



Historical Society Newsletter

OFFICERS: President, Joan E Rowland; Vice President, Robert Roeckle;
Secretary, Patti Veitch; Treasurer, JoAnn Rowland

TRUSTEES: Ron Deutsch, Ron Feulner, John Greenwood, Patty Schwartzbeck,
Dan Smith, Mary Vetter, and Karl Zeh

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

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email toghistsoc@gmail.com
www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

Joan's Jabbering – October 2023 – by Joan E Rowland, President

When was the last time the first day of school was an 80 degree day? Not while I was in school. It usually rained the first day but this year, another heat wave. Lilacs are confused and are blooming. There is a bush next to the Community Center in Greenfield, no leaves but lavender lilacs blooming. What happens in the spring? No flowers since they already bloomed? Let's check on that in May!

For our September meeting, we returned to the covered dish buffet followed by the meeting and speaker. I was asked if we sign up for food, I said no – it is a free-for-all. Well, we had two broccoli salads and two dishes of lasagna, both a little different from the other. Along with macaroni and cheese, salads, veggies, and of course, many desserts.

After our meeting Lisa Potocar and her husband, Jed, presented her program "Pioneering Women of Civil War America." On the table were her dolls representing the clothing women would have worn during the Civil War. Her presentation took us through women getting dressed and all their layers. Interesting fact is the women decided to make changes while the men were at war. Lisa also went through many famous women and their rolls in the war, not at home keeping the home fires burning but were actually at war. Lisa has written three books: *Sweet Glory*; *Train to Glory*; and *Gold, Guts and Glory* (Books 1-3 of *Glory: A Civil War Series*).

On July 25, 2023, we lost a very dear friend of ours, *Alice Feulner*. Some may have known her as Ron's wife, a wonderful pie baker, the lady with the heart-shaped stones. When I first started driving my mom to the Historical Society, Alice was the treasurer. I quickly got to know her since she was so welcoming. She has been to our house for clothes to be shortened, she always sent a thank you note after, although she thanked us when she paid my sister.

As years have passed, more and more handwritten thank you notes have come – to the point that you wanted to do something for her, just to receive a thank you note.

During the pandemic, I know that the lock down had to be hard for her. People persons cannot be locked in their house without seeing others. I had called one day and during our conversation she asked if anywhere in our big house, might I have some black yarn. Her Button Angel needed black hair and she had none. I said I would look, but I was set to drive to Saratoga to buy some if I could not find any. Finally, I found some. I drove it to their mailbox then called back for Ron to retrieve it from mailbox. Within two days, I received a thank you note, with a small piece of yarn enclosed thanking me for being so kind to her.

We attended her Celebration of Life on Saturday. It was amazing how many of her children and grandchildren mentioned both the Button Angels and the handwritten notes they received from her in the mail over the years. If you were lucky, you had her as a pen pal. Or you have taken the walk with her at the Farmers Market to sample wine. She may have explained to you about her growing wine in her garden. Oh yes, I asked her daughter Kelly about this and it is true.

**A beautiful lady through and through.
We miss you already Alice.**

*November refreshment volunteers are
Robert Roeckle and Paula Shappy.*

**Our membership year begins June 1 and
ends May 31, dues are paid annually. (\$10 per
household or \$100 for Lifetime Membership)**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, October 17 – Meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center, 25 Wilton Road, Greenfield Center. **Program: Bacon Hill, a Forgotten Crossroads** – hosted by David Waite. *The Saratoga County History Center documentary showcases the rich history and plans of the Bacon Hill farming community in the eastern Saratoga County town of Northumberland through the eyes of three generations of residents. You won't want to miss the opportunity to view this exceptional presentation of local history. (See more info on page 5.)*

Tuesday, November 21 – Meeting 7 p.m. at the Greenfield Community Center. **Program: An Evening with Elizabeth Conant** – Details to follow.

Sunday, December 3 – **IOOF Hall/Chatfield Museum Holiday Party Open House and Cookie Exchange**, 1 to 3 p.m. This year's theme will be *Reindeer*. Please bring cookies/desserts to share.

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

HISTORIAN’S CORNER

October 2023 – by Ron Feulner

Alice Feulner

Last month, my wife’s, (Alice’s) death was so recent, I could not write anything in the newsletter. For sixty-two years, she was my partner through good times and not so good, and now, I must face life without her just as so many of you have had to do in similar situations before me.

When I retired and decided to move back to the area (Town of Greenfield) where I was born and spent my early years, Alice and I went looking for a small retirement house. We found what we were looking for on the corner of Coy and Sand Hill Roads. Never mind that it had not been much updated from the time it was built in the 1920s. The owners who were direct descendants of the builder were using it as a summer place (they were now living in Pennsylvania). It needed a few things like a heating system, and a new roof, but with the help of my son, I could handle those.

Alice and I immediately got involved with the Historical Society, and within a short time (probably because of my interest and enthusiasm), I was voted on the board.

