

Historical Society Newsletter



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

Volume 20, Issue 3



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www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

In Memory of Betty (Jones) Hall and Dot Atwell

CALENDAR

Nov. 19 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield. **Program:** *Joseph Zarzynski*, who spoke at our January 2015 meeting, will talk about his new book – *The Tale of the Dismembered 1757 Fort William Henry Shipwreck*.

Dec. 8 – Sunday, Holiday Party – 1 to 3 p.m. at the IOOF Hall/Museum in Middle Grove. Theme: *“Christmas Flowers.”* Please bring cookies/desserts to share.

Jan. 21, 2020 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** *Himanee Gupta-Carlson*, from our own farmer’s market (Squashville Farm), wrote a book “Muncie, India(na).” This is her story of growing up as the daughter of Indian immigrants in a small mid-western “typical American” town.

Feb. 18, 2020 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** *To be announced.*

March 17, 2020 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** *Himanee Gupta-Carlson* is returning. She has written another book, “A Hip Hop of Food,” which is a study of hip-hop and small scale farming as interrelated practices of social change.

April 21, 2020 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** *Patrick DeVaney*, author of “Two Million Steps,” a chronicle of his 2014 journey along Spain’s Camino de Santiago. This is a 500 mile walk on an ancient spiritual path through Europe following the journey of James the Apostle.

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

November Notes

by Mary Vetter

Well this month certainly started off with a bang. I hope you all survived the big wind and rain storm with little or no problems. Here on Porter Road, we were lucky enough not to have any major damage.

The carriage house behind the museum was not so lucky. A large limb came down and struck the roof. Fortunately, we are in a good position to deal with this issue. We are truly grateful that no one was hurt when this happened.

I am currently in the process of creating an address book of email addresses so that we have a good system for notifying people of events and cancellations which often happens in the winter when the weather can be iffy. If you would like to be on this list, please email us using the email address provided in this newsletter. You can be sure that we will not share your email address. In fact, emails will be sent using the blind copy feature so that your email address will not be visible to other members.

Stay warm and we will see you at our next meeting on November 19. The topic looks really interesting.

Damage to the Carriage House

by Mary Vetter

Like so many in this area, we sustained damage to the carriage house that sits behind our museum on Middle Grove Road during the Halloween storm. The tree has since been removed and for now we will be tarping the roof to prevent more damage over the winter. In the spring we will consult with a roofer on permanent repairs.



HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

In past issues, I have given the history of the various Baptist churches in the Town of Greenfield. This month, I shall begin with the histories of the various Methodist Episcopal Churches.

According to Sylvester, in his 1878 History of Saratoga County, it is not known when the first Methodist came to the Town of Greenfield, but sometime prior to the year 1800, a traveling Methodist Episcopalian preacher passed through this section of the country. His name was Babbitt, and he was a "thundering preacher." In Sylvester's words, "So powerful was his voice that tradition says some hearers averred that they could feel his tones pass through their heads and hear them strike the trees behind them."

Other Methodist preachers followed, and, as their following grew, they sometimes met in area homes or were permitted to use some of the area's Baptist churches for their meetings. According to Sylvester, there was a powerful revival held in the winter of 1838-1839 which made it possible for these Methodists to consider building a house of worship of their own. A site was chosen on a hill just east of the village of Greenfield Center, and work began in the summer of 1840. (This site was across Wilton Road from today's St John's Cemetery and now (2019) is used for pasturing horses.)

Sylvester gives a detailed account of this church's history, which I will not entirely repeat here. Eventually, this church was moved from the top of Cemetery Hill on Wilton Road to a site on present day route 9N in the center of the village.

(There is an unsolved mystery concerning a grave stone in the St. John's Cemetery that reads "65 unknown graves." No one seems to know what the marker means. It appears to be a fairly recent stone – not weathered as much as some of the older stones. My best guess, as historian, is that perhaps there was a smaller cemetery on the other side of the road near the Methodist church site with unmarked graves. Perhaps, when they moved the church, they also moved the human remains across the road to a common grave in St. John's and simply gave the site one collective stone. This is simply an educated guess, and perhaps the mystery will one day be solved.)

In Memory of Louise McCormick

Louise was a special person and although I didn't see her often enough, she left me happy memories of her Christmas Tree and lunch at her house.

