

# Historical Society Newsletter

OFFICERS: President: Ron Feulner; Vice President: Louise Okoniewski;  
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Janet Jones, Editor  
P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833

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[www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com)

*This issue sponsored by Ralph C. Stacey, dedicated to Katherine B. Stacey and Robin R. Stacey.*

## Calendar

**December 12, 2009:** Saturday, *Christmas Party* from 1 - 3 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. Everyone will share their memories about what they did for fun and recreation in past winters. Contact JoAnn Rowland (893-7786) for more details. Please bring cookies/desserts to share and we'll have a bake sale at the end of the party. We're doing the ornament exchange again this year; please bring an ornament if you want to participate. 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.*

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

## *IOOF Hall Visitation*

If you would like to visit the IOOF Hall, please call: Joyce Woodard – 893-7638 or Ann Michel – 893-7052.

**Please Note:** Our membership chairperson tells me that most of you have paid your dues for the current year, but a few have forgotten. To jog your memory, we are placing a circle near the return address on the last page. If a red "X" appears in the circle, it means, that according to our records, you have not yet paid. The January issue will be sent to only those who are up-to-date with their dues. If you feel a mistake has been made, please contact us.

(Nancy 518-893-7770 or Alice 518-893-0620)

## *Ron's Ramblings*

It seemed a little strange to me opening the Community Center for our November meeting after not having been there but once since last May, but we all fell quickly into our pattern of setting up chairs and preparing refreshments.

There were 30 people present at the business meeting, which went quickly because several of the committee chairpersons were absent. Then it was all about the program – Nancy Walker and her husband, Larry Clyman, and their music. Nancy told us about the structure of songs and how a songwriter goes about composing. She sang a number of songs that she had written and then dissected them illustrating where the ideas had come from and how she had put them together. She and Larry also did an old favorite, *The Tennessee Waltz*, which brought back old, almost forgotten, memories of my Uncle Donald, one foot on a kitchen chair, playing the guitar and singing the same song.

Nancy also talked about her local project for which she hoped to receive a grant. At the time of our meeting, the grant had not yet been finalized, but a few days later, Nancy sent me an e-mail and excitedly told me that the grant had been awarded. I asked her to outline the grant for me and she said, "The name of the project is the True Colors Recording Project. I plan to create, record and distribute a collection of 6 original new songs (EP) that will lyrically, and musically, tell the stories of various community residents. The new work will provide a historical perspective of how our lives today are both similar to and different from our recent past. For the project my intent is to write from a place that recognizes the beauty in my surroundings and the stories that are imbedded here. My ultimate vision is to combine storytelling, music, and camaraderie, into a lasting memory for the people of Greenfield Center and for myself."

She continued, "Many thanks to the members of the Greenfield Center Historical Society and to town Supervisor, Richard Rowland, and his family. Also my

deepest gratitude to author Mary Sanders Shartle for her encouragement and inspiration. The project will be recorded by me, my husband, Larry Clyman, and Sam Zucchini at the Greenfield Grange hall in Greenfield Center in the spring or summer of 2010.”

Nancy is requesting that we all help her find subjects for the songs. I have already suggested *Lucinda, The Mountain Mourner* as a possible subject for a song, and have also offered to introduce her to one of Greenfield's old timers, Ted Jones. Ted knows a lot about the areas history, and he dabbles in song writing, so I am hoping he can help.

Nancy is going to need all our help to make this a success. You can contact her directly with your ideas or write them in a special journal that she will bring to our Christmas party at the Community Center on December 12. Or, if you prefer, you can send your ideas to our post office box, and we will forward them to Nancy. Our neighbors in Galway have completed two similar projects (the Story Quilt poem project and a photography project). Both projects were hugely successful. I think that we Greenfielders should be able to help Nancy make this project just as successful.

This is an exciting time for those of us interested in the history of the Town of Greenfield because we also have a very successful project of our own underway. Two of our members, Thom Siragusa and Dan Chertok, have teamed up to create a web site that is becoming the envy of others. They are now in the process of entering information and pictures of historic sites in the town. Now that they have completed all the technological hard work, they need all of us who know the history of Greenfield to share our knowledge with them so the web site can grow. If we all work together on this project, we can present the history of our town in a format never before possible. It will take anyone who has a question about our town's history only moments to access the information right from their own living room, and it won't even matter if they are in Porter Corners, Middle Grove, or downtown Los Angeles.

## Updating Historic Sites Map in the Town of Greenfield

If you have any information, e-mail Dan Chertok at [BMMSCHERTOK@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BMMSCHERTOK@GMAIL.COM) or [DGCLAWOFFICES@CSDSL.NET](mailto:DGCLAWOFFICES@CSDSL.NET).

You may also write or call him at:

Dan Chertok  
58 Ormsbee Road  
Porter Corners, NY 12859  
Phone: 518-893-2268

## *A note from Andrew Kubica of 23240 Mariano Street, Woodland Hills, CA 91367*

Five daughter's families and grandchildren enjoy the Daketown atmosphere [when reading the newsletter]. The Adirondacks and its people contributed heavily in winning the 2nd WW. Especially important were the 1,900 narrow gage locomotives that were responsible for moving Russia's manufacturing facilities east of Leningrad (where the T34 tank was developed that defeated the Nazis in '42) with our Liberty Ships loaded with aluminum, steel, food, etc., over frozen Lake Ladoga east to Russia out of the NH 31 bomber's range.

