

The Town of Greenfield

March 2021



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, John Greenwood, Mike Gymarthy, Louise Okoniewski, Robert Roeckle, and Patti Veitch

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

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email toghistsoc@gmail.com

www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

MARCH NOTES

by Mary Vetter

Hi everyone it's hard to believe that March is here. It's time to think about spring projects. Hopefully the snow will clear early and we will be able to clean up the grounds at the museum and the school early in the year.

In April, I would like to go up to the museum and at least refresh the inside some dusting vacuuming and organizing. If anyone is interested in joining us, please let me know. When we establish a date, I will email you and hopefully you'll be able to join us. If you have a preference of working on a weekday or a weekend let us know when you email.

We will be holding a board meeting the last week in March to discuss our plans for the spring and summer, including our plans for general meetings. We would like to be able to hold meetings in person but I'm thinking that perhaps we will have to wait till September for that. We are considering arranging a Zoom meeting for April and May.

The events that we are holding are as follows:

Saturday, June 12, 2021, will be a *Storytelling Event* and the theme will be Father's Day. Anyone who is interested in sharing a story about their father or a father figure is more than welcome to tell their story. Joan Rowland and myself are organizing this event.

Saturday, July 10, 2021, will be a *Musical Event* consisting of local musicians and singers. Patty Veitch is organizing this event and we will have more information over the next couple of months.

Saturday, August 14, 2021, will be *Caboose Day*. Louise Okoniewski organizes this event for the town with the assistance of our society.

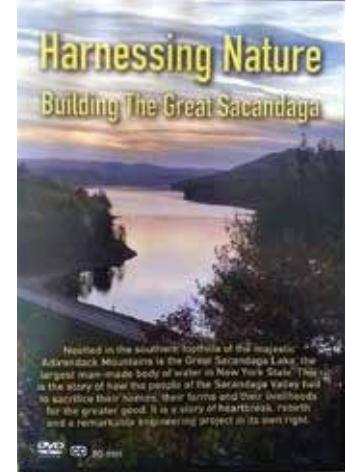
Saturday, September 11, 2021, will be an *Antique Sale*. John Greenwood is organizing this event. Again we will have more information as plans are finalized.

With the exception of *Caboose Day*, all events will take place at the Middle Grove Park at the pavilion. Anyone who is interested in helping with these events should email us and we will direct your offer of help to the people who are organizing the event.

mvetter@nycap.rr.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.)

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**

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

March 2021

by Ron Feulner

In February, I shared a newspaper description of the “The Grove” that Middle Grove derived its name from. As indicated in my article, Middle Grove resident, Nicholas Shaul, was clearly the hero of this community effort, but who was he? Mary Edith Dake Ellsworth in her written history of Middle Grove tells us the following about the park and the man who helped to create it.

“After the pine grove below the hall [IOOF Hall] was cut off, the hardwood groves with its sprinkling of pine, across the road was used for a picnic ground. Although privately owned, the public cleaned it up and erected a grandstand for the use of dignitaries, speakers and a band, built a stone wall for a gateway with its painted sign of Middle Grove Park. This was later replaced by one that was the talk of the town. When John Christian Shaul, a cabinet maker, cut out the lettering used on the archway. During the year the Sunday School sponsored a community picnic in the park. Everyone felt free to attend.”

“Nick [Shaul] who lived in the house with the cupola, was an ardent Republican office holder, who was county sheriff for several years, and being a layman, who dabbled in law, was well known as a petty fogger [sic] who could ably match wits with any member of the bar in Justice Court. Having the ability of a impromptu speaker, he was called upon to welcome and introduce dignitaries at local gatherings and get a congregation in a giving mood before hats were passed to take up a collection for defraying expenses. His infectious jollity won him favors when he raised money for a community project by soliciting subscriptions. But his fee for making out one of these papers always equaled his subscription that headed

the list. Although it was aid, he never made any public improvements that didn’t net him a profit, he made a good showing when he supervised Middle Grove’s grand side walk, wide enough for a couple to walk side by side. There was a cross walk in front of his house that connected the office part of the side walk on the south side of the road that ran down past the Baptist Church and Hall, before crossing the road at the arched gateway to the park, then on down past the stores to the grist mill driveway.”

