

ALMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JAN/FEB/MAR 2023 Editor—Donna Ryan Asst. Editor—Becky Comer Est. 1965

Sunday, April 16, 2023

OPEN HOUSE

2-4:30 pm

3 pm Speaker:
Susan Doran

TOPIC: VICTORIAN HAIR
WREATH ART / JEWELRY

**PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES
PROMPTLY**

Notices were mailed out the
end of January

PLEASE NOTE:

AHS has a new phone
number: (607) 385 0740
or call
(607) 725 0735 Donna Ryan

HAGADORN HOUSE/ OFFICE

Open Friday afternoons
2 - 4 p.m. or call for
appointment

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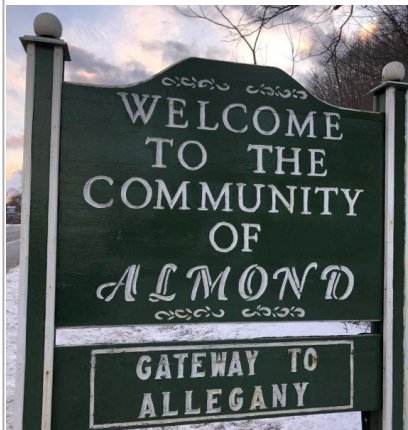
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A TRAVEL GUIDE TO ALMOND, NEW YORK GATEWAY TO ALLEGANY COUNTY

(Editor's note: This piece was written by Hannah Rech, who lives on Main Street, Almond, and is a senior in her family's Rech Academy. She wrote this article last year as part of an on-line writing course, Write at Home. We felt its engaging description of our little village was worthy of publication.)

As one drives down Main Street, branches of trees displaying many extraordinary colors reach out welcomingly. Quaint houses all along the left and right wink at the traveler in friendly spirit, and sunlight spills over the whole scene. This is the first impression many receive of the little town in western New York, Almond.



Pronounced "Elmond" by the Scottish settlers who originally settled there, Almond is an essential connection of Route 21 South to Interstate 86. It is also sandwiched between the larger towns of Hornell and Alfred. Almond has a rather substantial amount of traffic that flows through it daily on its way to great adventures, but even with all of this hustle and bustle, Almond is a fairly quiet town. Residents can often be seen strolling down Main Street or jogging along a side road or extension.

The people here might consider themselves a little nutty, but they are also a tightly-knit bunch. The sense of community is strong. Several churches are scattered about Almond, and the spirit of love they pour out, not only on Sundays, is evident to many. Almond also celebrates its founding annually with a "community day" in September that draws the residents even closer together.

Officially formed in 1821, Almond has a long and fascinating history. The first party of frontiersmen are supposed to have come mostly from Scotland with names including Karr and McHenry. They were led by a Revolutionary War veteran, Rev. Andrew Gray, to become Almond's first settlers. The early colonists relied heavily on the Turnpike Road for travelling and visiting, a road that is still in use today. The budding little town survived several physical difficulties in its early years. These included a "fever" epidemic (likely influenza) in 1813 that killed several prominent community members, the year 1816's 12 months of winter, and devastating floods specifically the worst, in 1855. In 1831, the nearby Hornellsville began to grow rapidly due to the addition of a railroad, and Almond faded into the background of Western New York. The "post office", however, remained an asset to the town and was

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rapidly upgraded to an official facility on May 14, 1817. Schools have also played a significant role in the history of Almond. J. A. Rathbun acted as Almond's first teacher, and the first school-house was located in his home. As the school grew, so did the building. Today, the Alfred-Almond Central School fills this role for the community.

Because of its fascinating history, there are many historic sights to see in Almond. The Hagadorn House, home to three generations of the Hagadorn family, has been preserved almost identical to the way it was originally built. Open houses are held during the year so residents and visitors can tour this fascinating building. Rooms set up in the upper floor of the house display what life was like from around 1800 to 1941. They include a bedroom with corsets laid out and a chamber pot by the bed, and a children's playroom full of dolls and toys from that time period. There are also kitchen and dining room areas and a large fireplace. The building erected next door to the Hagadorn House holds the fifty-five-year-old Historical Society, a group whose aim is to keep the history of Almond alive to this generation. Always ready to exhibit their many fascinating treasures, like newspaper clippings and conserved historical writings, the Historical Society's Office/Archives Building is open on Friday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m. The Society also facilitates the tours of the Hagadorn House itself. Tours are available on Fridays or by appointment.



