



Historical Society Newsletter

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

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

Volume 15, Issue 3



www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

YOU CAN NOW PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE!

CALENDAR

- Nov. 18** – *Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.*
Program: Mary Shartle will discuss her new book: “The Truth and Legend of Lily Martindale.” This is a novel about a woman living alone in the Adirondacks.
- Dec. 14** – *SUNDAY, Christmas Party, 1 - 4 p.m.*
Share your memories theme to be announced
Please bring cookies to share and exchange (donation to benefit the Historical Society).
- Jan. 20, 2015** – *Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.*
Program: Joe Zarzynski will speak on a Fort William Henry archaeological study of cannons and other artillery pieces done in the spring/summer of 2014.
- Feb. 17, 2015** – *Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.*
Program: Show and Tell Program, members bring an item they can briefly talk about – anything that has a story.
- March 17, 2015** – *Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.*
Program to be announced.
- April 21, 2015** – *Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.*
Program to be announced.
- May 19, 2015** – *Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.*
Program: Marty Podskoch will discuss his book, “Adirondack 102 Club: Your Passport and Guide to the North Country.”

WEEZIE’S WORDS

by Louise Okoniewski

I can’t find the words to express my gratitude for the support for our Fundraiser/Gala on Oct. 4.

The event was a huge success, beyond what the TOGHS board members had hoped for. This idea has been discussed for, well, 2 or 3 years. Ron Deutsch, our Fundraising Chair, had checked out other venues, but for one reason or another they just didn’t fit in with what we wanted to do. The new restaurant at Brookhaven Golf Course, “The Haven Tee Room,” sounded like the perfect solution. After speaking with owner, Kevin Canale, it was time to go ahead with this type of fundraiser or stop talking about it. We had the date of Oct. 4, now we had about a month and a half to put it together. And that we did! Ron Deutsch started by emailing and talking to many people. Aida Gordon started speaking to local businesses for donations and silent auction items, and doing a lot of leg work. It’s hard to thank everyone, because so many people helped to make this possible by getting the word out, making donations or completing a job they were asked to do. You never know how an event is going to turn out, no matter how much planning is involved. I was happy with 50 people attending. Then it went to 75. Next we had to cut off the ticket sales at 110! WOW! Despite the cold rainy night, everyone was able to attend. So many people pitched in with donations of all kinds! Trish Miller and John Kirk, Greenfield’s well known folk musicians, as well as Corinth’s Bob Marcotte donated their time and musical talent. I can’t thank them enough! Thom Siragusa set up the website so tickets could be purchased online. Members of the Historical Society were instrumental in getting their friends and family to attend. The Haven Tee Room and staff provided us with a wonderful meal of Roasted Chicken, Potatoes, Baked Ziti, Veggies, and Salad. It couldn’t have been done without us all working together.

I enjoyed watching the people looking at the many picture boards, put together by Rob Roeckle and Joyce Woodard. They certainly were a center of attention. It was a challenge to find Greenfield residents in the Grange

*Name Correction from last month’s
Lifetime Members – Kay and Wayne Youngs*

photos! They looked so different with all that hair! Some of the businesses pictured no longer exist, but were a vital part of life in the area. Did you realize that Greenfield had a baseball team? It was there in pictures. The silent auction items had competition bids going back and forth.

The raffle baskets ranged from our Farmers Market’s homemade jams, honey and jellies, to books from local authors, gift certificates, and much more.

We are planning on the event for next year, with a tentative date of Saturday, October 3, 2015, at the “Haven Tee Room.”

If anyone has any ideas on how to improve this event, please call Ron Deutsch or Louise. You also can use the “Contact Us” on the website. Again, thank you all for such a great night!

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Yearly expenses for the Town of Greenfield Historical Society is \$8,000. This includes, insurance, propane costs, security monitoring at our buildings, building up keep, and other maintenance. We did reach our goal of \$5,000 from the October 4 Fundraiser/Gala. These proceeds will help with some winterizing projects at Odd Fellows Hall in Middle Grove, our Museum. Also repairs for the Daketown school. YOU have made it possible to move forward.

