

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

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www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

Calendar

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.

PLEASE NOTE – DATE CHANGE

December 4, 2010: Saturday, *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; coffee and cake for all.

December 21, 2010: Tuesday, *Christmas Party* at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.

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

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

With no meeting in October (we had the Harvest Open House at the IOOF hall instead), it seems as if we are jumping from summer right into winter. Speaking of winter, please remember that if the schools are closed on the day of our meeting, the meeting will automatically be canceled.

Things have slowed down a bit, but we are getting ready to make some big moves. Ron Deutsch and Mike Gyarmathy went up to the used building material warehouses on Palmer Avenue in Corinth and bought around 20 blank hollow core doors, which we plan to use to partition the upstairs at the IOOF hall into museum display areas. We are also investigating the addition of a toilet and heat at the hall. The toilet will most likely be a waterless composting toilet.

We had a great day for the Harvest Open House on October 16. Unlike the stormy wash-out the year before, this year we had a typical fall day with overcast skies, a little wind, and occasional short periods of rain, which didn’t seem to hamper activities at all. We had an excellent turn-out of vendors, the majority of them were those who participated during the summer’s farmer’s markets, but a few new ones also joined in. A steady stream of people mingled and did business with the vendors while Ron Deutsch staged his Chili Cook-off. People stopped and tasted the various chili entries and then voted for their favorites. In the end, Ron’s own spicy, but sweet, chili took first place which didn’t surprise me because it was really good. While all of this was happening in the tents, the kids and a few older kids participated in games like bag races in the central area.

Inside the IOOF hall, Ann Michel and Joyce Woodard were busy with their many special historical displays and tours of the building. Everyone, young and old alike, seemed to enjoy the many photographs and other items on display. Small groups reminisced and shared stories about their past experiences in the Town of Greenfield. The day could best be described as a big success.



It will be nice to see you all again at the November meeting. Stay warm and happy until then.

Before I close, I would like to express my deepest sympathy to the family of Jan Rutland, one of our members and also the director of the National Bottle Museum in Ballston Spa. Jan died suddenly at her home in Greenfield on Oct. 26, 2010. Jan and her husband, Larry, were regulars at our farmer's market where they were vendors selling Larry's hand made glass objects. Jan was a passionate volunteer at the museum and will be missed deeply by all of us who knew her.

Town Historian's Corner

by Ron Feulner

As the new town historian, I have been busy with volunteers, Joyce Woodard and Kate Neri, trying to get our new office settled in Town Hall. While moving some of the large newspaper clipping scrap books, I opened one of them and found my aunt and uncle's, Mary and Paul Brown's, marriage announcement. Soon after they were married they built a new house just up Murray Road from the house that I was born in. Mary was my aunt (my father's sister). Her father (my grandfather), William Feulner, lived at the almost self sufficient family homestead above Lake Desolation complete with a saw mill. My grandfather sawed lumber on his mill for Mary and Paul's new house at 947 Murray Road. He even sawed extra which he traded with Millman and Hall's Lumber Co. (now Allerdice) in Saratoga for extras like windows and doors.

I know this because my grandfather, William, was planning to do the same for my parents at their property at 983 Murray Road. My grandfather on my mother's side, Artell Marcellus, had purchased the place at public auction for \$500. Because the house was in such poor repair, William, my grandfather on my father's side, was going to help my father tear the house down and build a new one, just as he had helped Mary and Paul build their new house.

However, before this could happen, my grandfather, William, died. He was in his 60s and in excellent condition when he decided to walk from the homestead above Lake Desolation to my parent's house on Murray Road in Middle Grove. On the way, he stopped for lunch and a beer at Lake Desolation at a restaurant which predated Tinney's on the same site.

Later that afternoon, upon arriving at my parent's home, he began to feel sick to his stomach, so he cut the visit short and decided to go on up to Mary and Paul's, before returning home on the mountain. When he got to Mary's his condition worsened, and they called for a doctor. The doctor decided that he was suffering from some kind of food poisoning but could not help him, and he died at their home a short time later. The year was 1937, the year before I was born.

