



## 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

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

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sunday, December 3 – IOOF Hall / Chatfield Museum Holiday Party Open House and Cookie Exchange**, 1 to 3 p.m., corner of Middle Grove Road and Lake Desolation Road, Middle Grove. 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, 25 Wilton Road, Greenfield Center, NY 12831. **Program: Ice Harvesting.**

**Tuesday, February 20, 2024 – Meeting** at 7 p.m. at Greenfield Community Center. **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. *Rescheduled due to weather.*

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

### 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)

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

### Joan's Jabbering December 2023

*by Joan E Rowland, President*

November 21st meeting got hit by the first snowstorm of the year. Four inches of snow followed by rain all night, so it was hard to know how much really was at our house because it got packed down. As always, my side of the garage had not been cleaned up, lawn mower put back in line and rest of garden/lawn equipment put away. I am ready now for the next one.

I was really looking forward to having Elizabeth Conant come and talk about her parents and her life in Greenfield Center. I also heard her son Elihu might be around for Thanksgiving and would be coming along. John Greenwood was able to book her for the February 20th Meeting. (Please no snow/ice that night.) Hopefully, Elihu can also join in.

By the time you get this, we will have had the Annual Holiday Open House at the Museum. It is scheduled for Sunday, December 3, 2023 from 1 to 3 p.m. Thank you to the Elves that came into the museum on November 29 to clean, drag out the tree, and all the decorations. Three people, 45 minutes total – now, that is teamwork.

This year, house parties have made a comeback. I always look forward to chatting with my friends' families and extended friends during the holidays. I hope you will be able to get out to socialize with others this holiday season. Just hitch up the reindeer!

*Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy New Year!*

### 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.

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

December 2023

### Brookhaven Golf Course History

#### Brookhaven: A Community's Golf Course Section Two

April 19, 2011 – by Ron Feulner

*Last month I took a break from the series about the 1907 Middle Grove fire and began a new series about the history of Brookhaven Golf Course. There will be several more months of the Brookhaven story before I return to the fire.*

In 1923, International Paper Company decided to add a group insurance plan for its employees. The company was willing to pay the greater part of its cost, with employees contributing the rest. The response was immediate and overwhelming as nearly 100% of the employees signed up. Under the insurance agreement, the dividends were to go to the company, but the company decided to pass them back to the employees. Since the amount per employee was small, the mill supervisor decided that it would make more sense to donate the lump sum dividends to some kind of association comprised of all the employees who had signed up for the insurance. EMBA, or the *Employees Mutual Benefit Association* of the International Paper Hudson River Mill, was organized for this purpose. EMBA's constitution stated that the object of the organization was to cooperate with the Company:

1. Promote the general welfare of employees.
2. Promote and administer financial and other benefits in the form of life insurance, sickness, and disability insurance.
3. Promote through proper measures the health, safety, financial security, and social entertainment and recreation of its members and their families.

In 1942, the EMBA News bulletin was published for the first time to keep the boys in the military informed of mill and hometown news.

When the war ended, the International Paper Company's mill in Corinth was booming and EMBA was becoming ever more active in finding creative ways of funding itself. With the support of O. B. Beyer, mill manager, the organization built bowling alleys in the commissary, basketball and softball teams were organized, and eventually tennis, fishing, hunting, boxing, and golf were added. A sports fund was provided by the mill management, which financed little league baseball as well as other community activities.

In 1957, EMBA installed new bowling alleys in Community Hall and leased and operated the nine-hole Bend of the River Golf Course in Hadley to satisfy the mill employees' growing interest in golf. Soon, the committee, chaired by Bert Edwards from the mill, realized that the employee interest in golf had expanded beyond the capacity of the Bend of the River course, and they began thinking about building a new golf course. During the summer of 1959, a photographer and helicopter were enlisted to photograph from the air the land between Greenfield Center and Corinth, looking for a suitable site.

The committee eventually chose the Earl Towers, Sr. farm on Alpine Meadows Road in South Corinth as a potential site. Mr. Towers agreed to sell but reserved about 2 ½ acres, where his and his son's houses were located. Since EMBA was not structured to buy property, in November 1960, a new corporation called the O. B. Beyer Recreation Park Corporation was formed.

In December 1960, 370 acres of land were purchased from Earl Towers Sr. and his neighbor, Madeline Towers, for \$18,600. Before the purchase was finalized, George J. Pulver, golf pro at both McGregor and Saratoga Golf and Polo clubs, was retained to walk the property and determine its suitability for golf. His report was favorable as he observed, "a rolling terrain, sand and topsoil availability for building greens, and a good water supply from the Kayaderosseras Creek flowing across the property."

