



## 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, Mike Gymarthy, and Robert Roackle

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

Volume 20, Issue 7



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

### CALENDAR

**March 17, 2020 – Tuesday**, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** Former Saratoga Springs police chief **Greg Veitch** has written a book – *Gangster's Paradise*. This is a history of the Gangsters of Saratoga Springs from the Prohibition era up through the Kefauver Committee hearings in the 1950s.

**April 21, 2020 – Tuesday**, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** **Patrick DeVaney**, author of *Two Million Steps*, a chronicle of his 2014 journey along Spain's Camino de Santiago. This is a 500 mile walk on an ancient spiritual path through Europe following the journey of James the Apostle.

**May 19, 2020 – Tuesday**, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** Maritime archaeologist and historian **Joseph Zarzynski** will present "The Tale of the Dismembered 1757 Fort William Henry Shipwreck" about a war-ravaged British sloop, raised from the shallows of Lake George and cut up for souvenirs. In addition, he will have copies of his new book "Ghost Fleet Awakened: Lake George's Sunken Bateaux of 1758" available for purchase.

**Sept. 15, 2020 – Tuesday, POT LUCK DINNER**, at the Community Center in Greenfield. Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. Bring a dish to pass and your own place setting. **Meeting starts at 7 p.m. Program:** **Himane Gupta-Carlson** has written a book, *A Hip Hop of Food*, which is a study of hip-hop and small scale farming as interrelated practices of social change.

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

### MARCH NOTES

*by Joan Rowland, VP*

February always brings ever changing weather. Some days tons of snow, others rain, sleet, fog and sunny days. This year's February meeting – 2/18/2020 – (during school break), found us with snow, sleet, rain, repeat. At one point, it looked like the weather was going to break, and we would get to hear Himane Gupta-Carlson's presentation on her book she wrote – Muncie, India(na). Instead, we decided to cancel the meeting and keep everyone safe. We will try again another time to have her presentation.

Speaking of Fog; when I turned my calendar from February to March, I had to think "when was the Fog in February?" I had not made a note of it – did we have Fog? I usually keep my father's tradition of the old folk lore "Fog in February, Frost in May." Do you know this one? So, if you had Fog on February 25th, then you are safe to plant your garden after May 25th. There should not be any more frost.

This is something my father, Myron Rowland, and my uncle, Clayton Young, always discussed in the spring. Of course, there would be a small difference in dates because my uncle lived in Hadley, NY.

Since I have been doing the Fog calendar marking, I have found that sometimes (like this year) no Fog in February. So now what? One year, the Fog was March 5th. I planted my garden on Memorial Day weekend as always. It was so cold, the plants stood still, and the seeds rotted away. After June 5th, the soil warmed up, and my garden started to grow. I replanted all the seeds. So – I think there is something to this Fog stuff.

We would like to wish Mary Vetter well as she heals from her left knee replacement.

**Our Newest LIFETIME MEMBERS**

*Dan Penrick*

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by *Ron Feulner*

In addition to the churches that I have already written about, there were other lesser known ones in the Town of Greenfield. Early on, the Quakers established themselves in North Greenfield where they built a meeting house about a half-mile north of the intersection of NYS Route 9N and Spier Falls Road. (This intersection was known as Scott's Corners.) Elihu Anthony was one of their most prominent members and for many years preacher in this little church.

In about 1827, there was a division among the Quakers, and those who designated themselves as Hicksites left this church and built another small meeting house a short distance east of Scott's Corners near the intersection of Spier Falls and Locust Grove Roads. Neither of these congregations survived to the 20th century, and both churches were converted into homes.

Also, during the early years of the 1800s, a group of Universalist formed in and around Porter Corners. At first they met in homes and one-room school houses. In 1819, they had a meeting for the expressed purpose of incorporating and forming a committee to build a church. On, or about, 1920, they built the Universalist Church in the Town of Greenfield located in Porter Corners. It was a large wood framed building near the center of the hamlet. In 1844, the building underwent extensive repairs. This early church was closely aligned with the Free Masons who used the upstairs hall of the church as their meeting room. They apparently shared the building from the time of its construction until about 1870.

In 1910, records indicate that the building was being supervised for rental for occasional non-church use. The last use of the building by the church organization may have occurred around 1926, as this is the last record known of the election of church officers.