My parent's house never got torn down, and gradually as my father could afford the time and money, he fixed it up. All my life I have been a do-it-yourselfer, fixing

up many properties. I often wonder if growing up in that old house on Murray Road and watching my father work at it gradually over the years had anything to do with my love of old houses and the never ending projects that accompany living in one.

All of these memories occurred because I opened one of our news clipping scrapbooks. Speaking of the scrapbooks, it's a wonderful tradition that people in the Town of Greenfield have engaged in (as far back as the WWI) that gave us these books. Last month, I asked if anyone would like to volunteer to continue the tradition and, as yet, have had no calls. If you subscribe to The Saratogian or Gazette and would like to do this for us, it would be a worthwhile project and continuation of a tradition. It really isn't complicated and takes but a few minutes to cut out articles that pertain to the Town of Greenfield. I would be happy to help you get started and provide any materials that you need, so it won't cost you anything. If you would like to continue this tradition, give me a call at home (518-893-0620) or at the office on Wednesday mornings (518-893-7432).



This was Mary and Paul Brown's home on Murray Road in Middle Grove.



The home that Ron Feulner grew up in.

November Cold Nights

by Marie Willard

By November, Mom had started her crochet orders for chair back sets and doilies. Dad was busy getting the yard ready for winter snow and we were ready for inside entertainment until the snow was ready for our sleds, skis, and toboggans.

On a cold crisp day you could smell Mrs. Barth's wonderful odors from her oven. She was getting her packages ready to send to Germany for her family there. This is the time of year we would stop by to see if she needed anything from the store. She never did but she always invited us in for cookies and milk. I think she was on to us.

Because the days were getting shorter and the weather was getting cold, we began to spend more time at John Baugh's recreation center. Everyday after school, I would hurry home and grab a big pan to fill with the vegetables Mom needed from the cellar and the canning shelves. Once upstairs I would peel vegetables while Mom prepared the rest of the dinner. We listened to Fibber Magee and Molly and Stella Dallas and talked about the events of the day. I would do my homework and set the table. By then Dad was usually home. Dad was a plumber at Burnt Hills Hardware and he usually got home between 5 and 5:30. As soon as I finished dishes and put them away, I could go to the center until 9 p.m.

I remember being so aggravated one evening because it was 6 o'clock and Dad wasn't home yet. When he did get home, I had developed an attitude. I hurried through the dishes because my time out was getting shorter. My friends were already out. Dad decided to check the dishes and found that I had not done a good job. He walked into the pantry and carried out all the dishes and glasses and put them on the table. I had to empty my dishwater and start all over again plus I had all the dishes he had just brought out. I had to wash, rinse and dry them and put them on the table so he could check them again. He warned me that if he found anything, I would do them all, all over again. I passed his test and put them all away. His favorite saying, (among many) was "Haste makes waste." I learned my lesson well.

Some nights we stayed in and played board games or cards. We listened to country music on WWVA. Sometimes we listened to The Squeaky Door, The Lone Ranger, or The Shadow. Our great grandmother came to stay for a couple of weeks because my grandmother had gone to Massachusetts to see some family members. Great Grandma, in her mid eighties, loved to play canasta. She warned us not to cheat or she wouldn't play anymore. We didn't but Grandma sure did! We wouldn't dare mention it though. Those of you who have ever had an older generation in your household, know exactly what I mean.

November refreshment volunteers are Patty Schwartzbeck and Katie Finnegan.

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson

Historic Harvest Fest and Market



Really Big Pumpkins!



Vendors and Customers



The Chili Cook-off

Photos by Ron Feulner

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.

Updating Historic Sites Map in the Town of Greenfield

If you have any information, e-mail Dan Chertok at bmmschertok@gmail.com or dgclawoffices@cstdsl.net.
You may also call (518-893-2268) or write him at: Dan Chertok, 58 Ormsbee Road, Porter Corners, NY 12859

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