



Historical Society Newsletter

OFFICERS: President: Louise Okoniewski; Vice President: Robert Roeckle;
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The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833

Volume 15, Issue 8



www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

YOU CAN NOW PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE!

CALENDAR

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.

April 25 - May 3, CLEANUP WEEK, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. For Town of Greenfield residents only. Must have Town Resident ID Card. Check out the Town's website or call 893-7432 (more information on page 2).

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."

June 12 - Sept. 4, 2015 – FARMER'S MARKET, Fridays, 4 - 7 p.m., Middle Grove Town Park.

June 20, 2015 – Saturday, GRAND OPENING OF IOOF MUSEUM, noon to 3 p.m.

More information to follow.

July 21 - 26, 2015 – SARATOGA COUNTY FAIR, Tuesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., Ballston Spa Fairgrounds, Townley Building. Visit our display and info booth.

Aug. 8, 2015 – SIXTH CABOOSE DAY AND CAR SHOW at King's Station, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Corner of 9N and Porter Road. Rain or Shine. For information, call 587-6060.

Oct. 3, 2015 – Saturday, HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUNDRAISING GALA AT BROOKHAVEN GOLF COURSE – The Haven Tee Room.

More information to follow.

WEEZIE'S WORDS

by Louise Okoniewski

Finally, it seems Winter is loosening it's grip on us. Longer hours of daylight have helped to make the mounds of snow disappear and give us hope that green grass will soon take it's place. Spring has brought us some very cold days and 50 degree days that make us happy. You never know what to expect when Spring arrives ... much like genealogy ... you never know what to expect when you look into your family's ancestors.

David Peck presented his program, "Graveyards and Greater Plots" and found that researching your family's history can lead to the unexpected. Mr. Peck has been searching his family roots for the last 10 years. A world traveler, he has been on Earthwatch expeditions and has travelled to many countries, including Australia, where he met his wife. In those travels, he found that burials and rites differ from place to place. For example, in Madagascar they have the "Turning of the Bones." The deceased are rewrapped with new cloth and celebrated in the streets by dancing with them. In Greece, after 50 years of being buried, bones are removed from their resting place to the basement of a church to make room for more burials.

A descendent of Joseph Peck, one of the earliest settlers of Rehoboth, Mass., David's urge for family history came from his mother. A retired biology and chemistry teacher, he has always been interested in his ancestors. He found the Peck Burial Yard in Rehoboth (a Historical Cemetery) with 24 of his relatives. He was surprised to find that it is near the seventh hole of the Sun Valley Golf Course. After the Peck family settled in Rehoboth, some family members moved west to Dutchess County, up the Hudson and to Saratoga. When you find one relative it leads you to something or someone else. His maternal ancestors were the VanPattens who arrived with the Dutch and settled at the Schenectady Stockade in 1664. He has visited Holland, the home of the maternal VanPattens, and toured other countries such as England

and Scotland, where his family lived before they came to America. In his presentation, Mr. Peck proudly showed relationships to Royalty, veterans and local families. David grew up in Bacon Hill, near Schuylerville, and is related to the owners of the well known Peck Farm, which was settled about 1849.

In searching for family history, you need to have a starting point – someone you are looking for. Through research, Mr. Peck has found many unknown ancestors and has posted more than 1,000 entries on Findagrave.com. Wills and probate records also are a big help when researching family history. Locally, the group Heritage Hunters have a lot of resources for looking up information and can help with Saratoga County records. (Their meetings are listed in this newsletter.) The Saratoga County Historian has a lot of records, maps and volunteers that will help to navigate you on your quest to family history. He has found many family members through out the United States and Canada. He likens the search to a treasure hunt, never knowing what you will dig up and when you find a clue or what you were looking for; you want more.



In Memory

Jim Smith

*April 5, 1921 -
April 8, 2015*

TOWN OF GREENFIELD RESIDENT ID CARDS

Starting this Spring, you will need a **Town Resident Photo ID Card** in order to dispose of any trash at the Town Wide Cleanup.

You also will be able to use your card for Youth Committee sponsored trips and events, or to receive discounts at Brookhaven Golf Course.

The card is free of charge and can be obtained by stopping by the Town Clerk's Office. Office hours are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon.

*****Please bring your driver's license and a utility bill for proof*****

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

With spring here after a long hard winter, our thoughts turn to outdoor activities, and that means playing golf for some of you. Our own town owned and run Brookhaven Golf Course is a favorite for many and most would agree that it is both a challenging and very beautiful course.

