

Historical Society Newsletter

**OFFICERS: President: Ron Feulner; Vice President: Louise Okoniewski;
Secretary: Patty Schwartzbeck; Treasurer: JoAnn Rowland;
Trustees: Skip Ballou, Coral Crosman, Ron Deutsch, Robert Roeckle, and Vince Walsh**

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

Volume 11, Issue 2

www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

Calendar

October 16, 2010: Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m., *Open House and Harvest Fest; Vendors, Food, Fun and History* at the IOOF Hall in Middle Grove.

November 12, 2010: Friday, *True Colors CD Release Celebration: Songs About Greenfield.* The Nancy Walker Trio will perform starting at 7 p.m. at the Greenfield Grange, 17 Grange Rd., Greenfield Center. Free and open to the public.

November 16, 2010: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.
Program: Bill Rockwell – “Skeletons in the Closet.” All about our not-so-wonderful ancestors.

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

Reminder that our membership year began on June 1 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.

Ron's Ramblings

Last month there were some things that I wanted to mention but, because it was the first newsletter in our new season, there were too many items and not enough space.

The first was that one of our members, Robert Roeckle, who is also a trustee, helped make the Caboose Day last summer a much bigger financial success than it otherwise would have been. Not only did Robert donate the use of his backyard grill for use in the cooking tent, but he also donated all the food which made our sales pure profit. Later, in September, when we participated in the town-wide garage sale, he again donated a number of quality items which boosted our profits handsomely. Thank you Robert for all that you do.

The second item that I wanted to mention last month, but didn't, was that in July, I was appointed by the Town of Greenfield Board to be the new town historian. Mary DeMarco gave up the position after 20 years of dedicated service due to health issues. The town has moved us from the Community Center building to a new office downstairs at Town Hall. We are now in a location where we can set up computers and have internet service. Our e-mail address is Thistorian@nycap.rr.com.

I said "we" because Joyce Woodard has stayed on as Deputy Historian, and I am very pleased that she decided to do so. Joyce had been working with Mary in that capacity for a number of years and has been able to provide me a smooth transition into our new office. We are still somewhat muddled because of the move, and there are still some things that need to be unpacked and dealt with, but we are up-and-running for business. Our office hours are Wednesdays from 9 - 12 a.m. The whole gang at Town Hall, including our supervisor, Dick Rowland, and the entire town board has been supportive of our move. MaryAnn Johnson, the town clerk, has pitched in whenever I needed specialized help and has made the move and set-up much smoother.



We also have a volunteer, Kate Neri, in the historian's office helping us get settled. Kate is a senior at Skidmore with a dual major in American Studies and History. She has outstanding computer and organizational skills and has already pitched in to help us get computerized and functioning in our new space. The old office space in the Community Center is now being used by the Food Pantry, however, we, the historians, still have the second floor for archival storage.

The third item that I wanted to mention is an idea for some of you who have access to a car, digital camera, and some basic research and computer skills to earn a little extra spending money. The historian's office and the historical society are getting more and more requests for local genealogical information. Neither of our organizations are equipped to do original research such as search for grave markers or search records at the historian's office, County Clerk's office, etc., so we see an opportunity here for some private contract work. If you would like to get involved, contact us, and we will be happy to pass your information along to people who contact us looking for help.

The fourth request from the historian's office is for a couple of people to do scrapbooking for us. The historian's office has a number of wonderful scrapbooks filled with informative articles about people, places, and events that happened in the Town of Greenfield that were cut from local newspapers and pasted in scrapbooks. These scrapbooks seem to cover a broad time period, and I am just beginning to familiarize myself with them. Some of them were kept by Clayton Brown and other leading citizens of Greenfield. It would be a great addition to our library of historical documents if we could find one volunteer who subscribes to *The Saratogian* and another who subscribes to the *Gazette* who would be willing to keep scrapbooks for us. It would be continuing a wonderful tradition in the historian's office. We would, of course, furnish you with all the necessary supplies. If you are interested, call or e-mail us preferably on a Wednesday morning when we are in the office. Otherwise leave a message with your name, number, and interest.

Our historical society's September meeting and dish-to-pass dinner was a big success. It began rather slowly and gave me cause for a little concern whether we would have enough food to eat because at six p.m., the advertised time, only a small group had come with their dishes to pass. However, between six and about quarter-past-six, the room began to fill up, and my worries were over. Thirty-three people attended the meeting, and the program with Paul Post (and guests) was very interesting. We actually enjoyed three different presenters who all talked about soldiers past and present from Saratoga County. Afterwards, Paul sold and signed his book for those interested. All in all, a good start to our season.

