



Historical Society Newsletter

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Dan Smith, Mary Vetter, and Karl Zeh

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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

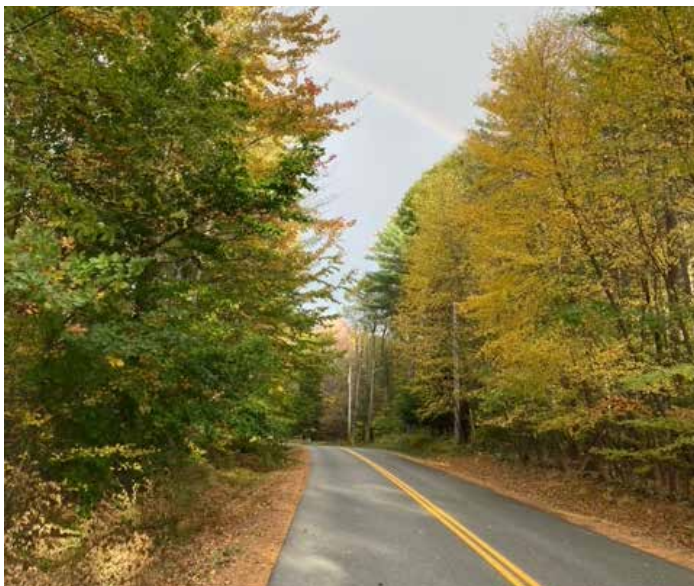
Tuesday, November 21 – Meeting at 7 p.m. at Greenfield Community Center, 25 Wilton Road, Greenfield Center, NY 12831. **Program:** *An Evening with Elizabeth Conant*, join Elizabeth Conant as she takes us down a sentimental journey as a musician, teacher, and writer living in Greenfield Center. *More info on page 5.*

Sunday, December 3 – *IOOF Hall / Chatfield Museum Holiday Party Open House and Cookie Exchange*, 1 to 3 p.m. This year's theme will be *Reindeer*. Please bring cookies/desserts to share.

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 – Meeting 7 p.m. at the Greenfield Community Center. **Program:** *Ice Harvesting*.

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

Our Newest LIFETIME MEMBERS
Yvonne Monroe and Family



Rainbow Over Wilsey Road taken by Paula Shappy

Joan's Jabbering November 2023 by Joan E Rowland, President

When was the last time a killing frost was on Nov. 1st? We here on the mountain did not have light frost before that. Normally, the night before a frost, I will go into heart attack mode and bring in all the plants to be wintered over – all upstairs in one night. Yes, that is a heart attack waiting to happen. So, this year I have been bringing up one every night. The day after the frost, there on the porch is the vine I transplanted from a summer window box to a pot to winter over – yup, there it is out with the blackened coleus, but it is alive. A couple coleus were going to come upstairs too but well, guess I get to start them from seed again because I was too late.

The October Program was so exciting to finally get to see. David Waite presented “Forgotten Crossroads – Bacon Hill.” Since I know many of those in the documentary, it was exciting to see them in their own environment. The farmlands were beautiful. In the middle of them, is an Iron and Steele Company. Mentioned is “Auntie.” I have judged Crafts in Washington County with her (we also shared a birth date). Patty Schwartzbeck mentioned to me after – “Those Peck boys grew up nicely.” She had them when she was teaching third grade in Schuylerville School.

It was sad to see Byron Winney with his blueberry farm. He had so many plans to grow his business but passed away a couple weeks after this filming. Two of his bushes are at my house. His twin brother is a friend of mine and he traded 2 bushes for my extra hasta.

If you are interested in purchasing their DVD, it is available at the Brookside Museum. Here is their web site to order one online <https://brooksidemuseum.org/bacon-hill-a-forgotten-crossroads-dvd/>

Our Christmas Open House will be Sunday Dec. 3 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Museum.

We do need to clean up the Museum and Decorate. I will be there on Wed., Nov. 29 starting at 3 p.m. Please stop in and help out. We will need to vacuum, put tree up, decorate hall and windows. If all goes well, should be done in about one hour.

I know our next meeting in November is very close to Thanksgiving. Please take the time out of your busy schedule to sit and relax with us and hear the stories of Elizabeth Conant. You never know, she may just break out in song.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

November 2023

Brookhaven Golf Course History

Brookhaven: A Community's Golf Course

April 19, 2011 – by Ron Feulner

As you probably remember, I have been telling the story of the 1907 fire in Middle Grove, which I intend to continue at some future date. This month, I am starting a new series on the history of Brookhaven park and golf course. Since the golf course was built on a preexisting dairy farm owned by the Towers' family, I will begin the series recounting that portion of the land's history.

At age 21, Thomas Towers sailed from England to America, met Elizabeth Hoyt on board, and married her. They had three children, including a son, William.

