



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

Volume 13, Issue 3

www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

Calendar

- Nov. 11: Sunday, VETERAN'S DAY SPAGHETTI DINNER, 3 to 7 p.m., at the Middle Grove Firehouse, hosting by the Historical Society and the Middle Grove Ladies Auxiliary. Adults – \$9, children under 10 – \$5, Active-duty Military personnel – free. Take out available. For more information, call 587-6060 or 893-0645.**
- Nov. 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.*
- Dec. 15:** Saturday, **Christmas Party, 1 - 3 p.m.** at the IOOF Hall in Middle Grove. Please bring cookies to share. *Co-chairs: JoAnn and Joan Rowland.*
- Jan. 15:** Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program: Lisa Potocar is the author of a book called Sweet Glory. It is a work of historical fiction about a woman who disguised herself as a man to fight for the union in the Civil War. The story was inspired by a real life figure.**
- Feb. 19:** Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program to be announced.**
- March 19:** Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program to be announced.**
- April 16:** Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program: Bradford Smith and Ellen Kostroff will discuss their book, From New York to Florida – An American Family's Life on the Road Between the World Wars. It was Mr. Smith's family, before he was born, who journeyed from their Galway farm to Florida in the family's 1920 Willys Knight, 4 cylinder sedan. Mr. Smith's mother kept a diary and the family had many photographs of the trip.**

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

Mary Cuffe Perez's novel, "Nothing By Name" delighted the small but attentive members and guests at our Oct. 16 meeting. The book tells the story of life long Galway resident, Rachael Scriptor. Rachael was a very independent woman who lived her whole life without the luxuries we take for granted – electricity and running water. Mary combined fiction with facts on Rachael's life, and used poems to tell her story. Mary's name is "Dawn" in the book, which I thought could be the author's awakening to a way of life we believe is non-existent. It tells of Dawn's determination to meet this woman, "Ruby" who does everything for herself, not counting on anyone to help her. Abandoned by her mother at a young age, abused by her brother and left alone to live on the Galway farm, Rachael managed to live a long life and was thankful for what she did have. The blueberry bushes that were planted by her brother, provided a small income. She raised sheep for years, which she sheered herself – with hand sheers!

The book's title refers to the fact that Racheal knew and was aware of her surroundings but had no name for what was there. For example, she knew all the calls of birds, what they looked liked, but did not know their name. Mary did not give up meeting this lady, and finally became her friend. We had a couple from Galway at the meeting who had no luck meeting Rachael, yet wondered who this woman was, how she could go day after day, taking care of the farm, carrying water in buckets for her needs, tending and feeding the sheep and other animals. She did have a man she was sweet on, but you'll need to read the book to find out what happened. The book "Nothing By Name" is available at the Village Home and Garden store in Galway, or online at www.marycuffeperez.com. Hint, Christmas is around the corner!

Don't forget the Nov. 11 Veterans Day Dinner at the Middle Grove Firehouse. It will be spaghetti and meat sauce, (plain will be available), made by Greenfield's Pat Brust.

This event is being held with the Middle Grove Ladies Auxiliary. Lets make this a successful event. If you would like to help, give me a call at 587-6060 or 893-7432. If you can't attend, please help by spreading the word. We could use desserts: pies, cakes, cookies, etc. Get out of cooking and have a great dinner!

Our museum project is progressing. We have a wonderful donation of large file cabinets from Al Janik. These cabinets will allow us to store pictures and photographs, also some of our artifacts. We also have a donation of three glass display cases. The Dake Collection has been logged and marked. If you would like to help, call Ron Feulner 893-0620, Joyce Woodard 893-7638 or Robert Roeckle 581-0760.

Historian's Corner by Ron Feulner

Our office in town hall continues to be busy as usual. One of the aspects of this job that I find most difficult to get used to is the idea that I will never be able to say that I am caught up. Just as we seem to be making good progress on a couple of projects, two or three new ones come in.

As Joyce Woodard, my deputy historian, often tells me — when I start whining about being so far behind — she says, “You have to look at what we have accomplished instead of what we still have to do.” She is, of course, right about that. We have come a long way in the few years that we have been working at it, and most of those accomplishments are due to the hard work of my excellent team of volunteers. Not only do they get a lot done, but they seem to enjoy themselves while doing it.

We are still working at the cemetery mapping project that Rick Bishop began last spring. Nancy Homiak is digitizing Ricks sketch maps and photographs of the cemeteries so that we can put together a booklet showing where all the cemeteries are located. Nancy was making good progress with this until I pulled her off that project to start scanning and printing photos of Town of Greenfield veterans. The Saratoga VFW had asked our supervisor, Dick Rowland, if we could provide photos for a display that they are organizing, and Dick asked us to help.