Other historical sights to see include the Grange, one of the original school buildings built in Almond. This two-room schoolhouse has not changed much since its construction. Despite some inevitable aging, it remains a piece of history. The Tefft Cemetery is another. It is located on Turnpike Road and provides the final resting place to two Civil War soldiers. There are also many pleasant places to take a drive through in and around Almond. These drives can be taken along Turnpike, Karr Valley, McHenry Valley, and Webbs Crossing Roads. These provide wonderful views of the hills that were once a challenge to the early settlers. Wonderfully green and rolling, Almonders like to say that there

is nothing like their New York hills! Trees of all types decorate the way for travelers and give homes to deer and other wildlife. The hillsides are especially beautiful in Autumn, when they put on their many vibrant colors and stand out vividly against the bright blue sky.

Kanakadea Lake, also known as Almond Lake, is another popular visiting spot. This artificial lake was created with the building of the Almond Dam and is located between Route 21 South and Webbs Crossing Road. It is accessible through the also popular Kanakadea Park which is maintained by the county. The park includes camping sites, public playgrounds, restrooms, and a boat launch, and is also a great place for kayaking and swimming. Many interesting fish make their home in the lake including largemouth bass, yellow perch, and pumpkinseed sunfish. Constructed in the 1940s, the dam can also be viewed from the park and surrounding roads. When the dam was built, businesses and homes were physically moved, some of which still stand elsewhere in Almond.

In the Indian language, Canacadea means "Where the Earth Meets the Sky". Canacadea Creek runs through Almond and, although now only one third of the size it was to the first settlers, is a pleasant place to visit. Whether wading or picnicking, the creek is lovely in all seasons, especially when the water level is low due to little rain. The Karr Valley piece of the creek can be accessed from Marvin Lane in Almond. Just past the fire hall is a path leading down to the creek where visitors can enjoy the enchanting scene and calm water.

Several successful writers grew up in Almond. Among them is Phyllis Fenner and her niece, Carol Fenner (1929 – 2002). Carol won several awards for her children's books including two Newbery awards, one each for Gorilla-Gorilla and Yolonda's Genius. She also graduated from high school in Almond. The late Helene Phelan, who was very involved in the establishment of the Almond Historical Society with her

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husband, Linn, researched and wrote seven books on local history. The first, If Our Earthly House Dissolve, is the story of the Wetherby-Hagadorn family as told from their diaries and papers (ca. 1815-1917) found in the Hagadorn House.

The Alfred-Almond Central School Junior and Senior High still operates today. AACCS has an excellent academic and athletic program as it is one of the highest-ranking schools in New York state. Facilities available to the approximately 700 students in attendance include tennis courts, a playpark, soccer field, frisbee golf, and a full-size track, most of which are open to the public as well. Some of their athletics also spills over into the Almond Lions Park, which includes soccer fields, baseball and softball diamonds and dugouts, a playpark, and a walking path that connects up to Canacadea Creek. Located at the end of Marvin Lane, the Lions Park is also open to the public and a great place for outdoor recreation.

When visiting Almond, the best places to eat are Mulheisen's Restaurant and The Big Dipper. Located on Main Street in Almond, Mulheisen's Restaurant has been serving its community for a long while. They offer both sit-down dinners and quick-pizza-stop style meals. Dining room hours are Sunday from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesday 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Thursday through Saturday 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. They are closed Mondays and serve a special fish fry on Fridays. The Big Dipper, 21 South Main Street, is known for its weekend barbecue and excellent selection of ice cream. Typically open from April to October, they serve Perry's hard ice cream, have a soft serve machine, and offer a large menu of sundaes and other cold treats. There is also a swing-set on the property for kids of all ages. Additionally, Almond shares lodging and restaurants with its neighbors Hornell and Alfred.



Businesses in Almond include: The Twentieth Century Club Library with its own unique history, several auto body and servicing shops (specifically Perk's Auto Care on Main Street), and Mullen Carpets located on School Street. Besides carpets and Principal Securities (a financial advisors' office), Side Porch Ballet is found in the Mullens building. Offering ballet lessons in a safe environment and for affordable prices, this dance studio was actually formed on a teenage ballet student's side porch. Through imagination and big dreams, the Side Porch Ballet School now serves its community and beyond with enjoyable private and group lessons. A summer show on

that same side porch is free for spectators as a part of the week-long workshop put together by the teacher in the month of August. More information can be found on the studio's Facebook page.

