



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, Mike Gymarthy, and Robert Roackle

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

Volume 20, Issue 10



501(c)(3)

email toghistsoc@gmail.com

www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

Thank you to our Greenfield Fire Departments, Emergency Medical Services, Military Personnel, and Front Line Volunteers. Always on call.

This newsletter is sponsored by Louise Okoniewski

CALENDAR

**September 15, 2020 – Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m.
at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.**

This will be a business meeting to review our upcoming budget and to elect officers. The business meeting will be followed by a roundtable of all in attendance to share our experiences over the last six months. We look forward to seeing you and hearing how you have dealt with our pandemic. *Everyone must wear a mask and maintain social distancing. The Community Center is sanitized and hand sanitizer will be available. No refreshments will be served, but you can bring your own snacks and drinks.*

**The Caboose Day and Car Show
has been cancelled.**

**Due to current state guidelines, we will be unable
to open the Chatfield Museum this year.**

**All 2020 Greenfield Seniors Trips
have been cancelled.**

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.

Dear Friends of the Greenfield Farmers Market

It is with deep regret that the Town of Greenfield Historical Society must announce that we are unable to hold the Greenfield Farmers Market this year due to COVID related concerns. The state has put many rules and regulations in place governing how Farmers Markets must be run and regrettably our little market can't comply with all of these new rules. We are saddened by this news but hope to make a comeback next year. We have been in operation for about a dozen years and have had exceptional vendors, outstanding live local music and food at the market each week. We hope that we will return next year.

Special thanks to the Town of Greenfield for allowing us to use Middle Grove Park and for being incredible partners for the past decade!

In the meantime, we will post information about where you can find our local vendors at other markets or let you know how to contact them directly to get the products you may be longing for. So stay tuned for more information on Facebook at *Greenfield Farmers Market*.

Do you want us to return? If so, it would be helpful to hear from all our friends! Drop a comment on Facebook or on our website at www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com and let us know:

- What did you like most/least about the market?
- How can we improve the market?
- Should we continue to have live music?
- Should we continue to offer hot dinners?
- What type of vendors should we have more of?
- What's missing from the market that you would like to see there?

Any other constructive ideas or criticisms welcome. We want to make sure we give you the experience you're looking for. So let us know.

Many thanks to all of our loyal customers that have supported the market every year. We greatly appreciate it.

Stay safe and happy,

Town of Greenfield Historical Society Trustees



Town of Greenfield Historical Society

June 22, 2020

To Our Friends:

I am making an appeal to our membership to help us cover a **deficit of approximately \$10,000** for the coming fiscal year. Some of this deficit is because the pandemic has meant that we will have to cancel most of our fundraising efforts and some is due to the storm damage the carriage house suffered in a storm last November.

This was a big storm and it brought a tree down on the roof. In fact, parts of our town were without power for a couple of days. We have already spent over \$1,500 to remove the tree and place a tarp over the roof. **Any amount that you can pitch in will make a difference.** If you can help, please mail a donation to: The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, PO Box 502, Greenfield Center, New York, 12833. You can also make a donation at our website: www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com. Use the store link to make your donation.

Our opinion is that these repairs will cost at least \$7,000. This building was not covered by insurance, but that issue has been addressed so that, in the future, we will be more prepared.

We were expecting to bring in money from the Farmers Market, Caboose Day, and the Annual Gala that would have covered many of our expenses; but due to the Corona virus, the board has decided it would be best not to hold these events. With state rules regarding serving food, hand washing stations, and gatherings; we have decided to cancel these money-making events to keep our community safe.

We are hoping we will be able to hold a couple of events later in the summer. We have developed a plan to keep track of state requirements and will update you on our plans with a summer newsletter. The board you elected for the 2019/2020 year has remained in place. Our Constitution requires that we hold a general meeting to have an election. The election will be held as soon as we are able. We are looking for candidates to serve on our board. We welcome new perspectives and new ideas. If you are interested in becoming a board member, please email us at the Gmail address provided at the bottom of this letter.

