



## Historical Society Newsletter

**OFFICERS:** President: Louise Okoniewski; Vice President: Robert Roeckle;  
Secretary: Patty Schwartzbeck; Treasurer: JoAnn Rowland;  
Trustees: Dan Chertok, Ron Deutsch, Ron Feulner, Katie Finnegan and Aida Gordon

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

Volume 15, Issue 9



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

**YOU CAN NOW PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE!**

### CALENDAR

**May 19, 2015 – Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.**

*Program: Marty Podskoch will discuss his book, "Adirondack 102 Club: Your Passport and Guide to the North Country."*

**June 12 - Sept. 4, 2015 – FARMER'S MARKET, Fridays, 4 - 7 p.m., Middle Grove Town Park.**

**June 20, 2015 – Saturday, GRAND OPENING OF IOOF MUSEUM, noon to 3 p.m.**

More information to follow.

**July 21 - 26, 2015 – SARATOGA COUNTY FAIR, Tuesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., Ballston Spa Fairgrounds, Townley Building.** Visit our display and info booth.

**Aug. 8, 2015 – SIXTH CABOOSE DAY AND CAR SHOW at King's Station, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Corner of 9N and Porter Road.** Rain or Shine. For information, call 587-6060.

**Oct. 3, 2015 – Saturday, HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUNDRAISING GALA AT BROOKHAVEN GOLF COURSE – The Haven Tee Room.**

More information to follow.

**Our newest Lifetime Member is Brian Auwarter.**

*April refreshment volunteers served graham bread, coffee cake, cheese danish, brownies and lots of chocolate chip cookies.*

*May refreshment volunteers are Louise Okoniewski and Alice Feulner.*

*Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson*

### WEEZIE'S WORDS

by Louise Okoniewski

A wonderful Spring evening brought out 30 members and residents to hear Stuart Lehman's account of President Abraham Lincoln's funeral procession through Albany 150 years ago. Approximately 625,000 lives were lost in the Civil War, more than WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam wars combined. 19th century history is taken from what people wrote in letters, diaries and documents that were kept or shared with others. Nothing was more devastating, especially to those with Union sentiments, than the assassination of President Lincoln. Albany did have people that were not supporters of President Lincoln. They wanted compromise with the South and not have war.

In 1861, while President Lincoln was addressing the State Assembly and Legislature at the old State Capitol Building, John Wilkes Booth was on stage in Albany's theater. John Wilkes Booth was the most famous actor on stage, what we would consider an A-List actor today. The Civil War started April 12, 1861, at Fort Sumter.

April 9, 1865, the Civil War ended with the surrender of Robert E. Lee's last troops to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse. Albany residents heard about the surrender and proceeded to celebrate. In Albany, the state business went on as usual. April 14, 1865, Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's theater about 10 p.m. He died the next day. His body was embalmed and though his wife wanted him shipped straight to Chicago, her mind was changed for a funeral procession through 12 cities. On April 21, 1865, the train departed Washington City with two bodies on board. One being President Lincoln, and his son William (Willie) who had died in 1862. There were 10 planned funerals en route. The destination, Springfield, Illinois, was to be reached by May 2, 1865.

Forty engines and 80 cars were used in the route, changing at almost every city with different trains. The trip was 1,662 miles long. Lincoln's funeral car was originally built to travel to the new states out west.

It was completed four days before he was assassinated. He was asked to come view the train, but with the war ending he decided to take care of business at home. When the train reached New York City, it had to be ferried across the Hudson River twice. One picture was taken of Lincoln lying in state in NYC. Pictures were not allowed, possibly because of the decomposition of the body. It was an open casket, accompanied by an embalmer. It is estimated that 150,000 people waited in line to view the President.

Mayor Perry of Albany decreed that all shops and businesses close and citizens wear appropriate mourning attire. All businesses were draped in black. President Lincoln's body lay in state in the Assembly Chamber at the Old State Capitol, from 1 a.m. to 1 p.m. About 7,000 people an hour passed by his casket. At the same time that Lincoln's body was in Albany on April 26, 1865, John Wilkes Booth was captured and killed on a tobacco farm in Bowling Green, Virginia.

