



## Historical Society Newsletter

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

Janet Jones, Editor

P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833

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[www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com)

*This newsletter is sponsored by J. Frank Goyette in memory of Ellen O'Connor Wasdo.*

*"Ellen always enjoyed reading the newsletter ... she passed away on Feb. 21, 2011."*

### Calendar

**Jan. 17, 2012:** Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.  
*Program: John Kirk and Trish Miller will talk about and play music from the Lockwood archive of music. They made a CD from old sheet music from a Greenfield family of musicians, that was played around here over 100 years ago.*

**Feb. 21, 2012:** Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.  
*Program: "The 77th New York Bemis Heights Regiment" presented by Larry Handy. A large number of men were recruited in Greenfield and filled the company in Saratoga.*

**March 20, 2012:** Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.

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

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If you have any questions/suggestions/comments on anything having to do with the Historical Society, please contact Skip Ballou at 518-378-5653 or email: [emb0744@hotmail.com](mailto:emb0744@hotmail.com).

*Coming soon – you'll be able to pay your dues online at our website – more information to follow.*

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Please send articles and/or photos for newsletters to [JJones18215@roadrunner.com](mailto:JJones18215@roadrunner.com) or by mail to: Janet Jones, 105 Ash St., Corinth, NY 12822.

*Thanks to everyone who brought cookies to share at the Christmas Party. January refreshment volunteers are Skip Ballou and Patty Schwartzbeck.*

*Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson*

### WEEZIE'S WORDS

*by Louise Okoniewski*

What a day for our Christmas Party at IOOF Hall! December 10 was cold yet a sunny beautiful day. The turnout was wonderful! The Christmas tree in the middle of the room, lights overhead, and the window candle-lights added the season's ambiance. Before long, the lower floor of Odd Fellows Hall was full of members and old friends. I think most were surprised to see how much work has been completed at the Hall. It was open and inviting. The new heating system made it very comfortable and the new ramp, just completed by Skip and Mike Smith, made an easy entrance. The variety of cookies and baked goods would have the best bakery in Saratoga jealous! All were delicious and the hot spiced cider was a wonderful addition.

We even had live music, as Mike Smith provided us with some holiday tunes and classics.

The party theme was "Trains." Skip had an old glass and wood display case from Roeckle's store that once was filled with penny candy. Now it housed train cars, books and other memorabilia that was graciously donated by the Donald and Harriett Hammond Family.

JoAnn Rowland commenced the event by having everyone take a seat and share a train story they may have. Some had taken the "Polar Express" and were very happy with the trip. Florence Hinkley loved riding the trains. Her husband Bill has surprised her with anniversary tickets on a train to the Midwest. Kevin Veitch added some humor when he let us all know that he has been 'potty-trained'! Matt Cinadr told how beautiful the train line is. You see back country that is inaccessible by other means. His wife Maureen never had a desire to ride a train, but one cloudy day she agreed to go on a trip on a Connecticut train. Maureen thought she would be absolutely bored, but instead she thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and saw parts of the country she would not have seen otherwise.

Carolyn Keefer had a very interesting story. Her grandfather, Frank Martin Bishop, was the engineer on

what turned out to be a very important train. President William McKinley was assassinated in Buffalo in September 1901. Teddy Roosevelt, vacationing in the High Peaks, was rushed by buckboard to North Creek where a train took him to Albany. He was quickly transferred onto the Carolyn's grandfather's train, and was taken to Buffalo. He had a lot of responsibility to get President Roosevelt to his destination quickly and safe. Carolyn never had a chance to meet her grandfather, but his story lives on with his family, and with United States history itself.

After the sharing of stories, the crowd returned to enjoying everyone's company. It was quite noisy as people were talking about the story that may have just heard, looking at the different displays, or what they may be doing for the holiday. About 4 o'clock, the sun was shining through the south facing windows. All of a sudden the snow was falling so slowly, sparkling in the sunshine. It was a postcard through the IOOF windows.



