



## Historical Society Newsletter

**OFFICERS:** President, Joan E Rowland; Vice President, Robert Roeckle;  
Secretary, Patti Veitch; Treasurer, JoAnn Rowland

**TRUSTEES:** Ron Deutsch, Ron Feulner, John Greenwood, Patty Schwartzbeck,  
Dan Smith, Mary Vetter, and Karl Zeh

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

Volume 23, Issue 10



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email [toghistoc@gmail.com](mailto:toghistoc@gmail.com)  
[www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com)

### In memory of Roy Rogner – October 2, 1931 to July 21, 2021

*Dedicated by his wife, Alice Rogner*

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Fridays, June 23 to September 15 – Greenfield and Middle Grove Farmers Market** – 4 to 7 p.m. at the Middle Grove United Methodist Church parking lot, 429 Middle Grove Road. TOGHS will have a community event booth at the Farmers Market from June 30 to September 1. Stop in to see what's happening in town. Answer the survey question, purchase a book to read, or just hang out at the booth to see your neighbors.

**Fridays, July 7 to August 25 – Chatfield Museum of Local History** – 4 to 6 p.m., 440 Middle Grove Road, Middle Grove. The museum will be open 8 weeks.

**Saturday, July 22 – Music in the Park** – 3 to 7 p.m., at the Middle Grove Town Park, 428 Middle Grove Road, with bands. *(Please note date change.)*

**Tuesday-Sunday, July 18-23 – Saratoga County Fair** 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Ballston Spa Fairgrounds, Townley Building. Visit our display on Trains and info booth.

**Saturday, August 12 – Caboose Day and Car Show** 10 to 3 p.m., Kings Station, corner of Rt. 9N and Porter Road, Porter Corners. Tour station and caboose, vendors, bake sale, souvenir t-shirts, hot dogs, hamburgers, french fries, soda, water for sale. The train will drop off and pick up 2 times. A trolley will bring you to King's Station and back to train.

**Tuesday, September 19 – Covered Dish Dinner** before the meeting, Community Center in Greenfield Center. Dinner starts at 6 p.m. Bring a dish to pass and your own place setting. Meeting starts at 7 p.m. *Program to be announced.*

*Everyone is welcome, admission is free, and you don't have to be a member to attend.*

**Our membership year begins June 1 and ends May 31, dues are paid annually. (\$10 per household or \$100 for Lifetime Membership)**

#### Joan's Jabbering – Summer 2023

*by Joan E Rowland, President*

Can you see the smoke from Canada's fires? Here in Porter Corners, we have had a few days where the air quality was so bad, they recommended we stay in the house. We live halfway up the mountain and could not see our own fields, forget about seeing to VT. We are now in round two of the smoke again from Canada. When I flew to a Quilt Trip starting in Kansas City, Missouri we were surprised that the top side of the clouds were tainted with tan/yellowed smoke. We mostly saw this before our layover in Detroit but did run across bad air again in Iowa/Nebraska as well. So, it is not just us here in the Northeast.

Our meeting in May was at the train station at Saratoga Corinth & Hudson Railway in Corinth, NY. After the Board of Directors and our 2023-24 budget were approved, Hal joined us with updates to the train, cars, and exciting new happenings that will soon be coming about. He took us on a car to car tour showing us his caboose, pullman with seating and bedrooms, dining car, and new engine being renovated.

We talked to him until it was dark. Some shopped in his souvenir shop. Thanks Hal for your hospitality.

We have had a very busy Summer already. We had the Open House for Daketown #8 One Room School House. It was very well attended, 79 total. See school article for more details and photos.

Our museum is getting repainted on the outside. Mike Gymarthy is heading this up, working with the painter. To date, the building is all back to white paint. Next will be the green shutters. The roof will also need some TLC due to some slate coming off. That should happen later this summer. Thank you, Mike, for your work on this project and working with the Greenfield Highway Department to have a second driveway put in at the King's Station Park. This will help with parking visitors and Car Show cars for Caboose Day.