“Mrs. Truman, the Shaul’s housekeeper, donated the locust posts cut on her premises for the street lamps, that cast their kerosene light the full length of Main Street, then back in the days when no woman dared walk this thoroughfare alone after dark.”

“Mr. Shaul no doubt enjoyed his day of being a big toad in a small puddle, but his pride must have taken a fall when a political opponent, after hearing Nick express his views, remarked, ‘Shaul, you know what I do if I had your voice and ability? I’d peddle clams.’ When Mr. Shaul married a young woman, a few months after the death of his ailing wife, church members showed their disapproval by not calling on his bride. But soon as Mr. and Mrs. Shaul became active members of the Baptist church, they felt obligated to call on and welcome Mrs. Shaul, who was a likable person, to their fold.”

Between these two sources of information, we are better able to picture the man and the community. Middle Grove with its kerosene lit sidewalks, large elm trees, and arched entrance to its new community park in “The Grove,” must have been a community friendly place to live or visit.

Clearly this new grove of hardwoods and native pines was of great pride to the small community. (It was located behind and to the west of present day Baldwin’s Garage on Middle Grove Road.)

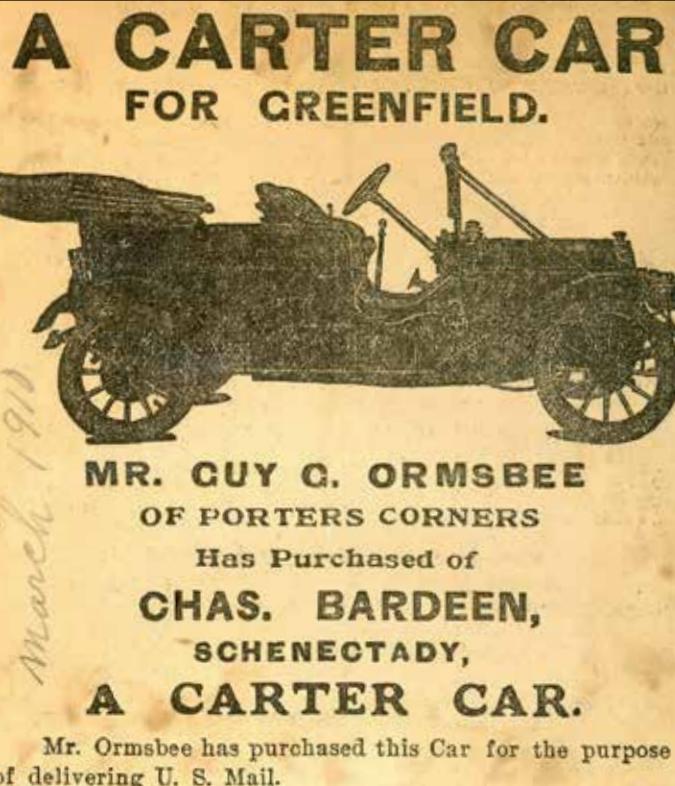
Updating Our Records

We’re asking every one that uses email to send us your email address in case we are unable to do a complete mailing in coming years. We will mail to members that don’t use email or still want a hard copy. Thank you — toghistsoc@gmail.com

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!





CORINTH – Donald C. Monica, 75, of Harris Road, passed away Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at Albany Medical Center with his loving family by his side.

Born on November 28, 1945 in Malone, he was the son of the late Carl and Mary Jane (Shnob) Monica.

Don graduated from Corinth High School in 1963.

He joined the United States Army in 1965, serving as a sergeant during the Vietnam War until his honorable discharge in 1968, receiving the Good Conduct Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Expert Rifleman Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

Don married Susan A. Goodness on May 27, 1967 in Lake Luzerne, and the couple has resided on Harris Road for many years.

He was employed for many years at Corinth Central Schools and was the head mechanic of the bus fleet until his retirement. He also owned and operated Maple Valley Farm in Hadley, making delicious maple syrup and various maple syrup products for many years. As a fourth-generation maple sugar producer, he learned the art of making maple syrup at a very young age at his grandparent's sugar bush in Mooers Forks, and was pleased to pass on his skills to his family. He was proud to know that his sons, Tim and Scott and his granddaughter, Abby are continuing to carry on the family tradition.

