



Historical Society Newsletter

**OFFICERS: President: Louise Okoniewski; Vice President: Robert Roekle;
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 10



www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

CALENDAR

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

**June 20, 2015 – Saturday, GRAND OPENING
OF THE CHATFIELD MUSEUM OF LOCAL
HISTORY, 1 to 3 p.m. at the IOOF Hall, Middle
Grove. Old Fashioned Children's games and prizes
(Sack Races, Egg Toss and more); Musical Tribute
to Jim Smith (local Music Legend); Raffles and
Prizes. The History Café will be serving Hot Dogs,
Hamburgers, Salads and Drinks.**

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 Route 9N and Porter Road.**
Bake Sale and food available for purchase.
Rain or Shine. For information, call Tom Clute
at 580-0655 or the Town Hall at 587-6060.

**Sept. 16, 2015 – Tuesday, Pot Luck Dinner before the
meeting/program, Community Center in Greenfield
Center. Dinner starts at 5:30. Bring a dish to pass
and your own place setting. Meeting starts at 7 p.m.
Program: *To be announced.***

**Oct. 3, 2015 – Saturday, HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FUNDRAISING GALA AT BROOKHAVEN
GOLF COURSE – The Haven Tee Room.**
More information to follow.

Field Trip to One of Greenfield's "Indian Samp Mortars"

Bob Jones has offered to lead a hike to the "Millers Rocks Indian Samp Mortar" on Sunday, June 28 at 1 p.m. The hike will be along trails in the woods, and will take 30-40 minutes each way. There is a moderate uphill climb near the beginning of the hike, with the remainder being relatively level. The return covers the same ground. We have permission to park at the Skidmore Stables on Daniels Road (located just east of the Clinton Street intersection). Participants are strongly encouraged to take precautions against ticks. Rain date: Sunday, July 12 at 1 p.m.

WEEZIE'S WORDS

by Louise Okoniewski

Another year, of the Historical Society's general meetings, has come to an end. We enjoyed a good year, starting in September with our first meeting and pot luck dinner. We had some interesting programs, thanks to Katie Finnegan who always comes up with something new. With the longer days, some of us will be taking vacations or long rides through the Adirondacks. Just in time for summer, Marty Podskoch presented an informative program on his book, *Adirondack 102 Club*. Named for the one hundred and two (102) towns and villages that are scattered throughout the mountains, it gives a description and highlights of each town. There's a place on each page to write the date you visited the area and comments on your trip. On the comment page of the town, there is a spot to have that page stamped by that town's offices. Or as Marty had to do as the town hall was closed, he had an employee of Stewarts stamp his book with the milk card stamp. Most businesses would be happy to stamp or write that you were in "their" town and at "their" business.

Marty presented a wonderful display of the many books he has written, and pictures from many of the Adirondack Towns. He is a retired reading teacher who lives in Connecticut. He didn't enjoy reading until he was 21, and set out to get kids interested in reading. In 1999, he found out he had cancer and decided to "smell the roses." He retired from teaching in 2001, and took a trip to Hunter Mountain to see the fire tower. He was so inspired by the stories of the fire towers, he wrote a book about them – three books in fact – that tell the stories of the towers in New York state. The audience of 30 people enjoyed a game of trying to guess (from a slide), what town a certain point of interest was in. For example, do you know where the Maple Syrup Museum is? Or where Beversprite Nature Center is? If you would like Marty's books, they can be found in stores throughout the North Country, which he delivers himself. I'm sure he will be back for a program on one of his other books, which include *Adirondack Stories* and *The Civilian Conservation Corps*. If you purchased an *Adirondack 102* book, and need it stamped, you can stop by the Greenfield Town Hall, Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., and have it stamped by the Town of Greenfield.

