



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, Mike Gymarthy,
Patty Schwartzbeck, Dan Smith, and Mary Vetter

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www.GreenfieldhistHistoricalSociety.com

CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 20, 2022 – Meeting at 7 p.m.
at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.

Program:

Saratoga Corinth & Hudson Railway. Hal Raven owner and train conductor will talk about the scenic train line now operating between the Corinth Railway Station and King’s Station in Greenfield. He will discuss the train’s August 13, 2022, involvement with the 12th Annual Caboose Day and Car Show, the history of the train, and the rail line itself. There will be plenty of opportunity to ask Mr. Raven questions about this exciting new project.

Tuesday, October 18, 2022 – Meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.

Program: TBD

Tuesday, November 15, 2022 – Meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.

Program: TBD

PLEASE NOTE: GALA CANCELED:

Saturday, November 5, TOGHS Gala – Has been canceled. We are looking forward to trying again next year 2023.

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

Joan’s Jabbering:

Whow, what a summer we have had. Hot, Hazy, Humid and jam packed with tons of events.

Farmers market every Friday. JoAnn and I sat with the table at market for 9 weeks, the Museum was open 8 weeks, the Summerfest, Caboose Day and Car Show, and for me, blue berry picking, gardening and meeting with friends again. I went back to the Saratoga Track in August with cousins from NJ and not one person had a mask on. Must be the pandemic is over? Not so fast. I still have my mask with me most of the time – incase I think I need it. We will see this fall how things go.

You may notice this newsletter’s looks is different, that is because our Editor Janet Jones has been ill. I am filling in but it is her job and she can pick it up anytime soon. Until she is feeling up to it, I will be doing it. Next month I hope to celebrate her retirement from 50 years of work. Stay tuned.

I also would like to thank our board for making my job easier. I asked for their help with manning the museum and they signed up. I asked for help at the summer events, and they were there. We make a great team.

Enjoy the long newsletter this month. Lots of photos and fun things to review. See you at the meeting Sept 20th.

Volunteers at Museum: Thank you

The Museum was open Fridays, July 8 through August 26. We had 2 or 3 volunteers each Friday with up to 15 in attendance some weeks. Thank you for covering the hours. The community appreciated it. Lots of positive comments.

Our Newest LIFETIME MEMBER

Shannon Foster Borhardt

Meeting September 20, 2022 will have refreshments after the speaker, but we **will not** be having the annual “Pot Luck” before the meeting this year.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER – September 2022 – by Ron Feulner

In past issues, I have talked about the Rowell family of Middle Grove and the store they ran just east of the location of the present day Stewart's Shop in Middle Grove. I have focused on this location because it is where the 1907 fire that wiped out a major section of the village started.

The "Rowell Store" an aging wood structure with a country store in front and living quarters in back was separated from the next building to the east (the Middle Grove hotel) by a narrow alley just wide enough for a horse and wagon to pass. The hotel was a two story wood framed building owned and operated by Roxa Fulton.



The peace and tranquility of this tiny village of Middle Grove was to be shattered on the morning of April 22nd, 1907. The following account written by Thelma Kilmer on November 9th, 1968 was narrated by her husband, Guy T. Kilmer.

Guy T. Kilmer, as a school child, may have been an eye witness. As an adult, Kilmer owned and operated a water powered saw mill on Lake Desolation Road. Later, his son, Judson Kilmer, owned and operated a diesel powered mill on the same property. The following is based on Guy's memory of the fire narrated and written many years after the fire.

"About eleven o'clock in the morning of April 22, 1907, fire started in back of Rowell's store, located on the site of the present Richard Roeckle Sr.s' home. It began as a chimney fire, roof

(Rowell store on left, Middle Grove Hotel on right)

caught fire very soon. It was a terrifically windy day. The wind blew so hard that it was difficult to stand.'

"School was in session. At 12 o'clock noon Gene Jones ran to the school [on Cemetery Hill]. He had heard hollering and smelled smoke. The school boys ran across the field to the hill and saw the fire raging, which had been going about an hour. They then ran down to the village to help with the fire fighting. The trolley arrived filled with men who came with buckets, to stop the spread of the fire.'

"The fire spread from the store to the hotel, located on the same side of the street and next to the store on the west side. The spread of the fire was as follows:'

"Rowell's now Roeckle, Sr's house close to east; there was a narrow drive between, just wide enough for a wagon; Hotel and bar, ran by Fulton;

Dr. Bowen's—site of present Middle Grove Firehouse;

McNutt home—also site of present Middle Grove Firehouse;

Rowland home—now site of brown shingled house, was owned by Mrs. Mary Newell, east of M.G. Firehouse;

Across the road to James Young home, (where now are only a few stones remaining in the field skipped the IOOF Hall and the Baptist Church, now an auction house, also skipped the Baptist parsonage;

Burdick home was next burned, now property owned as Edward Eichorst, used as garage etc.;

The Gregory home, also on site of now Edward Eichorst property.'

