



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 4

www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

Calendar

- Dec. 15:** Saturday, *Christmas Party*, 1 - 4 p.m. at the IOOF Hall in Middle Grove. Please bring cookies to share.
Theme: Christmas Caroling Memories and Sing-a-Long. 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: Bill Dake will tell some stories and give a little bit of history of the Dake family, and also speak about how Stewart's came to evolve from Dake's ice cream.*
- 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 Willlys Knight, four-cylinder sedan. Mr. Smith's mother kept a diary and the family had many photographs of the trip.*

Newsletter Index for Sale

A listing of key search words (proper nouns), alphabetized and where they can be found (bound and three-hole punched).

Available at the Town Hall for \$12. Mailed copies: \$15.

Call the Town Hall at 518-893-7432, ext. 300.

To benefit future projects of the Historical Society.

Please Note: Most of you have paid your dues for the current year, but a few have forgotten. To jog your memory, we are placing a box near the return address on the last page. If a red "X" appears in the box, it means, that according to our records, you have not yet paid. The January issue will be sent to only those who are up-to-date with their dues. If you feel a mistake has been made, please contact JoAnn Rowland at 518-893-7786.

WEEZIE'S WORDS

by Louise Okoniewski

On Oct. 11, the Odd Fellows hall was visited by Cub Scout Pack #18. Led by Pack Leader, Bill Welmaker and some of the parents, the Scouts toured the IOOF. They were very inquisitive and willing to learn. Joyce Woodard introduced the hall by giving a history of how long the building has been in Middle Grove. The young men enjoyed looking at an old letter canceling machine, an old type writer, and were very intrigued by the fossils from Lester Park. They held and touched the "rocks" that are so old. We had the Stewarts artifacts downstairs and a lot of questions were asked as to what each item was used for. To my surprise, they were interested in the Veterans wall and a uniform from WWI. While we could not let them look at the uniform (it's packed in a trunk), they were able to hold a helmet that was worn in that war by a member of the Scott Family of Greenfield. Then we took a trip to the upstairs. The logging tools caught their interest. The parents were interested in the Odd Fellows and Masons memorabilia. They had questions on the organizations, what they represented etc, and the 'rituals.' Everyone enjoyed the tour and I'm sure they will be back again.

Nov. 11, Veterans Day, we held a spaghetti dinner with the Middle Grove Ladies Auxiliary at the Middle Grove Firehouse. Melissa Murray of the Auxiliary helped to organize the event. Saturday, members of the Auxiliary and the Historical Society got together to get things ready for the Sunday event. Pat Brust was busy making her famous sauce with help from Patty Kellerhouse, Courtney Potter and Ann Cornell. Janet Jones and Nancy Homiak set tables and along with Alice Feulner rolled silverware. Sunday, "Pasta King" Brian Bishop was busy cooking the spaghetti while Dave Middlebrook, (Sponge Bob), kept up with the dishes. Bill Welmaker and the Cub Scouts served the beverages, while Courtney Potter and Christina and Patty Kellerhouse served the dinners. Members of both organizations brought many homemade desserts and were on hand to help if needed. Thanks to the members of the Historical Society, the ladies Auxiliary, the Middle Grove Fire Department, and the residents of Greenfield and Galway who stopped by for dinner. Our combined efforts helped to make this event a success.

Our program on Nov. 20 at the Community Center was Will Martin, speaking about his book “Benedict Arnold: Legacy Lost.” His book centers on Benedict Arnold who, as we were taught in school, was a traitor to this country. His book asks many questions as to why someone who fought so hard for freedom from the British would eventually sell out to them? Will Martin’s book looks into the man and influences that may have made him commit this act of treason. He was good friends with George Washington, fought many battles, some in this area, and was wounded. Could he have been tricked by his wife Peggy Shippen Arnold and his rival, British Officer, John Andre? At her death, Peggy Arnold had a snippet of John Andre’s hair in a locket. What about the “spy rings” in New York City that were founded by George Washington? What happened at the meetings at West Point between Benedict Arnold and George Washington? When it was declared that Benedict Arnold had given secret papers to the British, why did George Washington want him brought back ‘alive?’ These are only a few questions that Will Martin investigates in his book. I’m sure that “Benedict Arnold: Legacy Lost” would make a great Christmas or holiday gift. You won’t be disappointed.

