



## 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 6



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

### *In Honor of Jarvis E. Rowland's 95th Birthday* by Joan E. Rowland

#### CALENDAR

**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.**

**April 15, 2014:** Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.

**Program:** Gino DiCarlo, who wrote a book "*Trolleys in the Capital District,*" will speak about his book and the Ballston Terminal Railroad which ran through Middle Grove.

**May 20, 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.* 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tour the caboose and station, vintage cars and buy lunch made by the Historical Society members. Located at the corner of Route 9N and Porter Road. For more information or if you'd like to help in any way (set up, cooking, clean up), call Louise at 587-6060.

#### WEEZIE'S WORDS

by Louise Okoniewski

Global warming? Really? That debate has been put to rest, at least for now. This bitter-cold, long-lasting winter has most of us longing for the "January thaw." This winter is reminiscent of the winters of our childhoods. Like clockwork, December brought snow. The holidays you expected snow. The end of December brought colder temperatures, and in January we expected the temps to be below zero. Those minus temps lasted at least a week and when it reached +10 and the sun was shining, it felt like a warm spring day. Some things have improved since those cold days long ago, such as cars. I remember frigid temperatures were the death of a new battery. You needed to add anti-freeze to the gas or the car would spit and sputter and the line would freeze. This happened to me near Lake Placid in the early 80s. Luckily some nice people stopped, went back to their house, and brought some of the miracle gas line antifreeze. You also knew that sub zero temps left you with the question, "Will my car start?" For some, it meant going out at midnight or so, starting the car and letting it run for a few minutes, just to make sure.

Snowmobiling, once a vibrant winter sport, has had it's ups and downs over the last 20 years. Riders could leave the Greenfield area, hit the trails and go to Corinth, Sacandaga, Galway, Schuylerville and beyond. There were many "warming spots" to have a bite to eat, something to drink and be on your way. Lately, you can't depend on the winter to provide the snow for the sport.

When we were kids, the bitter cold didn't bother us. We'd play for hours in the snow and cold. Sledding, walking, snow ball fights ... finally coming indoors with frozen faces, hands and feet. What a good day!

Let's look on the bright side of the cold weather. Ski resorts in the area, have been able to make snow.

#### *In Memory*



**Bud McKnight**

Sept. 24, 1922 -  
Jan. 30, 2014

They too have had some “bad” winters as of late. Skiers, as of Jan. 26, 2014, guess who has the deepest snow base in the east? Bet you didn’t come up with Sugar Mountain, North Carolina, where the real snow base is 100”!

According to U.S. Forest Research Biologists, the bitter cold reduces the number of tree killing bugs. The Emerald Ash Borer feeds on the bark of trees as larvae, cutting off the water and nutrient supply, resulting in the death of the tree. Continued low temperatures are known to kill more of these insects. The cold also helps to kill the mosquito and gypsy moth larvae.

The days are getting longer. January is almost over. February is a short month. March hopefully will warm up slowly. And if we reach the 90s in the summer, we won’t complain about how hot it is!

Our Jan. 21st program featured Greenfield resident, Elaine Handley. Elaine was a featured guest a couple of years ago, speaking on her novel, “Deep River.” Based on Greenfield family farm, it tells the story of the family’s involvement with the underground railroad and the people they helped to freedom. It was during her research for this book that Elaine discovered “Contraband Camps.” In 1861, three slaves escaped from Confederate-held Norfolk and made their way to Fort Monroe and gave themselves to the Union Army. General Butler, an attorney before enlisting, considered the men “contraband” and would not return them to the slave owners. Since Virginia had succeeded from the United States, he declared them contraband and refused to return the men. In the next couple of days, more men showed up, then women and children. Before long, 500 people were at Fort Monroe. In four years, thousands of slaves had escaped to Fort Monroe which became known as the Great Contraband Camp. These camps were springing up in other cities also. Some of the people lived in deplorable conditions, while some camps thrived. Smallpox and disease were prevalent in some places. Many camps were worse than what they had left behind for freedom. The camps became recruitment centers for African-American troops and workers who were willing to dig trenches, and help the Union forces on numerous fronts.

Elaine plans to tie the characters of her book with the contraband camps. Where will Greenfield fit into

her story? How does Greenfield’s underground railroad play into the farm life of the 1860s? We looking forward to reading her new book.

