



Historical Society Newsletter

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

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This newsletter is sponsored by Louise Okoniewski.

SEPTEMBER NOTES 2020

by Mary Vetter

I struggled for a long time with what topic I should write about. Normally, I would catch us up on what has been happening in the society but our little pandemic has squashed most of our activities. So, I turned to what I have been doing. My most frequent activity outside of physical therapy and doctors' appointments has been cooking.

Like so many other people I sought to fill my days with any kind of activity. What I could do was a little limited to begin with because I was still recovering from a knee replacement. One of the things I could do was cook and bake. As I look back on what I chose to make I see a mixture of favorite recipes from my past and new favorites that I've found on the Internet.

The old favorites came first. I made pot roast the way my mom did. I seared the meat and placed it in a cast iron Dutch oven on the back burner on the stove and added onion, garlic, beef bullion and water. The heavy cover went on and the heat went down to low. It was March. It was cold and sort of dreary outside but all afternoon the aromatic smell of the pot roast filled the house. At dinner time I whipped up some mashed potatoes and heated up some peas. Maybe this doesn't sound too traditional but it was the way our family had pot roast. The meat fell apart as I took it out of the pot. I put the gravy skills my mom taught me to work and created a thick, rich, dark brown gravy. As we sat down to eat, we let the news of Covid illness, social unrest and crazy politics fade away. This comfort meal was just the balm we needed to restore our souls. I've made this meal many times and all of the good friends and family that we've shared it with surrounded us as we dined.

I followed that dinner up with the mac & cheese recipe given to me by my good friend Martha many years ago. Then came the heavy chicken stew that I found on the Internet a couple years ago. Thick soups and chowders began to stock up in the freezer. Strawberries started to show up in the store and so I made really thick decadent heavy cream biscuits. I found this recipe on the Internet and yes, it's become a favorite. I was generous with the sliced

strawberries I had marinated in sugar and topped it with homemade whipped cream. Brownies are so easy to make and you can freeze them! By this time, we were nearing the end of April and the heavy food I'd been making was starting to show on the scale. As the warm weather approached it was time to change up the menu.

I started searing lean meats on the stove and adding a little broth, mushrooms and onions. Then I covered the pan and put it in the oven on high heat for 15 to 20 minutes. I would pair this with a fresh garden salad and a balsamic vinaigrette. Sometimes I slipped into the bad ways and instead of a salad, we would have fritters or potato pancakes with sour cream and butter. Mostly I stuck to healthy choices and some of the pounds came off. Desserts were replaced with fresh fruit salad. At the end of June, the garden started to produce and we were able to eat really fresh salads. The cherry tomatoes started coming out in July along with cucumbers and peas and green beans. I've made three bean salads and the cucumbers have been turned into my favorite chilled herbed cucumber soup. Ina Garten has a delicious cold beet and cucumber borscht recipe that has become a summer staple. Lately though I've been trying to ignore a yen for sweets but I gave in the other night and made grandma's bread pudding. Heavy sweet and laden with meringue it just hit the spot. I guess those Covid pounds are just going to come back. The good news is the Y is opening. I'll be putting that membership to good use.

As I've been writing this a few things have come to mind. First, I hope to see you in September. The meeting room is sanitized regularly and there will be hand sanitizer available for everyone to use. You must wear a mask and we will socially distance. You are free to bring your own snacks and refreshments as we can't supply them by state law. We have a busy business meeting scheduled as we have to catch up on elections and budget issues that our constitution requires. Next, we are going to have a little round table where people can share their experiences over the last few months. Let us know how you filled your time during the Covid shut down and if you have any good recipes bring them along.

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.*

October 20, 2020 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.

November 17, 2020 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.

DUES ARE DUE STARTING JUNE 1

Our membership year begins **June 1 and ends May 31**; dues are paid annually. They can be paid at any meeting; mailed to The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833; or you can pay online at www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com. 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.

Town of Greenfield's Superstar of the Week is DOROTHY POTTER ROWLAND!

Dorothy has lived in Greenfield Center her entire life and dedicated so much time and energy to her community. She has been a Greenfield Grange member for over 75 years, caretaker at the Daketown School, Meals On Wheels delivery driver, Greenfield Historical Society member, and so much more. The Town of Greenfield thanks you for being such a valuable member of our community!

Dorothy has a birthday coming up – 94 years young on August 28! Let's show her how much we appreciate her by sending her a Happy Birthday and Thank You. You can send your cards to Dorothy Rowland, 498 North Creek Road, Greenfield Center, NY 12833. Let's see if we can send 94 cards. STRONGER TOGETHER GREENFIELD!!!!



HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

Last month, I began a series about the history of stores once located at the intersection where the Stewart's Shop is now located in Middle Grove. This month I will continue in that series. I began by researching the 1907 Middle Grove fire. I had always known that the fire started in a store, which I incorrectly assumed was the one where the Stewart's Shop is now located. However, as I began to read the many articles in various local newspapers of the time describing the fire, I discovered that it started in a rented tenement of a former store owned by a man named Moses Rowell.

Then, as I investigated the Rowell Store, I began to realize that it was not housed in the building that I thought that it was. Several different stores had occupied that general location in the past. This opened up a whole new area for investigation which led me back to the early days of Middle Grove when it was known as Jamesville.

The hamlet that we now know as Middle Grove began when a single settler came to build a grist mill and saw mill on the banks of the Kayaderosseras Creek near what is today known as the lower bridge in Middle Grove. This settler, Gersham Morehouse, was a millwright by trade and in the year 1786 was looking for an ideal spot to build a dam across the creek and use the water to power his mills. As soon as he was established, others came and a small cluster of houses began to appear around his mill and the hamlet became known as Morehouse Mills.

Later, in 1836, John W. James, a banker, had another dam built across the Kayaderosseras Creek near what is now known as the upper bridge (located on Lake Desolation Road) to power a paper mill. He also built a number of mill houses in a cluster around his mill for his employees. This community took James' name and was called Jamesville.

As both of these (the lower community near the Morehouse grist mill and the James' paper mill cluster of houses) began to grow, the two communities merged in the vicinity of what is now the intersection of Middle Grove and Murray Roads, which is the location where James chose to build a bank.

This bank helped to fund Oscar Granger's glass factory above Lake Desolation and a few years later the plank road built to connect Granger's glass factory with Porter Corners and another plank road now known as NYS Route 9N. These investments may have over extended the little bank, and in 1851 the James Bank failed and Mr. James and his family were forced to leave town.

However, by then the two communities (lower and upper bridges) had combined into one and were being collectively called Jamesville, even though the namesake of the village was now in disgrace, his name stuck, at least for a while.

Some years later, as the Jamesville community continued to grow, the residents decided that they would like a post office of their own. They applied to the U.S. Postal Service and were denied because a Jamesville Post Office already existed in another section of NY. This was enough incentive for the people of Jamesville to rename their community. Because there was a picnic area in a grove of trees near the center of the community, they chose the name Middle Grove and were then granted a post office under that name.

Pandemic 2020

by Joan Rowland – May 11, 2020

I had asked my 4-H club members and leaders to answer a few questions about the pandemic and how it has affected their lives. Here is a shortened version from Heidi Meindenbauer, mother of 6 – school teacher – 4-H leader, 12 years.

How does school happen now (we do have people in various schools)?

As a HS Math teacher, I have to create videos for each class and each topic. Notes and blank homework need to be posted on Google Classroom and another resource I use MyOpenMath. Students are not given grades, but a “turned in” or “not turned in” for each assignment. If a student has a question they text me via a phone app called “Remind” which allows them to keep both their phone number and my phone number private, yet we are able to communicate. If I can’t explain a question via text/email, I schedule a Google or Zoom meeting. During those meetings I can share my screen and students can view what I am writing.

Full General Faculty meetings are now once per week (where they were once every 4 weeks). I meet Mondays at 2 p.m. with 210 other people learning what we have and don’t have to do for the week. A lot of the meetings are “I don’t have an answer to that question.” Or “We are waiting for Governor Cuomo to make a decision.”

Math Department meetings are also now once per week on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. (where they were once every 4 weeks). As a department, we have been told to assign only 3 hours of Math work per week. That includes watching lesson videos/taking notes time AND completing homework. Students have to upload a picture of their homework to Google Classroom and I’m supposed to look at each turned in assignment to make sure students aren’t cheating/copying/just writing down random answers.

I also Google Meet with a small group (approx. 25 people) made up of Art teachers, Science teachers, and Math teachers on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 to check in with my 9/10th grade principal and dean. This is supposed to be an arena to ask questions that might not be appropriate in the general faculty meetings. We’ve never had these meetings before quarantine.

On a much smaller level, I work on a Pre-Calculus team, teaching University in the High School. As a college course, our team meets weekly Monday mornings to plan assignments and create assessments that were once given on paper in class and now have to be online. College courses were NOT allowed to stop grading students NOR stop moving forward with curriculum. Students have until May 18 to make a decision regarding going from a course grade to pass/fail. We as a team have to slow down assignments during the AP exam two week period. Typically, we have assigned only 3 days of material per week.

I also work collaboratively with an Algebra 1 and separate Algebra 2 teams. In both of those courses, we get through 3 days of material per week during this quarantine time. If we were in school, we would teach 4 to 5 days

per week. Much slower pace. Many of my students in the three sections that I have are making an effort to complete homework and do the assignments. I have less than 10 that are unable to complete any work due to anxiety, stress, overwhelmed, or other health issues.

