## Town of Greenfield

# Historical Society Newsletter

Janet Jones, Editor P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833

OFFICERS: Ron Feulner, President; Tom Siragusa, Vice President; Patty Schwartzbeck, Secretary; Robert Roeckle, Treasurer; Coral Crossman, Trustee; Vince Walsh, Trustee; JoAnn Rowland, Trustee

Volume 8, Issue 6

### Calendar

**February 19:** Tuesday, meeting held at the Greenfield Community Center at 7 p.m. and program to follow: Dan Cochran will talk about History Lessons from the Greenfield Cemetery.

March 18: Tuesday, meeting held at the Greenfield Community Center at 7 p.m. and program to follow: County Historian, Christina Saddlemire will talk to us about the Underground Railroad, and its Connection to Greenfield.

## Ron's Ramblings

Finally, it has happened; a month when I don't have much to say. With the holidays, we pretty much put the Historical Society business on hold. Battened down the hatches and waiting for warmer weather. Harold Jones (our Building and Grounds person) has everything prepared at the IOOF hall project ready for the blowing in of insulation, but right now we cannot access the building because of the snow banks and cold weather. Soon, it will warm up, and we will get back to work.

One item of new business deserves a mention. Maurice Dake from Florida wrote Mary DeMarco, our town historian, asking if the historical society would like to help with a project to restore the old Dake Cemetery on North Creek Road. The Dakes were one of the early families in the Town of Greenfield, and their homestead is located near our Daketown School on old Daketown Road. The family's cemetery is situated on the other side of the Kayaderosseras Creek on a rise of ground near the

old watering spring on North Creek Road. At the time, the cemetery would probably have been visible from the homestead across open fields, but now the woods obscures it. Trees are even growing amongst the stones in the cemetery itself. A group of Dake descendents want to restore the cemetery and have the resources in place to do it, but they could use some local help in getting the project under way. Matt and Maureen Cinadr, and Fran Lambert volunteered to be on a committee to help. I have volunteered to show them where the cemetery is. Perhaps we can even schedule a field trip as soon as the weather improves. If any of you would like to participate in the project, let me know or attend our next meeting.

I do want to talk about our January meeting. We had 34 people who braved a January night to attend. The business part of the meeting didn't amount to much because many of our officers and committee persons were not present to report on their individual projects, but the program that followed the business meeting was superb.

The Galway Story Quilt project truly deserves the recognition and acclaim that it is beginning to receive. A small group of dedicated citizens living in a small rural community (much like the Town of Greenfield) decided to identify who they are (and who they were in the past) using the medium of poetry. Working through their local library, they organized a group of people with some writing abilities to be the core of the project, and then went to the community at large with their idea.

They encouraged people who had stories to tell (and every one of us do) to write a poem and submit it. They also matched poets with people who had stories to tell but were not able to put them into words. Interviews were done, and those stories were also written in poetry form. In the end, they had a collection of edited poems that told the story (past and present) of Galway.

All the poems will remain in the Galway Library, but some of the best were organized and printed in book form resulting in a wonderful volume called, "Story Quilt: Poems of a Place by the people who live here." The book is a 6" by 9", soft covered, with 186 pages. It sells for \$15. You can purchase a copy by sending your request to the Galway Public Library, P.O. Box 207, Galway, NY 12074 (Attention Story Quilt). Be sure to include \$3 for one book and \$2 for each additional book to cover shipping. All proceeds go to the library.

Back to our program. Mary Cuff Perez, who is one of the poets and organizers, gave us a brief history of the project. Then she, along with other readers Mary Sanders Shartle, Patricia Kay, and Rhonda Pray took turns at the microphone reading selections from the book. All four of the readers put so much feeling into their selections that many of us had our handkerchiefs in our hands during the entire evening. Arlene Rhodes, who is another one of the poets, also came and helped during the book sales and signing period that followed.

