



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, John Greenwood, Mike Gymarthy, Louise Okoniewski, Robert Roeckle, and Patti Veitch

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

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FEBRUARY NOTES

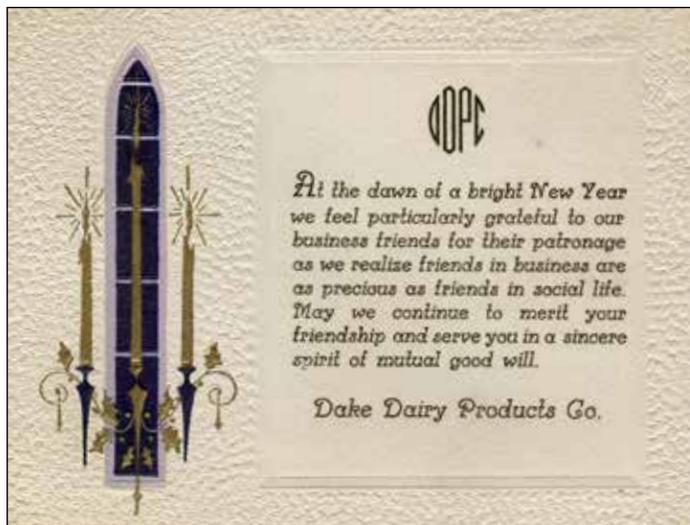
by Mary Vetter

Happy February everyone. I hope the past month has found you all well and safe. That seems to be the new catchphrase in our lives. A simple recognition that we all value the welfare and safety of those who surround us.

As I said in my short note last month, I would be putting together a list of the events we hope to bring to you this spring and summer but I decided to focus on one event at a time.

So I will start by focusing on the storytelling event that we're holding in June. Joan Rowland and I are planning to hold this event at the Middle Grove Park and the theme of our event is going to be stories about fathers.

We'd like you to think about the stories you have of your own father or someone in your life who is like your father and let us know if you would be willing to share those stories in June. Please email us at: toghistsoc@gmail.com. I know my own dad gave up a lot to raise six kids. He's not the only one out there. Let's make this a real celebration of Father's Day.



Happy New Year from the Dake Dairy – Borrowed from Rachel Clothier on Facebook's Greenfield Remembered page (thank you)

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.

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

Updating Our Records

We're asking every one that uses email to send us your email address in case we are unable to do a complete mailing in coming years. We will mail to members that don't use email or still want a hard copy. Thank you — toghistsoc@gmail.com

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

Last month, I quoted a newspaper article that indicated that a man named Early had leased the Middle Grove store from M. D. Rowell. The same paper also reported a major event in Middle Grove that caused a great deal of upheaval in the small community. I first became aware of the event when I began doing research for one of my first local history booklets. I remember interviewing Pearl Jones (now deceased) in her little house across from the Methodist church in Middle Grove. Her house was actually a small converted car garage on the property. The house that was originally built on that property had burned during the 1907 fire.

Pearl was in her nineties and had lived her entire life in the Middle Grove area, and she had a very sharp recollection of early events in the community. During our discussion, she told me how Middle Grove got its name. She said, "It was originally named for a beautiful grove of pine trees that people frequented for picnics and gatherings which was located on the south side of Middle Grove Road between the IOOF hall and Murray Road (where the trailer court is today). However, when the owner cut the trees down the unhappy residents created a park on the other side of the road."

Pearl's description had always stayed with me, but I was never able to verify her story until doing research for this book. I came across the following Saratoga Sentinel article dated September 9, 1880. It states,

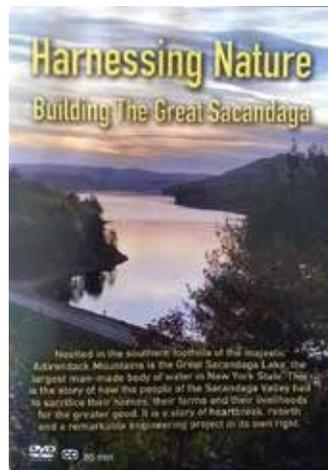
"This place has long been noted for its fine original grove and park right in the center of the village and adjoining the [Baptist] church. A few years since this grove passed into the possession of a man who had more of an eye for the almighty dollar than the beauty of the