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Did you know that you can pay your membership online, make donations or “Contact Us” with ideas or suggestions? Go to www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com. Or google us.

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The Town of Greenfield will sponsor the annual trip to NEW YORK CITY on Sunday Dec. 7. The bus arrives in Bryant Park, you make your own plans. The bus fills up for this trip early, so register early. Fee is \$45. For more information, call Karyn Zanetti at 893-7432, ext 307. Or stop by Town Hall.

Farmers Market Update

by Ron Deutsch

Our Farmer’s Market had another successful year. We had a good mix of vendors. We lost some vendors, but picked up some new ones. Welcome additions to the 2014 market were Conbeer Farms, Tinneys Tavern and Grumbellie’s food cart. J’Mae Shamroske did a great job as Market Manager and Tom Seagrove was great as President of the Farmers Market Committee.

Next year we will shorten the season a bit, from when school gets out in June to Labor Day – the market is most active during this time period. We will be using an online service to solicit new vendors. Vendors can apply through a statewide website to our market. This should help recruit new vendors.

We are looking for ideas on how to better advertise the market to build a more regular following.

Any ideas would be most helpful. Contact me at 469-6769 or mkd67@aol.com.

HISTORIAN’S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

We are having a cold rainy week as I write this. A suggestion of what is to come, but, at least, we don’t have to shovel the rain.

I think that we can all breathe a little easier this winter after the tremendous success of the gala celebration at the Brookhaven golf course Tee Room. We now have enough money to pay this winter’s fuel bill at the IOOF museum without dipping into our savings.

Ron Deutsch and all the people who helped him and all those people who donated to the cause deserve a lot of credit for the work they did to make this happen.

At the historian’s office, we have a number of projects in progress. Clifford Young brought in the Ormsbee family bible which included a record of the family’s early births, deaths, and marriages. It also had inserted in the pages, an early log of the travels that the family made looking for land to purchase. They eventually settled on a beautiful farm site on Ormsbee Road where Clifford Young (a descendant) still lives in the homestead. Arden Blunt, our most recent addition to our volunteer team, has been working at transcribing these old papers which are difficult to read.

Arden also brought in early records of the Doctor Young family who were early settlers in the Middle Grove area of the town. Arden and her husband, Charles, live in the Young farmstead on Young Road, and these early records of the Young family were in the house. When Arden finishes with the Ormsbee Bible, she will begin working on the Young papers.

I also received a donation of early records from Jim and Ruth Chatfield who live in Wolcott, N.Y. The box of early records include records of the formation of the Middle Grove Baptists who were discussing the building of the Middle Grove Baptist Church, which once stood right next to our IOOF hall museum. The church burned in the 1950s or ’60s.

Mary Vetter, another volunteer, is working on these papers. Ruth Ann Assmann and Marie Ahl are working on old one-room school records, and Nancy Homiak continues to work on digitizing our vast collection of photos. Liz Frank is still working at home transcribing our collection of Otto Plough cassette tapes. Joyce Woodard, Deputy Historian, is currently recovering from a successful knee replacement surgery. She expects to be back in the office soon.

October refreshment volunteers, Katie Finnegan and Lelah Cornell, served apple pie, gingersnap cookies, pumpkin bread, sugar cookies and chocolate chip cookies. (Thank you Lelah for filling in for Sandy.)
November refreshment volunteers are Aida Gordon and Louise Okoniewski.
Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson

30th Anniversary Fundraiser/Gala – Oct. 4, 2014



Guests enjoying some of the pictures.



Some of the silent auction and bid items.



Some of the baskets that were raffled.



Cathy from "In Stitches" deciding what to bid on.



Jim and Connie Murphy enjoying a night out.



Jay Ellsworth, Jeanette Ellsworth, Gail Clute, "Buzzard's" head and Tom Merrills.



