



## 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 19, Issue 8



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

### CALENDAR

**April 16 – Tuesday**, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield. **Program:** *Michael DeMasi* is a journalist who worked at the Post Star, Daily Gazette and Albany Business Review, and has recently written a book called *What They Said: 25 Years of Telling Stories*, a collection of his favorite and most significant stories.

**May 21 – Tuesday**, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield. **Program:** *Peter Murphy* is a docent who leads tours in Congress Park, and a great storyteller. He will be highlighting the growth of Saratoga Springs from an Indian “secret” to the “Las Vegas/Disney World” of the 1870s through 1910, and showing photos.

**June 21-Sept. 13 – Fridays, FARMERS MARKET**, 4-7 p.m., Middle Grove Town Park • **Sept. 13 – Chili Cookoff**

**July 23-28 – 178th SARATOGA COUNTY FAIR Tuesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Ballston Spa Fairgrounds, Townley Building.** Visit our display and info booth.

**Aug. 10 – Saturday, 10th CABOOSE DAY AND CAR SHOW (100th Anniversary of the Caboose), 10 a.m.-3 p.m., King’s Station, corner of Route 9N and Porter Road.** Bake Sale and food available for purchase. Rain or Shine. For information, call Louise – Town Hall at 518-893-7432 or 518-796-4066. Car Show information, call Tom Clute at 518-580-0655.

**Sept. 17 – 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 at 7 p.m. **Program:** *Lawrence Dudley*, his book is called *New York Station*. This is a spy thriller set in the 1940s. It has a local connection – the Saratoga racing meet figures into the story.

**Oct. 5 – Saturday, HISTORICAL SOCIETY GALA, The Full Course Restaurant at Brookhaven Golf Course.** More information to follow.

**Oct. 15 – Tuesday**, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield. **Program:** To be announced.

**Nov. 19 – Tuesday**, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield. **Program:** *Joseph Zarzynski*, who spoke at our January 2015 meeting, will talk about his new book – *The Tale of the Dismembered 1757 Fort William Henry Shipwreck*.

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

### April Notes

by Mary Vetter

Yeah!!! As I write this article I can look out on my neighbor’s field and see green on the ground. I noticed this morning that my rhododendrons are starting to come to life. Smile, we have come through the winter.

We started our March meeting with a proposal to change the dates of our financial year. This will bring the financial year into line with other dates that we use for budgeting, membership dues, reporting periods, and dates of service that our board members are elected to on a yearly bases. Such a change requires a vote at two consecutive meetings. The proposal passed at the meeting and another vote will be taken in April. Here is the proposal:

*Article V, Section 3 of the constitution of the Town of Greenfield Historical Society shall be amended to read as follows: “The Society’s financial year shall run from June 1 to May 31.” Since our financial year began on January 1, 2019 (in keeping with the wording of the current constitution) we shall effect this change by ending the financial year on May 31, 2019. This will allow us to start a new financial year as of June 1, 2019 which shall run through May 31, 2020. Thereafter, our financial year will begin on June 1 and run through to May 31.*

What a wonderful night we had listening to Lauren Roberts, Saratoga County Historian, and Jason Kemper, Director of Planning for Saratoga County, talk about the project that resulted in the creation of the Great Sagandaga Lake. Jason also sits on the Advisory Council for the lake as Saratoga County’s representative.

*Continued on page 2*

### Our Newest LIFETIME MEMBERS

Rachel McCabe  
Ellen Mousin  
James Van Dyk

*Continued from page 1*

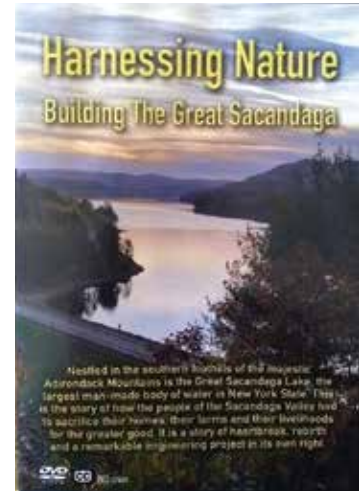
Together they co-directed a documentary titled “Harnessing Nature: Building the Great Sacandaga.” Their presentation described the flooding events that led to the need to create the lake, how the site was selected, the construction techniques used and sadly, the impact the creation of the lake had on the inhabitants of the area. The film includes interviews with people who had been displaced by the creation of the lake and it makes their loss very real.

