



Historical Society Newsletter

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Secretary, Patty Schwartzbeck; Treasurer, JoAnn Rowland;

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

Volume 18, Issue 10



501(c)(3)

email toghistsoc@gmail.com

www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

In Memory of Paul VanArnum – Sponsored by Joan Rowland

CALENDAR

June 15 - Sept. 28 – FARMERS MARKET, Fridays, 4-7 p.m.
Middle Grove Town Park.

THE CHATFIELD MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY will be open
Fridays, June 15-Sept. 7, 4-6 p.m., IOOF Hall, Middle Grove.

**July 24 - 29 – 177th SARATOGA COUNTY FAIR Tuesday-
Sunday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Ballston Spa Fairgrounds,
Townley Building.** Visit our display and info booth.

**Aug. 11 – 9TH CABOOSE DAY & CAR SHOW, Saturday,
10 a.m.-3 p.m., King's Station, corner of Route 9N and
Porter Road.** Bake Sale and food available for purchase.
Rain or Shine. For information, call Louise at the Town Hall
at 518-893-7432 or 518-796-4066. For information on the
Car Show, call Tom Clute at 518-580-0655.

**Sept. 18 – POT LUCK DINNER, Tuesday, 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: Author *Mary Cuffe Perez* will talk about her new
book – *Barn Stories*.

**Oct. 13 – HISTORICAL SOCIETY GALA, Saturday,
Brookhaven Golf Course – The Haven Tee Room.**
More information to follow.

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

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.

*Thanks to the refreshment volunteers for May, Joyce
Woodard and Joan Rowland. They served cookies, cupcakes
and strawberry shortcake.*

*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

Summer Notes – by Mary Vetter

Hurray for warm weather!! I know its been a bit rainy and a little
cool but it sure beats snow, and the mother nature was kind enough
to give us a beautiful day to host the Greenfield Elementary School
Third Graders for their annual visit to our museum and one room
schoolhouse. The group was split in two. Half heading to the museum
and half heading to the school. After about a 30-minute presentation,
the children got back on their buses and switched locations. Ron
Feulner and Joyce Woodard were joined by Patty Veitch and they
hosted the children at the museum, and Joan Rowland and I hosted
them at the school.

Joyce and Ron agreed that the children were very well behaved
at the museum. Joyce reports that they were fascinated by the fact
that at one time, communication was limited to the radio. They were
astonished to learn that there were no school buses, fire departments
or weather people. The girls were very interested in the clothing,
shoes and gloves. The old-fashioned typewriter was a hit. Ron was
asked if there were veterinarians to take care of the farm animals. He
explained that the farmers took care of their animals. Joyce is pretty
sure that they were all glad to be living today with all of our modern
conveniences. She says they were impressed by knowing we did not
have television, computers or cell phones in our homes.

We had a great time at the school. The children were eager and
attentive. They demonstrated their math abilities by answering
multiplication and division problems that were taught to children in
the 1840s. They wanted to know how children got their toys and their
clothes and, of course, what teachers did with those that misbehaved.

When I had finished talking, the children were allowed to explore
the room which sported a map of the United States as of 1843. The
map was donated this spring by Clifford Young and hung up in time
for the children's visit by Dan Chertok. They eagerly looked over
the books the children would have used in the school and took great
delight at writing on a real chalkboard.

Outside, Joan talked about walking to school, snow days and
games that would have been played at the school. She had drawn a
Hop Scotch board in the road and some of the children played the
game but she reports that the biggest highlight was, as always, the
outhouse. Sadly, there was no snake lurking about to bring extra
squeals of scared delight from the kids.

Here's hoping that we will see you for Caboose Day in August and
remember that our September meeting is a pot luck. It is always nice
to see everyone after the summer break. The dates for these events
are in this newsletter. Have a wonderful July and August. Eat too
much BBQ and ice cream and enjoy the beautiful outdoors. We are
really lucky to live in the foothills of the Adirondacks.

Photo credit: Joan Rowland



This is an old map (1843) that Clifford Young donated to Historian. It has been hung at the school.



