



Historical Society Newsletter

Our 30th Anniversary Year

OFFICERS: President: Louise Okoniewski; Vice President: Robert Roeckle;
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 7

www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

CALENDAR

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 Willys Knight, 4 cylinder sedan. Mr. Smith's mother kept a diary and the family had many photographs of the trip.

May 21: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.
Program: Coral Crosman will talk about her new book of short stories and the history of her house, which may be one of the older ones in town.

Aug. 3, Saturday, Porter Corners School Reunion
Middle Grove Park Pavilion, see info on page 3.

Aug. 10: Saturday, Caboose Day at King's Station
Corner of Route 9N and Porter Road.
More information to follow.

Our 30th Anniversary

July 26, 1983 – First Meeting of The Town of Greenfield Historical Society

I NEED ARTICLES AND/OR PHOTOS FOR OUR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS.

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.

WEEZIE'S WORDS

by Louise Okoniewski

Sorry for canceling our February meeting. The weather prediction for afternoon and evening was not good. After a few phone calls, it was decided to cancel the meeting. We tried to get the word out, and apologize if anyone ventured out and we weren't there.

Here it is March and SPRING is on the way. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Town of Greenfield Historical Society. The upstairs museum is progressing nicely. And the warmer weather generally brings lots of energy.

We will be having the Farmer's Market once again. I believe this is our sixth year, (if you count the early ones at IOOF Hall). We'll have our anchor veggie vendors, along with the homemade jams, jellies, breads, rolls, cookies, honey, grain and free range meats, etc. We'll start the end of June and run to September. If you are interested in becoming a vendor, email mkd67@aol.com, kouki3@aol.com or call the Town Hall.

We have been invited back to the Saratoga County Fair in July. We had a lot of good feedback from our entry last year, and the visitors enjoyed our display. We will once again be in the Townley Building, (same building as the Grange).

August 10 will be our Caboose Day at King's Station on Route 9N and Porter Road. Don't forget this is also a car show, so bring your ride! It doesn't need to be fancy. We have a lot of folks who enjoy the train and cars.

We hope to sponsor a Toy and Hobby Fair at the Grange, sometime this summer. Stay tuned for more information.

Last, but not least, look for the Harvest Fest, late September or early October.

If anyone has any ideas, would like to help with any of the events, don't keep it to yourself! Let us know ... we're glad to have you!!

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

The museum project is on schedule. Since last month, Sandy Kilmer has provided a number of photos showing the Kilmer Sawmill on Lake Desolation Road at various points during its three generation history. Guy T. Kilmer ran it as a water-powered mill (the old mill is still there but would require a lot of work to run again).

Sandy's late husband, Jud Kilmer Sr., built a new diesel powered mill next to the old water powered mill in the 1960s and updated it several times through the decades since. Now, her son, Jud Jr. is running the mill, as well as his logging business. These photos will help us tell the rich lumbering history of the Town of Greenfield.

Brian Auwarter is working on several projects at the museum including the fitting of the new glass panel to the old candy display case that came from the Mom and Pops Store in Porters and a new plexiglas cover for the coffin. He will soon begin work at organizing the IOOF display.

Sandy and Jim Wimet have been working on the glass display cases donated by the Dan Muller family. Sandy has cleaned the cabinets inside and out while Jim has made repairs, added swivel casters to the bottom of them and gave them two fresh coats of paint. I thank my lucky stars for finding someone willing and with the necessary expertise to give these old cabinets a fresh start.



Sandy and Jim Wimet at the IOOF Hall Museum.

I have been working on the lumbering display area, building a rack to display our antique chainsaws and also rebuilding a log holder for a chopping display. In between, I made a few repairs on the hoosier cabinet which will soon be ready for a coat of paint.

I also have been working at putting together a history of Stewart's Ice Cream, as well as gathering photos for both the agricultural display and the logging display.



Ron Feulner at the IOOF Hall Museum.

If you have old photos of either of these activities in the Town of Greenfield, please contact me at 518-893-0620. I can scan the photos and give them right back to you.

At town hall, our historian projects continue. Ruth Ann and Marie (volunteers) are still working at creating a database of names and places mentioned in two of our oldest diaries. Liz is working at transcribing Otto Plaug's cassette tapes, and Nancy and Joyce are working at identifying and digitally filing photographs. Nancy and Rick also are helping me finalize our cemetery identification project. Joan Bisso Rowland is still working on our vital statistics data base.

