



Historical Society Newsletter

OFFICERS: President, Mary Vetter; Vice President, Joan Rowland;

Secretary, Patty Schwartzbeck; Treasurer, JoAnn Rowland;

TRUSTEES: Dan Chertok, Ron Deutsch, Ron Feulner, Katie Finnegan,
Louise Okoniewski, Jane Potter and Robert Roeckle

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

Volume 17, Issue 10



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email toghistsoc@gmail.com

www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

CALENDAR

June 23-Sept. 8 – FARMERS MARKET, Fridays, 4-7 p.m., Middle Grove Town Park.

THE CHATFIELD MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY will be open on Fridays during the Farmers Market from 4-6 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from 1-3 p.m., IOOF Hall, Middle Grove.

July 18-23 – 176th SARATOGA COUNTY FAIR, Tuesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Ballston Spa Fairgrounds, Townley Building. Visit our display and info booth.

Aug. 12 – EIGHTH CABOOSE DAY AND CAR SHOW at King's Station, Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., corner of Route 9N and Porter Road. Bake Sale and food available for purchase. Rain or Shine. For information, call the Town Hall at 587-6060 or Tom Clute at 580-0655.

Sept. 19 – Tuesday, POT LUCK DINNER before the meeting, at the Community Center in Greenfield. *Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m.* Bring a dish to pass and your own place setting. *Meeting starts at 7 p.m.* **Program: April March** is the "First Lady of Burlesque," and wrote a book, *Reflections of My Life*.

Oct. 14 – HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUNDRAISING GALA at Brookhaven Golf Course – The Haven Tee Room, Saturday. More information to follow.

Oct. 17 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield. **Program: Andrea (L'Hommedieu) Mann** will speak about growing up in Greenfield and the children's book she wrote, *A Letter From Ginger Boy*, which is a true story of a girl and her horse growing up in the Adirondack foothills, circa 1964.

Nov. 21 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield. **Program: "An Adirondack Musical History Tour"** presented by **Dan Berggren**, local folksinger. He has been collecting, writing and performing songs of the Adirondacks since 1975. This program presents the North Country through discussion, demonstration, stories, traditional and original songs, and historic recordings.

Everyone is welcome, admission is free, you don't have to be a member to attend and refreshments are served after all programs.

May refreshment volunteers, Jane Potter and Joyce (and Ed) Woodard, served Ed's Famous Brownies, and Snickerdoodles, Chocolate Crinkles and Watermelon.

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

Summer Notes

by Mary Vetter

Our May meeting was a busy one that started with an entertaining talk by Marty Podskoch on his book, *Fire Towers*. The number of towers, the variety of designs, the duties and the hardships the men who worked in and maintained these structures is truly amazing.

The presentation was followed by the election of officers and trustees. Aida Gordon chose to resign from the board. She made a tough decision and we will miss her. We all wish her well and hope to see her at future meetings. Her decision led to an opening on the board and we were delighted when Jane Potter stepped forward to run and was duly elected. I know Jane mainly from her attendance at our meetings but her calm and thoughtful demeanor together with her knowledge of Greenfield will make her a welcome addition to the board.

In June, we had a visit from the Greenfield Elementary School Third Graders. What a great bunch! The children were broken into two groups of about 35 children. One group visited the museum and one group visited the school. Later they switched places so all the children experienced both locations. Ron Feulner and Joyce Woodard led the tours at the museum and Joan Rowland and I led the tours at the school.

Joan explained what would have taken place on the grounds of the schoolhouse. She introduced the children to the games that would have been played and the outhouse! Inside I gave them an idea of what it would have been like to be a student in that little schoolhouse. The thing that seemed the most fun to them was writing on the chalkboard because boards are no longer used in schools today. Joan's games were a hit and they were eager to play them at their lunch outing at the Middle Grove Park.

Our activities continue with the Farmer's Market every Friday during the summer and Caboose Day on Aug. 12. We are working out the details of our Gala which will be held Oct. 14. Be ready for our September potluck meeting, Katie Finnegan has lined up a great speaker and it promises to be a fun evening.

I hope each and every one of you enjoys the summer. Our long stretches of cool to freezing weather make these summer months very special. Personally, I enjoy being on the deck as evening descends. The birds make their last trip to the feeders, the traffic lightens up and almost always a gentle breeze rustles through the trees. I think we can all agree that we are blessed to live in the Town of Greenfield.

Our Newest LIFETIME MEMBERS

Gail Hika (The Post Cafe)

Cathy Ginocchi (In Stitches)

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

In June, a combined effort from my historian's office and the Historical Society hosted about 65 third graders on a field trip to the Historical Society's one room school on Daketown Road, and the museum at the IOOF Hall in Middle Grove. The students along with their teachers, bus drivers, and a number of parent chaperones split their time between the two sites before going to Middle Grove Park for a picnic lunch.