Aside from historical buildings, interesting businesses, and beautiful scenery, what really makes Almond special is the people who live there. Doris Haddock, also known as "Granny D" and famous for her walk across America in support of campaign finance reform in New Hampshire, is quoted as saying, "Small towns make up for their lack of people by having everyone be more interesting." And it is very true in Almond. Even the first settlers were unique. John F. Reynolds lived in Almond during his young adult and onward years and fell in love with its history. He wrote a well-researched book called The Almond Story: the Early Years in which he says of the first settlers, "None was wealthy but they were industrious, temperate and God-fearing. Almond can be proud of them." The citizens of Almond are striving to continue the pattern of the early settlers, as they live in their small town. The four churches in Almond bless others, and the schools influence children from all around, not just Almond. The Historical Society works hard to remind citizens of their history, and the Hagadorn House stands as a memorial.

Almond just celebrated its bicentennial, and is now radiant, ready for the visitor, and prepared to bless all travelers with its treasures. Although small, it is ready to make a big impact. That begins with the drive down Main Street and continues as each explorer dives into the village of Almond.

WNY GENEALOGY SOCIETY'S PRESIDENT VISITS AHS

(Editor's note: A few months ago, Marie-Cecile Tidwell, president of the WNY Genealogy Society, made a visit to Hagadorn House along with her husband. As the new WNYGS president, she was visiting the historical societies in the entire region. Upon her urging, the AHS joined the WNYGS, and recently received their newsletter describing her visit. We were delighted that they came to visit, and we want to share with you her perception of our collection and facilities.)

Dr. Tidwell writes: After we left the Allegany County Historical society. . . our next stop was the Village of Almond and the Hagadorn House. In 1971, the Hagadorn House, first built in the early 1830s, was bequeathed to the Almond Historical Society by a descendant of the John Wetherby family, an early occupier of the home.

We first entered through the historical society offices and were graciously met by two society volunteers, Sheryl House and Lillian Hanks. Sheryl took us around the various file cabinets and drawers and pointed out the many records and items preserved by the society. There were numerous cabinets of family files. In addition, there were schoolhouse files that included pay stubs, school reports, and teacher lists from 1879 to 1936. In 1940, their school districts were consolidated into the Alfred-Almond School District. There also are drawers that contain clippings and information about school sports, churches, and clergy.

Included in their records are those of the Almond cemeteries, including local family cemeteries. There are also Civil War letters, and information on local author and teacher, Helene C. Phelan. Phelan wrote several books which cover the topics of slavery, the Underground Railroad, and the Hagadorn House, that is based on the Hagadorn family diaries. The historical society also has its "sad drawer" where, like in so many historical museums, they have photos of individuals and families who remain unidentified and nameless. These photos are good reminders to leave a note on your photos, so the "sad drawer" never becomes their final home.

Next, our guide, Sheryl House, continued our tour by taking us next door to visit the Federal-style Hagadorn House, with its impeccably decorated rooms of antiques. Each room was more interesting than the next and filled with many special items. In the Victorian parlor, among the antique furniture and piano, is the curio cabinet which is holding the collection of cruets that belonged to Lillian Hanks who greeted us when we arrived. Furnishing the house seems to be activity enjoyed by all the society's members. The Hagadorn House and the items in it are clearly some of the town's treasures. For more information about the Hagadorn House or the Almond Historical Society, you can go to the society's website at <https://almondhistory.wordpress.com/>.

Although there is no historian for the Town and Village of Almond, Donna Ryan, who is the Almond Historical Society secretary, responded to our Historian Project Questionnaire. She noted that there is an Almond Historical Society Facebook page and a society quarterly newsletter. The society has between four and six volunteers and the society's archives is open for viewing on Fridays from 2-4 p.m. She reported that the society was chartered in 1965 by the New York State Department of Education and that it has a large collection of data in its offices. In addition to the numerous drawers of family information, it has maps, photos, scrapbooks, books, manuscripts, and documents. She indicated that they have hundreds of personal family files, and she considers them the "gems" of their collection. She added that she wants us to know that they are very proud of the Almond Historical Society and its facilities. To contact Donna, email her at dryan14804@fmail.com or call her at 607-725-0735.

(Thank you, Dr. Tidwell, for your visit, and for the nice writeup that you wrote for [The Western New York Genealogist](#), Volume 49, No. 3.)

