



Historical Society Newsletter

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Louise Okoniewski, Robert Roeckle, and Patty Schwartzbeck

The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833

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www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

This newsletter is sponsored by an anonymous member of our society.

CALENDAR

January 18, 2022 – Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield. **Program:** *Saratoga Plan – Casey Holzworth*, a member of Saratoga Plan's Palmertown Guidance Committee and staff at NYS Parks, will update us on the exciting things that are happening in the Palmertown Range and the Sarah B. Foulke Friendship Trails. This planned network of trails in Northern Saratoga County, emphasize celebrating friendship, building community, and connecting people from all walks of life to nature and to each other. **Please wear a mask and stay 6 ft. apart. Please check our website or Facebook page to make sure the program hasn't been cancelled due to COVID restrictions.**

February 15, 2022 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield. **Program:** Former Saratoga Springs police chief *Greg Veitch* has written a book – *A Gangster's Paradise*. This is a history of the Gangsters of Saratoga Springs from the Prohibition era up through the Kefauver Committee hearings in the 1950s.

Everyone is welcome, admission is free, and you don't have to be a member to attend.

Meetings Cancellations

If schools are closed due to weather, our meeting will be canceled. A message also will be posted on our website and on our Facebook page.

www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com
[www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=town of greenfield historical society](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=town%20of%20greenfield%20historical%20society)

UPDATING OUR RECORDS

We're asking every one that uses email to send us your email address in case we are unable to do a complete mailing in coming years. We will mail to members that don't use email or still want a hard copy. Thank you – toghistsoc@gmail.com

JANUARY NOTES 2022

by Joan E. Rowland, Acting President

Do you believe it? 2022 – They say the new year is a fresh start. To me, it looks like a continuation. Still in a pandemic, still having people being sick and dying, wearing a mask to stay safe. Fireworks and First Night in Saratoga Springs being canceled.

The good news is many families were able to gather again with family for the holidays. My sister and I gathered with our extended family for Prime Rib and Corned Beef dinner and all the fixings. Round two – the dessert table: Rice Pudding, huge Chocolate Chip Cookie, Ice Cream, Cheesecake, Eclairs. Still have a spot left? No, not me. Totally full – not used to eating that much anymore. We had an auction to exchange gifts instead of drawing names. (We were afraid some would have to cancel due to COVID-19). We each had \$15 play money. We voted on the best-looking gift and they got \$5 extra. Then we went around and bid on the gifts (totally wrapped, no clue what was inside). Then went around again and took some gifts from others with our money we had left. After all were done, we opened our gifts. My gift was 3 boxes stacked that looked like a snowman. I got a box of candy and 2 packages of lotions and a soft blanket. (\$25 value). We had fun and may do a version of this next year. After half the people left, the 3 kids – ages 7, 10, 11 got running around and giggling. Played tricks on each other. A couple adults kept them going. It was nice to hear kids giggle again.

We have lost another member of the historical society, Marie Willard. She did a program for us once on homes in Middle Grove and who lived there. She was working on the mills in Middle Grove the last I knew. I saw her at the Antique Sale in September. I remember her purchasing a kitchen gadget that we could not figure out what it was.

Don't forget that Tuesday, Jan. 18, is our meeting/program at 7 p.m. at the Community Center, 25 Wilton Road, Greenfield Center, NY 12833 (see **CALENDAR**).

Two books will be for sale that night (see ad on page 2). Hope to see you there.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

January 2022 — by Ron Feulner

In the November 2021 issue, I included excerpts from Jennie Smith Rowell's writings describing life with her husband, Moses B. Rowell, whom she often referred to as simply "B." They ran a general store in Middle Grove (The Rowell Store) and later "B" was elected Town of Greenfield Supervisor. By this time he had given up the store and was supplementing his income as supervisor working as a traveling salesman. Jennie's writings (including photo) and history of the store are from Ruth Donogh's book, *The Genealogy of the Rowell-Bently-Craig Families of Saratoga County New York*. This month, I shall continue with Jennie's writings about her husband from the same source. In Jennie's words:

"Everyone liked B from the elders in the church, to whom he was a silent partner, to the black sheep of the Board, [Saratoga County] who after having all offers of convivial companionship refused, said 'Well, B you don't smoke and you don't drink and you don't run after women, but you are one of the boys.'

