



## 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 9



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email [toghistsoc@gmail.com](mailto:toghistsoc@gmail.com)

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

**This newsletter is dedicated in memory of  
Mildred Ormsbee Brill.**

### CALENDAR

**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.

### May Notes

by Mary Vetter

Katie Finnegan found us a fine speaker for the April Meeting. We were treated to some wonderful stories from Michael DeMasi, a journalist who worked at the Post Star, Daily Gazette and Albany Business Review. The stories were from his new book *What They Said: 25 Years of Telling Stories*. I thoroughly enjoyed his talk and his take on the newspaper business as a whole. Mr. DeMasi was very gracious and generous with his time. He spent quite a bit of time talking to members after the presentation.

As I prepare for the last meeting until September, I am thinking back on all of the wonderful activities we participated in this year. Without the dedication of our members and trustees none of it would have been possible.

From the third graders who visited the Daketown School to the crowds that packed Caboose Day and the Chili Cook-off, to the attendees at our fall Gala, we are blessed with members who support our efforts to preserve Greenfield’s history. Let’s not forget the weekly shoppers at our Farmers Market who support our local producers and the members who attended monthly meetings.

Everyone who is involved in organizing these events appreciates the response of the membership. I would like to thank all of the trustees, the vice president, the secretary, the treasurer and our committee members for their hard work. They make everything possible and do it with excellence.

This month’s meeting will be busy. In addition to our regular business and our presentation, we will elect officers for the coming year. We will also have a second vote on the constitutional change shown on page 2.

It has been brought to my attention that we have an additional Article in the constitution that needs to be amended to bring it into line with the change

to Article V, Section 3. This is Article VI, Section 2. The proposal is as follows:

➤ **Article VI, Section 2** of the constitution of the Town of Greenfield Historical Society currently reads as follows: *Elections of officers shall take place at the May Annual Meeting. New officers shall assume their responsibilities on June 1st. The Society's fiscal year shall run from January 1st to December 31st.* The section will be amended to read as follows: *Elections of officers shall take place at the May Annual Meeting. New officers shall assume their responsibilities on June 1. The Society's fiscal year shall run from June 1 to May 31.*

This proposal will bring this article and section into agreement with Article V, Section 3.

This month we will enjoy a presentation by Pete Murphy, a docent who leads tours in Congress Park. He will speak about the growth of Saratoga Springs from an Indian “secret” to the Las Vegas/Disneyworld of the 1870s to 1910. See you there!

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

Last month, I wrote about how churches played a major role in the lives of the early settlers. I also wrote about the history of the first church, The First Congregational Church of Greenfield. This month, I shall write about other church histories in the town.

One year after the Congregational church formed in the Town of Greenfield, the First Baptist Church of Greenfield formed in 1791. This church formed when a number of the Stillwater, NY, Baptist Church members moved to the Greenfield area and proceeded to start their own church here. The Stillwater church was a mother church of sorts to this congregation as it would be to others. The First Baptist Church of Greenfield was given the name “Hemlock Brook,” and its membership grew rapidly.

In 1816-17, members were able to build their first church building which was described as able to comfortably hold 250 people. An early description of the church building was written by Mrs. L. A. Morehouse and reads as follows, “There were two horse sheds on either end of the main building. When services were being held, both sheds were completely utilized plus hitching posts in the yard. Two large box wood stoves were located on both sides of the main entrance to the church. Long lengths of stovepipe suspended from the ceiling extended the full length of the church to the chimney in the rear. There were stairs leading to the balcony on either side. The high windows on both sides of the church had small panes of glass. Full length inside wooden blinds were used at each window.”

The First Baptist Church of Greenfield is still active with their meeting house located on the north side of Wilton Road near Greenfield Town Hall. Today, this church is the oldest continuously running organization in the Town of Greenfield.

Other Baptist churches would follow the First Baptist Church of Greenfield, but I will leave my discussion of them until the next newsletter.

**VIRGINIA – HAROLD FREEMAN JONES**, 83, of Stuarts Draft went to be with the Lord on Sunday, April 21, 2019 at his home. Born Jan. 31, 1936 in Greenfield Center, NY, he was the son of the late Arthur Leroy and Nina Elizabeth (Hathaway) Jones. On July 13, 1957, he married Elizabeth Laidlaw. The two shared a loving and blessed union of 61 years together.



Harold was a member and elder of Faith Baptist Church, Williamsburg. As a church member, he enjoyed helping with the Awana Club and playing an active role in the young men of the church. Prior to retirement, he was employed with Allied Chemical where he worked as a chemical engineer for over 40 years. He was instrumental in the development of integrated circuit chips and served as a liaison between the California and Japan offices. He made numerous work trips to Japan and relished his time spent there learning the Japanese culture. Harold was a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Society.