AACS BOMB THREAT FROM THE ALFRED SUN 10 YEARS AGO - January 10, 2013

A bomb threat that was called in at Alfred-Almond Central School about the time Alfred's office of Community Bank was being robbed made for an uneasy Friday afternoon, Jan 4, for Alfred-Almond area residents. The Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Office's K-9 division conducted a sweep of A-A elementary school with one dog and no explosive was found. Local residents theorize the bomb threat from an unknown source received at the A-A elementary school at around 1 p.m. was likely a diversionary tactic used by the bank robber. Caught on security cameras, Alfred Policy Chief Tim O-Grady described the suspect as "about 6 feet tall; slim to medium build wearing a dark brown or green 'Carhart' type hooded jacket, grey sweatpants and white sneakers with a blue athletic logo on them."

ALMOND DAM: FROM THE ALFRED SUN SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO



January 31, 1946 Indications that work on the proposed Almond Dam might get underway before the end of April were made recently when a dozen of the families in the vicinity of Goff Bridge section were asked to vacate their homes by April 15 by officials of the local State Highway Department. In the deficiency supply bill passed by Congress and signed by President Truman the later part of December, a total of \$1,030,500 was set aside for the Almond Dam and channel improvements and levees.

July 18, 1946 The \$3,330,000 contract for construction of the Almond Dam has been awarded by the federal government to Carlo Bianchi and Co, Inc., of Framingham, Mass. The project was authorized by the Federal Flood Control Act of 1936 ... but plans laid dormant because of the War ... the maximum pool created by the dam will barely reach the Village of Almond. At full capacity the reservoir or lake will extend 2 ½ miles upstream from Goff Bridge but the occurrence is of extreme low frequency. Computations released by the army engineers show that it will be completely full once in 100 years and half full once every ten years.

UPDATE FROM ALMOND DAM US ARMY CORPS of ENGINEERS FACT SHEET February 2019

AUTHORIZATION: The project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of June 22, 1936, as amended by the Flood Control Act of June 28, 1938.

BACKGROUND: Almond Lake is located near Hornell, New York, on Canacadea Creek, a tributary of the Canisteo River, which flows into the Chemung River, which in turn, flows into the Susquehanna River. The dam forming the lake is an earthfill structure 1,260 feet long rising 90 feet above the streambed with a gated outlet conduit in the left abutment, and a concrete spillway in a natural saddle beyond the left abutment. The reservoir has a storage capacity of 14,800 acre-feet at spillway crest and has an area of 490 acres when filled to that level. The project controls a drainage area of 56 square miles or 36 percent of the watershed of the Canisteo River upstream from Hornell. An additional portion of the watershed is controlled by Arkport Dam. The project forms part of the flood risk management for Hornell, Canisteo and Addison and reduces flood heights at other localities on the Canisteo and Chemung rivers. The project was completed in 1949, and federal cost was \$5.8 million. Under a Corps real estate agreement, Steuben County operates and maintains the Kanakadea Recreation Area at Almond Lake. Recreation facilities include a boat launch, picnic area and campground. **STATUS:** Flood damages prevented through fiscal 2018 are estimated at \$146,762,000.

AHS NEWSLETTERS PROVIDE HISTORY: The story of the Almond Dam construction was the topic of two of our newsletters: June 2001 and September 2001. The articles included stories about the actual construction and interviews with those who worked on the project, as well as information about where the many misplaced homes were moved.

WE HEAR FROM OUR READERS AND FRIENDS

Mrs. Phil (Rocky) Lockwood, Henrico, VA, writes: "Jared, Matt and Alexandro are so grateful for your condolences as well as the tribute you wrote about Phil (Oct Nov Dec AHS 2022). Many fond memories in Almond."

Betsey Burdett Stout, Canandaigua, wrote: "I just finished reading the Oct/Nov/Dec/2022 AHS newsletter and enjoyed the article about Fisher's Fun Farm dance hall. Imagine being able to see those popular bands locally and even walking up there from Almond for the entertainment. I think I read that article when it first came out in 2002 but loved reading it again. Lots of those names were familiar and I seem to remember my husband, Galen, playing with Pres White, Weldon Greene, Ruth Judy, Ray Hedges and Andy Grillo for dances in Hornell many years ago."

