



## Historical Society Newsletter

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

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### IN MEMORY OF RON FEULNER

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Tuesday, February 20, 2024** – Meeting at 7 p.m. at Greenfield Community Center. **Program: An Evening with Elizabeth Conant**, join Elizabeth Conant as she takes us down a sentimental journey as a musician, teacher, and writer living in Greenfield Center. *Rescheduled due to weather.*

**Tuesday, March 19, 2024** — Meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center, 25 Wilton Road, Greenfield Center. **Program:** “The Trevett & Sons Chair Factory” Hosted by Providence Town Historian Bob Wemple. Mr. Wemple will share the history of the Trevett & Sons Chair Factory which was located in the town of Providence. The factory was in operation from the mid-1800s through the early 1900s. Bob and his wife Sue will bring several examples of Trevett chairs from their personal collection.

**Tuesday, April 16, 2024** — Meeting 7 p.m. at the Greenfield Community Center. **Program: Ice Harvesting** hosted by Tom Ragosta, president of the Watervliet Historical Society and Watervliet City Historian. The program will include a brief history of ice harvesting during the late 19th and early 20th centuries as well as the process used in storing natural ice. The program will include a display of various artifacts used in the ice harvesting process.

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

*February refreshment volunteers are Joan Rowland and Patti Veitch.*

#### Meeting 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](http://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)

#### Joan's Jabbering — February 2024

*by Joan E Rowland, President*

I am not a big fan of winter but love to watch the snow fall. Love to see the snow on the trees after it is over. We had rain, snow, repeat – and the trees still, a week later have snow on them for the picturesque Christmas card photo.

We are saddened to learn of the death of Ronald Feulner on February 1, 2024. He had resigned as the historian in December because of health reasons. It was a very fast moving illness. It was always great to talk with him. A wealth of knowledge both in the town, county, and with everything he touched. He will be missed very much. Our next newsletter will be a tribute to him. If you have a story you would like to share, please send to our email at [toghistsoc@gmail.com](mailto:toghistsoc@gmail.com).

I am still on the refreshment committee because I have not completed my duties. November – snow storm, meeting canceled, January – snow storm, meeting was canceled. Third time is the charm? I actually made the new receipt I was going to bring. I will save you from that mess. YUCK. Maple Yogurt Cake – sounds good but it failed. I will find something else. Come to the meeting, Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7 p.m. to see what I end up bringing. We will be hosting “An Evening with Elizabeth Conant.” Never know, she may break out in song.



*Alpine Meadows in Porter Corners Upper T-bar, courtesy of Ron Strader*

# HISTORIAN'S CORNER

*February 2024*

## *Brookhaven Golf Course History*

### **Brookhaven: A Community's Golf Course Section Four**

**April 19, 2011 – by Ron Feulner**

*Continued from January's Newsletter*

Earl continued:

Al Steel's wife, Cammy, worked as book keeper and also ran the pro shop. She was really friendly and good at her job. When she got behind, she would call my wife, Barbara, over to help. Barbara worked winters in the school, so in the summer, she was available when needed. My daughters also worked sometimes; it was kind of a family affair.

Bert Edwards, chairman of the O. B. Beyer Recreation Park Corp. (owner of Brookhaven) said:

After completion of the 18 holes, George Pulver concentrated his efforts on training Earl Towers, Jr. and his assistant Ed Vredenburg as greenskeepers. In this he was eminently successful. Led by J.R. [Earl Jr.], who was raised and worked with his father on the property, they became an excellent tandem. Earl was a most knowledgeable and dedicated Head Greenskeeper. He was persistent in his efforts to improve the property and overcome the problems of maintaining good greens. During his 15 years in that capacity, Brookhaven became a well-known and attractive test of golf. [Note: This quote came from page 19 of a 20 page document titled O.B. Beyer Recreation Park, Inc, dba Brookhaven Golf Club, Its Genesis and Operation. This document has no author listed, but is thought to have been written by Bert Edwards.]

In 1982, the aging George Pulver wrote Earl a letter, which he often did after visiting the course. Pulver said:

In my slow ambling way, I am about the course quite a good deal. I must say that you have met the challenges of course upkeep, in fact, with your small crew, you have advanced it.

When George Pulver died, Earl Towers Jr. was one of his pall bearers.

George Pulver died on Jan. 16, 1986; he was 87 years old. He was a graduate of Saratoga Springs High School and Albany Business College. His wife, Martha Walsh Pulver, a champion golfer in her own right, had died five years earlier, in March, 1981.

Pulver had worked as a golf professional at McGregor from 1924 to 1962, at the Saratoga Golf and Polo Club in Saratoga Springs from 1933 to 1972, and worked the winter of 1926 and 27 as an assistant pro in Nassau and the Bahamas. He spent the winters from 1929 to 1941 as a pro at Tarpon Springs, Florida.

He had designed the first Saratoga Spa course and the Brookhaven course. He not only understood golf, but he related it to others and made it his life's work, first as a player and then as a teacher and architect. "He was one of the grand gentlemen of golf," said a friend, Mike Coleman.

