

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 8

www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

Calendar

April 20, 2010: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m.
at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.
Joan Cady of Heritage Hunters will do a program about that organization.

May 18, 2010: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m.
at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.
Program: Maria Trabka from Saratoga PLAN, which is a local organization that is preserving open spaces including farmland, forests, natural areas, trails, and historic sites.

Our Web Site is Expanding

Take a look and contribute if you can.

- Explore the Interactive Map! Dan Chertok has been busy adding new sites to the Interactive Map. Please share with Dan. He needs your old photos. It's easy. Just call Dan or e-mail him at bmmschertok@gmail.com.
- Flip through historical photographs. You can now browse through our photo collection and please leave comments.
- Read past newsletters. They are now online in case you missed one.
- Browse our book recommendations. Look through listings of historical recommended reading and books by local authors.

Attention Local Authors

We would love to put your book(s) or next event on our new Web site as a small thank you for speaking to our group. If you are interested, please contact Thom Siragusa at tsiragusa@gmail.com or 518-322-1486.

IOOF Hall Visitation Hours

The IOOF Hall will be open for visitors from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursdays. Please call ahead to make sure we will be there.

Joyce Woodard – 893-7638 or Ann Michel – 893-7052

Ron's Ramblings

The weather for our March meeting was superb. One month makes such a difference. As you remember we cancelled our February meeting because of bad weather.

The business meeting was short. Nancy Homiak, our membership person, told us that we are sending out 183 newsletters each month. Ron Deutsch sent word that he still needs vendors for the Farmers' Market this summer – especially people with veggies for sale. Even if you were a vendor last summer, you must re-apply. Applications can be obtained from our Web site or from Ron Deutsch. Louise told us that the county historian is looking for quilt squares to represent the various towns in the county. The quilt will be on display at the NYS Museum. More detail is available at the town's Web site.

In addition to the regular March meeting, we also had a board meeting on March 29. All the board members, except one, were able to attend. In addition, we had Tony Bucca representing the Caboose Committee, and Ann Michel and Joyce Woodard representing our Archive Committee. The meeting was a long one, and we discussed the following:

- Sponsoring a field trip to the Indian sump grinder, a historical site in our town (details to be worked out).
- The board approved the purchase of a second tent for use at the Farmers' Market and other events.
- A bake sale at the town's caboose site. Volunteers have nearly completed work restoring the old caboose to its glory days and want to show it off. We decided that a bake sale this summer put on by the historical society could serve the dual purpose of being a fund raiser for our organization and, at the same time, call attention to the restoration work on the caboose. Tony Bucca, from the Caboose Committee and Louise Okoniewski, vice president of the historical society, will organize the event.
- Ann Michel and Joyce Woodard are back to having regular weekly hours at the IOOF hall. They welcome visitors so stop and say hello. They expressed a need for another fire-proof file cabinet. Ann pointed out that they sometimes appear at auction sales. The board authorized her to purchase one if the opportunity should arise and the price is right.

- Thom Siragusa designed and is maintaining our Web site. Recently, he received several requests from out of state persons asking for help tracking down family histories. Thom directs these people to other online sources, but occasionally, they want more specialized work done at the local level which is time consuming and demands some level of know how. The board discussed the idea of Thom referring such requests to individuals who might be interested in doing that kind of work and charging the people a reasonable hourly rate and perhaps an automobile mileage charge to do it. Interested persons should have some knowledge of the area and family history research techniques, have an automobile, and have time to do this kind of work. If you are interested, you can contact me at 518-893-0620, and I can provide more detail. After we set this up, if a request comes in, Thom would e-mail the person who requested help and give them a list of persons here that would be interested in doing the work, including a short background statement from each, including their skills, interests, hourly rate, and contact information. From that point on, the individuals would only contact each other with no further involvement of the historical society. No information would be posted on the Web site.
- And finally, the last item on the agenda was an outgrowth of our March program. Brendon Manley talked to our group about his hobby of metal detecting and got Vince Walsh so excited that Vince wants us to have a metal detection event at the IOOF hall this spring. The remainder of the board liked the idea, and decided that we should invite Brendon to return with his metal detector and also invite any of our members who have one and would like to participate. The rest of us would work in small teams with shovels to uncover what they locate with their instruments and then repair the damage. Anything found would remain the property of the historical society's, but photos of found objects would be shared. Combined with this would be an open house at the IOOF hall allowing Ann and Joyce to show off the work they have been doing. We might also set up tents and offer refreshments. I think it might be a fun day for all ages. People interested in metal detectors could see and discuss them with the experts, and we could call attention to our local history at the same time. More will follow about date and time in our future newsletters.

