



## Historical Society Newsletter

**OFFICERS:** President, Mary Vetter; Vice President, Joan Rowland;  
Secretary, Patty Schwartzbeck; Treasurer, JoAnn Rowland;  
**TRUSTEES:** Dan Chertok, Ron Deutsch, Ron Feulner, Katie Finnegan,  
Louise Okoniewski, Jane Potter and Robert Roeckle

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

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

### CALENDAR

**Feb. 20, 2018 – Tuesday**, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** Author *Mary Cuffe Perez* will talk about her new book – *Barn Stories*.

**March 20, 2018 – Tuesday**, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** *Marie Willard* will speak about growing up in Middle Grove in the 1950s and some of the older people and families she knew back then.

**April 17, 2018 – Tuesday**, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** *Mary Jane Pelzer* is the “soap lady” at the Saratoga Farmers’ Market. The program is “Good, Clean Fun: A short history and demonstration of heritage soap making.”

**May 15, 2018 – Tuesday**, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** *Greg Veitch*, Chief of Police for Saratoga Springs, will talk about his book – *All the Law in the World Won’t Stop Them*. It’s about crime, gambling and corruption in Saratoga Springs through 1921.

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

### Meetings Cancellations

*If schools are closed due to weather, our meeting will be canceled. A message also will be posted on our website and on our Facebook page.*

[www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com)

[www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=town of greenfield historical society](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=town%20of%20greenfield%20historical%20society)

*Refreshment volunteers for February are Katie Finnegan and Patty Schwartzbeck. (January’s meeting was cancelled.)*

*Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson*

### February Notes

by Mary Vetter

So, another winter and another wonderful program was bested by mother nature. Fear not, however, Greg Veitch has agreed to give his presentation at our May meeting. He will be talking about his book on crime in Saratoga through 1921. The title of the book is *All the Law in the World Won’t Stop Them*.

It seems that most winters mother nature manages to get the upper hand and remind us that for all the superiority we think our brains give us we can be made to bend to her will. I remember the first winter I spent in Porter Corners about 20 years ago. By the end of January, the snow banks were so high we had to get on top of them and shovel the snow back because the banks were higher than the snow blower could throw. I remember letting the beagle out on his run in one storm and looking out the window to see him stuck in the snow. His short legs were no match for the depth of the newly fallen snow. Our house is built into the side of a small hill and the only blessing I can remember about all that snow was that it was so high in the back that it made roof raking a snap.

So, I think I will choose to be grateful that we don’t have that much snow yet and keep my fingers crossed that we won’t get that much. By the way, I just knocked on wood and said a little prayer. One just can’t be too careful.

Stay warm and safe and join us on February 20, 2018. Our Tuesday, meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. Mary Cuffe Perez will talk about her new book, *Barn Stories*. I look forward to seeing everyone.

**Our Newest LIFETIME MEMBERS**  
**Ralph Federiconi/Elizabeth Huntles**

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

Last month, you may remember that I wrote about the Braim Road area of Greenfield and its history. Some of the topics included were John Boll and the Granite Lake Brewery and John's dog who was shot by Edward Trim of Greenfield resulting in a Greenfield trial. I also wrote about the Granite Lake Water Co. debacle and finished with the tragic story of a young school teacher, Louise Margaret Braim, who drowned in Granite Lake. At the conclusion, I asked you readers to share some of your stories about this area of the town.

A descendant of the Braims of Braim Road responded to my request. She is the third Louise Braim of the line from the original Louise who died by drowning. In her email, she wrote, "I was named after my father's (Robert Braim) sister Louise Margaret Braim; and she was named after her father's (Henry G. Braim) sister Louise Margaret Braim, who drowned in Granite Lake in 1927."

Louise went on to share some additional research that she had done, "I am writing to share with you another news story about the Braims of Braim Road that is quite comical. In fact, there are three stories from the Saratogian that I found while researching my Great Great Grandfather, John Braim. The family called him Captain Braim. Family legend has it he was called this because he stowed away on a ship to the U.S. I have no idea if this is true. However, I do know John Braim immigrated to the U.S. and Greenfield Center after his two sons, Henry G. and John, immigrated there. Henry J. stayed behind in Bavaria to care for an ailing wife, Margaret Sesselman. After she passed, he immigrated to be with his sons and work their farm land on Braim Road/Granite Lake as vegetable market farmers. I know at one point they farmed over 200 acres on Braim Road. They did very well (until refrigeration came along) providing fresh vegetables to Saratoga's finest hotels."

"The three news articles I found about John Braim [I am assuming that Captain John is Henry J.] are hilarious and perhaps worth relaying ... . The first article, dated December 4, 1905, is titled, '**Farmer's Wife Runs Off With Hired Man. Agnes Braim Took All Old Man's Money Too.**' Mrs. Braim was about to leave for her old home in Germany, there to spend the rest of her days far from the rugged hills of Greenfield, and home of her aged husband at Granite Lake.' Agnes and her lover, Chris Keihl were subsequently caught and charged. The drama evolves in two subsequent news articles ... ."

Louise included the newspaper articles in her email, and I will attempt to summarize the events described.

The first article dated December 4, 1905, describes how John Braim, a 65 year old farmer, had about ten years previously married a 17 year old girl who had just arrived from Germany soon after the death of his first wife. All was well for a while until John discovered that his young wife was plotting to elope with their hired man, Chris Keihl, who was boarding at the farm. Upon discovery, his wife begged forgiveness and Chris Keihl was fired and told to leave the premises.