I worked on the 2nd shift at American Locomotive for three months during the fall of '42 by moving my 21-cow-milking schedule ahead for the 2nd shift 4-12.

We had men driving to ALCO from Ticonderoga. No problems. Today all we think about is the almighty dollar! P.S. Would you believe that we have a Greenfield in the middle of the lettuce capital of the world located in the Salinas Valley 150 mile east of Monterey (Pebble Beach). It's about 5-10 miles wide with rich black earth 20 yards deep fed by underground aquifers producing three billion gallons per minute and no graffiti. This is the closest thing to the Garden of Eden that you'd ever see.

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## Lightning and Thunder – Within the Halls of Splendor

Echoing through the valleys  
The magnificent Thunder announces  
The arrival of splendor and power of  
Forces not yet seen.  
The trumpeting – an awareness of  
the majestic Voice of Force!  
How regal the jewel of  
flash, sparkle and dazzle.  
No throne on this sphere can  
compare to its' magnificence!  
Unbridled terrible beauty –  
so free of constraint.  
It winds its' way through  
the Valley Halls ...  
Sometimes choosing to show  
spectacular veins of superb  
diamond flashes.  
Its' voice resounds sometimes  
with a crack ...  
Other times with a booming bass voice  
rolling in undulating waves over the mountains.  
This event is the one thing that  
has never yet been tamed.  
Were we to know the how, when and why?  
Best to leave it unanswered –  
within the Halls of Splendor – Way up in the sky!

*fran lambert – 2008*

## A Cradle's Journeys

By Katie Finnegan



My mom and dad, Donald and Carolyn Keefer are Historical Society members who live a few miles away in the town of Glenville. If you ever went to their house and they took you upstairs into the attic, you might see a handsome piece of furniture stored up there – a baby cradle made out of maple with a walnut finish. It has spindle sides and rests on a stand. If you pull out a wooden knob at one end it can rock; pushed in, it is locked in place. All in all, a cozy place for a baby's nap. You might see it there, but maybe not. It has done some traveling over the years, and it's probably not done going places yet.

My parents bought this cradle on their way home from work on the day that our son Michael was born. It came from the Charlton Village Shop, which is still in business today. Then they went down to Scotia to pick up my grandparents, Harold and Helen Bishop, so that they could take them up to Saratoga Hospital to meet their first grandchild and Granny and Grampy's first great-grandchild. I know it had been a busy day for me, and looking back I guess it was a pretty busy day for them, too!

Mom and Dad offered us the cradle, but at that point we had already set up Pat's old bassinet that he had used as a baby, so we thought it would make more sense to leave it at their house, so we'd have a place for Mike to nap when we went out there. So that's what we did, and although neither of our boys were easy to put down in those early months, the cradle did get some use from Mike.

After that the cradle did not stay put for too long. Any time Mom and Dad's friends and neighbors were having babies, the cradle came out of storage and went off to a new place for a couple of months. It rocked three more grandsons: our Dan and my sister's two boys, Christopher and Jonathan Allen. Here is a list of all the little ones who have used it. Some are all grown up, but the last one is still

a little fellow. When the cradle is back up in the attic, Mom and Dad have a copy of this list in a plastic sleeve, tucked under the mattress.

Michael Barry Finnegan	Born Sept. 10, 1981
David Isaac Page	Aug. 22, 1983
Zachary Harold Atherton-Ely	March 28, 1984
Nicholas Steven Schrader	Dec. 7, 1984
Katelyn Rae Page	June 13, 1985
Christopher Keefer Allen	Aug. 18, 1986
Daniel Eamon Finnegan	Feb. 19, 1987
Kristian James Mylroie	April 28, 1987
Benjamin Kyle Hudson	Sept. 9, 1989
Jonathan Ashton Allen	May 14, 1990
McKenna Rose Murphy	Jan. 24, 1991
Shelby Rae Olds	Nov. 6, 1991
Luke Benjamin Murphy	April 13, 1993
Kathryn Skye Murphy	Feb. 17, 1994
John Peter Seamus Murphy	July 16, 1994
William Josiah Turner	Sept. 16, 2007

It's quite a list and has really turned into a family tradition of sorts. As of this writing there are no reservations for it yet, but it has always been gently used and still looks brand new. There's lots of use left in it, and I think it will rock plenty more babies before it's done.

## Daketown School – Teacher List Old Daketown Road, Greenfield Center, NY

by Dorothy Rowland

Years	Last Name	First Name
1878	Mattie	Corman
1894 - 1895	Balcom	Helena
1899 - 1900	Blowers	William
1908 - 1909	Jones	Eunice
1910 - 1913	Jones	Arthur
1913 - 1916	Jones	Eunice
1915 - 1916	White	Ruth
1916 - 1918	Jones	Arthur
1917 - 1919	Menshausen	May
1919 - 1920	Wilsey	E. D.
1920 - 1921	Jones	Nina
1920 - 1921	Ingruham	Marion
1921 - 1922	(no records)	
1922 - 1927	Jones	Arthur
1928 - 1929	Chatfield	Mary
1929 - 1936	Jones	Arthur
1936 - 1956	Chatfield/Coombs/Steil	Mary

*[More information about the Daketown School to follow in future newsletters.]*

*I would like to thank our November refreshment volunteers: Joyce Woodard and Katie Finnegan. They brought cookies and apple crisp. January refreshment volunteers are: Alice Feulner, Lynn Wochinger and Patty Schwartzbeck.  
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 need articles. 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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Greenfield Center, NY 12833