The county makes the film available to our members as a fundraising tool. Each DVD costs \$20. We reimburse the county \$12 and we keep the balance of \$8. You can buy one by mailing a check made out the Society for \$21.50 (\$20 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling) to the address listed below. You can also purchase this DVD on our website at: [www.greenfieldhistoricalsociety.com/store/c5/Merchandise.html](http://www.greenfieldhistoricalsociety.com/store/c5/Merchandise.html).

Please join us next month when Michael DeMasi, a journalist who has worked for area newspapers, gives a presentation on his book titled “What They Said: 25 Years of Telling Stories.” The book is a collection of his favorite and most significant stories.

## “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 \$1.50 if they need to be mailed.)

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

In my March article, I wrote about the early settlers who populated what would one day become the Town of Greenfield. I went on to suggest that religion played a huge role in their everyday lives. This month I will discuss the earliest church to form in Greenfield.

The first church of record in the Town of Greenfield was the First Congregational Church of Greenfield formed in July 1790. The first business meeting was held in August 1790. At first the congregation met in private homes, but in 1793 they constructed a meeting place located near the geographic center of their residences.

The resulting church stood on the north side of South Greenfield Road, just west of its intersection with Middle Grove Road. In 1831, the congregation purchased a house and thirteen acres on the opposite side of the road from the church with the intent of using the house as a parsonage. Subsequently, in 1832, the existing church building was physically moved across the road to sit next to the parsonage on the thirteen acres. In addition to the move, the church was also renovated.

In 1855, the church was re-roofed and painted and a brand new parsonage built. In 1860, the church was again repaired and this time it was enlarged.

People were on the move after the American Revolution. It was a period of rebirth and opportunity. Elias Gilbert had been in Newport, R.I. when the revolution began. When the British took over that area, he moved to Stockbridge, Mass., then to Great Barrington, and then Manchester, Vt.; from there to Pittstown, NY, and about the year 1789; he came to the area that would become Greenfield, NY.

Elias was a cabinet maker – not an educated man – but he had an intellectual mind. In Greenfield, he organized the Congregational Church and was installed as its first pastor in a position that he held until his death in 1814. Reverend Gilbert was also one of the founders of the Temperance Society and was elected its first president.

In a typewritten history of the church (author not identified) a passage indicates the control the church held over its members. It describes the church records as, "... the records of the meetings of the church officers are one long series of almost incessant trials of members ... for petty offences, based upon complaints equally as petty made by their neighbors. The seriousness manifested in a number of lengthy reprimands upon some member guilty of 'lying' in that he expressed an opinion upon one day and a contrary one the next."

The First Congregational Church of Greenfield considered aligning themselves with other churches and may have done this early in their history, but then, they apparently decided against any affiliations and decided to stand alone.

By 1949, membership had dropped to the point where they could no longer heat the church and maintain a pastor, so a decision was made by the remaining members to liquidate. Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Dake purchased the property at auction with plans to renovate the parsonage into a residential home. Subsequently, the church itself was also renovated into a home.

The buildings still stand on South Greenfield Road near the intersection with Middle Grove Road. Both buildings are now private residences.

## Easter Sunrise Service on the Mountain

by JoAnn and Joan Rowland

Easter Sunrise Service on the Mountain began in 1992 when Rev. Dr. Chris Dillion was pastor of the Porter Corners United Methodist Church. The church had just become a single charge church. It was at a church board meeting when Pastor Dillion asked what we do for Easter Sunrise Service?

The answer was – we usually go to South Corinth United Methodist Church for sunrise service inside at 6:30 a.m.

Someone suggested we have our own outside. Our father, Myron J. Rowland, offered to host the service at our farm. We see beautiful sunrises but never a sunset since it sets behind the mountain.

Pastor Chris Dillion did the first service. For the next few years, we hosted the service and went back to Porters' Church for breakfast. Various Pastors and Laypeople did the service after that. The men of the church would offer to cook the breakfast.

After Myron's passing in 1994, our mom, Evelyn I. Rowland, continued offering the farm as the sunrise service site. Her niece, Prudence DesJardins, did the service on the front lawn a few years. One year, most missed the sun rising because they didn't realize the sun waits for no one.

Before mom's passing in 2003, we had the service on the porch so she could attend. Bozo the dog always attended as well.

We did not have the service for a couple years. We went to John Arnold's Farm in Gansevoort with friends. It was nice to see the young calves at the farm, but we could not see the sun rise.

In 2004, JoAnn started attending Middle Grove United Methodist Church. They had a couple of their Sunrise Services in the Middle Grove Park Pavilion, but it was not held on the east end.

In 2006, we invited our friends and members of the Porter Corners and Middle Grove Churches to the farm. This is when we started to refer to the service as "Easter Sunrise on the Mountain." The service has moved to above the house in the hay/corn field across the road. Some come early to look for deer or wild turkey, listen to the creek babble, or listen to the crisp air.