Letters to the Historical Society

Ron,

My newsletter arrived in today's mail. As always, I read it immediately as I like to learn what you all have been up to. And you have been up to a lot. I really enjoyed reading about Caboose Day. It is nice that the two organizations can work together and even nicer that so many people came out to see the caboose and what all of you had to offer. The Farmer's Market sounds like a great success. We have a market here in Mukilteo (down on the water front), but we do not have entertainment. Your plans for the IOOF Hall are great. It is nice to think that it will really be used. If I lived in your community I would be right there helping with the sorting and filing of the collection of documents. The Town of Greenfield is so fortunate to have such an active group of people in its historical society.

Ruth Donogh

Hello Folks,

September 3, 2010

I wrote to you earlier this year hoping some one would have heard of a distant relative of mine, Koon Decker, and maybe know what his real name was. I was very pleased and surprised to receive a letter from Martha Decker Smith Older from Florida. While she has never heard of Koon, or his real first name, we did come to the conclusion that she and I are indeed related through the Chamberlain/Decker family. My g-g-grandmother was Rebecca Chamberlain, and Martha said she remembers her mother being related to the Chamberlains. Rebecca married Elijah Nodine, and their daughter Laura married William Decker. My mother was a Decker. I know I have many Decker relatives in Millerton, NY.

This all came about as I worked for the past several years with (Frank) Joe Goyette. He used to bring in your newsletters for me to read. In one issue several years ago, there was mention of Martha Decker and we used to laugh that he and I would end up finding that he and I were related. We came close!

Joe "was over the moon" to know that I found Martha! He sent me pictures he had of her and I mailed them to her. I have not heard back from her, but I am so glad I found her when I did.

Thanks for putting my request in your newsletter. Joe has a copy for me but I haven't seen him since February. He now works in New Haven and I am retired.

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

The House I Grew Up In

by *Mary (Eichorst) (Mitchell) Max*



On March 13, 1915, my mother and father, Louis and Anna Eichorst, were married in New Jersey. On their honeymoon, they came to New York to live. They lived on Coy Road for about four years. The house they lived in (now torn down) was across from Dejnozka. Dad drove horse and buggy to work each day to Rock City Pioneer Mill. He was a fireman there (the furnace fire). Many times in winter he had to unhitch the horse and walk home, as the snow was too much for the horses to pull the buggy through. The horse knew the way home from Middle Grove to Coy Road. They had three children while living there, Edward, Alfred, and Helen. Then they moved to Rick City Falls. (I don't know where but it was for only a short time and my brother, Lou, was born there.)

Dad bought the farm in Middle Grove in 1920 from Andrew Deyo, 120 acres. There was no electricity or running water in the place. Dad was the first one in Middle Grove to have electricity, which he had to pay Niagara for the power. He put in the electric wiring (BX wire) himself. He also dug the ditch to get water to the house which was a pump near the kitchen sink. Dad also did all this while he worked in Rock City Falls. Later, he worked for Cottrel Paper Mill, he was a fireman there.

By then he had a 1922 Model T Ford, and I had joined the other kids as number four. Mom and Dad started dairy farming at the Middle Grove farm. Little by little they had quite a large farm. They sold milk to Dake's Milk Plant. Richard Potter worked for Dakes then, and he picked up our milk cans on his truck and delivered them to Dakes. Later Dad sold milk to Dairymens League. Some families in Middle Grove also bought milk from them, including J.R. Brown family, and the Hoffman family, just to name a couple.

I remember thrashing time when other farmers pitched in and helped doing the thrashing. Mom fed all those men. First it was chicken soup with homemade noodles. Then fried mashed potatoes and vegetables from her garden, homemade bread and homemade pies. Yah! Homemade butter too. Boy I can taste her meals now. Believe it or not

Mom couldn't read English and never had a cookbook, but oh how she could cook. Mom and Dad both were very hard workers and it was during the depression too.

We never got our bathroom in until 1936. There are four feet on the bathtub (upstairs). But, we still had the outhouse down near the barn. What a blessing it was not to have to go out in the cold early in the a.m.

Dad and Mom and all us kids did our farm work. Dad also worked at the mill but left orders for Mom and the boys for the jobs he expected to be done when he got home. Like haying (I wrote stories about that in an earlier newsletter), gardening, and taking care of the farm animals.

They kept the farm going for many years. Then my brother, Ed, went off to work elsewhere. Brother, Alfred, got killed in a car accident in 1936. Helen went to work. That left brothers, Lou, Bob, and I there. Lou got married. Bob did farm quite a lot with Dad until Dad got sick, with cancer and died 1963.