Your continued support is appreciated. We hope that you, your families, and your friends stay safe and healthy in this difficult time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mary E. Vetter'.

Mary E. Vetter
President

PO Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833

toghistsoc@gmail.com

www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

We are a 501(c)(3) organization

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

I was born in 1938 in a modest little house on what is now called Murray Road near where Ryan's Garage is now located. (The house was recently torn down.) Some of my earliest memories are walking over to one or another of the two general stores that were located on the north side of the intersection of Middle Grove and Murray Roads near the location of the present Stewart's Shop. The stores were situated side by side with an open area of a few hundred feet between them.



FRED & EVELYN'S MIDDLE GROVE N.Y. HOME

The store on the left was owned and operated by a German couple, Mr. and Mrs. Callenius. They and their three daughters lived in an apartment on the second floor over the store, a two story wood frame building painted gray with an assortment of out buildings clustered around it. A single set of gas pumps were situated on a concrete pedestal in the gravel parking lot between the store and the highway.

Callenius store specialized in hardware but also had a little of everything you might need from canned goods, bread, and meat, to a cooler filled with soda bottles submerged in cold water near the back of the store. When you mounted the single step up to the broad front porch and entered the store, the odor of its oiled wood floors was the first thing you noticed. Rows of shelving extended around the darkened interior with at least one row of shelving down the center. The cash register counter was in the back on the right. Next to it was a door leading out back into the hardware section with axes, chains, nails, and all sorts of things that might interest a young boy.

The store on the right was called McCauley's Store, and was owned by Frank McCauley who lived in a house on the corner diagonally across from the store (on the southwest corner of the intersection), however, the store was operated by Jesse Blowers, an elderly woman who lived in an apartment on the east side of the store. This store was also wood framed, painted a yellowish color with brown trim. It appeared to have a flat roof and had a



large two story porch that stretched across the front. It had a single gas pump on a concrete ledge to the left of the store.

Inside Jesse Blower's store, the interior was somewhat darkened with a row of counters on your left with the cash register to the rear of them, on the right a pot-bellied stove and more counters. I seem to remember shoes and rubber overshoes with metal buckles up the front, which were popular at the time, piled on the right hand counters. I can remember my father filling up his gas cans at the pump and buying us ice cream cones inside.

As a youngster, I took these stores for granted. I guess that I assumed they had always been there and always would be. I was wrong on both accounts. Now I am eighty-two years old and have a head full of memories including these from my childhood. In addition to the memories, I also have begun to wonder about why things were the way I remember them, and who were these people whom I so briefly interacted with as a child. This curiosity is part of the reason that I became town historian following my retirement as a school teacher.

As historian, this whole search into the past began in the autumn of 2019 in a most unlikely fashion when the Lake Desolation Fire Company decided to close their doors for good. The law required them to distribute their resources to another non-profit, and they chose the Town of Greenfield Historical Society as one of the beneficiaries. However, in doing so, they also included a request that the society create some kind of display at their museum in Middle Grove to remember the Lake Desolation fire fighters.

Being the town historian, I have always worked closely with the historical society, so I immediately offered to help with this project by researching local fire fighting. We decided that it would be appropriate to honor all the Town of Greenfield fire fighters in our exhibit and tell the story of how the various companies came into existence and why. This immediately led me to research the great Middle Grove fire; a fire that burned a good share of the hamlet on a windy day in April 1907.

In upcoming issues of this newsletter, I hope to share some of what I have learned.



Simpsonville, SC – JARVIS E. ROWLAND, SR., 101, passed away June 19, 2020. He was born February 21, 1919, to the late Joseph and Florence Rowland in Porter Corners, N.Y.

