



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

Volume 20, Issue 6



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www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

CALENDAR

Feb. 18, 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.

March 17, 2020 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** Former Saratoga Springs police chief *Greg Veitch* has written a book – *A Gangster's Paradise*. This is a history of the Gangsters of Saratoga Springs from the Prohibition era up through the Kefauver Committee hearings in the 1950s.

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.

May 19, 2020 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **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*. (Rescheduled from November)

Sept. 15, 2020 – Tuesday, POT LUCK DINNER, at the Community Center in Greenfield. Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. Bring a dish to pass and your own place setting. **Meeting starts at 7 p.m. Program:** *Himanee Gupta-Carlson* is returning. She has written a book, *A Hip Hop of Food*, which is a study of hip-hop and small scale farming as interrelated practices of social change.

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

Our Newest LIFETIME MEMBERS

Gregg Frank

FEBRUARY NOTES

by Mary Vetter

We had a full house in January for John Greenwood's presentation about the Brookside Dairy. As John made his presentation, members of the audience shared recollections of living on the farm or of people who had worked for the dairy. It is at a meeting like this, when the past of Greenfield comes alive, that I clearly feel why I love this Society.

History as a collection of facts or a series of photos preserves what we know but listening to the voice of Harold L. Hall describe delivering milk brings those photos and facts to life. We invite anyone who wants to share their story of living in Greenfield to contact us. To help us build a complete picture of the Greenfield that was for the people who now inhabit and for the people who will inhabit this wonderful town.

In February, we switch from the history of Greenfield to learning something of the history of current resident Himanee Gupta-Carlson. Himanee and her husband, Jim, run Squashville Farm and have been vendors at our farmer's market for years. She has written a book titled *Muncie, India(na)*. It is her story of growing up as the daughter of Indian immigrants in a small mid-western “typical American” town. Join us on February 18 at the Community Center. As usual, the meeting will start at 7 p.m.

Stay warm. I hear Punxsutawney Phil says we are going to have an early spring. I hope he is right. Some friends went to Atlanta for a wedding and texted me pictures of pansies and daffodils. I can't wait for that to be what I see outside my window.

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)

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by *Ron Feulner*

Middle Grove Methodist Church

At about the same time as the Greenfield Center and Porter Corners Methodist Churches were being built (1840-1850s), other Methodist Churches were also built in Rock City Falls and Galway. Some of the Methodists from the Jamesville (now Middle Grove – they changed the name of the community when they first applied for a post office and were denied because there was already a Jamesville, NY.) area were making the long trip by horse and buggy to attend these churches. As the Jamesville Methodists increased their membership, they began looking for a temporary place to hold services nearer home. The Jamesville Baptist Church turned them down creating a bit of friction between the two that lasted almost as long as the churches.

The Jamesville Methodists were finally granted permission to hold services in the common room (first floor) of the Odd Fellows Hall in Jamesville. Here, they shared the space with a private high school that was meeting during week days.

Mrs. Ruth Callenius Price, in her history of the Middle Grove Methodist Church, described Jamesville at about the time that a new Methodist Church was being contemplated. "Middle Grove [Jamesville] at that time had about 50 families. Stately elms lined the main street. Kayderosseras Creek supplied power for two paper mills and a grist mill. There were two stores, hotel, a Baptist Church, a grade

school, a blacksmith shop, a cider mill, a planing mill, I.O.O.F. Hall. There was a pine grove on each side of Main Street. Glass Factory [area above Lake Desolation] was a seemingly endless source of pulpwood and the village was surrounded by rich farm lands."

This was the setting when, in 1868, 12 men subscribed a total of \$900 for the erection of a new church at the intersection of Middle Grove and North Creek Roads. The new church was dedicated on January 10, 1888, and is still active at the same site today (2020) having outlived their earlier Baptist cousins who had denied them use of their meeting house.

The first pastor of the Methodist Church was William L. Wallace. Reverend Wallace eventually left the ministry, and at the time of his death was head surgeon at Crouse-Irving Hospital in Syracuse, NY, according to church historian, Ruth Callenius Price.

Fortunately, this church along with the Baptist Church and Odd Fellows Hall all survived the Middle Grove fire of 1907. The conflagration began in a general store that had been converted into a tenement house at the intersection of Murray and Middle Grove Roads just east of where a Stewart's shop is now located (2020), and burned eastward leap frogging from one building to another. (I will address this fire in more detail in a later article.)

Many of these small rural churches are disappearing, but Porter Corners and Middle Grove have been able to survive all challenges and are both active in their respective communities today.

Town of Greenfield Volunteer Fire Departments

Ron Feulner and Louise Okoniewski have been working on collecting materials to celebrate the history of the Volunteer Fire Departments that have served our community with distinction. This is a huge undertaking and we want to create a display at the museum that will do justice to the men and women who have protected our town. So we need help.