This is not the first time that my wife, Alice, and I have heard them read, but that didn't detract from our enjoying it again. Each time, we have experienced something different. I can remember when I was younger, I didn't like poetry. The problem, I think, was that back then, I didn't have very many life experiences of my own, and so was unable to relate to others who were describing theirs. Now, as I sat there and listened to poem after poem, they brought back memories of people I have known and experiences that I have had along the way. At times during the evening, I found myself getting a little choked up with emotion and even had to use my handkerchief a couple of times.

Following the program, we still had another treat in store. My wife, Alice, along with Nancy Homiak, and Jane Potter were on the refreshment committee, and they decided to shake things up and try something different. They all baked pies instead of the usual cookies, brownies and cakes. It was a big hit. Peach, Pumpkin, Raspberry, Strawberry Rhubarb, Apple, Lemon Meringue, and one Boston Cream pie. People filled their plates, sometimes sampling more than one kind, and returned to their chairs where small clusters of people soon formed and talk

continued between bites until we were all full and talked out. We then stacked the chairs, turned out the lights, and went home where I'm sure some of us added one final act to the evening – Pepto-Bismol.

I just realized that I have filled up a lot of paper for not having much to say. See you at our next meeting.

## One of the Poems in the Story Quilt

By Alice Feulner

At our January meeting, we had as our guests ladies from Galway who read some of the poems from "Story Quilt: Poems of a Place." This book was a project of the Galway Public Library, and they did an outstanding job. One of our Greenfield Historical Society members has two poems in this book, both of which invoked memories for many of us. Her name is Lillian Bills, and she lived on Bills Rd., off Rt. 29, for 60 years. She is now at Maplewood Manor in Ballston Spa. With the permission of Galway Public Library and Lillian Bills, I would like to include one of her poems. The story was told by Lillian Bills, and the poem was written by Mary Cuffe-Perez.

## That Night

August 20, 1939.

The music from Ford's Dance Hall on Crooked Street shook the ground.

Every summer weekend my parents, and everyone I knew and some I didn't came to dance, round and square, young and old on the huge dance floor to fiddle and banjo and guitar.

For fifty cents you could dance all night.

That night

wasn't like every night though.

The air jittered with a strange excitement, the dance hall swirled with music and people dancing.

Elspeth Brown and I sat in a booth jumping in our seats to the music.

The Pixley Family was on stage that night. Walt, Olive, Dorothy and Don. Francis calling. Red Wing, Golden Slippers, Wabash Cannon Ball, My Darling Nellie Gray.

I had seen him before, but he had never spoken to me. That night he did. Walked right up to me, looked me in the eye. Will you dance?

That night, I didn't know we would marry, raise a farm and family, that he would go to war, come back again.

Or that every Saturday dance would be with each other.

We danced for 59 years.

#### We have received one e-mail and two letters:

Good morning, Ron,

My newsletter came yesterday. I just thought I would say that I thought the memories of the graphite mine cabins was such good reading. It is so interesting to me because I was raised as a city girl ten years earlier than he, and yet, I never experienced what he did. What great memories. It also seems that there is a lot of work going on at the Odd Fellows Hall. Three cheers for all of the members. I would be right in there if I were nearby.

Ruth Donogh, Washington State

#### 11/18/07

Hi from sunny southern California. We normally get 13 inches of rain, this year we only got 1.3 inches (that's why we've had such damaging fires).

Enclosed is my dues. I also enclosed the names of former classmates of mine that went to school with me in Daketown, Porter Corners, and Saratoga. They are: Nora Blercuk (formerly Honora Waskieweitz), Estella Jones McLaren (Earl Jones' sister), Henry Dejnozska, Helen Jones, Mary Eichorst Max, Bud McKnight, and Ray McKnight.

Ray went into the service with me in October, 1944. He ended up ten weeks after we went in wounded ... I'd have been with him, but they put me into the Navy, and I headed for the south Pacific. We were scheduled to invade Japan with the British 8th Army Expedition Force. I was in a NABU (Naval Advanced Base Unit) outfit. The Kamikaze would have raised hell with us, but the "Bomb" really saved our lives for which we'll forever be thankful, but that's another story.

We find your articles very interesting. Keep up the good work. Our boys and the people of upstate New York left their mark on history and should really be told. Ken Burns has done a remarkable job.

