

Historical Society Newsletter

Janet Jones, Editor

P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833

OFFICERS: President: Ron Feulner; Vice President: Louise Okoniewski;

Secretary: Patty Schwartzbeck; Treasurer: Alice Feulner;

Trustees: Coral Crosman, Ron Deutsch, Robert Roeckle, JoAnn Rowland, and Vince Walsh

Volume 9, Issue 9

Calendar

May 19, 2009: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. *Program by Mary Sanders Shartle, talking about her book, "The Hermit," as well as research she has done on other Adirondack hermits and hermits throughout history.*

September 15, 2009: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m., at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. *Program to follow.*

IOOF Hall Visitation Hours

Starting April 16, the IOOF hall will be open for visitors from 1 to 3 p.m. on Thursday afternoons. Please call ahead to make sure we will be there.

Joyce Woodard – 893-7638 or Ann Michel – 893-7052

Updating Historic Sites Map in the Town of Greenfield

If you have any information, e-mail Dan Chertok at BMMSCHERTOK@GMAIL.COM or DGCLAWOFFICES@CSDSL.NET.

You may also write or call him at: Dan Chertok, 58 Ormsbee Road, Porter Corners, NY 12859. Phone: 518-893-2268

Ron's Ramblings

I'm running late this month getting my ramblings to our editor, Janet Jones. Everything seems to come at once this time of year. I have several projects around the house that I have been working on and the woodshed needs filling soon so that the wood will be dry for next fall. Also, as president, I have been involved in getting all the end of our (the Historical Society's) year activities taken care of. I had to find a nominating committee and financial audit committee before our May meeting. Also, I have been working with Ron Deutsch (Ron donated a great deal of money and time to help make last summer's farmer's market a success) trying to organize this year's market.

We thought that we had everything in place concerning the market. We had a board meeting and a vendor's meeting before deciding to move the market to the Town Park (next door to the IOOF hall where we had the market last year). I had contacted our insurance agency and had been told that there should be no problem naming the town as additionally insured on our policy (as the town requested). We then asked the town, and they approved our use of the park. At this point, I announced at the April meeting that everything was in place for moving the market to its new home. After the meeting, I called our insurance agency again and told them to go ahead with the insurance change. They contacted our insurance company only to discover that our company did not consider sponsoring a farmer's market typical business for a historical society, and they would not issue the policy change. They further informed us that if we were in any way involved in the farmer's market, they would cancel our policy.

Now, we are scrambling to find a solution to our dilemma. The farmer's market was such an outstanding success last year. None of us want it to fold at this point, but it seems clear that we (as a historical society) may not be able to sponsor it. At the time that I am writing this, I have no answers, but we are trying to find a solution so that the market can continue this summer even though the historical society may not be the sponsor. Regardless of who the sponsor is, I would encourage everyone to support the market. I know that Alice and I will do all that we can to make sure that it is a success.



Al Janik volunteering his time and backhoe.

This entire year has been so busy that it has flown by. It seems only yesterday that I was writing for the September issue asking for all your help to make this a successful year. So many of you took the challenge and gave of your time and money. Our board members met several times during the year to make important decisions. Many of you wrote the wonderful local history stories that keep our readers coming back for more. Ron Deutsch and his many volunteers made the farmer's market work last summer, and the historical society made several hundred dollars and signed up a number of new members as a result. Dan Chertok has been working hard all year to organize our history map project. I think that we will be hearing a lot more about this project next year. Several projects were completed on the IOOF hall during the fall and winter. Since our April meeting, we have been working on some landscaping projects outside the hall. Al Janik volunteered his time and backhoe (see photo on page 1) to remove several large stumps, and he also dug a trench along the side of the building. In addition, he provided a load of crushed stone, which we will spread along the roof drip line of the building. Then we had a work day with five of us (Harold Jones, Ron Feulner, Alice Feulner, Katie Finnegan, and Skip Ballou) showing up. Ruth Atwell volunteered her small tractor (which has a front-end loader), which we used to move dirt from the Northeast side of the building to the lower opposite side. We still have more to do and will need another workday this spring. Walt Chandler also called and offered some of his equipment to complete the project. We may ask Walt to bring a load of topsoil to level over the rocky soil that we find around the building.

And finally, I would like to thank all of you who donated money to our organization. Donations ranged from a few dollars sent along with your membership fees to donations of hundreds of dollars. Since most of our projects take money as well as donated time to complete, it comes back to what I said at the beginning of the year, "it takes all of us working together, with each of us contributing what we are comfortable with, to make the organization a success." You have all proved that this approach works, and, as president, I want to thank each and every one of you for your involvement this year. You have all helped put the "society" in the *Town of Greenfield's Historical Society*, and we can all take pride in what we have accomplished this year.



Skip Ballou, Harold Jones, Katie Finnegan, Ron Feulner, and Alice Feulner (taking the photo).