Ruth Mullikin Page, Leesburg, VA: "I have a question for you. For the life of me, I cannot figure out exactly where Fisher's Fun Farm was located on the Almond Road. Looking at the pictures in the newsletter, and reading the last two paragraphs, I figure it is one of the properties across from AACS. I don't remember any property looking this bad in the areas across from the school. The newsletters are always interesting, and I appreciate all the work you put into its publication. Thanks so much." Our reply to Ruth: Fishers Fun Farm was located not directly across from but on the opposite side of Route 21 near the intersection of Whitney Valley Road (old Rt 21). It was formerly the Goodwin property. There were two houses there: one was an older (red) house close to the road and the other one was a house that burned within the past year. It had a huge barn down behind the houses. That was the dance hall. Probably in the 50s and 60s, AACS used the big barn for bus parking. It was a neat property until the Goodwin sold it to Mr. Goswami and it went downhill very fast. And has been sliding ever since!

HAPPENINGS AT HAGADORN HOUSE



We received an email from **Art Ruitberg**, Williamsburg, Va., with this request: "Another member of the US Sharpshooter Living History group and I have put together a list of the members of the two United States Sharpshooter Regiments who are buried in the National Cemetery at Gettysburg. **Eli Vincent** is covered on page 4 of the attachment. A short bio, for each, is included and during Remembrance Day weekend at Gettysburg (third weekend in November), our members pay tribute to the fallen heroes by reading the corresponding bio at each grave site.

"I am interested in obtaining information about Eli S. B. Vincent, buried in Almond's Tefft Cemetery. I noticed on your website is a listing for a book by John Reynolds, titled [The Almond Story](#), and presume the quote, used on FindAGrave.com, may have been taken from his book. Might the book still be available, and possibly do you have other material on Vincent? Thank you very much! Your website is a joy to search and use!"

We were able to send him John Reynolds' published booklet, ca. January 1975, [Forgotten Cemeteries of Almond](#). Art then furnished more information from this publication: [Booklet: The Battle of Gettysburg, 1863 by C. A. Stevens, Capt Wisconsin Volunteers](#): "Eli S. B. Vincent died at the field-hospital July 15. He was one of the tall rawboned kind, a six-footer, and a solder full of determination and courage. The Johnny Reb that got within his clutches must needs be a giant to free himself. Vincent was one of the best marksmen in the service, and had long before earned a reputation as a fighting soldier."

HAPPENINGS AT HAGADORN HOUSE (con't.)

Searching in the Vincent family, it was learned that David and Freegift Vincent had fourteen children, which included three young men who served in the Civil War. Further information is found in extensive research conducted by the late Barbara Bernstein, posted online: [Civil War Soldiers from Almond, New York](#). This listing includes this explanation: "Civil War Record - by Town Clerk of the Town of Almond, NY, Chapter 690 of the laws of 1865 - to be permanently preserved. These are copied and alphabetized by Soldier's name. These have been added to information in existing lists prepared at an earlier time at the Hagadorn House, by Almond Historical Society volunteers including **Wayne Kellogg** and **J. F. Reynolds**. Many of the new records added had more information than previous records. They were very difficult to read. Page numbers after selections indicate the source as the Town Clerk's War Record. Transcribed and compiled by Barbara Bernstein. Feb. 2000."

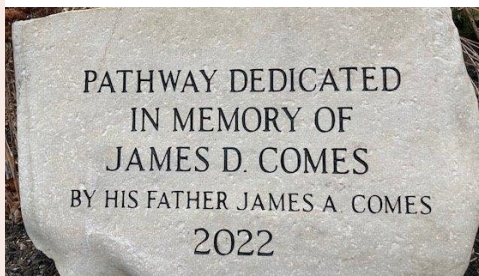
VINCENT, John C., - b. February 18, 1835, Enlisted in 1861 for three years in the 145th regiment, Company D as a first Sgt. in the New York Volunteers. Parents: **David VINCENT** and **Freegift SANDERS**. Occupation - farmer. He was at the Battle of Cedar Creek, and is buried in Merwin Cemetery. He was discharged on June 27, 1863 for disability. "His toils are past, his work is done, He fought the fight, his victory won." 1835- 1901.

VINCENT, Nathan Hull - b. Dec 5, 1840. Parents **David Vincent** and **Freegift Sanders**. "He was a Lt. in 86th NY Volunteers. He enlisted on August 27, 1861 and mustered in on Sept. 5, 1861, for three years. He enlisted as a private, promoted to corporal and then to Sargent and ultimately to Lt. Col. He was wounded at Battle of Bull Run and was disabled for 2 months. Was hit in knee at Chancellorsville, in the head twice, next wounded in the arm and thigh by a ball, both arms broken and part of one bone taken out which crippled him for life. Returned to Hornellsville."

