one-room Henskee Road Schoolhouse located at Alden Town Park and the Alden Heritage Center. At the schoolhouse, students experienced a brief simulation of a typical school day from the late 1800's to the early 1900's. They assumed the identities of actual 1st –



8th grade students who previously attended the school. At the Heritage Center, students were led on a tour through the Historical Society's displays while they were informed about Alden's history.

The Historical Society appreciates Intermediate Principal John Mikulski and the fifth-grade teaching staff for their interest and participation. The Society also thanks retired Alden teachers Terri Retzlaff, Joanne Pletscher, Jean Weisbeck, and Sandy Dussault for volunteering their time and talent teaching at the Henskee Schoolhouse. Tours at the Heritage Center were led by Historical Society Curator Kris Rogers and Trustee Elli DeFilippo.

*Facebook*

## What Am I?



In colonial times, using this item was an essential annual chore in all households. Some peddlers used these to travel around the country and make/sell the product. Several different base ingredients were used and not all smelled good. Can you guess what I am?

## September Program



### September 14—Alden’s Historic Building Spirits

The 2023-24 Program year began with a very "spirited" presentation by Melanie Rimkus, owner of Terra Spiritus, 13295 Broadway, on September 14th. Melanie led those in attendance on a lively journey through Alden's history, highlighting historic buildings and influential early citizens. She expressed great fondness for the community of Alden and its history. The large gathering in attendance enjoyed the program.

## FALL PROGRAMS

**October 12 WNY National Cemetery presented by Marlene Roll Alden Community Center 7 pm**



There will be a presentation on the new WNY National Cemetery in Pembroke, NY. We will share the history, time line and how to apply for burial. We also will present on the Wreaths Across America program. A now honored tradition of having a wreath placed on all veterans' graves across America.



**November 9 Annual Pot Luck Dinner and Membership Meeting Alden Community Center 6 pm \*Note: Earlier time**

It's time once again for our annual potluck supper and business meeting. Please bring a dish to pass – casserole, salad or dessert – and your place settings and your appetite. Beverages will be provided. The annual business meeting will follow dinner, and trustees will be elected. There will be two nominees for three year trustees and one nominee to fill an unexpired two year term. Nominations will also be taken from the floor. Reports from the various committees will be available and in conclusion to the evening, Conrad Borucki will present a program on television advertisements.



**December 14 War of 1812 presented by Greg Kinal Alden Community Center 7 pm**



This exciting program deals with the second war with Great Britain in 1812. The program starts with the causes of the war and proceeds with the war on the Niagara Frontier. From there the story shifts to the British burning of Washington DC and their attempt at taking Baltimore. It was there in Baltimore that our National Anthem was created and how a lawyer who had a passion for poetry wrote the words sung countless times by the American public. This is a great patriotic program that helps explain our love of country today.

*Individual Renewal*  
Grenier, Gregory

*Family Renewal*  
Stoltman, Adam & Kristen

*Couple Renewals*  
Hoffman, Keith & Michelle  
Sitzman, Brett & Dawn

*New Member*  
Nuwer, Michael

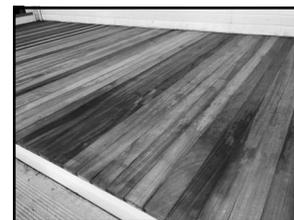
*Donations*  
Alden Senior Citizens  
Hoffman, Keith & Michelle

**Thanks!**  
for your support

### *Some Exterior Maintenance at Heritage Center*



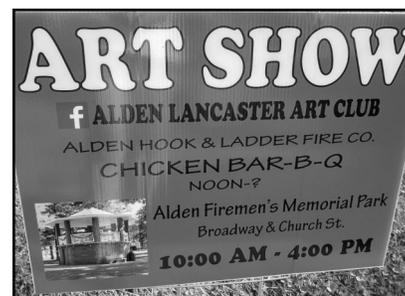
The Heritage Center recently received a little exterior TLC as the front porch was stripped, refinished and sealed; the handicap ramp was sanded and repainted; and all the wood trim around the windows was sanded, painted and caulked. SMW Painting & Remodeling of Lancaster performed the work and did a fine job. Thank you!



Christopher Gust

### *Society at Art Show*

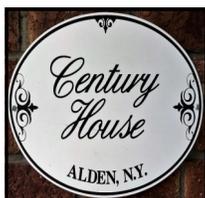
The Historical Society had an informational table at the 65th annual Alden Lancaster Outdoor Art Show on September 10th with copies of the popular "Reflections of Alden" book, the new Town of Alden History book, and the 2023 "Hometown Heroes" booklet available for sale, as well as complementary copies of the Grannytown Gazette. A 1958 Alden High School Yearbook, fun facts and trivia about the year 1958 celebrated the year of the first Alden Art Show. Congratulations to Society President, Sue Galbraith, for finishing 1st in the oil painting competition. We appreciate the opportunity to have a presence at this long-standing community event and we thank everyone who stopped by our table and said hello.



Christopher Gust

### *Did You Identify the 'What Am I'?*

The answer is a 'candle mold', used to form candles in a uniform shape. A cotton wick was centered in the wax medium for burning.



Would you like to list your home as a Century Home? There are many of these fine older homes in our Town and Village. If you are interested, please email us at: AldenHistSoc@gmail.com. We have Century House signs for sale for \$55.

Sue Galbraith

**PLEASE!**  
Visit our Website

[www.aldenhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.aldenhistoricalsociety.org)



*Alden*  
**Historical Society**  
Established 1965

## 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 and March.** Tours for individuals and groups may be arranged by calling 716-937-3700 or 716-392-4295.

### 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, as protocols allow. 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

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Lynda Tucker, Membership Secretary  
Alden Historical Society  
13213 Broadway  
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DONATIONS AND MEMORIALS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

### NOTE: Donations are tax deductible

**Membership**—Lynda Tucker, Susanne Galbraith, Jennifer Strong

**Collections**—Jane Burke, Carol Battista, 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

**Program/Refreshments**— Sue Galbraith, Jennifer Strong, Elli DeFilippo, Sandy Dussault, Greg Kent **Refreshments**—Renée Nelson

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

**Building and Grounds**— Christopher Gust, Carol Battista, Greg Kent, Jennifer Strong

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

**Nominating**—Jane Burke, Elli DeFilippo, Kris Rogers

**Budget**—Sue DeWitt, Christopher Gust

**Historical Marker/Signs**— Sue Galbraith, Greg Kent, Karen Muchow, Jennifer Strong

Members are welcome to serve on any of the committees. Contact us at 937-3700 or at [aldenhistsoc@gmail.com](mailto:aldenhistsoc@gmail.com).





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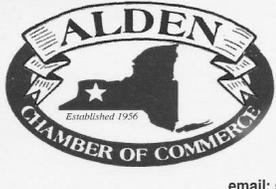
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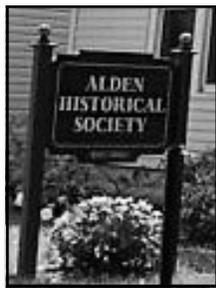
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**Melanie Rimkus**  
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Certified Reiki Practitioner

## 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