W.A. Cady House in Middle Grove

(Continued from last month)

By Ron Feulner

In the April issue, we ran a letter to the editor from Marge Erikson of Lisbon Falls, Maine, who had sent two photos. The first was a photo of the Middle Grove one-room school on Cemetery Hill, the other was of a house that was home to Marge's grandmother's sister, Clara Estella Lewis and her husband, Will Cady. I had thought that the house in question was probably the house across from our IOOF hall in Middle Grove, a decision based primarily on the fact that a granite slab near that house has the Cady name on it.

It turns out that, based on information sent by our readers, I have changed my mind. Geraldine Brown Flynn called to say that she remembers Brent Taylor, an attorney, and his wife, who was school nurse for a time, along with their two children, Sydney and Steve, living in the house that had the granite slab with Cady's name on it. Geraldine went on to say that a family of Heritages lived in the house after the Taylors.

Geraldine's memories don't necessarily rule out the Cadys living there. They could have owned the house before the Taylors (since the Taylors were living there around the time of WW2). However, another of our members, Robert Roeckle, sent the following e-mail describing a house across from the present day Stewart's Shop in Middle Grove. (The house is two doors down from the intersection of Murray Road and Middle Grove Road.)

I took a look at the newsletter this morning. I believe that the William Cady house is now owned by Wayne and Cathy Ross, it is across from Stewart's, second house from Murray Road. There have been extensive changes to both the interior and exterior but the basic shape of the house still exists. I believe a Mr. Stinger owned it prior to the Ross's, Mr. Stinger may have bought it from the Cadys, my Grandfather bought several items from the house at a house sale in the 50's. I still have the receipt (no date), most of the items appear to date from 1890-1930.

Robert Roeckle



I am including a present day photo that I took of this house, and you will clearly see that it matches Marge's earlier photo of the Cady house much better than the house across from the IOOF hall.

Also, Marge sent us the following information about Will Cady who owned and operated the general store in Middle Grove.

I was delighted to receive the latest copy of your newsletter and to have some of my questions answered. I don't have much info on Will Cady, but will pass along what little I do have. I haven't done much research on this family because they are not in my direct line and they never had any children.

William Alfred Cady was born 01 June 1867 to Luther Cady and Margaret June (Leggett) (1839-1904) and he died 05 Nov 1917 and is buried in Middle Grove Cemetery. On 29 March 1892 he was married to Estella A. Lewis who was born 21 Sept 1875 to Joseph H. Lewis (1835-1887) and Theresa Maria (Harris) (1846-1925). Estella died 31 March 1906 and is buried in Middle Grove Cemetery. Will married (2) Nina Barney in 1907. Will is buried in lot #1B-001. Will founded and for a time owned the general store in Middle Grove (at that time called Jamesville). He sold it to Frank McCauley. Estella was also known as Stella or Lottie.

This is all that I know about Will Cady, but perhaps this will help someone. If anyone else comes forth with more info please pass it on to me. Thanks for all the help that you have given me.

Marge Erickson

The general store that Marge describes was located where the Stewart's Shop is now, just across the road from the house Robert described, which would have made sense if Will Cady ran the store. However, it is entirely possible that Will Cady could have built the house across from the IOOF hall later, after selling the store. Thanks to our readers, we may have helped Marge in finding some of the answers to her questions.

I would like to thank the April refreshment volunteers: Florence Hinkley and Katie Finnegan. They served Chocolate-Covered Chinese Noodles, Nut Bars; Pineapple Pie, Apple-Carrot Bread, and Gingerbread.

Refreshment volunteers for May are Alice Feulner and Patty Schwartzbeck.

Janet Jones

Refreshment Chairperson

Pineapple Pie

Submitted by Katie Finnegan

4 eggs, beaten	1/2 cup butter, melted
1 1/4 cup sugar	1 tablespoon flour
1 cup coconut	1 tablespoon cornmeal
1 teaspoon vanilla extract	unbaked 9" pastry shell
8 oz. can crushed pineapple, undrained	

Combine all ingredients in a large mixing bowl. Stir well and pour into pie shell. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-50 minutes or until filling is set. Cool completely before serving.

Flames of History

By Louise Okoniewski

On March 21 about 25 people from the Middle Grove Fire Department headed to the State Fire Museum in Hudson to donate a Wii game to the residents of the Fire Fighters Nursing Home. It was a sunny day, and it felt good to see brown grass, as we still had quite a bit of snow in Middle Grove.

People have a fascination with fire, from the cave man's discovery of fire, the tranquil fire in a home's fireplace, to the outdoor bonfire, all of us at one time or another have been mesmerized by the dancing flames and the crackling sounds of an open fire. We cook, heat and are entertained by it. We don't think about the destruction fire causes until it's too late.