Joan now checks the internet for the exact time the sunrise is to happen in Porter Corners, NY. We never know if the sun will shine beautifully or if it will go behind the cloud and show up later. But we all stand in the field (or by the side of the road when Easter is in March and the snow banks are too high), and we look to the East – toward the Angel Field where the Rowland Cemetery is (five generations before us) and hope the bright sun will shine on us today.

JoAnn has been doing the quick (10 to 15 minutes) service and Joan oversees the Pot Luck Breakfast back at our farm house after the service is over.

In recent years, word has spread to friends and family and we have people from Fort Miller, Stillwater, Corinth, Schuylerville, Broadalbin and all points in between. Family's grow, the grandchildren are now coming with their parents and grandparents.

We have always closed the service in prayer with everyone in a circle and holding hands. We now must connect with our family matriarch Aunt Ruth Rowland Hayes who is in her mid 90s and attends but stays in the car (with her nephew's dog).

Most proceed to the Rowland Farm House for breakfast. The kitchen table is full, plus the added on tables with others standing around the outside of the kitchen, and added a table in the living room which is also full. Sometimes if weather permits, there are more outside on the wrap porch. Our Aunt likes to sit at "her spot" – where she ate dinner as a child. The table has changed, the people have changed, but the fellowship of friends still thrives.

**PS: This year's service will be Sunday, April 21, 2019, at 6 a.m. (sun is to rise at 6:03 a.m.).**



**March Program:** *Lauren Roberts*, our county historian, and Jason Kemper, director of planning for Saratoga County, telling about "*Harnessing Nature: Building the Great Sacandaga.*"



## 2019 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, Sandra Kanar, 518-893-7445.

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

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

### Turning Stone – Verona, NY

*Wednesday, May 15, 2019*

- 6:45 a.m. Bus reports to load at Greenfield  
 7 a.m. Depart Greenfield, short stop enroute  
 10 a.m. Arrive Turning Stone Casino. Enjoy your time relaxing, playing the games or Bingo. The bonus is controlled by the casino. Upon arrival there will be a welcome ambassador that will greet the bus. Each passenger can choose if they want the casino package or bingo package. At this time the casino package is \$25 free play and \$5 meal ticket the Bingo package is \$20 Bingo and \$5 meal ticket. Also on Wednesday's you are eligible for a 100 point bonus and a U spin bonus. If you do not have a player's card you will need to sign up for the player's card to get the extra bonus.
- 3:45 p.m. Bus is available to load  
 4 p.m. Load bus and depart, short stop on way home (1/2 hour)  
 7:30 p.m. Estimated return to Greenfield  
 Cost \$2 No refunds. Money is due by April 25

### Strawberry Festival Johnny and June Cash – Summit View, Holyoke, MA

*Wednesday, June 19, 2019*

- 8 a.m. Bus reports to load at Greenfield  
 8:15 a.m. Depart Greenfield, stop enroute (1/2 hour)  
 11 a.m. Arrive Summit View Banquet and Meeting House, picnic luncheon at the Summit View (huge outdoor covered pavilion) BBQ luncheon: BBQ ribs, baked mac and cheese, hot dogs, hamburgers, corn on the cob, potato and macaroni salad, strawberry shortcake, lemonade and ice tea. There are strawberries for sale. Entertainment is Johnny and June Cash impersonators.
- 3 p.m. Load bus and depart, short stop on way home (1/2 hour)  
 6 p.m. Estimated return to Greenfield  
 Cost \$53 No refunds. Money is due by May 9

### Grease – Mac-Hayden Theater – Chatham, NY

*Wednesday, July 17, 2019*

- 9:45 a.m. Bus reports to load at Greenfield  
 10 a.m. Depart Greenfield, no planned stop  
 11:30 a.m. Kozel's restaurant for a buffet lunch  
 1:30 p.m. Arrive Mac-Hayden Theatre  
 2 p.m. This household favorite returns to take us down memory lane once more with the gang at Rydell High. This time we are adding in all of the hits from the film to make this new Grease even more memorable. "Hopelessly Devoted," "Greased Lightning" and "You're the One That I Want" are just a few of the record breaking hits that make this show such a rockin' good time.
- 5 p.m. Load bus after show is over, short stop on way home (1/2 hour)  
 7 p.m. Estimated return to Greenfield  
 Cost \$57 No refunds. Money is due by June 13

### Friesians of Majesty – Townshend, VT

*Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2019*

Lunch at the New England House followed by a guided tour of the European style barns, meet the majestic horses and their foals. Watch a dressage freestyle show and driving demonstrations.