Even if you don't play golf and have no interest in the game, you can still feel pride in the fact that this course was designed and built by an area business that employed many Greenfield residents over a period of many decades. International Paper of Corinth and its employees were aided by many local citizens working together as volunteers to build it. The Greenfield Volunteer Fire Department even got involved in burning brush as areas on what had been a dairy farm were cleared.

This project was an outstanding example of a local business and townspeople joining hands to create a beautiful recreational area that we can all feel some local pride in. With that in mind, I have written a very brief history of the project as follows.

In 1959, the O. B. Beyer Recreation Corp. was formed by the International Paper Company in Corinth, N.Y. for the purpose of purchasing land so that a golf course could be built to provide recreation for their employees.

A year later they purchased the 370 acre Towers dairy farm located along the foothills of the Kayaderosseras Range and hired golf pro, George Pulver Sr., to design a new nine-hole course. Pulver, was the pro at both the Saratoga Golf and Polo Club on Church Street in Saratoga Springs and McGregor Links on Northern Pines Road, Wilton, but he is probably best remembered as Dottie Pepper's golf teacher. Pulver later described his design challenge in this way, "The land and beauty was already there – my effort was to design a golf area and not molest the beauty." The construction work for a nine-hole course was done by mill employees and volunteers using many second hand materials from the mill and ready for play in 1963. In 1971, the course was expanded to 18 holes.

In 2002, International Paper closed their Corinth mill, ending their involvement with area employees. By 2010, the O. B. Beyer Corporation was ready to legally dissolve, but before they could, they had to find a new owner for the golf course. They offered it and the surrounding land to the Town of Greenfield for one dollar. The town board voted unanimously to accept. Since that time the Town of Greenfield has made many improvements to the course enhancing the natural beauty that George Pulver was so aware of when he first began design work on the site.

If your March newsletter was damaged when you received it, please let me know and I'll send you a new one.

JJones18215@roadrunner.com

Our newest Lifetime Member is Vincent Smith Jr.
(also known as "Buzzy")

Town of Greenfield
Environmental Commission

Environmental Action Survey

12/11/14

Our Purpose

Many Greenfield residents chose to live here to enjoy the rural setting. The Environmental Commission is asking what residents would be willing to do to support the balance of nature we all enjoy.

What you've observed

1 Animals (deer, turkeys, etc.)

Please name wild animals you've seen and would like to protect in Greenfield

2 Insects (butterflies, bees, etc.)

Please name wild insects you've seen and would like to protect in Greenfield

3 Plants (orchids, black berries, etc.)

Please name wild plants you've seen and would like to protect in Greenfield

4 Environmental hazards (mosquitos, ticks, etc.)

Please name any dangerous or risky aspects you'd like to control better.

Possible actions

Which of the following actions would you be willing to participate in?

(Place an "X")

0	2	4
Would not do	Probably would	Definitely would

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| 5 Practice environment-friendly yard practices (like composting) at home. | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> </tr> </table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| 6 Share environment-friendly practices with neighbors | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> </tr> </table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| 7 Preserve wildlife areas (like swamps) on my own property | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> </tr> </table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| 8 Protect plants (like cattails) that support desirable animals | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> </tr> </table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| 9 Purchase and grow plants (like milkweed) that support insects | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> </tr> </table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| 10 Avoid pesticides (like RoundUp) that could disrupt wildlife | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> </tr> </table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| 11 Use less fertilizers to protect ground water | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> </tr> </table> | | | |
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| 12 Use low-impact outdoor lighting to protect views of the night sky | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> </tr> </table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| 13 Participate in Adopt-a-Roadside | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> </tr> </table> | | | |
| | | | | |
| 14 Any other ideas we haven't included (Please use the back for more space) | <input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | | | |

Your location

- 15 What road or area of Greenfield are you reporting from? _____
- 16 Would you welcome information on the Town Website about these topics? _____

