



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 9



501(c)(3)

email toghistsoc@gmail.com
www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

Dedicated in Memory of Donald Young and Mildred Ormsbee Brill
Sponsored by Margaret Brill Barcomb (niece and daughter)

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.

MAY NOTES 2021

by Mary Vetter

Time flies. It is already May. I want to savor this spring. It is such a delight to watch the violets pop up in the lawn. Every year I hold off mowing for as long as possible so we can enjoy the color. Soon buttercups and tiny wild white strawberry flowers will pop up creating a riot of color.

We continue with our plans for our summer events. For Father's Day, we have a storytelling event planned. Kids can be bewildering to their parents. My own dad had to navigate the land mines of five girls becoming women. Looking back I wonder how he held on to his sanity but he did, with humor, pride and steel. Often we thought he was dreadful but mostly we were grateful for the man we could count on. So now you know a bit about Wilbur. That makes it your turn to share your dad story. See the events section of this newsletter for details.

Anyone who wants to work on any of the events we have planned 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. Last month I promised a date for it and I have landed on May 22. I will start at the museum at 10 a.m. If interested, please send an email to toghistsoc@gmail.com.

We will be holding elections for the Board positions at our May meeting. We will also provide our proposed budget. Please note, that we have altered the start time of the meeting and the location. We will be holding our meeting at the Middle Grove Park Pavilion at 6:30 p.m.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

May 2021 — by *Ron Feulner*

In past articles, I have talked about the Rowell store in Middle Grove owned by Moses D. Rowell and how he had leased the store to Stuart Early (I have found his name spelled this way and also as Early. I am not sure which is correct.) Then in June 1882, Early took on a partner, Luther Cady, however, in less than a year, in May of 1883, the partnership dissolved with Early buying out Cady's share.

Stuart Early in addition to running the store and taking a partner then dissolving the partnership was apparently also engaging in other activities as a December 14, 1882, article in the Sentinel states, "Frank Griffin at J.R. Harris' grist mill — grain being shipped by Stuart Early to Nebraska.

On May 31, 1883, the Weekly Saratogian reported that, "Stuart Early having renovated and repaired his store is now prepared to attend to his patrons" The same paper states that, "Jim Wait and son having received new goods, are ready to serve customers." The two stores situated side by side (near where the Stewart's Shop is located in Middle Grove) were apparently gearing up for competition with each other.

On June 7, 1883, the Saratoga Sentinel stated, "Stuart Early — adding farm implements and Bowker's fertilizer — also — stock of men's clothing and ladies dress goods" to his inventory.

However, Stuart Early's main competitor, the new store adjacent to his on the west side, built by John W. Wait and son a little more than a year earlier had apparently run into a change of plans, because Mrs. Wait apparently decided to sell the store. The July 5, 1883, Saratoga Sentinel ran the following, "Luther Cady and son, Clifford E., and Charles H. Kilmer bought the store and goods from Mrs. John W. Wait taking possession July 3. The new firm is strong both financially and personally and will make the mercantile business boom here. The store is the new one built by Mr. Wait last year."

Luther Cady apparently sold his partnership in the Early store in May of 1883, and then bought the store next door to Early's in July of the same year becoming a competitor to his former partner. All of this activity reminds me of the game "Monopoly," only this was for real.

Stuart Early apparently decided to move closer to the Rowell Store that he had been leasing, because the March 13, 1884, Saratoga Sentinel states that "Edward Tourtellet and his sister, Lydia Tourtellet, have bought from the widow the place which formerly belonged to their brother, Dr. Freeman Tourtellet. In this connection it is reported that Dr. Craig, who now occupies the Tourtellet house will move into M.D. Rowell's home, and Stuart Early will occupy Mrs. McFarland's house next to the hotel." Apparently, Stuart Early had been boarding at

the Tourtellet house which was across the road from the Methodist Church in Middle Grove. Now he would be living two doors away from the store that he was leasing.

The same March 13, 1884, article also states that, "John W. Wait and his son, Henry W., are going, April 1, to take charge of a boarding house, which they have leased in the Catskill region." Having sold their new store to Cady and others, the Waits are moving to the Catskills and engaging in a new endeavor.

The June 26, 1884, Saratoga Sentinel stated, "Mr. Early, the merchant displays fine stock of farming implements"

The July 10, 1884 sentinel also states, "A photographer pitched tent on the Stewart Early lot to take photos."

While Stuart Early was now doing a strong business in the store that he had rented from Moses D. Rowell, Moses was apparently doing well in Rock City Falls. A Saratoga Sentinel article in June 26, 1884, under Rock City Falls news stated, "Moses D. Rowell, the well-known merchant and postmaster here"

However, by November 2, 1886, the Daily Saratogian reported that, "Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Early are visiting friends in Nebraska."

The same November 2, 1886, Greenfield news article stated that, M.D. Rowell has sold out his store at Porter Corners and moved to Middle Grove. It appears that Moses had not only been operating a store in Rock City Falls but also in Porter Corners while renting his store in Middle Grove to Stuart Early and his new house across the street to Dr. Craig.