Pulver's son, George Jr., who was a good golfer in his own right, said:

My father took me up to the Brookhaven site during the winter, and we shoveled a bare spot in the cow field where he was thinking of placing one of the tees on a dogleg hole. After we got the tee shoveled, we stood facing Northwesterly, toward the old ski area, and he had me hit balls with my driver toward the tallest pine tree in that direction. He was getting older and couldn't hit the ball as far as I could. Each time, we would find the hole in the crusted snow where the ball landed, and I would spray the snow around the spot with fluorescent paint while my father calculated the flight distances with a tape measure and transit. He was trying to decide where to locate the dogleg on that hole.

There was also a pond on the property and my father asked me to fly the balls over it while he noted the landing sites of each ball. This eventually became the ninth hole and later (after the course was expanded) the eighteenth.

Then he would come home and work on our old maple dining room table with his maps and drawings designing the course. He didn't have a draftsman's stool, so he would stand up. He wanted to stay with the original Scottish concept of using the land the way nature had shaped it. He felt very strongly about this and wanted to design the course around the contours of the land. He was fond of saying that, 'The natural terrain of our mother earth should be undisturbed in the building of golf courses. Just as the gentle curves of a woman's body have been forever preserved in the visual arts, so too, nature's landscape should be preserved by the golf course architect.' He loved Brookhaven and wanted it to be his final contribution — his epitaph. He especially loved the fact that it was going to be a working man's course.

Later, in 1973, George Pulver sent a letter to Al Mattau of the Saratogian, reiterating his desire to design a course around the natural beauty of the land. He wrote:

I must confess in all modesty the land and its beauty was there — my effort simply was to design a golf area and not molest the beauty. I shall keep trying.

## MUSEUM'S FEATURED ITEM SANTA'S REINDEER AND SLEIGH

by Joan E Rowland



Reindeer is the theme of the Annual Open House for December 3, 2023. When we decorated the museum, I looked to see if our supply of decorations had a reindeer. I did find a horse like wooden toy, but it was not a reindeer.

I remember Aunt Pearl and Uncle Bill McKnight having two reindeer pulling a sled with Santa driving and a location in the back for the presents. They always had it in their big picture window. They lived on the corner of North Creek Road and Plank Road in Porter Corners. I do not remember them having any other decorations. My sister JoAnn only remembers this one item as a Christmas decoration.

I knew this item was given to our Mom (Evelyn Rowland) when Aunt Pearl passed away. JoAnn did some digging in the house and found the reindeer (but no sled). Some of the reindeer are missing antlers and one his leg. I said – this is not what I remember it looking like. After another look through the box of Santa's, I was able to find the one I was thinking of. I will be offering this item up to the Museum. It has to be over 60 years old since I remember it when I was a child at their house.

## An Evening with Elizabeth Conant February 20, 2024 Program



Greenfield Center resident Elizabeth Conant shared stories about her famous father Robert Conant. The following paragraph was taken from his obituary after his death on December 27, 2013 a decade ago. The evening focused on the joy of music her father instilled in her and her son Elihu.

“Mr. Conant was a pioneer of the early music revival of the post World War II years, promoting the use of historically accurate instruments and tunings. Mr. Conant

## 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.

## 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 on Sunday, December 3, 2023 at the Holiday Party.

Tickets will be sold 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).



created the Foundation for Baroque Music in 1959, and began to host an annual concert series, The Festival of Baroque Music, the first of several which took place at the Seagle Music Colony in Schroon Lake, NY, and which later moved to its permanent home in The Studio in Greenfield Center, an open-plan concert hall designed for its superb acoustics. The Festival of Baroque Music ran continuously for 52 years, concluding in July of 2011. In addition to his love for early music he was an avid supporter of 20th century music and commissioned several new compositions for harpsichord. He received a Lifetime Award from Yale University as well as a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Saratoga Arts Council. When appearing before an audience, Robert spoke with masterful eloquence as few can.”

You can learn more about Elizabeth Conant on her blog “The Hillhouse: The Journey of a Mother and Son.” The web address is: [thehillhouseingreenfield.com](http://thehillhouseingreenfield.com). Her writing is superb and her candidness rare. You can also find her at her professional website: [ElizabethConant.com](http://ElizabethConant.com).

With Thanksgiving in view we'd like to thank Elizabeth and her family for their contribution to our community.

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



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