Photo credit: Mary Allen

*Work being done at the **Dake Cemetery** in June by (left to right) Jim and Minnie Fannin of Fannin-Lerner Preservation Consultants out of Massachusetts, two other workers and Charlie Drake. They will be back again to do more, but the work they have done so far is amazing. The double stone of Benjamin and Anna Dake was broken and warped. They supported it in the back with a big custom fit piece of slate and it is standing again, as are some other stones that were in pieces before. (More photos to follow in September News.)*

HISTORIAN'S CORNER by Ron Feulner

One of the common requests that we receive in my office concerns old roads in the town that once existed and are now abandoned. Many of these old roads show up on our early maps like the 1856 Geil Map and the 1866 Beers Map. However, when you go to the site and look for the road, a stone wall fence running through the woods or some other subtle clue may be the only evidence you can find that suggests the road once existed.

Here in the east, our roads evolved gradually over time. My son's father-in-law from Nebraska once visited us, and I took him for a ride showing off the Town of Greenfield. After riding quietly for a few minutes as we turned left and right, up and down a hill, and then sharp left again, he looked at me and said, "Who in hell laid out these roads?" He had spent his whole life in the state of Nebraska where the roads are all laid out in one-square-mile grids. All roads are straight and all intersections are at right angles.

It took me a moment to answer his question. I told him that first, the deer and other wild creatures created game trails following paths of least resistance. Then came the Native Americans who followed the same trails. Eventually, early farm settlers moved in and began clearing their land for farms. They of course, built along these trails and began to maintain them for others to use. Eventually townships were organized and town road officials began to work with the farmers to maintain these early farm to market trails. Eventually town highway departments were formed and equipment purchased to help maintain the roads. Now, most of these trails that have survived have been paved for automobile use and are maintained by either the town, county or state. This history of roads is completely different than what happened in the American west where the government obtained ownership of the land, surveyed it and created an organized pattern of roads over mostly flat land where one can almost see the curvature of the earth from a given position.

Here in the Town of Greenfield, some of the early roads that serviced remote farm areas have since been abandoned. Some of those early farms were cleared from forest and planted to crops by settlers who were so happy to own their own land that they were willing to work from sunrise to sunset seven days a week to make a go of it, but some of these areas were not suitable for farming. Glacial soils rich in sand, gravel and

boulders covers much of the town and this type of soil is very poor for farming. It is difficult to work (the miles and miles of stonewall fences attest to this). The soil is well drained meaning that rainfall soaks in quickly and migrates downward to the water table and out of reach of the plant roots unlike other soils that retain the water for root growth.

The Farmer's Map of 1890 shows 399 small farms in the Town of Greenfield. By the mid 1900s, most of these farms were no longer able to compete with those situated in places like the Hudson and Mohawk valleys where the land is flat, the soils rich and few rocks to contend with. Most Town of Greenfield farms were abandoned and gradually returned to forest land. The only sign of the existence of these farms are those miles and miles of stone wall fences criss-crossing the forest lands.

As the farms failed, the farmers often chose to live somewhere closer to town and their work, and gradually their houses decayed until all that was left was a stone-lined cellar hole. With the farmer and his house gone, the roads connecting them with their neighbors were seldom used and in many cases the town that was maintaining them decided that there was no reason to repair a road with little or no travel, so it stopped work on the road and the road gradually returned to a trail or logging road.

Today, when the town or county decides to abandon a road, a legal process is enacted. The land to the center of the road is deeded back to the adjacent land owners. However, in the distant past, this was not always done. The municipalities sometimes just stopped working the road and the land owners began to use it at their discretion. At the time, no one seemed to care; if a neighbor wanted to cross the land, they felt comfortable doing it, and no one objected.

However, in today's world where land has become valuable and people are moving into expensive new homes with well-defined lot borders, these old roads sometimes are contested. Many parcels of land are still land-locked meaning that there is no road access to them without crossing a neighbor's land. New land owners often do not know their neighbors and are cautious because we live in a time when law suits often arise if someone is injured on your land. Permission to access these landlocked parcels is often denied and the owners become interested in establishing whether or not an old road might have existed to the parcel, and if so, was it ever abandoned, or might it still be available for public use. This has led to many misunderstandings between neighbors and is not easily resolved.

In Loving Memory of Paul H. VanArnum

by Joan Rowland

Photo credit: Joan Rowland



Since Paul passed away April 27, 2018, I have been thinking about how wonderful it was to run into him at the Farmers Market, both the Greenfield and Ballston Spa markets and at the Washington County Fair. He would be sitting in his red folding chair

(sometimes taking a little nap) but always woke to chat with me. He usually would ask me the all important question – “do you have your wreath order ready yet?” and I usually would ask him “how many do you have made?” This was an on going joke between us (and Betsy would always smile).