A graduate of Saratoga Springs High School, class of 1938, Jarvis went on to serve in the United States Army where he was

honorably discharged in 1945. Jarvis lived a full life in which he became involved in many organizations. In Porter Corners, he was a member of the United Methodist Church, the Porter Corners Fire Company #2, and the Greenfield Grange. For the past 72 years he was an active member of the Masons. In Greenfield Center, he was a Mason at St. Johns #22; in Saratoga Springs, he was a member of the Washington Commander #33 and Crystand Council #37; in Lehigh, Florida, he was a Mason at Lehigh Lodge #344; and the St. Johns Chapter #103 in South Carolina.

Along with his parents, Jarvis is predeceased by his wife, Esther Rowland, who passed in 1978; his wife, Nellie Coville-Rowland, who passed away in April of this year; Bessie Wadsley, a companion for many years; his wife, Jean McMurray; a sister, Gertrude Rowland; and four brothers: Warren, Winfield, Myron, and Ralph Rowland. He leaves behind two sons: James (his wife, Mary) and Jarvis, Jr. (his wife, Barbara); a sister, Ruth Hayes; a brother, Henry Rowland; his step daughter, Beverly Young; 6 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial Contributions can be made to the Masons, Franklin Lodge #22, PO Box 290, Ballston Spa, NY 12020.

Funeral services and burial with military honors will be private at the convenience of the family.

Arrangements are under the direction of the William J. Burke & Sons/Bussing & Cunniff Funeral Home, 628 North Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Online remembrances may be made at www.burkefuneralhome.com.

Town of Greenfield Volunteer Fire Departments

Ron Feulner and Louise Okoniewski have been working on collecting materials to celebrate the history of the Volunteer Fire Departments that have served our community with distinction. This is a huge undertaking and we want to create a display at the museum that will do justice to the men and women who have protected our town. So we need help.

We are looking for documents, photos, and other memorabilia that relates to the volunteer fire fighters/departments that serve or have served our town.

We need people to help manage the materials we receive and to help create the displays that will be installed at the museum. Our intent, at this point, is to create displays for the Lake Desolation Fire Company that recently disbanded and for each of the four fire houses that currently serve our town.

We are hoping to have a meeting to create a basic plan of action early in the new year. If you can help us out, it would be greatly appreciated. If you know anyone who might be interested in sharing materials and memories of our volunteer fire departments, or who may be interested in working on this project, please share this information with them.

You can express your interest by contacting me at mvetter@nycap.rr.com.

Mary Vetter, President TOGHS

Thanks to Dan Chertok and Ron Deutsch for mowing and trimming the Museum and the Daketown School so far this summer and to anyone else that has helped.



Editor's Note: This is a plaque that my Mom received from the PC Auxiliary for being a charter member.



TOGHS board meeting, May 30, 2020, wearing mask, on lawn of the museum, sitting 6 foot apart.

Dad, I Finally Fixed The Switch

By John R. Greenwood

This bandsaw is the first power tool my father taught me how to use. He used a lot of different tools to make a living, but when he was in his own garage/workshop, he enjoyed this *1945 Delta/Milwaukee 14 inch bandsaw. I was around 10 when he first let me flip the switch and go solo. My father was firm when teaching me the dos and don'ts of anything with death or injury potential. Whether he was giving me instructions on the handling of a 30/30 Winchester or a 1940s bandsaw, I knew when he meant business. The word 'firm' may not be strong enough to describe dad's safety speeches.

My first lessons on the Delta consisted of dad reaching over my shoulders and guiding my kid-hands with his heavily callused, blue-collar hands. Two fingers on his left hand held deep scars from a saw accident he'd had before I was born. He admitted that they were the result of carelessness. The apple didn't fall far because, in my early 20s, I earned the nickname, "Nine Fingers." We'll table that story for another episode. At first, I was only allowed to use the saw when dad was in the shop. My first build was probably a birdhouse. Once I proved I could be "fairly" responsible in the shop, I was shown where the key was, and as long as I asked, I could use it without supervision. I really enjoyed those quiet times building things. I loved using the bench vise and all the different hand tools.

