



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

Volume 12, Issue 6

www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

*This newsletter is sponsored by Jim Smith in memory of his wife,
Rosemary Bruchac Smith*

Calendar

- 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.
Program: Lester Park Fossils presented by Dick Lindemann.
- April 17, 2012:** Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the IOOF HALL IN MIDDLE GROVE to show it off and talk about the items in our collection.
- May 15, 2012:** Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.
Program: Caperton Tissot, the author of Adirondack Ice, a Cultural and Natural History, will speak about her book, which deals with all aspects of ice, from ice storms to harvesting ice.

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

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.

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

Our January meeting was cancelled due to bad weather.
February refreshment volunteers are Skip Ballou and Patty Schwartzbeck.

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson

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

Historian's Corner

by Ron Feulner

The historian's office remains as crazy busy as ever. My eight volunteers show up most Wednesdays, unless they have other commitments. Once they arrive, they pick up their individual projects from the previous week and begin again. Audrey Crandall has been working on the same oversized scrapbook for more than a year, but by the time you read this, she will have finished it. Audrey, Marie Ahl, and Elsie Eno are going through old scrapbooks that contain clippings from local newspapers. They read every article and handwrite the names of the people mentioned in the articles on special data sheets, and then, Judy Supley enters them into the computer. Judy is our computer expert (and glue that holds all our projects together). She stays busy making entries in the data base unless I need her in my office to solve some computer related problems which happens more frequently than I like to admit.

Together, these ladies are building an extensive data base of Greenfield names that we will be able to use for research. Wednesday after Wednesday (the day my historian's office is open for business), Audrey and the others work at this project. At present, they must have close to 50,000 names in the data base. Audrey is threatening to get up on the table and do a dance of joy when she finishes her massive scrapbook.

Joan R. Rowland is working on a different project. She is going through our files and building a data base of vital statistics. Before records were kept by the town clerk, it was a hit-or-miss situation where and how birth, death, and marriage records were preserved. Joan is taking information from any sources that we have including some church records, diaries, obituaries, etc. Joan is slowly building another huge and very valuable data base of names.

Ruth Ann Assmann is working her way through all the old issues of the Town of Greenfield Historical Society's newsletters and building a computer index of all the names mentioned. Joyce Woodard, Deputy Historian, is working at naming, labeling, and organizing our large photo collection.

Liz Frank is transcribing some of our old cassette tape interviews so that we will have a paper record of them if anything happens to the tapes.

Sometimes, the ladies ask me if they will have anything to do when they finish these projects. Since material and information comes into the office almost every week, I don't see any end to the projects in the foreseeable future. I also think that when we reach a point where people know more about what we are doing, they will begin to share more of their private collections with us.

I have told you what the volunteers are working at, but have said nothing about myself. Recently, a friend of mine, Sandy Arnold, who happens to be one of the best Internet researchers that I know, sent me a photo and some information about Clarence Lockwood, a past resident of Greenfield who lived for a time on Locust Grove Road, and played music for many years at barn and house dances when they were popular during the latter part of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Clarence later played at some of the large hotels and ballrooms in Saratoga. Sandy, after sending me some initial information about Clarence and his family, followed up with the fact that a young woman had done her Master's Thesis on Clarence, and it turned out that we already had a copy in our files. I am continuing to try and gather more information about Clarence and his musical family and would appreciate any information that any of you could add.

Upcoming Events Sponsored by Heritage Hunters

DO YOU KNOW WHO YOUR ANCESTORS ARE?

Heritage Hunters, a genealogy and local history group, is now receiving dues for 2012. Yearly membership is \$15 and includes monthly program meetings, a bi-monthly 24 page newsletter, a surname exchange index and a reduced fee for the yearly Genealogy Conference. Heritage Hunters holds program meetings at 1 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month at the Town of Saratoga Town Hall, 10 Spring St. (Route 29), Schuylerville (the old brick school). Public welcome. Contact cwald36709@aol.com or 587-2978 for membership information.

Saturday, February 18 – “Records Held by the Latter-Day Saints” by Joan Parslow, at 1 p.m. at the Town of Saratoga Town Hall in Schuylerville. New ways to learn about the tens of millions of records available at FamilySearch.org.

Saturday, March 17 – “Great Graves of Upstate New York” by Chuck D'Imperio, at 1 p.m. at the Town of Saratoga Town Hall in Schuylerville. He will discuss his travelogue and fun filled trivia book focusing on the lives and deaths of 70 great American legends.

Saturday, April 21 – “Indentured Children and ‘Warning Out’” by Loretta J. Bates, at 1 p.m. at the Town of Saratoga Town Hall in Schuylerville. She shares tales of families, how they came into the Poorhouse and were Indentured Out and what became of them. She will also talk about the ‘Warning Out’ process of forcing a family to leave a town.

