



## Historical Society Newsletter

**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 14, Issue 5



[www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com)

### CALENDAR

**January 21, 2014:** Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m.  
at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.  
*Program: Elaine Handley is writing a book, "Deep River," about the Underground Railroad in this area and will talk about contraband camps in the Civil War, with flashbacks to the Greenfield part of the story.*

**February 18, 2014:** Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m.  
at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.  
*Program: Ron Feulner talking about "Greenfield Before It Became Greenfield."*

**March 18, 2014:** Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m.  
at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.  
*Program to be announced.*

**August 9, 2014:** Saturday, *Fifth Caboose Day at King's Station.* Located at the corner of Route 9N and Porter Road.

Sorry that the newsletters were late getting to a lot of people last month and that some of them were destroyed. Louise has been looking into these problems with the post office. If yours was destroyed or you didn't receive one, please contact Louise at 587-6060 or Janet at JJones18215@roadrunner.com and we'll send you a replacement.

*We'd like to welcome more lifetime members, Coral Crosman, Liz Frank, Frank Goyette, Jennifer Jones, and Joan and Fred Cady.*

*Thanks for bringing cookies to the Christmas Party.  
January refreshment volunteers are  
Katie Finnegan and Alice Feulner.*

**I NEED ARTICLES AND/OR PHOTOS  
FOR OUR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS. Mail to:  
The Town of Greenfield Historical Society,  
P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833  
or email it to: [JJones18215@roadrunner.com](mailto:JJones18215@roadrunner.com).**

### WEEZIE'S WORDS

by Louise Okoniewski

Can you believe it? Here we are in 2014, and by time you read the first newsletter of the new year, we will be two weeks into it. In retrospect, we accomplished some of our goals in 2013. The Farmers Market at Middle Grove Park was a success. We had a few new vendors along with the vendors that have been with us from day one. We introduced new music, and a "Market Manager," J'mae Shamrose of Mayhem Organic Farm. Some of our vendors attended the first Open House at Brookhaven Park, and we were represented at the Saratoga County Fair for the second year.

In August, we had our largest Caboose open house at King's Station. The turnout of cars and visitors was fantastic! The Harvest Fest in October saw the end to the market season and also was a preview to the Odd Fellows Hall museum. We did something a little different and hosted a "Meet the Candidates" night, in which Town Historian, Ron Feulner, gave a brief history of the formation of the Town, which was enjoyed by the candidates. (I'm sure it was different from the other events they attended.) I would say that one of the most satisfying was Odd Fellows Hall. Ron Feulner, Lee Bishop, Brian Auwater, Liz Frank and Marie Ahl, worked endlessly on upstairs displays in the hall. We have a replica kitchen from the 1920s, an Odd Fellow and Mason section, a lumbering section and the history of Stewart's with the generous donations from the Dake family. Robert Roeckle, Joyce Woodard and Ann Michel set up the downstairs displays, organizing photographs, displays and artifacts. The October preview surprised everyone on the progress of the museum. We took a giant step forward.

Our 2014 goals are not unreachable. Updating our website. A grand opening for Odd Fellows Hall Museum in the early summer. Ron Duetsch is working on a fund raiser, possibly late May, at the Mansion on the Hill. We will be in the sixth year of our Farmer's market, starting in June. I've already received paperwork from the Saratoga County Fair to set up our agriculture display in July. I'm sure vendors and the Historical Society will be invited to the Second Open House at Brookhaven Park. August 9 will be our Fifth Caboose Day.

One big project will be work at our gem, Daketown School. Vince Walsh opened up the area around the school by taking down the large maple trees. The school looks much 'happier' without them. However, it does need scraping, painting and work on the soffits where some little varmints have decided to move in. It would be great to see a flag on the pole outside the school. The school sits off the beaten path, however, we can't ignore her.

I know it seems like a lot to get done. The years pass by fast and the summers are short. But these accomplishments are what the first organizers of the Greenfield Historical Society envisioned. The TOGHS has 30 years under it's belt, thanks to the determination and dedication of it's members and residents. Now we need to keep it moving forward.

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**The Christmas Party** on December 21 at Odd Fellows Hall started off slow, but ended up with 50 people that stopped by for the holiday greeting.

Those who haven't seen the progress at the museum were surprised. There is a lot to look at, so if you have been there, you will see something that was missed, or something new that has been added. The decorating crew did a fabulous job presenting the holidays. Everyone shared stories relating to this year's theme, 'Sitting at the dinner table.' With the amount of cookies that were baked, we had everyone's favorites. The cookie exchange was enjoyed by all and brought about \$78.00 in donations.

