



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 5



www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

YOU CAN NOW PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE!

CALENDAR

- 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: David Peck, a genealogist, will do a program called Graveyards and Greater Plots, the subtitle was “a summary of three years of searching for my ancestors in MA, RI, CT, NY and beyond”
- April 21, 2015 – Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.**
Program: Stuart Lehman, who is an assistant curator in the NYS Office of General Services, will speak about Lincoln’s and Grant’s funerals in commemoration of the 150th and 130th respectively anniversary of them, with an emphasis on the funeral procession in Albany.
- 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

Welcome 2015! I was getting used to the unusual warm December weather. Just enough snow on the mountain to say we had snow for Christmas. Besides, we had a white Thanksgiving! Now the Arctic winds will be blowing in with it’s sub-zero temperatures and Lake effect snows. Ahh, life in the North Country.

This year should show the hard work by the Historical Society. Not only will it be our 9th Farmers Market, and our 6th Caboose/Car Show, we hope to open Odd Fellows Hall Museum. A lot of hard work has gone into the Odd Fellows Hall building. It has taken some time, and a few items and displays have been reworked, but the finished project will show the History of Greenfield. We have displays and plenty of pictures. Finishing touches need to be added, a couple tweaks here and there, and we should be able to set a date for an opening.

We closed out 2014 with a Christmas party at Odd Fellows Hall on December 14. We had about 25 people attend and they brought many homemade cookies, homemade jellies, coffee and Wassail. We all enjoyed visiting with each other, catching up with friends that we haven’t seen in awhile. Before we knew it, a couple of hours had gone by. The theme of this year’s party was The Christmas Tree. Some discussion took place on places that you could buy a tree in Greenfield and have a great time doing it. Two names came up where trees were purchased ... Barss on South Greenfield Road, and after some thought and Earl Jones’ recollection ... Al Champagne. (I don’t remember what road). Some spoke of walking and cutting a tree with family, one person had a family show up with a tree and sing Christmas songs, when they thought that there was not going to be a tree in the house that year. Mr. Hinckley read a story from his book “Bird Droppings” that told of decorating the tree

Thanks for bringing cookies to the Christmas Party.

January refreshment volunteer is Janet Jones.

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson

with family, but when part of the family decided to do something else ... well it could have ended in divorce! But the wonderful story had a very happy ending and enlightened our gathering.

We had many cookies to choose from for the Cookie exchange including Reindeer cookies! It was a great holiday afternoon spent with friends.

This should be a fantastic year for the Town of Greenfield Historical Society and with your help it will be!

Happy “Whole” Year to everyone. I hope all stay healthy and have a better year than last.

Greenfield’s WINTERFEST

Saturday, February 7, 2015

at BROOKHAVEN PARK in Porter Corners

Noon - 3 p.m.

Skating, Cross-Country Skiing,
Sledding, Snow Shoeing and
HORSE DRAWN SLEIGH RIDES
Enjoy the Campfire and S’MORES!!!
GREAT FAMILY FUN!!!

For more information call Greenfield Town Hall
893-7432, ext. 300

HERITAGE HUNTERS MEETINGS

Jan. 17 – Saturday, 1 p.m. – Lauren Roberts, Saratoga County Historian, will follow the life of an early 20th Century Irish immigrant and his family. She will show the attendees how to gain access to millions of online records through the Saratoga County Clerk’s Office

Feb. 21 – Saturday, 1 p.m. – Jim Richmond, genealogy researcher and writer, will show how his genealogical approach to local history has uncovered surprising connections of people and the events of history. He will use his current research project on the Kayderosseras Patent and the 1780 Tory Raid on Middleline Road in Ballston and Milton.

March 21 – Saturday, 1 p.m. – Lisa Potocar, author and teacher, will talk about her research on women involved in the Civil War. Her award winning novel, “**Sweet Glory**,” follows the experiences of a 16-year-old girl who dresses as a young man and serves in the Union Army.

April 18 – Saturday, 1 p.m. – Jane Meader Nye will focus on the Quaker families of Saratoga and Washington Counties during the period prior to the Civil War. Her presentation will include a general overview of what brought the Quakers here and the beliefs that guided their lives.