In 1888, William Towers married Jennie Myers and soon after moved to an Adirondack town called Griffin, where he worked in a tannery and sawmill. In 1897, they left Griffin with their cows, children, and belongings for the long, dusty trek south to the Town of Greenfield, Saratoga County. They eventually purchased a farm on what is now Alpine Meadows Road — the same farm that would one-day become Brookhaven. Soon after his arrival, William's name appeared in a local newspaper:

Greenfield Center ... was the scene of a shooting affray on Thursday night. Byron Place and William Towers engaged in a fight in Henry Bishop's barroom and were demolishing the furniture and bar fixtures at a great rate when the proprietor interfered and shot Place.

Morning Star, Glens Falls NY, 1899

Life for William, Jennie and children continued on the farm. One of their daughters, Jennie Towers Pattist would later write:

Remember ... the dried apples and sweet corn; we didn't have too many sweets then, black strap molasses, horehound candy, and licorice. Then there were the sleigh rides with the buffalo robe and soap stone, then ride down to the village to a box party, oyster supper, or a jack-wax party at Ira Holmes' ... One of my fondest and cherished memories is recalling the sight of Pa and Ma going down across the meadow and creek on a Sunday morning.

They raised 14 children and acres of strawberries on the sandy foot hills of the Kayaderosseras Range. They also built a dairy business, delivering milk from their cows to local families, but, apparently, William still had time for recreation:

South Corinth Farmer's Mystery is solved ...

How William Towers, a South Corinth farmer, stole his own horse and did not know it, has been uncovered by the Saratoga police. Towers went to police headquarters in Saratoga and reported to Commissioner King that his black mare and buggy had been stolen from the shed of John Callahan, in Van Dam Street. Towers said he came to town in the morning and tied the horse under the shed. He admitted to the police that he had visited several cafes during the day. About 8 o'clock at night he went to the shed and the horse was gone. Inspector Crandall was detailed on the case. The horse was finally

located at Barnett's livery stable. Barnett said that the proprietor of Davis' blacksmith shop in Long Alley had brought the horse to the stable, with the statement that a man had brought it there to be shod and had failed to return for it. Davis did not want to leave the horse in the shop all night, and took it to the stable. Inspector Crandall learned that Towers himself had taken the horse to the blacksmith shop. Towers declared that he had no recollection of taking the horse from the shed and driving it to the blacksmith shop.

The Amsterdam Evening Recorder, Friday, December 15, 1916.

When William's son, Earl, returned from WWI, William sold the farm and dairy business to him. William, who was fond of saying that he "wanted to die with his boots on," bought a store in South Corinth and ran it for a while before becoming a fire warden at the Spruce Mountain Fire Tower, where he died in 1929. On the day of his death, he called his grandson and asked him to deliver supplies. When the grandson arrived, William was found dead next to the tower from where he apparently had fallen after suffering a fatal heart attack.

William's son, Earl Towers, married Beatrice Bishop, and they continued running the farm and delivering milk to local customers while raising their seven children. When NY State passed a mandatory pasteurization law, Earl Towers teamed up with another local dairyman and in 1933 built the *Gill-Towers Pasteurization Plant* in Corinth and continued to produce and peddle milk to their customers.

Earl and Beatrice's oldest son, Earl Jr., grew up working on his parents' farm. He remembers milking in the morning, then loading several cases of bottled milk in the passenger seat of their pick-up truck and heading out to pick up forty-quart cans of raw milk from local farmers while delivering bottled milk to customers along the way. The forty-quart cans were delivered to the family's pasteurization plant in Corinth before returning for the evening milking at the farm on Alpine Meadows Road.

In 1957, Earl Sr., his three sons grown and following their own interests, sold his cows. He turned the dairy processing plant in Corinth over to Earl Jr. and Earl Jr.'s brother, Dave. They continued to buy milk from other farms and run the processing plant.

While the Towers family had been getting established in the dairy and farming business, other area industries were also thriving. The first paper making mill opened in Corinth in 1869, and several mills followed, some eventually destroyed by fire. In 1898, the International Paper Company was organized and purchased the then existing Hudson River Mill. Through the years that followed, the Hudson River Mill became a world leader in the industry.

More of the story of how Brookhaven originated coming next month.

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

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

TOGHS MEETING AND PROGRAM – OCTOBER 17, 2023



Robert Roeckle's Orange Cheese Cake and Apple Crumb Pie and Paula Shappy's Short Bread



David Waite from the Saratoga County History Center showing a documentary on "Bacon Hill, a Forgotten Crossroads"



JoAnn Rowland and Dan Smith



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 November meeting.

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.

Blown Glass Pendant Raffle

Larry Rutland of North Creek Studio donated this beautiful blown glass pendant to us for a raffle.