*Elaine Handley talking about the contraband camps during the Civil War and the Underground Railroad in this area, pertaining to her book, “Deep River.”*



## HAPPY 95TH BIRTHDAY TO JARVIS E. ROWLAND

by Joan E. Rowland

Jarvis E. Rowland was born Feb. 21, 1919, to Joseph and Florence Rowland. Jarvis would be their fourth of eight children. Jarvis grew up on Ormsbee Road in Porter Corners on the family homestead. He has always been very active in family and community.

I always remember my Uncle Jarve as the one who lived in Saratoga Springs, with the East Side Rec in his backyard. The one, who when he came to visit, may be bringing to the farm an item removed from his home during remodeling. He would think that the farm could use this item. Sometimes yes, but other times, it would sit around for years until my Dad found a use for it.

When we had a family reunion a few years back, he told about bringing his two sons up to the farm and they would get to drive the tractor (on my fathers lap of course). But they loved coming to the country.

I found out while in a restaurant with my uncle that he was a fantastic glass cutter. A man came to the table to introduce himself again and thank him for the great glass cutting he had done for him over the years. The item always fit when he cut the glass.

Currently, Uncle Jarve and his wife, Nellie, are living part of the year in Florida and part in Wilton. When a social worker asked them if they would consider living in one state or the other in some kind of adult living community, Uncle Jarve asked if he could bring his shop with him. Almost daily, he is in his shop fixing something or creating a new wooden lawn ornament. I know I have sent a chair or two home with him to be fixed. They always come back good as new.



Just before Uncle Jarve went back to Florida, he stopped in with photos of his 65th anniversary of being a Mason. A very proud honor.

I know Uncle Jarve will be celebrating his 95th birthday in Florida. I hope he takes some time to sit in the sun and enjoy his special day.

***We’d like to welcome more lifetime members, Toni L’Hommedieu and Alice and Ron Feulner.***

*January refreshment volunteers, Katie Finnegan and Alice Feulner, served ginger cookies, brownies, pecan pie, cranberry cake and fudge. (Louise’s father sent cookies.)*

*February refreshment volunteers are Joan Rowland and Lelah Cornell.*

*Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson*

**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).**

## MEMORIES

by **Toni L'Hommedieu**

*Using the Kings Station for Caboose Day reminded me of Frank Niznik. If this is the same station I remember, Frank's mother lived there when I was being transported back and forth from school by Frank for 12 years. He would stop there a few times on our way to school. I have so many stories and here is one of my favorites:*

In today's world of outsourcing, if your child takes a bus to school, he or she may have a new bus driver at least once a year. My bus driver was Frank Niznik for the 12 years I went to school in Porter Corners, Greenfield Center and Saratoga High School. Every morning at 7-ish, there was Frank and his bus. If we were not outside, he would honk the horn which either woke us up or got us out the door to the bus. Frank was the original outsourcer. He owned the little two tone green bus that we would designate as a large van or shuttle bus today. The first couple of years I took the bus, my sister Jody and I got picked up first, at least that is the way I remember it. Then Mary Ann Bellon and Phyllis and Frances Whittaker. Up the hill to pick up the Williams boys and then to Ralph Waite's. The Mousin's were not old enough to go to school yet and came later. We also picked up someone near the Weirman Farm, but can't remember who, but it wasn't Betty, Helen or Charlie. Somewhere along the way, we picked up Donnie and Gary Niznik as well.

A couple of years later, Frank got a new, larger bus and like the old one, he would drop kids at the Porter's School, then to Greenfield Center and then down to the High School. At the end of the school day, the process was reversed. Every school day, every year until I graduated, Frank went on doing this job. During this entire time, there were no accidents or even a close call. Once when the roads were icy, Frank asked my sister and I to walk home from the top of Peacock's Hill. That was as close as we ever got to anything near a close call because Frank called it before anything went wrong. We walked – no problem. You could always count on Frank, and us to trust him.

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*Does any one remember the little girl, Kat, that used to come to our meetings with her mother, Deb Dittner? At that time, she was our youngest member.*

*An email from Deb:*

Kat has definitely grown into a beautiful young lady with great goals. She's a sophomore at the University of Vermont (UVM) majoring in Athletic Training and planning to continue into Physical Therapy. She has been working with the Adirondack Phantoms the past two seasons as well. She also continues to play soccer and ice hockey, which keeps her busy!

