

Historical Society Newsletter

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

Janet Jones, Editor
P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833

Volume 10, Issue 2

www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

This issue sponsored by Kelly and John Woods, dedicated in memory of Evelyn Lucy Marcellus Feulner.

Calendar

- October 24, 2009:** Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m., *Historic Harvest Fest and Market* at the IOOF Hall in Middle Grove.
- November 8, 2009:** Sunday, 8 to 11 a.m., Joint breakfast with the Grange at the Grange Hall in Greenfield Center.
- November 17, 2009:** Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. *Local singers/songwriters, Nancy Walker and husband, Larry Clyman, will play and talk about song writing.*
- December 12, 2009:** Saturday, *Christmas Party* at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. We will also have the firewood raffle drawing.
- January 19, 2010:** Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. *Program: Dick Rowland will speak about the history and stories from the Saratoga County Fair.*

IOOF Hall Visitation Hours

The IOOF Hall will be open for visitors from 10 a.m.-noon on Thursdays through October. Please call ahead to make sure we will be there. Joyce Woodard (893-7638) or Ann Michel (893-7052)

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.

IMPORTANT – If schools are closed because of the weather, our meeting will be canceled that evening.

Ron's Ramblings

Well, autumn has arrived – yesterday was a beautiful cool blue sky day, and the leaves are just beginning to turn. Today is cool with a good soaking rain, the kind of weather that we expect this time of the year.

September's meeting was a good start-up for our new year. We had a good turnout for the bring-a-dish-to-pass dinner and the food was superb – the sense of sharing and the experience of meeting old friends and making new ones was evident to everyone. I opened the business meeting, but then turned it over to our vice president, Louise Okoniewski, so that she could gain experience running the meeting in case there are times when I can't make it. She did a great job even though she had very little time to study the agenda.

Louise is also organizing three fund raising events that will occur this fall. First, there will be our Historic Harvest Fest and Market at the IOOF hall on Oct. 24. Planning for this event is bringing together several different branches of our organization including Louise as vice president, Joyce Woodard and Ann Michel as Archives chairpersons, Ron Deutsch as chairman of the Farmer's Market, and Harold Jones as Building and Grounds chairman. Skip Ballou is also lending a helping hand. Louise will have more to say about this event following my ramblings.

The second event Louise is working on is a raffle for a cord of firewood donated by one of our members, Butch Duffney. Butch's family goes way back in the Town of Greenfield, and like many of his ancestors, he is a woodsmen – a logger by trade. A couple of generations ago, you had three career choices in the Town of Greenfield – you could be a lumberjack, a farmer, or you could split your time between the two. During WW2, farmers and pulpwood cutters were among the few occupations given exemptions from military service because they were considered so important on the home front. Now there are many more choices of careers in the area, but fortunately a few of our residents, like Butch, still choose to cut timber for a living. Butch is donating the firewood free of cost to the historical society, so the raffle will be all profit for us. Butch has also agreed to deliver the wood to the raffle winner providing they live in Saratoga County. The tickets will be \$5 each or

five for \$20. The drawing will be at our Christmas party in December. Anyone wishing to sell tickets for the raffle can pick them up from Louise at the town hall in Greenfield Center or call her at 587-6060.

The third project that Louise is working on is a breakfast on Nov. 8 (8 - 11 a.m.) to be co-sponsored by the historical society and the Greenfield grange so put that morning on your calendar. Louise will have more to say about some of these projects, but I wanted to say thanks to her for all the hard work that she is putting into them. Thank you Louise.

On Sept. 13, several of our members (Joyce Woodard, Ann Michel, Patty Schwartzbeck, JoAnn Rowland, and Robert Roeckle) participated in a Meet the Creek program sponsored by Friends of the Kayaderosseras Creek and held at the town park in Porter Corners. Another of our members, Don Young, was the guest speaker, and he gave a most interesting talk about the history of the town park and Mill Creek, which runs through the park before joining other streams to become the Kayaderosseras Creek.