We are looking for documents, photos, and other memorabilia that relates to the volunteer fire fighters/departments that serve or have served our town.

We need people to help manage the materials we receive and to help create the displays that will be installed at the museum. Our intent, at this point, is to create displays for The Lake Desolation Fire Company that recently disbanded and for each of the four fire houses that currently serve our town.

We are hoping to have a meeting to create a basic plan of action early in the new year. If you can help us out, it would be greatly appreciated. If you know anyone who might be interested in sharing materials and memories of our volunteer fire departments, or who may be interested in working on this project, please share this information with them.

You can express your interest by contacting me at mvetter@nycap.rr.com.

Mary Vetter, President TOGHS

Brookside Museum

The Brookside Museum, a part of the Saratoga County Historical Society, had been facing some financial issues and has recently been working to raise funds to keep the museum open. They are also working with the Saratoga County History Roundtable to develop a new business plan that will allow them to carry on programs for education, curatorial work, and research.

Just as we value the work we do here at the town level, we should value the work the county society does to preserve the history of the county we live in. Their work give us a broader context for our part in a larger community. I am sure many of you have already made your year end donations but if at all possible I would urge you to help this organization. Below is a link to their website that will give you the information you need to help out.

www.brooksidemuseum.org/keep-history-alive/donate-sponsor/

Mary Vetter, President TOGHS

Thanks to the refreshment volunteers for January, Katie Finnegan and Joan Rowland. They served Impossible Pie, Chocolate Chip Cookies, and Blueberry Lemon Cake. Thank you to John Greenwood for bringing the Stewart's ice cream.

February refreshment volunteers are Donna Middlebrook and Mary Vetter.

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson

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!

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?

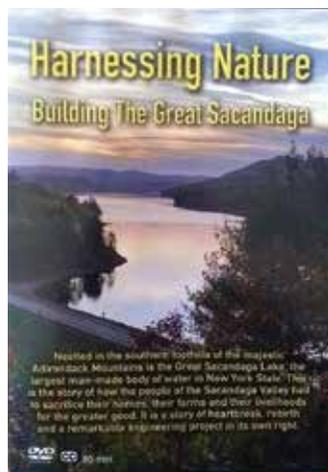
Do you like lawn and landscaping work?

We need your ideas and skills.

Please contact us at 518-322-5675 or email us at toghistsoc@gmail.com

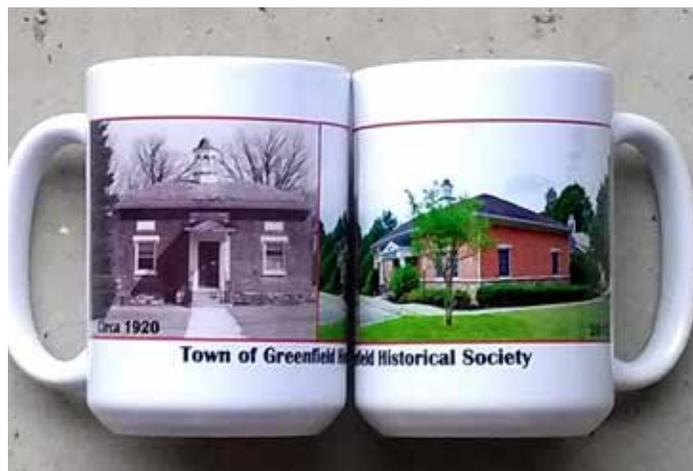
“Harnessing Nature: Building the Great Sacandaga”

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.)

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.

Program by John Greenwood Talking About Brookside Dairy in Greenfield – Jan. 21, 2020



Above: John Greenwood as a baby on the porch of his aunt and uncle's home (the building that is now the Community Center where our meetings are held).

John Greenwood



38 people attended the program



Four of the grandchildren of Brookside Dairy

Notes From Alice

This has been a sad year losing so many of our members. Recently, Jane Potter; it's so difficult to believe she's gone. Margie Jones left an empty place and then Earl Jones followed the next year. There were the Hinckley's, both Florence and Bill. It was like they could not live without the other. I am sure many of us have memories that these dear friends left with us and we are thankful for those.

Alice Feulner

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In this New Year, there are so many people to thank who work at keeping the historical society going. There's Janet Jones who does our newsletter, there's Katie Finnagan and her work finding great speakers for our monthly meetings, Mary Vetter as president, Joan Rowland as vice president,

Patty Schwartzbeck as secretary, and JoAnn Rowland as treasurer. So many member volunteers who help in different ways, Joyce Woodard, Ron Deutsch, Louise Okoniewski, Rob Roeckle, Dan Chertok, and all the bakers who provide meeting refreshments. Then there is the other Ron, who is the town historian.