The Woodard and Capasso Families



Nancy Homiak, Ruth Atwell, Earl and Margie Jones, Annette and Harold Jones, Janet Jones and Estella McLaren

Donations to the TOGHS 30th Anniversary Fundraiser/Gala

Allerdice	Earl and Margie Jones
Baldwin's Garage	Families
Joe Bruchac	The Kettle Restaurant
Cartier Construction/ Melissa and Cohen	Helen Lum
Chandler Forestry/ Walter Chandler	Andrea Mann
Corinth Statuary	Bob Marcotte
Cornells Auto Repair/ Larry VanVranken	Mavis Tire
William Dake	Trish Miller and John Kirk
Dehn's Flowers	Mom and Pop's Store
Ron Deutsch	Mullholland Enterprises
Dunkin' Doughnuts	John Munter
Eastern Mountain Sports	Nick's Little Engine Shop
Ron Feulner	Tracy Palmateer
Katie Finnegan	Price Chopper
Jim Fisher	Robert Roeckle
Daniel Fitzpatrick	Roma Foods
Aida Gordon	JoAnn Rowland
Greenfield Animal Hospital	Ryan's Garage
Greenfield Wine and Liquor	Sally Beauty Supply
Mike Gyarmathy	Saratoga Courage
Hairport	Saratoga Health and Wellness
The Haven Tee Room/ Kevin Canale	Patty Schwartzbeck
Bill Hinckley	Mary Shartle
In Stitches	Thom Siragusa
Van and MaryAnn Johnson	Subway
	Sunnyside Garden
	The Town of Greenfield
	TOGHS Farmers
	Market Vendors
	Walmart



Our meeting at the IOOF Hall on Oct. 21, 2014.



Patty Schwartzbeck, secretary; Louise Okoniewski, president; and JoAnn Rowland, treasurer

SUMMER LAST

Drip, plop! Drip, every so often each hour of the day. Those pine trees are giving my car a nice scented coating of fresh pine pitch on a daily basis. Getting out there and using the special cleaner to remove the damage seems almost futile. The decision is made ... if those pine want to contribute to the world, I have a plan. The friendly professional person surveys what has been happening, and also mentions that the trees are way too close to the house. He was concerned about violent storms, or perhaps lightening strikes which could set off a blaze. I related that there was already one lightening strike that blew the bark off this one giant tree very close to the house, the bark was actually peeled in strips on all four side of the tree.

The one strange thing was that each strip was exactly due east and exactly south, and then west, and then north. It looked like someone had intentionally stripped elongated slices of bark to match the four directions. That tree saved my house.

But having dozens of trees surrounding the home was foolish. Every spring I would anticipate going outside and try to find a spot to put in a veggie garden. Everything was shade. True, it would be a lot cooler in the very dark shade of the trees if you walked in there on a hot steamy day, but I hardly ever saw the sun shine around my house.

The fellow listened to my plan, and assured me that it would be an advantage to let the pine be on their way to another use. I agreed. They were only good for chips, very few boards could be made from them, as most were way too old, full of woodpecker holes, and not faring well at all.

Now the chore has been finished, and the man said for me to expect nothing but berry bushes to grow where the trees were. I guess he's seen his share to predict that. But, to my great surprise after the winter went by, all that came to cover the ground was the most dense grass growing on the soil. I was shocked! Doing an online look up, it was mentioned that new growth grass should be cut after it gets about 4 inches high. I started to do this mower maneuvering around what was left, and there is now growing what appears to be nice looking lawn. Dealing with the skeletal roots will be another project for next year. This man had also cleared the land so precisely and pushed all the branches back into a designated area very carefully. After about 2 months into spring, there suddenly appeared strange large leafed plants growing out of the mounded branches that were pushed back. To my amazement, yellow flowers appeared, and at first I paid no attention to them, but one day, someone went to that area, and told me that butternut squash was growing there prolifically. I was amazed! I didn't plant it there but there were about 9 different healthy plants growing there among the branches. Life sure has its' surprises!