All was forgotten until the next spring when Keihl went to work for Groff and Gailor at their wood yard in Greenfield. Needing a place to stay, old man Braim consented to him boarding at their house again. This time while the old man was planting turnips, the young couple plotted to elope again.

On a Saturday, young Mrs. Braim left the house. When she did not return, Braim became suspicious and upon searching found her clothing missing along with \$900 that he thought he had hidden in the house. Braim called the Sheriff, and a search was begun. On Monday morning, the two were apprehended at the Ballston Spa train station where they were planning to take a train to New York City and there board a ship sailing to Germany. The two were taken to the county jail.

The attractive young Mrs. Braim claimed that the money taken was hers and that her husband had forced her to labor long hours in the garden for it. She was tired of being his slave and wanted to return to Germany. She said that Keihl was just providing her escort until she could board the ship in New York.

Mrs. Braim put up the money she had taken and was released on bail while Keihl could not raise enough for his release.

The story took another turn when the next day, old Mr. Braim informed the court that he and his young wife were planning on returning to Germany together.

Then, about 3 years later, another article in the Saratogian dated September 17, 1908, is headlined **Old John Braim "Wings" "Chris" Keihl at Last**. This article describes how old John Braim had fired twice with loads of buck shot at the younger man hitting and penetrating his coat sleeve but not harming him. The younger man had after getting out of jail found a job at the Trap Rock Company quarry of Greenfield which was situated across the road from the Braim farm.

It seems that old man Braim had a routine of every morning loading a wagon with fresh produce and delivering it to the hotels in Saratoga. On this morning, Keihl was watching as usual from the quarry and when he saw the wagon gone, he hopped the fence and headed for the Braim house. What he didn't know was that Braim had grown suspicious of him, so he had backed the loaded wagon into the barn and then returned to the house, loaded his shotgun, and sat down in a chair facing the door. When Keihl entered, the old man had discharged both barrels. Afterwards, the old man had headed to town with his load of produce and a smile on his face.

Louise concluded her email by saying that after she read John Braim's obituary, she discovered that he had died in 1929, 24 years after all the drama of Agnes and Chris Keihl. The old man and his young wife had apparently stayed married since she was listed as one of his survivors.

These are the wonderful stories that bring Greenfield history alive. If you know stories about other areas of Greenfield, I would be happy to hear from you. You can email me at [RFeulner@greenfieldny.org](mailto:RFeulner@greenfieldny.org) or write to me at the town hall at P.O. Box 10, Greenfield Center, NY 12833.

## Second Mug Still Available

The second mug features the IOOF Hall which is now The Town of Greenfield Historical Society's Chatfield Museum of Local History. The Baptist Church, which dates in the early 1900s, is seen before the IOOF Hall and the carriage house is not visible.

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. The cost is \$10. If you need the mug to be mailed to you, please add shipping cost of \$8.



## 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](https://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](https://smile.amazon.com) on all your Amazon shopping trips to support us.*

*Thanks!*

## Enid B. Older

SARASOTA, FLORIDA – **Enid B. Older**, 98, passed away on Friday, December 22, 2017.

Born in Middle Grove, N.Y., on December 31, 1918, she was the daughter of Thomas and Eva Baker. Enid was a nurse's aide at the former Cramer House, which was a part of Saratoga Hospital, for many years. She was a member of the Middle Grove United Methodist Church, Middle Grove Fire Co. No. 3 Ladies Auxiliary and the Rebekah's Lodge. Enid enjoyed fishing and bike riding.

She was predeceased by her husband Elliot J. Older Sr.; her son and daughter-in-law, Neil and Natalie Older, and siblings Fred, Floyd, John and Veda. Enid is survived by her children Elliot J. Older Jr. (Doris), Evamae Jones (Bill), Nancy Burke (Jim) and Floyd Older (Bonnie); and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

A grave-side service will be held in Middle Grove Cemetery in the Spring. Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Enid to the Middle Grove United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 28, Middle Grove, NY 12850. Online remembrances may be made at [www.armerfuneralhome.com](http://www.armerfuneralhome.com)

## HERITAGE HUNTERS

### Genealogy and Local History

Heritage Hunters of Saratoga County will meet on the third Saturday of the month, for February and March. Programs will be held at 1 p.m. at the Town of Saratoga Town Hall, 12 Spring St. [Route 29], Schuylerville.

**Feb. 17** – Discover the fascinating world of 19th century photography. Anne Clothier, director of education at the Saratoga County Historical Society at Brookside Museum, will be the presenter. Techniques for interpreting images will be shared and photography's local roots will be explored. Feel free to bring early photographs or family albums.

**March 17** – Grant Cottage site coordinator, Ben Kemp, will tell us about late president and union general, Ulysses S. Grant, and his relationship with the Irish.

Some consider beauty as a pretty face, a handsome face,  
but true beauty disregards the outward.  
When you're a beautiful person on the inside,  
that's what counts!

*Fran Lambert  
Gatekeep On The Mountain*

## 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](http://www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com).** Email [toghistsoc@gmail.com](mailto:toghistsoc@gmail.com) for more information.

**CLICK ON:**



**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](mailto: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 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@LCYLAW.com](mailto:Chertok@LCYLAW.com) or write him at: Dan Chertok, 58 Ormsbee Road, Porter Corners, NY 12859



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