In 1949, records indicate that a private owner, Helen Travers, of Brooklyn, NY, sold the building to a group in Porter Corners who planned to renovate the building into a community hall.

The building (in 2020) is still standing, although it has been modified several times over the years, and again, it is in private ownership being currently used for residential purposes.

The Universalist movement was an old concept that burst to the forefront here in America. It represented a drastic change from the fire and brimstone thinking of puritanism that had dominated beliefs here at an earlier time. The Universalist believed in "universal" salvation. A belief that God was kind and would not condemn any human being to eternal damnation in a fiery Hell.

The early Universalist, like those in Porter Corners, began to work at spreading their faith across America and Canada. Horace Greeley was a Universalist publisher and, along with many others, began spreading the belief that every person was born with self-worth and dignity.

From this belief grew a desire to create a more just society. Universalist believed in and supported many social justice programs including prison reform and better treatment of the mentally ill. Following their merging with the Unitarians, they also supported the civil rights, gay rights and feminist movements that came much later.

There was also another group called the Unitarians that had developed parallel to the Universalist. In the 1700s, a group in America had been calling for the return of extreme puritanism, and those who opposed this thinking eventually became known as Unitarians. In 1961, the Unitarians and the Universalist consolidated into one and called themselves Unitarian Universalist. This combined group is still active in America.

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## Town of Greenfield Volunteer Fire Departments

Ron Feulner and Louise Okoniewski have been working on collecting materials to celebrate the history of the Volunteer Fire Departments that have served our community with distinction. This is a huge undertaking and we want to create a display at the museum that will do justice to the men and women who have protected our town. So we need help.

We are looking for documents, photos, and other memorabilia that relates to the volunteer fire fighters/departments that serve or have served our town.

We need people to help manage the materials we receive and to help create the displays that will be installed at the museum. Our intent, at this point, is to create displays for The Lake Desolation Fire Company that recently disbanded and for each of the four fire houses that currently serve our town.

We are hoping to have a meeting to create a basic plan of action early in the new year. If you can help us out, it would be greatly appreciated. If you know anyone who might be interested in sharing materials and memories of our volunteer fire departments, or who may be interested in working on this project, please share this information with them.

You can express your interest by contacting me at [mvetter@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mvetter@nycap.rr.com).

*Mary Vetter, President TOGHS*

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## Brookside Museum

The Brookside Museum, a part of the Saratoga County Historical Society, had been facing some financial issues and has recently been working to raise funds to keep the museum open. They are also working with the Saratoga County History Roundtable to develop a new business plan that will allow them to carry on programs for education, curatorial work, and research.

Just as we value the work we do here at the town level, we should value the work the county society does to preserve the history of the county we live in. Their work give us a broader context for our part in a larger community. I am sure many of you have already made your year end donations but if at all possible I would urge you to help this organization. Below is a link to their website that will give you the information you need to help out.

[www.brooksidemuseum.org/keep-history-alive/donate-sponsor/](http://www.brooksidemuseum.org/keep-history-alive/donate-sponsor/)

*Mary Vetter, President TOGHS*

## Support Team

by John R. Greenwood



Front: Anna Marie Orisek, Betty Orisek, Shirley Witkop,  
Helen Greenwood (John's mother), Pauline Levo.  
Back: ??? and Lloyd Cote

Growing up in the rural community of Greenfield Center, NY provided a wealth of supporting influences in my life. I happened across this photo recently and I began to think of the effect the people in my community played on my life. I do not know the gentlemen behind these Greenfield Fire Department's Ladies Auxiliary members but I do know each one of the women. I grew up with their children, played in their backyards, visited their homes, and drew life-long lessons from them. Some like my mother have passed. All remain large factors in their

children's lives regardless. Wherever they are, I thank them all for the part they played in my youth and in my life in general. I've had many wonderful people in my life and I think we draw a little bit of something from each one of them.

Times have changed in many ways. The sense of community is not what it used to be. People are trying to revive it, but with our mobile society they have an uphill battle ahead. I am glad I was able to grow up at a time when firehalls were brimming with wedding receptions, fundraisers, and New Year's dances. My wedding reception was in the firehall where this photo was taken. I can remember it as though it were yesterday. (Read about that here: <http://rainingiguanas.blogspot.com/2009/06/close-your-eyes-and-look.html>).