## HISTORY FAIRE COMING

Heritage Hunters of Saratoga County is planning their third annual History Faire. This year's event will be held at the Halfmoon-Clifton Park Library on May 17, 2014. The event will be held upstairs in the library using the meeting rooms and surrounding area for displays. History takes on many forms. Presenting a wide a variety of talents, themes, times in history and related historical topics are all a part of this day. Are you involved in history? Have you written an article or book related to history? Do you like to dress up as a historical character? Have you been collecting historical objects? These are just a few of the historical ideas that can be expanded on and exhibited at the Faire.

In years past, there have been musical groups who played historical music as part of the day, re-enactors have presented a view of the Revolutionary and Civil wars, childrens' games and old time collections also have been shown. Throughout the day, knowledgeable leaders have presented a topic for a 30 - 40 minute talk. Talks on French-Canadians, Mapping, Metropolitan Sanatorium and 22nd NY Volunteer Infantry, were just some of the topics previously presented at the Faire.

Village, Town and County Historians had displays relating to their historical people and events. Book vendors brought historical books available for sale.

Students are encouraged to take part in History Faire day. For those who are involved with history, Heritage Hunters would like you to join the day in some manner and encourage your classmates to visit as well. Heritage Hunters welcome your ideas and any projects that you may be involved with that deal with history.

Contact Joan Cady at [melfrejo@aol.com](mailto:melfrejo@aol.com) or 518-587-2978 if you would like to sign up and be part of our day.

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## 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.*

**February 15, Saturday, 1 p.m. – Libby Smith-Holmes**, retired environmental educator and Heritage Hunter 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.

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

One of the things that I love about my job as town historian is the mystery aspect of it. A case in point occurred in January when I received a forwarded email from Mary Ann Fitzgerald, Saratoga City Historian.

It seems that someone had donated two paintings to an organization in Phoenix, Arizona, that helps returning veterans get resettled in domestic life. Scott Coonze, a 50-year-old veteran, who had served in Afghanistan and is now living in Phoenix, Arizona, and trying to put his life together again after a bout of homelessness in his native Indianapolis, bought a box of paintings from this veteran's organization to decorate his apartment. Taped to the back of one painting was a letter dated 1981, and addressed to a Saratoga historian indicating that the painting had been purchased by a woman living in New York City some 30 years earlier during an art exhibition, and she was requesting information regarding the artist, Cora E. Scott Waring, of Saratoga Springs. This is how the veteran, Scott Coonze, became interested in finding out more about the artist whose paintings were now hanging on the walls of his apartment in Phoenix, Arizona.

Scott had found that the artist, Cora Estella Scott Waring (whom I had never heard of) grew up and lived for a majority of her years in the Town of Greenfield. Now, as Greenfield town historian, I was interested.

I began my quest to find out more about Cora. Her family lineage was easy because she was a member of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution), and to become a member, you must document your lineage in detail.

Cora Estella Scott Waring's great-grandfather, Lieutenant Colonel William Scott, had served eight years in the American Revolution including the Battle of Saratoga and had been wounded several times and eventually pensioned. He had settled in Schenectady as a merchant, but two years later moved his family to North Greenfield (Spiers Falls Road area on the farm that is now known as the General Baily Farm) and settled as one of the first in that area. He became a successful farmer, and in 1794, he became the first supervisor in the Town of Greenfield and from 1798 to 1803, he served as one of the first justices of peace in Saratoga County. In 1815, he was buried with Masonic honors as one of the original members of St. John's Lodge, No. 90 in Greenfield.

Colonel Scott's son, Colonel Lewis Scott served in the war of 1812, and upon his return to Greenfield, worked at lumbering, farming and hotel-keeping.

Colonel Lewis Scott's son, Alexander Hamilton Scott, and father of the artist, Cora E. Scott Waring, married Sophronia Wood Seymour, also a native of

Greenfield. Alexander Hamilton Scott also served in the military, became a school teacher, and at age 21 was elected justice of the peace in Greenfield and served in that capacity for most of the rest of his life leading to his nickname, Squire Scott. In 1858, Alexander and his wife, purchased the Seymour Hill Farm in West Greenfield where the family took up residence. They had six children, four boys and two girls, with Cora Estella Scott being one of the middle children.

