



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 24, Issue 5



501(c)(3)

email toghistsoc@gmail.com
www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 – Meeting 7 p.m. at Greenfield Community Center, 25 Wilton Road, Greenfield Center, NY 12831. **Program: Ice Harvesting**, hosted by Tom Ragosta, President of the Watervliet Historical Society and Watervliet City Historian. The program will include a brief history of ice harvesting during the late 19th and early 20th centuries as well as the process used in storing natural ice. The program will include a display of various artifacts used in the ice harvesting process.

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 – Meeting at 7 p.m. at Greenfield Community Center. **Program: An Evening with Elizabeth Conant**, join Elizabeth as she takes us down a sentimental journey as a musician, teacher, and writer living in Greenfield Center. *Rescheduled due to weather.*

Tuesday, March 21, 2023 – Meeting 7 p.m. at Greenfield Community Center. **Program: "The Trevett & Sons Chair Factory,"** hosted by Providence Town Historian Bob Wemple. Mr. Wemple will share the history of the Trevett & Sons Chair Factory which was located in the town of Providence. The factory was in operation from the mid-1800s through the early 1900s. Bob and his wife, Sue, will bring several examples of Trevett chairs from their personal collection.

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

Refreshment volunteers for January are Joan Rowland and Patti Veitch. Thanks to everyone that brought cookies and desserts for the cookie exchange in December.

Joan's Jabbering — January 2024

by Joan E Rowland, President

Did you have a white Christmas where you live? We did but only about 1 inch of snow. Enough for the town to be out plowing the roads (actually, salting/sanding), not enough snow to move.

Our Annual Holiday Open House, December 3, 2023, went well. Lots of great cookies to taste and exchange for a variety for later. We had some locals who had never been in the museum come and look around. Some, to their surprise, found relatives in the displays. Most sat around for a chat. Our theme was "Reindeer."

- John Greenwood told his reindeer story. And what a story it was, thanks John.
- I brought the reindeer that once belonged to Pearl and Bill McKnight. Also a few others that were missing parts.
- Janet Jones showed her two reindeer that belonged to her Mom and Grandmother.
- Kathy Mensinger had a reindeer made out of a log with sticks for the feet. It was made by William Havel, the father of her college roommate 45 years ago. (He also made one for Kathy's mom.) Mr. Havel was from Michigan, where Kathy grew up. Kathy pointed out the one eye which needed replacing over the years.
- JoAnn Rowland showed her reindeer made by her high school friend Kathy Clark's father, Dick Waite in the late 1970s. It store's flat, fits in little cutouts like a puzzle. Only thing is, one puzzle piece was missing, it's head. It must still be in the Santa Box where we found this item.

On a side note, Karl Zeh asked if there was ever a toy you always wanted, but your parents said NO? Think about it, maybe this is next year's topic.

Check out the Ormsbee Cemetery Patriot Burial Marker Sign on Ormsbee Road, Porter Corners (see story on page 3). I will see if we can schedule a tour to the cemetery as a group in the spring.

Don't forget to stop over for our meeting at the Greenfield Community Center on January 16th. We will be learning all about "Ice Harvesting."

Hope everyone has a Happy New Year – 2024.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

January 2024

Brookhaven Golf Course History

Brookhaven: A Community's Golf Course

Section Three

April 19, 2011 – by Ron Feulner

Continued from December's Newsletter

Construction work with bulldozers began in the summer of 1961. Pulver often spent his day off (from the other golf courses where he was employed) at Brookhaven, hitting golf balls across the farm fields to test and fine tune his design while supervising the bulldozer operator who was clearing trees and fences.

Others volunteered and offered their time and equipment to speed the project along. Robert St. Lawrence donated his two-yard bucket loader for the summer, which expedited the removal of stone walls and the digging of the foundation for the clubhouse. Scrap iron pipe was welded together by mill welders to create a watering system for the first nine holes.

Work continued into the summer of 1962. Scrub trees were bulldozed and pushed into large brush windrows down the middle of some of the fairways. Jim Smith, mill employee and chief of the Greenfield Fire Department, arranged for a fire engine to stand by as the piles were burned. The town and village of Corinth officials also donated the use of heavy equipment as they felt that this was a project to benefit the entire community.