Lou bought the farm from Mom with an understanding that she could live there as long as she wanted. Mom lived 15 years after Dad died. Then Lou sold the farmhouse to his son, Tim. Lou built his house near the farmhouse after tearing down the farm buildings. Irene and Dennis live in that house now. New people live in the farmhouse now.

Recently I had the pleasure of going through the house, and, oh, I was shocked to see all the changes. Yah! The old bathtub was still there, and the wide boards on our bedroom floors were still there. But downstairs it was a different story. I got completely confused. The kitchen ceiling had a tin ceiling on it before, and that was torn out and the kitchen all made over. Then in the living room, the front door was an old fashion two-inch thick door, and it was gone. The partition between the living and dining rooms was torn out. The register on the floor, where we warmed our feet, was removed. Mom and Dad's bedroom was turned into a hallway to go to the new addition that the new people put on.

Dot was last child born there.

October Memories of Fall

by *Marie Willard*

Mom did a lot of canning and the whole family helped. Dad would bring home bushels of fruits and vegetables each season. We would bring up the jars from the cellar, wash and scald them, and turn them upside down on towels on the dining room table. We would help in the preparation by cutting corn from the cobs, peeling and blanching tomatoes, cutting cucumbers, peeling apples and pitting peaches and plums.

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October Memories of Fall – continued from page 3

Sometimes we would hold the funnel while Mom filled the jars. I found Mom's household book from 1951. It shows her canning record for that year:

10 pts. 9 day sliced cucumber pickles
 7 pts. green tomato pickles
 12 jars dill pickles (cut)
 8 pts. chili sauce
 12 pts. bread and butter pickles – my favorite
 12 pts. Ripe cucumber pickles
 For vegetables she canned 34 quarts of corn,
 65 qts. tomatoes, 12 qts. spaghetti sauce
 For fruit she canned 16 qts. peaches,
 18 qts. applesauce, 12 qts. blueberries,
 10 pts. jelly, 13 qts. plums and 22 qts. of pears
 Total cans were 263.

Under the shelves were bins, one of potatoes, one of onions, and two filled with sawdust, with cabbage, carrots and squash.

While Mom was busy with the food, Dad was busy with the wood. He would cut the wood, split it and we kids would throw the wood into the cellar through the window. We would go down cellar and stack it.

I remember one time my sister, Shirley, who is 7 years younger than me, had just got out of the bathtub and was running through the dining room to the living room. The red cross furnace grate was between the two rooms under the archway. Shirley fell and she wore a cross tattoo for quite a while.

My last memory of fall was Halloween. Mom filled bags with candy and put them on trays to hand out. We made up our own costumes. Our favorite place to go was the Stedmans. Mr. Stedman was our postmaster. Their home was behind the post office. On their dining room table sat a huge punch bowl filled with change. There were lots of pennies but nickels, dimes, and quarters were among them. After they guessed who we were, we were allowed to close our eyes and reach in the bowl with one hand. We could keep whatever we took out. We thought we were rich.

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 call (518-893-2268) or write him at:

Dan Chertok
 58 Ormsbee Road
 Porter Corners, NY 12859

“Gatekeep On The Mountain”

In the cool silent hours of the early morning, the cheerful beauty of nature refreshes the senses! Scenes too pleasing – mists relinquished by the smile of the rising sun.

Soon the dark green tops of the mountains will, at the base of their feet have the spread of the full glow of Autumn.

The magnificent, and the awesome will give way to the wondrous cloak of white, and transform the mountains into pine crowned crystals.

My shelter in the valley placed between rolling hills is a peaceful home – safe from the breath of western gales. The sweep of Winter then giving up icy reign, will then turn its' head to the gentle whisper of melting streams to welcome Spring!

Renewed afresh of early awakening, the season becomes alive with delicious breath of wild flowers and fragrant plants.

Summer will then pass its' beauty onward to the next season that will advance and become diversified, and pleasing to witness.

by Fran Lambert

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.

I'd like to thank everyone who brought a dish to pass at the September pot luck dinner. Thanks to Mom and Dad for filling in for me. I'm sorry I missed it.

November refreshment volunteers are Patty Schwartzbeck and Katie Finnegan.

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson

Historic Harvest Festival and Market



October 16, 2010

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, 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

Hunting, Fishing and Trapping

Logging

Old Fashioned Family Fun Activities:

Sack Races

Egg Races

Pumpkin Races

Chili Cook-Off: Do You Like Chili? Come on down and try Chili's made by various local cooks. You can decide which is best! Want to compete - Think you got Game when it comes to chili? Call Ron @ 469-6769!

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 per **household** 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 June 1, 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 Print – Please indicate how many persons 10-years-old or older are in your household). _____

Name _____

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 it dedicated to.

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 _____

Address _____

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.

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