

Historical Society Newsletter

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

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

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www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

Calendar

Sept. 17, 2011: Saturday, *Field Trip to the Glass Factory*, led by Ron Feulner. Meet at 1 p.m. at IOOF Hall in Middle Grove. (It's early hunting season, so please wear bright colors.)

Sept. 27, 2011: Tuesday, *Bring-A-Dish-To-Pass Dinner* at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m. at the **Brookhaven Golf Course** in Porter Corners.

Program: The history of the golf course by Ron Feulner. [Please note: DATE & PLACE.]

Oct. 15, 2011: Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m., *Open House and Harvest Fest; Vendors, Food, Fun and History* at the IOOF Hall in Middle Grove.

Oct. 18, 2011: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.

Program: Saratoga Springs City Historian, Mary Ann Fitzgerald will be the speaker.

Nov. 15, 2011: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.

Program: Lauren Roberts, county historian, will talk about resources available from her office and the county clerk's office for people doing research – wills, estate files, etc.

**I NEED ARTICLES AND/OR PHOTOS
FOR OUR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS.**

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 also will 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.

WEEZIE'S WORDS

by Louise Okoniewski

Mother Nature provided us with a perfect day for the Caboose Open House on August 13. Historical society members and town residents met at 9:30 a.m. to set up for the event. Before long, we were ready for whatever the day would bring.

Stan Weeks, Ed Woodard and Tony Bucca installed ship-lap from Kilmer's Sawmill in the receiving (now display) area of King's Station. I can't say enough about the dedication of these guys. When asked by Ron Feulner, Town Historian, to help with the inside of the station, they didn't hesitate, and met the challenge of restoring an old building. You could tell that their work was appreciated by the "oohs" and "aahs" from those who stopped by. Tony, dressed as a train engineer, managed the Station House tours, and Stan guided the Caboose tours. Ed Woodard, had been 'under the weather,' stopped by to check on the guys and give his support. The visitors included rail fans, locals, surrounding communities and people as far away as Niagara Falls.

A moment of the day was when a group of folks helped Denis Livsey of Brigham Road into the Station so he could join in the conversations and view the artifacts, pictures, and Tony's lap top showing the restoration of the Caboose, station and other train related photos. I could tell that Denis truly enjoyed the day, made possible by a couple helping hands.

Karyn Zanetti, the Town Rec and Youth Committee Director, once again helped us out by taking over 100 pictures of guests on the Caboose. You could see how much they enjoyed their keepsakes by the smiles.

Even though some members were headed to the Porter Corners School Reunion, that didn't stop them from coming by to drop off baked goods, (we had train cookies!) a donation or to lend a hand. With a shortage of our regular members, a few town residents stepped forward to help out. Tom Clute, took care of the Vintage cars. Tom has enjoyed this hobby for a number of years. His ride is a 1950 GMC pickup. Some of the other car enthusiasts were Donald Giglio, 1950 Dodge B2B Pickup;

Jim and Connie Murphy, 1935 Ford; Dick Rowland, 1978 MGB; Tom Merrills, 1951 Chevy Business Coupe; Walt Chandler, 1930 Ford Pickup Model A; Sean and Lisa Malatesta, 1956 Chevy Bel Air; and Tom Sadlon, 1921 Model T Pickup. Thanks to all.

MaryAnn Johnson, was a big help with the setup, (she can put up a tent in no time!) and working the bake sale with Alice Feulner. Gail Clute, Tom's better half, also stayed to help with the bake sale and anywhere a hand was needed.

I don't remember what time, but the Saratoga-North Creek Rail Road passed by as the event was in full swing. You couldn't see the train, but you could hear and feel it go by. It added to the ambiance of the day.

Andy Civic of Northville, played a few songs for us in the afternoon. Andy is 16 years old and has been entertaining the shoppers and vendors at the Farmers Market in Middle Grove. He has a group that tours the various farmers markets and public events. If you get a chance, stop by and listen. You'll be pleasantly surprised!

Bob and Peggy Roxbury, and Tom Merrills, of the Greenfield Fire Police, once again helped with traffic and parking cars. Without these guys, I'm sure there would have been some confusion as to where to park and what direction to exit and enter. Thank You!