Skidmore professor, Bob Jones, is still working with me to develop an awesome computerized mapping history of the Town of Greenfield. Professor Jones recently held a seminar for county historians and other interested parties at the new GIS (Geographic Information Systems) center at Skidmore. He asked me to share the program by telling the group how I am able to benefit from the map system that we have put together in Greenfield. Rick Bishop also had an opportunity to talk about his cemetery field work which made that part of the map program possible. We will be presenting a similar program at the Heritage Hunters meeting at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 16 at the old high school building in Schuylerville. Guests are welcome.

One of the reasons I like my job as town historian so much is that not only do we have all these on-going projects but we usually have one or more mysteries that we are trying to solve. One mystery that we have been working on for some time is a stone in the Greenfield Cemetery (on Wilton Road) that reads, "65 Unknown Graves." We have come up with one plausible explanation but are unable to verify it. If you have any knowledge or ideas about this unusual stone, please share them with us. (See photo on page 3.)



St. John's Cemetery in Greenfield

Wish List for the Museum

Laptop Computer

External Hard Drive

Scanner/Color Printer – 11x17

Digital Camera

Label Maker

A Housekeepers Poem

“The vacuum! The vacuum!”
 They’d screech in a rage –
 “I guess we’re now history – in just another page!”
 The thumbprints on the walls no longer appear,
 no means of identity will ever be here!
 The gal with the polish, and the soft cloth,
 make the wood lustrous with a high buff – issuing
 disaster for any dust, or other stuff.
 The walls in the bathroom are now glowing,
 No more splash marks or haze is showing.
 The floors have been washed along with the shower
 A bit of scrubbing with dynamic cleaning power.
 The pictures all hung so patiently on the wall,
 Waiting for the gal to come and polish them all.
 The floors got jealous of all the fuss,
 and began shouting, “Please won’t you do us?”
 So carefully, the vacuum did its’ work,
 no easy task, no mindless quirk.
 Soon things began to sparkle and shine,
 Not too much trouble but more or less the time.
 Lurking in the shadows, spiders began to cower,
 This gal was after them,
 hiding in their lofty tower.

Fran Lambert

February’s meeting was cancelled due to bad weather and re-scheduled for the May meeting.

I’m serving Stewart’s Ice Cream at our March meeting.

Janet Jones, Refreshment Committee

HERITAGE HUNTERS MEETINGS AND HISTORY FAIRE

The following Heritage Hunters meetings will be held on Saturdays at 1 p.m., Town of Saratoga Town Hall, 12 Spring St. [Route 29], Schuylerville. For information, email melfrejo@aol.com or call 518-587-2978. Public is welcome.

March 16 – The speaker will be **Bob Jones**, an associate professor of economics at Skidmore College. He is currently working with Greenfield’s historian, Ron Feulner, in mapping the town’s cemeteries. Bob will explain the process and how we might use “Google Earth” to solve our own geographical riddles.

April 20, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Heritage Hunters will hold its second annual **HISTORY FAIRE**. It will be held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Center, 50 West High St., Ballston Spa. Local historians, historical societies, churches, cemeteries, funeral homes, lineage groups and youth groups will be present.

May 18 – **Kim McCartney**, HH member and researcher for Brookside Museum, will discuss her experience with DNA testing. Others who have taken DNA tests for genealogical reasons are encouraged to bring their results and experiences to this program.

June 15 – **Bill Greer**, a Trustee of the New Netherland Institute, will present the program “Sex and the City: The Early Years.” The program looks at the bawdy world of Dutch New York from 1624 to 1664. The talk examines the libertine culture Europeans brought to the Hudson Valley through anecdotes of real people and events along with art, literature and folklore of the era.

July 20 – **Steve Clarke**, of Churchville, N.Y., will be talking about his Palatine research and the German language and name confusion problems he had to solve in order to be accepted into the Sons of the American Revolution.

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,
and thinking about stories to share.**

The reunion will start at noon.

Please bring a dish to share, your own beverages
and lawn chairs.

**Everyone is welcome – even if you didn’t attended
any of the schools in Porter Corners.**

Call Don Young, at 893-2643, if you have any questions.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Become a member of The Town of Greenfield Historical Society and receive our newsletter. **Our membership year begins June 1 and ends May 31, dues are paid annually. Send \$10 per household (or \$100 for Lifetime Membership)** along with your name and address to the address shown below. **IF YOU SEND MORE THAN ONE YEARS DUES, THE BALANCE WILL BE CONSIDERED A DONATION.** You also may 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, email Dan Chertok at bmmschertok@gmail.com or dgclawoffices@csdsl.net. You also may call (518-893-2268) or write him at: Dan Chertok, 58 Ormsbee Road, Porter Corners, NY 12859

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

