

Historical Society Newsletter

Janet Jones, Editor

P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833

OFFICERS: Ron Feulner, President; Tom Siragusa, Vice President; Patty Schwartzbeck, Secretary; Robert Roeckle, Treasurer; Coral Crossman, Trustee; Vince Walsh, Trustee; JoAnn Rowland, Trustee

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Calendar

February 19: Tuesday, meeting held at the Greenfield Community Center at 7 p.m. and program to follow: Dan Cochran will talk about History Lessons from the Greenfield Cemetery.

March 18: Tuesday, meeting held at the Greenfield Community Center at 7 p.m. and program to follow: County Historian, Christina Saddlemire will talk to us about the Underground Railroad, and its Connection to Greenfield.

Ron's Ramblings

Finally, it has happened; a month when I don't have much to say. With the holidays, we pretty much put the Historical Society business on hold. Battened down the hatches and waiting for warmer weather. Harold Jones (our Building and Grounds person) has everything prepared at the IOOF hall project ready for the blowing in of insulation, but right now we cannot access the building because of the snow banks and cold weather. Soon, it will warm up, and we will get back to work.

One item of new business deserves a mention. Maurice Dake from Florida wrote Mary DeMarco, our town historian, asking if the historical society would like to help with a project to restore the old Dake Cemetery on North Creek Road. The Dakes were one of the early families in the Town of Greenfield, and their homestead is located near our Daketown School on old Daketown Road. The family's cemetery is situated on the other side of the Kayaderosseras Creek on a rise of ground near the

old watering spring on North Creek Road. At the time, the cemetery would probably have been visible from the homestead across open fields, but now the woods obscures it. Trees are even growing amongst the stones in the cemetery itself. A group of Dake descendents want to restore the cemetery and have the resources in place to do it, but they could use some local help in getting the project under way. Matt and Maureen Cinadr, and Fran Lambert volunteered to be on a committee to help. I have volunteered to show them where the cemetery is. Perhaps we can even schedule a field trip as soon as the weather improves. If any of you would like to participate in the project, let me know or attend our next meeting.

I do want to talk about our January meeting. We had 34 people who braved a January night to attend. The business part of the meeting didn't amount to much because many of our officers and committee persons were not present to report on their individual projects, but the program that followed the business meeting was superb.

The Galway Story Quilt project truly deserves the recognition and acclaim that it is beginning to receive. A small group of dedicated citizens living in a small rural community (much like the Town of Greenfield) decided to identify who they are (and who they were in the past) using the medium of poetry. Working through their local library, they organized a group of people with some writing abilities to be the core of the project, and then went to the community at large with their idea.

They encouraged people who had stories to tell (and every one of us do) to write a poem and submit it. They also matched poets with people who had stories to tell but were not able to put them into

words. Interviews were done, and those stories were also written in poetry form. In the end, they had a collection of edited poems that told the story (past and present) of Galway.

All the poems will remain in the Galway Library, but some of the best were organized and printed in book form resulting in a wonderful volume called, "Story Quilt: Poems of a Place by the people who live here." The book is a 6" by 9", soft covered, with 186 pages. It sells for \$15. You can purchase a copy by sending your request to the Galway Public Library, P.O. Box 207, Galway, NY 12074 (Attention Story Quilt). Be sure to include \$3 for one book and \$2 for each additional book to cover shipping. All proceeds go to the library.

Back to our program. Mary Cuff Perez, who is one of the poets and organizers, gave us a brief history of the project. Then she, along with other readers Mary Sanders Shartle, Patricia Kay, and Rhonda Pray took turns at the microphone reading selections from the book. All four of the readers put so much feeling into their selections that many of us had our handkerchiefs in our hands during the entire evening. Arlene Rhodes, who is another one of the poets, also came and helped during the book sales and signing period that followed.

This is not the first time that my wife, Alice, and I have heard them read, but that didn't detract from our enjoying it again. Each time, we have experienced something different. I can remember when I was younger, I didn't like poetry. The problem, I think, was that back then, I didn't have very many life experiences of my own, and so was unable to relate to others who were describing theirs. Now, as I sat there and listened to poem after poem, they brought back memories of people I have known and experiences that I have had along the way. At times during the evening, I found myself getting a little choked up with emotion and even had to use my handkerchief a couple of times.