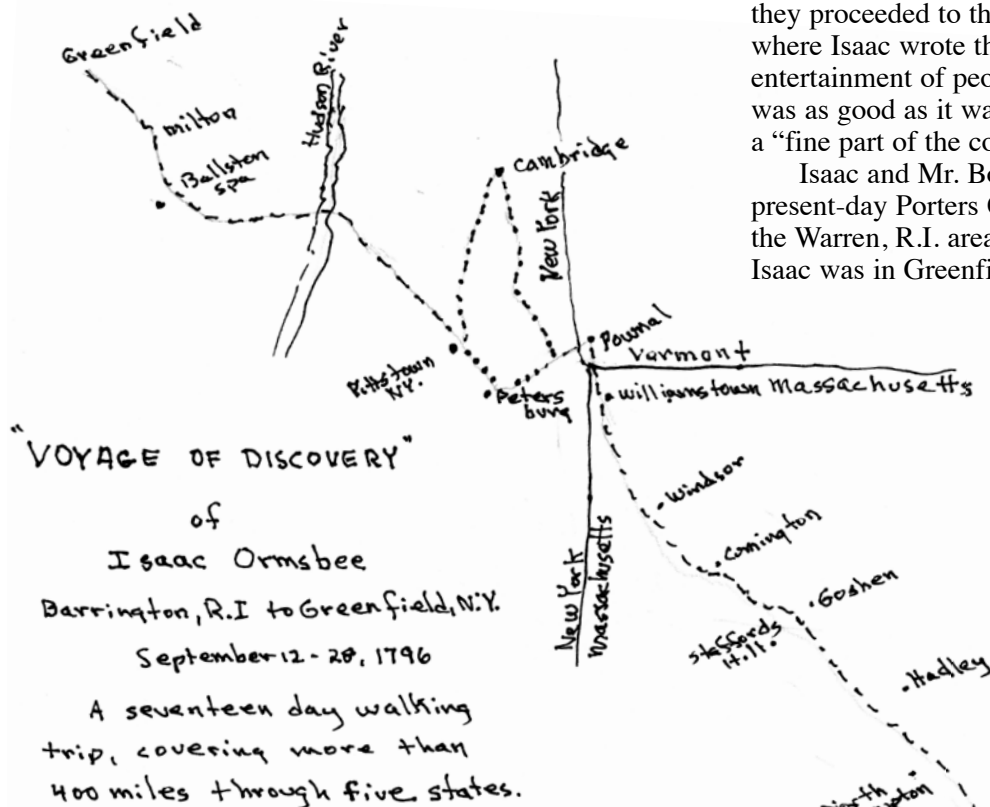
Please complete and deposit at Town Hall or with Environmental Commission member

Isaac Ormsby and His “Voyage of Discovery”

By Arden Blunt

The earliest Ormsby recorded in Colonial America was Richard Ormsby, born about 1602 in Lincolnshire, England. Richard was recorded in 1639 as living in Saco Province, Maine, which at the time was within the Massachusetts Colony. The family relocated to Warren, Rhode Island prior to 1746.

Richard’s great-great grandson, Isaac, was born in Warren in 1763, and grew up in the area. On Jan. 1, 1781, he enlisted in and soon joined the Rhode Island Regiment stationed “below the Highlands in the State of New York on the East side of the Hudson,” across the river from the present-day Saratoga Battlefield Park. Isaac served at Saratoga throughout the battle. He also served with General George Washington at Yorktown when Cornwallis and his command were defeated.



After his service in the Revolution, Isaac returned to Warren, married Patience Chase, and had four children. But apparently he remembered the beauty of the mountains he had seen while in New York. A family story tells us that he was “tired of the flat ground” of Rhode Island, and was anxious to move to “high ground.”

On Sept. 12, 1796, Isaac and a friend, Stephen Bowen, left home on what Isaac called a “Voyage of Discovery.” This journey was to change their lives forever. Fortunately, Isaac recorded his travels in a small diary, copies of which are available from the Greenfield Historian’s office.

Isaac and Mr. Bowen started out on foot, taking whatever path or road available, heading back to the area they had seen during the Revolution. On this trip they would traverse five states: Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and New York, and walk well over 400 miles. Mr. Bowen’s feet would become so sore that he took a short cut to Pittstown, N.Y. to rest at the house of an acquaintance for a few days. Isaac continued during that time through north-western Massachusetts, and into Vermont, and then to Hoosick and Cambridge, before rejoining Mr. Bowen in Pittstown.

