

Historical Society Newsletter

Janet Jones, Editor

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

*OFFICERS: President: Ron Feulner; Vice President: Louise Okoniewski;
Secretary: Patty Schwartzbeck; Treasurer: Alice Feulner;
Trustees: Coral Crosman, Ron Deutsch, Robert Roeckle, JoAnn Rowland, and Vince Walsh*

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Calendar

September 16: Tuesday, pot-luck dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.

Program will be Jim Smith playing guitar and reminiscing about his life in Greenfield.

Please bring a dish to pass and your own place setting.

September 27: Saturday, *Open House at Daketown School*, 1 to 3 p.m.

October 21: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.

Program will be Wayne Clarke from the NYS Military Museum talking about the Veterans' Oral History Project.

This presentation will be different from the one Mike Russert gave two years ago.

Weezie's Words

WOW! This Friday will be our fourth Historical Society Farmer's Market. Who would have thought that his idea would have taken off like it has. When Ron Feulner asked a few people to be on a committee to figure out what to do with the Odd Fellows hall in Middle Grove, one of the ideas was a farmer's market to draw attention to the IOOF hall and gain new members.

I can't say enough to the historical society members who have been at IOOF hall every Friday, donating their time to help with the market. Some signed up for one Friday and have been at each one since. Some just show up to help. They have set up and worked the garage sale, given tours of IOOF hall, spoken with residents on the Town's history, and have shown the many photographs of the Greenfield area.

The feedback from the vendors and customers has been fantastic! They say that we have that old fashioned friendliness, that you don't find anymore. People have met neighbors they didn't know they had, and friends they haven't seen in a while. In the last three weeks, the farmer's market has become a meeting place of customers, vendors, homemade and home grown products, and members. This has been a combined team effort for success. Some things will need to be re-organized for next year – no one thought the market would take off like it has. We'll learn as we Grow!

I'd like to send out an extra Big Thank You to some folks who have helped this project succeed like Mike Baldwin and Andrea Mann who let us use their parking lots; Walt Barss loaned us cones for parking and along the road; Barry Reynolds donated veggies; Ron Bishop and Jay Ellsworth of the Middle

Reminder that our year of meetings begins in September so everyone's membership renewal is due (unless you have recently paid). We have made it easy to renew your membership (or become a new member) by filling out our membership application contained in this newsletter and mailing it with your dues (if you prefer to keep your newsletter intact, you may copy the necessary information on another sheet and send it). We will also accept memberships at our meetings. The only requirement to become a member is an interest in local history (residency in the town is not required). We hope to have another good year, and we need you as a member to help it happen.

Grove Fire Department let us use the “slow down” signs, cones and traffic wand, (anything that has been loaned is returned every Friday after the market); Tom Merrills provided traffic control at a very busy and dangerous intersection; and Jim Smith brought his guitar and got us dancing and singing along with him.

I apologize to those I have forgotten, the folks who just show up and pitch in where needed. They are not on a committee, and haven’t been asked to do anything special – they just jump in and get it done! That’s what makes Greenfield and our Historical Society special!

Ron’s Ramblings

Some of you are now wondering who “Weezie” is and why her opening remarks appear in the newsletter. First, Weezie, sometimes known as Louise Okoniewski, is our new vice president, and I have asked her to write about our farmer’s market project, which she played a big role in organizing.

I met Louise many years ago after I had finished writing my first local history, *King of the Mountain*. I wanted to sell a few copies of the book but had no idea how or where to start. I realized that Tinney’s Two, a restaurant on the shore of Lake Desolation, was in the heart of the area my book was about, so I decided to stop and talk to the people running it and ask them if they might be interested in selling the book. At the time, I had never been to the restaurant and had no idea who was running it, so it took a good deal of nerve on my part to stop in cold, and talk to them.

Louise and her significant other, Tom Merrills, immediately made me feel comfortable and really got excited about the book. Louise planned a book signing complete with refreshments just like the big time authors have, and she refused to let me pay anything toward it. They sold more copies of *King of the Mountain* at the restaurant than I did at any other place. Since that time, Louise and Tom have changed careers a few times, and Louise is now deputy town clerk for the Town of Greenfield.

This summer has been a busy one for the historical society. We began with a volunteer workday at the IOOF hall. One group worked at painting the interior of the new office space that we had worked on all year to wire, insulate, and add heat. Another group worked out doors cleaning up debris before mowing season, while others scraped some paint off the siding. During this work session,

we nearly finished painting the new office interior with a first coat of paint.

