



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

Volume 21, Issue 8



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email toghistsoc@gmail.com

www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, May 18, 2021, May Meeting, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Middle Grove Park Pavilion. The park is located 430 Middle Grove Road. This will be a business meeting and all members are welcome. *Please bring a chair and wear a mask. The meeting will be socially distanced.*

Saturday, June 12, 2021, Storytelling Event, noon to 3 p.m., Middle Grove Town Park Pavilion
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 Mary Vetter are co-chairs of this event. (More info on page 3.)*

Saturday, July 10, 2021, Music In The Park! 4 to 7 p.m., Middle Grove Town Park. Join us for a late afternoon of music and fun. Bring along your friends, family, and folding chairs, sit back, and enjoy as our home-grown musicians display their talents. *Musicians interested in performing please contact Patti at pveitch@nycap.rr.com.*

Saturday, August 14, 2021, Caboose Day at King's Station, corner of Route 9N and Porter Road. *Louise Okoniewski organizes this event for the town with the assistance of our society. For information, call Louise – Town Hall at 518-893-7432 or 518-796-4066.*

Saturday, September 11, 2021, Antique Sale, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Middle Grove Town Park. *John Greenwood is organizing this event. (See more information on page 3 of this newsletter.)*

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.

toghistoc@gmail.com or mvetter@nycap.rr.com

Everyone is welcome, admission is free, and you don't have to be a member to attend.

APRIL NOTES 2021

by Mary Vetter

Happy Spring everyone. I hope you are all enjoying the warmer weather and the longer days. I am working from home now and the window in my office overlooks the Middlebrook's field and I have happily watched the snow disappear and the grass green up. It's fun to watch birds of all sizes flit in and out of the trees.

In March, the Board held a meeting to hammer out some of the details for our summer events. In this newsletter you will find articles from the chairpersons for the events outlining their plans. Anyone who wants to work on these events should email me at: toghistsoc@gmail.com and I will pass your interest on to the appropriate chairperson. We intend to have vendors at our events and if you would like to participate as a vendor, please let me know and I will pass the information on to Ron Deutsch.

Once again it is time for spring clean up at the museum and the schoolhouse. I will have a date for this in our May newsletter. We will be looking for volunteers to help spruce these places up.

After many years of service as the secretary of our board, Patty Schwartzbeck is looking to step back from this position. Likewise, Katie Finnegan will be stepping away from her duties finding speakers for our general membership meetings. So, we are looking for people to step forward to join our board and take up these roles. Again, you can email me at: toghistsoc@gmail.com to express your interest by the end of April. We will be holding elections for the board positions at our May meeting. We will also provide our proposed budget. ***Please note: We have altered the start time of the meeting and the location. We will be holding our meeting at the Middle Grove Park Pavilion from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.***

FIRE COMPANY PROJECT: Our hardworking Town Historian, Ron Feulner, has been busy putting together a book about the fire companies in our town. With the help of many people, he has collected a great deal of material and we are eager to create an exhibit at our museum. Dan Chertok has agreed to help with this project, but we need many hands to help with the design of the exhibit and its implementation. We want to open it by the middle of June. Please let us know if you can lend your talent to this project. ***Email: toghistsoc@gmail.com.***

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

April 2021

by Ron Feulner

Last month, I talked about the founding of the park or “grove” in the center of the hamlet that Middle Grove was named after. This month, I will return to the history of the two stores that once occupied the intersection of Middle Grove and Murray Roads near the site of the present day Stewart’s Shop.

You may remember from earlier articles that Moses D. Rowell, owned the eastern most of the two stores. On October 14, 1880 an article in the *Saratoga Sentinel* under Middle Grove news states that, “*Moses D. Rowell is building a new house on the corner opposite the store.*” This is the same two story wood frame house that still stands on the southeast corner of the intersection of Middle Grove and Murray Roads, diagonally across from the Stewart’s Shop. This new Rowell home was adjacent to the first park or grove area lot that was lumbered off and would be later used as a pasture for Rowell’s cows. (*Much later under the ownership of Richard R. and Laura Roeckle, the cow pasture became a mobile home park that still exists today under the ownership of Charlie Pita.*)



Moses D. Rowell's house taken from Stewart's driveway looking east. Murray Road on the right.