In March 1962, George Pulver was out on the course in knee high boots, studying drainage off the newly shaped greens, making certain there were no pockets where water could accumulate. When satisfied, he supervised the mix of two parts soil and one part sand from the farm and another one-part peat from a local Greenfield bog to be laid down on the greens in preparation for seeding. In September, after all nine greens had been covered to a depth of eight inches with this mixture, seed and fertilizer were added before a local Boy Scout group was called in to stomp the mixture down, compacting it to six-inches.

The fairways were also being prepared for seeding. International Paper Co. had been developing a new product called Turf Fiber, which was a green mixture of pulp fiber, grass seed, and fertilizer mixed with water, forming a slurry that could be sprayed from a tank truck on to the raw soil. A new tank truck was diverted from its original destination and brought to the Brookhaven project, where the experimental mixture was sprayed on parts of fairways 1, 4, and 5.

The clubhouse, equipment building, and pump house were also under construction. Earl "Bud" McKnight remembers, as a millwright at the mill, working on roof trusses for the club house. Harold Jones, a mill employee,

said, "Everything done at the mill had to have a work order for auditing purposes. The work order for the golf course had its own designation as "Repairs at the lower yard."

The winter of 1962-63 had little snow cover and the new greens and fairway grass suffered. By March, the greens were still under a layer of ice. But with hard work and constant care, under George Pulver's supervision, the course was ready to open for play by August 1963. The next problem was getting enough water where it was needed during the late summer dry spell. With the Kayaderosseras Creek running through the property, there was plenty of water; the problem was getting enough electricity to run the pumps, and, in addition, the old pipes (from the mill) had scale build-up, which often resulted in their plugging. These problems persisted until 1967, when a new system was installed.

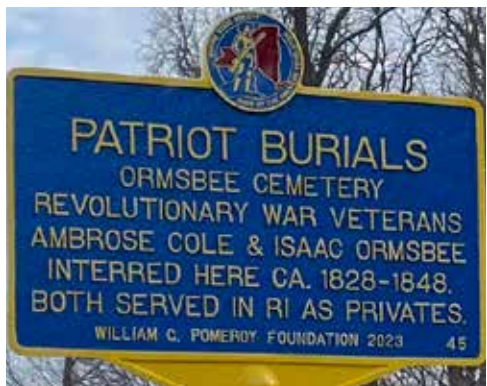
The clubhouse was finished by adding windows from the old drafting room at the mill. The cooking range, walk-in cooler, serving table, and dishes came from the Community Hall dining area. Interior furnishings came from second-hand stores and area sales.

In August 1963, when the course opened, the restaurant area was leased to Mary Earls while the course itself was being maintained by mill employees under Pulver's supervision. The public immediately responded; a majority of the mill golfers joined the club, as did many local and regional golfers.

Work was immediately begun expanding the course to eighteen holes; by August 1971, they were all open to play. In 1974, Earl Towers, Jr. left the family dairy processing business in Corinth and was hired to help Al Steel, who was then running the course. Soon after Junior began work, Al Steel died and Earl Jr. was made Green's Superintendent, working under the direct supervision of George Pulver.

Towers was paid for a forty-hour week but found himself often going out on the course on weekends, especially if the greens needed whipping after a heavy dew. Earl said, "By Monday morning, there was always a good supply of grass to cut." Ed Vredenburg also worked on the course. Earl said, "Ed had some kind of background in raising trees and was good at making things grow." Earl continued, "George Pulver was a good boss, but he never could figure out how Ed and I got so much done in such a short time. Back then, we were still planting trees and doing other things, as well as taking care of the course." Earl lived in the house adjacent to the clubhouse (one of the houses that his father had kept when he sold the farm). One night, Earl looked out his window and saw flames coming from the clubhouse. He told his wife, Barbara, to call the fire department while he ran over and grabbed the outdoor hose and began fighting the fire. "I managed to save the clubhouse," Earl said. "The fire started because somebody dumped ash trays in the waste basket."

continued next month



Clifford Young and his nephew, Mark Young

Ormsbee Cemetery Sign Unveiling

Ormsbee Cemetery Pomeroy Patriot Sign Unveiling took place on Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, in Porter Corners with Lauren Roberts, Saratoga County Historian; Ed Munger Jr., President, Saratoga Battle Chapter SAR; and Heather Mabee, Regent, Saratoga Chapter DAR, 2nd Continental Artillery.