We will be drawing the winner at the meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 2023.

Tickets will be sold up until the drawing.

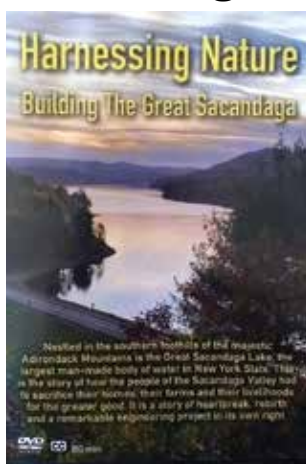
Tickets are 1 for \$1 or 8 for \$5.

If you win, you could have a beautiful Christmas Gift to give (or keep for yourself).



"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.)



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.

2023 Town of Greenfield Halloween Bash/Octoberfest



Ghost Buster Vince Walsh and Family



JoAnn Rowland with the TOGHS Golf Cart



Annabelle Carrico, Porter Corners Melody Workers 4-H Club



Porter Corners Melody Workers 4-H Club



Letter to the Editor

During the playing of the national anthem, I was taught at an early age that I was to hold my hand over my heart, remove my hat, and turn toward the flag. When I was growing up as a kid in the 1950s (in Porter Corners), shame was a big motivator for us. We were told that it was shameful to use a flag as a bandanna, a cape, or any piece of clothing, and we let others know when we thought someone was shamefully abusing "our" flag.

We were taught that we must respect the flag because it honored all those who defended our country since the revolution and more recently against our enemies, foreign and domestic. We are one nation, under one flag and we should all work together during peace and war. In World War II we had "Rosie the Riveter," victory gardens, scrap metal drives, and more to support the men and women in uniform at the battle front defending our flag.

Before 2008 even veterans were required to hold their hand over their heart during the playing of the national anthem, and we did. That rule was changed when then-President George W. Bush signed the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008. Now, military personnel in or out of uniform and veterans may render a hand-salute with their hats on during the playing of the national anthem.

We have many issues in this country, but we still live under one flag. I find it shameful that we cannot stand behind the one flag that represents us all. White stars on a blue field with 13 red and white stripes representing the original colonies that fought to create this nation. That is our flag in our yards, carried in a protest and on the front line against our enemies. Anything else is not our flag that honors all that it is supposed to represent.

Joe (Frank) Goyette, Southbury, CT

MUSEUM’S FEATURED ITEM MASONIC APRON by Joan E Rowland

Just donated to the Museum by James and Ruth Chatfield. James is now deceased (9/14/22). Ruth and her family wanted our museum to have the framed Apron. It is from the 1800s.

Up close, the embroidery is just beautiful. Included in the frame is this enclosed message about St. John’s Lodge. This will be found upstairs to the front of the museum (road side).

“St. John’s Lodge”

The second Baptist Church was organized in 1794 in the Dake neighborhood but became extinct in 1822.

Several events of more than passing interest transpired in the town of Greenfield in the early years of the 19th Century. The first as well as most noteworthy, was the organization of St. John’s Lodge, No. 22, F. & A. M. which was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Masons, February 20, 1802.

John St. John was the first Master. Meetings were held at Porter Corners at first and then finally they purchased the Ingerson Store at Greenfield Center, and fixed up the upper part into commodious lodge rooms, where they still meet regularly.

The names of its first Masters are names of men who were prominent first settlers.

The Chapter was organized February 7, 1805, with John St. John as Master also. This society was chartered as St. John’s Chapter, No. 102. R. A. M. February 3, 1825, with Elihu Wing as First High Priest.”

(Note: The building has now been sold and they merged with the Saratoga Springs’ Lodge)



November refreshment volunteers are Joan Rowland and Patti Veitch. October volunteers, Robert Roeckle and Paula Shappy, served Orange Cheese Cake, Apple Crumb Pie and Short Bread.

An Evening with Elizabeth Conant November 21, 2023 Program

Join Elizabeth Conant as she takes us down a sentimental journey as a musician, teacher, and writer living in Greenfield. She’ll share memories of her father Robert Conant’s world famous Festival of Baroque Music, the journey of the Hill House Studio, and the transformation from young mother to empty nester navigating through emotional ups and downs we all face when taking a nostalgic look back. If you know Elizabeth you’ll want to come and travel down memory lane via photo albums and stories. If you aren’t familiar with this gifted and spirited woman you won’t want to miss this rare opportunity to hear her story. It promises to be a “memorable” evening.

Holiday Party Open House and Cookie Exchange at the IOOF Hall / Chatfield Museum Sunday, December 3, 2023 1 to 3 p.m.

**This year’s theme will be
“Reindeer.” Please bring
cookies/desserts to share.
Hot weasel will be provided.**

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.



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

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.



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