A lot of lives were lost in the war. Everyone in the country was grieving for someone, family member, friend, President; a lot of lives were lost in the war from both sides. Lincoln's funeral procession enabled the thousands who viewed the train or the President to grieve for what had been lost.

The funeral car that carried Lincoln was sold by the government after the funeral. It was not preserved by the buyer or treated as a special car. A prairie fire destroyed a barn that the car was housed in.

Mr. Lehman's program was very informative. He is the New York State Capitol education coordinator. He presents many programs on state history and the people who helped to make history.



*Stuart Lehman spoke about Lincoln's and Grant's funerals in commemoration of the 150th and 130th respectively anniversary of them, with an emphasis on the funeral procession in Albany. He also is assistant curator, NYS Office of General Services.*

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

The Town of Greenfield is situated along a wide shallow valley between two fault block mountain ranges (the Kayaderosseras Range to the west and the Palmerton Range to the east), and is representative of the rolling foot hills of the Adirondacks. It has two primary water features, Lake Desolataion and the Kayaderosseras Creek.

Before Europeans came to the area, it was wilderness and of little interest to Native Americans except as a hunting and fishing destination. They preferred to build their towns and villages along the more fertile bottom lands of the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers where river travel allowed for trade and more freedom of movement.

As the English came to North America in greater numbers, they built towns and cities along the Atlantic coast and eventually began to push their way inland, at first, spreading up major valleys like those of the Connecticut and Hudson. Wealthy English investors saw opportunity in obtaining large tracts of frontier land from the Native Americans which could be subdivided and sold to land hungry immigrants. One of these land deals involved a huge tract of wilderness which stretched from the Mohawk River, east to the Hudson, and north past the Sacandaga Valley. It included more than four-hundred-thousand acres and represented most of what would one day become Saratoga County as well as parts of surrounding counties.

The Kayaderosseras Patent, as the purchase was called, was the largest land grant in colonial times, but it turned out to be an extremely complicated deal which took nearly 60 years to complete and then only with the help of Sir William Johnson who negotiated a settlement between the Mohawk Indians and the English investors.

Shortly thereafter, the American Revolution prevented the patent from being settled, but it did allow some of the Americans who fought in the Battle of Saratoga to become aware of the land. Following the Revolution, the area was at last ripe for settlement. Some of the earliest families like the Morehouses, Deakes (Dakes), Scotts, Reynolds, and Fitches were attracted to the area either because of the potential water power of the Kayaderosseras Creek (which powered sawmills and gristmills) or the affordability of the wilderness land. The rich and productive land along the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers was already priced beyond the means of most farmers.

As more families came, the land was quickly cleared for agriculture, and soon the larger farms began to be subdivided into smaller ones. With increasing population, political boundaries were established and adjusted. When the Kayaderosseras Patent was signed, the area was still part of a much larger Albany County.

Saratoga County was formed from a portion of Albany County in 1791, and was further divided into townships. At first the Town of Greenfield did not exist but after the original larger towns were divided and new boundaries established, what we now recognize as the Town of Greenfield (the largest town in Saratoga County) came into existence in 1801. (It was most likely named after Greenfield, Connecticut, where some of the early inhabitants had come from.) Many of the places and roads in the town are named after early settlers and town leaders.

By the 19th and early 20th century, most of the town had been cleared for agriculture. Several industries, including the Mount Pleasant Glass Factory (which made bottles for Saratoga spring water), a graphite mine and mill near Porter Corners, several saw mills, and a paper mill in Middle Grove along the Kayaderosseras added to the local economy. To service this industry and provide transportation for the residents, including high school students who attended Ballston Spa High School, a trolley line was built between Ballston Spa and Middle Grove and operated until 1929.

By the time World War One ended, most of the industry was gone from the town except for the saw mills, and young men had a limited career choice between farming and wood chopping. Life on the many small farms was almost self-sufficient, and the few items they needed could be purchased at the small general stores that existed in each of the communities.

