



Historical Society Newsletter

**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

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WEEZIE'S WORDS

by Louise Okoniewski

February brought our "annual" meeting cancellation due to weather.

Unfortunately, we missed an excellent program from Town Historian, Ron Feulner, on Greenfield before we were Greenfield. Ron gave a brief excerpt from the program last year at the "Meet the Candidates" night we sponsored. He had some very interesting and unknown facts on how this area was formed. I believe that he will be re-scheduled for the September "Pot Luck" meeting, and hopefully the weather will not have any snow in that forecast!

Katie Finnegan, our program committee, has some excellent speakers lined up for the rest of the season. March 18, we will have Matt George of the Capital District Civil War Round Table. He will present living history – The Life of the Civil War Soldier. Matt will be in uniform as a soldier from the New York 134th division, which was out of Schenectady and Schoharie Counties.

April 15, Gino DiCarlo author of the book "Trolleys in the Capital District," will be our speaker. Trolleys were the main transportation from rural areas to larger towns taking people to work and kids to school. He will focus on the Ballston Terminal Railroad which ran to Middle Grove. Parts of this rail line are still visible in the backyards of houses by Stewart's – (Roeckles' Store).

May 20, our last meeting before summer recess, Katie has author David Fiske lined up. He wrote the book "Solomon Northrup." The biography of Solomon Northrup, who wrote the book, "12 Years a Slave," was made into a movie, with Oscar nominations. David's book tells the life story of Northrup who was born in Minerva, NY, in Essex County, grew up in New York state, kidnapped and sold as a slave.

All of these programs are worth the trip to the Community Center in Greenfield and feature homemade goodies after the meeting.

The officers and trustees of the Greenfield Historical Society held a board meeting to go over our projects for the upcoming year. Some of the items discussed were the website. Thom Siragusa, long time member and past vice president, donates the website along with his wife, Allison. Thom's job has him traveling quite often, and updates aren't always current. Dan Chertok agreed to work with Thom to keep the site current. Thom, Dan and myself will have a meeting soon, and discuss the website.

Daketown School. The school needs scraping and painting, and the soffits and fascias need repairs. We'd like to display the flag after the repairs are done, and discussed a solar light so that we could do that. A workday is planned for April for building repairs and in May for outside work. (Weather permitting!)

Barn. We'd like to paint the barn at Odd Fellows Hall. Hopefully this can be done in spring or early summer.

Odd Fellows Hall Grand Opening. A lot of work has been completed at Odd Fellows Hall. We'd like to have a Grand Opening some time this year. The board would like to have the work complete before a Grand Opening, however, the hall will be open when warm weather arrives.

Elevator. An elevator was discussed for Odd Fellows Hall. We have discussed this in the past, but now with the progress of the hall, one of our members has brought this up, as the upstairs has a lot of displays and it is difficult for some members to climb the stairs. Some costs were

CALENDAR

March 18, 2014: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** *Matt George, of the Capital District Civil War Round Table, will present living history – The Life of the Civil War Soldier. He will be in uniform from the 134th New York division, which was out of Schenectady and Schoharie counties.*

April 15, 2014: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** *Gino DiCarlo, who wrote a book "Trolleys in the Capital District," will speak about his book and the Ballston Terminal Railroad which ran through Middle Grove.*

May 20, 2014: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** *Dave Fiske will talk about a book he has recently written about Solomon Northrup.*

August 9, 2014: Saturday, *Fifth Caboose Day at King's Station.* 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tour the caboose and station, vintage cars and buy lunch made by the Historical Society members. Located at the corner of Route 9N and Porter Road. For more information or if you'd like to help in any way (set up, cooking, clean up), call Louise at 587-6060.

discussed and rough estimates were given. Also a location for the elevator was discussed. The unanimous agreement was that it will be expensive. We could set up a fund for this project. For now, we could have a virtual tour of the upstairs displays. The tour would be displayed on a monitor downstairs and would be professionally done.

Fundraising. We discussed many ideas ... calendars, note cards, maps of Greenfield, selling the remaining banks, flea market and/or a tour of Historic houses in Greenfield. We will continue to concentrate on some of these ideas.

Events. The Farmers Market – June to September; Caboose Day/Car Show August 9; display at the Saratoga County Fair; Brookhaven Open House; Harvest Fest (October) and a possible event at the Mansion of the Hill.