I felt an obligation to acknowledge these women for their role in my life. Things were less scary then. There was always a mother peeking out the window just to make sure the gang of kids weren't stomping through her flower garden or spraying the cat with the garden hose. Mothers didn't have to obsess about stranger-dangers. They were more worried about being sure you waited 30 minutes before you went back into the neighbors pool. It was a good time to be a kid.

As I look back I see a variety of things that played a positive role in my life. I had committed Boy Scout leaders, watchful neighbors, caring relatives, and a wealth of friendships and experiences growing up in a small town. I think of it as my own Mayberry with dozens of Aunt Bee's, Goober's, and Andy Taylor's. How fortunate I was. How grateful I am.

### Programs at the Saratoga County Historical Society at Brookside Museum

Saratoga County History Roundtable and Heritage Hunters join together to present a "Genealogy Workshop" on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at 7 p.m. Attendees will learn the basics on internet genealogical research using records of the Saratoga County Poorhouse ca 1900 provided by Lauren Roberts, County Historian.

Brookside Museum will sponsor a Historians Workshop on Saturday, April 25, 2020, at 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The program is designed to provide information to representatives of Saratoga County Historical Societies and Museums on a variety of topics of interest to historical association from representatives of the State Historians Office, NYS Archives and the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce.

**For more information, contact the museum at 518-885-4000, visit our website [www.BrooksideMuseum.org](http://www.BrooksideMuseum.org), or email [SaratogaCoHistoryRoundtable@gmail.com](mailto:SaratogaCoHistoryRoundtable@gmail.com).**

### Meetings Cancellations

*If schools are closed due to weather, our meeting will be canceled. A message also will be posted on our website and on our Facebook page.*

**[www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com)  
[www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=town of  
greenfield historical society](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=town%20of%20greenfield%20historical%20society)**

*The February meeting was cancelled due to the weather.*

*March refreshment volunteers are Donna Middlebrook and Janet Jones.*

*Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson*

## Shop at Amazon Smile

*Help support our historical society when you shop at Amazon. Amazon Smile, the charitable arm of Amazon, will make a donation to us on qualifying purchases when you sign into your Amazon account at smile.amazon.com. The first time you do this, tap Accounts & Lists then tap Your Amazon Smile. On the right-hand side of the screen tap the change charity button and type in: The Town of Greenfield Historical Society.*

*Once you have saved us as your charity, start shopping. When you checkout, Amazon will let you know if any of your purchases qualify for a donation. Amazon then sends the donation to us. You do nothing more. Remember to sign in at smile.amazon.com on all your Amazon shopping trips to support us.*

*Thanks!*

**The Town of Greenfield Historical Society is still looking for a few good bodies (and minds)!**

**Are you good at planning social events?**

**Are you good at working with people?**

**Do you have carpentry skills?**

**Are you good at organizing collections?**

**Do you have computer skills?**

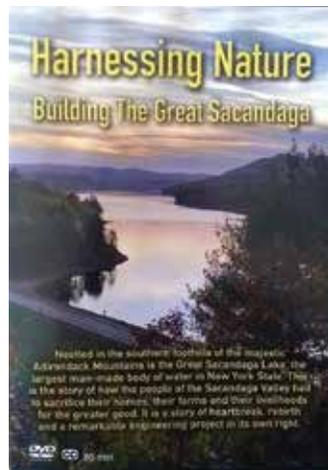
**Do you like lawn and landscaping work?**

**We need your ideas and skills.**

**Please contact us at 518-322-5675 or email us at toghistsoc@gmail.com**

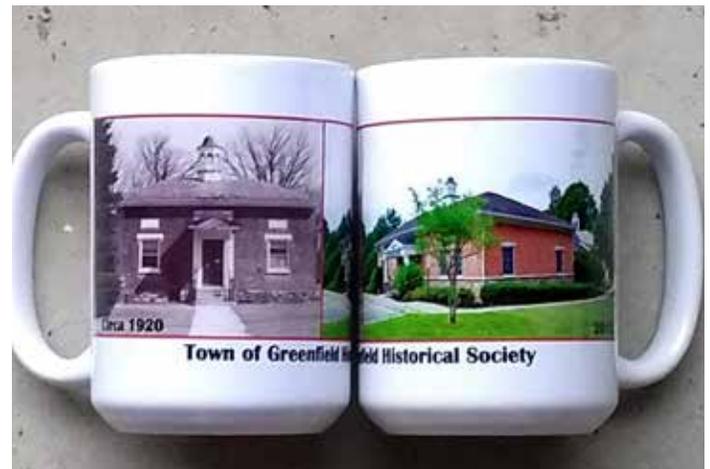
## “Harnessing Nature: Building the Great Sacandaga”