The month of May might be the end of the regular meetings of the Historical Society, but not the end of the work we do. June 12 will start another year of sponsoring the Greenfield Farmers Market at Middle Grove Park. On Fridays, from 4 - 7 p.m., many of your favorite vendors will be back. Don't forget, this market is where some local businesses sold before they became famous, such as

Joy of the Journey Farm, Saratoga Crackers (Little Bakery in the Grove) and Pearl’s Pastries. And who can forget that we listened to Sawyer Fredericks hone his musical talent before the rest of the country got to hear him, and vote him the 2015 winner of “The Voice!” There’s different music every Friday night, with Bob Marcotte opening the first market on June 12. The following week, we will have Trish Miller and John Kirk. So be sure to stop by the market and help support this community event. You never know what famous business or musician you will meet.

Middle Grove Fire Department will sponsor “Meet Your Local Fire Department,” the 4th Friday of the month – June 26, July 24 and Aug. 28, at the market. This is a lot of fun for the kids and very informative for the adults. The firemen and firewomen will show you the tools that help to put out a fire and save your life. Be sure to stop by and say hello.

June 20 will be the opening of the museum at the Odd Fellows Hall, named “The Chatfield Museum of Local History,” in honor of Eugene Chatfield who bequeathed a sizable donation to the Historical Society some years ago. Mr. Chatfield was a descendent of the Chatfield Corners family that moved to the Older Farm on Middle Grove Road. He was a longtime member and officer of the Odd Fellows organization and was involved in other groups such as the Grange. He, like his father, were rural Post Office delivery people, with 50 years of service between them. Over the years, his donation has been frugally spent and used for improvements to the IOOF Hall. A lot of volunteer hours have gone into the makeover of the hall, and improvements are constantly being made. We just had a stair lift installed to make it easier to get to the upstairs displays, and we are currently working on a virtual tour, so if you don’t want to go up the stairs, you can still see the displays. The Opening is Saturday, June 20, from 1 - 3 p.m. We will have hot dogs and burgers, games for the kids and many other surprises.

Our annual Caboose Day and Car Show will be Saturday, August 8 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. This is a fun event and a fundraiser for the Historical Society, with tours of the caboose and station. We have a bake sale, hot dogs and hamburgers, homemade French Fries and cold drinks. There are many vintage cars that stop by to enjoy the day and speak about their cars. This is a rain or shine event. For more information, call the Greenfield Town Hall @ 893-7432 ext. 300, or 587-6060.

Our second annual fundraiser event at The Haven Tee Room, will be Saturday October 3. Stay tuned for more information. But remember to *Save the Date*.

We hope to see you at one or all of our events. Have a safe and happy summer. See you at our first meeting in September (Potluck Dinner).



Marty Podskoch discussing his book, “Adirondack 102 Club: Your Passport and Guide to the North Country.”

HISTORIAN’S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

Now that the winter salt and pot-hole season is behind us, the town highway department is again geared up for a busy summer season improving drainage, mowing roadsides, and re-surfacing some of the of the roads.

Town of Greenfield Town Road Commissioner, Walt Barss, is a busy man these days trying to keep all of us happy, as we motor from one place to another in the town. Sometimes, I wonder how his predecessors accomplished their job without the heavy equipment and crew of workers that Walt has at his disposal. Recently, while going through some old records in the town historian’s office, I ran across an old set of NYS laws governing the duties of a town road commissioner. (In those days they were called overseers of highways.) The law is quite wordy, so I will summarize some of the main points.

1. The overseer of highways (an elected official just as his counterpart today is) will give town residents at least 24-hour notice when they are to be assessed to work on a road and how many oxen or horses they will need to bring with them. They will receive one day’s credit for each day they work from seven in the morning to six in the afternoon.
2. Each person shall work for the total number of days for which they have been assessed unless they pay the town a fee of one-dollar for each day they do not intend to work. They must pay this sum at least 24-hours in advance of the day they are called on to work.
3. The overseer may demand a team, or a cart, or plow with a pair of horses (or oxen) and a man to manage them from any land owner who has been assessed three days of work or more.
4. On the first day of October of each year, the overseer of highways will provide the town supervisor a list of all men assessed who did not appear for work (and have not paid one-dollar in lieu of appearing) and the number of days they are in arrears (charging them at a rate of one-dollar-and-fifty-cents for each day not worked).
5. The rest of the document explains how the assessments in arrears should be collected as a tax lien on the person’s property which eventually could be sold at public auction if the lien is not paid.

