



## 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)

### Calendar

**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 **I O O F H A L L I N M I D D L E G R O V E** 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.*

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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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**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 call or email Skip Ballou at 518-378-5653 or [emb0744@hotmail.com](mailto:emb0744@hotmail.com), for more information.

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### **IOOF Hall Visitation Hours**

The IOOF Hall will be open for visitors, please call ahead to make an appointment.  
Joyce Woodard – 893-7638 or Ann Michel – 893-7052

*February refreshment volunteers, Skip Ballou and Patty Schwartzbeck, served cookies and cake.  
March refreshment volunteers are Katie Finnegan and Lelah Cornell.*

### WEEZIE'S WORDS

*by Louise Okoniewski*

Despite a "glitch" in our power point, Larry Handy and his brother, David, dressed in Civil War uniforms, presented a wonderful program on the Bemis Heights 77th regiment from Saratoga. This regimen had Greenfield residents that enlisted to fight in the Civil War. Once enlisted the men would go to Camp Schuyler in Saratoga for training. Camp Schuyler was located where the track is now. The Officer's were in a building at Congress Park. Head Quarters (HQ) was at the brick building across from Congress Park that still stands today, I presume that is the Presbyterian Church. The men would learn to march and survive camp life. In November 1861, the Company headed to New York City by train. The troops were often accompanied and shared the space on the train with various animals. The brothers read letters that David had translated, and gave a clear visual of a harsh life. The soldiers marched through unpredictable weather, survived on spoiled meat and rotten food, had no medical attention and fought bloody battles. They were issued one uniform that was made of wool – okay in the winter, but the summer heat and humidity of the South made them uncomfortable. A wound on the trail or in battle could mean certain death. The nonexistence of sanitation meant a lot of bacteria, infection, disease and death.

Some of the letters told how after a battle one side would call a truce to pick up the dead and wounded, once granted, the other side would do the same and the battle would continue.

The soldiers longed for letters from home, and believe it or not, the mail got through. The most requested items that the troops asked from home were clothes and baked goods. The comparisons of all wars are obvious. But nothing can put a smile on a soldier's face like letters and a box of cookies from home.

Be sure to watch for the next newsletter. We have some events going on, like our Farmers Market and Caboose Day. We have a chance to set an informational booth at the Saratoga County Fair. Hopefully we'll have a Calendar of Events for the upcoming season.

## February's Program: "The 77th New York Bemis Heights Regiment" presented by Larry Handy



Civil War reenactment materials

Larry Handy and his brother, David.

### *Historian's Corner*

by Ron Feulner

We have so many projects going on at the historian's office that it is difficult to decide which ones to talk about each month. I am still doing some painting upstairs at the IOOF Hall in preparation for the museum that we are planning there. Mike Cinadr and Tom Merrills have both been helping with this phase of the project.

Since I have no background in museum planning (except for having had an interest in visiting many small museums around the country), it is a work in progress. As I see it right now, we need to finish the painting which is progressing nicely. When that is done, we will attempt to clean the floor. It has a build-up of many decades of dirt and wax over a hardware floor that appears to be in good condition. There are some excellent cleaners out there that I have used in the past that when applied with a dry mop and warm water will rejuvenate the floor nicely. After that, we can begin moving the heavy furniture around. Some will be retained for display while other pieces may go into storage. For this phase, we will need some muscle power. After that, we can begin planning and assembling the actual display areas. For this, we will need help from individuals with some interest and ability in art as well as those of us who know our town's history. Right now, I am thinking that we will have a display area for each of the following aspects of our history: Logging, Agriculture, Mining and Commerce, the IOOF organization, whose building we are using, and other displays as space permits. If you would like to get involved in any or all of these phases, please give me a call at my home, 893-0620.

A second project that I am involved with in the historian's office involves putting together a county fair display for next summer. Some of you may have visited last year's county historian's display where many of the individual towns displayed their history pertaining to the civil war. This year, County Historian, Lauren Roberts, has asked each of us town historians to think about a display built around our town and its involvement in the War of 1812 or just some of the activities that were happening in our town during that time period.

I must admit that when Lauren notified us of this year's theme, I had little knowledge of that time period in our Town of Greenfield. I had been wondering where to begin when I received an email from my friend and Internet researcher, Sandy Arnold. She informed me that the Town of Greenfield was home to Samuel Baily who not only distinguished himself in the Revolution but also was active in the war of 1812. His home still stands in much its original condition on Spier Falls Road thanks to the owners who have lived there since his day. He also was a prolific record keeper and his papers have all been turned over to the State Library in Albany. Sandy has visited the library and viewed some of the collection, and she says that I will have no problem putting together a display from those records.

This is what I enjoy about this position as town historian. I have had very little formal training in history and what I do know about local history, I have gathered through talking to many of you who have actually lived the history of the town or have known older folks during your youth who have passed their information down. These sources along with research that I have done for the local history books that I have written pretty much sums up my knowledge, but the really neat part of my job is that many of you out there, like Sandy Arnold and others, are so willing to share what you know with me. Together, we make an awesome team, and I hope that we are doing a credible job of collecting and preserving the history of our town.