Note: All Heritage Hunters program meetings are held at the Town of Saratoga Town Hall, 12 Spring St. [Route 29], Schuylerville. Meetings begin at 1 p.m. with announcements, followed by the program. Social time with refreshments precedes and follows the meeting. Guests are always welcome!

HISTORIAN’S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

My hands are stiff with the cold as I write this. I don’t know how we survived the winters of yesteryear that would make this one pale by comparison. Maybe age has something to do with it.

I am busy at the historian’s office trying to organize all my records for the year 2014, in order to summarize them in an end of the year report.

We had an exceptionally productive year in 2014, thanks in large part to the dedication and hard work by my volunteers who amassed seven hundred eighty two and one-half hours of volunteer labor in the historian’s office. They are Marie Ahl, Ruth Ann Assmann, Arden Blunt, Liz Frank, Nancy Homiak, Ann Michel, Mary Vetter, and my deputy historian, Joyce Woodard. Without them, this office would not be able to produce the results that the public seems to appreciate so much.

One of our big achievements this year was helping to finish the first phase of the upstairs Historical Society Museum in the IOOF Hall in Middle Grove. Next summer, we are hoping to have enough volunteers to keep it open at least on weekends.

I also would like to pay tribute to another volunteer who died on December 22 this year. He was Davis Bixby. When he retired from Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory, he devoted the rest of his life to organizing a searchable record of the names of people buried in area cemeteries. He began with a cemetery near his home in the Town of Providence by visiting the cemetery with his video camera and photographing each stone. He then went to the previous best source of area cemetery information which was a book done by a man named Durkee and a team of volunteers in 1870. Davis compared his video record with Durkee’s and was able to then compile a complete record of burials in that cemetery from Durkee’s time to the present, which he used to create a searchable computer data base, as well as a printed hard copy of his findings.

When Davis finished with that first cemetery, he went on to the next, and when he finished that one, he went on to another. Every day that the weather permitted, Davis was out in a cemetery photographing stones. He eventually did all the cemeteries in the Town of Greenfield, as well as a good share of Saratoga County, and his records are available in our office, as well as in the Saratoga County Historian’s office.

Davis’s wife used to laugh about someone who called her house and asked to speak with Davis. Without thinking she said, “He’s in a cemetery.” The caller responded, “Oh, I’m so sorry to hear that,” and hung up before she had a chance to explain.

Volunteers like Davis, who dedicated a good portion of their retirement years, have made it possible for the rest of us to enjoy our history. Davis will long be remembered in the Town of Greenfield especially by those of us who love history.



BENJAMIN W. DYER.

This information provided by The Saratoga Farmstead Bed and Breakfast. *This property / farm is now a Gold Level Certified Green Bed and Breakfast, as well as an Audubon Cooperative Wildlife Refuge. Rated #4 of all Saratoga Springs B&Bs.*

Benjamin Wilkins Dyer, whose name and labors were largely associated with reform movements in New England, previous to his settlement in Saratoga, was born at Braintree, Vermont, September 6, 1808. He was reared on a farm, and at an early age his mind became deeply imbued with the evils of intemperance and slavery. As these subjects began to be widely discussed, enlisting the interest of a class of earnest reformers, who, although always politically in the minority, believed nevertheless in the justice and humanity of their cause, and had the faith and patience to labor and wait for time to bring forth the fruition of their hopes, he joined his efforts with this class, and became affiliated with such men as William Lloyd Garrison, William Goodell, Wendell Phillips, Gerrit Smith, and others. He also associated with his other ideas of reform the abolition of war, and advocated the settlement of all national and international disputes by diplomacy or arbitration. In this respect he was an earnest advocate of the doctrines of Elihu Burritt; at the same time he was an earnest and practical believer in the Christian religion, in the spirit and teachings of which he saw and recognized the highest sanction for these reforms, and was full of a broad sympathy for humanity, which led him to labor for the welfare of all classes and conditions of men. He traveled and lectured extensively in New England, and at the same time followed the occupation of a farmer. At Randolph, Vermont, whither he removed in 1847, he took an active interest in the subject of education.