"One of the boys he always would be with his quick loud laugh and ready sympathy, his acceptance of people as they were and his utter failure to judge or condemn their faults. Imposed upon he had been and would be. Sometimes I lost patience and scolded and yet, in my heart, I felt a little proud of his generosity and that he was well liked. A little proud too when he was so warmly welcomed in every company that he loved me best: that his first thought was for me. He might be a little careless of material gain but for naught was he called 'the best husband in town.'

Jennie continues, *"The salary was a welcome addition to his salary as traveling salesman for John C. Heber of Utica and I had a comfortable feeling of financial security though we were yet paying on wholesalers bills for store supplies [debts from when they ran the store]. But those were nearly paid. I was glad B had that Adirondack territory. It served many miles of travel, mostly by horse or by auto, so that the pure mountain air, combined with the peace of certain salary, had to quite an extent restored his health..."*

"When B went on the road he had so much trouble with uncertain help to do his farm chores that he said he would sell the two cows, for which there was plenty of pasture on our twenty five acres [located where the mobile home park is in Middle Grove]. But we had children needing plenty of

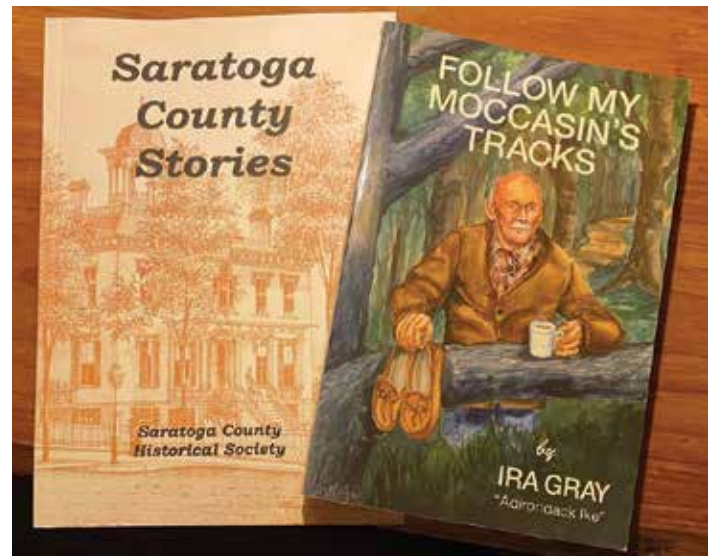
fresh milk and our regular customers coming every day to get their supply and I said no, I will learn to milk and I did. I thought I was rather brave to do that, not realizing how I would enjoy the early morning air, as I took my pail in hand and went down across the dewy pasture toward the pines with crows flying above in the blue sky and the cows rising in lazy content from their fragrant pine needle bed to greet me."

"We were now leading citizens in both our home town and to some extent in the county. We had been to Convention Hall in Saratoga and heard Theodore Roosevelt and Elijah Root speak. It was something to remember to see how that Saratoga audience, prejudiced against Roosevelt on account of his attitude toward gambling, especially touching the matter of horse racing, and according him a slight and lukewarm greeting, had been won and cheered till that huge building rang after his speech, though that was strong and good, but his personality and strong qualities and a certain magnetism won them in spite of themselves."

We are looking for any information on the **Donahue Store**. It was at the intersection of Spier Falls Rd., Route 9N, and North Greenfield Rd. It was last run by the Donahue sisters. If you have any remembrances, please drop Ron Feulner an email at rfeulner@greenfieldny.org or write a note and mail to Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833.

Ron Feulner, Town Historian

Books for Sale



Don't forget to pick up your books at the meeting.

We have both the **"Saratoga County Stories"** (\$18) and **"Follow My Moccasin's Tracks"** by Ira Gray (\$15.95) for sale at the January meeting. We will be drawing names for a free copy of each book at the end of the meeting!