I know the pines will go to some useful purpose, and now I'm enjoying the beautiful sunshine and am happy that I can do some gardening closer to my house.

Fran Lambert – Gatekeep On The Mountain

Ride'n the Hay Rake – A North Greenfield Memory

by Steve Stanton



It was the summer of 1954 and the delivery of the new International Farm All Cub was made. My parents, Don and Helen Stanton had purchased a non-working farm of 100 acres on Farm to Market Road, just up the road from the Delaware & Hudson railroad tracks. As a six year old, I was mesmerized with the bright red machine, not a Tonka Toy but the real thing. The tractor came complete with mowing blade, cultivators, plow, plow blade and a disc. My father and grandfather, “Brownie” Stanton, were now set to farm, and farm they did. Tilling rich soil and planting as much Golden Bantam sweet corn as they could.

This was satisfying for the initial few years but it was time to graduate to livestock. Chickens and hogs followed with the final addition being a few cows. These were not “milkers” but strictly for beef. The cows could graze in pasture but for additional feed and bedding, hay was needed. There were two large fields that could be used for haying across the road from our house.

When the weather appeared to give us at least three or four dry days in a row, my father would put the cutting bar on the Cub and mow the fields. Once the mostly alfalfa was dry, it was time to hitch the hay rake to the tractor. The rake is a skeletal piece of metal with five foot metal spoked wheels and about eight or nine feet of fork teeth across the rear of the apparatus. There is one metal seat elevated above the axle and a long lever to raise the forks. No shock absorbers, seat belt or safety equipment were part of this hay rake. OSHA would have put a quick halt to the upcoming activity.

Once the hay was dry in the field, it was time to get it into the barn. First it had to be raked into long parallel lines. This was done by hooking the hay rake to the back of the tractor and towing it throughout the field. Being the oldest sibling, around nine years old, Dad had me ride the hay rake. This I thought would be fun but after a few minutes on the unsteady rig, my throat tightened in fear. Trying to stay perched on the iron seat and completing the “death defying” act of pushing the long rake lever down to my ankles to release the collected hay every few seconds was a challenge. My father would not drive the tractor slowly, maybe as a further test of my mettle. Although I wanted to say, “Dad, I quit,” I never uttered the words.

Once the hay was raked into long lines, we would pitch fork the hay into mounds and then Dad would hitch the hay wagon to the tractor and bring it into the field. At first, pitching the hay onto the flat wagon was easy but as the load mounded, pitching hay up ten feet was a real chore. Additionally, you had to balance the load in order to keep it on the wagon.

Once loaded, it was off to the barn to unload via pitch fork, into a lower hay bin and the more difficult upper hay loft. A day of haying left you covered with seed heads, hay, scratching and tired. One redeeming factor was that us kids could jump and romp in the freshly piled hay in the barn. Hide and seek and tumbling were what we did while the hay remained mounded.

Riding the hay rake while holding on for dear life and haying remains a vivid memory for some of my siblings and myself. Haying was something we only did for a few years as we eliminated having livestock. Gradually, farming grew into planting spruce, balsam and scotch pine trees for Christmas sale. Although the farm cannot be distinguished today, the little Farm All Cub still survives.



PORTER CORNERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

512 ALLEN ROAD, PORTER CORNERS

NOVEMBER 8, 2014

10 AM to 2:00 PM

HOMEMADE SOUP & SANDWICHES

NEW & USED CHRISTMAS ITEMS

BAKE SALE

WREATH ORDERS

RON FEULNER BOOKS

Handicap accessible
COME JOIN US FOR LUNCH!

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.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL NOW 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 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. **YOU CAN NOW PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE!** www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

CLICK ON:



AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS.

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 _____

PLEASE SEND 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: LJones18215@roadrunner.com.

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.

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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