

# *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*

*Volume 9, Issue 2*

*Joseph F. Goyette dedicates this issue to the hard working staff that makes the newsletter possible.*

## *Calendar*

**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.

**November 18:** Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.

*Program will be Mike Heart, readings/poetry from his book "Saratoga Lives."*

Check out our new web site at:  
[www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com)

**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.

## *THANK YOU FROM ALL OF US*

Alice Feulner (Treasurer) tells me that many of you are doing it again this year. Instead of sending your \$10 for membership renewal, you are sending multiples of that number as donations. This makes us feel good and will certainly help us with our many projects during the upcoming year. As you know, we want to keep the membership dues low so that no one will be denied the ability to join the society because of money.

## *Ron's Ramblings*

Wow! What a surprise. I didn't expect what happened at Tuesday night's (September 16) dish-to-pass dinner and meeting. JoAnn Rowland was waiting for me when I arrived at the community center, and we immediately began setting up tables and chairs. Soon, Pat and Katie Finnegan came, and then others joined in, and I kept thinking, this will certainly be enough tables, but people just kept coming in the door. Before we finished, we had all the tables that the community center owns set up, and we were trying to squeeze additional chairs around some of them.

I kept remembering how we had to stop having meetings at the IOOF hall because we simply outgrew the space, now, where would we go if we outgrow the community center. Well, eventually everyone did have a place to sit, and the food was special. So many choices! So many great cooks!

With so much food to take care of, we were a few minutes late getting started with the meeting, and while we were waiting, a few more people showed up. The final count was 57. This may be a new record for attendance. It certainly is for a dinner meeting.



*Part of the group at the meeting on Sept. 16, 2008.*

Of course, I think that the reason for such an extraordinary turnout was our program. Jim Smith has been entertaining people in the Town of Greenfield since the 1920s and the great depression. He responded to the overflow crowd on Tuesday night by giving us a stand-up performance that we won't soon forget. He told stories about his youth after arriving in the Town of Greenfield at age eight or nine. He described the changes from the hustle and bustle of city life in New Jersey to the quiet and darkness of a rural home on Coy Road where at night you could not see your hand in front of your face. (Sparsely populated roads like Coy Road were among the last to receive electrical power so the Smiths had to carry drinking water up the steep bank from the creek.)

Jim sometimes interrupted his storytelling with a song, usually one that fit the story he was telling. Like the time he and his brother entered a tent music contest in Porter Corners and won first prize on home made instruments. (First prize was a dried-up first-aid kit.) Jim played the song they had won first place with for us and then went on with the rest of the story. Just before Jim and his brother won the prize, an overweight lady took the stage, which was a patch of sandy soil, and tried to sit on a milking stool. The stool slowly sank into the ground and Jim's aunt, on the top row of the bleachers, got laughing so hard that she lost control of her bladder. But, first prize was first prize, and it launched Jim's musical career.

Jim's program was one of the most successful that we have ever had, and Jim promised to return again since he didn't even get up to his days in the service during WW Two.

Our Building and Grounds Committee (under the supervision of Harold Jones) has made arrangements for a contractor to start work (around the first of October) jacking up the IOOF building and replacing



*Jim Smith entertaining the group.*

the sill. They will also remove the roof on the last two bays of the carriage shed since the roof is rotted and ready to cave in.

Ron Deutsch, chair of the Farmer's Market Committee, met with the vendors and found them pleased with this year's program, and they are looking forward to another year. They all agreed that they liked the hometown atmosphere where neighbors met neighbors. A few of them said that it was nice to get to know other vendors who were willing to share ideas with them. One vender said another helped him solve some problems that he was having with his beehives. This is the kind of environment that the vendors want preserved in future markets.

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## **Memories of a Field Trip in September 1996**

*by Louise Okoniewski*

Well, it looks like the rain will hold off today. About 15 people are anxiously waiting for our haywagon ride to the Glass Factory. When Ron Feulner published his book "King of the Mountain" there's been a renewed interest in the Glass Factory at Mount Pleasant, Lake Desolation.