I know many of you are interested in researching the history of your own families. If you have knowledge of any individuals from the Town of Greenfield who participated in the war of 1812, and would be willing to share with me, please call me at 518-893-0620. In fact, it doesn't have to be about the war. If your ancestors were in the town doing something interesting during that time period, we are also interested. Hopefully, we can do justice to our town and put together an informative and interesting display for the fair this summer.

Last month's historical society's meeting and program were very interesting, and this month sounds the same. I hope to see some of you there. Enjoy the tail-end of winter.

# A Place in Time



As my 4-year-old son and I walked along the unpaved stretch of Sand Hill Road that our potential property bordered, the orchard grass tall beyond if revealing two apple trees within its midst, the Voice said: If you find the rhubarb, nothing will stand in your way of acquiring the old house ... People sometimes ask me what/where 'the voice' comes from but I treat it for what it is: (Don't take that route – I do and find out why ... maybe part of the dead reckoning ancestral travelers and sea captains had to know).

In any event, my husband and I had never owned property and we were very engaged with the idea of this '100-year-old house in the Adirondack foothills' which contained three fireplaces ... nearer his job than mine. Tho' we placed our bid in July of this country's bicentennial year, we were not to move in before latish November but that's a whole 'nother tale.

The photo shown is the 'gift' of a neighbor, the Smith-Callenius sisters. They were generous in so many ways. The photo greatly predates what we had: our 'cardboard' garage with its sturdy roof, the asphalt sided house that a nearby college survey done by students could not consider in its 'ugly' duckling state. Still, we loved it. It was not until the mid-'80s that this former Stockade (Sch'dy) resident and self-styled 'expert' on old houses came to consider in more depth its post and beam structure (from an article in Yankee), driving me to further pursue its history, not easily as I worked in Albany and most of the records were in Ballston Spa ... this before the 'online' age we now take for granted.

Eventually I learned the house was sold (in 1817) by a retired private who served in the War of Independence (i.e.,

the Revolutionary War). His surname was Benedict and in these last 15 years of upgrades inside and out, I have chosen to name the dwelling in his honor: The Private Benedict House.

It is a bit too close to our busy county road sometimes for comfort – as I recall the now-grown son saying, having postponed a tour back to Ithaca last year with menacing weather: 'I don't know which is worse – driving in this stuff or watching folk whiz by on this curve ...' We had a good view of the latter, the broad south-facing window might as well be a windshield with 'no control' of what goes beyond. But still, I love the comfort the old house had brought me; it has been generous even in retirement years as I continue to evaluate its gifts, having 'learned' such things as why the wide floorboards (with cracks to the excavation beneath) worked for the early settler – that earthen cavity below would retain a certain livable temperature no matter what was blowing above/beyond and the layout was coordinated through the wisdom of deliberately buffeting the northern exposure, its 'more open' address southward.

And, by the way, my pre-school son and I did, all those many years ago, 'find' that gently-shaded (by fledgling locusts) lusty rhubarb patch, close upon the sandy road we trudged – I stepped back toward it, perhaps instinctively, and there it was, toward the old stone fence line. Afterward, my little boy and I ate peanut butter and jelly sandwiches on the concrete patio where an old chair rested beside a maple grown nearly a couple stories through an opening in the ample concrete surface.

*by Coral Crosman*

## *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

## Train Stations in the Area

*Photos Courtesy of Gene Corsale*



Railroad Overpass, Route 9N at Kings Station,  
Greenfield; Direction of picture: Southwest.  
*Photo taken Dec. 13, 1938, by James A. McMahon*



Kings Station, Greenfield  
Combination Passenger and Freight Station  
Built in 1887



Greenfield Depot on South Greenfield Road  
Built in 1911



The Scotts, Dakes and Footes standing in front of  
Greenfield shelter, the Adirondack Railroad's 6 mile  
point from Saratoga Springs, N.Y. (Located at  
railroad crossing on South Greenfield Road) 1911.



Greenfield Depot on South Greenfield Road  
Built in 1911 (newer photo)



Unidentified photo





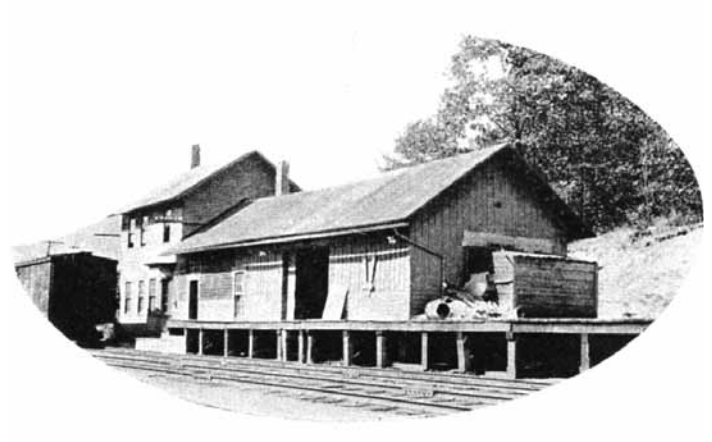
South Corinth Depot  
Built in 1880



Hadley Depot  
Built in 1870



Corinth Passenger Station  
Built in 1910 - 1911



Corinth Freight House  
Built as a Combination Station in 1866  
Remodeled into a Freight House in 1891

## *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](mailto:cwald36709@aol.com) or 587-2978 for membership information.

*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,” will be the presenter.

## 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

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