He was married, January 5, 1836, to Miss Clarissa M. Spear, of Braintree, Vermont, a lady whose sympathies



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were in harmony with his own, and whose qualities of mind and character eminently fitted her to be a helpmeet for him during his life, and to discharge the weighty responsibilities which have devolved upon her since his decease. This union was blessed with five children, all of whom survive at this writing.

In 1865, Mr. Dyer removed to Saratoga County, settling in Greenfield, two miles west of Saratoga Springs. Besides his farm interest in this locality, whose improvements bespeak the attention of a diligent, laborious, and thrifty agriculturist, he made it an object to build at Saratoga Springs a neat and commodious boarding-house, where visitors could be accommodated with comfort and economy, which should be quiet and orderly, and free from all drinking and gaming, and where, rather, the order and exercises of a Christian home should prevail, and be governed by a simple and genial sociality.

With this object in view he began the erection of the "Vermont House" in 1868, and finished it in 1876. The experiment has exceeded his most sanguine expectations. The house has been well patronized during the visiting season, especially by those who desire the advantages of a quiet and home-like retreat. Mrs. Dyer has taken charge of this house, as also of the farm, since the decease of her husband.

At the time of their removal to Saratoga County he was in poor health, yet his energies were unabated and incessant. He was ever engaged reading, writing, or at work, till his last illness entirely disabled him. He died on the 25th of October, 1877, aged sixty-nine years.

TOGHS CHRISTMAS PARTY • December 14, 2014



JoAnn Rowland (Christmas Party Chairperson and Mulled Cider maker) getting the party started.



The Cookies (and other goodies)



Alice Feulner and Melissa Deutsch



JoAnn Rowland, Ron Deutsch and Louise Okoniewski



Mr. Hinckley telling his favorite Christmas Tree Story



Ron Feulner, Joan and Sonny Peacock

A Thank You

The Galway Preservation Society appreciates your inclusion of our information about the Galway 1900 - 1949 book in your December newsletter. We've been receiving some wonderful reviews of the book, and sales are going quite well. The interest and support of neighboring communities and local publications has been very helpful.

Thank you for your help in spreading the word!

Evelyn Hanna, GPS PR Committee

*Photos courtesy of
Joan Rowland*



Bill and Florence Hinckley



Lelah Cornell



Rick Bishop



Katie Finnegan, Jim Smith, Ron Feulner and Pat Finnegan



Patty Schwartzbeck and Joan Cady



Jim Smith and Earl Jones



The Cookie Exchange

“Body Balance Empowering Performance” by Deborah Dittner, FNP-C,RMT,CHHC,AADP, Family Nurse Practitioner, Reiki, Holistic Nutrition (*a member of our Historical Society*)

Knowledge can empower each and everyone of us to make the healthiest choice possible. Whether you are an athlete, coach, parent, teacher, athletic trainer, weekend warrior, the formula remains the same. Balancing your life with whole foods, by eating a nutrient dense diet, physical movement, and self-care is what is needed to make you healthy and strong whatever your endeavor.

Athletes are bigger, faster and stronger than they have ever been. They train harder and more specific to their individual sports than they ever have. Yet most athletes never truly understand the most important variable in the process of becoming an elite athlete

and that’s nutrition. You might be skeptical that there is no way you can compete at the highest level of competition on whole foods. Yet, the formula remains the same whether you are just looking to become healthier or if you plan on fueling up as an elite athlete. Reconnecting with the natural world and the powerful whole foods it offers, is the ideal way to fuel up and is the only way to achieve the sustainable energy we all want. Food changes everything. Imagine what your life would be like if you had clear thinking, energy, and excitement every day.

“Body Balance Empowering Performance” will make a perfect gift for someone you love including you! You will find her book at: www.northshire.com/book/9781605712260 and at the Northshire Bookstore in Saratoga Springs and Manchester, VT. (\$19.95)

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 to: JJones18215@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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Historical Society
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Greenfield Center, NY 12833**