Don was a founding member of the Upper Hudson Maple Producers Association and a longtime member and Past Commander of the Horace D. Washburn American Legion Post 533 of Corinth. He also served as a Boy Scout Leader, was a member of the Grange, Fire Commissioner of the Hadley-Luzerne Fire Department, board member of the Saratoga County Soil and Water District, and the Knights of Columbus, where he spent many Friday nights calling numbers for Bingo, and several other organizations.

Don enjoyed spending time with his family, going to many farmers markets with his maple syrup, and operating the Sugar House at the Saratoga County Fair. He loved being in the field doing hay in the summer and being in the Sugar House in the spring with the rest of the family. He also enjoyed visiting his son and granddaughters in Texas.

Besides his parents, he was also predeceased by one brother, Morris Monica.

Survivors besides his wife of 53 years; three sons: Andrew Monica (Michelle) of Pflugerville, TX, Timothy Monica (Kathy) of Porter Corners, and Scott Monica of Corinth; five grandchildren: Jessica Donohue (Sean), Dana Monica, Abigail Monica, Elizabeth Monica, and Samuel Monica; two great-granddaughters: Emma and Hannah; three siblings: Margaret "Peg" Palmatier (Ralph) of Corinth, Susan Monica (Chris Jones) of VT, and Joseph Monica (Melodie) of Corinth; and several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins; and a special cousin, Fran Jenkins.

Services were held on Monday, February 15, 2021, at the Densmore Funeral Home, Inc., 7 Sherman Ave., Corinth. Members of the Horace D. Washburn American Legion Post 533 conducted a service at the funeral home.

Due to the pandemic, funeral services were private and at the convenience of the family.

A committal service with full military honors will be held at the Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery, 200 Duell Road, Schuylerville.

The family wishes to thank the nurses and staff of Albany Medical Center ICU and the staff at Glens Falls Hospital for their kindness and compassionate care given to Don during his illness, also thanks to the Rockwell Falls Ambulance Service and a special thanks to Melodie Monica and Kathy Monica.

The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, memorials take the form of donations to the Horace D. Washburn American Legion Post 533, PO Box 13, Corinth, NY 12822, Vietnam Veterans of America at pickupplease.org, the Rockwell Falls Ambulance Service, 35 Lake Avenue, Lake Luzerne, NY 12846 and the American Red Cross at redcross.org.



Don Monica, owner of Maple Valley Farm in Hadley, at the Town of Greenfield's Farmers Market in 2019.



Don as a guest speaker telling the history of his business at a Town of Greenfield Historical Society program in 2016.

RECIPES, COOKBOOKS, AND ADVERTISEMENTS

by JoAnn Rowland

Did you ever think about a recipe that a friend or relative use to make that was so good that you want to make it? Problem is you can't find the recipe. So, you contact a friend or relative to see if they have it.

Well Janet Jones was on the mission to make "Aunt Pearl's" Molasses Cookies, so Joan and I got the email. Janet had looked in the Porter's Church Cookbooks, didn't find it. Joan said: "Yes give us a couple days to come up with it." I said: "Yes I think it is in the Porter's Corners United Methodist Church Cookbook." I looked in the index of the two most recent cookbooks, thinking it might be in the section under "Heavenly Angles" but no. So, I dig deeper in the cookbooks looking for the old Porter's Church cookbook, compiled by the W.S.C.S. of Porter Corners Methodist Church, copyright 1953. It wasn't in the index, so I started leafing through it, because I am pretty sure it's in there. It seems that Aunt Pearl McKnight had given me her cookbook in 1982, according to a note I had written in the front cover. There are many handwritten recipes on the pages labeled "Reserved for extra recipes." There it was "Sister Luilla's Molasses Cookies" in Aunt Pearl's handwriting, with all the usual measurements and ingredients of the 1950s and earlier.

1 cup sugar
 1 heaping cup lard (*who has lard now days*)
 1 cup molasses
 2 heaping teaspoons soda in one cup boiling water
 (Sift) 6 cups flour, 2 teaspoons cinnamon, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon ginger, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon cloves

Oven 375 (Degrees)

Note, there are no instructions. You just know what to do. Right? But wait maybe not, if you ever helped her make them then you know that you, have to make a tester cookie. But why? To see if the oven is hot enough? If they need more flour? She always made an adjustment.

