

## 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

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

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

### Calendar

- 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.*
- May 22, 2010:** Saturday, metal detection day with Brendan Manley and open house at the IOOF hall, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring your metal detector or just come and watch and enjoy a tour of the hall.
- June 25, 2010: Farmer's Market** starting Fridays at 4 p.m., Middle Grove Town Park, Middle Grove Rd.
- August 14, 2010:** Saturday, Bake Sale and Tours of the Caboose and King's Station located on NYS Route 9N in Greenfield Center, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Our Website 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](mailto: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 website as a small thank you for speaking to our group. If you are interested, please contact Thom Siragusa at [tsiragusa@gmail.com](mailto:tsiragusa@gmail.com) or 518-322-1486.

### Ron's Ramblings

Our April meeting was short. Thirty-one people attended. The biggest news during April was a visit by David Palmquist from the State Education Department to our IOOF building and school house. The visit was in regard to our charter application. Mr. Palmquist met us (Ron and Alice Feulner, Harold Jones, Coral Crosman, Joyce Woodard, Earl "Skip" Ballou, and Ann Michel) at the IOOF hall where we gave him a complete tour of the building. After the tour we sat in a circle, and he discussed some recommendations and a requirement that we must meet before receiving a charter.

First, he recommended that our archive persons (Ann and Joyce) not display originals but have copies made and keep the originals in a file out of direct sunlight. Joyce and Ann have indicated that they are already doing this with most originals and will continue working toward doing it with all of them.

Then Mr. Palmquist told us that we must install monitored smoke, heat, and intrusion alarms in both our buildings before he would recommend us for a charter. This completely took us by surprise. Mr. Palmquist completed his afternoon with us by visiting the Daketown School where he again wanted to see everything including the outdoor toilet.

I called our board together for a meeting (also attending were guests, Joyce Woodard, Dan Chertoc, and Earl Ballou) which was held on April 27, 2010, and we discussed the alarm requirements. Harold Jones (our Building and Grounds Chairman) had contacted Ed Stano who owns a company here in Greenfield called Loss Prevention Specialist who has done security work for the town on previous occasions and asked Mr. Stano to give us an idea how much such a system might cost.

The board had a lively discussion about our options which boiled down to (1) forgetting about the charter and doing nothing, (2) going ahead and installing systems in both buildings at a considerable expense (including an on going cost for monitoring), or (3) some combination of the

two where we might install a cheaper system and hope that Mr. Palmquist might approve it.

We also had a lengthy discussion about why we need a charter and how an alarm system might benefit us. No one could come up with a reason for the charter other than it would provide us a sense of credibility and might make it easier to get grants. Concerning the safety of our collection, we already have many of our most important archives in very heavy, fire-proof, lockable file cabinets. Also, the firehouse is only about one-fourth mile away.

Having a 501-C3 designation from the IRS and/or incorporating as a non-profit would probably accomplish the same as far as qualifying us for grants and at a smaller cost. The question did come up whether we could get a 501-C3 designation without a charter, but several board members didn't think that this would be the case. Some of our board members, however, felt that since we had been working for such a long time to turn our original temporary charter into a permanent one, we should try to find a way to complete the job.

No action was taken by the board at the meeting since the first meeting was for informational purposes and general discussion.

I have called a second board meeting concerning this issue for May 13, and the board may vote at that meeting on a decision concerning which course of action to take. If so, I should have more information to share with members at the general meeting on May 18.

At our last general meeting (April 20), Sandy Arnold talked about setting up a site on Facebook for the historical society. We decided to give her the go-ahead to do that, and it is now complete. She provided us a Facebook badge to place somewhere on our newsletter to indicate to Facebook users that we do have a site. It should appear somewhere on the newsletter this month.

We are planning two activities. The first will be a metal detection day with Brendan Manley and open house at the IOOF hall on Saturday, May 22. The hours will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring your metal detector or just come and watch and enjoy a tour of the hall.

The second activity will be a joint event between the historical society and the Caboose Committee who has worked hard to restore the caboose and King's Station located on NYS Route 9N in Greenfield Center. That event is scheduled for August 14 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will include a bake sale and tours of the caboose and station. We will also have a tent set up to sell hot dogs, etc., so come hungry. Alice Feulner will be in charge of the bake sale, call her at 893-0620 if you would like to bake something for the sale. JoAnn Rowland will be in charge of the food tent. If you would like to give her a hand, call her at 893-7786.

Don't forget our Farmer's Market which will begin on June 25 and run every Friday afternoon at 4 p.m. all summer. The market will be at the same place as last year, the Middle Grove Town Park on Middle Grove Road, across from the Methodist Church and near the intersection with Lake Desolation Road. See you at these events.

Our May meeting is the last meeting of our membership year. Harold Jones and Nancy Homiak are doing the annual audit for us and will report. Also, it will be election time for new officers so be sure to attend.

As president, I would like to thank all of you who have worked so hard to make our organization what it has become. I am proud of our accomplishments, and you should be too because you helped make them happen. Thanks again and have a good summer.

## Visiting Middle Grove

I am a member of the Greenfield Historical Society and I have many ancestors from Middle Grove. Some of the descendants of James Merrills DAKE and Sarah Maria SHEPARD are holding a reunion at the Roaring Brook Ranch Resort in Lake George, NY, on Friday evening, July 23 and Saturday, July 24, 2010. We are wondering if some member of the society would be willing to give us a tour of Middle Grove on that Saturday? Anyone interested in meeting with us is welcome. Please e-mail me at [birdlovermarge@yahoo.com](mailto:birdlovermarge@yahoo.com). Please announce our reunion at your next meeting.