The historical society's president, Mary Vetter, and vice-president, Joan Rowland, hosted the students at the school, while town historian, Ron Feulner, and deputy historian, Joyce Woodard, hosted them at the IOOF hall museum.

The students had been well prepared for the visit by their teachers, and, as a result, were full of excitement and ready with many excellent questions. It was, I believe, a memorable day for all, and I hope that some of the participants return to the museum this summer with their parents. The museum is open on Friday evenings from 4-6 p.m. and Saturday afternoons from 1-3 p.m. These hours will continue through Friday, Sept. 2.

These hot summer days remind me of my fondest memories of going to the local swimming hole on the Kayaderosseras as a child. Our swimming hole in Middle Grove did not have a name like some of the others (for example, the one near the Sand Hill Road Bridge was called "the Sheep Dip"). Most of us walked to our swimming hole, which was located upstream from the lower bridge in Middle Grove. As I recall, the path went to the left of the house closest to the creek, then we had to cross a barbed wire fence and follow the path parallel with the creek across a pasture, then cross the fence again, and walk through a patch of woods to a point just downstream from where the creek made a wide bend.

The water current was such that it had carved a deeper diving hole on the near bank followed by shallow water and a little sandy beach downstream from the diving hole. Adults had constructed a heavy plank diving board anchored into the bank with a large rock, where you could dive into four or five feet of water. Depending on the time of day, you might be alone or have to share with 8 or 10 people ranging from young to old. Young

men would sometimes stop on their way home from work or come back after supper, and sometimes they brought a bar of soap, since many homes were not well equipped with bathtubs or shower units.

If no girls were around, they sometimes dove in without any clothes on. If they had to change into a bathing suit, they would go back into the woods along a network of intersecting trails littered with small piles of toilet paper and other human trash to change. The girls, as I remember, usually came in their suits.

I learned to swim here. My mother would walk me from our home on Murray Road pushing a walker with my younger brother and sister in it. She would bring a small basket with a towel and an alarm clock. She would set the alarm, because she had to return home in time to start cooking supper. My father worked in the woods all day chopping and sawing pulp-wood and saw logs, and when he returned, he expected supper to be ready.

My mother never went swimming, but would sit on the bank and watch us. One of my scariest memories was almost drowning when a group of teen-aged bullies caught me trying to dog paddle across the creek. They repeatedly pushed me under water, where I remember feeling helpless and seeing bubbles and gulping in water instead of air. Every time I would surface, they would push me under again. As suddenly as the attack started, it ended. I surfaced to see my mother standing next to me in the water. As she towed me up the bank and out of the water, I remember seeing her summer dress and stockings dripping water, and her leather shoes sticking in the sand. I don't know where the teen-aged boys disappeared to, but they were gone.

As I got older, my mother let me go alone. When I was about 14, I remember the excitement at the swimming hole when a similar aged girl from New York City showed up one day. She was staying with local relatives for the summer, and she might as well have been from another planet for all the excitement she created.

Our summer fun at the swimming hole lasted until sometime in August, when the adults determined that the creek was starting to "work." This meant that the water was warm and stagnant and ripe for bacterial growth. This was the time when they thought that a swimmer might come down with polio if exposed to the water. This ended our summer swim season.



May 16, 2017
Historical Society Meeting
 Left: Marty Podskoch selling one of his books about Fire Towers to Ron Feulner.
 Above: A Fire Finder Map

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; you can pay online at www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com 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 \$10, 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.

SAVE THE DATE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUNDRAISING GALA AT BROOKHAVEN GOLF COURSE

Saturday, October 14, 2017
 (Time to be announced)

The Haven Tee Room

**To Benefit The Town of Greenfield
 Historical Society's
 Chatfield Museum of Local History
 and Daketown School.**

EIGHTH CABOOSE DAY AND CAR SHOW AT KING'S STATION

**Saturday, August 12, 2017
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

THE CABOOSE AT KING'S STATION

Corner of Route 9N and Porter Road, Porter Corners, N.Y.

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,
Louise Okoniewski at 587-6060 or the Town Hall at 893-7432, ext. 300.*





We're back!

GREENFIELD FARMERS MARKET

Middle Grove Park (Middle Grove Road)

Every Friday, 4 to 7 p.m.

June 23 to September 8, 2017

- Locally grown vegetables/plants
- Locally made crafts
- Yummy baked goods
- Local maple syrup, honey, pesto, eggs, jams, spices and much more ...
- Plenty of parking, bathrooms and places for the kids to play while you shop and hang out with your neighbors
- And Live Music!