"The house of William McNutt, was in the line of the inferno. Men climbed to the roof and hung wet blankets about the eaves, to protect the building from the intense heat. This saved the house. Building is still standing in good repair.'

"One cannot help but wonder how men with ordinary pails could possibly be of help in curbing such a blaze. The following will help the imagination. The horse shed of the present Methodist Church was full of leaves; a burning leaf blew into this shed. A bucket of water thrown on this, without a doubt, saved these buildings.'

"The household goods of Edward Burdick was carried out of doors by the helpers. The possessions were piled in the road to the extent that the road was blocked. No one was able to go through the road.'

"Later that day Calvin Dake went up and down the road offering shelter to anyone. No one accepted as all had found a place.' "Cellars and woods burned all afternoon and into the night.'

"The fire ran through the grass and woods north, up Creek Road to Sand Hill Road.'

"It was a loss that time has erased."

All the local newspapers carried front page articles describing the conflagration; each one reporting mostly the same information but in a slightly different manner. As with all eyewitness reporting, there are mistakes and discrepancies, and I no doubt will add my own, as it has been difficult to sort out exactly which buildings burned and who owned them, or lived in them, at the time, since some were rental properties. Guy Kilmer's description of the buildings that burned does not agree completely with the bulk of the news reporting, but this is understandable as some of the newspapers did not completely agree with each other.

Summerfest August 6, 2022 (in review)



First Photo: Kevin Veitch, Town Supervisor, Patti Veitch, Summerfest Music Chairperson, Joan Rowland, President TOGHS, & James Tedisco, NYS Senator. Second Photo: Greenfield Lions Club with Sigrid Koch, Andrea Penamora, James Tedisco, King Verna Plummer. Jim presented the Town of Greenfield, Town of Greenfield Historical Society and Town of Greenfield Lions Club each a “Certificate of Merit” for their dedication to community work with the 2022 SUMMERFEST.



JoAnn Rowland with membership, 50/50 table.

Penny Candy Store



Popcorn donated by Twin Leaf Farms. Booth manned by Kevin Veitch & Kevin Bright

Lions Booth, King Verna & Sigrid

Volunteer Firemen



Elizabeth Conant



Happenstance



New American Cuisine



Out of Reach

Thank you to the bands that gave their time and talent for SUMMERFEST (music in the park part).

Thank you to Patti Veitch for organizing the Music, Candy donations by Patty Schwartzbeck and Joan Rowland, Maple Cotton Candy by Maple Valley Farm, and Popcorn machine and booth by Kevin Veitch. Thank you to the Lions Club for providing the Food Wagon and service.

After a few storms in the area, a total of 120 people ended up spending time together at the park.

The daytime event was followed by a movie in the park, "Disney's Encanto". This was shown on the big tractor trailer sized screen, provided by The Town of Greenfield Recreation Department (organized by Rebecca Sewell). Great movie and the screen was so big, you could almost play in the playground and watch the movie playing in the north/east corner of the grounds.





Thank You **Saratoga County COVID Relief Grant Fund Committee** for selecting the Town of Greenfield Historical Society to receive a \$10,000 Grant.

We responded to an article in the Schenectady Gazette Newspaper back in February 2022. Saratoga County had relief fund to be disbursed to non-profit organizations.

The check was presented at Caboose Day by Town Supervisor Kevin Veitch.

In the photo are Mike Gymarthy, Joan Rowland, Kevin Veitch, Ron Deutsch, John Greenwood, & Dan Chertok.

Caboose Day and Car Show – August 13, 2022 (in review)

Special thanks to Louise Okoniewski and Tom Clute for organizing this 12th annual event. Thanks to the town for allowing us to use the land, train station and caboose for our fund raiser and for their financial support with advertising, precleaning, and port-a-potty.

Hal Raven of Saratoga Corinth & Hudson Railway made a special stop to where the Train Station once sat. He dropped off the first train of people to walk up the road to us, picked up new riders, went back to Corinth, picked up more rides, and brought them back down. By the end of the day, he had delivered 180 people to our already well attended event. 50 cars and a total of almost 400 people attended. Biggest year yet.



