



Historical Society Newsletter

OFFICERS: President, Mary Vetter; Vice President, Joan Rowland;

Secretary, Patty Schwartzbeck; Treasurer, JoAnn Rowland;

TRUSTEES: Dan Chertok, Ron Deutsch, Ron Feulner, Katie Finnegan,
Louise Okoniewski, Jane Potter and Robert Roeckle

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

Volume 18, Issue 2



501(c)(3)

email toghistsoc@gmail.com

www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

CALENDAR

Oct. 14 – Saturday, HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUNDRAISING GALA AT BROOKHAVEN GOLF COURSE – The Haven Tee Room, 6 to 9 p.m.

See ad on page 4.

Oct. 17 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield. **Program:** “An Adirondack Musical History Tour” presented by *Dan Berggren*, local folksinger. He has been collecting, writing and performing songs of the Adirondacks since 1975. This program presents the North Country through discussion, demonstration, stories, traditional and original songs, and historic recordings.

Nov. 21 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield. **Program:** *Andrea (L’Hommedieu) Mann* will speak about growing up in Greenfield and the children’s book she wrote, *A Letter From Ginger Boy*, which is a true story of a girl and her horse growing up in the Adirondack foothills, circa 1964.

Jan. 16, 2018 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** *Greg Veitch*, Chief of Police for Saratoga Springs, will talk about his book – *All the Law in the World Won’t Stop Them*. It’s about crime, gambling and corruption in Saratoga Springs through 1921.

March 20, 2018 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** *Marie Willard* will speak about growing up in Middle Grove in the 1950s and some of the older people and families she knew back then.

Everyone is welcome, admission is free, you don’t have to be a member to attend and refreshments are served after all programs.

Our Newest LIFETIME MEMBERS

Robert and Karen Rhodes

Thanks to every one that brought a dish to pass at our September Pot Luck Dinner.

October refreshment volunteers are Mary Vetter and Katie Finnegan.

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson

OCTOBER NOTES

by Mary Vetter

It was so nice to see all of you at our September meeting. The food was wonderful, the company even better, and the speaker very entertaining.

April March’s talk on burlesque gave us a glimpse of life in the business. She wanted to be an entertainer and after meeting Texas club owner, Barney Weinstein, she started her career in the early 1950s. Later, she became known as the “First Lady of Burlesque” when her resemblance to Jacqueline Kennedy, who was at the time the First Lady of the United States, was remarked upon.

During her career, she had an opportunity to meet personalities such as Mel Torme and Joe DiMaggio. She retired in 1978. She came out of retirement when she was honored in Las Vegas as one of the Legends of Burlesque. She remains active today making appearances across the United States and Canada.

We look forward to seeing you at the Gala on Oct. 14. Tickets are available on our website and by emailing Ron Deutsch at mkd67@aol.com or calling him at 518-469-6769.

Please join us for our next meeting when Dan Berggren will present “An Adirondack Musical History Tour.” He has been collecting, writing and performing songs of the Adirondacks since 1975.

Dues Are Due

Our membership year begins **June 1 and ends May 31**, dues are paid annually. Dues can be paid at any meeting or they can be mailed to The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833. Make check payable to: The Town of Greenfield Historical Society. Send \$10 per household (or \$100 for Lifetime Membership) along with your name and address. If you pay more than \$10, the balance will be considered a donation. Members whose dues are in arrears at the end of October, will be dropped from the mailing list.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

In Search of the Past

I have had a long time interest in maps. The fact that they are usually a representation of a portion of the earth's surface (but they can represent any surface for that matter) usually constructed to a scale different from the original fascinates me. Old maps are of particular interest especially when they illustrate the changes that have occurred through time.

One set of maps that has interested me for a long time shows the general location of an early trail that was used by the French and later by the British when the Adirondack Region was still a wilderness. This trail is well documented in early literature, and I believe that it crossed what is now the Town of Greenfield in a North South direction.

Some of our early primitive maps show a line indicating a trail meandering across the region, but the accuracy of the maps and scale used makes it impossible to determine where the trail actually existed. The best indicators of where the trail existed can best be determined by historic word description. In general what we do know is that it left Lake George (They came by canoe from Canada along the length of Lake Champlain and Lake George.) and cut across to the Sacandaga River (the lake did not exist then) and followed the river upstream until they came to Daley Creek, a tributary of the river flowing in from the south.