Volunteers at the June 7, 2008 work day were: Ron Feulner, Harold Jones, Ann Michel, Katie Finnegan, Dan Chertok, Audrey Crandall, Kendall Deutsch, Alex Deutsch, Ronald Deutsch, Ron Deutsch, Earl Jones, Louise Okoniewski, Jane Potter, Joyce Woodard, Alice Feulner, Janet Jones, Margie Jones, and Winnie O’Connell.

Later in the summer, several of us returned alone or in small groups to finish the painting. Since the painting has been done, Ann Michel and Joyce Woodard have been busy trying to organize the area into an office space. Ann Michel even made curtains for the windows. Ann also indicated that she and Joyce were going to need more file space for their growing collection. Soon after, Alice and I found a good, sturdy commercial type, deep, four drawer file cabinet at a garage sale and purchased it for \$35. Bud McKnight helped me pick it up and deliver it to the IOOF hall with his truck.

Tom Siragusa has set up a web site for us, and we have added more to it over the summer. You can find it at www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com.

We still don’t have a permanent charter, but thanks to Coral Crosman, we are still in the running. At the beginning of the summer, the state sent another large batch of forms to be filled out. I was overwhelmed with them because they involved doing a lot of research, which I didn’t have the time to do. Coral stepped up to the plate and spent much of the summer pouring over our old records trying to find answers to all the questions. They have all been filled out by Coral and sent in so now we are back to waiting for a visit by a state representative to complete the process.

Katie Finnegan is our new program chairperson. She has already lined up enough programs to get us started this fall, but asks that you help her out for the rest of the year. If you are aware of programs that you think would be of interest to our members, please let her know. Her telephone is (518) 583-6171.

Our NYS grant money came (in two checks) during the summer. The first for \$5,000, which Coral Crosman had been working on and the second for \$7,500, which Harold Jones had been working on. With part of the money, we hired one of our members, Vince Walsh (the lowest of three bids) to cut the trees around the IOOF hall and carriage shed. Earlier, a tree had fallen and taken our electric power line down. Additional money will be used to remove

the rotted roof from the last two sections of the carriage shed and also jack up the side of the IOOF hall so an assessment can be made for how much sill and floor joist work must be done.

Also, this summer, we received \$1,000 from the Town of Greenfield that will help us balance our budget and continue some of our projects this year. Harold Jones and the Building and Grounds Committee had requested help from the town last year during their budget planning time.

Harold Jones and the Building and Grounds committee met several times over the summer and decided that we had to have the IOOF hall painted since it was becoming an eye sore in the community. Again, they solicited three estimates for the job, and again one of our members was by far the lowest bidder (just a little over one-half the next lowest bid). Tom Merrills took the job, and, as I write this, he and his crew have finished the project.

That brings me to our biggest project for the summer. At our May meeting we talked about having a farmer's market this summer, and I asked Ron Deutsch if he would take charge of a committee to put it all together. He has done an outstanding job. Vince Walsh, Chad Jorgensen, and Karen Wadsworth also served on the committee. I have no idea how Ron managed his own work and family schedule while getting so much accomplished in putting together a farmer's market for us, but he did do it. (We did a total of six markets running every Friday from August 1 to September 5.)

While Ron did the bulk of the organizing and work, he had a lot of help from his own family members as well as many of us who are also members of the historical society. The following people volunteered to help out with one or more of the markets. Nancy Homiak, Janet Jones, Earl Jones, Margie Jones, Ron Feulner, Alice Feulner, Joyce Woodard, Ann Michel, Louise Okoniewski, JoAnn Rowland, Joan Rowland, Katie Finnegan, Pat Finnegan, Jane Potter, Chad Jorgensen, Audrey Crandall, Patty Schwartzbeck, Vince Walsh, Erica Burkowski, Winnie O'Connell and her husband Mo (who also donated a canopy top tent to the historical society to protect our sales booth from the hot sun or rain). Vince Walsh brought his large ten by twenty-foot tent and set it up during those days that threatened to rain. Tom Merrills was there everyday directing traffic.