So why do I know Paul? Well, I knew him when he and his first wife, Daisy, had the shop at the Pyramid Mall in Wilton. My friend and I would stop in to visit with her friend’s mom who worked there. Paul would be in the back room and would come out with this weird hat on. (Later I would see this same hat on him when he was making wreaths in Greenfield).

Fast forward to his shop in Greenfield. His first wife had passed and he had married my mom’s second cousin’s widow, Betsy. Mom and I stopped over to order a funeral spread for my dad’s casket. The coolers were empty but Paul said that he would make us up a beautiful arrangement and deliver to funeral home and he did.

Paul H. VanArnum, 83, of Wilton Road, Greenfield Center, passed away peacefully, Friday morning, April 27, 2018, at his home. Born on April 20, 1935, in Troy, he was the son of the late Wesley and Alta (Elvins) VanArnum. He served in the United States Army Security Agency from 1957 until his honorable discharge in 1960. While he was in the Army, he ran a local Boy Scout Troop and worked on a dairy farm in order to earn enough money to buy a 1938 International pick-up truck that he drove from California to New York at a top speed of 40 m.p.h. Once home, he continued to lead the Greenfield Center Boy Scout Troop 18. Upon his return from the Army, Paul had worked for Davey Tree Service and Abaleen Tree Service as a climber for several years. He then married Daisy Newton and they owned and operated a landscaping business and VanArnum’s flower shop in Pyramid Mall and the Johnstown Mall for many years. He owned and operated VanArnum’s Greenhouses in Greenfield Center for over 50 years.

Following Daisy’s death, he married Betsy Walsh Farr. Paul and Betsy were well known at the local farmer’s markets and the Washington County Fair. Paul was a hard worker, dedicated to his greenhouses and his family. He faithfully stoked the woodstove in the greenhouses at all hours of the day and night. He and his wife, Betsy along with many members of the family worked many long

Since then, we as a family have purchased plants at the Greenfield Shop for many years.

When the Porter Corners United Methodist Church needed a new fund raiser in 1998, I went to Paul and Betsy to talk about buying Live Wreaths to resell. The first year, we took orders and sold 64 wreaths, some plain, others the church group decorated. Our biggest year was 107 but on average it was around 85 wreaths. When I would drop into the shop to pay the bill, I would see the little elves all working hard. Most were Betsy’s daughters who I had known since they were little girls. Paul’s daughters or a grandson were helping out also, who I didn’t know. It always took awhile to pay that bill.

Other times, I would stop in during spring plant season and Paul would be resting his eyes on the front porch. He would always chat with me in his very slow way. Nothing was quick about him but this also reminded me of my dad and how we wanted to finish his statements for him. Paul would tell me the same stories about planting flowers in various locations in Saratoga County. (Now I wish I had listened closer to know where these places actually were.) We were on a Senior Bus Trip when we passed Elthorps Store in Wilton and he told about being hired after his time in the service to build the shelves for them to stock the store. The store is since closed but he wondered if the shelves were still there.

I am sure you have heard a few of Paul’s stories over the years. Please share them with others.

And Paul, I don’t have my wreath order ready!

hours making kissing balls and Christmas wreaths to be distributed throughout the area. He could be easily spotted wearing one of his many hats.

Paul touched many lives and enjoyed a nice long conversation with everyone he met. He enjoyed traveling, especially to the Maine coast to see the lighthouses. He also enjoyed visiting Tennessee and when he and Betsy took the “trip of a lifetime,” an Alaskan cruise.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife of 29 years, Daisy (Newton) VanArnum, who died in 1990; his brother, Arthur VanArnum; his sister, Doris M. Perry; a grandson, Brian Marcotte. Survivors include his wife of nearly 27 years, Betsy VanArnum; two daughters: Sherry (Stephen) Kloss of Greenfield Center, SueAnn (Robert) Chase of Greenfield Center; four step-daughters: DeeDee Hamza of Hampton, NH, Dawn (Andre) Marcotte of Corinth, Dorinda (Dave) Leroux of Argyle, Donita Farr of Corinth; 10 grandchildren: Douglas, Kaci, Shannon, Christin, Tessa, Jazmin, Katie, Michael, Brittany, Robert III; 10 great grandchildren: Lliam, Benjamin, Dougie, Andrew, Bryson, Theo, Monet, Korali, Alice, Gabriel; several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Paul’s family would like to thank Hospice of Saratoga for their wonderful care and support and to all of his wonderful friends that visited and helped when the family needed a hand.