Pulver was one of the oldest members of the Professional Golf Association, a founding member of the Northeast New York Section and the founder of the Northeastern Golf Superintendents Association.

Al Mottau, the Saratogian's golf columnist, said:

He grew up in golf. He was amazing in his golf knowledge. He could explain a swing in new and old ways, he viewed it as a profession. He felt being a pro was an important job. He was part of the old school. He worked on clubs. He was one of the old craftsmen. He could restructure the club to fit each individual style.

George Pulver's father had been a blacksmith in Saratoga and was on call at the Saratoga Golf and Polo Club. That's how George had received his start in golf. He began as a caddy earning 15 cents an hour with the stipulation that he pay 15 cents for each ball that he couldn't find. The first day on the job, he lost four balls. "My first job actually cost me money," Pulver said at a 1972 dinner honoring him for his first 50 years as a professional.

Pulver's golf career had been interrupted by WW I. As a lieutenant in the British army, he was injured while serving in the trenches of Ypres. He returned home and began a long association with McGregor Links in Wilton in 1924. Though he was just starting out as a teaching pro and greenskeeper, Pulver was an excellent golfer in his own right. He set the then course record of 70 at McGregor on Sept. 8, 1925, shot a 66 at the Bahamas Golf Club, and in 1932 won the Northeastern New York Open Golf Championship and the Olney Redmond Trophy. In 1951, Pulver won the pro-amateur Northeastern New York Senior with partner Harold Wright.

During his last few years, Pulver shared his knowledge of the sport with one of his prize students, Wilton's Dottie Pepper. At the time of his death, Pepper was a junior at Furman University in South Carolina and an All American, one of highest ranked amateurs in the country.

"I have a lot of pictures of him on my wall," a grief stricken Pepper had said upon hearing of his death. "It's hard looking at them right now. He was like a grandfather to me."

Pepper was first introduced to Pulver as a youngster. "George used to watch Dottie swing when she was around 11 or 12," Lynn Pepper, Dottie's mother, said "... Dottie was at the point where she needed good instruction. She went and asked him to teach her, and they hit it off with a pretty close relationship."

In the summer of 1981, the 15-year-old Pepper won the New York State Women's Amateur and two weeks later won the New York Girl's Amateur.

Following each lesson, Pulver wrote a letter to Pepper detailing her progress and providing further instruction. He also wrote her letters before impending matches. On Oct. 3, 1981, he wrote:

... from what figures I can casually gather, I would have to rate your game from 5 to 8 shots better ...

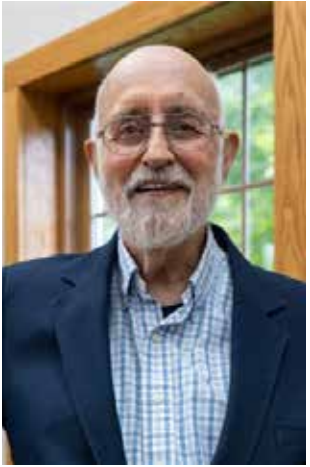
You are younger, stronger, and considerably longer.

McGregor is a testing course where power off the tee can prove decisive.

*continued next month*



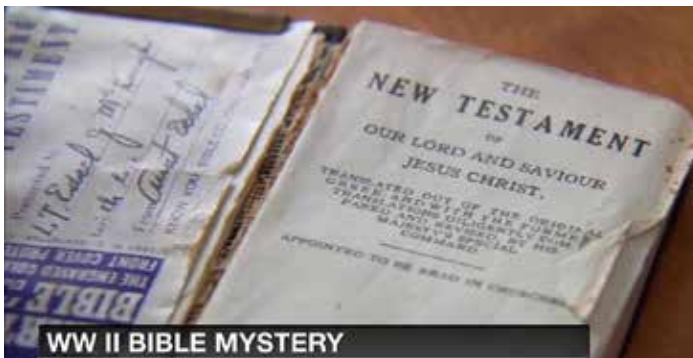
# In Memory of RON FEULNER – April 29, 1938 – February 1, 2024





## WW II Bible Returned

by Joan E Rowland



January 10 and 11, 2024, Porter Corners makes the news – News Channel 13 Live at 5 with Dan Levy reporting from WNYT, told the story of “WWII Bible returned.” The bible originally belonged to Lieutenant Edsel McKnight.

The Bible became a cherished heirloom for the McKnight family, although sometime during the 1980s they lost track of it. It was in a box that was sold at a garage sale to Mark Morokian’s mother from Colonie. As Mark and family are cleaning out his mother’s house after her passing, Mark’s niece, Ava Coogan, took on the challenge to find the family that originally owned the bible. Tucked inside was a note and it had a phone number on it. The number is still being used by the same family – Edsel’s sister-in-law, Fay McKnight-Fagnant (Raymond’s widow). The Bible was returned on January 11, 2024.

This led me to wonder who Edsel McKnight was. Here is what I found out with help from Sandy Arnold, Rachel Clothier, and Janet Jones.