The trail then followed Daley Creek up the mountain toward its source and at some point cut across the mountain east of Lake Desolation, then dropping down the mountain and crossing what is now the Town of Greenfield somewhere in the vicinity of Lake Desolation Road. There once stood a huge chestnut tree on the Dake farm near the intersection of Lake Desolation Road and Kilmer Road on the northwest corner of that intersection. There is some information that suggests that the trail passed this tree which because of its size was well known. There is a story that British sympathizers once camped for a period next to the tree and survived by eating its nuts.

The trail then followed what is now the Middle Line Road and eventually ended at the Mohawk River near Schenectady.

I would like to pinpoint more accurately where the trail went over the mountain east of Lake Desolation. Since the trail would have followed a path of least resistance (avoiding swamps and rock cliffs) along a line that was the shortest distance between the end points, I think that the route might be estimated by studying the various topo maps of the area. Once a route was estimated, it could be walked and checked for accuracy.

If any of you outdoor types who love maps like I do are interested in a project, I would enjoy talking to you about it. You can email me at RFeulner@greenfieldny.org or call me at town hall on a Wednesday.

See maps on page 2 →

Second Mug Now Available

This year's mug features the IOOF Hall which is now The Town of Greenfield Historical Society's Chatfield Museum of Local History. The Baptist Church, which dates in the early 1900s, is seen before the IOOF Hall and the carriage house is not visible.

Cost again this year will be \$10. You can place your order by contacting Joan Rowland at 518-893-7786 or by mailing in your check and request to The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833. If you are in need of the mug to be mailed to you, please add shipping cost of \$8.



MAN THIS SHIP

Reaching the elder years, we often look back, and see where improvements could have been made. We are like ships on a tumultuous sea, tossed about like cork in the waters of life. What gives us the stability to continue on? It is the hope that has been built into each and every creature that has ever been born on the face of this globe, called Earth.

We have grasped the ideas of those before us, and cherished their expertise in the relating of past experience.

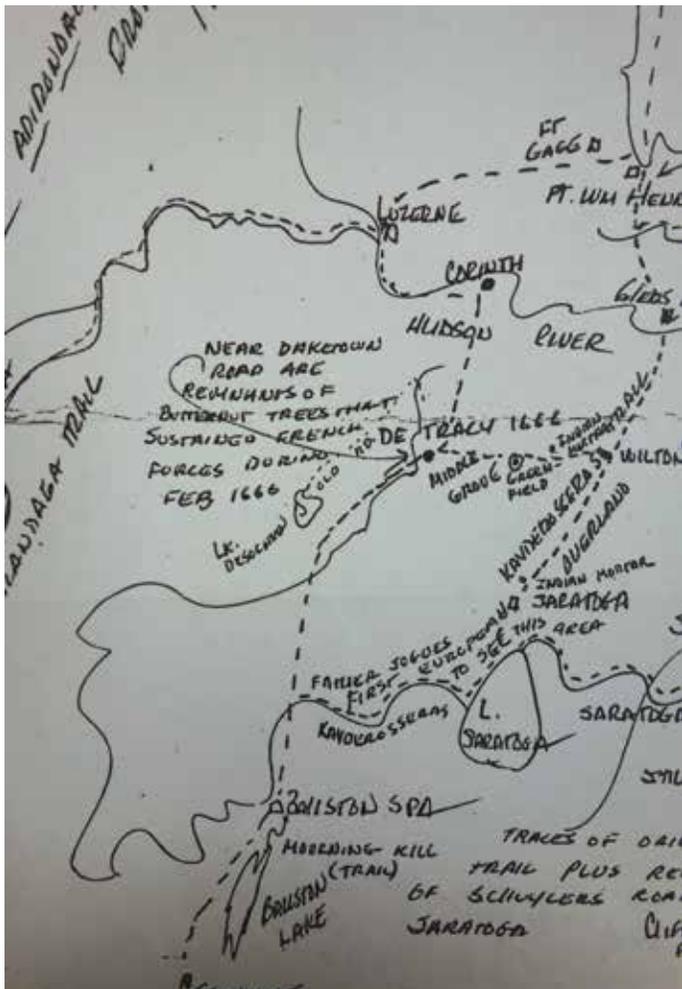
They have travelled the pathways and roadways of life, and found it wise to use what they have discerned from their experiences, and made them applicable to their existence, and so exemplary was their gleaning of knowledge, that we today can use this to our advantage.

We can celebrate with the rest and continue on our journey, and enjoy our journey by giving the wisdom of our travels to those who need to be uplifted. That's what life does.