If anyone has any questions or would like to help with any of the events, even for a little while, let us know! We are always available at the monthly meetings or you can call 587-6060, or any member number or email address in the newsletters.

Hopefully, the weather will warm up, the snow will slowly melt and we will have a wonderful and welcome summer!

TOWN OF GREENFIELD RESIDENTS

The Town of Greenfield Fire District, in cooperation with the Town of Greenfield, would like to remind town residents about the “Are You OK?” program. The “Are You OK?” program is *Neighbors Helping Neighbors*. It is a *Free Service* provided by the Greenfield Fire District Ladies Auxiliary. It is a confidential system designed to aid fire and emergency medical responders and police. While it is not a promise of service, someone from the GFD Ladies Auxiliary will call on participants to check on them during extreme weather conditions or police emergencies. If a concern arises, family members and/or emergency services will be contacted.

We are here to help you! This program is perfect for someone in your family with special requirements or needs, disabled, vision or hearing impaired, a senior living alone or medically dependent on electric service for equipment such as oxygen. To be eligible, you need to be a Town of Greenfield resident. This program is a joint effort to help local residents who need it the most.

For more information and a free brochure, call the town offices at 893-7432, ext. 300, or Nancy of the GFD Ladies Auxiliary at 893-7541.

HERITAGE HUNTERS MEETINGS

Regular program meetings are on Saturdays at 1 p.m. at the Town of Saratoga Town Hall, 12 Spring St. [corner of Rt. 29] in Schuylerville. For more information, email

melfrejo@aol.com or call 518-587-2978. Public is welcome.

March 15, Saturday, 1 p.m. – Charles Kuenzel and Dave Patterson will introduce us to “Aaron Burr’s Saratoga.”

Charles and Dave are both retired Saratoga Springs High School teachers and have a business called Saratoga Tours.

April 19, Saturday, 1 p.m. – Bette Innes Bradway will speak about “Documenting Research,” particularly in applying to lineage societies.

May 17, Saturday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. – History Faire – Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library. 475 Moe Rd., Clifton Park – More than 17 Saratoga County historical societies, museums and groups will be at the History Faire, hosted by Heritage Hunters. Come and see the displays and interact with the folks manning them. This is a family event with activities for children.

HISTORIAN’S CORNER

by Ron Feulner, Town Historian

For thousands of years, the Native Americans living in North America had hunted, fished, picked wild berries, cleared good land along the river bottoms, and built their villages where they grew crops, but they did all this without changing the balances of nature very much.

When the first Europeans arrived, things began to change in a hurry. They brought creatures that were foreign to this land. Creatures like starlings, the honey bee, black flies, and rats that carried European diseases. They also cleared the trees from the land to create their farms, built dams across streams, sometimes one after another the length of the stream, and many other sudden changes to the land.

One of these changes was to exterminate the wolves that had roamed the land but now threatened the cattle, sheep, and other creatures that the early white settlers had brought with them – animals that their lives depended on.

The following is an 1808 period newspaper article that was shared with me by the Corinth Town Historian, Rachel Clothier, who found it while doing some research of her own. My Deputy Historian, Joyce Woodard, retyped it because the original was in poor condition. She left the grammar and spelling mistakes as they were printed in the newspaper. When she could not determine what a word was, she left a blank.

WAR PROCLAIMED AGAINST THE WOLVES

At a meeting of a number of the inhabitants from the towns of Greenfield, Milton, Galway and Providence, at the house of Joshua Swan, on the 15th of October, 1808, convened for the purpose of making arrangements for a General Wolf Hunt – Charles Dake, was chosen Chairman, and Joel Keeler, Secretary. The following plans and regulations were unanimously adopted, and is earnestly recommended to the several towns in the northern part of the county, and all others who may wish to unite in destroying those animals.

Resolved, “That the General Attack be on Friday the 4th of November next, under the following regulations, via – That there be three divisions formed the day before the general attack, which will be the 3d of November, in the following order:”

The East Division to be composed of those living east and north of a line drawn from Saxes east of Fisher’s range, and extending south on the said range, as far as the division may extend, and will rendezvous at the house of James Vails, in Greenfield, precisely at seven o’clock in the morning, under the direction of Joseph Mitchell; and in case of his failure, Martin Blackmore.