*Katie Finnegan and her Mom, Carolyn Keefer, at the TOGHS Christmas Party.*



*Skip Ballou and Mike Smith preparing to do some electrical work at the IOOF Hall.*

## **The Historical Society would like say THANK YOU to some folks whose donations have helped us to move forward.**

**DONALD and HARRIETT HAMMOND and FAMILY** – Donation of entire HO gauge railroad set, including train engines, cars, buildings, landscaping, tracks, power supplies, books signs and more. This was a lifetime collection by Don Hammond and hard to let go. They wanted it to be in a place where it would be enjoyed as they did over the years. Unselfishly, they donated it to the Historical Society.

**CHRIS EBERHART** – Donation of small refrigerator for IOOF Hall.

**ANONYMOUS DONOR** – Entire year of alarm monitoring, \$648.00, for IOOF Hall.

**MIKE GYARMATHY** – Building and Grounds chair – Mike had to resign recently, but he was there whenever asked. He got the ball rolling with the alarm system. And kept us plowed out last winter. He's there to set up the Farmers Market and Caboose Open House. Thanks Mike for all your help!

**THOMAS SIRAGUSA** – Thom and his wife help to keep our website up and going. Thom is busy in his own job, but finds time to help us out. He has some new ideas for the upcoming year, so check us out, and sign in the guest book!!

**RON FEULNER** – Ron, resigned as president of the Historical Society this year. He was president for a few years and had the vision for the future of the Historical Society. His passion for the history of Greenfield has helped to keep the organization going. Now that he is Town Historian, we will all be able to benefit by working together.

**EARL "SKIP" BALLOU** – Skip has taken the bull by the horns and have turned dreams in to reality. We have moved forward with the IOOF Hall Museum, and it's progressing nicely. His enthusiasm is unlimited, and rubs off on the rest of us.

**RON DEUTSCH** – Ron has been the chair of the Farmers Market since the beginning. He has the task of organizing, advertising, vendor paperwork, set up, take down, complaints and compliments of the market. Thanks to Ron, this will be our fifth year.

**MIKE SMITH** – Mike stopped by IOOF Hall one day to volunteer for anything. He started helping Skip with a couple projects, and has not stopped. He has agreed to be the Building and Grounds Chair.

**THOSE** who have donated bottles and cans. Skip has picked up donations of bottles and cans for our bottle drive. The last pick up was \$19.00 worth (thanks to Diane and Pete). If you'd like to donate bottles, call Skip.

**THOSE** who do not want their names mentioned. Little things here and there, an hour, helping to insulate, paint or hammer at IOOF, being on a committee, attending a function, meeting, or the Farmers Market. Keeping in touch, you are all appreciated. You can be proud to be a member of the Town of Greenfield Historical Society!!!

*Editor's note: LOUISE – For "everything" that you do ...*

## Historian's Corner

by Ron Feulner

As town historian and as past president of the historical society, I take an active interest in the organization. I have been more than impressed with our new president, Earl "Skip" Ballou. He has been working on a multitude of projects, and anyone who has visited the IOOF hall lately cannot help but see the progress he has made. When Skip took over, he asked me if I would like to chair a committee to get our plan for an upstairs museum in the IOOF hall moving forward, and I agreed, with the condition that I could do it on my own time frame.

Recently, I had a couple of days free to work on the project and began organizing a materials list. I decided to purchase whatever I could locally, so as soon as I knew what I needed, I went to Kilmer Lumber Company's mill on Lake Desolation Road. Jud Kilmer and his son, Jason, are still sawing, planing, and selling lumber (mostly softwood) at the Lake Desolation Road site.

As a boy, I can remember one of my most interesting experiences was going up to Kilmer's Mill where Jud's father, Guy, was running the old-water powered mill. I can still see the big water wheel creaking and groaning as it turned slowly with the sound of rushing water in the background. I remember Guy waiting for the saw to regain full speed before sawing another board from the log. The saw would whine before starting the cut, and, by the time it finished, the blade would be moving so slowly that I could see the individual teeth. This was heady stuff for a young boy in the early 1950s.

The old mill is still intact, but the mill pond has filled with sediment. Jud and his sons considered cleaning the pond and sawing again at the old mill, but tabled the plan when they realized how expensive it would be.