As I was finishing my ramblings, Earl "Skip" Ballou called me. I could tell something was up by the excitement in his voice. He said, "You're not going to believe this, but we have a visit from Mr. Palmquist from the State Education Department scheduled for April 8 at 1 p.m. After all these years of waiting and all the paper work, we are going to complete the last requirement for our charter application which is a visit from Mr. Palmquist. If everything goes well, and he recommends us for a permanent charter, the last step will be for the Board of Regents to grant it at one of their regular meetings. Coral Crosman worked for years on the project and this year Skip Ballou picked up where Coral left off. Congratulations to both of you.

Adirondack Trail Wanderings

Wandering through the low lying plants and prickly bushes the trail seems endless. Scenery changes from grassy clearing to murky swamp – then on to boulders interjecting the next scene of a very tiny mountain lake. Stretching flatly for a distance of about 30 feet, a boulder shelf juts into the deepest part of this jewel of a lake.

The air is cold, crisp – stinging the nose hairs as the temperature drops. Observing from the most distant part of this rock shelf, notice is made of the pristine liquid clearness – allowing a view of yet another trail. This one being hidden in the shadows of grasses alive within this watery realm. On close inspection discovery is made that this one particular area is home to a deep hole "cave." Surrounding the cave entrance small native fish stand guard as if waiting for a school of minnows to casually wander by – not realizing that their new names will soon be known as 'breakfast' 'lunch,' and 'supper.'

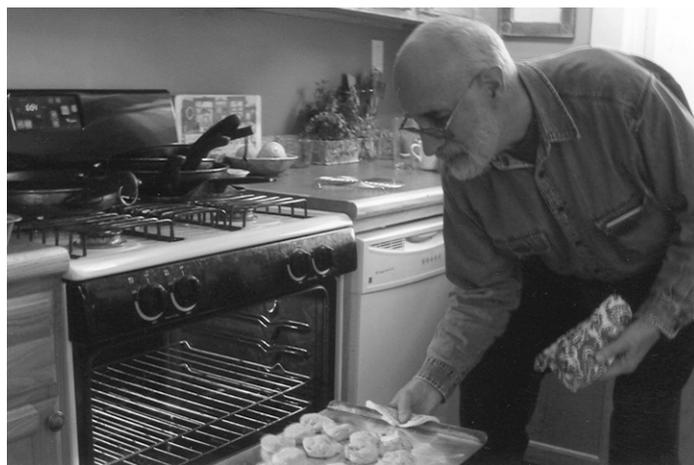
Aimlessly the school arrives, they shimmy across the front of the "cave," they suddenly become aware of the impending danger that their careless, aimless wanderings have put them in. Springing into action the larger sentinels make short work of flashing silvery meal so set before them as a smorgasbord. Some escape, but as the desperate attempt is made to flee, the crystal liquid becomes a 'dust storm in a raging sea.'

The water is so roiled that all semblance of peacefulness has given way to utter chaos. Still observing the mayhem, the sediment slowly returns to its place of rest on the lake floor. The last of the remains are judiciously picked clean from the table floor. The larger trio look fatly satiated – remain in place – surveying their remaining spoils of victory. Smug in their little yard trail, they settle down with just very slight movement of their side "balance" fins. The temperature drops even colder, the liquid produces a lethargic state of stupor to the inhabitants within the water grasses, sunken tree roots, and sandy trails throughout the leafy foliage of their neighborhood. They have always enjoyed their "cave yard" as it seemed visited often by other small species – 'wandering finned gypsies' scouting also for their own forage.

Suddenly the current swiftly changes and a constraining flow of tugging emits from the black vortex of the cave. The unsuspecting threesome now named "breakfast, lunch, and supper" struggle to maintain balance, but the unfortunate trio now become the primary objective of the tenant residing within the blackness of the cave.

From within this deep blackness of the underwater 'cave trail' there emerges a GULP ... BUBBLES ... BELCH ...
AHHHHHHH!

Written by: Fran Lambert



*Is that our president baking biscuits?
Maybe he'll volunteer for the refreshment committee!*

It's Back! Better and Bigger than Ever!