Once again our members came through to make this a successful event. Donations of food and people's time to stay all day and cook, "man" the Historical booth, mix and mingle with folks, answer questions, etc., even Mike Gymarthy II donated his French Fry making skills. This is what it takes to make an event happen. That's what I enjoy about this group – we always pull together.

Mark your calendars for next August 2012. Maybe we'll be able to see the train when it goes by. Hopefully we'll see all of you!

Upcoming Heritage Hunters Meetings

Saturday, September 17, 2011

Heritage Hunters of Saratoga County will meet on Saturday, Sept. 17, at 1 p.m. at the Town of Saratoga Town Hall, corner of Rt. 4 and Rt. 29 in Schuylerville. Wayne Weatherwax, a native of Westfield, MA, and author of *The Weatherwax Genealogy 1710-1930*, will talk about researching Palatine ancestors. Wayne is a member of Palatines to America and the Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society. Public is welcome. For information, call 518-587-2978.

HH Annual Conference, Saturday, October 15, 2011

Marian Pierre-Louis, the principal researcher for Fieldstone Historic Research, will offer four workshops at the annual HH conference at the Saratoga Town Hall in Schuylerville. Her topics are: Pirates and Prisoners; The Registry is More Than Just Deeds; Two Chairs and a Pair of Spectacles; Finding the Gems in Cemeteries; and Don't Call Your Relatives, Let Them Call You! The day begins with registration, exhibits and coffee at 8:45 a.m. A hot lunch will be served. \$30 for members and \$40 for others. Registration required. For more information, call Joan Cady, 518-587-2978 or email: melfrejo@aol.com.

Memorial Service for Martha D. Older

A memorial service for **Martha D. Older** will be held at the Middle Grove Methodist Church on Oct. 1 at 2 p.m. She died June 11, 2011, in Lake Hamilton, Florida, at the age of 100. Her ashes will be buried in the family plot at the Middle Grove Cemetery. All are invited to attend. A full obituary will appear in *The Saratogian*.

Martha was the widow of Lawrence Older and they lived in Middle Grove and raised their children there, along with their niece and nephew, Alice Older Sharp and Bill Older.

Memorials donation may be made to the Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833.

Liz Rogner Older

"Galway Get Together" Community Newsletter

I am writing to let you know I have started an online bi-weekly community newsletter, sponsored by the Galway Library, called the "Galway Get Together." The purpose is to share community resources – news, information, ads, etc., within the Galway community which includes all the surrounding towns served by the Galway School District. Of course, Greenfield is included in that and I would like to have some news items from you folks. I am going to include the Farmers Market in the next issue (Aug. 1). But I would like to get any and all news items – items for sale, community announcements, etc.

To view the newsletter and subscribe (it's all totally free of course) go to www.gettogether.galwaypubliclibrary.org.

Mary Cuffe Perez

Comment from a Membership Renewal – Areas of interest: "all of the old stories from the olden days."

"I have the *Reminisce* magazine subscribed to me by my childhood friend, Connie, and I subscribe to *Reminisce Extra* so I get one every month. Your newsletter is much like those special magazines. Good job guys and girls and thank you for same."

Sincerely, Gerry Flynn



The GCBA's 3rd Annual Car Show, June 12, 2011 –

Kate Cornell – Winner of the Trophy for the Most Historic Car which was sponsored by the Town of Greenfield Historical Society.

Historian's Corner

by Ron Feulner

Where has the summer gone? My list of things to do is still only half done. We are still soldiering on at the historian's office. We are there every Wednesday from 9 a.m. till about 2:30 or 3 p.m.. My volunteers are still working hard at building data bases for the two dozen, or so, scrap books and vital statistics that we have in our collection.

Early in July, they updated the list of names in the scrapbooks and now we have around 26,600 names. The volunteers read every news article in the scrapbooks and write down the Greenfield names mentioned along with the book number and page number where they can be found. This is already becoming a useful tool when someone comes into the office asking if we have any information about one or more of their ancestors. All we have to do is open the data base in our computer, and we can tell them in minutes if we have anything and where they can find it.