VINCENT, Eli S. B. - buried in Teft Cemetery. "Son of **David VINCENT** and **Freegift SANDERS**, spent boyhood on Turnpike Farm of parents. In the Battle of Gettysburg, as a member of a company of sharpshooters, he was engaged with an enemy sniper. When he carelessly exposed his shoulder, the rebel was quick to take advantage and fired the fatal shot from which the young **VINCENT** died two weeks after that bloody and decisive battle." From **John REYNOLDS**, a previous Almond historian. **Vincent** died July 16, 1863, and was buried in Tefft Cemetery.

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A brother-sister team, **Sharon Drake Orcutt** (Portville) and **Harry Drake** (Jasper) visited the AHS office recently, searching for family information. They are direct descendants of Margaret Karr (one of Almond's original settlers (also known as the "Angel of Mercy"), through her son, Walter's line. (See [The Almond Story](#), page 43-46) Walter, who came to this valley with his mother and brothers in 1797, was captured by the Indians when a child during the 1778 Wyoming Massacre and many years later was reunited with his family. Harry, who has been diligent in tracing his family lineage, realized one day that the Margaret Karr in John's book was the same Margaret Karr in his genealogy! What a heritage they have! Sharon writes after their visit: "My brother, Harry Drake, and I thoroughly enjoyed our time at the Almond Historical Society office Friday, February 3, 2023. We spent about 3 hours and the time flew by as there was so much material to go through and chat about. You are the best! Thank you so much for taking the time to listen and share information with us that the society had acquired and catalogued over the years. We especially enjoyed the files by family surname that we could peruse. The old family photos were a heartwarming find. As you know, so much family information is lost through the generations. We will be back. We are already making a list of things to do and chat about next time. Thanks again for all you and your dedicated group do. God Bless."



We reported a few months ago that a new sidewalk had been installed leading from the AHS office to the Almond Community Church parking lot, making our office much more easily accessible. An engraved stone has been placed in the garden beside the front steps, indicating that the sidewalk was a memorial to James D. Comes, who passed away in 2008, by his father, James A. Comes.

DOO DAHS



Lillian Hanks, Mary Ann Reitnauer, Kitty Baker, Betty Costello, Eleanor Kernan, Doris Montgomery

This photo surfaced at AHS office one afternoon when Lillian Hanks brought in a beautiful scrapbook highlighting the 30 years of a local ladies social group, the DooDahs.

Lillian and Kitty Baker filled us in on the story: The group started in

May 1989, when Lillian lamented that she hadn't seen her friends for quite a while because her husband, Leon, had been very ill. She invited a group of Home Bureau friends to her home for a dish to pass, and soon they began going out for breakfast. A lot of the gals quilted and they began to meet weekly to quilt or knit . . . and that was the beginning of the DooDahs! "We met at different homes and continued to meet weekly for about 30 years. We didn't have an agenda: it was a social time. We ate and talked, and we celebrated birthdays and did our annual secret pal reveal. Our last meeting was about the time that covid hit, and sadly, the pandemic stopped it," the gals recalled. Members of the group were Dote Gillette, Kitty Baker, Betty Costello, Pat Palmiter, Eleanor Kernan, Mary Anne Reitnauer, Anne Lorow, Paulena Wheeler and Lillian Hanks. The only remaining Doo Dahs are Kitty, Betty, Lillian and Mary Anne.

WE SEND OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF

Ronald George, 70, of 500 Residence Way, Hornell, who died November 28, 2022, at Elderwood in Hornell. A graduate of Angelica High School, he later graduated from Alfred State College (SUNY Alfred, Class of 1972).

Following his graduation, Ron served 21 years in the US Army National Guard. His 35-year career with New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) found him working in many capacities, including building maintenance, 1st Class Lineman, 1st Class UC&M, Line Supervisor, Construction Manager, Manager Training and Manager Special Projects.

He was a communicant of St. Brendan's Church of Almond and was also a member of the Hornell American Legion and the Hornell AMVETS. He was a lifetime member of the Almond Volunteer Fire Department, serving as Fire Chief for several years. He also served on the Almond Town Board. He was married to the former Lucille Kellogg.