As travel by automobile became viable, life began to change rapidly. Roads were improved and young men had a choice of either staying on the farm or commuting to Corinth or Schenectady where industry was booming and well-paying factory work could provide amenities that farm life could not. One by one, the small farms began to show signs of abandonment. Fields lay fallow, and wild blackberry bushes, pine, and poplar seedlings began to erase the hard work of the early settlers who had blasted and pulled stumps to clear the land.

During the 1950s and '60s, the Northway was built connecting the Capital District with the North Country. Improved cars and better roads made it possible for people to live in places like the Town of Greenfield and work in ever more distant locations. The old farms were now more valuable as home building sites and subdivisions became so common that zoning laws had to be adopted to protect the quality of housing, while nature continued reclaiming the old hay fields.

Today, the Town of Greenfield is a residential town with beautiful homes, winding country roads, and a lot of green space. A few small industries still exist like sand, gravel, and rock mining and logging operations that market the mature timber that now grows where farm fields once produced hay and grain. The only hint of the agricultural past is the miles of stone wall fences that crisscross the forests.

Published in the January 2007 TOGHS Newsletter.

## *GOING FISHING/THE OLD MINE/ WHAT A BLAST*

by Leonard J. Muller

How to begin this: the telling of one adventure of youth? I guess one promises a story to Ron Feulner and then is bound by simple old honesty (guilt) to follow through. So I begin.

Oh those days! Those summer vacations with endless days of exploration. Sweet, simple youth and the freedom to do almost anything, just as long as no one was hurt or property damage done.

The trip by bicycle to the old graphite mine and Baptist Church cabins behind Jake Smero's place was an occasional longer adventure. On this day, Paul LaBarge went with me. Once we got to Jake's pond, (which he stocked with trout, but that's another story), we took the old logging road up to a small stream that flowed between the old mine and the church cabins. Fishing poles in hand, the usual bait of grasshoppers or worms were searched for. Grasshoppers were in short supply so the flipping over of rocks for night crawlers was the order of the day. Alas! Worms seemed in short supply also. The area of the search eventually reached the church cabins where there were some really nice big stones. Over they went. Worms? Did we find any worms? Nope. But we did find some strange metallic creatures with tentacles of wires attached. Now at the ripe age of 12, I knew that this was a find of epic proportions!

In the late '50s, explosives (cherry bombs, ash cans, M-80s, silver salutes) were occasionally acquired and immensely respected for the power to shred tin cans and whatever else they were placed in. We were well aware of how much damage these things could do to the human hands and eyes. Today's youth are so innocent of such things that as adults they don't have the common sense that God gave a good rock. Anyway, I digress.

Dynamite caps! At least that is what I thought they were. Electrical dynamite caps. Wow! Jackpot. Now let's see if they still work. Batteries – you need batteries to set them off. Remembering my bicycle's fender light with a couple of fresh "D" cells. I knew that dynamite caps were very dangerous so how to test them? Bury them? Naw, the noise. Get behind their explosive power with lots of cover. Yup. Ah, a stone wall and lots of noise to boot. Perfect. With the added effect of seeing how strong these things were at damaging rock.

So, over the wall the six-foot test wires went, very carefully placing the cap in the proximity to a granite rock. Hugging the ground (nearly entering it) batteries were placed end to end for a three volt total electrical jolt. The ends of the wires were ever so carefully placed on the batteries. Instant Blam! Whooooieeeee! Success! For the first time in my young life the semi-sweet smell of high explosives and pulverized rock. What a thrill!

Now, what to do with the 11 caps left? Tell no one? No. I had to tell Dad. So I did. "Now, Lenny, those things are dangerous, be careful." So, I showed him how careful I had been with them, and he let me keep them. Then he proceeded to tell me his story of breaking up rocks in Norway back in the 1930s. Anyway, the rest of the caps we touched off during the next week or so. What a blast!

This is one of the stories from my youth. Can you imagine this story happening today? Those freedoms of the past are gone forever, those days of innocence.

Published in the September 2005 TOGHS Newsletter.