Upcoming Events – Dec. 15: Saturday, Christmas Party, 1 - 4 p.m. at the IOOF hall in Middle Grove. Please bring cookies to share. **Theme: Christmas Caroling Memories and Sing-a-Long.** Co-chairs: JoAnn and Joan Rowland.

Historian’s Corner – by Ron Feulner

I’m getting to the age where I tend to overestimate what I can accomplish in a day and underestimate what others can do. A case in point occurred during our volunteer work day on Nov. 3, when the following volunteers came to work: Tom Kinsella; Dan, Lynn and Sarah Chertoc; Debbie Chen; Mike, Marion, Mike Jr., Jordon and Joey Gyarmathy; Tom and Sue Martin; Ron and Melissa Deutsch; Lauren Rowland; Walker Chandler; Coral Crossman; John Munter; and Ron Feulner.

Dan Muller and his wife had donated three large and very heavy glass display cases to the historical society museum project. The only problem, they were in the basement of their house. I examined them before our work day and found that, on my knees, I could just about lift one end of one of one of the cabinets off the floor. They had to be moved up a long set of concrete cellar stairs and then across the back yard to a place where we could park the truck.

I came home and did a lot of thinking about how six strong volunteers might be able to accomplish this. My first idea involved a heavy rope looped back and forth under the cabinet so that three volunteers on a side could each grip a portion of the rope and carry the cabinet between them.

However, in the middle of the night, before the move, I woke up and started thinking that the rope idea might not work because the width of the cellar stairway was such that it might not be wide enough for two sets of lifters plus the width of the cabinet, besides which, the cabinet might roll off the rope while being carried up the steep steps.

At about 3 a.m., while still in bed, I came up with another idea that involved screwing two long spruce one-by-fours to the bottom of the cabinet and then two of the strongest men could carry it like a gurney with the others supporting and lifting from the sides, but I wasn’t sure that would work either.



Bill Welmaker is giving instructions to Cub Scout Pack #18, who served the drinks and helped clean up.



TOGHS members enjoying the spaghetti dinner.



Brian Bishop is the Pasta King.

When morning finally came, I loaded the rope, the spruce one-by-fours, some planking, and everything else I could think of on the back of the truck and headed for the IOOF hall. The place was swarming with volunteers. I had them start by carrying the large collection of artifacts donated by the Dake family upstairs and the oversized IOOF wooden chairs down. I had thought that this would take all morning, but they finished in less than an hour. By the time they finished, Tom Martin was ready with his truck and trailer to go after the display cases. We had three to pick up at the Muller’s and another one donated by Patty and Richard Schwartzbeck, which was in the basement of the Mom and Pops store in Porter Corners. This last one was an antique wood and glass case that had been in the store during the time when Joe Doherty owned and operated the store. Just about every resident of the area remembers buying penny candy from this case.

Walt Chandler’s son, Walker, rode to the Muller residence with me. He is a tall, muscular junior in high school who has spent a lot of time with his older brother and dad lumbering, and I knew that he was going to be an asset. I assembled all six of the volunteers in the basement and explained that I had a “plan A” which involved the rope, and a “plan B” with the spruce boards, but I was also open to suggestions.

I looked over at Walker standing in the corner, and I could sense that he had something to say but was hesitant to speak up with six older more experienced men standing there, so I said, “Walker, if you’ve got something to say, speak up.” He sheepishly said, “Why don’t we just carry it out!”

Ron Deutsch said, “Yeah, that sounds like a good idea,” and before I could get my camera out, they had one cabinet half way up the cellar stairs. In fact they had them all loaded before I could get organized enough to take pictures.

Later, at the store, I did manage to snap a few pictures before they finished with that cabinet. That one had to come up an even steeper and narrower set of cellar stairs.