If you had seen her beautiful, bountiful Christmas Tree, count yourself lucky. She was one of the ladies who met on Tuesday noon times at the Middle Grove Methodist Church years past. She was a lovely, generous lady and we will miss her.

Alice Feulner

Our Newest LIFETIME MEMBERS
Linda Holcomb

Our October Program

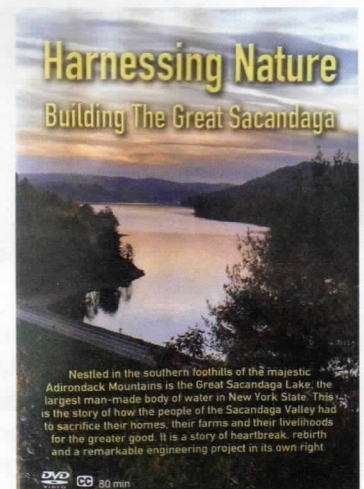
Dave and Diane Allen from Lavenlair Farm – the lavender farm in Fort Ann, talked about the history of the Farm including the 1807 Schoolhouse, the 1820 stone farmhouse, and introducing lavender as a crop to this already beautiful place. Farm grown lavender products were be available for purchase.



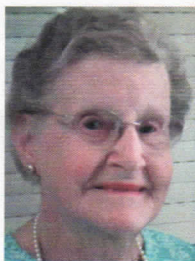
Photo credit: Joan Rowland

“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.)



GREENWICH/QUAKER SPRINGS — HELEN E. (Jones) WOODS, 94, a resident of Washington Center and formerly of Greenwich and Quaker Springs, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2019.

She was born Oct. 24, 1924, in Greenfield Center, to the late Arthur and Nina (Hathaway) Jones.

Helen graduated from high school in 1942 and later married the love of her life, Charles J. E. Woods in 1955, and together they had four children. She was a faithful member of the Quaker Springs United Methodist Church for many years. She served in the American Legion Auxiliary Liberty Unit No. 515, Elks Auxiliary No. 2223, Old Saratoga Seniors Group, and for over 28 years in the Easton Greenwich Rescue Squad. Helen enjoyed bowling and collecting antique canning jars, which were displayed yearly at the Washington County Fair. Spending time with her grandchildren was her favorite pastime, as well as watching her birds and working hard in her garden.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her husband, Charles J. E. Woods; siblings, Harold F. Jones, Neva Thompson, Gladys M. Jones and Arlene Butler.

Survivors include her children, Donald C. Woods of Rochester, Bruce A. (Marybeth) Woods of Latham, David G. Woods of Summerville, South Carolina and Joyce (Frank) Kranitz of Quaker Springs; grandchildren, William (Liz) Purcell, Christine (Josh) Greeno-Johnston, Katy Greeno, Thomas Greeno, Sarah Woods, John Greeno, and Michael Woods.

The family would like to thank the staff at the Washington Center for their kindness and care of Helen.

Donations in Helen's name may be made to the Easton-Greenwich Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 84, Greenwich, NY 12834. Online condolences and messages to the family can be made at www.flynnbrosinc.com. To plant a tree in memory of Helen Woods as a living tribute, please visit Tribute Store at <https://tree.tributecenterstore.com/memorial-tree?old=7836458&source=tn16>.



GREENFIELD CENTER – BETTY C. (JONES) HALL, age 87, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her family, on October 23, 2019.

Betty was born on May 8, 1932, in Porter Corners, N.Y. She was the daughter of John W. Jones and Gladys M. Burton Jones.

Betty married the love of her life and high school sweetheart, Sonny Hall, in 1952.

They recently celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary.

The couple settled in Greenfield Center, N.Y., where they raised their two children, Harold C. Hall Jr. (Nancy) and Cathy Hall Peyser.

Betty was very dedicated to her community. When she and Sonny married, she helped out at Brookside Dairy, her husband's family dairy farm.

She was a member of Eastern Star, a long-time Greenfield Fire Co. #1 Ladies Auxiliary, and a member of the Greenfield Grange. She was also on the Saratoga Springs High School Class of 1950 reunion committee.

Betty was employed by the Saratoga Springs City School District for nearly 25 years before retiring as Head Cook. She always had a friendly smile for the children and staff.

Betty was a devoted and loving mother. She was very proud of her family, including her four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Betty loved holidays and family gatherings;



SARATOGA SPRINGS — ANTHONY FRANCIS LEVO JR., 87, passed away Oct. 4, 2019, after a long illness, with his loving family at his side.