By December 15, 1886, we find Stuart Early and his wife returning from out west. "Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Early have just returned from a trip to Nebraska, having been absent about three months. Mr. Early is quite out of health, having had a run of fever during his absence."

Several months later, on March 9, 1887, an Albany NY newspaper called the Argus, was advertising, "Store for rent at Middle Grove, New York and goods for sale: Stuart Early." Apparently, Stuart had returned from his trip out west and decided to close his store and sell the contents.

Apparently Stuart's health never improved. The daily Saratogian ran his obituary in 1902, which indicated that he had been living in several western states trying to find a place that would improve his health, but finally succumbed on April 3, 1902, in California. He was 57 years old, had attended a local common school and Eastman's Business College in Poughkeepsie, NY. He had married Marion Augusta Batcheller in 1874, the youngest daughter of Samuel Batcheller. He had engaged in the mercantile trade in Conklingville, and later in Middle Grove.

**Our membership year begins June 1 and ends May 31, dues are paid annually.
(\$10 per household or \$100 for Lifetime Membership)**

YARD WORK

by John R. Greenwood

Musty smell of melted snow now gone
Green metal rake poised against the white siding
Rests ready to pile winter's shed into
Mounded heaps of maple and stick
Awaiting strong arms and time

Saturday mornings run fast
In April's rush to bloom May flowers
Tall brown bags stuffed full
Parked obediently at road's edge

Spring birds refreshed seem sharper in song
Bee and bug visits - singular and erratic
Unsure what cloudy afternoons have in store

Dry leather gloves hide shyly
In back corner garage darkness

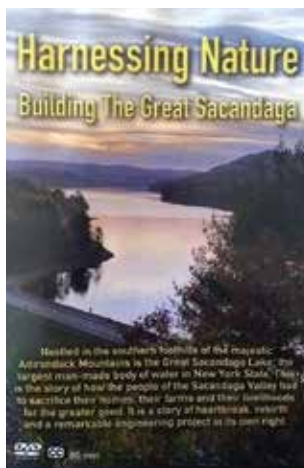
Tulip bulbs long neglected
Poke up defiantly in places years forgotten
Life's reminder
That flower tender, nor weakest child,
shall be discounted, nor counted out, nor given up

Each spring, each returning flower,
each corner yard-surprise discovered
Pushes skyward
One year more.

J.R.G.4.28.2010

“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.)



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.

Mary Vetter

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?

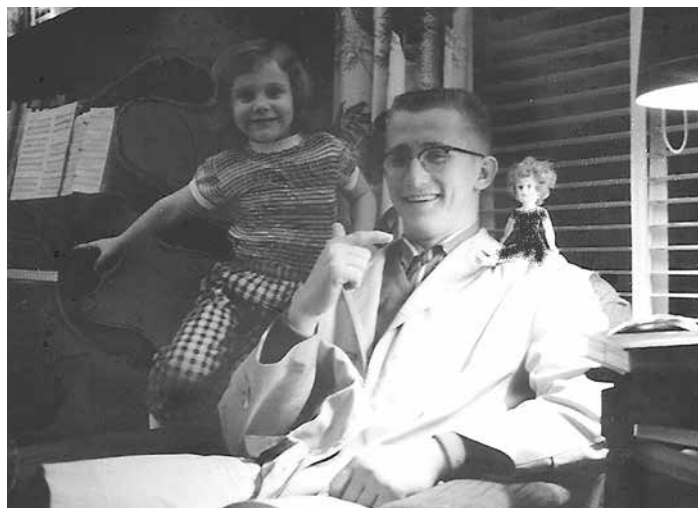
Are you good at organizing collections?

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



Happy Heavenly Birthday Don Young on May 2!
from Janet Jones

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.

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!

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**

HERE'S TO OUR FLAG, OLD
GLORY.

By the Rev. A. S. Clark.

(Read at a patriotic rally at Round
Lake on Sunday evening,
June 24, 1917)

Here's to our Flag, Old Glory,
The flag of Washington,
Of Lincoln and McKinley
And Grant, that peerless son;
Of spirits brave and noble,
Who won by help Divine;
On Truth's eternal pages—
How bright their deeds now
shine!

It floats with fairer beauty
Each morn in heaven's breeze;
No flag was e'er so honored
At home, or 'cross the seas.
The hopes of age on ages
Within its folds are bound;
It speaks the doom of tyrants
Where'er its stars are found.

'Twas borne in freedom's struggles
A hundred years ago,
And, forth from civil conflict
It came with richer glow,
With added stars of lustre
Our sons shall bear it o'er
The waves of yon great ocean
In Freedom's righteous war.

With it, we can but conquer,
Though stern may be the fight;
For God has sealed its mission
To lead the cause of right.
Blest flag of truth and mercy
Where'er your folds shall wave
May they but tell of conquest
To rescue, bless and save.

Up, then, all, with Old Glory!
Let none its folds e'er mar.
Our dear, blest flag of Freedom
That never lost a star;
speed O God of Nations
at day of seers foretold
men shall dwell as brothers—
Shepherd and one fold.



Frances Josephine Wing Darrow sewing flag



Raising the flag at the Darrow Farm

Photos supplied by Robert Roeckle

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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Historical Society
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Greenfield Center, NY 12833