



## Historical Society Newsletter

**OFFICERS:** Interim President and 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 16, Issue 5



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

### CALENDAR

**Jan. 19, 2016** – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.  
Program: **Don Monica**, of our Farmer's Market, will speak about *Maple Sugaring*, something that his family has done for generations. Many local farms would collect maple sap in the spring to make maple syrup, a practice learned from the native Americans.

**Feb. 16, 2016** – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.  
Program: **Ellen Steinberger** will speak about "*Down in the Valley: Exploring the Gut.*" This area in Saratoga Springs, east of Broadway, has been home to multi-ethnic working class families for over two centuries and also was important to the evolution of the Jewish community.

**March 15, 2016** – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.  
Program to be announced.

**April 19, 2016** – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.  
Program to be announced.

**May 17, 2016** – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.  
Program to be announced.

**Everyone is welcome;  
you don't have to be a member to attend.**

### WEEZIE'S WORDS

by Louise Okoniewski

We had quite a turn-out for our Christmas get together. Despite the lack of snow and warm temperatures, 30 fine folks dressed for the holidays attended our annual party at the Odd Fellows Hall. We had quite the assortment of homemade cookies and baked goods, that everyone sampled with the Wassail and coffee. Before we go home, there's a cookie exchange where a donation is put in a basket and you can take a plate of goodies. JoAnn and Joan Rowland chair this event and do a great job. This year's theme was "Reindeer." It's enjoyable to have a meet and mingle where everyone catches up with each other before the holidays. Some members tell a story, usually relating to the theme. The most interesting story was Pat Finnegan explaining why reindeer fly. As the story goes, in ancient times in Siberia, the reindeer would lick and eat lichens that would grow in the woods. Apparently, the reindeer would get a good buzz and probably began to prance around and get a little rowdy. We were sure that some of the Siberian people would test some of the lichens and saw the deer fly, they were no doubt flying themselves! It made for a good laugh and has some truth to it as I did look it up. The reindeer would eat a type of mushroom which had a hallucinogen quality. And the natives also consumed some of the shrooms. So the story of flying reindeer and a jolly man began. Needless to say, a few of us had a good laugh and brought some back to their youth. The afternoon "flew" by and before we knew it everyone was headed home.

This December is a sad, yet happy time for me. Happy that I have a promotion. With MaryAnn Johnson's retirement as town clerk, I ran for that position and was elected. Although I have big shoes to fill, I look forward to the new job and responsibilities. I also appreciate that MaryAnn has the confidence in me for the job. Sad, that I have to resign as president of the Greenfield Historical

Society which I thoroughly enjoy. While concentrating on my new job, the meetings and new responsibilities, I did not feel that I could give 100 percent to both. I love the Historical Society. We have a great board of officers that work behind the scenes that help TOGHS have the success we have had. We have a newsletter that is published once a month, thanks to Janet and Nancy. Our members, residents and town have supported our events and activities. I will still be involved with the events, just can't make it to all the monthly meetings. Katie does a fantastic job with the programs. This will be the 10th year of the Farmers Market (8th year at Middle Grove Park).

Our Caboose Day in August has added a car show, thanks to Tom Clute. Last year was our largest turnout so far. We were able to open the Odd Fellows Hall as a museum and install a chair lift. All of this is accomplished because we have a great team of people who all work together for the same goal, preserving the history of Greenfield. I hope that everyone will continue to support the community events the Historical Society board and members work hard to organize, and make an effort to visit the Museum in Middle Grove. Upcoming programs are in the newsletter and on our website. I hope 2016 brings new opportunities and good health to us all. Thank you.

## START OF A NEW YEAR

by Robert Roeckle  
Interim President and Vice President

Here we are again at the beginning of a New Year, looking forward to all of the new and wonderful things a New Year can bring. As we look forward, we often look back to reflect on the past and how far we have come and project where we are going. With the resignation of Louise Okoniewski as president, as vice president I have become the interim president of the Historical Society. Thinking back, I remember many years ago when I was first elected to the board and later as president. How far we have come since then.

We have a Charter. In what seemed like the longest process ever developed in the State of New York, after more than twenty years of starts, stops and delays the Society was awarded its Charter from the State Department of Education. We have Not-For-Profit status. Once the Charter was issued, we were able to apply for and receive our Not-For-Profit status with all of the benefits and ongoing paperwork that provides.

The Historical Society has been able to make renovations to the Odd Fellows Hall in Middle Grove and create a beautiful meeting space and a Museum. The Daketown School House is scheduled for new paint and minor repairs, while I remember just repairing the windows and trying to determine how to remove what was installed when it was used as a camp. We have been able to sponsor the Farmer's Market in the Town of Greenfield, starting before they became as popular as they are currently. The Caboose Days, started to highlight the work of dedicated people in the Town to renovate the Caboose at Kings Station, has become one of our most successful and anticipated annual events. The annual Christmas celebration has become another favorite of everyone as a way to connect with members at the Holiday. Having celebrated the Society's thirty years, our now annual Gala is becoming a wonderful social and fundraising event.