Saturday, April 28 – History Faire, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Cornell Cooperative Extension, 50 West High St., Ballston Spa.

Saturday, October 20 – Genealogy Conference, 8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., at Town of Saratoga Town Hall in Schuylerville. Dick Eastman, well known genealogist and producer of “Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter,” is the presenter.

I also have spent some time teaching myself how to do video interviews and download them to an external hard-drive for permanent storage. I also make DVD copies of them. As a practice run, I had Joyce Woodard interview me about my early memories of the Middle Grove area. Now that I have some idea what I am doing, Joyce and I hope to begin interviewing some of the folks who have lived in the Town of Greenfield for a long time.

Mike Cinadr and I also worked more on the museum area that the Town Historical Society is trying to build on the second floor of their IOOF building in Middle Grove. We did some cutting-in painting with brushes and Tom Merrills did the rolling. I have decided to add some more trim boards, and then we can finish the painting. Hopefully, by spring, we will be able to start putting together museum displays. In fact, this might be a good time to look through your attics and sheds to see if there are any objects or photographs that you might want to donate to the museum to help tell the story of Greenfield's past. The museum ladies have been thinking about creating an old fashioned kitchen display. If you have anything that might add to this, we would be interested, especially an old kitchen woodstove or cabinets. Also, if any of you would like to help design and build the actual displays, please contact me at 518-893-0620.

Hope to see you at the upcoming Historical Society meeting.

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.



Caption additions from January Newsletter: Left to right: Bill Boyle, engineer; John Carey, baggageman from Saratoga (father of John Carey, wife Hazel of Saratoga); **Monty Church, conductor; John Erickson, trainman;** and Rex Eddy, fireman from Saratoga.

This photo was taken in October 1941.

Additional information courtesy of Mrs. Rex (Mary) Eddy.

Cemetery Adventures!

by Patti (Wilsey) Veitch

This past summer I had the great pleasure of connecting with my Third Cousin, Danny Smith, and his Dad, Don. Danny lives in Schenectady, and he and his Dad were sharing stories with my Dad and me on a summer afternoon at my Dad's house on Wilsey Road. I soon found out that Danny is entrenched in family genealogy, as am I, and we quickly became great friends.

Our family connection is through William G. Wilsey, my Father's beloved Grandfather. My Dad's Grandfather and Don Smith's Grandmother, Emma Wilsey, were brother and sister.

Dad and I often go through old family papers, and one item really piqued my interest. It is a Deed dated Feb. 19, 1897, between Charles Harris and Benjamin F. Wilsey that conveyed a tract or parcel of land that is known as the "Harris Burying Ground" from Charles Harris to Benjamin Wilsey for a cost of \$1. Benjamin F. Wilsey was married to Ruth Harris, and they were the parents of William G. Wilsey, my Great Grandfather.

I mentioned this Deed to Danny and asked him if he would be interested in going to this cemetery, and you know what that answer was! I sent an email to the Greenfield Historical Society, and got emails back from Ron Feulner and Skip Ballou. It turned out that Skip knew

where BOTH Harris Cemeteries were and he was happy to take us there.

On a cold day in early November, Danny and I met Skip at the Historical Museum. He gave us a tour of the building, there was a desk upstairs that was given in the memory of my Great-Grandfather! Then we were off on our field trip to Squashville Road. And a field trip it was! The first stop was the cemetery that I have the deed for. Skip knew exactly where it was – there is no way we could have ever found it without him. It is overgrown and the gravestones are scattered and difficult or impossible to read – but it is Wonderful! We had to hunt for the stones, but it was so exciting to come upon each one we could find. We could not find any stones for Wilsey's or Harris's, but I do know they are buried there. Danny and I have plans in the Spring to clean this burying ground up. Maybe we will come across our ancestors after all. The second cemetery is located just up the road and is extremely well kept, surrounded by a beautiful stone wall. There are still some stones standing, and we enjoyed walking through the fallen leaves and reading each one.

Thank you so much, Skip, for taking time out of your Saturday morning for my "new" Cousin and me. What a Great Day!



Here is the desk that was given in memory of my Great-Grandfather. It is located upstairs in the Historical Museum (Oddfellows Hall). That's me in the picture.



This photo was taken at the "Harris Burying Ground," deeded to Benjamin F. Wilsey in 1897. This my cousin, Danny Smith.



One of the stones at the "Harris Burying Ground."



These two pictures are from the second Harris cemetery we visited. The first shows the great shape it is in and the second picture demonstrates how they used to use both head and footstones when burying their loved ones. Danny Smith is the demonstrator and he researched the fact that this was common practice.

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.

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

**Town of Greenfield Historical Society
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