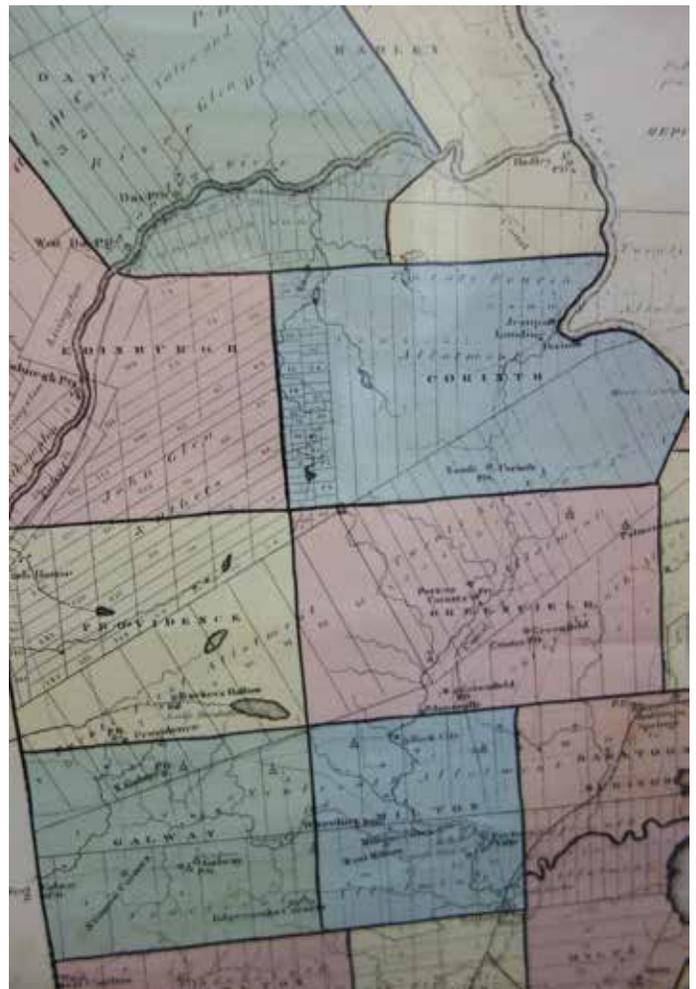
Whether you're in your thirties, forties and beyond, the very fact of looking ahead is an anticipated journey to be cherished. Make the best of it, and be honest in all your ways of surveying what lies ahead.

We are the Captains of our own ships.

Fran Lambert



A sketch map courtesy of the Saratoga Room at Saratoga Library.



A portion of the 1840 Burr map of Saratoga County.

September 19, 2017, Pot Luck Dinner and Guest Speaker



September's program speaker, **April March**, First Lady of Burllesque, talking about her book, *Reflections of My Life*

You are cordially invited to attend

The Town of Greenfield

Historical Society

Annual Gala

Saturday, October 14, 2017

6 to 9 in the evening

at
Brookhaven Golf Course "Haven Tee Room"

333 Alpine Meadows Road, Porter Corners, New York

**Buffet With Cash Bar, Raffles, Door Prizes,
Silent Auction, Historic Displays**

Ticket Price: \$25 individual / \$45 per couple

R.S.V.P. by Oct. 7 to Ron Deutsch at 469-6769, mkd67@aol.com,
at our website: www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com or at the
Sept. 19 Historical Society Meeting at the Community Center

Make checks payable to The Town of Greenfield Historical Society

*To benefit The Town of Greenfield Historical Society's
Chatfield Museum of Local History and Daketown School*

This article was in our Special Summer Edition Newsletter, unfortunately, the whole article didn't appear. Sorry Pat!

The Post Cafe – by Pat Finnegan

The Town of Greenfield has two historical museums. One is on the main drag; for what it's worth, in the hamlet of Middle Grove, one of three main hamlets in the Saratoga County Town of Greenfield. The other museum is literally just around the corner.

The larger two-story museum on Main Street is full of photo memories and hands on artifacts; the three-dimensional realities of our shared Greenfield, Saratoga communal history. We even have a chair lift for our elderly neighbors and visitors. Truth be told, it's also for our members. One of our young “whipper-snapper couples” average out at 65 years old. By the way; pass the word; come and join us for a night, for a year, as a member or just as a guest on the third Tuesday of the month at the Town Community Center, next to the Town Hall. It always starts at 7 p.m.; lots of good catch up talk with friends. Always a good 30 to 45 minute slice of Greenfield history, lots of good homemade cookies and cakes after the 20 to 30 minute meeting and a guest historical speaker. You can't lose. Cheapest date around. You've had a great night and you topped it off with a nice piece of home-baked pie or coffee or chocolate or devil's food or banana walnut cake.