Lyle Galen Stout, who passed away at age 88 on Jan. 17, 2023 in Canandaigua. A graduate of Wellsville Central School and Alfred State College (SUNY Alfred, Class of 1955), he and his brother took over their parents' dairy farm in Hallsport and eventually formed Stout Bros. Sales and Service, a farm machinery dealership. He also started Fulmer Valley Forest Products. From 1982 until his retirement in 2000, he was employed as a Marketing Administrator at Dresser Rand in Wellsville. Galen, a professional musician, was a well-known bass player who entertained at clubs, churches, dances, community events, weddings, and in jazz festivals. After he and his wife, the former Betsey Burdett, retired to Canandaigua, Galen volunteered as a tram driver and mowed lawns at Sonnenberg Gardens and volunteered at ReStore of Ontario Habitat for Humanity. He was a member of First Congregational Church of Canandaigua.

COSLO PROPERTY / 59 MAIN STREET TO BE RESTORED

(Editor's note: A few months ago, the AHS office was the site for a meeting of the company officials who won the recent Allegany County tax foreclosure sale for the Coslo property/59 Main Street, Almond. Jeff Piccolo and his dad, Jeff Piccolo, were interested in the history of this property and a meeting at the AHS with former owner Kim Costello and AHS volunteers Lillian Hanks and Donna Ryan was arranged. From our historical society files, we were able to show pictures and articles of the building's beginnings in the 1860s when it was built for the Richardson Shoe and Boot Company. Through the decades it housed various grocery stores and the post office, until the past several decades it was a fine dining restaurant. We asked Jeff Piccolo to write a brief story about their plans, which he readily sent us. Thank you, Jeff, for sharing your vision for this property.)



From Jeff Piccolo:
As we discussed, my company, Pic Development Holding Corp., has recently purchased 59 Main St, Almond NY 14804 (formerly Coslo's). In fact, our purchase was just approved this past Wednesday, Feb 8th, 2023, by the Allegany County Legislature. My company is family owned and operated. It consists of my older brother, Joseph, my father, "Big Jeff",

and myself "Little Jeff". My brother has a BS in Bio-Engineering from Binghamton University but is an electrician by trade. My dad recently retired from the MTA in NYC and handles the construction aspects of our company. I have a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Lehigh University and have worked in banking and sales for approximately 10 years. Our company looks for distressed properties that have been left stagnant and in disarray for years and transforms those properties into buildings and homes we are proud of. I particularly love the process of seeing properties that are eye sores turn into pillars of communities.

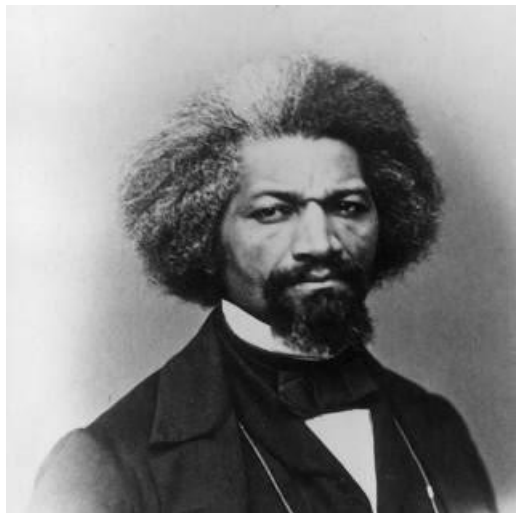
The community has been nothing but helpful as well as the Almond Historical Society, one of the prior owners/neighbors, Kim Costello, as well as John Simmins, Executive Director for Research and Economic Development from Alfred University. John is helping us apply for grant funding to help revitalize the property and has been a great resource of information. Below is a statement from John Simmins.

"Alfred University recognizes that it is part the Allegany County economy and will support historic and revitalization projects as best as it is able. We are happy to support the restoration of the 'Coslos Building' by helping apply for appropriate state and federal grants."

Although our plan hasn't been finalized, we are leaning towards converting the property into student housing for the local universities and colleges. As the purchase was just approved by the county legislature, we haven't finalized our plans. We are open to suggestions and would love to hear feedback from the community. If you have any suggestions feel free to reach out to me at picdevelopmentcorp@gmail.com.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS VISITS ALLEGANY COUNTY 1851

By Sheryl House



February is Black History Month and Allegany County was visited by one very important leader in the anti-slavery movement, Frederick Douglass. He wrote his first autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, in 1845. He tells us he was born to a slave, Harriet Bailey, at Tuckahoe, MD and believed his father was the plantation owner. From his experience we learn that slaves and their children were usually separated when the child was young. Slave children of the master would often have greater hardships coming from the mistress as they were a reminder of her husband's infidelity and from the master who could not appear to show favoritism. The master would often sell off his slave children.