On Sept. 26, Dorothy Rowland had an open house at our Daketown one room schoolhouse. She and her husband, Henry, spent the afternoon greeting people and telling them about her experiences attending school there. Dorothy brought an old family photo of a group of students and their teacher standing in front of the school. Dorothy's grandmother, Anna Webb Rhodes, appears in the photo as a small girl.



L. Foster James, Mariam Miller, and Dorothy Rowland at the Daketown School open house Sept. 26, 2009.



The Daketown School circa 1895 – l-r: Harry Pendrick, Arthur Deyoe, William Wilsey, Ben Dake, Mable Wilsey, Anna Webb Rhodes, Edith Dake, teacher not identified.

A Few Words

From Our Vice President, Louise Okoniewski

On Oct. 24, the Town of Greenfield Historical Society will host the **Historic Harvest Fest and Market** at the Odd Fellows Hall in Middle Grove. This will be the last Farmer's Market of the season and will have its focus on local history. The historical society's Odd Fellows Hall and Museum will be open and visitors will have an opportunity to view pictures, articles and books. Other attractions include groups like the "Keepers of the Circle" who will inform and educate on the six Indian nations; the "Heritage Hunters" with information about genealogy; and the Caboose Committee, who will showcase the restoration of the caboose at King's Station. Historical Society members, Earl and Margie Jones, Ann Michel, Joyce Woodard, and others will be on hand to answer questions. Visitors will be able to get a copy of a favorite picture or article.

Also, our great farmer's market vendors will be back, featuring a wide variety of baked goods, maple syrup, honey, homemade soaps, lotions, grass fed beef, organic eggs, farm products, and, of course, seasonal veggies and pumpkins!!!!

The Market Café will be open serving hot dogs, grass fed beef burgers, hot and cold apple cider, soda, and water. Contests for the young ones such as an egg toss, and pumpkin painting will also be featured.

There will be a lot of programs and features that will be of interest to all.

This Historic Harvest Fest and Market will be from 1 to 4 p.m. on Oct. 24.

If you enjoyed or missed the Farmers Market, then make plans to attend. Tell a friend. You don't want to miss this event! More information will be forthcoming in the Penny Saver, Saratogian and Gazette newspapers.

For more information call Ron Deutsch @ 469-6769, Louise Okoniewski @ 587-6060, or contact a member of the Town of Greenfield Historical Society.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Farmers Market in 2009. If you couldn't make it this summer, make sure you don't miss this. Fun for all and it's free!

Updating Historic Sites Map in the Town of Greenfield

If you have any information, e-mail Dan Chertok at BMMSCHERTOK@GMAIL.COM or DGCLAWOFFICES@CSDSL.NET.

You may also write or call him at:

Dan Chertok
58 Ormsbee Road
Porter Corners, NY 12859

Phone: 518-893-2268

September's Program *An Old Time Sing Along*



Lynn Wochinger playing the keyboard and Jim Smith playing the guitar.



Rosie Smith and Jim singing.



Everyone sang –



and some even danced!



*Even the newlyweds were there:
Mr. and Mrs. Vince and Erica (Burkowski) Walsh
Married September 5, 2009*

The Caboose and Train Station



Baseball in Greenfield

By Dan Chertok

(The following is excerpted from interviews I had with Earl Jones, Donald Young, Cliff “Cy” Young and Marion [Taylor] Gyarmathy.)

As our favorite Major League teams head to the post season (or the long winter break, as the case may be) it seems fitting to recall some baseball history from our own town. Greenfield does not have at present any little league teams, softball teams or adult baseball teams which we can call our own, but this was not always the case. There was a time not too long ago when baseball was extremely popular within our town and we had our own teams to root for, comprised strictly of players who lived within the town. In fact, Greenfield has a rich baseball history.

The oldest witness to early baseball here, whom I could find, was Earl Jones (born 1922). His earliest baseball memories were from his boyhood days in the late 1920’s, watching his father play baseball at the St. Joseph’s church. The Greenfield AC (Athletic Club) was the name of the squad, and it featured players such as Franklin Jones (Earl’s dad); Al Barney; Bill Scott (who would later become instrumental in Ballston Spa organized sports, hence their team name “the Scotties”); Dee Whitman; and Windsor Cote.