My father owned every tool imaginable. He also built a wall of shelves filled with Gerber Baby Food jars. The ones with the metal half-twist lids. Each jar was neatly marked and filled with every size nut, bolt, or screw ever made. If you needed it, it was there — somewhere. It wasn't a fancy shop, but it was functional.

With a year of retirement under my belt, I now have more time to tackle home improvement projects that have been neglected for years. Having the ability to visit places like Home Depot or my local hardware store during the week is a DIYer's dream. Weekend visits are worse than Walmart on Black Friday. Now that Mrs. G. and I are at the tail end of our big projects, we have time to take on a few of those on the way, way, way back-burner. Today as I was rummaging around the cellar, I walked by dad's beloved bandsaw sitting neglected and cobweb-covered. I could hear my father preaching to me about taking care of my tools. It struck a chord. I decided to clean up the 75 year-old and take her for a spin.

I took my \$30 Sears handcart and pulled the 300 lb. cast iron saw up out of the cellar, one cement step at a time. I'm not sure how I did it alone, but something tells me I wasn't. The old girl looked great in the June sunlight, but she needed a little sprucing up. She hadn't been out



*New switch on the lower left.
Made in Milwaukee USA*

on a date in decades, so I grabbed a whiskbroom and some 3-In-One oil and got to work. The lead cord seemed okay, so I plugged her in. When I first flipped the switch, there was nothing but silence. I gave the belt a few turns by hand and wiggled the switch again. Suddenly like Rip Van Winkle (Goggle it kids) waking from his slumber, the electric motor began to moan and groan back to life. Another few hand-spins of the belt and the old Delta was singing once more. The sound of that old motor and spinning saw blade brought me back to dad's shop and the 1960s in an instant. The smell of pine sawdust, and that old musty shop filled the air. Best of all, I could hear my father breathe a sigh of relief. Maybe the kid finally gets it? It took a lifetime to grasp the impact of his lessons, but they all came flooding back like a tsunami. Cleaning up dad's old bandsaw had become a Father's Day gift I wasn't expecting.

Once I had the saw cleaned up, it was time to try it out. I found an old piece of trim and flipped on the switch — nothing. I wiggled it a little, and as it snapped back to life, I suddenly remembered something. It had always been bad. It was 1968, and I could hear my father as clear as day saying, "I have to fix that switch someday." Well, dad, it's June 2020, today's the day! I ran back into the cellar and found a new one. It took less than five minutes to take something off a 50-year to-do list. I'm sure I could detect a smile on the Delta/Milwaukee when I flipped her on this time. I'm guessing dad was smiling down too. It felt so good I even replaced the lead to the work light dad had mounted on the saw years ago.



Work Light with old GE Bulb

I did leave the vintage socket and 60W GE light bulb intact as a reminder of days gone by. Bringing that 1945 saw back to life gave me more than good memories; it gave me the inspiration to tackle more long-overdue projects. I think the first one will be to use an old wooden pattern I saved from dad's shop. It's the cutout of a large key. You add hooks to it to hang your various keys on. My parents had one hanging in the kitchen for as long as I can remember. Dad had all the hooks marked with those plastic Label-Maker labels you made one letter, one squeeze at a time. The hook I remember most clearly was the one labeled "Shop."



*Time to make a
new key rack*

Happy Father's Day! Love, John

**Founded in 1919, DELTA Power Equipment Corporation is still in existence and making bandsaws. The 2020 version of this saw is not all that different than the 1945 version I own. I was able to verify the year of manufacture by calling Delta Machinery's 800 number with the serial number. I was surprised to learn it was 10 years older than I thought.*

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 Town of Greenfield Historical Society is still looking for a few good bodies (and minds)!

Are you good at planning social events?

Are you good at working with people?

Do you have carpentry skills?

