



Historical Society Newsletter

Our 30th Anniversary Year

OFFICERS: President: Louise Okoniewski; Vice President: Robert Roeckle;
Secretary: Patty Schwartzbeck; Treasurer: JoAnn Rowland;
Trustees: Dan Chertok, Coral Crosman, Ron Deutsch, Katie Finnegan and Ron Feulner

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

Volume 14, Issue 2

www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

Dedicated to Andy and Ellen Mousin by Patty and Rick Schwartzbeck

CALENDAR

October 5: Harvest Fest, Chili Cook-Off and Garage Sale, Saturday, 11 - 3 p.m., IOOF Hall, Middle Grove.

October 15: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.
Program: Bill Hinckley has recently written a book of his memoirs arranged as all different stories from different periods of his life.

November 19: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.
Program: Rachel Clothier, who is the Corinth Historian, will talk about the 1913 flood that devastated Albany and Troy, and lead to the flooding of the Sacandaga valley to create the reservoir.

LIMBER UP!

**With Osteo-Exercise on
Tuesday and Friday mornings from
9 - 10 a.m. at the Community Center.
Come on in, or call Betty at 893-7587,
for more information.**

WEEZIE'S WORDS

by Louise Okoniewski

The first meeting of our new year brought out a huge crowd (approx. 50 people) for our annual potluck dinner and program featuring Bill Dake from the Stewarts Ice Cream family. The dinner was a smorgasbord of wonderful food! There was something for everyone – from baked ziti, homemade rolls, baked beans, baked ham, stews, wheat pasta and mushrooms, rice and sausage, potato and mac salad, tossed salad, chicken and dumplings, I could go on and on. Plus delicious homemade desserts and in honor of the program ... Stewarts Ice Cream. (I noticed Mr. Dake with a bowl of Rainbow Sherbet!)

After a short meeting, Mr. Dake began to tell how his family became involved in the ice cream business. His father, Charles V. and Uncle Percy, formed a partnership and purchased the family farm in Daketown in 1917.

There they raised a fine herd of dairy cows and sold milk. In 1922, the milk market was down, so the brothers, always thinking of ways to make money, made butter and sold it to Callenius' store in Middle Grove, as well as Saratoga. They were making "Dake's Delicious Ice Cream" so this was an addition to the business. In 1923, they bought a plant from Charles Latham at King's, (where the Caboose is now). Part of the old plant may still be standing. The brothers bought a compressor to freeze the ice cream, and by 1929, they were selling 100,000 gallons to local stores, as well as Saratoga, Ballston Spa, Albany and Troy.

In 1929, Robert McMullen paid the Dake brothers \$100,000, for the ice-cream business, and kept Charles V. and Percy on. McMullen moved the business where it is today, constructed four large silos inside the round building which is seen in the old photos of the early plant. He added a top of the line modern barn to accommodate 100 head of cows, yet never a hoof were to step in the barn.

The Town of Greenfield Historical Society will co-sponsor a "MEET THE CANDIDATES" night at the Community Center on Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. This will be a good opportunity for town residents to ask questions of Town Board and Supervisor candidates who will be on the ballot in November. What would YOU like to see for your town? Refreshments will be served. For more information, call Paul at 893-7607 OR Louise at 587-6060.

McMullen, who built the “Hilltop Mansion” on South Greenfield Road, had another project in mind. He planned to build a world-class resort that would stretch from Locust Grove Road to Daniels Road. He had options to purchase a lot of the property, which included the Darrow Ski Tow area. The resort would have included two golf courses. Bill made the statement that how different Greenfield would be today if this were to have become a reality. But, the year was 1929, the year of the stock market crash. McMullen went to Europe and returned broke!

In 1932, McMullen sold the ice-cream business to Sealtest. The brothers were paid a some of money for a noncompetitive agreement and \$40,000 of that was a note from McMullen which he was unable to pay, so he deeded the big new barn to them.

Even though this was the Great Depression, and the brothers didn't have a job, they kept thinking of new ways to produce milk. They invented a new bottle that made it easier to remove the cream. In 1935, State Law required that all milk must be pasteurized, so the brothers bought a barn on Franklin Street and did customized pasteurization. Thus Saratoga Dairy was born. The business was sold to the Ellsworth family and then to the Dakes.