Earl also recalls a ball field on Lake Desolation Road, off to the east of the road and above Kilmer’s mill, where games were played in the 30’s and into the 40’s. Earl recalls an exhibition game of donkey baseball (where the players sit astride a donkey), during which he fell off his mount and broke his collarbone. Don Young (born 1940) recalls as a kid chasing foul balls at that field, and receiving a popsicle from the concession stand for each ball retrieved.

Another diamond existed in the 40’s in the field next to Mrs. Turney’s home in PC on Porter Road. Cy Young (born 1937) remembers, as a 10 year old, watching games in the late 1940s at the same field. As Earl Jones recalls, the field was used for men’s softball as well as for baseball, his uncles playing on the softball teams in the 1940’s and early 50’s.

Earl Jones played baseball here, as an infielder, mainly, and is recalled by Cy and Don Young as being an excellent hitter. (Earlier in his career, Earl also played for Middle Grove who had their own team.) Some of the other players who played on the Porter Corners team in the late 1940s were Billy and Dick Steele, Cliff Dumont, and John and Ivan Jones.

Apparently, the Porter Road field fell into disuse and grew over as the 1950’s progressed. As Cy recalls, in 1959 the field was bulldozed flat once again and reconstructed. Cy had started a team the year before which played in Corinth, at that time not being able to play in Porters for lack of a proper field. When in ’59 the field was rebuilt it was given a different orientation than the earlier field, the new field being “correctly” oriented with the line between home plate (placed this time closer to the road) and the pitcher’s mound running north-northeast. (Thus explaining why a left-handed picture is sometimes referred to as

“southpaw” in that with a correctly oriented field the pitcher’s arm would be on the south side of his body.) The new field had a snow fence marking the outfield limit, with markers for distance from home plate (the left field corner being 315 feet away and dead center being 410).

Cy called his team the “Porter Corners’ Indians” and they played in what was then called the Northway League, a league which was set up in large part through Cy’s efforts. The Indians played teams from Mechanicville, Northville, Hudson Falls and Saratoga Springs, where our John Jordan was the coach for that team. Players as young as 16 years old played, and on up into their 40s. When Cy entered the military in 1960, Earl Jones took over for a couple of years as coach.

Some of the players on the first Indians team were Bill Berg, a slugger who pitched, and had excellent speed but was a little wild at times; Gene Feulner, also a pitcher who threw hard and had a good curveball (and who for fun would pitch batting practice with one hand then the other, being almost equally as good either way; Gene was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers farm system at one time, but never got called up to the big leagues); Bob Kanar, catcher; Bob Lindahl, outfield; Joey Burton, shortstop; Alan Hendrie, outfield; Sam Jones, outfield; Jerry Gilchrist, second base, who came in from Argyle to play; Ansel McKnight, first base; Frank Plummer, catcher; and, of course Donny Young, who mainly caught. Coach Cy Young also pitched (hence his nickname, paying homage to perhaps the greatest pitcher of baseball’s early era), along with others from time to time, but he recalls Berg and Feulner as “the two best pitchers around” at that time.



Al Hendrie 1959

As Cy tells about the team, he remarks that some of the players “really loved to play.” An anecdote he shared in that regard was about Frank Plummer who loved to play so much that on the day his wife had a baby he left her and the newborn at the Corinth Hospital so that he could be available for the late innings of the first game of a doubleheader. After pinch-hitting the game winning hit he went back to the hospital to spend time with his young family.

Bill Berg loved to play so much that he interrupted his honeymoon in Canada so he could return to Northville and pitch for the team in a game there. He pitched, then promptly rejoined his new bride on their honeymoon.



Bill Berg 1959

Obviously, over time, players came and went. Some of the other names recalled by Donny and Cy during my interview with them were John Maggs, who played third base and tried to pitch but was found somewhat lacking in that regard; Ritchie Wooster, an Olympic speed skater who won a medal at Grenoble; John Homiak, who joined the team after it had been here for several years, having been serving in the air force when the team began in the late 50s; and our beloved president Ron Feulner, who is reported to have played only a short while, possessing a good pitching arm (if a little wild at times). Ron was also known, when necessary, to brush a batter back with a well placed inside pitch. For at least one game the battery was Ron Feulner pitching and Donny Young catching.