## SCHOOL TEACHING

by Pat Morovich

The requirements to teach in New York state are constantly undergoing change. This is to make sure the state's teachers are of the highest caliber possible. It was no different a hundred years ago or so, as a trip to the Esperance Historical Society's Old School House recently has shown.

Posted on one of the old desks at the school is a list of those things that were expected of a teacher who taught the students of Esperance way back then. They included the teacher's responsibility to keep the school room neat and clean at all times, plus:

- a. Sweeping floors at least once a day.
- b. Scrubbing the floors once a week, with hot water and Lye soap.
- c. Cleaning the blackboards daily.
- d. Starting the fire at 7 a.m. so the school will be warm by 8 a.m.
- e. Teachers will not dress in light colors.
- f. Dresses must not be more than two inches above the ankles.
- g. Two petticoats must be worn.
- h. Petticoats must be dried in pillowcases.
- i. Teachers will not marry, or keep company with men during the term of the year.
- j. She will not get into a carriage or automobile with any man except her brother or father.
- k. Teachers will not loiter at ice cream stores.
- l. Teachers are expected to be at home between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., unless in attendance at a school function.
- m. It is understood that teachers will attend church each Sunday, and either teach a class in Sunday school or sing in the church choir.
- n. The teacher will not leave town at anytime without the permission of the school board.

And this was all on top of teaching the children the three Rs.  
*This Esperance Historical Society document is undated.*

**SARATOGA COUNTY FAIR**  
*Visit the Town of Greenfield  
Historical Society Display and  
Information Booth*

*We'll be in The Townley Building  
With the Greenfield Grange*

**July 21 - 26, 2015**  
**10 a.m. - 10 p.m.**

## CABOOSE DAY AND CAR SHOW AT KING'S STATION

THE CABOOSE AT KING'S STATION  
ROUTE 9N and PORTER ROAD

**AUGUST 8, 2015**  
**10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Tour King's Station and  
the Restored Caboose**

VINTAGE CARS

Free picture on the Caboose  
Bake Sale, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, French Fries  
and Refreshments to benefit

The Town of Greenfield Historical Society.  
Rain or Shine. For information, call 587-6060.



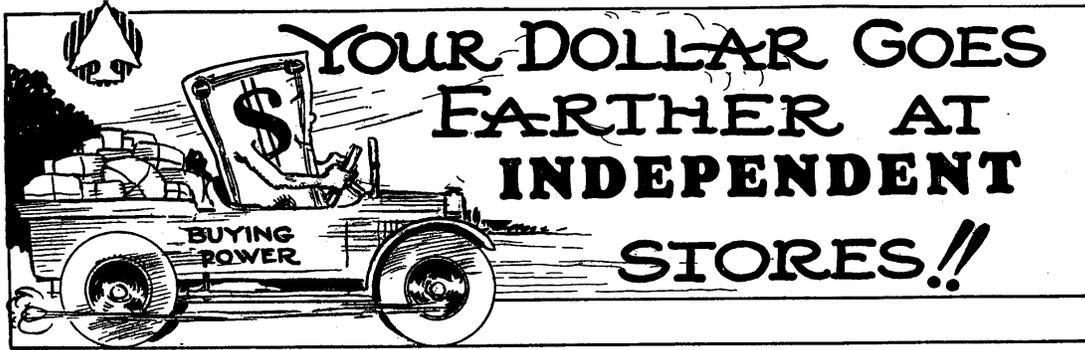
## HERITAGE HUNTERS MEETINGS

**History Faire** – Saturday, May 16, 2015, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library, 475 Moe Rd., Clifton Park, N.Y. A family event with activities for children. Many historical societies, museums and groups will be at the 4th annual History Faire, hosted by Heritage Hunters, a genealogy and local history organization. JOIN US! (It's free!). For info or to participate, call 518-587-2978 or email melfrejo@aol.com.

**Note: Location – Clifton Park**

June 20 – Saturday, 1 p.m. – David R. Starbuck will present a review of the archeological digs he has supervised in our area over the past 30 years. The sites include; the Saratoga National Historic Park, Mount Independence on Lake Champlain, Rogers Island and other Fort Edward sites, Fort William Henry, and his current project, Lake George Battlefield Park. Dr. Starbuck is the author of many books and articles, has taught at over 40 summer field schools in archaeology, and is a Professor of Anthropology at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire.

