

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 8

www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

Calendar

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: Al Clarke talking about the Lincoln Family of Wilton.

Upcoming Heritage Hunters Meetings

April 16, 2011: Saturday, 1 p.m. – “What Genealogists Can Learn From Funeral Home Directors” by Mark Phillips, director of Burke Funeral Home in Saratoga Springs

May 21, 2011, Saturday, 1 p.m. – “Black Sheep in the Family Barnyard” by Steve Clarke

June 18, 2011, Saturday, 1 p.m. – “Finding A Place of Origin For Your Irish Ancestors Using Sources in the United States” by Lisa Dougherty

All programs will be at the Town of Saratoga Town Hall, 10 Spring St., Schuylerville. Free and open to the public.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, August 13, 2011. Second Porter Corners Elementary School Reunion.

For anyone ever attending the Porter Corners School on North Creek Road. The reunion will be held at noon at the Middle Grove Park Pavilion. Please bring a dish to share, lawn chairs, your own place setting and drinks. Also be sure to bring any pictures, memorabilia and stories to share with everyone. Call Don Young at 893-2643 if you have any questions.

**I NEED NEWSLETTER ARTICLES/
PHOTOS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR
(STARTING IN SEPTEMBER).**

Ron's Ramblings

by Ron Feulner

Perhaps the planets were all in alignment for the March meeting because we had an excellent turnout. Forty one people came to the meeting. We had a short business meeting, and then I gave a PowerPoint presentation about my most recent book about the glass factory.

The end of our business year is coming rapidly. We will wrap everything up at the May meeting and elect new officers for the next year. Before you know it, we will be out shielding our eyes from the bright sun at our farmer's markets. It can't come too soon for me.

We are still waiting for Toby Middlebrook to install gas wall-mounted space heaters at the odd-fellows hall. Once that is finished, we hope to build museum booths upstairs and create some permanent displays to accompany our collection on the first floor. We are also planning to install a waterless composting type toilet in the back. All of this should follow warmer weather coming.

We now have a letter from the state saying that our permanent charter was approved, but we haven't yet received the actual document. Ron Deutsch is working on our non-profit status, and we have received a new number designation from the state so that means progress toward that end.

Katie Finnegan has done an outstanding job scheduling programs this year. I'm sure that she would appreciate help in the future, so if you see or hear of a program that you think would be of interest to our members, please give Katie the information at one of our meetings or simply send it to our P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833.

Speaking of good jobs done, I don't know how many of you appreciate the work that Janet Jones does for this organization. She not only puts together and prints the newsletter every month, but she also organizes the refreshments at each of our meetings. It is people like Janet, and others, who quietly go about their business supporting our organization in ways that most of us are not aware of, that makes our society work the way it does. Thank you Janet and all the others for doing what you do so well.

I hope to see many of you at the April meeting.

“Moody Hill Road” *(now upper Ormsbee Road)*

by Fran Lambert – Gatekeep On The Mountain

Fall of 2009 is winding down and a brief bit of info about some life up on the Mountain is due. By now the loggers have left this area, especially after a productive past two years or so of careful clearing.

I happened to be home the day that this big machine was delivered and parked trailside in anticipation of more efficient work being carried out. This was quite a treat to see a machine this large, and brand new – to boot! Many times we often forget that there are people working behind the scenes in the mountains.

Quiet country living sometimes comes up with a few surprises, especially if you live on a road where daily logging trucks come down off the mountain. I've learned that loggers have a certain “time” and order to their day.

One day I went up the trail with my vehicle, and as I was going up to a home on the mountain, a truck appeared at the top of what we call ‘maple hill.’ I did not like the idea of having to back down – it was a long way down to the next ‘pull over spot.’

I noticed that the truck had stopped, and the driver waved me to continue on up. I had forgotten that there was another pull off spot at the very top of the hill where he was, and I was able to pass by him. Whew!!

I never did get to see this new machine in action, as the loggers are very careful about who can go near their place of work. They have warning signs posted very adequately along the areas and trails they work on.

These pics show the jaws that scoop up the trees, and the huge saw in the back that cuts the logs to the proper length. Also, in machines like this where the driver sits in the cab, it is air conditioned or heated. This I learned from a neighbor. The trucks would come down with three or four loads per day – sometimes during very early morning, but so slowly and quietly. Glad to share these pics of huge machinery, that the loggers use for their livelihood!

Editor's Note: My apologies to Fran; I've lost the photos that she e-mailed with this article. Sorry!

Historian's Corner

by Ron Feulner

Wednesdays at Town Hall are bustling with historical activity. I now have six volunteers coming on a regular basis. They are Audrey Crandall, Elsie Eno, Liz Frank, Ruth Ann Assmann, Marie Ahl, and my long time deputy historian, Joyce Woodard.