The young people in town also had their day when Greenfield was full of young baseball players. Prior to the early 70s, as was the case in many small towns across the country, there was no organized youth baseball to speak of. By 1972, with the little league movement gaining popularity, it was felt that some level of organized baseball and softball would benefit the local kids, even if it was not formally considered “little league.”

In 1972, Greenfield Elementary Principal Dick Lymon, in conjunction with Betty Jenks, decided to form sandlot leagues for both baseball and softball. It is not believed that much in the way of legal formalities took place, but rather it appears that the two founders of the sandlot program simply went and bought bats, balls and other baseball equipment and donated them to the newly formed program. Similar programs ran for about 10 years.

During the sandlot years, teams were formed strictly from Greenfield residents. Girls’ softball fielded teams sponsored by St. Joseph’s Church, the Grange, the Masons and Gailor’s Landscaping. Boys fielded teams sponsored by Fred’s Auto Body, Mom and Pop’s Store, Greenfield General Store, Ellsworth Ice Cream and Fire Companies No. 1 and No. 2.

Around 1982, it was felt that the little league program itself would be more beneficial in that it presented a higher level of competition and allowed for certain forms of post-season play against other strong teams in our area. Jerry Ellsworth is credited for being instrumental in the transition from sandlot to the little league program.

With the emergence of little league play, many of the local kids were left without teams to play on. Several of the young ladies approached Don Young, and only through significant persuasion were able to convince him to form a girls’ softball travel team. As the story is told by Donny, an unsolicited promise from the girls that they would “be good” was what it took to close the deal.

The home field for the travel team was located in what was an open field across North Creek Road from the end of Plank Road, where there presently sits a log cabin (which, had it been there at the time, would have been in deep right field). The girls played in places like Warrensburg, Echo Lake (above Warrensburg), Lake George and Ballston Spa.

The players on the original girls’ traveling team in 1982 included Marion Taylor (Gyarmathy), shortstop; Lorraine Matuszewski (Fiorino), third base; Darlene Sherman (Singer), second base; Meredith Covell (Rumpf), pitcher; Tracy Young, pitcher and 2B; Beth Muller; Kim Subcliff, catcher; Wanda Rumpf, pitcher/first base; and Jeannine Lescault, a pitcher and a slugger with the bat. (Note: married names used, when known, are in parentheses.) Marion describes with great joy how so often 12 teenage girls would pile into Donny Young’s big old Cadillac and heading out to the games, with Don’s basset hound, Homer, along for the ride. Donny instilled a lifelong love of the game into these young ladies, many of whom, like him, are now diehard Red Sox fans.

Today the Porter Corners’ ball fields are the only proper baseball fields we have in town. Even now, despite that there are four excellent fields to play on, it is a rare occasion when all of them are used at the same time. One has to believe that had these fields been in place during years past, they may have been far more extensively used, for there certainly was a time when baseball was big in the Town of Greenfield.



Original Porter Corners Indians 1959

Back Row: John Maggs, Bob Lindahl, Bob Kanar, Bill Berg, Cy Young. Front Row: John Homiak, Earl Jones, Jerry Gilchrist, Joey Burton, Alan Hendrie

To: Ronald Feulner
 From: Ruth Donogh
 Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2009 10:29 p.m.
 Subject: I hope this helps with identification

Dear Ron,

The May newsletter came in today's mail and, as always, I had to sit down and read it right away. You have been busy, and it seems, had to deal with some frustrating circumstances. ...

My reason for writing is the articles in the previous newsletters regarding the Cady House. I read it with great interest last month and then e-mailed Marge Ericksen to tell her that it appears our families were neighbors. Marge and I have worked together for a number of years as we have common ancestors.