We managed to find more than 20 photographs of veterans from Greenfield, but it made us aware of how sparse our collection of veteran photographs is. We didn't have the time to collect more photos for this project, but now we would appreciate it if any of you who read this and have a photo of a parent, relative, or friend who is/was from the Town of Greenfield and served in the military, we would appreciate your sharing the photo with us. You can email it to me at thistorian@nycap.rr.com or bring it into the office some Wednesday. We can scan it and return the original to you.

While we are talking photographs, I am also looking for historical photographs that we can use in our new museum that we are working on at the IOOF hall. We especially need photographs of logging and agricultural activities in the town. Again, we can scan them and return the originals to you.

Nancy Homiak, our newest volunteer, is doing most of our work with photographs at the new computer center that I set up for that purpose last summer. She

The Wood Raffle Winner was Joan Rowland and the 50/50 Winner was JoAnn Rowland. The Chili Cookoff winner was Lelah Cornell.

Community Events

Grange Breakfast – 8 - 11:30 a.m., Nov. 11 and Dec. 10 with Santa.

Election Day Chicken and Biscuit Dinner at Middle Grove Church, 3 - 7 p.m., Nov. 6.

Homemade Wreaths. Porter Corners Church. Decorated – \$20, undecorated – \$14.

Must be pre-ordered. Call Joan Rowland at 893-7786.

Porter Corners Firehouse Breakfasts. The first Sunday of the month, from 7 - 11 a.m. All the fixins – All you can eat. Adults – \$6, Seniors – \$5.

has made great progress in setting up digital files of our photograph collection, but there are so many photos that need identification and sorting that it will be an on-going project for her.

Marie and Ruth Ann have been reading old diaries in our collection and creating a database of names, places, and events mentioned in them. If you have old diaries from your family, we would like to add them to our collection.

You may be wondering, at this point, what I do while these volunteers are working so hard. It seems as if I spend most of my time answering emails and phone calls from people asking for information about their ancestors who once lived in the town. When I am not doing this, I try to think up new projects for the volunteers and troubleshoot those that they are currently working on. One thing for sure, there is never a dull moment in the office.

We continue to make progress on the museum project at the IOOF hall. We are planning a work day to move a lot of stuff (chairs, display cases, etc.) around to make room for the museum displays. If the weather cooperates, we should have this done by the time you are reading these words. Soon, we will be getting serious about putting the displays together. If you have any artifacts that you want to donate, please contact me. We are looking for lumbering equipment including a spud for peeling wood, a peevee and/or a cant hook, etc. We have a buck saw and crosscut, as well as a 1960s chain saw. An old two-man Mall would be a welcome addition, but I don't think that there are many of those around. We could also use an old but good single-bit and double-bit axe. And, of course, as I mentioned earlier, photographs of the pulpwood and logging business (both old and present day would be most welcome).

I am putting together an email museum group for people who would like to know what we are doing or when we are working on the various museum projects, so if you would like to be included, email me or call me 518-893-0620 and give me your email address, and I will include you.

We have finished inventorying the Gary Dake collection and now will begin sorting it again for the purpose of deciding which pieces will be used and how to best display them. Gary's architect, Chad Fowler, met with Louise, our president, and me at the IOOF hall and reported some of our needs back to Gary. Gary has decided to help us by arranging to have some display cases made for us. I will provide more information as the project develops.

VETERANS DAY SPAGHETTI DINNER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2012

3 TO 7 P.M.

MIDDLE GROVE FIREHOUSE

North Creek Road, Middle Grove, N.Y.

Featuring: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Salad, Italian Bread, Homemade Desserts, Beverages

Adults – \$9

Children under 10 – \$5

Active-duty Military Personnel – Free

*Hosted by the Middle Grove Ladies Auxiliary and
The Town of Greenfield Historical Society*

For more information, call 587-6060 or 893-0645



Take Out Available



Heritage Hunters November Meeting – Genealogy and Local History

Heritage Hunters of Saratoga County will meet on Saturday, Nov. 17, at 1 p.m. at the Town of Saratoga Town Hall, corner of Rt. 4 and Rt. 29 in Schuylerville. Lynn Calvin, genealogy researcher, will present “Searching Through Probate Records.” His talk will include the history and structure of New York’s probate courts; the process of probate; why probate records are useful in genealogical research; and where to find records in N.Y. and other states. Public is welcome. For information, call 587-2978.

IOOF Hall Visitation Hours

The IOOF Hall will be open for visitors on Tuesdays,
from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Please call ahead to make an appointment.

Joyce Woodard – 893-7638 or Ann Michel – 306-6632

October refreshment volunteers, Patty Schwartzbeck, Katie Finnegan and Joyce Woodard served lots of chocolate chip cookies and brownies.

November refreshment volunteers are Alice Feulner and Janet Jones.

Janet Jones, Refreshment Committee

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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