The last course I work collaboratively on is Stretch Algebra 2. My partner and I are rewriting our last two units to make it more streamlined (only 2 pages of notes and 2 pages for homework). She writes the material and I complete an answer key, make pdf scans of the answer keys, smartboards and videos. I do all this in trade of making videos in Pre-Calc as this is my first year teaching the Pre-Calc course, I believe it is better for my students to learn from someone who has taught the material.

Not all of my colleagues have 4 preps like I do. I am fortunate to work with great teams of people who share the load of curriculum writing, answer keys, videos, etc.

I’ve learned how to:

1. Video: I’ve used Screencast-o-matic, and Smartnotebook recorder and learned that I have to use headphones with a microphone or the sound is intermittent. I have learned how to upload videos to YouTube, become verified for videos greater than 15 minutes on YouTube (it isn’t always easy to get an entire lesson done in less than 15 minutes), copy and paste video links to the various locations for students to access them.
2. Connect with students via Zoom, Google Meet, email, and text.
3. Keep moving forward in spite of distant learning.

Do your parents work? How do they work now?

My mother is retired and collects social security. She is 80 and appears to be invincible. For the first five weeks of quarantine, she didn’t even modify her behavior, going shopping at Walmart, Price Chopper, or any other store she had a whim to attend. My brother and I have worked hard to keep my mother and her sister out of trouble. I believe these last three weeks they have either modified their behavior or learned not to tell the truth about their adventures.

My mother and aunt do go to Price Chopper and take the day old bakery items every Friday morning to the food pantry in down town Albany. That hasn’t changed.

What do you do for fun now?

As a family, we have played more card games, had movie nights, completed puzzles, read books, and viewed pictures when the kids were little.

What do you miss? List three things.

1. I miss the innocence of being able to be in a gathering of people (even grocery shopping) and not be worried about contagion/contamination.
2. I miss working directly with students where they can see my face/expression/body language and I can observe their’s to determine if they are understanding material or not. Not having the extra help time after school to get to know students better and connecting with them (which is a HUGE part of teaching).
3. Going out in public without a mask.

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How often do you leave your house and when you do, where do you go?

Every Friday, I take my husband to Albany Medical Center (AMC) for a process similar to dialysis. He used to get volunteers to bring him home, however, now in quarantine, I've been his main driver. While he is at AMC, I drop off eggs to colleagues and then go visit my mother and aunt. That has been nice seeing them weekly and getting caught up or helping them with whatever needs doing. While teaching at school, I haven't always made that time.

Every other week, I go grocery shopping at BJ's, Price Chopper or Hannaford, and Tractor Supply. I try to stock up on two weeks worth of food staples like breakfast cereal, cheese, crackers/snacks, etc. We have purchased half a pig and half a cow from a 4-H farmer so meat has not been any different. I only get the supplemental things.

Every 3 weeks or so, I go to Agway for horse grain, cracked corn, and chicken feed for the critters.

I try to limit my outings to only 1 day per week beyond the Friday's AMC trip. The only exceptions to this is if my husband creates a project and needs an item from Home Depot or Lowes. It has to be REALLY important however or I won't go.

I do travel and take my oldest grocery shopping or to the pharmacy on a bi-weekly basis.

I have made a significant increase in purchases on Amazon.

Have you been doing anything as a helper?

My kids and I care for a neighbor up the road. One or two of us go down daily to her house to set up dinner and her breakfast/snacks for the day.

I've sewn 44 face masks for friends and family to make sure they are safe.

My husband has decided to begin several projects "now that we are home" (somehow he has forgotten we are still working and at school). We have all been assistants to the creation of his ideas. So far, we have unloaded a dumpsters worth of junk and cleaned up around the property. We are in the process of creating a huge raised bed garden and are currently waiting for the building permit to create a deck to the back of our house. Trees have been dropped, chicken coops rebuilt/fortified, sawmill run for making boards.

My youngest daughter manages her stress by cleaning. I am not complaining as I now have a cleaned basement, kitchen, second floor laundry room and hallway.

What are your thoughts of when this pandemic will be over?

To be honest, I'm not sure what the next few months or even years will look like. With the possibility of a second wave of this virus, I appreciate the caution that some are implementing. I consider my classroom and how I have 26-30 students in a class at a time. It is physically impossible to separate them by 6 feet within my classroom, so I'm not sure how we will be teaching in the fall. This is somewhat surreal. It's not my favorite way of teaching. I am glad my children are older as I'm not sure how sane I would be if they too required assistance with schoolwork. The quads graduate in June. That will make five in college this fall.