Engine parked above Route 9N



Employees of Saratoga Corinth & Hudson Railway



Vendors: Maple Valley Farm
Kathy and Tim Monica



Saratoga Corinth & Hudson
Tiffany Maynard



Adirondack Wood Products
Mary Ann and Van Johnson



Karen & Gary Gibbins



Sara Spa Rod and Gun Club
Stewart Sullivan & Jamie Norjen



Prep work: 5 tents



Painting Ramp & Stairs



Bug Removal



Tony Bucca



Evelyn, age 4 waits with her mom Ashleigh Skinner and the train station ladies



Ron Feulner, Town Historian



John Biss, Louise Okoniewski, Chairperson
Karen Downen, Town Clerk



3 guys hanging out at cars



JoAnn Rowland, Treasurer & Foods
Linda Davin (Bake Sale)



Caboose Cookies made by
Lynda Roeckle



Ron Deutch Historical Booth



French Fry Kings – Jordon Gymarthy,
Dan Chertok, Mike Gymarthy



Adam Brown, Food Server



Louise Okoniewski, &
Robert Roeckle, Cook



Boy Scouts who built ramp & stairs
Mr Tremper & Seth Tremper, Noah
& Mr Szymanski



Kevin Veitch presenting Glen Hammond's Family a proclamation of recognition for his role in purchasing the caboose



Glen's family Mark, Shirley, Duane Hammond & Brenda Cameron



Stanley Zeh, Jim Majors, Gary Childs



Family enjoying the event



Judi Bohrer, Lisa Biss, & Maria Crouse



Louise presented the People's Choice Award to Gary Childs Ford Model A Van, Mary Ann Johnson and Pauleen Levo



Sylvan, Maevia, and Vince Walsh



Seth Tremper, Kevin Veitch, Noah Szymanski
Seth and Noah built ramps and stairs



Harold Jones with his great grandson Spencer

Car Show 2022 – 50 cars 1 motorcycle

Special thanks to the Car Show Crew: Tom Clute Sr (Chairperson), Christopher, Thomas, Samantha Clute, Shea LeClair and Steve Companions



1 - Tom Clute



2 – Thomas Clute



3 – DOC



4 – Wayne Pearce



5 – Frank E Lyons Jr



6 – Samantha Clute



7 Louise Okoniewski



8 – John Biss



9 – Steve Companion



10 - Rick Hoagy



11 – Leslie Scoville



12 – Donald Giglio



13 – Kevin Rauios



14 - Bob Schmidt



15 – Chic Marcason



16 – Paul Bolognino



17 – Art Duckett



18 – Charles Higley



19 – Fred Maynard



20 - Anthony J. Zanella



21 – Clyde H Ronk



22 – Art Whitney



23 – Tony Zappone



24 – Jesse Tucker



25 – Randy Ramsey



26 – Albert Vance



27 – Joseph C Rapant



28 – Bill Marzano



29 – Paul Weeks



30 – Rick Couré



31 – Dylan Barrem



32 – Jim Kochon



33 – Dave McConnell



34 – Gary Childs



35 – Stan Zeh



36 – Karl Zeh



37 Charlie & Linda Carey



38 Bonnie Middlebrook



39 Alan Palmateer



40 – Rick Bishop



41 – Ron Mosher



42 Rich & Diane OKonsky



43 – Ryan Veitch



45 – Peter D Fiorino



46 – Mark Shave



47 – Roy Halvorsen



49 – Ryan Christopher



Not Registered



Car talk!

I am sorry but I do not have photos of:

- # 44 – Dylan Tucker with a Street Glide Motorcycle
- # 48 – Michael Richardson with a 1968 Chevy Impala
- # 50 – Dean Erno with a 1972 Mercury Comet Fit

Thank you to all the volunteers that worked Caboose Day (those pictures and those that were camera shy)
 Thank you to Robert Roeckle for the Café Food & Drink Donation and Mike Gymarthy for the French Fry Donation,
 Louise Okoniewski for condiment donation and Bake Sale donations from Katie Finnagan, Lynda Roeckle, Robert
 Roeckle, Joan Rowland

See you next year on August 12, 2023

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

50/50 winners this summer were:

- Summerfest** – Kevin Bright \$55 (donated back)
- Caboose Day** – Don Kieffer \$50 (donated back)
- Farmers Market** – July – Joan E Rowland \$ 39 (donated candy for Penny Candy Sale)
 August – Chris Aldous \$37



Perrin "Pear" William Dake October 31, 1955 - August 7, 2022

Our condolences to the Perrin Dake Family. Perrin passed away due to a swimming accident at Friends Lake in Chestertown NY. He was 66 years old.

www.burkefuneralhome.com/obituary/perrin-pear-dake

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 Dgchertok@gmail.com, call his cell phone (518-321-0330), or text him.



**The Town of Greenfield
Historical Society
P.O. Box 502
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