Are you good at organizing collections?

Do you have computer skills?

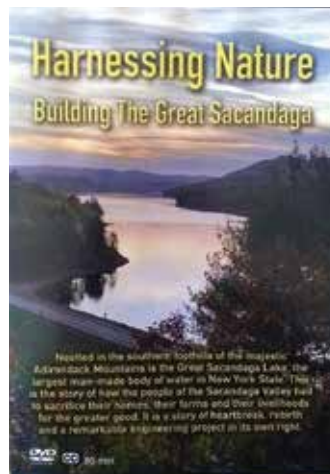
Do you like lawn and landscaping work?

We need your ideas and skills.

Please contact us at 518-322-5675 or email us at toghistsoc@gmail.com

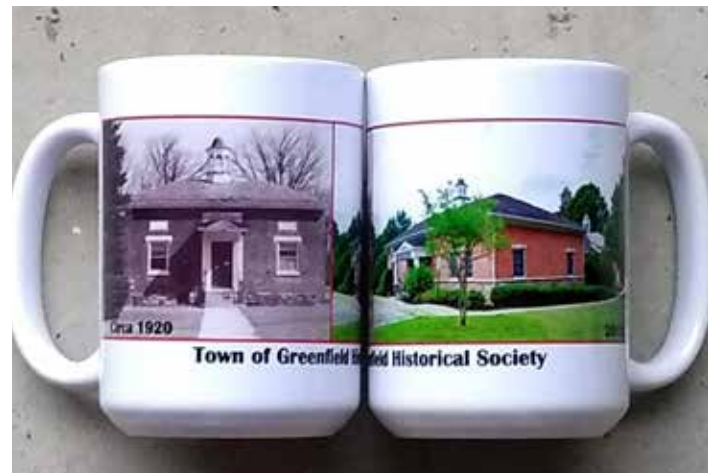
“Harnessing Nature: Building the Great Sacandaga”

This DVD is an 80-minute documentary telling the story of how the people of the Sacandaga Valley had to sacrifice their homes, their farms and their livelihoods for the greater good. It is a story of heartbreak, rebirth and a remarkable engineering project in its own right. This is the story of how the Great Sacandaga Lake, the largest man-made body of water in New York state, was made.



DVDs are available for \$20. They are at the Greenfield Town Hall, or by contacting the Historical Society at P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833. (Please add \$3 if you want one mailed.)

Greenfield Town Hall Mug



Cost again this year is \$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.

DONATIONS TOWARD DEFICIT

Thank you for all the donations that the Town of Greenfield Historical Society has received to date. We have currently heard from 51 members/families and have deposited \$8,113.36 toward the \$10,000 goal. We are very thankful for all the donations. We received everything from an envelope with a \$1 bill to 3 checks for \$1,000 each. With your help, we will make this goal.

JoAnn I. Rowland, Treasurer

Graduations are different this year, but schools did what they could to celebrate their accomplishments.
by Joan Rowland

Saratoga Springs School District – 502 Graduates
Normally, graduation is on Friday at 9 a.m. at SPAC.

On Thursday, June 25, 2020, all speeches were taped. The prestigious Yaddo Medals, given each year to one boy and one girl from the graduation class who have excelled in scholarship and school citizenship was awarded.

On Friday, June 26, Saratoga Springs High School celebrated the Class of 2020 with a Graduation Ceremony on the high school campus.

The class was divided alphabetically by last name. The family car came up in front of the high school circle. Graduates got out in their cap and gowns and preceded to a table to check in. They then walked through balloon arches to a stage area. By that time, their families had parked and gotten out of their car. The graduate went across the stage, received their diploma, and had their photo taken by a photographer, as well as their family. As the graduate left the stage, they turned their tassel to the graduated side.

The school has two YouTube videos on their schools website – one of the speeches and each student’s senior photo with their name listed. The second was a 6 hour video (run live so has many minutes of nothing happening) with the students going across the stage.