Jetson's To The Flintstone's

By John R. Greenwood – March 24, 2020

We've gone from the Jetson's to the Flintstone's in just a few weeks. Life as we have grown accustomed, has come to a screeching halt. It was like watching Fred bury his heels in the dirt to avoid t-boning a runaway Brontosaurus. Our lives have gone from 60 to 0 overnight. We may have turned the clocks ahead to save daylight, but our lives have been rolled back to save lives. And it's just the beginning. The severity of our predicament came abruptly, and put our Charmin' lives in the outhouse.

I have always tried to flaunt my optimism. Some might argue that point, but I do my best to lean more Anne Lamott than Denis Leary. That theory was tested the other day when I exercised my social distancing skills by going for a walk down my road. I wrote about that walk in the previous post. My walk turned into a road adoption, and instead of my glass being half full, I came home 45 minutes later with an overflowing bag of empty liquor bottles and a diminished view of my fellow man. I found myself in a pessimistic pickle.

Jump ahead two days. After reading dozens of stories about people pulling up bootstraps and grabbing tigers by the tail, I decided to see a doctor. I didn't need to make an appointment. I have a physician friend who makes house calls. All it takes to see her is a mouse-click and her expertise will come to your doorstep. Her name is Jen and you can find her at <https://poundofpreventionblog.wordpress.com>. I first met Jen as a member of a writing group. We were a small group of like-minded, beginning writers with hopes of learning more about the craft of sharing our thoughts with the rest of the world. Our group turned into something much more than that. It became an oasis of support and positivity. The residual effect has lasted for years and continues today. The piece she had posted was titled "Containing Coronavirus (Fears)." Who better to explain the current situation than a practicing physician with a compassionate heart. She did just that. Her thoughts were personal. Her advice comes from the soul of a physician/mother/wife/citizen/friend/writer. Her opinions and guidance have been mirrored by many across the internet. On the flip-side, there is no shortage of negative, judgmental, and whining commentary. I'm trying to avoid those as much as the virus itself. The best advice I heard came from the governor. He said it's vital that in all this turmoil, we stay, "productive." That can come in many forms and interpretations. That's the point, what's best for you may not be best for me. Find a comfort zone. Know there is light at the end, but we need the support of each other along the way.

My goal is to stay positive and productive. Ranting about a littered roadside today is neither. I don't want to be Walter Matthau in Grumpy Old Men, I'm more comfortable in Fred Roger's shoes. I was going to delete my trash-rant post from the other day. But on second thought, I think I'll keep it there as a reminder – a sort of Turning Point of the American Revolution of Attitude and Productivity.

Take a minute to visit the doctor on her website. She gives sound advice. Oh, one last thought! Who do you think was happier, George Jetson in Orbit City, working at Spacely Space Sprockets? Or, Fred living in Bedrock, working at the Slate Rock and Gravel Company? I'll give you a clue. – "Yabba Dabba ..."

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!

“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.)

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

All 2020 Greenfield Seniors Trips have been cancelled.

**Our Newest LIFETIME MEMBERS
Daryl Homiak and Hayden**

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?

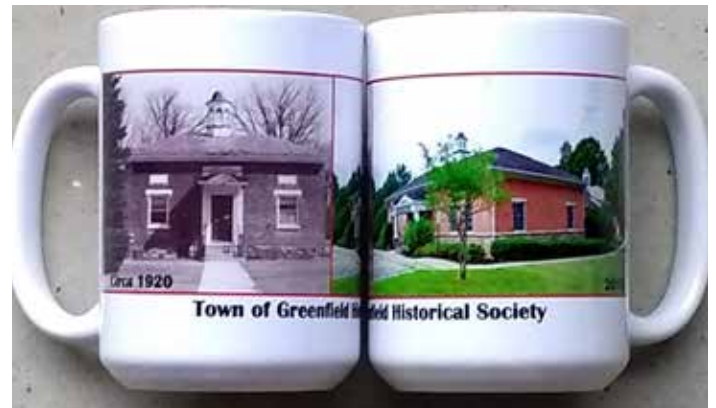
Do you have computer skills?

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

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 received over \$9,243.36 from 64 families toward the \$10,000 goal. We are very thankful for all the donations. With your help, we will make this goal.

JoAnn I. Rowland, Treasurer

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.

Updating Historic Sites Map in the Town of Greenfield

We invite our membership and readers of this newsletter to share with Dan any historical information about an interesting person, place, structure, or event within our town. Dan reserves the right to proofread and edit submissions, but he will be very happy to add your information to our map. We are always looking for historical information to add to and enhance the map, which we consider to be an ongoing work in progress. Please email Dan Chertok at Chertok@lcyllaw.com, call his cell phone (518-321-0330), or text him.



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