Here he comes! Don Young is pulling in the lot now! Alvie Older, our tour guide, finishes his orange soda and everyone gathers in the parking lot of Tinney's Two. Don Young's wagon is set with bales of hay to sit on against high racks so no one will fall out. Marshall Knapik and Paul Martin are going along from the Fox Hill Hunting Club, the sight of the Feulner Family Homestead. The camp doesn't look much different than it did back in the day. Ron and Alice Feulner, Louise and Tom, and some ladies from Porter Corners and the Feulner family hop aboard the wagon. Don Young starts up his Ford 77-10 tractor and off we go!

As we head west on Lake Desolation Road, Alvie points out how the Lake road isn't much different than it was in the 1800's. The end of the Lake (North End Road) is the watering hole where travelers would take a rest and water their horses. He points to the thick forests and tells us how there were pastures and farm land mixed in. The mountain had a lot of trails that would go to Providence, Galway, Corinth, Batcherlerville, etc. I suppose that's where the expression by "Foot or Horseback" came from.

Alvie was proud giving the history, telling us how Black Brook came from the mountain streams and was a good water source; how there was quite a population of families and farms all working together. I kept thinking how we complain when its cold and windy and yet these folks traveled the road in all kinds of weather, had no choice I guess. I wonder if the settlers at the time, the Archers, Irelands, Feulners, Gaffey's – looked at the trees and landscape and thought 'How Beautiful,' or were they just trying to beat Old Man winter?

Don pulls the wagon into the pull off across from Plank Road, the entrance to the glass factory site. Alvie has us look across the road where the community of Mount Pleasant was. They had a grist mill, post office, store, school, etc. The old part of Lake Desolation road went through there. In the 1950's the road was reconstructed to where is is now. You could barely see the old road, but the men folk start walking into the woods and find remnants of old foundations, stones buried by tree growth and grass.

Alvie shows us where the beginning of the glass factory was and to the right was a cemetery. When the road was moved to it's current location, the graves were moved; some to Middle Grove

Cemetery, some to family cemeteries. Alvie believes in those days they probably built the road right over the cemetery. There wasn't anyone to answer to – and who was going to check up on you up here?

The ladies head into the glass factory side. A grove of apple trees are visible from the road. A couple of us walk in a little further, kick over some leaves and branches, and find our treasure! Chunks of glass slag from the factory. They are at least 3 inches long and 1-2 inches wide. You had to be careful as the edges were sharp and would cut your fingers. Over the years there has been a lot of digging by bottle hunters and different groups. I'm sure they found their 'treasure' of slag. There must have been a lot of glass blown to be able to find pieces 130+ years later.

Everyone gathers together to head back. Alvie explains how the plank boards were used for the road. The base of the road today still has the old boards. That's why there's a 'washboard' effect at times. Don starts up the old Ford tractor, and we head back. Don Young has a big smile, clearly enjoying the trip. As we mosey along Alvie talks about the surveyors and those who travelled here. I was hoping to see a deer or perhaps the moose that roams the great woods.

We make it back to Tinney's Two, everyone excited about the trip, talking to beat the band. Don heads back to Ormsbee Road, I'm sure turning heads as he pulls the haywagon along. Alvie was proud to give the tour, and I know that it was a great day for us all.

*Note: I apologize to the names I forgot. If you see me, let me know that you were on this trip, and what you may remember.*

**To Measure Corn in the Crib**

Rule: Multiply the length, breadth and depth together. Then multiply that product by .63 which is the fractional part of a bushel in a cubic foot. This answer will be the number of bushels of corn on the cob. Or if you multiply by .42 (2/3 of .63) it will give the number of bushels of shelled corn.

Example

11	214.5	214.5
6	.63	.42
66	6435	4290
3 1/4	12870	8480
198	135.135	99.090
16 1/2		
214 1/2		

Answer is a little over 135 bushel of corn on the cob or a little over 99 bushel of shelled corn.

*Submitted by Earl Jones.*

*This information was found in an old book, handwritten on a scrap of paper.*

*I'd like to thank all the people who brought so much good food to the meeting and for all the help I received in the kitchen.*

*October refreshment volunteers are:  
Patty Schwartzbeck,  
Alice Feulner and  
Maureen Cinadr.*

*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):

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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](mailto:aliron@localnet.com).***

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