Two of Cora's brothers, E. Irvin and T. Seymour, moved to Philadelphia and in 1867, began selling butcher paper from a push cart, but after opening a storefront, their business failed.

In 1879, Irvin Scott borrowed \$2,000 from his father-in-law and established the Scott Paper Company. At first he sold paper bags, wrapping paper and stationary, but by the mid-1890s, he became the leading manufacturer of toilet tissue, and in 1907, introduced his first line of Scott's paper towels. The rest is history.

Irvin's brother and former business partner, T. Seymour Scott, after leaving the failed paper business, became the managing editor of the Curtis Publishing Company, publishers of the Saturday Evening Post and the Ladies' Home Journal.

Cora Estella was educated at Ossining Institute, in Sing Sing and the young ladies Seminary in Plainfield, NJ. After becoming a school teacher for several years, her two brothers living in Pennsylvania discovered that she had art talent and decided to send her for personal instruction at the Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. After completing a course of study there, she moved on to the School of Design in the same city where she studied under Peter Moran a talented painter and etcher especially well known for his oil paintings featuring cattle and sheep. She also studied under Professor Otto Jahn for China painting. After completing her training, her brothers set her up in her own studio, and she toured the United States exhibiting her works wherever she went. In 1893, she exhibited her art work at the Chicago World's Fair. Also that year, she married a Middle Grove farmer, Herbert Waring.

In the late 1880s, she opened a studio in the Arcade Building in Saratoga Springs which she quickly outgrew and moved to a corner store in the Grand Union Hotel on Broadway. She did very well there serving wealthy clients including names like Diamond Jim Brady who one morning ordered 100 sets of her embroidery to give away as gifts. The famous actress, Lily Langtry, who was one of the first women to race her own stables in Saratoga, was another customer along with many other rich and famous people of that era in Saratoga.

Herbert and Cora resided on her family's farm earlier know as Seymour Hill Farm and later known as Hyspot Farm or Hyspot Orchard Farm – the same farm on Hyspot Road in the Town of Greenfield that her father had purchased in 1858, the year she was born. The house that she and her siblings had grown up in had burned, but Cora had constructed a new home on the farm, and Herbert and she lived in it. Herbert ran the farm while she concentrated on her art work and studio at the Grand Union Hotel in Saratoga. She and Herbert traveled extensively when not entertaining at the farm, however, they spent their winters in Florida.

In 1941, Herbert took sick and within five weeks died. Cora stayed on at the Hyspot Farm until 1947, when she sold it to Edward Mullen and his wife, and moved into an apartment in Saratoga Springs where she lived until 1952, when she died at the age of 94. Both she and her husband, Herbert, are buried in the North Milton Cemetery.

Cora E. Scott Waring never became famous enough to be a household name like Grandma Moses, but her paintings sold, and she apparently made a comfortable living from them.



*Thought to be Cora E. Scott Waring's house on Hyspot Road.*



*Cora E. Scott Waring (on the right), seen with her brother, Thomas Seymour Scott, and their niece, Carolyn May "Carrie" Scott, at an outing to Bailey Cemetery in Greenfield.*

*The photo was posted to findagrave by genealogist, Mary Harrell-Sesniak, who had access to Cora's personal letters and photo album.*

*Photo courtesy of findagrave at: <http://bit.ly/K8Fkl5>*

*Cora E. Scott Waring, the artist of these paintings, (below) was born in South Greenfield, New York, on Aug. 29, 1858.*

*These paintings are now in Phoenix, Arizona. Included with the paintings was all the information Bea Sweeney found for the previous owner, Pauline Ehrlich, who lived in New York City.*

*Ms. Waring is featured in N. B. Sylvester's "Our County and Its People."*



**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](mailto:JJones18215@roadrunner.com).**

**Updating Historic Sites Map in the Town of Greenfield**

If you have any information, email Dan Chertok at [BMMSCHERTOK@gmail.com](mailto:BMMSCHERTOK@gmail.com).

You also may call (518-893-2268) or write him at: Dan Chertok, 58 Ormsbee Road, Porter Corners, NY 12859



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