There are those who left us in recent years who fill my heart with love remembering the times we spent with them: Jane Potter, Louise McCormick, Florence and Bill Hinckley, Ruth Atwell, Rosemary and Jim Smith, Betty Hall, and Jud Kilmer, all dear friends whom we miss, and I remember them in my prayerful thank you.

For all the members who work at making our Greenfield Historical Society what it is, thank you.

Alice Feulner

2020 Greenfield Seniors Trip Schedule

The Town of Greenfield sponsors trips for senior residents and provides the coaches. When available, seating will be offered to members of other senior groups (who are not town residents) and other folks residing outside the town. Payment should be made a month in advance of the date of the trip unless otherwise stated. If you find you cannot go after signing up, please notify the trip coordinator in case there is a standby list. Any questions, call Sandy Ovitt at 518-584-8943.

The Greenfield Seniors meet at the Town of Greenfield Community Center at 1 p.m. every second and fourth Thursday, president, Phil Steves, 518-793-2919.

Meal site location – Town of Greenfield Community Center, 25 Wilton Road, phone 518-893-7644 for reservations. Free bus transportation for medical and legal appointments. For reservations, call 518-884-4100.

ALL PAYMENTS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO GREENFIELD SENIORS

Gavin's Irish Country Inn – Cornwallville, NY Wednesday, MARCH 18, 2020

8:15 a.m. Bus reports to Greenfield to load
8:30 a.m. Depart Greenfield. Stop enroute (1/2 hour)
11 a.m. Arrive Gavin's Irish Country Inn. Irish Craft workshop with coffee, tea and scones
Noon Luncheon: Please choose entree when signing up. Irish Soda Bread, Potato Leek Soup
Choice of: Corn Beef and Cabbage, Chicken Francoise or Baked Salmon,
Apple Crisp a la mode with coffee and tea
1 p.m. Live Irish music by Donald O'Shaughnessy
2:30 p.m. Time for shopping
3:30 p.m. Or when done, load bus.
Short stop enroute if desired
7 p.m. Estimated return to Greenfield Seniors
Cost: \$40. No refunds. Money due by February 13

Medieval Times – Lyndhurst, NJ

Tuesday, APRIL 14, 2020

8:45 a.m. Bus arrives to load
9 a.m. Bus departs Greenfield Seniors Stop enroute (1/2 hour)
1:30 p.m. Arrive Medieval Times Castle
2 p.m. Lunch: Queen Maria Isabella welcomes you to dine with her and her royal court. Always a generous host, the Queen has commanded her royal chefs to cook her favorite meal just for you. Medieval Times' noble guests feast on garlic bread, tomato bisque soup, roasted chicken, sweet buttered corn, herb-basted potatoes, dessert of the Castle, coffee and two rounds of select non-alcoholic beverages. A full-service bar is also available for adult guests. Vegetarian meals are available upon request. Show: Is family friendly. Travel through the mists of tie to a forgotten age and a tale of devotion, courage and love-at Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament. Imagine the pageantry and excitement that would have been yours as a guest of the queen 10 centuries ago. That's exactly what you will experience at North America's most popular dinner attraction. See our electrifying show featuring heroic knights on spirited horses displaying the astounding athletic feats and thrilling swordplay that have become hallmarks of this unique entertainment experience. Enjoy a "hands on" feast as the dynamic performance unfolds before you. A sweeping musical score and brilliant lights provide a fabulous backdrop for this spellbinding experience that blurs the boundary between fairy tale and spectacle!
4 p.m. Depart Castle. Short stop on way home if desired
8:30 p.m. Estimated return to Greenfield Seniors
Cost: \$49. No refunds. Money due by February 27

Upcoming Programs at the Saratoga County Historical Society at Brookside Museum

The Saratoga County History Roundtable and members of the Oral History Team of Rutgers University present a program on "Creating Oral History" on Saturday, February, 22, 2020, 1 to 3 p.m. The presentation will include such topics as identifying prospective interviewees, interview preparation and techniques, as well as information on legal issues and releases.

Saratoga County History Roundtable and Heritage Hunters join together to present a "Genealogy Workshop" on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at 7 p.m. Attendees will learn the basics on internet genealogical research using records of the Saratoga County Poorhouse ca 1900 provided by Lauren Roberts, County Historian.

Brookside Museum will sponsor a Historians Workshop on Saturday, April 25, 2020, at 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The program is designed to provide information to representatives of Saratoga County Historical Societies and Museums on a variety of topics of interest to historical association from representatives of the State Historians Office, NYS Archives and the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce.

**For more information, contact the museum at
518-885-4000, visit our website
www.BrooksideMuseum.org, or email
SaratogaCoHistoryRoundtable@gmail.com.**

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.

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 proofread 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.



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