place [Daniel Coy bought the property on April 1, 1878 from Sarah James estate. Sarah was the widow of the founder of the community, John W. James.] and the timber was all cut. On the opposite side of the road was about two acres of first growth timber, the ground however, being very rough and covered with boulders. Last season this came into possession of our enterprising townsman Nicholas Shaul. He at once offered to deed this as a public park, provided the citizens would put it in shape with a good fence around it, and he started the move with a liberal subscription himself. Being liberally sided by the citizens, now the park is enclosed with a substantial fence, the boulders removed, the rough places made smooth and a nice stand erected forty by sixteen feet, covered with pine shingles, enclosed on three sides, and painted, and temporary seats erected to accommodate two thousand people, with all other conveniences for the comfort of those that may congregate there, except water. This is soon to be brought and a fountain erected. No place in the country has its equal for a public park. This grove was opened last Sunday with religious services. These meetings represent all denominations, will continue throughout the week and next Sunday, and are conducted by Rev. C. H. Wyman of this place. The opening sermon was preached by Rev. G. A. Smith of Saratoga Springs, who took for his text the 26th verse of the 16th chapter of Matthew. Rev. H. R. Traver of Saratoga Springs preached on Monday and Tuesday. The meetings during the week were addressed by Rev. C. B. Perkins of Amsterdam, Rev. R. D. Grant of Broadalbin, and others."

Both of these "groves" in the center of the hamlet were clearly important parts of community life and pride, and when first one and then the other were destroyed, it must have been a let-down for the local residents.

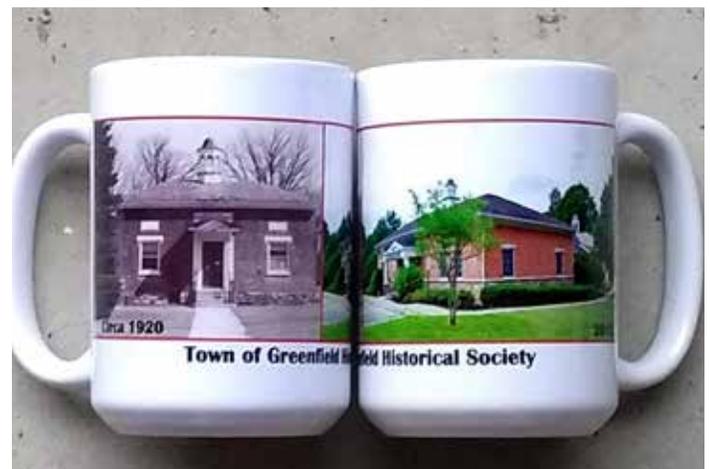
"Harnessing Nature: Building the Great Sacandaga"

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.

**Burton Z. Chertok
1934 – 2021**

Born: December 16, 1934
Died: January 5, 2021

Burton Z. Chertok, “Buz,” age 86, of Carlisle, passed away on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, at UPMC West Shore Hospital. He was born in Brooklyn, NY and was the son of the late Max and Vivian Chertok.

He graduated from New York University school of engineering with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and went on to hold several positions with an agency of the federal government. He also owned and operated his own company for many years. Buz was a talented, brilliant man with an outstanding ability to repair and create things. He obtained several patents during his lifetime.

He is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Rena M. Chertok, and his four children, Randi Guller of Carlisle, Stephanie Chertok of Carlisle, Daniel (Lynn) Chertok of New York, Kenneth Chertok of New Zealand, as well as a granddaughter Sarah Chertok of New York and a grandson Max Guller of Florida. He will be greatly missed by so many loved ones and friends.

Services will be at the convenience of the family. Visit www.EwingBrothers.com to send condolences. To plant trees in memory, please visit our Sympathy Store.



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on January 11, 2021.*

**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**



Front and back of a Valentine post card mailed to Franklin Jones (age 12) from his cousin, Rosamond Jones (Falkenberg) (age 6), from Rock City Falls, N.Y. to Middle Grove, N.Y., postmarked Feb. 14, 1910, with a one cent stamp.

TOWN OF GREENFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS,

I was talking to Ron Feulner on the phone recently when he told me that Alice was recovering from an unfortunate fall. Knowing Alice is a fan of poetry I thought she might enjoy a few short poems I've written over the past several years. I'd also like to publicly thank her for supporting my writing with her kind words. With that in mind, these pieces are dedicated to her full and speedy recovery. I'm sure I speak for all my fellow members when I say that Ron and Alice are the type of people that make our community, and our world, a better place to live. Please join me in a collective, "Get Well Soon Alice!"