Greenfield Farmers Market

**Middle Grove Park,
Middle Grove Road**

**Every Friday
from 4:00 to 7:00 PM**

June 25 – Sept 3, 2010

Save the World - Shop at the Market:

- Locally grown vegetables/plants
 - Locally made crafts
 - Yummy baked goods
- Locally raised/free range meats
- Local authors and artists tables
- Local maple syrup, honey, eggs, jams and more....
- Tours of Historic Odd Fellows Hall right next to market
- Plenty of Parking, bathrooms and places for the Kids to play

Check here weekly for updates on new produce and products

***Sponsored by:* The Town of Greenfield Historical Society**

***Supported by:* THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD**

**To become a vendor or for more information please call Ron Deutsch at
469-6769. Download a Vendor Application for the 2010 Season.**



Town of Greenfield Historical Society

Greenfield Farmers Market Vendor Application

(All applications will be reviewed and approved by the Farmers Market Committee)

Name:

Name of business:

Do you have the proper certifications to sell your products (circle one): Yes No Don't Know
(please attach a copy of inspection certificate or permits)

Do you carry your own insurance (circle one): YES NO

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Phone number:

E-mail: Web site:

I would like to sell the following items (please be very specific and list all items you wish to sell – the committee has the right to reject individual items to ensure a proper mix of products):

I will be able to attend the following markets (please circle all that you will attend):

6/25 7/2 7/9 7/16 7/23 7/30 8/6 8/13 8/20 8/27 9/3

Please return to: Town of Greenfield Historical Society, and send c/o Ron Deutsch, 17 Lester Lane, Middle Grove, NY 12850 or e-mail to mkd67@aol.com.

Vendors are responsible for complying with all local, state and federal regulations that apply to their products.

March 12, 2010

Dear Ron,

The newsletter arrived in today's mail and, as always, I have to read it immediately. I was so surprised and pleased to open it up and find the article regarding the finding of Warren Dake's gravestone by Katie Finnegan. Please give her my regards and tell her I think she did a terrific job.

I want to say that I have the original of the letter written by John Shotwell. It had been in my father's things even when I was a child and I was fascinated even then. Just one of those things that led me to do the genealogy of the Dake (and other lines) family. However, I was not familiar with the second letter. It tells a very sad story. I do want to say that Warren was the son of Charles and Abigail Waite Sherman Dake. They were also buried up there in the Dake Cemetery. Their headstones are there, Charles' headstone, if I recall correctly, is leaning against a tree, but Abigail's is on the edge as the ground falls away down the hill. Perhaps it is near the location of Warren's.

Charles Dake Jr. is the son of Charles Dake Sr. and Anna Gould Dake. They are the couple who came with their sons to Greenfield. My line goes from Charles Sr. to Charles Jr. and then to Benjamin Charles, the brother of Warren. Benjamin was the father of Sarepta. You probably recall that name from other correspondence as it is rather unforgettable.



Charles Deake Jr. – died 1843



Abigail Waite Sherman Deake – died 1861

I have attached pictures of the two headstones. It delights me that you are familiarizing the community and the historical society with the Dake Cemetery. That means it will never get lost again.

Since you are now posting the issues of the newsletter online I will send that information to my Dake cousins who will also be so interested in the article and in what Katie found. I think Tom Smith, who located the cemetery for us, will be very interested.

I hope your weather is mellowing a bit and that you are able to get started on your spring projects. Our weather here in the Pacific northwest has been lovely. Until this past week or so it has been so mild that many things are blooming.

My best wishes to you and Alice.

Ruth Donough

INFORMATION REQUESTED

I have for the past several years worked with a gentleman named Joe (Frank) Goyette. Occasionally he would bring me in a copy of your newsletter. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it and looked forward to it.

In one of them a couple of years ago there was mention of the Decker family. This piqued my interest as my mother was a Decker. I am looking for a fella called 'Koon' Decker. He was born in NY and married Lucy Winter. Their daughter Amanda Decker was born in Pine Plains in 1848. I am trying to find out what Koon's real first name was. I am thinking Coenhardt, or Conrad? Neither of those names, however, come up in any census lists. He is called Koon on them.

Would you be so kind as to pass this info on to anyone and everyone who you think might have some insight or interest in the Deckers. He would be a distant cousin of mine; I am a descendant of Elias and Rebecca Chamberlain, Laura Chamberlain Nodine, she married William Decker, son was Homer, and his son George Decker. George was my grandfather. My mother was Claire Decker O'Connor.

Thank you for any help you can give me.

Ellen O'Connor Wasdo, 35 Hillendale Drive,
New Milford, CT 06776

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

*I would like to thank the March refreshment volunteers:
Joan/JoAnn Rowland, Maureen Cinadr and Nancy Homiak.
They served pistachio cake, Irish soda bread, pistachio cream
delight, apple crisp and velvet crumb cake with nut topping.
April refreshment volunteers are: Katie Finnegan,
Leliah Cornell and Margie Jones.*

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. 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@nycap.rr.com (please note new e-mail address).**

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