The business eventually moved to the Old City Water Works on Excelsior Ave. The brothers made butter and cheese at the big barn in Greenfield, and was the largest butter producing plants in the east. But the business was discontinued due to no profit.

The brothers bought the Stewart Ice Cream Co. in Ballston Spa. This company was started by Donald Stewart of Ballston Spa. The non-competitive agreement had expired. Charles S. (Bill's brother) returned from the service and it was the right time to get in the business. Charles S. opened the store on Route 50 in Ballston Spa, it was the first Stewart's Shop. Later he added ones in Saratoga and South Glens Falls.

Television was big in those days. One channel was your selection, so Stewarts spent a lot of time advertising. Philly Dake came up with the “Make Your Own Sundae” as an advertising idea. It was big hit and still a big part of today's Stewart's Shops. They also tried other ideas, such as saving “points” for a helicopter ride. But nothing compared to the “Make your Own Sundae.”

1950 saw the business move from Ballston Spa to the Big Barn in Greenfield. In 1955, there were 50 Stewarts Shops. In 1957, the Dakes fought the Dept. of Agriculture to sell their own milk to their stores. It was unheard of to fight the government. But they did and won! In 1959, Charles S. took over the operation of the plant. Bill mentioned the names of Greenfield residents who were employed by the plant and helped to the success, such as Perky Robinson and Bill Hinckley. In the 1960s, Charles S. asked his brother Bill to join him in the

operation and management of the plant. It was a new pair of brothers in charge.

Charles S. and Bill were always thinking of new ways to improve the business and stores. Bill mentioned that the gas part of the business came by accident. While making an offer on a store owned by Mobil, the owner would not sell to them unless they kept the gas part of the business. They had no experience in this but definitely wanted the property. And so the gas business was born.

Bill mentioned that his brother passed away in 1978. As he spoke, you could tell that even today he misses his brother. To have a successful business and to do that with family, you need to have a bond and think along the same path, the same goals in mind.

Today, Stewart's concentrates on remodeling the existing stores, which may include tearing down an old store and replacing it with a brand new shop.

Someone in the audience asked who came up with “Crumbs Along the Mohawk” ice cream. Bill smiled and said that ice cream and names are made up on a two Gin & Tonic Friday night!

Bill's program was enjoyed by all who attended. We thank him for sharing his family's history with us. It was a great start to our new season.



Bill Dake talking about the history of the Dake family and how Stewart's came to evolve from Dake's ice cream.



Please send articles and/or photos for our future newsletters to

**The Town of Greenfield Historical Society,
P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833
or email it to: JJones18215@roadrunner.com.**

THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

**ANNUAL HARVEST FEST
CHILI COOK-OFF AND GARAGE SALE**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2013

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

***FARMERS MARKET VENDORS, KIDS GAMES, PRIZES,
BRING YOUR BEST CHILI!!!!***

Bring your best Chili and win the Championship!!

***HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS, FRENCH FRIES,
REFRESHMENTS***

+++++ PREVIEW THE MUSEUM +++++

***See you at the IOOF Hall
Middle Grove Road, Middle Grove, New York***

***For more information, call
RON (the Chili-Man) at 469-6769
or LOUISE 587-6060***

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

As I write this, the leaves have just started to show color. As many years as I have witnessed this act of nature, I never tire of it.

Progress continues at the museum in the IOOF hall. I reassembled the kitchen wood stove, wire brushed it down to get rid of some of the rust, and gave it a coat of stove black. It came out rather nicely. I also cleaned up the old telephone, gave the wood surfaces a coat of linseed oil and replaced the tattered wiring. As soon as we decide on an area to mount it, I will screw it to the wall.

Liz Frank and Marie Ahl did a nice job painting the Hoosier cabinet, I assembled it and painted and replaced the hardware. Compared to the way it looked in the beginning, I think we made a big improvement. We would appreciate donations of the following small items to help decorate the walls of the old fashioned (early 1900s) kitchen display: an early 1900s wall calendar, period dish towels (embroidered?), early cookbooks (especially if from Greenfield), and perhaps an early pair of eye-glasses to place on the table. Also any other items that you think would go well in an old-fashioned kitchen. I also am looking for an overhead light fixture (old kitchen style) with a pull chain. You can contact me at 518-893-0620.