After serving on various committees for a year or so, I was elected president and Alice was elected secretary. The society was experiencing a downturn in interest and only had six paid members. I remember our first meeting which we held in our new-to-us home. Most of the six members were there, and we sat in a circle in our living room while Alice served coffee and some delicious fresh out-of-the-oven delicious cookies that she had prepared for the occasion.

We no doubt discussed other things, but the big decision that sticks in my mind was, we decided to start a newsletter to see if we could inspire more interest in

our society. We had been previously using post-cards to announce our meetings.

The newsletter was a one-page affair written mostly by me with Alice typing it. We began passing copies out to anyone who would accept one. Those of you who knew Alice, knows this was where she shined. I remember, her heart doctor wanted her to enroll in an exercise program at the gym, which she did. I never went with her, but my guess is, based on the number of new friends she made, that she spent more time talking than exercising. She was a real people person, and out of that exercise program, she made friends that she eventually introduced to me, and together, we wrangled into becoming members of the historical society.

As secretary, she wrote notes and sent cards to anyone who in any way supported the society, and our numbers began to grow. (In going through Alice’s belongings, I recently found a small notebook with copies of these letters and notes sent. I am donating it to the society as part of our history.)

Others began to contribute to the newsletter and society, and the more activities we became involved in, the more members we seemed to solicit.

When I became town historian in 2010, I gave up most of my activities with the society, except, to support them in any way that I can and remain on the board. Others have taken over, and through the years have added their personal touches to the society, and the society has continued to grow. The newsletter has been taken over by a very capable person and has expanded into one of the finest in the area. Many individuals who have had an interest in the town have authored some outstanding articles which not only have provided some really good reading, but, no doubt, have inspired other budding writers to come forth and tell their own stories.

I think Alice would be proud to have played a role in making the society the success it has become, I know that I am.

POTLUCK DINNER, MEETING AND PROGRAM – SEPTEMBER 19, 2023



Robert Roeckle, John Greenwood, Joan & JoAnn Rowland, Patty Schwartzbeck



Lisa Potocar talking about her book, Pioneering Women of Civil War America, with her husband on computer



Patti Veitch, Paula Shappy, Kathy Mensinger



Names?



Robert Rhoades, _____?, Karan Rhoades, Bernice & Larry Bencze, _____?

PERHAPS A BIT TOO MUCH PROCRASTINATION

(Glens Falls Post-Star Dec. 31, 1930; Vol. #9, page 125; Cornelius R. Durkee Scrapbook – County Hist. Office.)
Stork wins race; Greenfield Center Baby Born in Sedan.

“One of those ‘believe it not’ stories may be related by Lawrence Irvington Bencze when he grows up. He may be called upon to tell his teacher or income tax agent where he was born.”

Anyway, Lawrence Irvington is now 10 days old and with his mother Mrs. Frank Bencze of Greenfield Center, Saratoga County, is doing nicely – Thank you. He is in the Saratoga Hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Bencze attempted in their sedan to “beat the stork” in a race from Greenfield Center to the Saratoga Hospital. But the Old Bird was out to show that no modern contraption could out-speed him. When the Bencze family car reached the hospital, Dr. Stork had already left his 1930 Christmas present to the couple inside. Lawrence is the third child in the Bencze family.”



Karan Rhoades reading this story in Greenfield Glimpses about the day Larry Bencze was born.



Bernice Bencze with her husband, Larry, at the Caboose Day and Car Show 2023. Bernice celebrated her 85th birthday at our September meeting.

“Forgotten Crossroads – Bacon Hill” October 17, 2023 Program

The 2023 Saratoga County History Center documentary is filled with breathtaking videography, vintage photographs, resident interviews, and local history. The documentary first premiered on March 30, 2023 at the Saratoga County History Center’s Brookside Museum in Ballston Spa. It was screened at the Bacon Hill Reformed Church on April 29, 2023 to a packed house. Our host on October 17 is David Waite. He is an author, videographer, and historian and Saratoga County History Center volunteer. The production was made possible in part through funding secured from Clear Echo Farm, King Brothers Dairy, King Wealth Management Group, Thomas Poultry Farm, Stonebridge Iron and Steel, Inc. and Welcome Stock Farm.

DVD’s of the documentary will be available for purchase at the meeting. The public is invited to this free event. Refreshments will be provided.



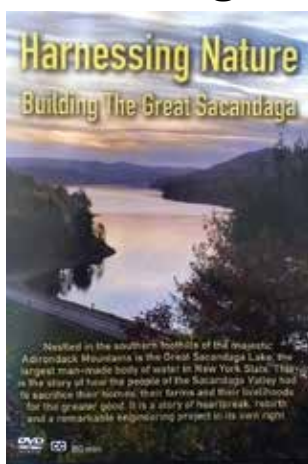
Bacon Hill

The Town of Greenfield Historical Society is still looking for a few good bodies (and minds)!