Thank you,

Marge Erickson  
13 Huston St.  
Lisbon Falls, ME 04252-0293

## 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

**FACEBOOK – If you have a site on Facebook, log in, go to the search bar at the top of the page and type in Town of Greenfield Historical Society. Great job, Sandy.**

## 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

*I would like to thank the April refreshment volunteers:  
Katie Finnegan, Leliah Cornell and Margie Jones.*

*They served sauerkraut cake, cookies, brownies and sour cream coffee cake.*

*May refreshment volunteers are: Alice Feulner and Joyce Woodard.*

*Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson*

## May – The “Old Timers”

*In honor of memorial day, I would like to pay homage to those I considered “Old Timers” when I was growing up. Each have made a permanent mark in my memories.*

by Marie Willard

**Helena McNutt** was a seamstress. She was born 1872. Her husband William was a farmer. They had two children that I never met – Francis and Alice. Eva Mae Older had her dresses made there on occasion. Sometimes I would go with her for her fitting and Mrs. McNutt would let us look through her pattern books while she worked. We would pick out dresses that we would love to have. To us it was like a Montgomery Ward Catalog. She was a warm, happy person and I really liked going there. Recently I learned that she was the granddaughter of John James for whom the town had once been named, and that she was responsible for finally placing a stone on his grave in Middle Grove cemetery that had been unmarked for 50 years. I also learned that her husband William was the grandson of the McNutt that had owned “Roeckles” store in its early years. When I think back, what history these two could have given us on the early years in this town.

**John Baugh Sr.** – John and Jean Baugh built the store where the post office is today. John thought it was a shame that the youth in town had no place to go so he took part of his store and converted the area into a recreation center. He installed a Juke box and a pool table and a place to sit. This became our evening entertainment for several years. After the evening meal we would rush up to the “store” until 9 p.m. to be with our friends. He made us feel like someone finally understood that we needed something for just us.

**Jessie Blowers** – Jessie was born in Greenfield in 1884 and she married William Blowers also from Greenfield. Their daughter Gladys married Royal Baugh and lived in Middle Grove also. From what I can gather Jessie worked for the McAuleys at the hotel for many years. She also took care of Mrs. McAuley, born 1871, when she became sick. The hotel later closed but the store on the main floor remained and Jessie ran it for several years. She raised two of her son William’s children, Noreen and Elaine Blowers there. In the evenings you could see some men sitting around a table by the big stove playing cards. Jessie had a big heart but liked to keep to herself a lot. She did teach Noreen and Elaine to be outgoing young ladies. I wish I had talked to her more. I bet she could have told some great stories about the hotel, it’s guests, and perhaps its previous owners.

**Wilbur Barney** – Uncle Wilbur, as he was always called, lived down the hill from the school. We got the school’s water from him. He always let us into his rhubarb patch to take what we wanted. He lived alone. His wife, according to the census, died somewhere between 1930 and 1940. He had a stepson, Willard Grant, the same age as him, although I never met him. Wilbur had no children of his own. He kept his dining room table set all the time.

All but one place setting had plates and cups turned upside down. Mom told me that people did this to respect those in the family that had died. It was Uncle Wilbur that told me about the fire of 1907. He told me how it jumped from one side of the road to the other. He didn’t tell me that both he and his brother lost their homes. I discovered this recently while researching the fire from newspaper clippings. I guess I thought he was an old man living in an old house the fire didn’t affect him. Uncle Wilbur loved to dance and if there was a dance at the firehouse he would be there. I wish I had been interested in history. His real name was Owen Wilbur Barney, born 1878, and he was a descendant of the first doctor in Middle Grove, Dr. Asa Barney.

**Jack Feulner** (John Feulner III) born 1892. Mr. Feulner ran a saw mill across from the Middle Grove school. Although I didn’t have much contact with him when I was growing up I think he would have been willing to answer the questions that I am now having about people and places in Middle Grove. I say this because of an incident that occurred a few years ago. I had run a flea market for many years and one day a young couple came in with boxes of paper goods. Among them I found the original Wooley postcards of Middle Grove and Galway. I also found several postcards of the Graphite mine in Porters. Miss Corcoran, who had been my teacher in Middle Grove School, had retired from teaching and visited her family’s farm on Greenfield Avenue often. While she was there she would walk around the block past my house (then I was living on Geyser Road). One day I invited her in, we visited and I showed her my postcards. She said she knew Mr. Feulner and would like to take them to him to see if he could tell us anything about them. Miss Corcoran took notes which I now keep with my cards. He was a wealth of information that cannot be found in history books. For this I am grateful and will always remember him.

Lastly, **Amelia Thibodeau** – born 1887. Amelia was better know as Aunt Kinny when we were growing up. She was Ruth Thibodeau’s great aunt and had raised Clarence since he was two years old when his father died. Amelia never married. Originally from Troy, she owned the long two family house on lower mainstreet. Ruth and her family lived there when they moved to Middle Grove, about 1941. They later bought Older’s house on Mill Road. After they moved from Aunt Kinney’s that apartment brought us several new friends. Phil and Judy Baugh, children of George Baugh, and Pat and Dick Doherty, children of George Doherty. I used to visit Aunt Kinny with Ruth often. Her house fascinated me. It looked like it might have been built for employees and their families from a mill. The floors were wide planked. I intend to trace it out in my search of old houses.

## 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**

