



Historical Society Newsletter

OFFICERS: President: Louise Okoniewski; Vice President: Robert Roekle;
Secretary: Patty Schwartzbeck; Treasurer: JoAnn Rowland;
Trustees: Dan Chertok, Coral Crosman, Ron Deutsch, Katie Finnegan and Ron Feulner

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

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www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

Calendar

October 16: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program: Mary Cuffe-Perez**, recently wrote a novel in free verse, **Nothing By Name**. It is the story of Galway resident Rachael Scriptor, who lived her entire life in the same Galway farmhouse without electricity or running water. This independent woman supported herself by raising sheep and selling blueberries.

November 11: Sunday, VETERAN'S DAY DINNER, being hosted by the Historical Society and the Middle Grove Ladies Auxiliary, at the Firehouse in Middle Grove. More information to follow.

November 20: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program: Will Martin**, author of **Benedict Arnold: Legacy Lost (A Ghost's Story)**. This is a novel about Arnold's life centered on the idea that there is more to his story than history books have revealed.

December 15: Saturday, **Christmas Party**, 1 - 3 p.m. at the IOOF Hall in Middle Grove. Co-chairs JoAnn and Joan Rowland.

January 30: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program to be announced.**

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.

I'd like to thank everyone who brought a dish to pass at the September pot luck dinner.

October refreshment volunteers are Katie Finnegan, Joyce Woodard and Patty Schwartzbeck.

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson

WEEZIE'S WORDS

by Louise Okoniewski

Here we are, the beginning of October and you can definitely feel the chill of autumn. Good thing that our work day was scheduled Sept. 15 at Odd Fellows Hall in Middle Grove. Mike Gyarmathy, our Building and Grounds chair, picked a beautiful sunny fall day. The main objective was to clean out and organize the Carriage Barn – Mission Accomplished! I arrived after work about 12:30 and was speechless when I saw what had been done. Mike G. bought a load of stone and Pompa's (MaryAnn LaRoche) matched that with a donation of stone. Mike, his Kubota Tractor and a lot of muscle from the volunteers, moved, raked and leveled the stone in three bays of the Carriage Barn. The volunteers were, the Deutsch family – Ron, Melissa, Ronnie Jr., Kendall and Alex; the Chertok family – Dan, Lynn, Sarah and Debbie Chen an exchange student who stayed with the Chertoks; Mike Gyarmathy and son Jordan; Mr. Maenza and Ron Feulner. Everyone sorted items in the first bay under the direction of Ron Feulner. Leftovers from past garage sales were placed by the road for "free" and it didn't take long before our junk became someone's treasure!

The areas with the stone will be used for storage units that are being built by Brian Auwater and son. These will help to safely store some of our artifacts from the Museum. After a lunch of macaroni salad, kielbasa and sausage (grilled by Chef Ron Jr.), Mike dug a trench to run electrical line to the barn. Once again, everyone pitched in to take out the big stones and back fill the trench.

The inside of IOOF was spruced up that Friday by Joyce Woodard and Ann Michel. We are lookin' good, inside and out!

Our first meeting of the season featured our annual Pot luck Dinner and a rescheduled program of John Kirk and Trish Miller. The room was packed with 43 members and guests. The dinner was fantastic! We had everything from soup to dessert, all homemade and delicious. After our business meeting, we welcomed the tunes of John and Trish. They told the story of how they came across original music from the Lockwood family who played in various locations in Greenfield in the early 1900s. Their

program, featuring the fiddle and guitar, had everyone's feet stomping. Just what the doctor ordered after that great meal! A surprise of the evening was Ted Jones. (You can see Ted at the Stewarts in Middle Grove sitting at his special table.) John and Trish invited Ted to sing with them. Ted's "Pirate Song" and "Crystal Chandelier" didn't miss a beat. Then John called on Jim Smith to come up and join them. Jim's story telling and guitar playing was an added bonus for the night. John and Trish have a CD, "North Country Songs" and they play locally. Look them up and go see them play, you will not be disappointed.



**Work Day
at the
IOOF
Hall
Sept. 15,
2012**



Historian's Corner by Ron Feulner

The leaves are beginning to turn and there is a chill in the air, and I am settling in for my favorite season of the year. For many years, this was the time of year that I was stuck in a classroom, so now I try to spend as many of these crisp days out doors as I am able, and of course, there is no end to the chores that have to be completed before snow flies.

A few weeks ago, on a Saturday morning, a group of historical society volunteers met at the IOOF hall in Middle Grove and cleaned out the storage sheds. They also carried the kitchen woodstove that Bob Schilling from Lake Desolation donated last summer, up the steep and long staircase in the IOOF hall to the spot where it will be on display in our museum. Last summer, Matt and Michael Cinadr, Mike Harteluis, and I carried it from Bob's camp (on the back side of Lake Desolation) up a steep embankment to a waiting truck and then unloaded it in the storage shed behind the IOOF hall. I had no idea at the time, how we would ever get it up those stairs to the museum area, but these volunteers accomplished the task in short order. I told them that now, I have a better appreciation of how the pyramids were built. (I think that our president, Louise, will have more to say about whom these volunteers were and the work that they accomplished, but I was so impressed with what they accomplished, I just wanted to mention their efforts.)

Aida and Paul Gordon have been faithfully working at inventorying the Gary Dake Collection along with occasional help from me and Joyce Woodard at the IOOF hall. That project is nearing completion.