When Jud took over the business from his father during the late fifties or early sixties, he built a new diesel-powered mill which is still in use today.

Today, Jud and his son are concentrating on softwood lumber which can be marketed locally. They welcome individuals who need lumber for their local projects, and they serve customers who are both local contractors and individual homeowners doing weekend projects. I always enjoy visiting the mill because you not only get a good deal on quality lumber but you experience a little history too.

Back to my purchase of lumber for the museum project upstairs in the IOOF hall. I loaded the lumber that I needed and then stopped at Jud's house to pay him. He figured the bill, but before I could pay him, he decided that he wanted to donate it to our cause. Jud is a life member of our historical society and has supported us for many years. He is also one of the most knowledgeable people that I know when it comes to local history. He cannot only draw on the knowledge that he has gained from doing business at the same location for fifty or sixty years but can also draw on stories that his father told him. If you catch him when he is not sawing or running some heavy equipment, you will have a tough time getting away without hearing some local history stories. Unlike most businesses today, stopping at the Kilmer Lumber Company on Lake Desolation



*Jud Kilmer in the control booth of his sawmill.*

Road is like taking a step back in time; a most enjoyable experience.

Mike Cinadr and I volunteered to use the lumber that Jud donated and the hollow-core doors that we had purchased earlier to build the display dividers upstairs in the IOOF Hall. (The upstairs in the IOOF hall is primarily one big open meeting room, so we added dividers to separate the room into separate museum display areas.) We finished the construction work on January 2nd. Now we are ready for a group work day to paint the dividers and begin rearranging some of the collection of artifacts that have been in storage there.



*Ron Feulner and Mike Cinadr adding museum display dividers upstairs at the IOOF Hall.*

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## BOTTLE DRIVE

The Town of Greenfield Historical Society will be collecting bottles to benefit the future IOOF Hall Museum, which will be located upstairs. We'll need supplies to get this project going and your donations will help. Please email or call Skip Ballou at emb0744@hotmail.com or 518-378-5653, for more information.

## Delaware & Hudson Passenger Train



In the 1950s, this train went by Kings Station daily, except Sundays. The picture was taken at the North Creek Station; the end-of-line on the Adirondack Branch. Hudson River is to the right.

Left to right: Bill Boyle, engineer; John Carey, baggageman from Saratoga (father of John Carey, wife Hazel of Saratoga); unknown; unknown; Rex Eddy, fireman from Saratoga.

*Photo courtesy of Mrs. Rex Eddy, 98 years of age, living in Saratoga Springs. (Supplied by Gene Corsale)*

### *The Town of Greenfield Historical Society Wish List*

#### **Needs for the IOOF Hall**

- Paper Towels
- Bottled Water
- Cleaning Supplies
- Kitchen Garbage Bags
- Trash Bags
- Toilet Paper
- 150 Watt CLF Bulbs (6)

Contact Skip Ballou  
emb0744@hotmail.com or  
518-378-5653

### **Wanted For**

The Town of Greenfield Historical Society  
IOOF Hall, Middle Grove, New York

We are expanding our Collections.  
We are looking for Donations of

- Old Photographs up to the Present
- Vintage Clothing
- Farm Implements
- Tools, etc.

***Call Us Before You Throw It Out.***

Contact Skip Ballou  
emb0744@hotmail.com or  
518-378-5653

## Remembering – A Place in the Adirondack's

(my early college years)

I reflect and remember the times when I felt absolutely free, as a teen and as a young person in the very early twenties.

Tonight, thinking back on those times, I recall the freshness and newness of life in its' sweetness and innocence. Thinking about the time I went swimming in the large creek in Salisbury Center, and being with classmates jumping into the deep pool at the base of a huge boulder. Then sunning myself on the flat rocks to get a tan – and not having a care in the world to worry about anything. Schoolwork was not even a consideration to be thought of on those swimming days, as this was a time of reflection, absorbing the beauty around me – the clouds in the sky, the shapes of the boulders, and then walking down the sandy road by the creek. The hot sand felt so good between my toes, it felt like soft satin, as it was very fine granules.