Starting in June, each senior had a yard sign delivered to their home, stating a graduate lives here.

Corinth Central School District – 79 Graduates

Normally, the school’s graduation is held in their gym on last Saturday of June. Corinth displayed banners with two senior photos on each side. They are displayed on lamp posts throughout the village and each senior received a yard sign stating a 2020 graduate lives here.

Recognition for their Graduation consisted of three distinct parts this year. A digital presentation including class speeches, musical performances, school official’s speeches, and recognition of graduates were published online through the district’s YouTube channel.

Friday, June 26: The ceremony included procession, walking the stage, receiving diplomas and awards, and the certification of diplomas took place in two groups. Each student was allowed two guests, plus a guest car parked in the football field end zone. They listened and watched the ceremony but couldn’t get out of their car.

A parade of graduates through the village consisted of all seniors, each in a single vehicle with their family.
Varsity Awards Night – The Annual Varsity and Booster Club Awards Dinner was celebrated virtually on June 3.

Cemetery Information

Like so many other non-profits, Greenfield Cemetery is experiencing some hardships this summer. Steve Rowland is in charge of the cemetery and can use some help in maintaining the grounds. The person mowing wanted \$8,000 to mow this year. The normal pay was around \$2,000 for the season.

Steve’s cell number is 518-368-7838. If you can offer your services at any point over the summer, I’m sure he would be very happy to put you to work.

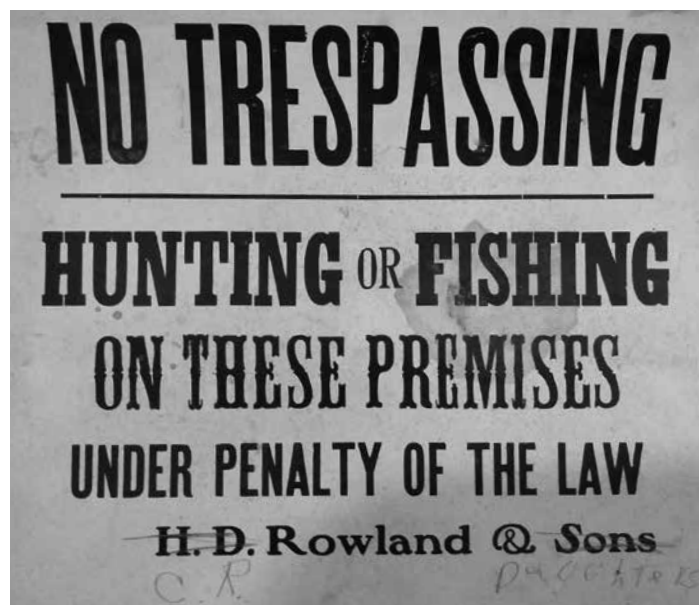
The pandemic has had an impact on all of us but together we can keep Greenfield strong and beautiful. Hope everyone is well and safe.

Mary Vetter

The Town of Greenfield Superstars of the Week are:

**BRIAN GIBBINS, CASEY CORNELL,
TOM BELISARIO, TYLER DAVIS, EMER DAVIS**

This group of awesome individuals took it upon themselves to clean up one of our oldest cemeteries! They mowed, weed whacked, picked up brush and trash, and gave Greenfield Cemetery a lot of TLC! In our community, we not only care for our current residents but honor the ones no longer with us! The Town of Greenfield appreciates all of you. THANK YOU! Kindness matters!



This sign was found in Clinton Rowland’s house on Ormsbee Road when it was being cleaned out this spring. The printed name was his father H. D. Rowland. Clinton had written with pencil “C. R. and daughters” on the bottom of the sign. Clinton had two daughters (Millicent and Shirley), no sons.

Nothing like re-purposing a printed sign.

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 for your household, 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,” “Membership” then click either “Annual Membership – Household” or “Lifetime Membership.”

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.



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