We are also settling into our fall routine at town hall in the historian's office. Bob Jones (from Skidmore) is still working with me fine tuning our computer map program. Rick Bishop has finished his volunteer summer project of finding all the cemeteries in the Town of Greenfield and taking a GPS reading of latitude and longitude at each.

Bob Jones is now adding them to the computer map, and we are also going to make a paper booklet showing where all the cemeteries are located. That should be available later this fall or winter.

Nancy Homiak joined the volunteer team last week. She is going to work at digitizing our photo collection which right now is a mess. I have been adding photos to the computer for two years and have not had the time to organize them in folders and most remain unlabeled. Nancy is perfect for the job because she is computer literate and knows the Town of Greenfield well as she and her family have lived here all their lives, and if Nancy gets stuck, our deputy historian, Joyce Woodard, is there to help.

Ruth Ann Assmann and Marie Ahl returned from their summer hiatus a couple of weeks ago. Ruth Ann is working at making DVDs from our old VCR tapes. Marie is organizing another of our scrapbooks. Audrey Crandall, Judy Supley, and Elsie Eno are planning on returning within a few weeks, sometime later in October. Joan R. Rowland is still working at creating a vital statistics data base, and Liz Frank is still doing an excellent job of transcribing our old cassette tapes.

Last year, Ruth Ann Assmann went through all our old historical society newsletters and created an index. She and I are now trying to organize the index into a booklet form which the historical society can have printed and for sale later this fall.

Every time I go to work (as town historian) I thank my lucky stars for having such a dedicated group of volunteers. If I had to do this work by myself, it would take many years, and in the meantime, the people of the Town of Greenfield would have to go without the information concerning their ancestors. These early people settled the town and carved a community from a wilderness, it seems little enough that we should be able to document their existence and efforts, making the information readily available to those of us who are interested and now living in this wonderful town.

A Slice of History

by *Bill Hinckley*

Back in the 1940's I spent four years in high school, and part of each day was in the company of Mr. Claude Van Wie, a teacher who introduced me to my first intellectual love – mathematics. Mr. Van and my family attended the same church, so we knew each other before I ever began high school, but we became really close over the four year association in the wonderful world of X and Y. By the time I graduated in 1944, Mr. Van knew that I was not going to be able to attend college for financial reasons. He also knew that I was ineligible for college under any GI program due to physical imperfections. One day he took me aside and told me about a family he was friendly with, and that with his recommendation they would give me a job in the office of their milk company, and they would even advance me weekly sums of money to attend a business college to prepare me to work in the company office. That was the greatest news I had ever heard. I signed on as quickly as I could, and I have always kept a special place in my heart for the Dake family, my benefactors.

I did work in the milk company office for a few years, and so did Olive Dake (Mrs. C.V. Dake). Back then the Dakes lived in the mansion on the hill in Greenfield; C.V. raised sheep (even Perky), and Olive did nice things like throw a wedding shower in her home for Florence and me (we also saw our first TV show there).

Then in no particular order, young Charles returned from WW2, the Dake Bros. bought Stewart's Ice Cream and moved the plant to Saratoga with young Charles as the man-in-charge. The company grew bigger and bigger and I had been running the office all this time. At some point I decided that I really needed, and wanted, a college degree – so I resigned my good job and went back to school. Florence juggled her work schedule around and I commuted to Albany each day, and I think Wilma Gorpam raised our 5 kids.

Somewhere in here, Olive Dake died, and although I didn't know it at the time, she left a sum of money to be used to form a historical society – and that was done. It existed but it didn't do much; might not even have had growing pains. Then one night I received a phone call from Ralph Ellsworth offering me the opportunity, to be or become the president of the Historical Society (which I really didn't know much about). He promised me that I wouldn't have to do much more than chair 2 or 3 meetings a year. Without too much fanfare (none) I said OK, and I was elected. It was difficult, but a few of us tried to overcome the lethargy of the organization. We updated the constitution, revised the newsletter, tried to have interesting meetings, worked on the schoolhouse, and took our first few steps toward acquiring our own meeting place and/or museum (IOOF Hall).

I like the road we have traveled and the people who have been involved. We are a viable organization with a charter and a future which will adequately preserve and display Greenfield's past. Cheers to all who have played parts in our growth.

Our September Meeting



John Kirk and Trish Miller performing songs from the Lockwood archive of music and from their CD, "Fiddle Tunes of the North Country," with help from Ted Jones (top) and Jim Smith (bottom right).



Upcoming Events Sponsored by Heritage Hunters

Dick Eastman, creator of *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* and popular genealogy speaker, will present four workshops at the annual Heritage Hunters Fall Conference. The conference will be held on Saturday, October 20, at Saratoga Town Hall in Schuylerville, at the corner of Rt. 4 and Rt. 29. The topics are: Cloudy with a Chance of Genealogy; Mocavo: A Comparison of the Best Genealogy Search Engine Versus Google; The Organized Genealogist; and Photographing Old or Delicate Documents and Photographs. The day begins with registration, exhibits and coffee at 8:45 a.m. and will conclude at 3:15 p.m. A hot lunch will be served. Registration is \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members. For information, call 518-587-2978 or email melfrejo@aol.com.

Save the Date and Pass the Word

THIRD PORTER CORNERS

SCHOOL REUNION

Saturday, August 3, 2013

Middle Grove Park Pavilion

Start looking for pictures and memorabilia.

Everyone is welcome. Details to follow.

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.). 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 The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833. Make checks payable to: The Town of Greenfield Historical Society.

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

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