While renting his Middle Grove store to Stuart Early for three years, Moses Rowell had also invested in the mercantile business in Rock City Falls as the December 16, 1880 *Saratoga Sentinel* states that, “*Moses D. Rowell has bought the store goods of James Boughton at this old stand at Rock City Falls. The people of Rock City will find Mr. Rowell . . .*”

While Moses is busy building his new house and running a new store in Rock City Falls, Stuart Early has leased the Rowell Store in Middle Grove and is gearing up to run that store which was located across the road from Rowell’s new home. The store is still owned by Moses D. but on lease to Early. The September 15, 1881 issue states under Middle Grove news, “*Stuart Early has purchased orders for winter goods.*”

However, the April 27, 1882 *Sentinel* newspaper indicates that Stuart Early is going to have competition right next door. The article states that “*John W. Wait and son erecting new store here.*” (This store will become Early’s main competitor and will survive many owners until it eventually becomes Roeckle’s Store and is destroyed by fire in 1994 and replaced by a Stewart’s Shop.)

According to the Wait’s deed, this new store was located on the adjacent lot just west of Rowell’s (then leased by Early) store. (Rowell’s Store location in the year 2020 would have been adjacent to, on the west side, of the single story home which now occupies the site between the Stewart’s Shop and the old firehouse, this home was built over the old Fulton hotel foundation.)

Stuart Early was apparently expanding his business and took a partner. The *Sentinel* reported on June 8, 1882, that, “*Luther Cady has bought a partnership interest in Stuart Early's store. They will make a strong firm.*” The same Middle Grove news article states that a “Telephone line from Ballston came last Saturday to Early and Cady’s store.” This apparently is when the telephone first arrived in Middle Grove.

However, the partnership didn’t last long, as the May 17, 1883 *Sentinel* reports that, “*The mercantile firm of Early and Cady has been dissolved, Stuart Early buying out Luther Cady's share of goods in the store.*”

“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 heart-break, 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 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

STORY TELLING EVENT

Co-chaired by Mary Vetter and Joan Rowland

**Saturday, June 12, 2021 from noon until 3 p.m.
at Middle Grove Town Park Pavilion**

The Town of Greenfield Historical Society would like to invite you to join us with a story of a Father. (This topic was selected by the board because it is close to Father's Day). Your story could be about your father, grandfather, or a male role model.

So many are of the opinion that storytelling is for children, while adults read books. However, stories of centuries past, tell us something different. In fact, almost every culture has storytelling in its long-ago history. It was the way, long before books were available, that custom, culture, and morality passed from one generation to the next. Listening to stories connects us to our history, and to each other.

Different people appreciate the words of a story in different ways. Adults comprehend the sociology and history while children understand the action. The child and adult may laugh at the same words; however, they did not hear the same story. Nevertheless, both experience extreme pleasure from the occasion.

When you arrive, you will sign in to tell your story. We will go down the list of names so everyone gets a chance to tell their story. If you are not one to talk in a group setting, please come and listen to other. Hopefully we will all learn about the fathers in our town both past and present.

If you have been in Greenfield School's 3rd Grade and heard our Town Historian, Ron Feulner tell the story of his father who saw a man in the woods running in circles because he was frightened and lost, you heard the magic of story telling. If we are lucky, he will tell this story again.

Question was asked — How old do you have to be? No age limits for those who want to go up to the mic. Just come, have a nice time with the folks in your town.

*Please bring a lawn chair. Covid-19 social distancing rules will be followed. **Masks are required to be worn unless enjoying items to eat that will be for sale.***

“City Boy” Preserves Country Charm

By Patti Veitch

Many of you are familiar with Richard and Helen Stutzenstein, and the farm that they ran on Hyspot Road in Greenfield Center for many, many years. Richard and Helen had decided to retire and my sister and brother-in-law, Claudia and Kevin Bright, decided to purchase the property to preserve the agricultural charm and the open space of the maple syrup farm, thereby creating a multi-generational family business, Twin Leaf Farms.

When asked, Kevin stated “I have been coming to Greenfield since 1972. As a ‘city boy’ I always valued the beautiful untouched countryside of my in-laws’ farm. After their passing and leaving the farm to my wife Claudia’s care, we went on a mission to preserve the splendor that started generations ago. As adjacent land became available, we decided to expand, got into the maple business, and we are building a vision for a working family farm immersed in Agro-Tourism, a large function barn facility, and the preservation of farmland in Greenfield.”

MUSIC IN THE PARK!

Join us on **July 10 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Middle Grove Town Park** for a late afternoon of music and fun! Bring along your friends, family, and folding chairs, sit back, and enjoy as our home-grown musicians display their talents. Musicians interested in performing please contact **Patti Veitch** at pveitch@nycap.rr.com.