I believe (although I have not researched this) that originally land owners who had a road passing across their property were responsible for maintaining their own section of the road. The system (that I have described above) represents the next step where several overseers were elected in a town and each had a designated area of the town’s roads that they were responsible for overseeing. They did not have any employees, but they did have the authority to assess farmers living along the road a form of work tax (including work animals and equipment) to keep the roads open and in reasonable condition.

At some point we moved to the present system of an elected road commissioner and a permanent staff of employees operating town owned and maintained equipment. Of course, land owners are still assessed a tax which must be paid to finance the system, but land owners no longer have to show up for road work on a 24-hour notice.

We, at the historical society, are busy getting ready for the Chatfield Museum of Local History opening. I still need volunteers to cover Fridays from 4-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 1-3 p.m. You just need to be there to greet people who stop by. We are planning on having a minimum of two volunteers each session, so you can bring a friend, or I can match you up with someone. If you would like to be a part of this experience, please call me at (518) 893-0620.

Museum Open House



IOOF Hall
(Corner of Middle Grove Road
and Lake Desolation Road)
Middle Grove, New York

Saturday
June 20, 2015
1 - 3 p.m.

**The Town of Greenfield Historical Society
Announces the Opening of the
*Chatfield Museum of Local History.***

There will be something for everyone.

**The History Café will be serving
Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Salads and Drinks.**

**Old Fashioned Children's Games and Prizes:
Sack Races, Egg Toss and more.**

**Musical Tribute to Jim Smith (local Music Legend).
Raffles and Prizes.**

Members of the Town of Greenfield Historical Society have been working for the past few years to pull together a collection of artifacts and items that reflect the history of our great town.

We hope that you will come out to join us to learn more about the history of our town and become members of The Town of Greenfield Historical Society.

For more information, call Ron Feulner @ 893-0620.

You can learn more about us or become a member at www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

FARMERS MARKET

MIDDLE GROVE TOWN PARK

MIDDLE GROVE, NEW YORK



Fridays
June 12 - Sept. 4, 2015
4 - 7 p.m. – Rain or Shine

Our Very Family-Friendly and Fun Market Offers:

Locally-grown vegetables, fruits, berries; fresh-cut flowers, nursery plants, hanging baskets; homemade breads, pastries, cookies; pesto, wines, spice rubs; handmade jewelry; and so much more!

*We have delicious food, ready to eat and
live music every week.*

First week: Bob Marcotte • Second week: Trish Miller and John Kirk

Meet the Middle Grove Fire Department – June 26, July 24 and Aug. 28

Playground and Bathrooms are Open.

Sponsored by The Town of Greenfield Historical Society.

For more information, call J'mae @ 567-9527 or Ron @ 469-6769.

Friends of the Market: Town of Greenfield, Tom Seagrove and Ed Eichorst

MARKET NEIGHBORS

by J'mae Shamroske

I am thrilled to be able to say that across the street from our church, at the Middle Grove Town Park every Friday 4-7 p.m. throughout the summer is the Greenfield Farmers Market. I am thrilled because farmers markets are popular but it's uncommon to see them last year after year in rural areas. Often in this world an initial idea, goal, vision or plan either personal or professional, individual or organization wide can gather lots of energy and support in its beginning because it is new and exciting and worthwhile. If we are committed and lucky it takes hold and becomes reality. Now, the tricky part as many of you may relate to is the sustaining effort needed to keep them a reality. The Greenfield Farmers Market was founded by members of the Town of Greenfield's Historical Society. The Historical Society started the market in the summer of 2007 and still organizes and operates the market today. I am happy to say that for this farmers market, thanks to the hard work, dedication and countless hours of volunteer time, the market is still going and going strong! This summer the market starts June 12 and runs through September 4. We often open our doors of the church during the market making ourselves available and joining in this community event. Going into its ninth season, the market is a wonderful addition to the neighborhood. It is family friendly, has a positive atmosphere, live music, good food and many vendors. It is a great way to spend a Friday evening, you can

