

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 7

www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

Calendar

March 18, 2011: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.
Program: Ron Feulner, talking about his new book, Glass Factory with Histories of Middle Grove and Plank Road (including NYState Rt. 9N).

April 19, 2011: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.
Program: Jeremy Davis, author of two lost ski area books. He will speak about local small ski areas in the vicinity, including Alpine Meadows in Greenfield.

May 17, 2011: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.
Program: To be announced.

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

Ron's Ramblings

by Ron Feulner

It might have been cabin fever, the appearance of Watson on Jeopardy, or just plain coincidence, but only thirteen members came to listen to one of the best speakers that we have had in a long time.

Teri Gay began her talk by defining what she meant by *Women's Suffrage*, and, she explained, that it did not have anything to do with women suffering. She said, she once took these things for granted until an old curmudgeon who attended one of her talks about the *Underground Railroad* told her that he had lived in the town all his life, and with great authority, and a touch of indignation, he could tell her with no exceptions that there wasn't any railroad running underground and never had been one in his town.

Teri's talk about the local women, who played a role in winning the right for women to vote, jogged my memory and took me back to when I was writing the local history of the graphite mine. A number of people had told me that if I wanted to talk to an eye witness who had visited the mine, I should visit Belle Brown, who if my memory serves me, was 106 years old at the time.

When I arrived, I had in my head a list of questions that I wanted to ask her about the mine and mill, but that wasn't how the interview went. First, she wanted to talk about her involvement in the women's suffrage movement. We ended up talking about that movement which she had participated in and obviously took great pride in having done so. It was an important accomplishment in her life, and she wanted me to understand that.

I think, when it comes down to it, some of the most important changes in society have come from peaceful demonstrations and hard work by ordinary citizens like Belle Brown and thousands of others like her. We are witnessing the power of these movements happening in Egypt and other areas of the Middle East as I write these words. I don't think that most of us realize the power



that ordinary people have when they are willing to band together.

Things have been quiet for a couple of months, but we did have some really good news recently. The State sent us a letter and told us that our charter application has been approved and will be coming in the mail sometime in the future. Coral Crosman began the process many years ago and worked diligently collecting the necessary information and filling out forms. After Coral reached a stalemate, Earl “Skip” Ballou took over and carried the ball further. After completing all requirements including a visit by Mr. Palmquist, we waited and waited, and then gave up again. Finally, this winter, we received the letter which will appear in this newsletter. We are hoping that the actual document will follow in a reasonable length of time.

Stay warm, and I hope to see some of you at the March meeting.

Historian’s Corner

by Ron Feulner

I am still collecting information about the Kaydeross Creek. Following last month’s request for information, I had two wonderful telephone conversations. Vince Smith called me from Florida. He is Jim Smith’s brother, and he married Jean Perry who grew up on a farm that once spread over all four corners of the intersection of Sand Hill and North Creek Roads. Vince shared some wonderful memories with me about growing up along the creek and what a big part the creek played in his young life. Then he began telling me about his days of working for Percy Dake and the many ambitions that Percy had which involved the creek. Vince is a colorful individual and a good story teller. I hope to follow up with more discussions with him in the future.

The second telephone conversation was with Earl “Bud” McKnight. Bud knew the history of the upper part of the creek where it flows through Porter Corners. Bud pieced together his experiences as a young boy growing up in that area and filled me in on a lot of the area’s history that I knew very little about.

Both of these conversations were much appreciated, but I hope to hear a great deal more. For generations the creek was our primary source of recreation. We didn’t have swimming pools or town parks to go to, but we did have the creek. People my age and older are the last generation that experienced the lazy summer days at the creek where we socialized, took our daily, or sometimes weekly baths, and, I’m sure, some first met their spouses during these gatherings at the creek.

I’m also interested in fishing, hunting, boating, and other stories that involve the creek.

If these stories are not written down, they will be gone forever because the young people today have other activities to keep them busy. They will never know the creek as we knew it. If you have stories, and I’m sure you do, please write them and send them to me, or call me at (518) 893-0620.

The One-Room Schoolhouse on Cemetery Hill, Middle Grove

by Dustin Barnes

[I remember] the room when you enter through the door, to your left was the boy’s room and in the right corner was the girls [bathroom]. Rolled up wall maps were located [near] the girl’s room. Both [bath] rooms had cistern toilets as the school had no running water. Both sides of the [class] room had several windows. Along the right wall was a shelf that held a five-gallon water cooler with a push button spout. We would go across the road to Wilbur Barney’s house to get water. He had an outside pitcher pump, and we would bring it [the water] back in pails and fill [the water cooler].

The black boards were along the back wall, and on the right side of the back wall was a door to the woodshed where the firewood was kept that kept the [school warm in winter].

I remember two teachers: Miss Corcoran and Edna Bright. Miss Corcoran was the stricter of the two. Edna Bright took over after Miss Corcoran and was easier to deal with.

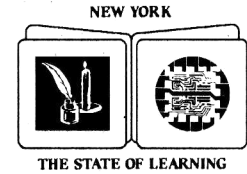
Enclosed is a picture taken in 1953 when some of us kids went out to cut a Christmas tree for the school. I remember the people who are in it because we were all from Middle Grove. The girl on the left is Barbara (whose name was pronounced Tush-in-bec). Next to her is Nancy Older, then me (Dustin Barnes), Carol Deyo, Jackie Reynolds, and Freddie Brown. The man in the picture was Carol Deyo’s grandfather [Stanley Braden?] on whose land we cut the tree.



Thanks to the refreshment volunteers for February, Joan Rowland and Nancy Homiak. They served Red Velvet Cupcakes stuffed with a Brownie, Cherry/Pineapple Dump Cake and Oatmeal/Raisin Cookies.

March refreshment volunteers are: Katie Finnegan and Alice Feulner.

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

OFFICE OF THE COUNSEL

December 14, 2010

Ron Feulner, President
Town of Greenfield Historical Society
P.O. Box 502
Greenfield Center, NY 12833

Dear Mr. Feulner:

I am pleased to advise you that the Board of Regents, at its meeting today, formally voted on the charter for **Town of Greenfield Historical Society**. A copy of the vote adopted is enclosed.

The formal charter document will be prepared and forwarded to you by the Secretary to the Board of Regents. You should expect to receive your charter document shortly.

Sincerely,

Christine A. Moore
Legal Assistant

Enclosure

Adopted December 14, 2010

TOWN OF GREENFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY. An application having been made by and on behalf of the trustees of the Town of Greenfield Historical Society, for its provisional charter to be made absolute, and it appearing to the satisfaction of the Regents that the conditions for an absolute charter have been met, it was

Voted, that the provisional charter of the Town of Greenfield Historical Society, located in Greenfield Center, county of Saratoga, state of New York, which was granted by action of the Board of Regents on October 24, 1986; such provisional charter was extended by Regents action on April 23, 1993 be, and the same hereby is, made absolute.

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 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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