**Note: All Heritage Hunters program meetings are held at the Town of Saratoga Town Hall, 12 Spring St. [Route 29], Schuylerville. Meetings begin at 1 p.m. with announcements, followed by the program. Social time with refreshments precedes and follows the meeting. Guests are always welcome! For information, call 518-587-2978.**



**F. McKNIGHT & SON**  
 GROCERIES, MEATS, FRUITS and VEGETABLES  
 Porter Corners, N. Y. Tel. 10-F-3

**SPECIALS ON SALE FOR WEEK OF JUNE 26, 1933**  
*Our Prices make your Dollars go a long, long way. A glance at our specials this week will bring many welcome surprises. Here are true quality foods at true thrift prices.*

ONE PIE BRAND  
**Blueberries 15¢**  
 Each Can Makes 1 Blueberry Pie

- NEW PACK -  
**Lobster - - 23¢**

OMECO FANCY - WAFER THIN  
**SLICED BEEF**  
 - IN GLASS -  
 2½ Oz. **12¢**    3½ Oz. **15¢**  
 5 Oz. **19¢**

PALACE GARDEN  
**Peas 2 for 25¢**

SQUIRE - DINGEE'S  
**MIDGET SWEET Pickles - - 23¢**



- 2 for 25¢ -  
**Grape-Nuts 16¢**

OMECO - EXTRA FANCY  
**Orange Marmalade**  
 Big Jar **21¢**

SOMETHING NEW! YOU WILL LIKE IT!  
**Non - Skid Spaghetti**  
 Spiral Shaped with Hole - Does not Slip off Fork  
 BIG PACKAGE **10¢**

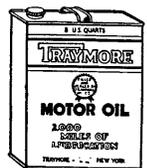
**Peanut Butter Sale!**  
 Highest Quality - Take advantage of this purchase  
 OMECO - Pound Jar **15¢**  
 CREDO **2 Pound Jar 23¢**

NEW OMECO FANCY  
**SHRIMPS**  
 Extra Large - Extra Good **2 Cans 25¢**



**Royal Dutch COFFEE**  
 1 LB. TINS **29¢**

**M G A MUSHROOMS 10¢**  
**A Babbitt Combination SALE!**  
 1 can BAB-O  
 1 can ACME LIME  
 1 can Babbitt's Cleanser  
 35c Value ALL **3 FOR 26¢**



**MOTOR OIL**  
 2 Gallon Cans **96¢**  
 Let Us Save You Money on Your Automobile Upkeep

NEW PACK - OMECO EXTRA FANCY  
**Grapefruit**  
 TREE RIPENED **2 Cans 25¢**

OMECO PLACED  
**Olives - - 10¢**

WALGUS COLUMBIA RIVER  
**SALMON**  
 Flat Cans **15¢** Pound Size **27¢**

A FANCY ALL CORN NO. 7  
**BROOM**  
 Worth 59c **37¢**

**Big Bags Peanuts**  
 IN THE SHELL **2 for 19¢**



**BRILLO**  
 SMALL **2 for 15¢**  
 LARGE **15¢**

- BIG GLASS JAR -  
**Black Pepper 10¢**

**Bird Seed and Bird Gravel**  
 GOLDEN HARVEST BRAND  
 ONE OF EACH FOR **14¢**

This store was located at the intersection of Porter Road, Allen Road, North Greenfield Road and North Creek Road in Porter Corners. The store is now called Mom and Pop's.

*This ad was supplied by Rick Rudolph.*

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

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. **YOU CAN NOW PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE! [www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com)**

**CLICK ON:**



**AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS.**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

### 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

**PLEASE SEND 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 to: [JJones18215@roadrunner.com](mailto:JJones18215@roadrunner.com).**

**If you'd like to dedicate and/or sponsor a newsletter, send \$50 to *The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833*, include your name, address and the wording describing who you would like it dedicated to and/or sponsored by.**



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