Tony was born in Saratoga Springs on Sept. 1, 1932, and was the son of the late Anthony F. Levo Sr. and Harriet Levo.

Tony ("Big Moe") attended Saratoga Springs grade school through 7th grade and transferred to St. Peter's School, where he graduated in June 1951. He was a member of the undefeated six-man football team, played baseball and basketball, and ran track.

In 1956, he married Pauline Orisek and moved to Greenfield Center. He became a member of Plumbers Local 288, which later consolidated with Local 773 of Glens Falls, from which he retired as a plumber-steamfitter in September 1994. Tony was cubmaster and scoutmaster of Troop No. 18 for many years. He was involved with the forming of Camp Greenfield and obtaining the property on Brigham Road, which is still in use today. Tony served as captain with the Greenfield Vol. Fire Company No. 1 and was a lifetime member.

Tony loved to fish, hunt, and camp, especially at Fish Creek Campsite and all over the Northeast. Trips were made to Alaska, Hawaii, the western U.S., and to Europe, as well as winters in Florida. He also enjoyed bus trips with the Greenfield Seniors and Moreau Seniors.

He was predeceased by his sister, Angeline Levo Capone; and brother, Robert Levo. Tony is survived by his wife, Pauline, and had been married for 63 years. He is further survived by his children, Michael Levo (Christine) of South Glens Falls, MaryAnn (Van) Johnson of Greenfield Center, and Anthony Levo III (Tom Niehaus) of Atlanta; also four grandchildren, Dan (Esther) Levo, Tim (Justina) Levo, Susan (Sean) Collins and Richard (Alyssa) Levo; as well as four great-grandchildren, Donavan, Dylan, Rosalie, and Isabella. He also is survived by a number of nieces and nephews.

Special thanks to Dr. Rachid Daoui, the staff at Reuben Dialysis Center, and Dr. Roland Phillips for their compassionate care. Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude's Children Research (www.stjude.org) in loving memory of Anthony Levo Jr. Online remembrances may be made at www.burkefuneralhome.com.

any chance to spend time with her family was important to her. She would spend hours cooking and preparing for her company.

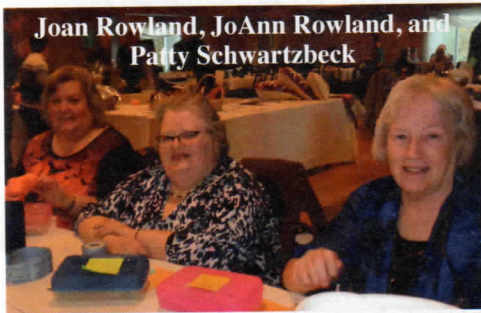
Betty was known for her vibrant personality, always looking at the bright side of life. She will be missed by all that knew and loved her.

Betty was the beloved wife of Sonny Hall, devoted mother of Harold Hall Jr. & his wife Nancy, and Cathy Hall Peyser, all of Greenfield Center; loving "Nanny" of Jamie Usas (Charles), Tara Hall Clark (Greg), Sydney Homicz (Brian), and Zachary Peyser, and four great-grandchildren. She is survived by her sister Ilene Sufin (William), and predeceased by Ivan Jones, Alberta Kahl, and John Jones. She is also survived by several dear nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will gather for a graveside celebration of her life at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26, at Greenfield Cemetery in Greenfield Center, N.Y.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Betty's favorite organization, "Touched by an Angel" in her full name, Betty Hall. – <https://donate.givetocommunityhospice.org/>
<http://www.lastingmemories.com/betty-c-jones-hall>

The Town of Greenfield Historical Society Gala – Oct. 19, 2019



Joan Rowland, JoAnn Rowland, and Patty Schwartzbeck



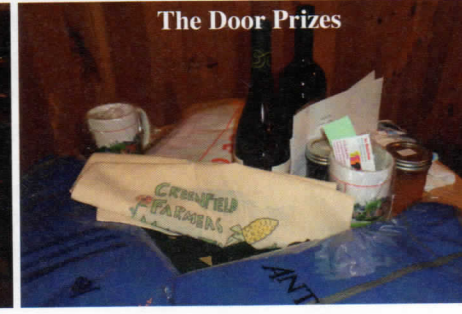
Mary Vetter, president



Ron Deutsch

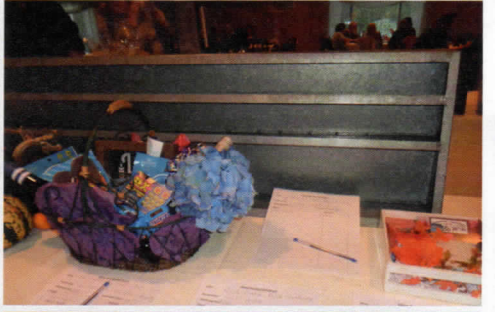


Historical Display – Military Items



The Door Prizes

The Town of Greenfield Historical Society Gala (continued)