- Board bus at 7:45 a.m. and returns at 7:30 p.m.  
 Cost \$51 Money is due by July 11

### Delaware & Ulster RR – Arkville, NY

*Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2019*

2 1/2 hour train ride on the Rip Van Winkle Flyer followed by a visit to Margaretville, NY

- Board bus at 6:45 a.m. and returns at 6:30 p.m.  
 Cost \$53 Money is due by Aug. 8

### Oktoberfest – Callicoon, NY

*Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2019*

- 6 a.m. Bus reports to load at Greenfield  
 6:15 a.m. Depart Greenfield, stop enroute (1/2 hour)  
 10:15 a.m. Arrive Villa Roma. Welcome coffee and cake upon arrival. While at Villa Roma, feel free to participate in the daily activities. There is an indoor sports complex with bocce, shuffleboard, ping pong table and video games, an indoor pool, jacuzzi and fitness center.
- Noon Lunch: Fruit cup and lentil soup. Please choose entree 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 and the rousing performance of the fantastically popular Alex Miexner Band.
- 3:30 p.m. Load bus and depart, short stop on way home  
 7-7:30 p.m. Estimated return to Greenfield  
 Cost \$45 No refunds. Money is due by Aug. 8

**Crooning the Classics – Plantsville, CT****Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019**

- 7:15 a.m. Bus reports to load at Greenfield  
 7:30 a.m. Depart Greenfield, stop enroute (1/2 hour)  
 11 a.m. Arrive Aqua Turf – Crooning the Classics.  
 Complimentary coffee, donuts and door prizes  
 Noon Lunch: Salad, pasta, beef burgundy, pan seared salmon, rice pilaf, vegetable and dessert. All entrees are served family style.  
 Complimentary glass of beer or wine.  
 Entertainment: Crooning the Classics.  
 Dave Colucci and his musical guests will regale you with songs from artists like John Denver, Neil Diamond, Barry Manilow and more. (No dancing)  
 3:30 p.m. Time to reboard the bus, short stop on way home  
 7-7:30 p.m. Estimated return to Greenfield  
 Cost \$47 No refunds. Money is due by Oct. 10

**HERITAGE HUNTERS  
Genealogy and Local History**

*Heritage Hunters of Saratoga County meet at 1 p.m. at the Town of Saratoga Town Hall, corner of Rt. 4 and Rt. 29 in Schuylerville. Public is welcome. For information, call Ginny at 518-885-9309.*

**April 20** – John Scherer, Clifton Park Historian,

“Remembering the Departed: Tombstones, Hair Wreaths and Mourning Customs.”

**May 18** – Lauren Roberts, Saratoga County Historian, LaRue Collection of documents from the 1700s and 1800s.

**June 15** – Greg Vietch, Saratoga Springs Police Chief and author of “All the Law in the World Won’t Stop Them,” a local history of crime through the Prohibition era.

**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!*

**Daketown School Mug***by Joan Rowland*

*Here is a little history of the school at Daketown.*

The 1856 Geil Map shows a school on this site, but we don’t know when the school was built. In December 1876, the school burns to ground. January 1877, a resolution passed to build a new school.

The photo on the mug was circa 1880. We know that in May 1915, the back window was shifted so the blackboards could be installed. In May 1930, the school was moved back about 10 foot and new sills were installed. In May 1937, the district voted to install electric lights. May 1954, the district was consolidated. June 1956 school closed. Students are to be sent to Porter Corners School. This property becomes a private residence (photos where school is painted red). In 1991, Bill Dake purchased school and donates the schoolhouse to the Town of Greenfield Historical Society. In 2004, Historical Society has school restored to its original condition under the supervision of John Munter and Munter Enterprises. Currently, up keep is in the TOGHS annual budget.

The students on this mug are from left to right: Arthur Deyoe, William Wilsey Jr., Benjamin C. Dake, Harvey Deyoe, Mable Wilsey, Anne Webb and Edith Dake Ellsworth. The teacher is Fanny Pendrick. The current photo was taken June 2018 after the 3rd graders from Greenfield School came for their annual visit.

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.

*Thanks to the refreshment volunteers for March, Joan Rowland and Janet Jones. We served Pistachio Cake, Oreo Carrot Cake Cookies and Banana Cake.*

*April refreshment volunteers are Joyce Woodard and Katie Finnegan.*

*Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson*

## 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](http://www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com).** Email [toghistsoc@gmail.com](mailto:toghistsoc@gmail.com) for more information. **Click on STORE, ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP – HOUSEHOLD or LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP and follow the instructions.**

**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 proof read 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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