I felt loved and protected, by whom I do not know, just knew that I was at peace with everything and everyone.

Upon writing this remembrance, I somehow tapped into that feeling free 'moment' of long ago. This was just a fleeting few seconds, but I'm amazed that memory was still able to capture the feeling of those moments.

Life is of itself one great big 'romance' between environment and human awareness. Simplicity in living life makes a wonderful student of its' followers.

No need to get caught up in the assembly line of society, as it certainly does distract and detract from the pure simple way of living. Many precious moments have been lost to the many because they did not follow their intuitive heart. When a person begins to take on all the mannerisms and ways that other people live, they sometimes lose their ability to decipher what is real and important.

I recall the smell of the wild grasses in the fields and watching water run constantly over the same rocks and pebbles year after year.

In springtime, upon going into a very tiny valley where the snow was still on the ground here and there, and the crisp frigid bite to the nose trying to search for a scent of spring, ice still on some rocks – when on the other side of the hill, spring was already in full bloom. The sun beating down furiously onto the hillside, and early plants "greening up" to say "hi" to the sun.

Yet, just over the hill, not fifty feet away down into this tiny valley encircled by hill all around, was 'winter' struggling to leave and go where it belonged with the rest of winter (wherever it goes). The contrast of the two seasons side by side is so astounding, and the temperatures so completely at different ends that the mind boggles at how beautiful Nature is playing out this warring of the two seasons literally side by side!

I would often go to the early spring hillside to study, and it was so much easier to concentrate on what was assigned. This spot became my favorite place to go when in college, that is, until, one of the other students happened to stumble

upon this special place. Then it was no longer peaceful, as all they wanted to do was talk, talk, talk. Never a quiet moment.

So, I left this place, and by that time, many more discovered it also. So, I moved onward into a different direction. I found a spot farther into the woods, and because of the lack of a nice hillside to sit on, I decided to make myself a chair. I looked around and found many branches, trimmed them up to size by breaking them with my foot, and then laying them across and in-between two sets of trees. Two trees at one end, and two trees at the other were my "posts" for this makeshift 'chair'.

I managed every day to get this built up higher and higher so that the bundle of horizontal sticks grew to a decent 'chair' height. So, I studied in the quietness of this place for several weeks, until one day someone discovered the chair, and then everyone wondered how it got there. I snickered to myself, as I was hearing things like maybe a hunter used it for a blind, or perhaps a local hermit was starting to build himself a new house. I heard all sorts of fantastic stories from all these city students, and I thought it was very funny. I never did tell anyone that it was my other 'peaceful' spot, and so I left it at that.

*Fran Lambert (PCBI College, Salisbury Center, NY)  
Gatekeep On The Mountain, Ormsbee Rd., Porter Corners, NY*

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## CHRISTMAS SURPRISE

By Louise Okoniewski

*What's that big present  
Under the tree?  
OOH! Santa left it  
For my sister, brother and me.*

*Pull back the paper  
We see lots of red  
YAY! Santa left us  
A giant sled!*

*Put on our winter clothes  
Outside we go  
Looking for the hill  
Covered in snow.*

*We found the place  
We were searching for.  
That hill must go down  
A mile or more!*

*JUMP ON!  
That sled did fly  
Taking turns  
Were my sister, brother and I.*

*Time to head home  
For supper and to bed  
Tomorrow we'll be back  
With Santa's Christmas Sled!*

### 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 ask (518-378-5653 or emb0744@hotmail.com). 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. **Coming soon – you'll be able to pay your dues online at our website – more information to come.**

**Please Print** – Please indicate how many persons 10-years-old or older are in your household). \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

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 Janet Jones, 105 Ash St., Corinth, NY 12822 or email it to: [JJones18215@roadrunner.com](mailto:JJones18215@roadrunner.com).

## Updating Historic Sites Map in the Town of Greenfield

If you have any information, e-mail Dan Chertok at [bmmschertok@gmail.com](mailto:bmmschertok@gmail.com) or [dgclawoffices@csdsl.net](mailto: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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