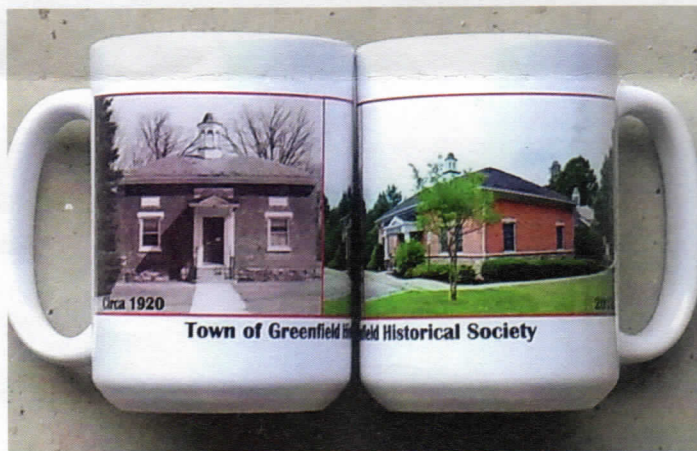
TOGHS Annual Holiday Open House at IOOF Hall

Sunday, December 8, 2019
1 to 3 p.m.

*This year's theme is **Christmas Flowers.***

When you think of flowers around the Christmas/Hanukkah season, what do you think of? Poinsettia, Amaryllis, maybe Christmas Cactus? What other flowers are there? Come to the open house and we will talk about it. Bring cookies for refreshments and at the end you can take home a variety (donations always welcome). Mulled Cider and coffee will be provided.

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.

Thank you to the refreshment volunteers for October, John Greenwood and Mary Vetter. They served ice cream and Chocolate Monster Cake.

November refreshment volunteers are Katie Finnegan and Joan Rowland.

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson

Greenfield Seniors Christmas Party

Saturday, December 14, 2019
Noon to 3 p.m.

Holiday Inn, 232 Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

\$25 per person

*Reservations and payment due by Nov. 14, 2019
Contact Sandy Ovitt at 518-584-8943*

Menu: Garden salad; coffee, tea, unsweetened iced tea and carrot cake

Choose entree when making reservation –

Entree 1: Sliced London broil and baked potato

Entree 2: Grilled BBQ bourbon glazed chicken, baked potato

Entree 3: Savory pot roast w/gravy and baked potato

*We will be singing Christmas Carols,
playing special bingo, door prizes, and more.*

2019 Gala Results

Gala Profit is \$3,024.80

(Profit in 2018, \$3,586.34)

Silent Auction	\$1,655.00
Dinner	\$575.55
Donations	\$515.00
Basket Raffle	\$246.00
50/50 Raffle	\$112.00

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.

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 proof read 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.

Survey Results – “What was the first vehicle you ever drove?”

by Joan E Rowland

This summer at the Farmers Market, I asked at the Historical Society’s tent – What was the first vehicle you ever drove? Most repeated with “Drove or Owned?” Some gave me both answers. Many would think a minute and then giggle because most that are currently over 40 had a field car, field truck, or tractor that they drove (or thought they could and got into a predicament).

Some would not give their last name – afraid they could still get in trouble.

I asked Make and Model of vehicle – some came back the next week and added to their story.

I asked how old when they drove and current age, so I could have an idea of the era when they started driving.

Of the 68 that wrote in my book (yes, some would just tell me their stories but didn’t want it documented), those drivers who are in their 20s and 30s starting driving when they were of legal age of 16. They waited until they were legal to drive with their permit. Most of this age group learned on their parents Honda or Toyota. We also had a ’91 Trans Am, 2007 Saturn, ’65 GMC Sonoma.

Those that were 40 and over have driven a field car, some at their houses or at grandparents.