Building a data base for vital statistics (births, deaths, and marriages) represents another massive project that we are involved in. Joan R. Rowland has volunteered to direct this project. Historically, New York State law required that vital statistics from 1882 till present be kept by the town clerk and these records are easy to access, but before 1882, it is quite a different story. Some records were kept by the town on a sporadic basis, but other than that you have to go to other sources such as church records, burial records, diaries, etc. We have a lot of these records scattered in different places in our office, but to find them quickly is impossible. That's why Joan is working at putting together a data base similar to the scrapbook

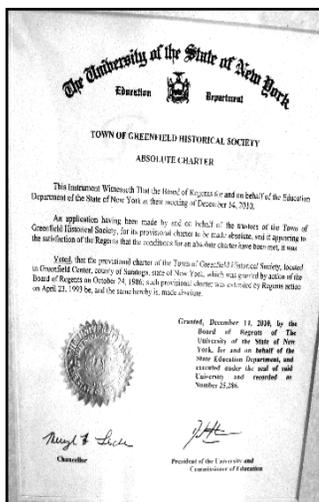
one where we will be able to scroll down a list on the computer until we find the person's name and then look opposite the name to find where the original documents are that contain the information.

These are huge projects, and they would be impossible without the dedicated work of my volunteers whom I can't thank enough for the work that they are doing. So many people are interested these days in tracking down information concerning their ancestors, and we are trying to do our part in making some of this information available to them.

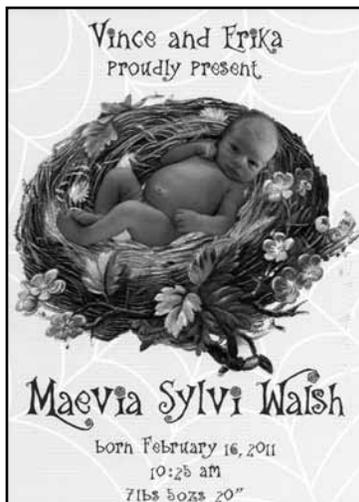
I don't want to leave the impression that the volunteers (currently they are Liz Frank, Audrey Crandall, Judy Supley, Ruth Ann Assmann, Elsie Eno, Marie Ahl, Joyce Woodard, and Joan R. Rowland) are slaving away by candle light in some cold dark monastery. On the contrary, we have a bright, airy conference room with comfortable chairs. Nor are they bound to silence, I often hear them (from my office across the hall) laughing and talking while they work. Occasionally someone will read an interesting article in one of the old scrapbooks, and share it with the rest. At lunch time, we all gather in the small kitchen down the hall and share food and stories. I think they enjoy coming and I enjoy having them.

Sometimes we get involved in trying to solve little mysteries. Currently, we are trying to find the history behind a grave marker in St. Johns Cemetery that reads "65 others." We think that it must have something to do with the fact that they moved the Methodist church from cemetery hill to its present location in 1889, but we have found no written record about the stone or its meaning. If you know anything about this, please contact us.

I'm looking forward to seeing some of you on the Glass Factory Field Trip on Saturday, Sept. 17.



Our New Charter



Our Newest Member

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 May: Ann Michel and Katie Finnegan. They served oatmeal cake, peanut butter cookies and brownies.

At our **September 27** meeting, we will have a **Bring-A-Dish-To-Pass Dinner** at 6 p.m. at **Brookhaven Golf Course**.

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson

The Caboose at King's Station Open House August 13, 2011



King's Station and The Caboose



*TOGHS Booth –
Patty Schwartzbeck*



*TOGHS Bake Sale – Mary Ann
Johnson and Alice Feulner*



TOGHS Cooks and Organizers



*Ron Feulner
Historian*



*Greenfield Fire District –
Parking Crew*



Inside King's Station, newly renovated



*Karyn Zanetti
Director, Greenfield
Recreation and
Youth Committee*



Memorabilia on display at King's Station



Antique Car Show

Porter Corners School Reunion August 13, 2011 – Middle Grove Park



The First Porter Corners School



Don Young talking to the group



Sonny and Betty (Jones) Hall



*Don Young and Paul Post
(The Saratogian Reporter)*



Clifford (Cy) Young



Ruth and Ansel McKnight



Ed Rudolph



*Estella (Jones) McLaren and
Ruth (Rowland) Hayes*



*Bill and Ilene
(Jones) Sutfin*



*Ron Feulner and
Frank Goyette*



*Roger Van Dusen
and Lloyd Chandler*



*Dorothy and Henry
Rowland*



*JoAnn Rowland and
Betty (Weirman) Koval*



*Russell Ormsbee, Jim Rowland,
Nancy Homiak and Joan Rowland*



Earl and Margie Jones



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@csdsl.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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