Edsel J. McKnight (born 1920) was the first born to Louie E. and B. May Menshousen McKnight. He had two brothers, Earl L. (Bud) (1922) and Raymond G. McKnight (1925).



*This is a photo of Edsel, Earl, and Raymond taken in 1930 at Charlie McKnight’s place.*



*Edsel bringing milk – 7/21/34*

Sandy Arnold sent me the enclosed photos of him as a boy. The story on TV reminded her that she has a snapshot of Edsel McKnight in an old photo album that she liberated from eBay some years ago.

It was taken when he was 13, bringing milk to a Sunday School picnic at Woodard’s Grove in Porter Corners. (*This is where Park Place Community Park is now on North Creek Road.*)

The second photo is of the boys at the Sunday School picnic ready for the Potato Sack Races (or just finished). Look at those smiles! Let us not forget that despite what the future had in store, Edsel and his friends lived and laughed and loved before they left their little corner of Saratoga County for World War II.



*Sunday School Picnic, Porter Corners – 7/21/34*



*Edsel McKnight – 1942*

Like most of the men in the town of Greenfield, he went off to join the war. He joined 4 years after graduating from Saratoga Springs High School. In the skies over Normandy Beach, France, 24-year-old Army Air Corps First Lieutenant Edsel J. McKnight, a farm boy from Saratoga County, was piloting a P47 Thunderbolt during the D-Day

invasion in June 1944 when he was shot down and killed. This little bible was given to him by his Aunt Ethel (Floyd E. McKnight's wife).

*Note: These little Bibles were known as "Heart Shield Bibles." They were made to fit in the front pocket of soldiers' uniforms during World War II. Some were gold plated, steel covered. It served as a protection from a bullet, while keeping the Bible close to the heart of the soldier. [Bible information from Museum of the Bible].*

Rachel Clothier found the notice in the newspaper from June 24, 1944 of him being missing in action. His parents Louie and May were notified since he did not have a wife or children.

His remains were eventually recovered, and he was buried with military honors in the Corinth Rural Cemetery (also known as Maplewood Cemetery in South Corinth, NY) on July 11, 1949.

He was honored by the Saratoga County Honor-A-Deceased Veteran's Committee in 1997. His brother Earl and friend Jim Smith, also veterans, talked about the loss of a young life as if it happened yesterday. "We worked together on a mink ranch in Porter Corners, and before they built us a bunkhouse, we slept in a two-person tent in the middle of winter." Earl said he and Raymond were not allowed to come home to comfort their parents.

*On Right: This is the newspaper article Rachel Clothier found about Edsel McKnight. It is in a scrapbook at the Corinth Museum.*

*Note: I asked Fay how her phone number had gotten in the Bible. She said that she had extra people living at the house and one young man did not own a Bible so they put his name on a piece of paper and the home phone number so if he lost it, it would be returned to her. Because of this, the Bible was returned again to Porter Corners.*



Ray McKnight, Olga McKnight (Cote) and Edsel McKnight

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1944.



LT. E. J. MCKNIGHT

## Army Reports Lt. McKnight Missing

1st Lt. Edsel J. McKnight, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louie F. McKnight, Porter Corners, has been reported as missing in action over France, another local casualty of the European invasion. A telegram to this effect has been received by his parents from the office of the adjutant general in Washington.

Lt. McKnight was employed as a poultryman at Ash Grove Farms when he enlisted in May, 1942, having been graduated from Saratoga High School in 1938. He was graduated Apr. 28, 1943, from the Spence Army Air Field Advanced Flying School, Moultrie, Ga., and served as a flying instructor at that field before going overseas in December. He was promoted to first lieutenant in April of this year and has been awarded the air medal.

Lt. McKnight has two brothers in the service.

Earl L. McKnight, AMM 2/c, who enlisted in the Navy Nov. 3, 1942, is in the Pacific Fleet, while Raymond G. McKnight, inducted in March, 1944, is stationed in South Carolina. He is a member of this year's graduating class at Saratoga High School being one of eight who will receive diplomas in absentia.



## 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](http://www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com).** Email [toghistsoc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:JJones18215@roadrunner.com).**

### T-Shirts for Sale

Our T-shirts are still available for purchase. Front has a left chest logo. Back of shirt has a Caboose Day advertisement which was designed by Conductor Carey Ward of the Saratoga Corinth & Hudson Railway. Shirts are available for purchase for \$20 each. Sizes still available are Small, Medium, Large, X Large and a limited supply of 2X Large shirts. If you need to have your shirt mailed to you, please send a check to our PO Box 502, Greenfield Center NY 12833. Please indicate size and include an additional \$8 for postage and handling. \$28 total.

### RECYCLE BOX GREENFIELD LIONS CLUB

The Greenfield Lions Club has a recycle box in the entry way of the Town's Community Center. (Box is on right between entry doors).

What can you leave in this box? All things plastic. Store plastic bags, ice bags (dried), reclosable bags, cereal box liners, bread bags, newspaper sleeves, dry cleaning bags, bubble wrap, and plastic e-commerce mailers. All items must be clean and dry.

Later we will see a bench made from the recycled plastics.



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