

ALEXANDER

Joseph Burke (1818-1902) was a concert violinist and pianist who accompanied Jenny Lind, “the Swedish Nightingale”, on her American tour in 1851. His family home at Alexander was known as Summerville.

Submitted by Kate Goodman, Alexander Village & Town Historian

Barber B. Conable Jr. (1922-2003) was a longtime resident of Alexander. He attended Cornell University after graduating from Warsaw High School and then served in the United States Marine Corps in World War II, participating in the Battle of Iwo Jima. He graduated from Cornell Law School in 1948, and later served in the Korean War. He moved to Batavia after the war and had a one-man law practice in Buffalo until he was elected to the New York State Senate in 1962. He was elected Congressman in 1964 and his district included half of Rochester and Monroe County, Genesee, Orleans, Wyoming and Livingston Counties. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1965 until 1985. Conable served as President of the World Bank, a multinational organization dedicated to reducing poverty in developing nations, from 1986 to 1991 and was the Chairman of the National Committee on U.S.-China relations from 1991 until 2001 and was on its executive committee at the time of his death. He also served as chairman of the Executive Committee of the Smithsonian Institution and was on its Board of Regents. Conable remained active in the Genesee Country Village and Museum in Mumfordsburg and Holland Purchase Historical Society in Batavia. Bill Kauffman, who wrote glowingly of Conable in his book “*Dispatches From the Muckdog Gazette*”, considers Conable “without question the greatest political figure our region ever produced.”

Submitted by Kate Goodman, Alexander Village & Town Historian

Mary Jo Putney is a top selling author of historical romance and was a graduate from the Alexander Central School in 1963. She attended Syracuse University and received degrees in eighteenth-century literature and industrial design. She has written 26 historical romances and has won numerous awards for her writing; including two Romance Writers of America RITA awards, four consecutive Golden Leaf awards for Best Historical Romance, and the *Romantic Times* Career Achievement Award for Historical Romance. Her books have also received frequent awards from online reader sites. Titles include: “*Paupers and Pig Killers*”, “*The Rise and Fall of the Victorian Servant*” and “*The Diabolical Baron*”. She now resides near Baltimore, Maryland.

Submitted by: Susan Conklin, Genesee County Historian