Are you good at planning social events? Are you good at working with people? Do you have carpentry skills? Are you good at organizing collections? Do you have computer skills? Do you like lawn and landscaping work? We need your ideas and skills. Please contact us at 518-322-5675 or email us at toghistsoc@gmail.com

“Harnessing Nature: Building the Great Sacandaga”

This DVD is an 80-minute documentary telling the story of how the people of the Sacandaga Valley had to sacrifice their homes, their farms and their livelihoods for the greater good. It is a story of heart-break, rebirth and a remarkable engineering project in its own right. This is the story of how the Great Sacandaga Lake, the largest man-made body of water in New York state, was made. DVDs are available for \$20 at the Greenfield Town Hall, or by contacting the Historical Society at P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833. (Please add \$3 if you want one mailed.)



BOOKS FOR SALE



We have three books for sale: *Saratoga County Stories* (\$18), *More Saratoga County Stories* (\$20), and *Follow My Moccasin’s Tracks* by Ira Gray (\$15.95).

Pick your copy up at the next meeting or order from the Town of Greenfield Historical Society, PO Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833, with an additional \$3.50 postage and handling.

In Memory of Alice Feulner

Reprinted from the April 2021 TOGHS Newsletter

613 ANGELS

by Alice Feulner

Many years ago, I made little sock dolls to use as tie-backs on the curtains over my baby's crib. Later as a birthday gift for the same daughter, I started making sock angels. It grew into my "Glad Rag Sock Angel" business. The majority of these angels were gifts from me to dear friends and family but I sold many also. They were at the Cooperstown Library Christmas Event one year, at a Gift Show in Sharon Springs, the Breakfast House outside of Cherry Valley, at the Cultural Center in the Library in Glens Falls, and lastly they were at Jane Thraikill's Gift Shop in Saratoga. As I grow older, there are fewer angels. It has been the happiest time and I am so thankful for those years – and **Angels**.



More About Alice's Angels

by Janet Jones

Below are photos of my *Angels* made by Alice. She didn't tell you in her story that on every Angel, there's a tag included that says: "*Original Sock Angel hand stitched with button legs. Made with LOVE!!*" Including special information on each one.

Below: Angel on left was donated by Alice for a silent auction item at the Historical Society Gala in 2018 and I won! The tag says: "*Flossie – This happy angel loves the summer days. Her friends come to visit and often go to the races or perhaps shop for new summer hats! Glad Rags, Greenfield Center, N.Y.*"

The middle Angel was made especially for me with two tags that say: "*Celeste is a heavenly angel. She is to be the angel-in-charge of the Star-light evening. New stars will be placed high up in the heavens to honor special angels and she will be giving out the star awards. What a wonderful evening it will be for all.*"

"*Janet – my Glad Rag Angel gift to you. This may be what Barbie will look like when she is older – with bleached blonde hair but still ready to party. Thanks for letting Molly and I come visit your collection. Happy Birthday!!!*"

The Angel on the right was a gift for my Mom in 2003 with a tag that says: "*Margie – A special friend celebrating her 80th birthday with all us ANGELS ...*"



FARMERS MARKET 2023



Middle Grove Fire Truck



Middle Grove Fire Fighters – Hose Demonstration



Furlong Farm House Lavender, Saratoga Springs



Mobile Massage Therapy, Angela Costantino LMT



Scentsy Independent Consultant

MUSEUM'S FEATURED ITEM WOMEN'S BLOOMERS

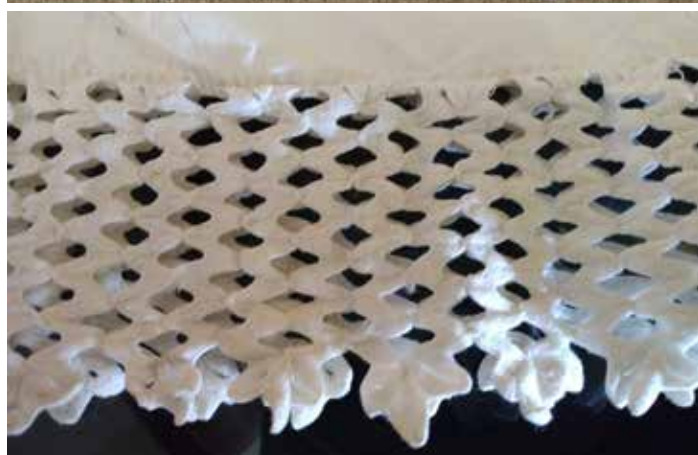
by Joan E Rowland

At the September meeting, Bloomers were mentioned. Here is a pair that JoAnn I Rowland purchased at a garage sale at Wanda Twinning's in Greenfield Center.

They are believed to be from the Ballou Family (on Ballou Road in Porter Corners).

These are cotton with a 28 inch waist. They have one button at the waistline and a 12 inch unsewn side for ease of getting into. The bottom of each leg has rickrack sewn together as the decoration.

This type of bloomer was know to be worn by women during the Civil War Era.



WEB HELP WANTED

We are looking to form a small group of people who would like to look at our website and give it a fresh look. Some Web experience would be welcome.

Take a look at our website at greenfieldhistoricalsociety.com

Please contact us using our email address at toghistsoc@gmail.com

Mary Vetter will be chairing this group. Thanks in advance for your help.

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.



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Historical Society
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