The other museum is more subtle in its approach to presenting Greenfield history. You don't even know that you are going to be subliminally programed to love Greenfield history. You'd never guess that is what is going to happen. You just came in to get fed. And fed you will be. Deliciously, friendly, quickly, accurately and whether we like to admit it or not, one of the major deal beakers in paying for someone else to prepare our food. What is it gonna cost?

I'm not a coffee drinker, but I do enjoy a cup of hot tea. Just your basic Lipton or Salada is fine by me. Gail's “Post Cafe” gives me my cup of tea for \$.99. Look around. You won't find that price anywhere. The closest may be \$1.99 but usually \$2.49 or more. (Come on. Do you have to be that greedy? It's hot water and a basic tea bag.) Gail's Post Cafe gets it and that's why the tea is \$.99. Everything else on the breakfast/lunch menu is similarly priced – sausage gravy biscuits – you'll order another portion, just so you can take it home to immerse yourself in later.

The Post Cafe's counters are made of someone from Greenfield's used solid wood paneled doors. The old type of door that might have upwards of 8-10 recessed panels. Inside all the panels are pictures of “Ole” Greenfield. Pictures of Porter Corners' mom and pop's store that are 100 years old. Pictures of the same structure 150 years old and so on. No one pushes or obliges you to look at the pictures. It's not like Ashley, one of the wonderful servers at the Post Cafe, welcomes you with: “What would you like to drink, and look at the pictures.” You could eat at Gail's, one, two, three times before you notice that the plate your over-flowing tuna on whole wheat toast is surrounded by local history. Once you figure out what's happening here at Gail's Post Cafe, the next time you show up to partake of the very reasonably-priced good eats, you sit somewhere else to get a different glimpse of “Ole” Greenfield.

Like I said, before you know it, you're in love with Greenfield and maybe you do and maybe you don't realize it, but a combination of Gail's vittles and old photographs will have played a big part.

Unfortunately, the one on Main Street has a limited availability. Join up people, the more the members, the more hours.

Fortunately, the one around the corner on Lake Desolation Road is available 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday and 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays.

The Town of Greenfield Seniors

The Town of Greenfield Seniors meet at the Town of Greenfield Community Center at 1 p.m. every second and fourth Thursday. President – Sandra Kanar

Meal site location – Town of Greenfield Community Center, 25 Wilton Road, call 518-893-7644 for reservations.

Free bus transportation for medical and legal appointments – for reservation call 518-884-4100.

Senior Trips – Bus transportation provided by the Town of Greenfield for senior citizens. Check website for more information: www.greenfieldny.org under Senior Citizens.

2017 Seniors Trip Schedule

The Town of Greenfield sponsors trips for senior residents and provides the coaches. When available, seating will be offered to members of other senior groups (who are not Town residents) and other folks residing outside the Town. Payment should be made a month in advance of the date of the trip unless otherwise stated. If you find you cannot go after signing up, please notify the trip coordinator, in case there is a standby list. Any questions, call Pat Brust 518-584-3318. All payments should be made payable to “GREENFIELD SENIORS.”

Wednesday, Oct. 18 – The Beeches Inn, Rome, NY – 8:15 a.m. – Bus leaves Greenfield Community Center. Will stop while enroute. 11:30 a.m. – Lunch (buffet) and Show: Witches Brew. 3 p.m. – Board bus. Will stop enroute. 6:30 p.m. – Estimated arrival at Community Center. Cost – \$52.

Tuesday, Nov. 28 – Villa Roma, Callicoon, NY – Christmas Holidays – 6:45 a.m. – Bus leaves Greenfield Community Center. Will stop enroute. 10:30 a.m. – Arrive at Villa Roma with coffee and cake. Noon – Lunch in main dining room. Menu: Fruit cup and Italian Wedding soup. Choose one when signing up: Roast Turkey, Leg of Lamb or Shrimp Scampi. All served with starch, and assorted vegetables, dessert, coffee, tea and decaf. 1:45 p.m. – Christmas Holiday Entertainment Show: Mary Mancini, Mario Tacca and company perform your favorite holiday music during this festive holiday season. There will be a complete schedule of daytime activities upon arrival: Indoor sport complex with bocce, shuffleboard, ping pong table and video games. Indoor swimming pool, Jacuzzi, fully equipped fitness center. 3:30 p.m. – Depart Villa Roma. Will stop enroute. 7:30 p.m. – Estimated arrival at Community Center. Cost – \$37.