This DVD is an 80-minute documentary telling the story of how the people of the Sacandaga Valley had to sacrifice their homes, their farms and their livelihoods for the greater good. It is a story of heartbreak, rebirth and a remarkable engineering project in its own right. This is the story of how the Great Sacandaga Lake, the largest man-made body of water in New York state, was made.



DVDs are available for \$20. They are at the Greenfield Town Hall, or by contacting the Historical Society at P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833. (Please add \$3 if you want one mailed.)

## Greenfield Town Hall Mug



Cost again this year is \$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.

## 2020 Greenfield 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 Sandy Ovitt at 518-584-8943.

The Greenfield Seniors meet at the Town of Greenfield Community Center at 1 p.m. every second and fourth Thursday, president, Phil Steves, 518-793-2919.

Meal site location – Town of Greenfield Community Center, 25 Wilton Road, phone 518-893-7644 for reservations. Free bus transportation for medical and legal appointments. For reservations, call 518-884-4100.

### ALL PAYMENTS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO GREENFIELD SENIORS

### Riverview Inn, Matamoras, PA

#### Wednesday, May 13, 2020

7:15 a.m. Bus arrives to load at Greenfield Seniors  
7:30 a.m. Depart Greenfield, half hour stop enroute  
11 a.m. Arrive Riverview Inn  
11 a.m. Upon Arrival w/Appetizers  
Noon Menu: Served sit down duet plate with two entrees  
Duxelles breast of chicken and sliced top round of beef, vegetable and potato DuJour. With prior request: vegetarian – meatless red sauce pasta (Gluten free pasta available), house dessert, sugar free available, coffee, tea, iced tea, soda, open bar w/beer and wine.  
1 p.m. Live professional entertainment – Theme: Remembering Days of Yesteryear – comedy, singing, dancing and happy memories of yesteryear, comedian scheduled: JOJO Russell  
3 p.m. Show is over, load bus  
3:15 p.m. Depart, short stop enroute  
6:30 p.m. Estimated return to Greenfield Seniors  
Cost \$45, no refunds, money due April 9

### MGM Casino, Springfield, MA

#### Monday, June 15, 2020

7:15 a.m. Bus arrives to load at Greenfield Seniors  
7:30 a.m. Depart Greenfield, half hour stop enroute  
10 a.m. Arrive MGM – The 2-million-square-foot complex contains a gaming area surrounded by a parking garage, hotel, spa, movie theater, restaurants, and shops. The 125,000-square-foot casino featuring 2,550 slots, 120 table games, a high-limit room and a poker room with 23 tables. Bonus: \$20 free slot play and \$20 food credit. Bonus is controlled by the casino.  
3:45 p.m. Time to reboard the motor coach  
4 p.m. Depart, short stop enroute  
6:30 p.m. Estimated return to Greenfield.  
Cost \$2, no refunds, money due June 11

### Mac-Haydn Theatre, 42nd Street – Chatham, NY

#### Thursday, July 2, 2020

9:45 a.m. Bus reports to load at Greenfield Seniors  
10 a.m. Depart. No planned stops  
11:30 a.m. Kozel's Restaurant, for a buffet lunch  
1:30 p.m. Arrive Mac-Haydn Theatre  
2:00 p.m. 42nd Street – The ultimate show-biz musical, 42nd Street celebrates Broadway, Times Square, and the people who make the magic of musical theater. Aspiring chorus girl Peggy Sawyer comes to the big city from Allentown, PA, and soon lands her first big job in the ensemble of a glitzy new Broadway show. But just before opening night, the leading lady breaks her ankle. Will Peggy be able to step in and become a star? Forty years from its opening on Broadway, this remarkable classic still brings a smile to your face and joy to your heart.  
5 p.m. Load bus or after show is over  
Short stop on way home (1/2 hour)