“ANTIQUES AND A STORY”

The majority of our Greenfield Historical Society board meeting last fall was spent brainstorming fresh ideas for fundraising. Covid-19 not only disrupted our lives and our monthly meetings it crippled our ability to raise funds. With a year of catching up ahead of us, one of our ideas was to have an antique sale that coincides with the Greenfield Town Wide Garage Sale. This sale will take place at the **Middle Grove Town Park on Saturday, September 11, 2021, from 10 to 3 p.m.**

Our goal is to ask town residents to donate an antique item of value that can then be sold at our booth on Saturday, September 11. The entire proceed of the sale item would benefit the Historical Society. We thought it might be easier for people to part with items from their home, barn, attic, or shed rather than a monetary donation. We have an entire summer to assemble items for the sale. Once the items are collected they would become the property of the Historical Society. The value of the items would be discussed with the donor, but ultimately the sale price would be determined by Historical Society member in charge at the time of the sale. Any items not sold at the end of the event could be sold at a later date or event.

An element I'd like to add would be to have the donor include a three by five card to be placed with the item. That card would include some historical information about the item. It could be as simple as where it originated to a more detailed story about its significance to the person donating it. This gives the sale and the item a historical trail that promotes the mission of the Historical Society.

We use the term antique loosely. We encourage any item with an attachment to local history, regardless of its exact age. We will consider any type of antique furniture, historic memorabilia, framed artwork, or vintage photographs of local significance. Even books of local history might be considered. To promote the sale, we could share pictures on Facebook of items being collected. This gives residents the opportunity to see what we will be selling and what type of donations we are seeking.

This is a first for me. I welcome any suggestions that might help with the success of this event.

Thank you,

John Greenwood

jgreenwood3@nycap.rr.com

518-832-0122

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

613 ANGELS

by Alice Feulner

Many years ago, I made little sock dolls to use as tie-backs on the curtains over my baby's crib. Later as a birthday gift for the same daughter, I started making sock angels. It grew into my "Glad Rag Sock Angel" business. The majority of these angels were gifts from me to dear friends and family but I sold many also. They were at the Cooperstown Library Christmas Event one year, at a Gift Show in Sharon Springs, the Breakfast House outside of Cherry Valley, at the Cultural Center in the Library in Glens Falls, and lastly they were at Jane Thraillkill's Gift Shop in Saratoga. As I grow older, there are fewer angels. It has been the happiest time and I am so thankful for those years – and **Angels**.



More About Alice's Angels

by Janet Jones

Below are photos of my *Angels* made by Alice. She didn't tell you in her story that on every Angel, there's a tag included that says: "*Original Sock Angel handstitched with button legs. Made with LOVE!!*" Including special information on each one.

Below: Angel on left was donated by Alice for a silent auction item at the Historical Society Gala in 2018 and I won! The tag says: "*Flossie – This happy angel loves the summer days. Her friends come to visit and often go to the races or perhaps shop for new summer hats! Glad Rags, Greenfield Center, N.Y.*"

The middle Angel was made especially for me with two tags that say: "*Celeste is a heavenly angel. She is to be the angel-in-charge of the Star-light evening. New stars will be placed high up in the heavens to honor special angels and she will be giving out the star awards. What a wonderful evening it will be for all.*" "*Janet – my Glad Rag Angel gift to you. This may be what Barbie will look like when she is older – with bleached blonde hair but still ready to party. Thanks for letting Molly and I come visit your collection. Happy Birthday!!!*"

The Angel on the right was a gift for my Mom in 2003 with a tag that says: "*Margie – A special friend celebrating her 80th birthday with all us ANGELS ...*"



DARROW FARM

These photos of chickens, pigs, and cows were taken at the Darrow Farm located on Locust Grove Road, now 290 Locust Grove Road. Based on a family history, this farm was in the Darrow family from 1793 until 1955 when it was sold after the death of Norman Earl Darrow. The photos were most likely taken in 1902 by my great-grandmother, Mabel Josephine Darrow Potter (b. September 6 1877, d. January 15 1961).

Story and photos supplied by Robert Roeckle



Darrow Farm 1902 feeding chickens



Darrow Farm chicken pen



Darrow Farm chicken pen chicks



Darrow Farm 1902 pigs and chickens



Darrow Farm 1902 pigs with chickens



Darrow Farm 1902 pigs



Darrow Farm cows eating



Stephen Elliot Darrow home, Locust Grove Road



290 Locust Grove Road, April 2021

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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