HERITAGE HUNTERS

Genealogy and Local History

Regular Heritage Hunters **program meetings** are held at the Town of Saratoga Town Hall, 12 Spring St., 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: 518-587-2978.

Sept. 16 – New York State Archivist, Thomas Ruller, will speak about newly arrived state court records representing the time period from 1680-1847. He and his staff have catalogued and barcoded the records which are now available to researchers.

Oct. 21 – Heritage Hunters **Fall Genealogy Conference.** Pamela Vittorio will lead the workshops: Finding Your Loyalist Ancestors; Tracking Family Members in Ship Lists; Boatmen of the New York State Canals; and River Crossings: Northern N.Y. and New England Ancestors in Eastern Ontario and Quebec. **8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.** [\$30 members, \$40 non-members]

Nov 18 – Loraine Wies, Local History Librarian at the Saratoga Springs Public Library, will speak about some of the projects she has begun in the Saratoga Room. Lorie is a “proudly addicted genealogist” who loves to do historical research.

Saratoga Springs Public Library Volunteers

May thanks to A. Issac Pulver, Director of the Saratoga Springs Public Library, for stopping at the Historical Society Booth at the farmers market and offering some volunteers thru their community volunteer day from the library.

Ron Deutsch took charge of the event which was held Sept 15, 2017. After a few emails, it was decided that some of the volunteer would be used at the Daketown School to finish painting the back side of the building. Ron met four ladies there and they completed their task in the two hours provided.

Robert Roeckle met with six ladies at the museum. He moved artifacts from the storage area upstairs to the main room on first floor. They were inventoried and lists were made. These items will be moved to the temperature controlled environment which we have rented in order to keep things from decaying. Joyce Woodard also met with the ladies and helped answer questions about the museum and our goals moving forward.

Many thanks to Ike Pulver and his 10 volunteers. It is true, many hands do make light work. *Photos by Joan Rowland*



L to R: Fran Suarez, Mary White, Jenn Ogradowski and Lorie Wies; Back: Ron Deutsch



L to R: Rita McManara, Jasmine Gage, Zoe Nousiainen, Leslie Nover, Patty Collins and Jeannine Jeter



Joyce Woodard and Robert Roeckle

Farmers Market 50/50 winners

At the farmers market this year we had a 50/50 drawing every four weeks. The winners were: July 14 Janet Jones \$50; Aug. 11 JoAnn Rowland \$30; Sept. 8 Elizabeth Fletcher \$59.75.

Annual Chili Cook Off

The last week of the Farmers Market traditionally means that there will be a Chili Cook Off. Vendors and historical society board members came together to make this happen again. Beef, vegetarian, goat, white chicken were some of the types entered.

Thanks to the 11 chili cooks and committee helpers, the Chili Cook Off was a great success. 68 people were served (some sharing their \$3 cup) netting \$175 for the Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund. Based on the parking lot at the town park, this was the most attended of all the weeks of the farmers market. Here are the numbers assigned to the pots and who donated them.

1. Ron Deutsch
2. Louise Okoniewski
3. Joan Rowland
4. Jim Carlson of Squashville Farms
5. Lelah Cornell of Homemade Jams
6. Stephanie Unrein of Arnold Farms
7. Katie Finnegan
8. Jane Potter
9. Robert Roeckle (actually made by Jim Fisher)
10. Tinney's
11. Bob Emerick of Emerick's

Congratulations to the winners:

- 1st place – #11 **Emerick's** who received a Chili seasoning packet and \$10 gift certificate for J.R. Watkin Products.
2nd place – #1 **Ron Deutch** who received a CD from Anna Portillo who played at the market twice.



The Chili Cook-Off was won by Bob Emerick of Emerick Farms



Mice learning how to do paper work at the school. (Someone left a roll of paper towels on the teachers desk.)



Photos by
Joan Rowland

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 \$10, 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.** Email toghistsoc@gmail.com for more information.

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 the wording describing who you would like it dedicated to and/or sponsored by. Please send articles and/or photos to: JJones18215@roadrunner.com.



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