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**MEMBERSHIPS** ... Our memberships run from June 1 to May 31. \$10.00 covers single or family memberships and you will get a newsletter mailed to your house. The memberships help us pay bills such as electric and gas for the Odd Fellows Hall, as well as postage.

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Hope everyone has a HAPPY and HEALTHY 2014!!  
Look forward to seeing you this year.

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## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

'Tis a new year, and some of us are considering resolutions. I have a few that I would like to suggest to you. As historian, I am constantly coming across wonderful old photos of someone's mother, father, siblings, or children. The only question is, who is it, since no one ever took the time that it would have taken to write the names on the back of the photograph. In fact, I am partially guilty of this myself; however, I am trying to do better.

There are many excuses like: everyone in the family knows who this is, or we have too many photographs, and it would take too long to write on the backs of all of them, etc. We can all find excuses, but that is why there are so many of these quality photographs being thrown out every day when some future family member would give anything to know what their great grandparents looked like. Information like this is being lost forever, right now, as I write this.

If you have ever tried to piece together your family history, you know the joy that comes with the discovery of an old photo of a long forgotten family member.

It isn't difficult, and it doesn't take much time. Use an ink that doesn't run like a Sharpie pen with a fine point which you can pick up at almost any store. Write as much information as you can about who the person is such as their full name, birth, death, and marriage dates (if known) and any other information that would help a future descendent appreciate the photo. If you do not know all this information, write down what you do know about the photo and go on to the next. If you are not certain, write what you think is true and place a question mark after it. Don't try to do the whole pile at one sitting, do a few each day.

If you have already done this with your photos, perhaps you could also write down on a piece of paper the names, dates, and any information that you know about your mother, father, grandparents, etc, including notes about where they lived and where they worked. At the top or bottom of the page, place your name along with the words, "Written by," and the date. Place this information in your photo album along with the pictures. When I worked on my own family history, I came across a single sheet of

paper that my now deceased aunt had written about her memories of growing up on. It was one of the best pieces of information that I ever found concerning the family and their homestead life.

If you have already done these things and wish to go a step further, perhaps you could interview an elderly member of your family and write down all that they can remember about their youth and the family they knew. One of the most common statements that I hear as a historian is, "I wish that I had talked to my father/mother and asked them about when they were young, but now that they have passed, it is too late, and I will never know these things."

If I have inspired any of you to get busy and do these activities while there is still time to do them, I would also like to ask you to share them with your local historian (that would be me if your family lived in the Town of Greenfield-you can reach me at the town hall). We have families sharing information with us almost every week, and I think it is a good idea. So much family history is being lost because we live in such a mobile society. It is very common today for children born in the Town of Greenfield to grow up and now be living in states all across America.

The problem often comes, when their parents or grandparent die, the children have to leave their jobs and travel many miles to get here and will be here for such a short period of time. This time slot is often filled with a funeral, visits to members of the family, and cleaning out their childhood home, so it can be sold. There is seldom enough time to concern themselves with old documents, photos, and personal stuff that isn't easily transported on an airplane. As a result, this material often finds its way into a dumpster. Then, many years later, they or their children are wishing they could find some of this information that has been lost. Wouldn't it be nice for them to discover that copies were made and are still available in the local historian's office? In fact, that is partly why we do what we do as historians, so don't be afraid to share your family information with us.

I wish all of you a safe and productive new year.

## 2013 CHRISTMAS PARTY



*The Cookies*



*JoAnn Rowland, our hostess*



*Ron Feulner*



## HERITAGE HUNTERS MEETINGS

*Heritage Hunters regular program meetings are on Saturdays at 1 p.m. at the Town of Saratoga Town Hall, 12 Spring Street [corner of Route 29] in Schuylerville, NY. For more information, email [melfrejo@aol.com](mailto:melfrejo@aol.com) or call 518-587-2978. Public is welcome.*

**January 18, Saturday, 1 p.m. – Tricia Shaw**, education coordinator for the Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site, will be the speaker. She will tell us what archaeologists learned after Hurricane Irene devastated the area and unearthed a centuries-old blockhouse and remains from a Mohawk Indian settlement.

**February 15, Saturday, 1 p.m. – Libby Smith-Holmes**, retired environmental educator and HH member, will speak about traveling with a focus on genealogy. Her ancestor quests have taken her to Canada, Germany and Northern Ireland. Libby and her husband, Timothy Holmes, are authors of two local history books: “Saratoga Springs: A Brief History” and “Saratoga: America’s Battlefield.”

**March 15, Saturday, 1 p.m. – Charles Kuenzel and Dave Patterson** will introduce us to “Aaron Burr’s Saratoga.” Charles and Dave are both retired Saratoga Springs High School teachers and have a business called Saratoga Tours. They are currently producing a series of strolling tour books.

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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*Lumbering Section at the Museum*



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