Our youngest driver was 5 years old (current 57) who drove a ’55 Chevy. He would not leave his last name but said – there is a story about that but I cannot tell you! He just kept laughing.

Next in age was Jenn Kika, at age 8, drove the tractor.

Richard Stutzenstein was 8 when he drove the 1949 Chevy Panel truck – he also drove a 1952 Oldsmobile 98 and the John Deer L Tractor with 8 horse power.

Mr. Emerik was 10 when he drove the 1939 GMC Pickup, BUT his wife Elizabeth has never learned to drive. I asked, why not and she said “someone will take me where I want to go.”

D. Brocks was 11 when he drove the 1984 Chevy and Fred Faki was 11 when he drove a 1968 Dodge Dart with 3 on the tree.

Mr. Bensey told about buying a 1932 BMW for \$300, while he was stationed in Spain. It was stored in a barn. He was 17 at the time (in 1948). He sold it to a military buddy before he came back to the U.S. for \$300.

Ron Feulner and his brother, Gene, used to drive a field car but they were too short to do both the peddles and steer, so his brother would do the peddles and Ron would sit and steer. Now that is team work.

The Jones brothers (Harold and Phil) were teens when they drove a Massy Ferguson 35 Tractor that belonged to their grandpa, Roy Atwell.

Nancy Homiak, when in her teens, drove a 1950 Buick IV in Turney’s fields.

Janet Jones was 16 when she drove Harold’s 1968 Volkswagon. Janet also asked her dad, Earl, and he said his vehicle was a 1932 Chevy. Earl would be the oldest to do our survey at age 97. (Note – Earls wife, Margie, never learned to drive.)

Another interesting purchase was Donald Monica, at age 17, purchased a 1955 Packard Clipper for \$75 (this was in 1963).

A man from Rochester, N.Y., stopped at the market – they were renting an Air B&B down the road. He said his first car was from 3 crate boxes – he took them home and built the car (like the Johnny Cash song – one piece at a time). He said it did run but he didn’t remember what make it was made of.

JoAnn Rowland learned to drive at 16 with her permit (maybe the 9N Ford Tractor in the fields) – she said we had a Ford station wagon that was automatic but when the transmission went, Ken White put in a standard that shifted backwards on the floor. If you are learning to drive, you don’t know it’s backwards but mom and dad knew.

A couple people had the Plymouth Valiant with the shifting on the dashboard where you pushed the button in to change gears. We had one of these. It was JoAnn’s first car. In its last year or so, you had to use a screwdriver to hold the button in.

There was also a Plymouth Grand Fury, which I drove from Cooperative Extension’s fleet of cars.

Joyce Woodard learned to drive at 17, when she took lessons from a man in Ballston Spa. She failed her driver’s test twice. At 21, she had taken a job at Greenfield School and after driving to work a couple weeks, she finally took her test and passed.

One of the oldest to start driving was Louis Okoniewski. He drove a 1941 Nash Ambassador (black) at age 24. When asked why he had not driven before then, he said he didn’t have to but while in the service they told you, you had to drive, so he did. Louis is still driving today at age 94.

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!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL AVAILABLE ONLINE

Become a member of The Town of Greenfield Historical Society and receive our newsletter. **Our membership year begins June 1 and ends May 31, dues are paid annually. Send \$10 per household (or \$100 for Lifetime Membership)** along with your name and address to the address shown below. **IF YOU SEND MORE THAN \$10, THE BALANCE WILL BE CONSIDERED A DONATION.** You also may join at one of our meetings. Send this application form and fee to The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833. Make checks payable to: The Town of Greenfield Historical Society. **YOU CAN PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE! www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com.** Email toghistsoc@gmail.com for more information. **Click on STORE, ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP – HOUSEHOLD or LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP and follow the instructions.**

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

Name _____ I am interested in volunteering.

Address _____

Email _____ Phone number _____

Areas of interest to you _____

To sponsor a newsletter send \$50 along with your name and address and the wording describing whom you would like it dedicated to.

If you know someone whom you think might want to become a member, send us their name and address, and we will send them a copy of our newsletter along with information on how they can join.

Name _____

Address _____

If you'd like to dedicate and/or sponsor a newsletter, send \$50 to *The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833*, include your name, address and the wording describing who you would like it dedicated to and/or sponsored by. Please send articles and/or photos to: JJones18215@roadrunner.com.