I am attaching a picture that I took in 2006 when I was back in Middle Grove for a family reunion. (I do not think it is the house you pictured last month, but it is across the street from the IOOF Hall and very near the Rowell store, now the site of Stewarts.)



It was at that time that you so graciously took our group to the Dake schoolhouse and the IOOF Hall. After touring the hall with you I went out to the roadside and took this picture. I have been told by my cousin that it is the house our grandparents (Jennie Smith and Moses Bently Rowell) lived in when his father was born. Norman Rowell was born in 1911. I have a letter from my grandmother that describes living in that house. I have the impression it was owned by Moses Darius Rowell, who died in 1903, the father of Moses B. However, without digging out the letter I cannot be positive about that. I know that his wife lived with Jenny and Moses B, so that makes sense. She died in 1910 and her obituary mentions that she died in the home of her son.

My only reason for sharing this information is to perhaps help you identify the Cady house by elimination. Without more dates, it is difficult to know, but this information might eliminate the house across Middle Grove Road from the IOOF hall.

Thanks for a wonderful newsletter and for all you and all the other members who do so much.

Ruth Donogh

Remembering Joy Wilsey

By Fran Lambert

As you probably know, Joy Wilsey left us.... We were very good friends and we were supposed to go fishing in Buckets Pond on Plank Road in Porter Corners. Then she became ill, and after some surgery, she went to California to visit another one of her children. When she came back, it was difficult to see her, as family realized it would be too strenuous. She was continually thought of by all of her friends at Old Stone, on Old Stone Church Road, Ballston Spa. Joy and I would talk about the way we used to fish, and all the silly things we'd use as bait. I found that just talking about all those past years of fishing at Buckets pond was reward in itself. So when I heard that I could no longer plan a fishing trip with Joy, I wrote this as a letter for her. This was also read for her family.

LET'S GO FISHIN'

Did you hear that?
 The fish are jumping!
 Grab that pole ... bait that hook!
 Let's go catch some supper!
 Last time I went out fishing
 the line got tangled in the reel,
 guess I didn't keep my thumb on the line
 to slow it down. Oh well, at least I came here
 and started fishing. It took me an hour and a half
 to untangle that line. Now the sun is shining too bright!
 The fish go deep when the sun is so bright!
 Guess I'd better get ready and rearrange
 my tackle box, and keep the bait out of the sun.
 Oh! here's that lure I've been looking for all these years!
 Now it's getting late, where has the time gone? I'll come
 back another day! At least I went fishing!



Joy Wilsey

The Archives Committee found this information
 while searching through old records.

Middle Grove High School – 1886

Thirty Scholars

George Kilmer
 Myron Lewis
 Elmo Randall
 George Howard
 James Muhenan
 George Ingalls
 Joel (Joal?) Mastin
 Willie Burdick
 Carl Randall
 Luis (Lois?) Barney

*I'd like to thank everyone who brought a dish to
 pass at the September pot luck dinner and for all
 the help I received getting things ready.*

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson

Historic Harvest Festival and Market



Oct. 24, 2009
1:00-4:00 PM at



Historic Odd Fellows Hall
On Middle Grove Road – Parking Available in Middle Grove Park

Sponsored by the Town of Greenfield Historical Society

Come and learn about the history of Greenfield and its historic structures, meet your neighbors and friends, play old fashioned children's games, and shop with our vendors at our Fall Market

Our Harvest Market will feature:

Local Meats

Seasonal fruits and vegetables

Maple Syrups, fresh Raw Honey and Jams and Jellies

Local Baked Good - Fresh and Delicious

Locally Made Crafts and Soaps

History Café: will sell hot dogs, grass fed beef burgers, fresh cut fries, drinks and cider (all profits go to Historical Society)

Educational Activities:

Many local organizations will be participating and will provide information on:

Local Historical Landmarks

Local Businesses

Native American Culture

Hunting, Fishing and Trapping

Old fashioned Family Fun Activities:

Sack Races

Egg Races

Apple Dunk

Pumpkin Races



Please call Ron Feulner at 893-0620 or Ron Deutsch at 306-4906 if you have any questions.

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 need articles for the 2009-10 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.

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