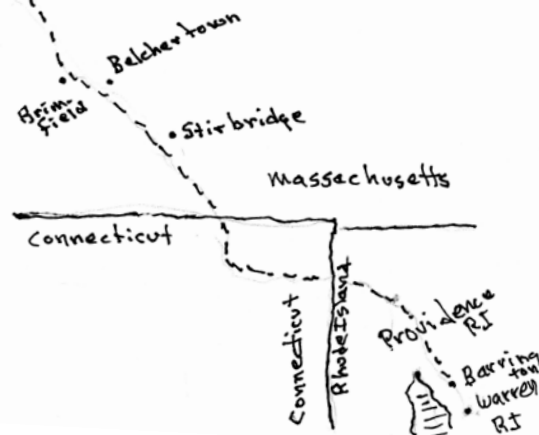
Isaac wrote of the Berkshire area that it was “Ruf hilly country.” He commented on “the fine collog and many elegant houses” and the “fine country surrounded by mountains” of the Williamstown, Mass. area. He found “fine farms and hansom land worth at least 40 dollars pr. Acre” around Hoosick Flats on his way to Pittstown.

On the Sept. 19, Isaac and Mr. Bowen left Pittstown and set out for “Greenfield Wondings Mills.” They crossed the Hudson by ferry at Stillwater and continued through “sever and tolerable good” country. The next day they proceeded to the “Ball Town Springs” [Ballston Spa], where Isaac wrote there were “fine large houses for the entertainment of people.” He stated that the spring water was as good as it was reputed to be, and that the area was a “fine part of the country.”

Isaac and Mr. Bowen arrived in Greenfield (near the present-day Porters Corners) on Sept. 21. Neighbors from the Warren, R.I. area had already settled in the area. While Isaac was in Greenfield, he agreed to purchase 55 acres for the sum of \$302.50 from Royal Easterbrook, who also had come to Greenfield from the Warren, Rhode Island area earlier. Stephen Bowen also purchased a plot of land which adjoined Isaac’s. The Ormsby family moved from Warren in November 1796. According to family history, they moved their possessions by oxcart.

Isaac and his wife, Patience, went on to have four more children while in Greenfield.

Continued on page 5



Continued from page 4

Some of their descendants still live in the area, including Clifford and Donald Young. The exact location of the first dwelling on the property is not known. The second dwelling, built in 1815 by Isaac, was moved off the foundation to make way for the third dwelling to be built in 1872 on the same foundation. This brick house is still standing and presently occupied by Clifford and Louise Young.

Isaac is buried in the family graveyard on the hill behind this house on Ormsby Road. He is in the “high country” that he set out to find so long ago. His grave bears a marker placed there by the Daughters of the American Revolution in recognition of his service during the Revolution.



The Hildebrandt children riding down hill: Gary, Barry, Linda (with the doll), and Donna. The photo was taken on Bockes Road in the winter of 1960.

Photo provided by Gary Hildebrandt.

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

The “Voyage of Discovery” consisted of 17 days and covered well over 400 miles. Isaac recorded each day’s mileage. The shortest leg was 22 miles, the longest 39. The men did not travel on Sundays. Isaac also failed to record mileage on two days that they did travel. It is hard to imagine someone setting out today on a walking trip that could equal this journey of two of the early settlers of Greenfield Township.

This article is based on extensive genealogical work done by Ormsby descendant, Albert Edward Pierce. The complete work is available at the Town of Greenfield Historian’s office. My thanks to Clifford Young for his memories of his family’s history.

HERITAGE HUNTERS MEETINGS

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.

History Faire – Saturday, May 16, 2015, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library, 475 Moe Rd., Clifton Park, N.Y. A family event with activities for children. Many historical societies, museums and groups will be at the 4th annual History Faire, hosted by Heritage Hunters, a genealogy and local history organization. JOIN US! (It’s free!). For info or to participate, call 518-587-2978 or email melfrejo@aol.com.

Note: Location – Clifton Park

June 20 – Saturday, 1 p.m. – David R. Starbuck will present a review of the archeological digs he has supervised in our area over the past 30 years. The sites include; the Saratoga National Historic Park, Mount Independence on Lake Champlain, Rogers Island and other Fort Edward sites, Fort William Henry, and his current project, Lake George Battlefield Park. Dr. Starbuck is the author of many books and articles, has taught at over 40 summer field schools in archaeology, and is a Professor of Anthropology at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire.

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! For information, call 518-587-2978.

March refreshment volunteers, Louise Okoniewski and Joyce Woodard, served brownies and pistachio cake; JoAnn Rowland served Joan’s retirement carrot cake and Alice Feulner brought popcorn treats.

April refreshment volunteers are Patty Schwartzbeck and Katie Finnegan.

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson

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 _____



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Historical Society
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