Thanks to the generosity Ira Gray's niece, Sandra Gray Loychik, we have several copies of Ira Gray's (Adirondack Ike) "Follow My Moccasin's Tracks." These were printed in 2002 and have become a rare keepsake for anyone who enjoys old stories of life in the Adirondacks.

Pick your copy up at the January Meeting or order through our P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833 with an additional \$3.50 postage and handling.



Jennie Smith Rowell, June 1930



Moses B. Rowell –1912

Greenfield Dogs

by John R. Greenwood

It seemed like everyone who lived in Greenfield in the 1960s owned a dog. Many of them were allowed to run around as free as the children. There were no leash laws back then. It was common to have an unruly mutt nipping at your heels or bicycle tires when you wandered to the outskirts of town. Dog bites were treated with a splash of peroxide and a bandaid, not lawyers and lawsuits. You knew where the meanest dogs lived and how to avoid them. Most were all bark and no bite, and some were silent stalkers who would appear from behind the house and scare the bejesus out of you. Sometimes it turned into a battle of wits and bravery between both parties. I wanted to pay tribute to the Greenfield dogs I grew up with in the 1960s; the good, the bad, and the ugly (tempered).

My first dog was named Spike. He was a face-lickin' beagle who was confined to his backyard pen most of the time. Sadly, he didn't have the same roaming rights, Spooky our cat had. The photo of Spike and I posing on the steps of the Greenfield General Store was a rare day out for good behavior.

The Shay's dog Shep was a constant companion to our Greenfield gang. I'm guessing he was a shepherd mix. He was friendly and loved to be in the middle of the action. He even had his very own bunk at our cabin in Cornell's woods. If we had a full house on a Saturday night, Shep slept on the floor, and if you were the youngest or drew the short straw, you got the "dog bed." Funny how preadolescent boys have a way of sorting those things out. Every time we'd get laughing or fooling around, Shep would wag his tail, which would be fine if you didn't have a fire-red stove in a narrow cabin. The smell of burnt dog hair is one memory I could live without.

The Davis family had a dog named Cindy. I think Cindy may have been a short-haired boxer mix. She was blond, strong as a linebacker, but friendly. I was fortunate to be invited along the day the family went to pick her up. Picture a station wagon filled with seven Davis', one Greenwood, maybe a Hurd and a Hall or two, and a brand new butterball puppy. I'm not 100% sure who was there that day, but I do know you couldn't recreate that memory with all the riches in the world.

Next up is Doc. Doc ran security at the Gibbins' house. He was big enough and loud enough to handle the job. One knock at the screen door on the front porch is all it took to set off the Doc Alarm. Out he'd come barking like an approaching tank. In his younger days, all it took was a scratch behind the ears to calm him down and make friends, but as he aged, he became that cranky old man who didn't want you anywhere near his yard, let alone on it. Petting him became a game of Russian Roulette. I think of all the Greenfield dogs; Doc was the one I respected most.

The Atwell's had two Chihuahuas, Tiny and Champ. Tiny was about 1/100th the size of Doc, but of all the Greenfield dogs, I feared Tiny the most. He would start barking before your foot hit the porch. Tiny was the only dog that ever really bit me. His bite was like getting

nipped by a baby shark. His cohort Champ was huskier and a lot friendlier.

The Dake's had a real deal German shepherd named Lisa. She lived in the mansion on the hill and came with real credentials. On the other side of the hill, the Baldwin's had Mutley, a real deal mutt. His credentials spoke for themselves.

I miss the dog days of Greenfield. I'm guessing right now — you do too.



Spike and Johnny posing on the steps of the Greenfield General Store in the 1960s.



MARIE A. WILLARD, 81, passed away on Thursday, December 16, 2021. She was born in Saratoga Springs, NY on January 15, 1940 to Raymond and Dorothy Barnes.

Marie worked for the Saratoga County Department of Social Services for many years. She enjoyed buying and selling antiques, and during the Saratoga County Fair she worked in the antique department. She was a member of the Eagles Club. Marie was a people person, she loved her family and her community.