John Greenwood

CHILD'S PLAY

By Grandpa (John R. Greenwood)



his laugh is audible joy
a gift

a constant motion
bouncing from place to place
idle for a few short seconds
then off again he goes
and goes
and goes

a little boy left the baby behind
growing taller
with every tic
every toc

smiling from his father's arms
his head bobs from little boy exhaustion
his father's father absorbs the scene
deep into his heart
savoring moments
cherishing fatherhood
wanting to go back for more
and more

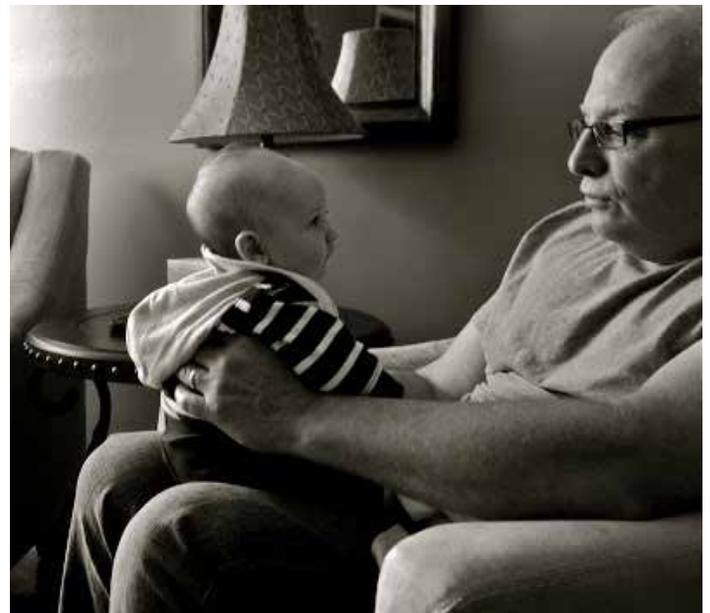
ONCE UPON A TIME

By John R. Greenwood

"Grandpa," the little one said, "what kind of world lies ahead? What can you tell me about my future?" Tough questions little one but I have answers that might surprise you.

Once upon a time the world went crazy. When it did I backed up and hid behind a tree. I watched as people ran themselves ragged. They wanted more and more and then they ran aground. I swore on that day it would be different for me. I cranked down the dial and made the decision to breath deep and deliberate. I vowed to never follow the masses, never clamor for more than I need. The gift of gold upon my knee is all the joy I'll ever need. That is my happiness. Yours is baked in tomorrow's sunrise.

Here is what I see for you my little man with big boy dreams. I see magic carpet rides and sails upon a deep blue sea. I see endless walks down paths lined with dear friends and loving family. I see climbs to mountains high where the view of the world widens and ignites your spirit. I see opportunity and wonder. I see happiness beyond your wildest imagination. I see warm puppies jumping their cute puppy jumps entertaining you until laughing tears flood your happy cheeks. I hear your mother singing softly some sweet private song no one else will ever hear. I hear your father speaking patient words of encouragement that will morph into a lifetime of nonjudgmental pats on the back and rides to the park. I see dancing fish and singing frogs playfully teasing you to come out and join them. I see diverse friendships that meld into rivers of optimism overflowing their banks. I see negativity as an unknown player who never makes the team. Your days will explode with creative fervor and your night skies will glow from full moon smiles and starstruck grins. Most of all my little man in you I see goodness. It radiates from those sparkling eyes. It will surround you and protect you always. You will spread that goodness with every wish you make for others, with every step you take for you ...



WOVEN IN TIME

By John R. Greenwood



Window of the Dubois House on Huguenot Street, New Paltz

my stories come to me

sometimes
I go to them

they weave themselves into my day
and night
always forming something more grand
than the last

I carry them with me
gently

my stories come from
other stories
other places
other beings

like antique baskets
faded
yet strong enough to
support the past

each life entwined
touches another
hand in hand
arm in arm
in towns
thru villages
along a river's edge

the time has come
to return there
quietly
to witness those
who never left

QUIET

By John R. Greenwood

I've come to embrace quiet.
Quiet unlike silence includes
the steady hum of the clothes dryer
in the other room. Pre-dawn, when
the traffic is sparse the tic and tock
of a wall clock whispers a familiar rhythm.
It's November, the heat is on.
The faint cracks and clicks of the
warm flowing through the metal vents
remind me to be grateful
for the roof above my head.
Quiet allows mindful thought, while the brain
stretches and idles gently beside.
The best quiet is made of layer upon
layer of distant sounds. Soft and soothing
sounds that carry no threat nor angst.
Peace and quiet are rare, like the quiet knock
of a childhood friend at the backdoor.
A friend you haven't seen in years.
A friend you dearly miss and weren't expecting.



Dinner at Alice and Ron's house (daughter Kelly on left).
We've gotten to the dessert – look at that pie! July 22, 2009



Alice and Ron Feulner celebrated their 56th anniversary on
March 17, 2017. Ron will celebrate his birthday on April 19,
and Alice will celebrate her birthday on May 12.
(Notice the Croquet and Bocce Ball sets in the background.
We play those games at every picnic.)



These four photos
were added by
the editor.
She's going to "love"
me for adding these!

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 Dgchertok@gmail.com, call his cell phone (518-321-0330), or text him.



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