The West Division to be composed of those living west and north of a line drawn from Schermehorn’s mills, south by Dr. Potter’s on the road that leads to Dr. Barnum’s and in that direction as far as the west division may extend, and will rendezvous at Freeman’s tavern, near Elder Finch’s meeting-house, in Providence, at 7 o’clock in the morning, under the direction of William Carpenter; Esq.

The Central Division to be composed of those living south, within the limits of those lines, and will rendezvous at Maj, Henry Fillmore’s, on the mountain near Lake Desolation, at 7 o’clock in the morning, under the direction

of Maj. Fillmore; and each division will march at 8 o'clock in the morning in the place of their destination.

The Central Division will form, their camp on the banks of the Sacondaga River, a north course of Lake Desolation; the East Division will form their camp as near the centre of the central encampment, and the eastern extremity of the enemy's ground, as may be ascertained; and the West Division will form their camp as near the centre from the central encampment, and the west extremity of the enemy's ground, as may be found convenient, and immediately proceed to form a line from the right an' left, of each encampment, _____ or half moon, to be formed by the aid of sounding of shells and the firing of guns at intervals. When the line is so formed, the whole army will continue in that position during the night – and on the morning of the general attack, there will be three minute-guns fired on each wing at break of day, if prepared for marching, which will be answered from the three general stands, in order that the whole line may be informed of their being in readiness to march; and the line to be regulated throughout the whole route, by blowing shells and firing guns at intervals; and on such information the whole will move on, the wings faster than the centre, until they arrive at the place of ambush, which is recommended to be composed of the Silver Grey's, and those who may not wish to endure the fatigue of the camp, and to form on the day of the general attack; and the line of ambush to extend from Green's Store, in Providence, east on the road by Esq. Allen's, so on to John II. Young's – from thence by Elder Lewis to Esq. Frink's and continue on by Morehouse's Mills to James Vail's, and so on to Parkman's tavern in Hadley.

The East Division that forms the ambush, will rendezvous James Vail's at 7 o'clock in the morning, under the direction of Major John Prior.

The West Division, that is to form the said ambush, will rendezvous at Doctor Potter's in Providence, at 7 o'clock in the morning of the 3d, under the direction of Doctor Potter.

And the Central Division will rendezvous at Jonathan James' in Greenfield, at 7 o'clock on the 3d, under the direction of Doctor Israel Youngs, and will immediately proceed to form the line above specified.

It is further recommended, that there be the greatest caution to prevent injury, and that no one load his musket with any thing heavier than course shot, to prevent damage from cross-firing, If any one shall leave the ranks, or his post, or disobey's orders, he shall be deprived of any of the enemy's spoils, or game that may be taken. It is further recommended, that all those who have good dogs for the expedition, will bring them on; but that they keep them confined until 12 o'clock of the day of the general engagement.

Fellow-Citizens-Viewing the depredations committed on our commerce by the monsters of the ocean, and the ravenous wolves on the land, we flatter ourselves that general exertions will be made, in order to punish the enemy in our reach; possibly it may alleviate some of those distresses occasioned by the former.

Resolved, That Messrs: Miller and Riggs, and Mr. William Child, be requested to give the above one insertion in their papers.

CHARLES DAKE, CH'N.

JOEL KEELER, Sec'ry.

Names filled in and corrected with the help of Gary Hildebrandt and Rick Rudolph.
(Thanks)

Photo provided by Gary Hildebrandt.

SCHOOL LIFE

1961 - 1962

Linda Hildebrandt



Mark Orton



Mike Snow



Jamie Weaver



Jeff Weaver



Karen Waite



Stephen Goodreau



Mrs. Krajewski



Gerald Williams



Dorothy Jones



Joe Morache



Diane Wadsley



James Goodreau



Donna Hildebrandt



Wayne Williams



Nancy Van Dusen



Gary Hildebrandt



Rose Ann Randall



Peter Goodreau



Debbie Orton



Joey Merchant



Linda Dejnozka



Buzzy Smith



Lorraine Dake



Rick Rudolph



Susan Jones



Carl Bovee



Margie Purvee



Dale Sherman



Kathy Dake



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

I NEED ARTICLES AND/OR PHOTOS FOR OUR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS.

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

The February meeting was cancelled due to bad weather.

*March refreshment volunteers are
Joan Rowland and Lelah Cornell.*

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson



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