The event took place at the home of Mark Young, a seventh-generation resident of the Porter Corners farm called home by Patriot Isaac Ormsbee after the American Revolution. Clifford Young, a sixth-generation resident, was also there. The small cemetery sits in the yard with more than a dozen graves including those of Ormsbee and

Cole and Mark Young’s grandfather and father.

Saratoga County Historian Lauren Roberts and assistant Historian Abby Burke were awarded the SAR’s Bronze 250th Anniversary Medal and Certificate by the Saratoga Battle Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. Chapter President Edward Munger Jr. presented the medals during a commemoration at the final resting site of Revolutionary War Patriots Ambrose Cole and Isaac Ormsbee, both of whom served as Privates of Rhode Island regiments in the American Revolution.

The presentation followed a recognition of the new sign funded by the William J. Pomeroy Foundation’s Patriot Burials Historical Markers grant program.

Holiday Party – December 3, 2023



MUSEUM'S FEATURED ITEM ICE CUTTER

by Joan E Rowland

When we had the Antique Sale in September 2021, Micheal Koslowsky donated this Ice Cutter for us to sell.

When it did not sell, the board decided that it would be a nice item to have at the museum.

It is now stored in the Carriage House.



Concetta A. Morrison

(September 2, 1923–December 13, 2023)

Concetta "Connie" Ann (Comfort) Morrison, age 100, of Mechanicsburg, died on Wednesday, December 13, 2023. Connie was born on Sunday, September 2, 1923, in Saratoga Springs, NY, to the late Thomas Comfort and Margaret

(Rituno) Comfort. Connie was the widow of Alexander (Alex/Bud) Davis Morrison, whom she married on September 26, 1948, and who died on December 5, 2001. In addition to her parents and husband, Connie is preceded in death by 11 brothers and sisters.

Connie's survivors include her two children: Alexander "Alex" Thomas Morrison and his wife, Debra, of Myrtle Beach, SC; Sandra Lee Goodman and her husband, Richard, of Mechanicsburg; her 5 grandchildren: Shane Morrison, Sara Novosel, Valerie Braswell, Zachary Morrison, Rebecca Goodman; her 10 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

There will be a private family gathering and burial at Greenfield Cemetery. Online remembrances may be made at www.burkefuneralhome.com

"Don't ever think the poetry is dead in an old man because his forehead is wrinkled, or that his manhood has left him when his hand trembles! If they ever were there, they are there still."

– Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.

Stand Alone

by John R. Greenwood

Never doubt the voice.
Never pause to question
If you live to breathe
Prepare to stand alone

When looking in the mirror
Be proud the sound you see
A story told worth telling
A dream is one held dear

No magic potion formula
No secret handshake known
Will change the heart that drives you
To stand as one alone



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

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

Recycle Box Greenfield Lions Club

The Greenfield Lions Club has a recycle box in the entry way of the Town’s Community Center. (Box is on right between entry doors).

What can you leave in this box? All things plastic. Store plastic bags, ice bags (dried), reclosable bags, cereal box liners, bread bags, newspaper sleeves, dry cleaning bags, bubble wrap, and plastic e-commerce mailers. All items must be clean and dry.

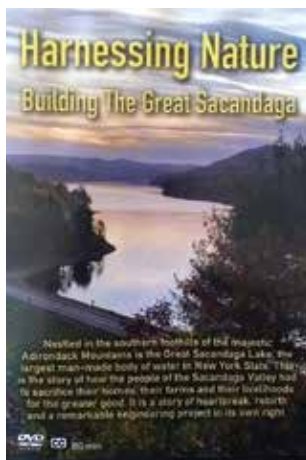
Later we will see a bench made from the recycled plastics.



“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.)



Tom Szemela was the winner of the blown glass pendant drawn at the Holiday Open House.

Donated by
Larry Rutland of
North Creek Studio

T-SHIRTS FOR SALE



Our T-shirts are still available for purchase. Front has a left chest logo. Back of shirt has a Caboose Day advertisement which was designed by Conductor Carey Ward of the Saratoga Corinth & Hudson Railway.

Shirts are available for purchase for \$20 each. Sizes still available are Small, Medium, Large, X Large and a limited supply of 2X Large shirts. They will be available at the December 3rd Holiday Party.

If you need to have your shirt mailed to you, please send a check to our PO Box 502, Greenfield Center NY 12833. Please indicate size and include an additional \$8 for postage and handling. \$28 total.

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
toghistsoc@gmail.com

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.

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.

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 email us at toghistsoc@gmail.com



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