All but Ruth Ann and Joyce are working on indexing our collection of news clippings scrapbooks. Ruth Ann is working on scanning and labeling photographs, and Joyce is labeling photos and placing them in new photo albums. When the volunteers arrive in the morning, they pick up their work materials and spread out in different work areas and begin their day's work. The ladies working on the scrapbooks usually head for the large table in the conference room across the hall while Ruth Ann works at the computer and scanner in my office. Joyce works at her own desk in the office. As the morning progresses, I hear them engage in friendly chatter, especially when one of them comes across an interesting article in one of the old scrapbooks.

At lunch time, we all gather around the little table in the kitchen area next to my office and share stories and desserts before going back to work.

Since everyone who has started as a volunteer continues to return, I have to assume that they are enjoying themselves, and, of course, I am so happy to have their help. We are accomplishing more in a week than I could accomplish alone in several months, so why wouldn't I be appreciative, say nothing about the enjoyment of working with others compared to working alone.

I guess there must be a little bit of Tom Sawyer in me because I really enjoy working with this group. They always seems to lighten and brighten the work load.

The ladies have finished indexing two out of more than a dozen of the scrapbooks. Recently, I took the scrapbooks to one of the senior meetings at the community hall where they were a big hit. People stood in line waiting for a chance to look up names of their ancestors, and most found at least one or two that they were looking for. The work that these volunteers are doing will transform these old scrapbooks into much more useful research tools. I cannot thank them enough for the time and energy that they are putting into these projects.

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

Friends and Families – Fond Memories

by Marie Willard

There are other families beside the Old Timers that have great memories attached to them. Television was very limited in the early 50's. Enid and Elliot Older had the first television on our street. They allowed EvaMae and Jim to invite friends over to watch Milton Berle on Tuesday nights. We were the best behaved group you ever saw. We took our shoes off at the door and went directly to the living room, sat on the floor and waited for "Uncle Miltie" to come on. The television sat on top of the piano. This was a special treat.

My Dad's brother, Uncle Joe, worked at the G.E. He and Aunt Leona would bring their television to our house on Saturday nights so my parents could watch wrestling. Mom made cream puffs every Saturday. These were Uncle Joe's favorites. No one would sit next to mom because she was so active, swinging her arms and jumping up and down. The screen couldn't have been over 12 inches, if that.

Telephones were eight party lines. More gossip was spread from listening in on conversations than a newspaper could print. We were allowed to call our friends but if someone picked up the phone and asked for the line we had to hang up. Sometimes we would carefully pick it up again to see who was on the line.

I always admired Bessie Thibodeau. She reminded me of Blondie in the Dagwood comic strip. She wore her hair in a similar style with ringlets and she always wore very high heels. She worked at Van Raalte's as a floor supervisor for many years, until they closed. I was jealous of Ruth. She got everything she wanted. We would sit for hours and play records and dance before her mom got home from work. In later years I found Ruth was jealous of me because I had a brother and sister. She should have said something. I would have gladly given her mine if I could have gotten away with it.

Walt and Aaron Feulner were friends of my parents. Aaron lived with his brother Fred in Middle Grove and Walt lived in his cabin on the mountain. I don't remember them ever coming to the house together. Walt seldom came to town unless it was to buy some beer and supplies. Sometimes when he had had too much "celebration" he would stop at our house. Mom and Dad didn't drink but they didn't mind if someone else did as long as they were respectful. Mom would give him coffee, he'd tell a

few stories and sleep on our enclosed front porch. His stories would make us laugh and he would shake all over. Aaron followed his brother Fred's rule of the house. He could not come home intoxicated. I remember him teaching us how to spell his name – big A, little a, R-O-N-. He did not have a lot of education but he was a hard working man and proud of the fact he could spell his name. They didn't come often, but we looked forward to their visits. You can read more on Walter and Aaron in Ron Feulner's book – "King of The Mountain."

We often made a trip up the mountain to the Foy residence. Mr. Foy worked on the docks in New York City and came home weekends. Mrs. Foy was a happy, perky woman who had 13 children and always had room for more in her home. Mary Ellen, Joe, Jane, Pat, and the twins, Tommy and Albert were the closest to our groups age. Mickey, the oldest, lived in New York City. The other six were younger but joined us in our baseball games when we were there. They were a very happy family. Sometimes their cousins came up from the city. We couldn't believe we had their cousin, Bobby, believing that brown cows gave chocolate milk.

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.

*Thanks to the refreshment volunteers for March –
Katie Finnegan and Alice Feulner. They served Apricot Bars,
Cranberry/Oatmeal Cookies, Apple Crisp, Peanut Butter
Cookies and Banana Bread.*

*April refreshment volunteers are: Joann Rowland,
Coral Crosman and Leah Cornell.*

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

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