Lee Bishop, our newest volunteer unpacked all the Dake collection and placed the items on a table flat surface so that we can see them all at once. Next, we will begin placing the items in the new display cabinets that the Dake family and John Zinetti donated. Jim Wimet positioned the cabinets and leveled them, so they are ready to be filled.

I am still accepting agricultural and lumbering related photographs. I can scan and print copies so we can return the originals to you directly.

Back at the office in town hall, things are as busy and hectic as usual. Nancy Homiak is continuing to work at scanning and labeling photos when I don't pull her off that project to do something else. Ruth Assman is typing more entries for our data base which is getting more usage by the public all the time. Joyce Woodard handles most of the day to day requests for information that come in every week, and I work with the people who come into the office seeking information, as well as the many other odds and ends of projects that we have on going.

We sold out our first printing of the cemetery book that volunteer Rick Bishop helped to create, and we just received a shipment of 30 more copies from the printer. They are on sale in the town clerk's office at the town hall in Greenfield.

Heritage Hunters Programs

Heritage Hunters regular program meetings are at 1 p.m. on Saturdays, at the Town of Saratoga Town Hall, 12 Spring St. [Route 29], Schuylerville, N.Y. For more information, email melfrejo@aol.com or call 518-587-2978.

Oct. 19, Saturday, 1 p.m. – All day genealogy conference – **Michael Brophy**, professional genealogical researcher, columnist and lecturer in the Boston area will be the speaker.

Nov. 16, Saturday, 1 p.m. – **Kathleen Roe**, director of operations at the New York State Archives, will speak about "Finding Genealogical Treasures in the State Archives."

January 18, 2014, Saturday, 1 p.m. – **Tricia Shaw**, education coordinator for the Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site, will tell us about the 18th century artifacts that archaeologists found after the 2011 flooding.

"Thank You" to everyone that brought a dish to pass at the September pot luck dinner.

October refreshment volunteers are Louise Okoniewski, Lelah Cornell and Patty Schwartzbeck.

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson

DO YOU LIKE TO BE SCARED?
FOR A GOOD CAUSE????
ON OCT. 25 AND 26
BE AT 199 YOUNG RD.,
FROM 6-10 P.M., FOR THE
SCARIEST
HAUNTED HOUSE
EVER

(not for the faint of heart or small children)

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE
CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK
AT ALBANY MEDICAL CENTER.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CALL RON AT 469-6769.

THE GARAGE SALER

Run here, there – stop here, get out – go over there – look, – pick it up. The right color? Can I use it? I think so. “Well, maybe not.”

But it’s so cheap – only a quarter. If I need one I’ll have to go to the store and pay full price plus tax.

Oh! I guess it’s worth it – only a quarter. Put it in the trunk. Uh Oh! The trunk’s nearly full already so I’ll put it in the back seat – on the floor. Gee, I wish this car was larger, I should’ve bought a truck.

Hey! There’s another sign – gotta turn down this street, gosh, I’ve already gone 4 blocks, – where’s this sale? Maybe it’s up this hill, there’s another sign saying sale is up ahead! I forge ahead determined to see this one – must be a good sale cause it’s clearly marked – the signs are great! They’ve probably got good stuff!

I go another 6 blocks, there it is! A big farm house, lots of goodies in the driveway and the garage. I give a quick once-over – there’s lots I really could use, also some “cute” things in real decent shape, then I grab an armful, I walk up to the lady and she says that each table is marked (which I never noticed) and that tables start from \$4.00 to 6.00 to 15.00 to 20.00 (you get the picture).

My jaw drops with indignation and I meekly set everything back on the tables, and high tail it out of there while muttering under my breath about how these “uppity” people have no idea on how to price things, and “evidentially” they’ve never been to a yard sale to know about proper pricing. So I leave.

I go down the street, find another sale and this is along side a rather old house that needs paint, porch is falling off, and an old beat up car sits proudly in the driveway. I get out – go up their lawn to the sale – look around and see a lot of junk, and I mean worthless rotted and rusty!