We have changed a great deal since I was last the president of the Historical Society. With these changes have come additional responsibilities. Our budget in

year's past was only a couple hundred dollars to meet postage and the small electric bills we had. Our annual budget is now over \$10,000 to provide heat, lights and security in our Museum as well as expenses for displays, maintenance and upgrades to our facilities and conservation of the collection. Recently, I met with Abby Zoldowski of A to Z Textile Conservation, to document the Society's textiles and review conservation and storage. She was very impressed with the scope and scale of all of the items we had in our collection. As we spoke she described working on similar items for a display at the American Folk Art Museum in New York, 'Mystery and Benevolence: Masonic and Odd Fellows Folk Art,' with some items in better condition.

All of the members of the Society have worked hard to achieve all of this progress. Everyone has been able to work towards these goals in whatever manner they have been able to do. No contribution, to make the Society the best possible, is ever too small and everyone should be proud of all of the accomplishments we have been able to make. The Town of Greenfield has been extremely supportive of the Society, providing permission to use municipal property in our endeavors and providing financial support, both of which have been greatly appreciated. The Society has also been fortunate to have had several very generous supporters of our efforts making much of our progress possible.

As we move into this New Year, I look forward to serving out the last several months of Louise's term and hope that I will be able to continue the amazing work that she and all of the past presidents have been able to complete to make the Historical Society the vibrant organization it is today. I hope this New Year brings good health and happiness to all of the Society's members and the Society is able to move forward with more great projects to help preserve all of the years past in the Town of Greenfield.

# HISTORIAN’S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

It’s January already which is difficult to believe because the weather during November and December seemed more like early autumn than a lead up to winter. But, winter is finally here and with it the new year which will bring about changes in the leadership of our historical society.

Louise Okoniewski has been piloting our ship at the historical society for some time now, but with her recent election, she now begins her new role as town clerk for the Town of Greenfield. This new career position brings with it more responsibility and a possible conflict of interest if she were to continue as president of our organization. As a result, Louise tendered her resignation effective December 31, 2015.

Louise has been an outstanding president. She brought to our organization the same work ethic, drive, and ability to work with others that she is known for. As a result, our organization has moved forward and prospered under her leadership. Not only did she get things done, but she has also been an easy and enjoyable person to work with.

She has assured us that she is not going away and will still be active in the organization, she is just giving up her leadership role. We have been very fortunate to have had her as our president. If you run into her on your travels, be sure to stop and tell her how much we have appreciated her efforts. If you would like to send her a card or note, you can send it to the address on the back of the newsletter.

Because we are in the middle of our election cycle (new officers are elected at the May meeting) our vice

president, Robert Roeckle, will take Louise’s position for the remainder of the election year. Robert is one of our longest term members and has served in various capacities on the board over the years and has donated much to the success of our group. He has indicated that because of his career, he is not interested in a long term presidency, but is happy to fill in until elections in May. This will give us time to search for a new president.

We remain active as always in the historian’s office at town hall. We are continuing to expand our computer data base which makes it much easier to find information when someone asks for it. We are also adding more photos and documents all the time. Thanks to all the hard work of my volunteers, I feel that we are ahead of schedule in bringing the historian’s office up to date in the digital age.



*This chart is on the wall at the museum. Maybe you’ll want to practice your cursive writing!*



*Latham’s Pond, on Porter Road in Porter Corners, March 2010.*

*Does any one have any old photos or stories to share? I’ve heard that a few people have skated there in the past.*



*Latham’s Pond, October 2015.*

*January refreshment volunteers are Joan Rowland and Patty Schwartzbeck.*

*“Thank you” to every one who brought cookies for our Christmas Party.*

*Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson*

**Please send articles and/or photos for our future newsletters to The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833 or email JJones18215@roadrunner.com.**



# TOGHS CHRISTMAS PARTY • December 19, 2015



*Joan and JoAnn Rowland (Christmas Party Chairpersons) made Mulled Cider. The Cookies (and other goodies) for the Cookie Exchange.*



*JoAnn and Joan Rowland's reindeer.*

*Arden Blunt's reindeer.*

*Nancy Homiak, Earl and Margie Jones and Janet Jones' reindeer.*



*Louise Okoniewski, Joyce Woodard, JoAnn Rowland, Ron Feulner, Gary Bernhardt, Lelah Cornell, Katie and Pat Finnegan (telling a story)*



*Arden Blunt, Fran Lambert and friend*

*Joan Rowland and Ron Feulner*

*Louis and Louise Okoniewski*





*Ron and Melissa Deusch, Louise McCormick, Alice Feulner, Patty Schwartzbeck and Coral Crossman*



*Nancy Homiak, Margie and Earl Jones, Sandy Arnold and Gary Bernhardt, and two friends with Joan Rowland*



*Everyone listening to Ron Feulner tell a reindeer story that his mother told him.*



*Louise Okoniewski, Janet Jones and Joan Rowland modeling their reindeer shirts.*

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL 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 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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 a note describing who you would like it dedicated to and/or sponsored by.**

**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.**

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**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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