Back at the IOOF hall, John Munter had brought a powered lift (a four-wheeled machine with a telescoping arm used for lifting heavy building materials up to high places (in our case, the cabinets up to the second floor window of the IOOF hall). John asked for a volunteer who wasn't afraid of heights to ride with the cabinet to steady it during the lift, and again, Walker stepped forward.

Within short order, we had the three display cases and two large filing cabinets (donated by Al Janik) up and through the window where several of the volunteers received them and placed them in the appropriate museum locations. The antique display case from the store was placed on the first floor of the IOOF hall where it matches another old cabinet that we already had.

While we were accomplishing all of this, Mike Gyarmathy (our building and grounds person) had another crew working in the carriage sheds laying down a wood plank floor in one of the bays which will be used for storage. Patty and Richard Schwartzbeck had donated enough pine planking to do more than half the floor, and Mike had donated some pressure treated lumber which he used as sleepers under the pine planking. I did manage to get a few pictures of this group and their project, also.

Not only have people been donating cabinets, lumber and their time, but my wish list of display artifacts are also coming in. Since the last newsletter, when I mentioned that it would be nice to have some old chain saws including a two-man "Mall" to display, Joan and JoAnn Rowland donated a large number of farming and lumbering tools, including a "Mall" two-man saw and an early one-man "Titan" saw. The "Mall" was in poor condition. Later, Don Kline, from Lake Luzerne, donated a "Mall" two-man saw (the same model and year as the Rowland sister's saw but in much better condition), so I decided to return the first one to the Rowlands.

Harold Jones and I spent a pleasant morning at his garage/work shop and cleaned the saws getting them ready for display. Later, Tom Merrills helped me unload them at the IOOF hall.

Still on my wish list is a lumbering tool called a "spud" (see photo). It was used to peel the bark from trees that had been felled and the limbs removed. In the early days of the pulp wood industry, pulp wood buyers preferred pulp wood with the bark removed and were willing to pay more for it. Just about every woodsman and farmer in the area would cut and peel a few cords of wood during the peeling season (spring and early summer), and then, in late summer or early fall, cut it up in 4 foot lengths and haul it out where it could be loaded on trucks. This represented a cash crop during the mud season when you couldn't do much else. My guess is that there are a number of spuds stuck away in local barns



"Peeling Spud." Jack knife is for size comparison.

where the owners have no idea what they were used for. If we could find one and have it donated, I would be pleased.

Back at the historian's office, our big news this past month was the printing of the newsletter index that one of my volunteers, Ruth Ann Assmann, assembled. She spent a good deal of time going through all the old newsletter and writing down key search words (proper nouns), alphabetizing them, and listing where they can be found. The historical society has accepted Ruth Ann's generous offer to let us print copies and sell them as a fund raiser. They are bound with three holes punched in them, so they can go in the same notebook as the newsletters that many of you save. Even if you are not doing research, they are interesting to read and remember some of our old articles, and you will be helping the organization raise some much needed capital for our many projects. We are selling them at Town Hall, so drop in and pick up your copy for \$12. If you prefer, we can mail copies to you at a cost of \$15. They would also make a nice Christmas gift for someone special. You can call Town Hall at 518-893-7432, ext. 300.

Work Day – IOOF Hall, Nov. 3, 2012



John Munter and his lift.



Walker Chandler, Ron Deutsch and Lauren Rowland loading one of two file cabinets donated by Al Janik.



Walker Chandler guiding one of the three display cases donated by Dan Muller.



Walker Chandler and Ron Deutsch loading the candy display case in Tom Martin's trailer.



Lunch break: Lynn and Dan Chertok, Mike Gyarmathy, Melissa Deutsch, Mike Gyarmathy Jr. and Ron Deutsch.



Candy display case from Mom and Pop's Store in Porter Corners donated by Patty Schwartzbeck.