I would like to thank Mike Gymarthy for his many years on our board. He has asked to step down, but will be completing the projects he had on his plate for us. I would like to welcome Karl Zeh to the board.

Hope to see you this summer at Greenfield Farmers Market, Museum open hours, Music in the Park, and Caboose Day.

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

*Summer 2023 — by Ron Feulner*

Last month, I wrote about the Callenius family who owned the general store in Middle Grove where the Stewart's shop is now located. One of our best accounts describing family life and store ownership appeared in Patricia A. Older's 1995 publication, *"Small Town, Grand Thoughts,"* which consists of a series of interviews of persons who represent a cross-section of the local population. One of the persons that Patricia interviewed was Ruth Callenius Smith, daughter of the Calleniuses, who ran the general store in Middle Grove. In Ruth's own words,

*"My parents came to this country from Germany. They came early enough so they didn't have much chance for what we consider an education or schooling. My father came when he was fourteen years old, his mother sent him to America. She had sent his two brothers. She must have been a strong person to send her sons knowing she'd never see them again. And she didn't. We moved here (Middle Grove) in 1920, I was ten and Helen was four. We came from New York City, Staten Island. I was the kind of kid who had their nose in a book all the time. We had what was later to become Roeckle's Store, my father bought that and we lived over the store.'*

*"I went to high school in Ballston, on the trolley, the 'P, P, and J'—push, pull, and jerk. This was not only a trolley car for people, it was divided in half so those who smoked or chewed [tobacco] went in the part that brought the freight up. And the farmers here sent their milk to Bishoff's Plant in Ballston where they made chocolate. Every birthday I got a chocolate bar. The trolley ran four times a day and if you were somebody important they'd run a special trip for you. Mother missed the trolley one time with us, I don't know what she was doing in Ballston, maybe shopping, and they ran the trolley up for her. The same year the trolley stopped they put in the lines [electricity for residential use], in '29 I think. The first night we put on every light including the attic. The first thing practically every woman got was an [electric] iron, otherwise you've got to heat it on the back of the stove, you know you kept irons there.'*

*"When we got the store and we sold, we use to say, (we sold) everything from a cambric needle to a clap of thunder. We [children] had to help in the store. We had a pipe that ran from the downstairs cistern, in the cellar, to upstairs in the apartment, and if you wanted someone to help you, or if you had more than you could cope with, well you knocked on the pipe, and then in a minute or two, whoever was free at the time would come and help you.'*

*"Of course, in those days, sugar was weighed off in a package and you were subject every now and again to an inspector dropping in unexpectedly and saying, 'I'd like to see how you've weighed off the sugar.' And since it was weighed off in five pounds, it was to make sure you weren't cheating your customers. Just as they check scales and things now. I can remember them doing it back when Dad had the store up here. I had just weighed off a lot of sugar in five pound packages and he walked in, you just wonder,*

*you know, it was part of my job at the store, but I passed with flying colors.'*

*"You had things like butter that you took in from farmers around here and trade for some groceries they couldn't raise on their farms, like coffee or sugar. And sometimes the butter was rather strong, and sometimes it was very good, and people got to know and they wanted a certain person's butter and not someone else's. We also had all kinds of medications for humans and for beasts. There was one woman who came into the store. She wanted, she intended to say, boric acid, for her husband's eyes, to bathe in. She asked for something else, another kind of acid, and luckily my father asked her what she was going to do with it and she told him she was going to bathe her husband's eyes. She would have blinded him if she had used the acid she asked for. So many medicines had an alcohol base, so some of these were used just for the alcohol. It might be a woman, you know, and she didn't want anyone to know that she drank, they would buy this stuff instead and it would serve the same purpose.'*

*"We also had people charge things, today they don't do it. They'd run a bill, you might get it and you might not get it. Of course, it was very difficult because of the Depression that started with the Crash of '29. Here in upstate New York we began to feel the effects in '30, '31. Some of the people had no work, and some of them were really desperate cases, there wasn't any help for those people you see, nothing for them to fall back on [Unemployment insurance didn't begin until 1935.]. Whatever people could turn their hand to, they would be willing to work.'*