> Best regards, Sandy and Andy Kubica

Dear Ron,

Enclosed is our check for dues and a little something extra toward the society's expenses.

We noted that ideas for future newsletters are always in need, so also please find enclosed the photos concerning the "Society for the Recovery of Stolen Horses." I had always heard about this group and their famous oyster suppers from my mother and grandfather (Irving Seabury); and Martha Older just wrote me about her more detailed memory of these events (she is amazing at age 97).

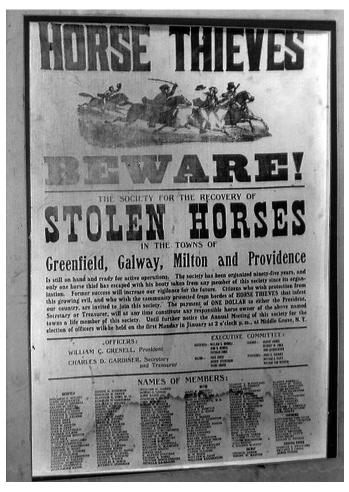
So I incorporated these pictures in our Christmas letter that went out to the family group that you hosted so generously in September 06 [This was a reunion of the Dake, Seabury, Smith, Rowell families]. It's all here, and we hope it may be of interest ...

Merry Christmas and best wishes for 08, and lots of thanks for your hard work in the society.

Sincerely, Douglas Seabury Langdon

ed this photograph of a poster

Douglas included this photograph of a poster that he discovered on the wall at a Queensbury, NY bistro where the proprietor thinks it has resided for at least twenty years, along with many other 1820-1900 historic pictorial reproductions.



The following names of the Town of Greenfield residents were taken from the bottom of the poster photo. Also included but not recorded were names from the towns of Galway, Milton, Providence, and Saratoga Springs. Note: these names were read with the aid of a magnifying glass, and still they were difficult to see, so some errors may have been made. (Ron F.)

Benjamin P. Wilsey James Ellsworth William C. Grenell Calvin W. Dake Charles Bardeen Fairchild J. Hoyt Stephen K. Darrow Charles Kilmer Edgar Cady Edgar Dake John W. Gailor Fred A. Carp John E. Chatfield Truman Kilmer Harrison Mastin Seth Hill William A. Rowland G. Guy Humphries Charles L. Marcellus William M. Wing Mrs. Geo. M. Hodges

Philip Feulner Lorenzo T. Parmenter Erastus M. Ballou Roscoe Bumstead Valda Chatfield Alexander Aribib Joseph H. Stedman Charles D. Smith Clayton T. King, M.D. Charles D. Gardiner William O. Wilsey Samuel Kilmer Frank LaPoint Starks Dake John Fiero Frederick Dake Edwin K. Young James M. Dake A. Judson Kilmer Davis H. Humes Emery I. Lewis

Wilfred Colburn William H. McNutt Ralph W. Robinson Thomas K. Alwood Walter Cady Andrew J. Devoe Freeman Jones Mrs. George M. Davis Harrison K. Lewis George C. Robbins Oscar C. Winne Charles F. Jones Jethro P. Sherman William H. Harris Irving C. Lewis John Baird Charles E. Smith John R. Newell Edgar K. Steele Daniel W. Barney James A. Saultz

Frank W. Potter William H. Hayden Mrs. Henry Jones Harold L. Barnes Clarence I. Jones William H. Miller Harry I. Peacock Herbert T. Ellsworth George Fulton Frank W. McAuley William B. Bentley William Kolton William L. Campbell Robert E. McKnight William Booth Edwin Hill C. Alfred Stedman Eugene E. Jones Truman Middlebrook Estella Lagalles

We still need articles for the 2007-08 year. If you would like to write an article for the newsletter, send it to: Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833 or if you type it using Microsoft Word, e-mail it to: aliron@localnet.com. Please type in upper and lower case, NOT ALL CAPS. Thank you.

To join the Town of Greenfield Historical Society send your name, address, and \$10.00 to address below.

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