7 p.m. Estimated arrival back to Greenfield  
Cost \$66, no refunds, money due May 14

### Jimmy Buffett Tribute – Log Cabin, Holyoke, MA Thursday, August 6, 2020

8:15 a.m. Bus reports to load at Greenfield Seniors  
8:30 a.m. Depart. Stop enroute (1/2 hour)  
11:30 a.m. Arrive Log Cabin – Hors d' oeuvres, Welcome Platter  
Noon Lunch: Rolls and butter, clam chowder, New England boiled lobster, barbecued ribs and chicken, corn and baked potato, strawberry ice cream, coffee, and tea  
2 p.m. Show: Changes In Latitudes is the country's premier tribute show to singer-songwriter Jimmy Buffett, the master of the tropical lifestyle. This show is the ultimate beach party, musically transporting you to that ultimate tropical paradise, Margaritaville. You can expect to hear such Buffett classics as "Margaritaville," "Come Monday," "Volcano," "Cheeseburger In Paradise," and, of course, "Changes In Latitudes, Changes In Attitudes." Each show is good clean fun, with conga lines, beach balls, and leis.  
3:15 p.m. Load bus or when show is over  
Short stop on way home (1/2 hour)  
6:30 p.m. Estimated arrival back to Greenfield  
Cost \$58, no refunds, money due July 9

### Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, VT

#### Tuesday, September 22, 2020

7:15 a.m. Bus reports to load, Stop enroute if desired  
7:30 a.m. Depart Greenfield Seniors Stop enroute if desired  
10:30 a.m. Arrive Shelburne Museum which is a museum of art, design, and Americana located in Shelburne, Vermont. Over 150,000 works are exhibited in 39 exhibition buildings, 25 of which are historic and were relocated to the museum grounds. It is located on 45 acres near Lake Champlain. Fans of history and art will appreciate the special exhibitions and historic collections. Outdoor lovers will enjoy a day spent exploring our extensive grounds and gardens. Families will adore the circus displays, the steamboat Ticonderoga, and our hands-on activities and demonstrations. With our year-round shop and seasonal shuttle bus and café. Each person will receive a \$15 meal voucher. You can visit the café at your leisure and have lunch. The vouchers do not give change so if you spend \$10 you do not get \$5 back, if you go over \$15 you have to pay the difference. The Museum Cafe serves up delicious fare, including grilled items, grab-and-go treats, and refreshing beverages. Café is available 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
3:15 p.m. Bus is available to load  
3:30 p.m. Bus will depart museum  
6:30 p.m. Estimated return to Greenfield Seniors  
Cost \$36 pp, no refunds, money due August 13

### Oktoberfest – Callicoon, NY

#### Monday, October 5, 2020

7:45 a.m. Bus arrives to load at Greenfield Seniors  
8:00 a.m. Depart Greenfield Half hour stop enroute  
11:30 a.m. Arrive Villa Roma  
Noon Lunch: Fruit cup and Lentil soup. Please choose entrée when signing up: Sauerbraten with potato pancakes, Bratwurst with German potato salad, turkey with stuffing. All are served with red cabbage. Dessert is Chef's Surprise. Complimentary beer during lunch.  
1:45 p.m. Entertainment: Celebrate Oktoberfest during the rousing performance of the fantastically popular Alex Miexner Band.  
3:30 p.m. Time to reboard the motor coach, short stop enroute  
7-7:30 p.m. Estimated return to Greenfield  
Cost \$54, no refunds, money due September 10

## 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 for your household, 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).** Email [toghistsoc@gmail.com](mailto:toghistsoc@gmail.com) for more information.

Click on “Store,” “Membership” then click either “Annual Membership – Household” or “Lifetime Membership.”

**Please Print** – Please indicate how many persons 10-years-old or older are in your household). \_\_\_\_\_  New  Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_  I am interested in volunteering.

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

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

We invite our membership and readers of this newsletter to share with Dan any historical information about an interesting person, place, structure, or event within our town. Dan reserves the right to proofread and edit submissions, but he will be very happy to add your information to our map. We are always looking for historical information to add to and enhance the map, which we consider to be an ongoing work in progress. Please email Dan Chertok at [Chertok@lcyllaw.com](mailto:Chertok@lcyllaw.com), call his cell phone (518-321-0330), or text him.



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