Sponsored by:

THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Supported by: **TOWN OF GREENFIELD**

FRESH VEGGIES AND LIVE MUSIC EVERY FRIDAY!



To become a vendor or for more information please contact the market committee by email at:
manager@greenfieldfarmersmarket.org



Visit our Facebook page for weekly updates, available products and other exciting events.

The Farmers Market – June 23, 30 July 7 & 14, 2017



*happenstance ... Acoustic Harmony
Robert Przedwiecki and Jessica Crisci*



*Kate Blain
(June 30)*



*Anna Portillo, singer, songwriter,
harpist, author and artist (July 7)*



*Elizabeth Conant, The
Studio, Greenfield (July 14)*



*Earl Jones, Ron Deutsch, JoAnn Rowland
and Nancy Homiak*



*Young Living, Essential Oils,
Independent Distributor*



*Monica's Maple Valley Farm,
Pure New York State Maple Syrup*



Chelsea's Esthetics and Massage



Emerich's Vegetables and Flowers



My Other Garden, The Matthews Family



Lelah Cornell's Jellies & Jams



Dazzler Spa Crafts



Santa's Kitchen, Barbara Devlin



Tinney's Tavern



Squashville Farm, Naturally Grown Produce

The Farmers Market (continued)



Old Mill Goods



Van Arnum's Plants & Flowers



Arnold's Produce



Analiese, Keith & Karl Meidenbauer, Cornell Cooperative Extension



Farmers Market in the Rain



Vendors waiting for the rain to stop



And then the sun came out!

Farmers Market Logo Contest

Dear Mr Taylor:

On behalf of the Town of Greenfield Historical Society and the Farmers Market Committee, I wanted to thank you for working with your students to provide us with some amazing logos for our Farmers Market. Members of the Historical Society and our Farmers Market vendors had a meeting the other night and reviewed all of the great art work from the students.

We had a really hard time picking our winners because all of the work was fantastic. We really appreciate everyone's efforts and hard work.

We picked the following pictures as our top four and the first one was the winner. I will send them gift certificates in the mail.

Again, many thanks!

Ron Deutsch



Winning logo: Owen Mansfield, 5th Grade



2nd place: Naomi Rotondo, 3rd Grade



3rd Place: Gabriela Ackley, 4th Grade



4th Place: Kyle Cameron, 5th Grade

The Post Cafe – by Pat Finnegan

The Town of Greenfield has two historical museums. One is on the Main drag, for what it's worth, in the hamlet of Middle Grove, one of three main hamlets in the Saratoga County Town of Greenfield.

The other museum is literally just around the corner.

The larger two-storied one on Main Street is full of photo memories, hands on artifacts, the 3-dimensional realities of our shared Greenfield, Saratoga communal history. We even have a chair lift for our elderly neighbors and visitors. Truth be told, it's also for our members. One of our young "whipper-snapper couples" average out at 65 years old. By the way. Pass the word. Come and join us for a night, for a year, as a member or just as a guest on the third Tuesday of the month at the Town Community Center, next to the Town Hall. It always starts at 7 p.m.; lots of good catch up talk with friends. Always a good 30-45 minute slice of Greenfield history, lots of good home made cookies and cakes after the 20-30 minute meeting and a guest historical speaker. You can't lose. Cheapest date around.

You've had a great night and you topped it off with a nice piece of home baked pie or coffee or chocolate or devil's food or banana walnut cake.

The other museum is more subtle in its approach to presenting Greenfield history.

You don't even know that you are gonna be subliminally programmed to love Greenfield history. You'd never guess that is what is going to happen. You just came in to get fed. And fed you will be. Deliciously, friendly, quickly, accurately and whether we like to admit it or not, one of the major deal breakers in paying for someone else to prepare our food, what is it gonna cost.

I'm not a coffee drinker, but I do enjoy a cup of hot tea. Just your basic Lipton or Salada is fine by me. Gail's "Post Cafe" gives me my cup of tea for \$.99. Look around. You won't find that price anywhere. The closest may be \$1.99 but usually \$2.49 or more. (Come on. Do you have to be that greedy? It's hot water and a basic tea bag.)

Gail's Post Cafe gets it and that's why the tea is \$.99. Everything else on the breakfast/lunch menu is similarly priced.

The Town of Greenfield Seniors

The Town of Greenfield Seniors meet at the Town of Greenfield Community Center at 1 p.m. every second and fourth Thursday. President – Sandra Kanar

Meal site location – Town of Greenfield Community Center, 25 Wilton Road, call 518-893-7644 for reservations.

Free bus transportation for medical and legal appointments – for reservation call 518-884-4100.