My Memories of the Candy Case by Janet Jones

I remember the candy case when it was owned by Viola (Jones) and Joseph Doherty, my grandparents, proprietors of Doherty's Store. I couldn't wait to go to the store to get candy. The penny candy was on the left side and the wrapped candy bars were on the right. Joe would get out the little paper bag and wait for my decision on what I wanted. He was very patient. When I got a little older, I could go behind the case and fill up my own bag. He would also let me help other people and I would stand there and "try" to be patient while they made up their minds. That's when I realized how patient he was with me! When I grew taller, he always told me not to lean on the glass on top of the case because it might break, and I never did. But he never said anything about getting my finger prints on the glass in the front as I pointed to my selections. I never saw him wash it, but I'm sure he had to do it often. I don't ever remember paying for my candy; but maybe he added it to my parent's weekly bill!



Tom Kinsella, Ron Deutsch and Dan Chertok guide cabinet through upstairs window.



Lynn Chertok with nail gun.



Mike Gyarmathy installing floor boards donated by Patty and Richard Schwartzbeck.



End of day: Tom Kinsella, Lauren Rowland, Ron Deutsch and Walker Chandler.

Christmas Caroling

by Joan E. Rowland

As most of you know, each year for the Holiday Open House a theme is selected. This year JoAnn has suggested singing Christmas Carols and giving the group time to see the museum and all the new items that have been donated and displayed.

I decided that with Christmas Carols are always a story or two. I would like to share my Caroling story with you:

In the late 1990s (not that long ago), the Porter Corners United Methodist Church had a large group of members in their early 30s. They decided to gather on a cold Wednesday evening and go out to a list of older members to sing a carol or two at each house.

I joined them in the convoy of five cars and vans. Our group was 20 to 25 people strong. Our first house was mine, to sing to my mom, Evelyn. We all piled out and I took them right in the house and we circled around the big kitchen table. We sang a couple songs, grabbed up the cookies I had for the group and went on our way. Next stop was the next house up on Ormsbee Road, my aunts, Frances Young. We got out and decided to sing to the mountain outlook. Wouldn't it be neat to sing and hear the songs echo?

We sang and it was so neat in the crisp air. Problem was, Frances did not hear the songs since her TV was on. When the minister asked her how she liked the songs, she said she thought something was outside but was not sure. So we sang again.

We continued around a big loop and found out, we needed to knock on doors, to get their attention first since so many were hard of hearing, we would be singing and they never would hear us.

Our last stop was the Wagon Wheel to the elderly lady who lived there. I was excited because I had never been in the house. It was dark but warm inside. We stood by the big old fireplace and started to sing a carol when she stopped us and said – do you know I am Jewish?

We changed to Frosty the Snow Man. Although we sang "Wish you a Merry Christmas" at each house, we didn't here – we kind of just got up and left.

We went back to the church to have hot chocolate and cookies and laughed at ourselves. We have gone caroling since but no other trip was quite the learning experience of this one.

So my question to you is – do you have a caroling story to share with the group?

Please join us at the Christmas Party for holiday cookies and the famous hot cider on Dec. 15 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the IOOF hall in Middle Grove.

November refreshment volunteers, Alice Feulner and Janet Jones, served Apple Cake; pepperoni, cheese and crackers; and Susan Martin brought cookies. Thank you.

December refreshments will be cookies donated by our members.

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson

Veterans Day Dinner



**Some
of the
helpers**

**at the
spaghetti
dinner:**



**Boy
Scouts**

**Auxiliary
Members**



Firemen

In Memory of Mary Anna DeMarco

Saratoga Springs – Mary DeMarco passed away Saturday, Nov. 3, 1012, at the Glendale Nursing Home. She was born Nov. 5, 1927, in Worcester, N.Y. ...

In 1971, Mrs. DeMarco became the district reading coordinator for Saratoga Springs city schools and the family moved to Greenfield. She served on the Greenfield Environmental Commission, was a member of the Greenfield Historical Society and served as general chairwoman of the town's Heritage Bicentennial Commission in 1993.

After retiring from teaching, Mary was appointed to the position of Greenfield historian in 1990. In her new position, she provided genealogical information for family history researchers and collected, protected and disseminated the town's history. She wrote articles and worked with the students at Greenfield Elementary School in their learning of local history. ...

Burial followed in the family plot at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Worcester.

A full obituary is on file with The Town of Greenfield Historical Society.

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@cstdsl.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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