*"We had a very pleasing thing happen several years ago. Anna Roeckle [the Roeckles had purchased the store from the Calleniuses] said there is someone looking for our family. She said they stopped at the store, well to make a long story short, they owed some money in the store [when my father and mother ran it] and we had been gone, I don't know how many years out of the store, and he didn't know if any of the family was left around here. He came and paid his bill after all this time. He was an honorable man."*

### Want Ad: Help Needed

We will be needing help with the **museum open hours for each of the 8 weeks (Friday's July through August) 4-6 p.m.** We will need 2 volunteers. Some volunteers will be answering questions on both floors, others just need to greet guest and remind them to sign the guest book. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Joan Rowland at [jrowland25@verizon.net](mailto:jrowland25@verizon.net).

**Music in the Park** (July 22) need people to come to Middle Grove Park by 3 p.m. to tap your toe and enjoy free music. Donations are always welcome. 50/50 will be available. Food will be available for purchase from Middle Grove Church.

**Caboose Day** (August 12) will need bakers to bake for the bake sale, and a few people to sit and sell 50/50 tickets, bake goods, new souvenir t-shirts, give breaks. Event is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Let Joan Rowland know if you are available to help at [jrowland25@verizon.net](mailto:jrowland25@verizon.net).

# TOGHS Program May 2023 SC&H Railway

*Hal Raven owner and train conductor talks about the scenic train line now operating between the Corinth Railway Station and LaMothe Landing in Greenfield Center. He discussed the railway's involvement and train schedule for our Aug. 12 Caboose Day and told us about the past history of the train and the rail line itself, as well as exciting news about the railway's future plans and how it impacts our community.*



**Our Newest LIFETIME MEMBERS**  
**DIANE MATUSZEWSKI**  
**HAROLD AND ANNETTE JONES**

*Refreshment volunteers for May were Joan Rowland and Robert Roeckle. They served cookies and bottled water at the train station. For our September meeting there will be a Covered Dish Dinner at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass and your own place setting.*



**PORTER CORNERS – Evamae A. Jones, 83, passed away on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, after a long battle with a rare blood cancer. Evamae was well known and loved throughout the community. Any one that had the pleasure of knowing Evamae, knew how kind and incredible she was and how devastating it is to lose her.**

She worked for the Saratoga Springs City School District for 25 years in the kitchen at Greenfield Elementary. Some of her passions included searching for and collecting four leaf clovers, collecting and giving out new quarters to everyone she knew, and playing bingo with her friends. She loved to crochet and made hundreds of baby blankets. She made sure anyone who was expecting got a blanket made with love.

Evamae was predeceased by the love of her life and husband of 41 years, John Jones, Sr., parents Elliot and Enid Older, and her brothers Neil Older (Natalie) and Elliot Older (Doris). She is survived by her children Cynthia Cornell (Kevin), John Jones, Jr., Samuel Jones (Virginia), and Jeanette Zigo (Mike), grandchildren Amy Kormanek (Chad), Kevin Cornell, Jr. (Melanie), Jennifer Acker (Lee), Cassandra Ogden (Travis), Donna Marra (Ryan), Timothy King (Amber), Matthew King (Alyssa), and Kristin King (April), siblings Floyd Older (Bonnie) and Nancy Burke (Jim), 16 great-grandchildren who she adored, several nieces and nephews, and her significant other of 17 years, William Richmond.

A grave-side service was held 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 10 at Middle Grove Cemetery, Middle Grove Road, Middle Grove. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in memory of Evamae may be made to Community Hospice of Saratoga, 179 Lawrence Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

The family would like to thank C. R. Wood Cancer Center of Glens Falls, Community Hospice of Saratoga, and all the doctors and nurses who provided care and helped Evamae throughout her difficult battle.

## BOOKS FOR SALE



We have three books for sale: *Saratoga County Stories* (\$18), *More Saratoga County Stories* (\$20), and *Follow My Moccasin's Tracks* by Ira Gray (\$15.95).