Firefighting dates back to the ancient times when a courageous band of crusaders, The Knights of St. Johns, fought the Saracens for possession of the Holy Land. They faced a new war device – fire.

The Crusaders were pelted with glass bombs full of Naphtha and flaming torches. Hundreds of Knights were burned alive, while others risked their lives to save their kinsmen from painful fiery deaths. These were the first known firefighters. Their heroic efforts were recognized by fellow crusaders with a Badge of Honor, similar to the cross firefighters wear today –

The Maltese Cross. The firefighter who wears the cross is willing to lay down his life for others, just as the Knights of St. Johns did for their fellow man so many years ago.

Firefighting in America traces back to the first settlement in Jamestown. In January 1608, a devastating fire destroyed much of the colonists lodging and provisions. The fires were started from settlers accidentally discharging their muskets in their homes and others' carelessness. Most notable among Americans who shaped the fire service was Benjamin Franklin. He founded the Union Fire Company in Philadelphia that became the standard of volunteer firefighting organizations.

Fires were fought first by bucket brigades. Teamwork was needed as buckets of water were passed along from one person to another to extinguish a fire – or at least help to keep it from spreading. In the Town of Greenfield, our most significant fire was in Middle Grove in 1907. Starting as a chimney fire in an apartment building, it quickly spread with the help of strong winds. The Bucket Brigades had all they could do to keep the fire contained. It was a wild inferno. Volunteers arrived by trolley from Ballston and Rock City. Their firefighting tools were buckets of water and determination. By afternoon, charred remains of many homes (where L & R Mobile Park is now) are all that remained. The Rowell Store and Fulton Hotel were smoldering. The IOOF Hall and Baptist Church were saved. The volunteer firefighters stayed on an all night watch so the smoldering embers would not ignite and cause further destruction.

Our own Greenfield Fire District was formed in 1947. The Towns of Greenfield and Wilton were still depending on Bucket Brigades. With the destruction of a home near where Sarge's Diner is now, Windsor Cote organized a public meeting with residents from Maple Avenue, Middle Grove, Greenfield Center, and Porter Corners. A petition circulated for the formation of the Greenfield Fire District. In June 1947, the Town Boards of Greenfield and Wilton

met together and formed the Greenfield Fire District. Many residents volunteered to get the GFD off the ground and keep it going. Among those were Windsor Cote, Clayton Brown, John Jones, Richard Roeckle, Paul Eddy, Vincent Smero Sr., and many others.

The early years GFD fought mainly grass and chimney fires. They fought with the equipment of determination, dedication and the shirts on their back. The first fire stations were donated barns or old school houses. Once converted, the members would hold fundraisers such as a spaghetti or turkey dinner to raise money for equipment.

The Fire Museum in Hudson is the home of a fire engine from the Middle Grove Fire Department. The 1972 Ford cost \$28,000 and made in Granby, Quebec. Rumor has it that the truck was smuggled across the border. The truck could pump 1,240 gallons of water a minute. The huge rotary pump on the front made it a one of a kind. Mike LeGalles and Kevin Older drove the fire truck to the museum down Route 9, too bad we don't have a record of the conversation that went on during their voyage.

Firefighting in Greenfield today is much more than fires. EMTs and First Responders are dispatched to go along

with an ambulance call. The GFD are called regularly to motor vehicle accidents and are able to provide the Jaws of Life if necessary. Some of the volunteer members are trained in Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) response, which requires annual certification.

With the vast forest in the Town of Greenfield, the GFD is also trained in Off Road Search and Rescue. This includes transporting someone from the woods who has been injured or sick, some one who is lost, or has fallen through the ice; the GFD Volunteer Firefighters can have someone on the scene before any other agency.

With good weather here, a nice ride to the Fire Museum in Hudson may be in order. The youngsters can sit on some fire trucks; ring bells and have their picture taken. The adults will be interested in the many displays of fire apparatus, and a tribute to the Firemen of September 11, 2001.

The next time there's a fundraiser or coin drop for a fire company, don't forget the man and women who serve the local volunteer fire companies. You may not agree with the different ideas that the fire departments have but if you call 911 for a fire or an illness the fire department who is responding is bringing many years of history.

Membership Application/Renewal

Become a member of the Town of Greenfield Historical Society and receive our newsletter. Send \$10 along with your name and address to the address shown below. If you send more it will be considered a donation. Other types of memberships are also available (lifetime, corporate, etc.), just call and ask (518 893-0620). Our membership year begins in September, and dues are paid annually. You may also join at one of our meetings.

Send this application form and fee to Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833. Make checks payable to: Town of Greenfield Historical Society. Please indicate how many persons 10-years-old or older are in your household). _____

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

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 the newsletter dedicated to (please print): _____

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 free copy of our newsletter along with information on how they can join.

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

We need articles for the 2009-10 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.

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