Frederick Douglass was passed around the master's family and at one time was in Baltimore for seven years. When living there he discovered that city slaves had more freedom and were treated better. There he learned to read by befriending poor white boys. He paid for those "lessons" by giving them bread. He first knew he didn't want to be a slave for life when he was 12. After the seven years there he was sent back to the plantation where life progressively got worse. The book gives many horrible details of his life and finally on September 3, 1838 he escaped and made it to New York then to New Bedford, Mass. At one time he had been apprenticed as a ship builder and that was where he found work again. He married Anna Murray, a free black woman, and changed his name from Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey, the name his mother had given him, to Frederick Douglass based on the recommendation of a friend. He worked for 3 years in New Bedford sometimes attending anti-slavery meetings, but it was on August 11, 1841 when he spoke up at a meeting in Nantucket that he became more comfortable with speaking and started speaking often.

Frederick Douglass made a speaking tour of Allegany County starting on October 1, 1851. The tour was arranged by Mr. Asahel N. Cole of Belfast who stayed with him through the first week of the tour. Meetings had been mostly prearranged and were often in local churches of various denominations. Besides those meetings he also spoke in a cabin in Hume, at Chapel at Alfred Seminary (twice) and a schoolhouse in Almond. Only twice in his diary does he mention specific negative situations. The first was at a hotel in Cuba where men made derogatory remarks in his hearing. The second instance regarded a Presbyterian church that refused to let him speak there so he spoke at a school. His diary said it was the Almond church.

My research has turned up two thoughts on that. Rev. Dr. Joel Wakeman was the pastor of the Almond Presbyterian Church and was strongly anti-slavery. The second information I discovered was that there had been members of Presbyterian churches in Allegany County who did support slavery. This fact caused Rev. Dr. Wakeman to submit a resolution at a regional meeting of the Presbyterian churches on January 10, 1849 that stated "1. Some presbyteries and churches in their assembly refused to discipline members for the sin of slavery. 2. Resolved if those groups don't take action by the next meeting, the Assembly will withhold all correspondence and fellowship with them in the future."

Frederick Douglass was a great man who has made a difference. We are fortunate that we have records that he visited this area not once but a second time in the spring of 1853 according to the diary of Maria Whitford where he spoke again at Alfred. This is a good reminder that Almond and Allegany County were not forgotten in the fight for freedom for the Black people in our country.

ALMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT
Compiled by Louise Schwartz, President, and Donna B. Ryan, Secretary
Presented at the AHS Annual Meeting, November 20, 2022

The Almond Historical Society's fiscal year runs from 1/1 to 12/31. Therefore, a final year end treasurer's report is not available. We would like to give some general information. A full annual year-end report will be available through the treasurer after January 1, 2023.



The main sources of income for the Historical Society are:

1) Redemption of pop and beer cans and water bottles. (Collection building is located next to the Almond Municipal Building on Main Street). Your help with this is very important.

We have four teams who take turns monthly taking the cans to the redemption centers. They are Paul and Helen Spencer, Dan Hegarty, Adam Evans and Brad Hager. This is a time consuming – and not always pleasant job. If you are not donating your bottles and cans to us, please consider helping us that way.

Our annual income from this project in 2021 was \$4700+. As of the end of September, 2022, our income had exceeded \$4700. This is an incredible fundraiser for us.

- 2) The local Coffee Club which meets mornings in the AHS office netted us over \$1000 in donations from them from October 2022-present. We are also thankful for this source of income!
- 3) Our Strawberry Festival – which involves many volunteers and netted us \$1461.70 in 2022
- 4) Donations and dues from members and friends, memorials, and special gifts.

Major projects completed in 2022:

- Sidewalk from AHS office to ACC parking lot (Gift of Jim Comes)
- Shed sided/new signs put up
- We publish a 12-page quarterly newsletter each year. This is mailed to 390 addresses.

NEEDS:

- Volunteers in the office: We are in the office on Fridays from 2-4. We need someone to regularly update our website and post on our FB page.
- Digitizing our records is a huge project that needs to be considered.
- We hope to find a way to digitize our various local histories so that they can be of better use to us and others. We have several typewritten documents/booklets containing valuable historical information written by “old timers” that need to be preserved and available online.

Louise Schwartz, President Donna B. Ryan, Secretary

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SMALL TOWN--ALMOND, NY

ALMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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