He will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend to many. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one grandson, Timothy Jones; and sisters: Neva Thompson, Arlene Butler and Gladys Jones. In addition to his wife, survivors include his children, Ken Jones and wife, Sue of Fishersville, VA, Doug Jones and wife, Sue of Milmay, NJ, and Kathy Neu and husband, Ken of Annville, PA; grandchildren, Chris Jones, Ben Jones, Emily Phillips, Amy Jones, Edward Jones, Zach Neu and Sarah Neu; and sister, Helen Woods of Schuylerville, NY.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 18, 2019 at Faith Baptist Church, 4107 Rochambeau Dr., Williamsburg, VA. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation, 230 East Ohio St., Suite 500, Chicago, IL 60611. Relatives and friends may share condolences and memories with the family online by visiting [www.reynoldshamrickfuneralhomes.com](http://www.reynoldshamrickfuneralhomes.com)

*(Harold was a long-time member of our Historical Society.)*

## DUES ARE DUE STARTING JUNE 1

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



*We're back!*

## GREENFIELD FARMERS MARKET

**Middle Grove Park** (Middle Grove Road)

**Every Friday, 4 to 7 p.m.**

**June 21 to September 13, 2019**

- Locally grown vegetables and plants
- Locally made baked goods and crafts
- Local maple syrup, honey, pesto, eggs, jams, spices and more
- Live Music – Plenty of parking, bathrooms and places for the kids to play while you shop and hang out with your neighbors

*Sponsored by The Town of Greenfield Historical Society  
Supported by the Town of Greenfield*

To become a vendor or for more information, please contact the market committee by email at [manager@greenfieldfarmersmarket.org](mailto:manager@greenfieldfarmersmarket.org)

Visit our Facebook page for weekly updates, available products and other exciting events.



### 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](http://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](http://smile.amazon.com) on all your Amazon shopping trips to support us. Thanks!*

*Thanks to the refreshment volunteers for April, Katie Finnegan and Joyce Woodard. They served Pecan Pies, Bread with M&M's and individual Grandma Apples Cheesecakes.\**

*May refreshment volunteers are Mary Vetter and Lelah Cornell.*

*Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson*

*\*[www.facebook.com/GrandmaApples/](http://www.facebook.com/GrandmaApples/)*



### April 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.*

### 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.*

**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.

## What Was The First Vehicle You Ever Drove?

by Joan E. Rowland

This summer, stop at the Historical Society Booth at the Farmers Market and add your name, what car/truck, make, model, year, if you know. Add your story to the list.

*The question is*

*“What was the first vehicle you ever drove?”*

Mine, well – I was 11 – It was 1970, Jim and Ken White were helping my father, Myron Rowland, with the haying. They decided to come up while he was at work, to bale and load the lower field. Their mother, Ella White, came with them. They got my sister, JoAnn, and I to go help. I remember my mom stayed at our house.

The White’s tractor was being used to bale the hay, using our baler, which produced small round bales.

Ken decided to teach me to drive his Scout to pull the wagon. Then he could load the bales on the wagon. The 1970 Scout (Jeep) was standard on the floor. I knew how to shift because I had been one of the 4 or 5 in the front bench seat and I shifted when the driver told me to. So here I am, learning standard for the first time, on a vehicle (not the tractor – it is different). To this day, I can not drive a standard. I learned with a load of hay helping me out of first gear and without that load to push me along, I just stall. [In my defense, we have never had a standard car in our family since I could drive legally.]

The other thing that happened that day was, Ella decided we needed our tractor at the field. JoAnn had her permit to drive and since the sheriff had not gone by yet that day (they were on a regular schedule), Ella sent me up to the house with the Scout because I was only 11 years old, didn’t have a permit to be taken away, so I was the best choice to go? Anyway, I drove the Scout up to our house; over the two stone bridges, out to the paved road and up to the house. I got our 9N Tractor and drove that back to the field.

I remember mom coming out of the house and asking me what I was doing driving the Scout – I said “because Ella told me to.”

So – what is your story? Think about it – we will be at the booth at the Farmers Market every week. The Farmers Market is from June 21 until Sept. 13, from 4 to 7 p.m. every Friday.

I will write another story for the October newsletter with some interesting vehicles. If you have a story, drop it off or tell me.

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### “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 NY, 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.)

## Daketown School Mug

by Joan E. 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.

***Watch for the new mug this summer. It will be available at Caboose Day and in August at the Farmers Market.***

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***Note to the Editor:*** In the March 2019 newsletter, John R. Greenwood’s story, “The Chair” was an accurate view of small town youth and reflected on memories that came to my mind, as well as others I am sure.

Great story John! You were on the mark for growing up in a small town.

Frank (J. Frank Goyette)

## 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

#### 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

## 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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 Historical Society  
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