I'm sure there are others that I have overlooked. Like Louise, I hesitated to try to name all the people

who have stepped up as volunteers for fear that I might omit someone. But, what we can all feel good about is that we played a part in making this one of the most successful community projects that the Town of Greenfield has seen in a while. During the last couple of markets, we have had about twenty plus vendors selling everything from eggs and honey to pies and wooden bowls and probably the best seller, sweet corn. Ron Deutsch and Rebecca Sewell and their families made runs down to the Emerich's Farm on the Middle Line Road and sold the farm's produce for them in a historical society booth in return for a hefty donation to the historical society from the farm.

The community also deserves a lot of credit for they turned out in large numbers to buy, even though the weather sometimes threatened. Many people also donated items to our garage sale, which brought in money to the historical society. While I am giving credit, Sabrina Carter kept the lawns mowed all summer at the IOOF hall (that's a lot of mowing) and more recently has mowed and raked the lawn at the Daketown School. She has insisted that she wants no pay for this tremendous service, but Harold Jones (Building and Grounds) felt the least we could do was to buy the gasoline.

During the market days, we also gave tours of the IOOF hall and, in doing so, picked up a number of new members. In addition, some people donated items to our collection. Speaking of members, I am hoping that each of you will remember to send your dues in a timely fashion. It will make it much easier for Nancy Homiak (who as membership chairperson keeps track of membership and mailing lists) and Alice Feulner (who as treasurer has to keep track of the dues paid).

Also, we are nearly out of articles (we have enough for October, and that's it), so if you want us to continue publishing the historical stories that we have all enjoyed so much in the past, some of you will have to sit down and write them. We all have stories to tell. Just be sure to include the basics of what, when, where, and how it happened.

Now, with the summer nearly over, I am looking forward to a wonderful meal and a chance to say hello to many of you in person at our September pot-luck dinner and meeting. (Don't forget to bring your own place settings.) I hope to see you there. Because we had so much to report about our summer's activities, we will only have one short article.

Helen Woods and Her Collection of Canning Jars

By Ron Feulner

Helen Jones Woods (her father was Arthur Jones who taught at our Daketown School) lives near the Washington County fairgrounds. Helen appeared in a feature article in the *Post Star* (from Glens Falls, NY) Monday, July 21, 2008, in the Arts/Life section of the paper. The name of the article is *A Jarring Array*.

Helen has collected over 800 canning jars over a period of 25 years, as a hobby. The deeper she got into it, the more she became interested. Once, not that long ago, fall canning of the produce from the garden was an autumn ritual in most rural communities. Families lived all winter off the produce and meats that they canned. Now, some young people don't know anything about canning having never seen any food other than that sold in the supermarkets.

Some of Helen's canning jars are worth hundreds of dollars while others are common or duplicates, and she sells them to other dealers or people still interested in canning. Helen just finished a week at the Washington County Fair where she had an opportunity to share her collection and stories about days gone by with many fair goers.

For more about Helen and her collection find the above article or talk to Helen at one of our meetings.



Helen Woods standing in front of her collection of canning jars.

TOGHS Farmer's Market



Some of the vendors setting up at the Farmer's Market.



More vendors and lots of patrons.



Jim Smith singing and playing his guitar for everyone.



Tom Merrills directing traffic at the Farmer's Market.



Joyce and Ed Woodard, Ron Deusch (the cook), and Gerald Mahay enjoying hot dogs at the Farmer's Market.



Historical Society's Garage Sale at the Farmer's Market. (Is that Alice Feulner on the right; working or buying?)



One of the vendors, Dick Stutzenstein, selling maple syrup, honey, and eggs.



Sabrina Carter, the volunteer that mows the lawns, with a relative standing in front of the newly painted IOOF Hall.

I'd like to thank May's refreshment volunteers: Erica Burkowski and Lynn Woschinger. They served lemon bars, brownies, and chocolate cake.

At our September meeting, we'll have a pot-luck dinner. Please bring a dish to pass and your own place setting.

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson

Membership Application/Renewal

Become a member of the Town of Greenfield Historical Society and receive our newsletter. Send \$10 along with your name and address to the address shown below. If you send more it will be considered a donation. Other types of memberships are also available (lifetime, corporate, etc.), just call and ask (518 893-0620). Our membership year begins in September, and dues are paid annually. You may also join at one of our meetings.

Send this application form and fee to Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833. Make checks payable to: Town of Greenfield Historical Society.

Please indicate how many persons 10-years-old or older are in your household). _____

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

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 the newsletter dedicated to (please print):

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 free copy of our newsletter along with information on how they can join.

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

We still need articles for the 2008-09 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.

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