Once you have dropped them on the cookie sheet you have to take a knife and using a swirling motion you flatten them out. Then you sprinkle on lots of sugar (maybe $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon on each one). This makes about 6 dozen.



Janet made them and sent us a picture. They looked good enough to eat. But not like Aunt Pearl's, of course, probably needs more flour??

Does any recipe from your younger day come out like you remember it? Usually not.

While looking for Aunt Pearl's Molasses Cookies I ran across a recipe I have been thinking about since before Christmas. One our Mom (Evelyn Rowland) used to make and keep in a coffee can on a shelf in the cold back room. After they sat there for a few weeks she would dole them out one at a time to us.

They were "Orange Blossom Cookies." Mom got the recipe from Mrs. Elizabeth Krajewski. She was our third

and fourth grade teacher in the Porter Corners Fire House. This recipe, has a couple of quirks also. Like "nut meats," finely crushed. Seal in a tight can and let ripen a couple of days. Seemed like weeks to me.

As with all community charity cookbooks there are advertisements from local business and acknowledgments of the officers, members, and/or cookbook committee. I am familiar with all ladies listed but the last two members.

Pastor.....	Rev. John Elliott
OFFICERS	
President.....	Mrs. Viola Doherty
Vice President.....	Mrs. Grace Williams
Secretary.....	Mrs. Fern Schyberg
Treasurer.....	Mrs. Emma Guiles
MEMBERS	
Mrs. Nellie Brigham	Mrs. Ellen Mousin
Mrs. Clarabelle Burton	Mrs. Jean Norman
Mrs. Marjorie Campbell	Mrs. Alahna Ormsbee
Mrs. Ada Daniels	Mrs. Bossie Ormsbee
Mrs. Lulu Edwards	Mrs. Ellen Ormsbee
Mrs. Lillie Griffin	Mrs. Helen Rodgers
Mrs. Emma Harris	Mrs. Florence Rowland
Mrs. Margie Jones	Miss Gertrude Rowland
Mrs. Gladys Jones	Mrs. Beverly Sherman
Mrs. Betty Manar	Mrs. Emogene Steele
Mrs. Irene Middlebrook	Mrs. Frances Young
Mrs. Frances McKnight	Mrs. Nellie Young
Mrs. May McKnight	Mrs. Joy Welsey
Mrs. Georgia McKnight	Mrs. Waya Cowles
Mrs. Pearl McKnight	Mrs. John Elliott