*Pick your copy up at the next meeting or order from the Town of Greenfield Historical Society, PO Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833, with an additional \$3.50 postage and handling.*



# DAKETOWN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE



*Joan Rowland left, JoAnn Rowland right*

*Ron Feulner*



*John Greenwood*



*The Water Cooler*



## Daketown No. 8 One Room School House – Open House June 10, 2023



*Linda (Smith) Vrooman attended the school just before it closed in the 1950s.*

Linda Smith Vrooman came early to be by herself in the school and remember her second and third grade years. We asked her questions like, where did you sit. She remembered it was second row, first seat. She remembered playing Hangman on the black boards on rainy days, playing baseball across the road and ice skating in the winter on the pond down the road. Her dad delivered the wood every day for the potbelly stove (one larger than

the current one in the school). She got to ride to school when he made the deliveries of wood and daily water. The rest of the year she walked from the corner of Sandhill Road and North Creek Road. While she was there, she remembered where everyone in her class sat and inquired about their whereabouts since she now lives in PA.

As she was talking to some people in the school, Robert Roeckle was looking through the pile of papers on the teacher's desk. He asked, "Linda, is this your report card from second grade?" Yes, it was. Such an exciting find.

We had visitors who live down the road and only have been able to peek in the windows. Some of our visitors were here visiting friends but were from NH, VT, and MA. While others have been members of the historical society for years and never visited the school. Most were impressed with the blackboards and hand writing samples at the top. They all wished they could write that neatly. Some tried out the desk and while they may have fit in them years ago, they had a little bit of a hard time squeezing in now. After all, they are built for kids up to 8th grade. The teens attending were impressed with the water jug with ladle where they would have shared water from that one ladle. Many young attendees tried their hand with chalk on the blackboards. Some youth noticed that states are missing from the map on the wall.

Thanks for coming. We hope to make this an annual event so more Greenfield residents can come and see the amazing things we have to offer.



### Town of Greenfield Historical Society

# ***Music in the Park***

**Saturday, July 22, 2023 – 3 to 7 p.m.**

**Middle Grove Town Park**

**428 Middle Grove Road, Middle Grove, NY**

***Elizabeth Conant  
New American Cuisine***

***Bonnie Greco  
Out of Reach***

***Saratoga Springs High School Fiddle Club***

**Bring along your family, friends, and folding chairs and enjoy the talented musicians who have donated their time to benefit our Historical Society.**

**This is a FREE event.**

***Donations are greatly appreciated as they help us  
"Keep Greenfield's History Alive for Our Future Generations!"***

**Food and drink will be available for purchase, provided by the Middle Grove United Methodist Church.**

***Questions? Call Patti @518-428-9343***



## THE GRILL MASTER

by John R. Greenwood

If you were lucky enough to make it to Caboose Day 2022, you likely visited the Town of Greenfield Historical Society's concession tent for something to eat or drink. You would have enjoyed more than just a hotdog or cheeseburger and fries. In addition to the food, there was free entertainment. Every Caboose Day, the historical society's "perpetual grill instructor" Robert Roeckle, performs his show with the vim and vigor of an Emeril "Bam" Lagasse or Rachel Ray. With a flailing spatula and sharp directives, Robert orchestrates what can only be described as an exhausting feat of magic. You couldn't help but be mesmerized by his ability to keep things flowing and do it all without losing his composure.

I'm kidding, of course.

When the lines lengthened, and the orders log jammed into a short order cook's nightmare, Robert would release a verbal puff of steam; his crew would snap to attention, follow his pointed directions, and somehow the ship would right itself and the line would continue to move forward. Every so often, comedian Ron Deutsch would hurl an instigative grenade from the tent next door, being careful to stay just out of harm's way. I wanted to relieve Robert so he could take a break and catch his breath, but Ron assured me that Robert was in his happy place. I knew then that I needed to find a way to let Robert know his hard work and dedication to our organization were noticed and appreciated. I had taken a photo of Robert in full grilling

mode that day. I sent it to my friend, artist Chris Leske. I asked Chris if he could replicate the image in his style. A few weeks later, he showed me the watercolor he had painted. It was the perfect interpretation of the captured moment. The title of "The Grill Master" was given.