do your shopping, have dinner, enjoy the music, all in friendly company. There are 18 vendors that participate in the market, many of whom have been there from the beginning! Every year the market has improved and expanded, last year LedgeRock Winery from Corinth joined the market offering their line of wines. Sometimes we launch a vendor like Saratoga Crackers, whose crackers you can find almost everywhere! Or a musician such as Sawyer Fredericks who just competed and won The Voice!

You can find fresh veggies and fruit at the market along with homemade breads, cookies, jams, jellies, honey, maple syrup, pesto, locally made cheese, yogurt, pickles, soup mixes, canned goods, farm eggs and more ... to me this market is a weekly reminder of the power of selflessness and faith that is illustrated in that old saying "if you build it, they will come." The market came from a desire to offer Greenfield and its surrounding area a way to be a community, a place to gather, to strengthen our local economy, to meet our neighbors, to inspire each other, to encourage everyone to start a backyard garden and its working, its being sustained. The local community has been enlivened by the market, welcomed and celebrated us, coming back each summer to say "Hi," to shop right from the source, supporting the vendors and validating the rewards and richness of faith!

Hope to see you at the market!



Published on Sep 16, 2014, YouTube.

"Sawyer Fredericks performs one of two new original songs, 'Any of My Trouble,' at the Greenfield Farmers Market in Upstate NY. Follow and learn more about Sawyer on Facebook, Twitter and his official website – www.SawyerFredericks.com www.facebook.com/SawyerFredericks"

HERITAGE HUNTERS MEETINGS

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.

May refreshment volunteers, Louise Okoniewski and Alice Feulner, served Eclair Cake, Chocolate Cake and Nebraska Cranberry Cake.

For the September Pot Luck Dinner at 5:30 p.m., please bring a dish to pass and your own place setting.

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson

Our newest Lifetime Members are Van and Mary Ann Johnson, and Lorraine Fiorino.

SIXTH CABOOSE DAY AND CAR SHOW AT KING'S STATION

August 8, 2015
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

THE CABOOSE AT KING'S STATION
Corner of ROUTE 9N and PORTER ROAD

Tour King's Station and the Restored Caboose

VINTAGE CARS • FREE PICTURE ON THE CABOOSE

Bake Sale, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, French Fries and Drinks
to benefit The Town of Greenfield Historical Society.

*Rain or Shine. For information, call Tom Clute at 580-0655
or the Town Hall at 893-7432, ext. 300.*



Dear Town of Greenfield
Historical Society personnel;

Enclosed is a postcard
I recently found.

Years ago, the F.C.C.
(Federal Communications
Commission) required people
to use their call letters and
numbers before and after
communication, while using a
base (ham) citizen band radio.

People still use base
stations currently, but much
less than years ago, now its
cell phones and emails, via
the computer.

I thought it would be best
to send these postcards to you,
so that they can be displayed,
researched and/or archived.

I estimate that the postcard
to be from the 1950s to 1970s,
perhaps?

Have a nice day! God bless.

Sincerely,

Alvin Schaut
401 West Maple Street
Lena, WI 54139



Dues Are Due Starting June 1

Our membership year begins June 1 and ends May 31; dues are paid annually. Dues will be collected at any meeting or they can be mailed to The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833. Make check payable to: The Town of Greenfield Historical Society. Send \$10 per household (or \$100 for Lifetime Membership) along with your name and address. If you pay more than one years dues, the balance will be considered a donation. Members whose dues are in arrears at the end of September, will be dropped from the mailing list.

SARATOGA COUNTY FAIR
*Visit the Town of Greenfield
Historical Society Display and
Information Booth*

July 21 - 26, 2015
10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

*We'll be in The Townley Building
With the Greenfield Grange*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL 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 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 _____

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.



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