But, by this time I start feeling bad for these people because they’re trying to sell probably the best they have to offer, so by now, I’m totally sympathetic with them (of which they are not aware).

Now it’s my conscientious DUTY to be a good person and buy SOMETHING from them, because they probably need the money. So, I vainly search for something I think I can use, or cute, or old, or collectible, or perhaps a ‘gift’ for my house. I have to buy something from them, at least ONE thing. Aha! Off in the corner is a box of stuff. I missed this, and as I look through the box I decide I need everything in the box. It’s OK, I’ll find a home for it. I must help out these people – but the stuff in the box has a little moldy smell to it – been stored in the basement or something. That’s OK, I’ll just spray it with Lysol, and everything will be fine.

Finally got it to fit in the back seat of my car, (took a bit of doing) – that’s alright. I’ve still got room on the front seat.

After I pay them, they ask me if I want to go to another sale like theirs? I look at them quizzically, and I nod my head affirmatively. They send me around the corner to another house where the same family is holding another sale. AN ESTATE SALE! The family does estate sales for a living and do quite well in the entire county – as is related to me in the course of conversation. So, more than a little chagrined, I get back in my car, now tired, out of money, need gas for the car, and need lunch – I’m starving – I head HOME!

I pull in my driveway, get out, and ask hubby to help unload the car. He, is his usual patient self, then asks where to put the stuff. I go in the house, and it seems there’s not much room left, so I suggest putting it all down in the basement until I can figure out a space for it upstairs.

He obliges. Finally the car is unloaded, after many trips up and down the cellar stairs – now we’re BOTH exhausted. I go upstairs, grab something to eat, sit and watch TV. Then it’s bedtime.

Now I’m sitting at the kitchen table with hubby watching TV because it is 3 years later, and the stuff is still in the basement, and because the basement is crammed full of STUFF, I’ve had to resort to neatly putting boxes of yard sale “prizes” in my living room – the only last good usable space I could find. So, we moved the TV to the kitchen, and now we are snugly, cozily eating our supper watching TV in the kitchen.

Then one day in early spring I get up and announce to hubby “let’s go to a garage sale!” He agrees – which surprises me, but he says, “let’s go next weekend.”

Yeah! Now I have help! He’s going with me! “Yes!” I’m all excited now. So, all week long I anxiously wait for the weekend, so we get in our car in our garage, back out, go up to the corner – see a garage sale sign, turn left to follow the arrow, take a right at another sign, and keep following the signs until we end up – YOU GUESSED IT – back at our house!

He had a good neighbor friend of his sneak over after we left and put a garage sale sign in our driveway, with arrows pointing to go downstairs!!

The rest of the story ... Who Knows?

THINGS ARE AN ADDICTION. What’s real in your life?

*Fran Lambert
Gatekeep on the Mountain
Porter Corners*

I need some help filling in the blanks. If you know any of the people in this photo or if I have any labeled wrong, please email me - JJones18215@roadrunner.com or regular mail - Janet Jones, 213 Ash St., Corinth, NY 12822.

Photo provided by Gary Hildebrandt.

SCHOOL LIFE

1961 - 1962

Linda Hildebrandt



Mark Orton



Jamie Weaver



Jeff Weaver



Karen Waite



Stephen Goodreau



Mrs. Krajewski



Gerald Williams



Dorothy Jones



[Blank]



[Blank]



Diane Wadsley



James Goodreau



Donna Hildebrandt



Wayne Williams



Nancy Van Dusen



Gary Hildebrandt



Rose Ann Randall



Peter Goodreau



[Blank]



[Blank]



Linda Dejnozka



Buzzy Smith



Linda Dake



Rick Rudolph



Susan Jones



[Blank]



Margie Purvee



Dale Sherman



[Blank]



Chris Putnam



Rose Marie Willard



GRADE THREE-FIVE

PORTER CORNERS

RICHARDS AND DONOHUE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

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 ONE YEARS DUES, 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.

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

Name _____

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 would like to write an article for the newsletter, send it to: The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833 or email it to: JJones18215@roadrunner.com.

Updating Historic Sites Map in the Town of Greenfield

If you have any information, email Dan Chertok at BMMSCHERTOK@gmail.com.

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



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Greenfield Center, NY 12833