We presented the painting to Robert at the next Board Meeting, hoping it would convey our thanks for his years of commitment to the historical society and the Town of Greenfield. As the town moves forward, we can only hope for more people like Robert to join in.

Robert, from the entire Town of Greenfield Historical Society, the Board Members, and the Town of Greenfield, we thank you.



## 13TH ANNUAL CABOOSE DAY AND CAR SHOW AT KING'S STATION

Saturday, August 12, 2023 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



*Tour King's Station and Caboose*  
 Corner of Route 9N and Porter Road, Porter Corners  
 Car Show, Trucks, Motorcycles and Imports

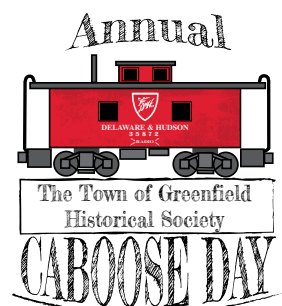
Vendors, bake sale, souvenir t-shirts, hot dogs, hamburgers, french fries, soda and water to benefit Town of Greenfield Historical Society

*Ride train from Saratoga Corinth & Hudson Railway*  
 9 Railroad Place, Corinth to Kings Station.

The train will drop off and pick up 2 times. A trolley will bring you to King's Station and back to train. Special train from Station to LaMothe Landing and back, book your ride now at [CorinthTrain.com](http://CorinthTrain.com).

Car Show Registration is \$10 – Trophies for Top 15. Awards given out at 2:30 p.m.

*Rain or Shine. For information, call*  
 Tom Clute at 518-580-0655 or Louise Okoniewski at 518-587-6060.





We are a local summer market place that promotes local products and home grown business – we are looking for vendors in the following areas: local meat products, farm raised meats and jerky; herbs and spices; flowers and plants; local brewery, winery, distillery; pet products; up to two food vendors or food trucks; musicians to supply music (small stipend to cover your cost). Our annual fee for vendors is low; \$60 for the season these funds are used to promote the market and your local business – would love to have you join us.

## WEB HELP WANTED

We are looking to form a small group of people who would like to look at our website and give it a fresh look. Some Web experience would be welcome.

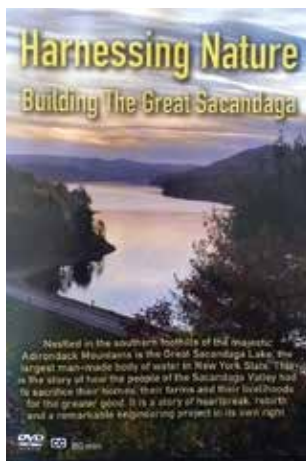
Take a look at our website at [greenfieldhistoricalsociety.com](http://greenfieldhistoricalsociety.com)

Please contact us using our email address at [toghistsoc@gmail.com](mailto:toghistsoc@gmail.com)

Mary Vetter will be chairing this group. Thanks in advance for your help.

## “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 heart-break, 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 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.)



Joe Doherty on bike, Earl Jones yawning on the porch of Doherty's Store in Porter Corners, at the four corners: Porter Road, North Creek Road, Allen Road and North Greenfield Road – date unknown



Joyce (Capasso) Woodard and neighbor Margie Campbell – Dec. 1971



Dan Chertok and granddaughter Eloise, 100 days old – April 5, 2023  
John Greenwood talks about Brookside Dairy at the Saratoga County History Center Tea Talks  
Left: Cathy Hall and Karen (Davis) Gibbins, April 18, 2023



Roger Ovitt & Alice Rogner dancing on a Greenfield Seniors Trip to the Poconos, Silver Birches in Hawley, Pa – April 20, 2023



## 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](http://www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com).** Email [toghistsoc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:JJones18215@roadrunner.com).**



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