She was predeceased by her brother Daniel Barnes, daughter Jo-Ann Hart, and husband Jerome Willard. Marie is survived by her children Lorri Zarro (Jim), Jerome Willard (Dorothy) and James Willard; grandchildren Christopher, Jamie, Josh, Brian, Matthew, Riley and Misty; brother Dustin Barnes; sister Shirley Laskey (Ed); 18 great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held 10 a.m. Wednesday, December 22 at Powell Wiswall Cemetery, Plummer Road, Ballston Spa, pending weather conditions. A celebration of life will held on a later date. Memorial contributions in memory of Marie may be made to the Saratoga County Animal Shelter or the American Cancer Society.

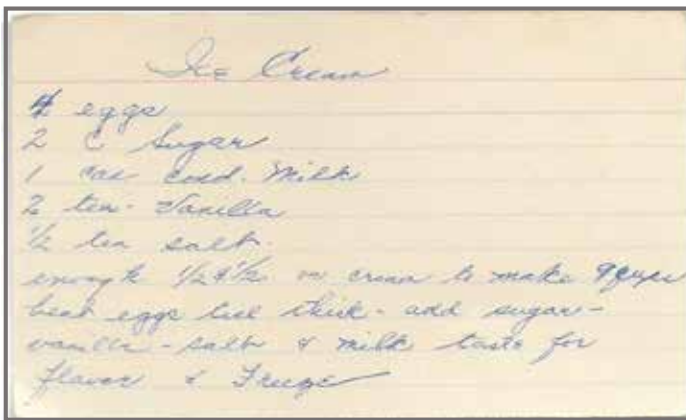
Another page of the cookbook (created for family, by Robert Roeckle’s sister Lynda, after the passing of Jane Potter).



Ralph Ellsworth presents Richard Potter and Myron Rowland with 25 year service plaques.



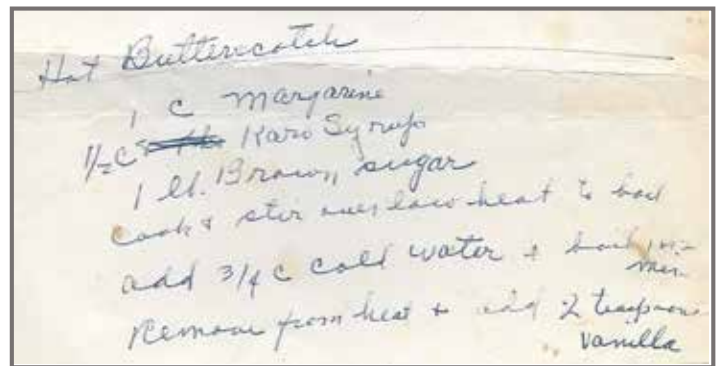
The Ellsworth Ice Cream Company was founded by brothers Ralph and Floyd Ellsworth in 1933, selling 5-gal cans of ice cream and hand-dipped, chocolate-coated ice cream bars to grocery and drug stores in the Saratoga Springs area.



Jane’s Hot Fudge Sauce (just enough for one – makes 1/2 cup)

- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 Tlbs cocoa
- 1/2 + 1/4 Tlbs cornstarch
- Dash salt
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 Tlbs butter
- 1/2 tsp vanilla

Mix dry ingredients, stir in water. Microwave 1 1/2 minutes, stirring half way. Blend in butter – microwave 1 minute to melt butter – blend in vanilla.



DARROW, FARMER OF GREENFIELD, BADLY SCALDED

Prominent Resident Aged
Eighty Falls Into Vat of
Boiling Pig Feed.

Stephen Elliot Darrow, a prominent farmer of the town of Greenfield, was painfully burned on the hands and arms up to the shoulders late yesterday afternoon when his foot slipped causing him to lose his balance and fall into a five-barrel vat of boiling pig feed. Mr. Darrow was able to get out of the barrel alone and started to the house calling for help. His cries were heard and everything was done to relieve the intense pain in the burns.

Dr. C. T. King is attending Mr. Darrow. Because of his advanced age of nearly eighty years, Mr. Darrow's condition is very serious, and doubt is expressed for his chances of recovery.