Senior Trips – Bus transportation provided by the Town of Greenfield for senior citizens. Check website for more information: www.greenfieldny.org under Senior Citizens.

2017 Seniors Trip Schedule

The Town of Greenfield sponsors trips for senior residents and provides the coaches. When available, seating will be offered to members of other senior groups (who are not Town residents) and other folks residing outside the Town. Payment should be made a month in advance of the date of the trip unless otherwise stated. If you find you cannot go after signing up, please notify the trip coordinator, in case there is a standby list. Any questions, call Pat Brust 518-584-3318. All payments should be made payable to “GREENFIELD SENIORS.”

Wednesday, Aug. 30 – MacHayden Theatre, Chatham, NY
10:30 a.m. – Bus leaves Greenfield Community Center. No planned stops. Noon – Buffet lunch at Jackson’s Old Chatham House. 1:15 p.m. – Depart Jackson’s Old Chatham House. 1:30 p.m. – Arrive at MacHayden Theatre. 2 p.m. – Hello Dolly. 3:30 p.m. – Board bus. Stop enroute if desired. 5:30 p.m. – Estimated arrival at Community Center. Cost – \$54.

Wednesday, Sept. 20 – Lake George Steamboat, Lake George, NY – 10 a.m. – Bus leaves Greenfield Community Center. 11 a.m. – Board Saint Sacrament. Noon – Boat departs dock. Sample Luncheon Menu: (Changes in menu selection are at Chef’s discretion.) Soup du Jou, tossed garden salad, assorted salads, tomato and cucumber trays, fresh baked rolls with butter. Two hot entrees (Chef’s Choice); Vegetarian Entree (Chef’s Choice), freshly carved deli sandwiches, choice of ham, beef or turkey, assorted breads, assorted cheeses; coffee, tea, iced tea and dessert. 2 p.m. – Boat returns to dock. 2:30 p.m. – Board bus. Stop enroute if desired. 4 p.m. – Estimated arrival at Community Center. Cost – \$38.

Wednesday, Oct. 18 – The Beeches Inn, Rome, NY – 8:15 a.m. – Bus leaves Greenfield Community Center. Will stop while enroute. 11:30 a.m. – Lunch (buffet) and Show: Witches Brew. 3 p.m. – Board bus. Will stop enroute. 6:30 p.m. – Estimated arrival at Community Center. Cost – \$52.

Tuesday, Nov. 28 – Villa Roma, Callicoon, NY – Christmas Holidays – 6:45 a.m. – Bus leaves Greenfield Community Center. Will stop enroute. 10:30 a.m. – Arrive at Villa Roma with coffee and cake. Noon – Lunch in main dining room. Menu: Fruit cup and Italian Wedding soup. Choose one when signing up: Roast Turkey, Leg of Lamb or Shrimp Scampi. All served with starch, and assorted vegetables, dessert, coffee, tea and decaf. 1:45 p.m. – Christmas Holiday Entertainment Show: Mary Mancini, Mario Tacca and company perform your favorite holiday music during this festive holiday season. There will be a complete schedule of daytime activities upon arrival: Indoor sport complex with bocce, shuffleboard, ping pong table and video games. Indoor swimming pool, Jacuzzi, fully equipped fitness center. 3:30 p.m. – Depart Villa Roma. Will stop enroute. 7:30 p.m. – Estimated arrival at Community Center. Cost – \$37.

New Mugs Available Soon

Second Mug in the series will be available starting Caboose Day, Saturday, Aug. 12, 2017. This year’s mug will feature the IOOF Hall which is now the Town of Greenfield Historical Society’s Chatfield Museum of Local History. In the first photo below, which dates in the early 1900s, the Baptist Church is seen before the IOOF Hall and the carriage house is not visible. The Baptist Church burnt in the 1950s.



The Mug will be available for sale at Caboose Day and any Friday at the Farmers Market from 4-7 p.m. through Sept. 8. Cost again this year will be \$10. If you are in need of the mug to be mailed to you, please add shipping cost of \$8. Orders also can be made by contacting Joan Rowland at 518-893-7786 or by mailing in your check and request to The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833.

Pendant

Larry Rutland has again donated a beautiful pendant to The Town of Greenfield Historical Society that he has made at his North Creek Studios. Tickets are available at the Farmers Market every Friday, from 4-7 p.m., through Sept. 8, 2017, and will be available at Caboose Day.

The drawing will be held at the Gala, Oct. 14, 2017.

Tickets are one for \$1 or eight for \$5.



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 \$10, 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.** Email toghistsoc@gmail.com for more information.

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. Please send articles and/or photos to: JJones18215@roadrunner.com.



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