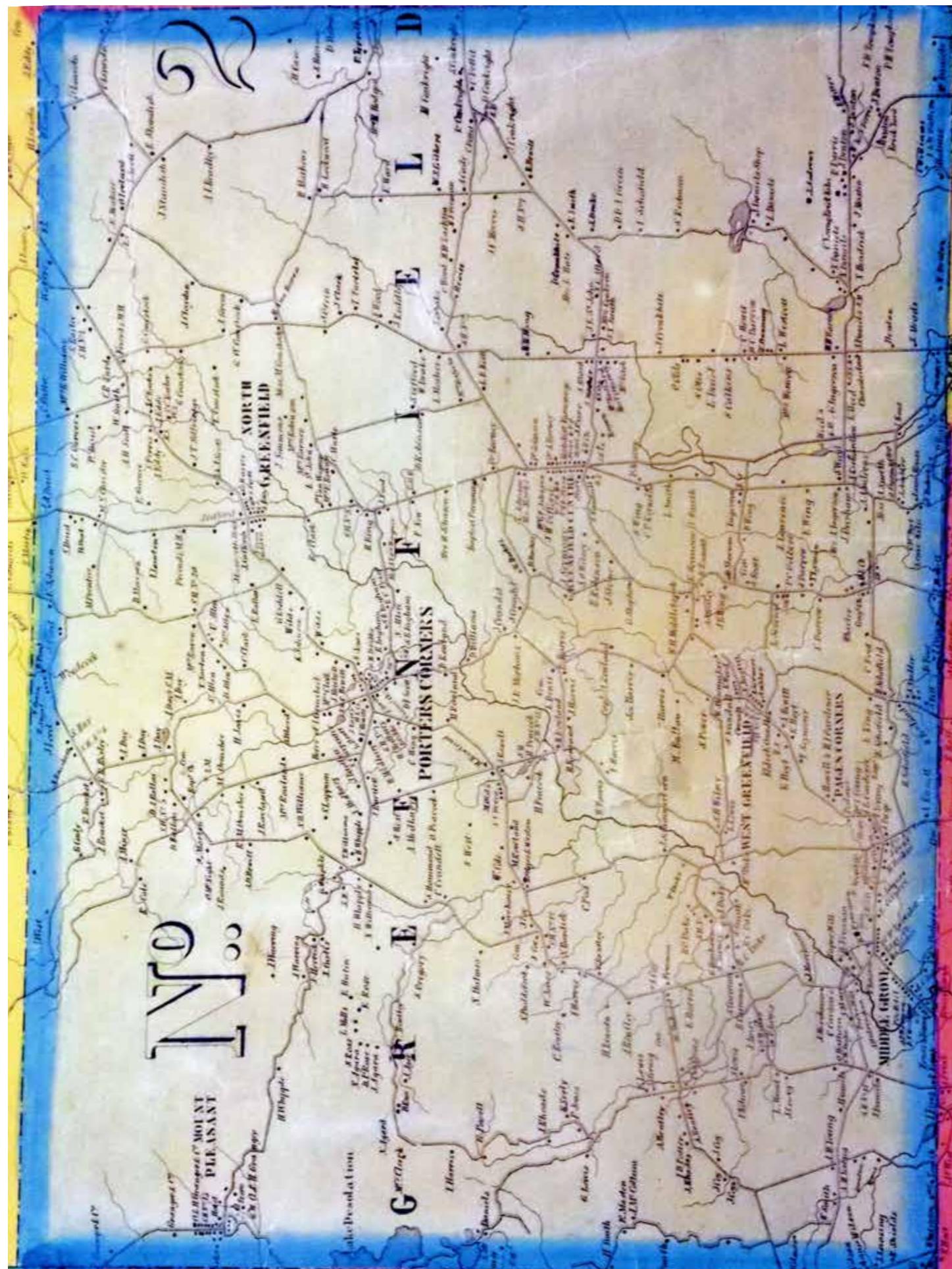
As I was looking at the advertisements, I noticed they had three-digit phone numbers, no zip codes, some didn't even have an address of any kind. Example: Lehigh Valley Coal, Anthony Hayes, Prop. Phone 110, that's it. As I looked at all the ads I thought about where they were located. Is the building still there? Are they still in business? Some are still in business, but, have moved. Example: In Corinth, Jim the Florist was on Palmer Ave., moved to Main St., and now it's Meme's Florist. Do you remember E. D. Starbuck & Co. Inc. at 408-412 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY Telephone 784. It must have been quite the store; they have a full-page ad. It had four floors plus the basement. They had clothing for the whole family, curtains, rugs, linoleum, furniture, bedding, china, glassware, and enamel. (Is enamel cookware?)

Joan says I read a cookbook like most people read a

COMPLIMENTS OF		
HIGGINS CHEVROLET		
OPPOSITE J. P. MILL		
CORINTH, NEW YORK		
TELEPHONE 12FF		
CHEVROLET – SALES AND SERVICE		
CUT FLOWERS POTTED PLANTS FUNERAL DESIGNS		
BUSH'S GREENHOUSE		
PINE & SIXTH STS.	PHONE 2171	PALMER, NEW YORK
COMPLIMENTS OF		
ONIDA MARKET		
MAIN STREET		CORINTH, NEW YORK
PHONE 88		
WITH MY SINCERE BEST WISHES TO THE LADIES OF THE		
PORTER CORNERS METHODIST CHURCH		
IRVING H. DENSMORE, PROP.		
CORINTH, N. Y.		

novel. She might be right. There is so much history in these old books. This one also has a recipe for liniment and mustard plaster, handwritten.

If you have a memory of any of these businesses, how about sharing them for a future newsletter.



1856 Geil Map of Greenfield (*Thanks to Rachel Clothier for sharing this on Facebook on the Greenfield Remembered page*)

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**. Email 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.

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 Dgchertok@gmail.com, call his cell phone (518-321-0330), or text him.



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