NINTH CABOOSE DAY AND CAR SHOW AT KING'S STATION

**Saturday, August 11, 2018
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles and Imports Welcome

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

FREE PICTURE ON THE CABOOSE

Vendors, 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 518-580-0655,
Louise Okoniewski at the Town Hall at 518-893-7432 or 518-796-4066.*



SAVE THE DATE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUNDRAISING GALA AT BROOKHAVEN GOLF COURSE

Saturday, October 13, 2018

(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.*

Shop at Amazon Smile

Help support our historical society when you shop at Amazon. Amazon Smile, the charitable arm of Amazon, will make a donation to us on qualifying purchases when you sign into your Amazon account at smile.amazon.com. The first time you do this, tap Accounts & Lists then tap Your Amazon Smile. On the right-hand side of the screen tap the change charity button and type in: The Town of Greenfield Historical Society.

Once you have saved us as your charity, start shopping. When you checkout, Amazon will let you know if any of your purchases qualify for a donation. Amazon then sends the donation to us. You do nothing more. Remember to sign in at smile.amazon.com on all your Amazon shopping trips to support us. Thanks!



The desk and the slate in this picture were donated by Richard Powers who is the step son of Gert and Ernie Chamberlain. They lived in the house on 9N in front of the school. After Ernie died, Richard sold the house to the school. Steve and Gerry Boneske (left) approached him about buying the desk for the one-room schoolhouse and he was generous enough to donate it to us.

Second Mug Still Available

This year's mug features the IOOF Hall which is now The Town of Greenfield Historical Society's Chatfield Museum of Local History. The Baptist Church, which dates in the early 1900s, is seen before the IOOF Hall and the carriage house is not visible.

Cost again this year will be \$10. You can place your order 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. If you are in need of the mug to be mailed to you, please add shipping cost of \$8.



**Watch for the
third mug
(Daketown
School) to be
released this
summer.**

Our May Program: *Greg Veitch*, Chief of Police for Saratoga Springs, talking about his book – *All the Law in the World Won't Stop Them*. It's about crime, gambling and corruption in Saratoga Springs through 1921.



Greg Veitch, and his mother, enjoying strawberry shortcake after a great program.



We're back!

GREENFIELD FARMERS MARKET

Middle Grove Park (Middle Grove Road)

Every Friday, 4 to 7 p.m.

June 15 to September 7, 2018

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



*Sponsored by The Town of Greenfield Historical Society
Supported by the Town of Greenfield*



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.

Pendant

Larry Rutland donated this beautiful blue pendant to TOGHS for the annual raffle. Lead Market Manager Ron Deutsch accepted the donation at the first market of the year on Friday, June 15, 2018. Tickets will be on sale every week of the Farmers Market at the TOGHS booth – 1 for \$1 or 8 for \$5. Drawing will be at the annual Gala in October.



Photo credit: Joan Rowland



*North Creek Studio
Larry Rutland*



*Bare Bones Acres
Heidi Meidenbauer*



*Massage Therapist
Chelsea Carpenter*

2018 GREENFIELD FARMERS MARKET



happenance ... Acoustic Harmony



Historical Society – Mary Vetter & Joan Rowland



Homemade Jam – Lelah Cornell



Homemade Soaps and Lotions – Deb Carlsen



Emerichs Farm – Elizabeth Emerich with her granddaughter



Perogi, Pierogi, Pyroogie – Inez Houston



Tinney's Tavern



Dazzle Spa Crafts – Barbara Campbell



*Maple Valley Farm
Donald Monica*



*Saratoga Crackers & Oils
Theresa Alger*



*Summit Clothing Co.
Liam Rice*



*Squashville Farm
Himanee and Jim Gupla-Carlson*



*Gracefully Sewn Creations
Mackenzie Luse*



*Hoosick Ridge Farm – Tom,
Lydia & Rebekah Seagrove*



*Nanelyn Loves
Lyn Thomer*



*Santa's Attic and Kitchen
Barbara Devlin*



*West's Home Grown
Produce – Dale West*

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 STORE, ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP – HOUSEHOLD or LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP and follow the instructions.**

Please Print – Please indicate how many persons 10-years-old or older are in your household). _____ New Renewal

Name _____ I am interested in volunteering.

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.



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