DARROW FAILS TO SURVIVE SEVERE SCALDING IN VAT

Prominent Greenfield Man, 80, was
Former Supervisor and a Granger
October 30, 1925

Stephen Elliott Darrow, one of the oldest and best known residents of this section of Saratoga County, died at his home in the town of Greenfield at 4 o'clock this morning from shock and complications from burns suffered early Tuesday evening.

Mr. Darrow had left the house after supper to attend a vat of feed which was being cooked for hogs. As he approached the vat his feet slipped and one arm was

plunged into the boiling mass. He was forced to turn over, scalding his back, before he could extricate himself.

Mr. Darrow was in his eightieth year, having been born in Greenfield in December 18, 1845. He was the last of the children of William C. Darrow, an only sister, Annette M. Darrow, having died February 26 of this year in her eighty-second year. His death was the first in his family.

Mr. and Mrs. Darrow celebrated their fiftieth anniversary of their wedding on June 20, 1925. Mrs. Darrow survives and in addition there are seven children, Mrs. Ernest E. Parmelee, Artesia, Cal.; Arthur E. Darrow, Saratoga Springs; Mrs. Frank W. Potter, Pages Corners; William G. Darrow, Sharon, Mass., and N. Earl Darrow, Marian Darrow and Mrs. E. Chamberlin, all of Greenfield. There also are eleven grandchildren.

Mr. Darrow was supervisor from the town of Greenfield in 1909, was a former town superintendent of highways and was active in the Greenfield Grange and Saratoga County Pomona Grange. He was one of the few remaining members of the South Greenfield Congregational Church and at the time of his death was an attending at the Greenfield Baptist Church. He also was a director of the Montgomery-Fulton Grange Fire Insurance Co.

Funeral services will be held on Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the home, the Rev. R.D. Andrews, pastor of the Greenfield Center Baptist Church, officiating.

Burial will be in the family plot in the Greenfield cemetery. Friends are requested to omit flowers.

All of the children will be able to attend the services with the exception of Mrs. Parmelee, who is in California.

Editor's note: This is a retyped version of the obituary published in The Saratogian.



Stephen Darrow is on the left in the photo. (Not sure who the other man is, does not look like one of his three sons. (This is an FYI on how dangerous farming can be.)

Newspaper clippings and photo supplied by Robert Roeckle

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL AVAILABLE ONLINE

Become a member of The Town of Greenfield Historical Society and receive our newsletter. **Our membership year begins June 1 and ends May 31, dues are paid annually. Send \$10 per household (or \$100 for Lifetime Membership)** along with your name and address to the address shown below. **If you send more than \$10 for your household, the balance will be considered a donation.** You also may join at one of our meetings. Send this application form and fee to The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833. Make checks payable to: The Town of Greenfield Historical Society. **YOU CAN PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE! www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com.** Email toghistsoc@gmail.com for more information.

Click on “Store,” “Membership” then click either “Annual Membership – Household” or “Lifetime Membership.”

Please Print – Please indicate how many persons 10-years-old or older are in your household). _____ New Renewal

Name _____ I am interested in volunteering.

Address _____

Email _____ Phone number _____

Areas of interest to you _____

To sponsor a newsletter send \$50 along with your name and address and the wording describing whom you would like it dedicated to.

If you know someone whom you think might want to become a member, send us their name and address, and we will send them a copy of our newsletter along with information on how they can join.

Name _____

Address _____

If you'd like to dedicate and/or sponsor a newsletter, send \$50 to *The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833*, include your name, address and the wording describing who you would like it dedicated to and/or sponsored by. Please send articles and/or photos to: JJones18215@roadrunner.com.

Updating Historic Sites Map in the Town of Greenfield

We invite our membership and readers of this newsletter to share with Dan any historical information about an interesting person, place, structure, or event within our town. Dan reserves the right to proofread and edit submissions, but he will be very happy to add your information to our map. We are always looking for historical information to add to and enhance the map, which we consider to be an ongoing work in progress. Please email Dan Chertok at Dgchertok@gmail.com, call his cell phone (518-321-0330), or text him.



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