Following the program, we still had another treat in store. My wife, Alice, along with Nancy Homiak, and Jane Potter were on the refreshment committee, and they decided to shake things up and try something different. They all baked pies instead of the usual cookies, brownies and cakes. It was a big hit. Peach, Pumpkin, Raspberry, Strawberry Rhubarb, Apple, Lemon Meringue, and one Boston Cream pie. People filled their plates, sometimes sampling more than one kind, and returned to their chairs where small clusters of people soon formed and talk

continued between bites until we were all full and talked out. We then stacked the chairs, turned out the lights, and went home where I'm sure some of us added one final act to the evening – Pepto-Bismol.

I just realized that I have filled up a lot of paper for not having much to say. See you at our next meeting.

One of the Poems in the Story Quilt

By Alice Feulner

At our January meeting, we had as our guests ladies from Galway who read some of the poems from "Story Quilt: Poems of a Place." This book was a project of the Galway Public Library, and they did an outstanding job. One of our Greenfield Historical Society members has two poems in this book, both of which invoked memories for many of us. Her name is Lillian Bills, and she lived on Bills Rd., off Rt. 29, for 60 years. She is now at Maplewood Manor in Ballston Spa. With the permission of Galway Public Library and Lillian Bills, I would like to include one of her poems. The story was told by Lillian Bills, and the poem was written by Mary Cuffe-Perez.

That Night

August 20, 1939.

The music from Ford's Dance Hall on Crooked Street shook the ground.

Every summer weekend
my parents, and everyone I knew and some I didn't
came to dance,
round and square, young and old
on the huge dance floor
to fiddle and banjo and guitar.

For fifty cents you could dance all night.

That night

wasn't like every night though.
The air jittered with a strange excitement,
the dance hall swirled with music
and people dancing.
Elspeth Brown and I sat in a booth
jumping in our seats to the music.

The Pixley Family was on stage that night.
Walt, Olive, Dorothy and Don.
Francis calling.
Red Wing, Golden Slippers, Wabash Cannon Ball,
My Darling Nellie Gray.

I had seen him before,
but he had never spoken to me.
That night he did. Walked right up to me,

The following names of the Town of Greenfield residents were taken from the bottom of the poster photo. Also included but not recorded were names from the towns of Galway, Milton, Providence, and Saratoga Springs. Note: these names were read with the aid of a magnifying glass, and still they were difficult to see, so some errors may have been made. (Ron F.)

Benjamin P. Wilsey	Philip Feulner	Wilfred Colburn	Frank W. Potter
James Ellsworth	Lorenzo T. Parmenter	William H. McNutt	William H. Hayden
William C. Grenell	Erastus M. Ballou	Ralph W. Robinson	Mrs. Henry Jones
Calvin W. Dake	Roscoe Bumstead	Thomas K. Alwood	Harold L. Barnes
Charles Bardeen	Valda Chatfield	Walter Cady	Clarence I. Jones
Fairchild J. Hoyt	Alexander Aribib	Andrew J. Deyoe	William H. Miller
Stephen K. Darrow	Joseph H. Stedman	Freeman Jones	Harry I. Peacock
Charles Kilmer	Charles D. Smith	Mrs. George M. Davis	Herbert T. Ellsworth
Edgar Cady	Clayton T. King, M.D.	Harrison K. Lewis	George Fulton
Edgar Dake	Charles D. Gardiner	George C. Robbins	Frank W. McAuley
John W. Gailor	William O. Wilsey	Oscar C. Winne	William B. Bentley
Fred A. Carp	Samuel Kilmer	Charles F. Jones	William Kolton
John E. Chatfield	Frank LaPoint	Jethro P. Sherman	William L. Campbell
Truman Kilmer	Starks Dake	William H. Harris	Robert E. McKnight
Harrison Mastin	John Fiero	Irving C. Lewis	William Booth
Seth Hill	Frederick Dake	John Baird	Edwin Hill
William A. Rowland	Edwin K. Young	Charles E. Smith	C. Alfred Stedman
G. Guy Humphries	James M. Dake	John R. Newell	Eugene E. Jones
Charles L. Marcellus	A. Judson Kilmer	Edgar K. Steele	Truman Middlebrook
William M. Wing	Davis H. Humes	Daniel W. Barney	Estella Lagalles
Mrs. Geo. M. Hodges	Emery I. Lewis	James A. Saultz	

We still need articles for the 2007-08 year. If you would like to write an article for the newsletter, send it to: Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833 or if you type it using Microsoft Word, e-mail it to: aliron@localnet.com. Please type in upper and lower case, NOT ALL CAPS. Thank you.

To join the Town of Greenfield Historical Society send your name, address, and \$10.00 to address below.

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