



Historical Society Newsletter

OFFICERS: President, Joan E Rowland; Vice President, Robert Roeckle;
Secretary, Patti Veitch; Treasurer, JoAnn Rowland

TRUSTEES: Ron Deutsch, Ron Feulner, John Greenwood, Mike Gymarthy,
Patty Schwartzbeck, Dan Smith, and Mary Vetter

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

Volume 23, Issue 9



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www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

In Remembrance of Mildred Ormsbee Brill (1912-2007)

Dedicated by her children

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, May 16 – Meeting 7 p.m. will be held at
The SC&H Train Station, 9 Railroad Place, Corinth.
(See more details on page 3.)

Saturday, June 10 – *Daketown School Open House* –
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We have not hosted the 3rd graders
from Greenfield School, since the pandemic. The Open
House will give the students, parents, grandparents,
and neighbors a time to come visit the school.

Fridays, June 23 to September 15 – *Greenfield and
Middle Grove Farmers Market* – 4 to 7 p.m. at the
Middle Grove United Methodist Church parking
lot, 429 Middle Grove Road. TOGHS will have
a community event booth at the Farmers Market
from June 30 to September 1. Stop in to see what's
happening in town. Answer the survey question,
purchase a book to read, or just hang out at the booth
to see your neighbors.

Fridays, July 7 to August 25 – *Chatfield Museum of
Local History* – 4 to 6 p.m., 440 Middle Grove Road,
Middle Grove. The museum will be open 8 weeks
this summer.

Saturday, July 22 – *Music in the Park* – 3 to 7 p.m., at
the Middle Grove Town Park, 428 Middle Grove Road,
with bands. (Please note date change.)

Saturday, August 12 – *Caboose Day and Car Show*,
10 to 3 p.m., Kings Station, Corner of Rt. 9N and
Porter Road, Porter Corners. Station and cabooses open,
vendors; hot dogs, hamburgers, French fries, water,
soda, and baked goods for sale.

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

Our Newest LIFETIME MEMBERS
Brad Duke and Darla Oathout

Joan's Jabbering — May 2023

by Joan E Rowland, President

I always start with the weather and this one I missed. Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 2:10 p.m. in Adams NY an earthquake, 3.6 was felt in upstate NY and Canada. What were you doing then? I was in NJ at a baby shower, I missed it. But I do have memories of my waterbed rippling on a couple closer ones.

What amazing people we have in our community. Earth Day was April 22nd. A group of 9 stopped in at the museum to help sweep, polish, dust, pick stones, move sticks, move dirt, fill in ruts, trim brush, and oh yes, take down the Christmas decorations. Then, 3 went off to the school to do the same there, followed by 4 more workers, as on-lookers. (We didn't want to miss the excitement.) Thanks so much for all the hard work. (See clean up photos for proof of hard workers.)

This fiscal year is coming to a close at the end of May. The board will be working on the new budget for 2023-24 year. It will need to be approved at the May meeting. We also have the nomination committee busy working on finalizing the board of directors to be presented at this meeting. This meeting will take place on the Saratoga Corinth & Hudson Railway's train car at the train station in Corinth (9 Railroad Place, Corinth). The meeting starts at 7 p.m. Tours of the train will happen after our meeting and speaker, Hal Raven.

Lots of fun things happening with the Historical Society this summer – see list on side of newsletter for details. Hope to see you at many of the events.

Don't forget that your dues are due again June 1 – just \$10 per household or \$100 to become a life member.



Bottom of Stairs: Dan Smith, Patti Veitch; Outhouse: Stan Zeh, Karl Zeh, John Greenwood; With Rake: Robert Roeckle (Joan wished she had taken a photo of him on the ground picking stones); Other volunteers not pictured: Patty Schwartzbeck, JoAnn Rowland

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

May 2023 — by Ron Feulner

Last month, I talked about the history of the general store in Middle Grove that was located on the same property now occupied by a Stewart's shop. The store was owned by a number of families during its long history, and in the last issue, I had traced the ownership down to a German family, the Callenius' who purchased it from McAuley. The Callenius family, consisting of parents and three daughters, lived upstairs over the store. I knew the youngest daughter, Helen, quite well in later years and had many conversations with her. After living and teaching high school downstate for many years, Helen had returned to the Middle Grove area to the family home located on the south-east corner of the intersection of Sand Hill and Middle Grove Roads where she lived with her sister Ruth (also retired).

She had told me several stories about her family living in Middle Grove and running the general store. Helen said that when she was a child, she was quite gifted as an artist. Her father, Herman, took advantage of her gift to help him in the store. When a farmer would bring in a broken part from a piece of machinery, Helen would draw the part on a piece of paper, and Herman would send the drawing to the manufacturer who would usually recognize it and send the replacement part in the return mail.



Figure 34 – Helen Callenius

Helen also remembered, as a child, the problem her father had when a family of gypsies came to town, and all of them would come in the store at once. He usually found a number of items missing after such visits, so he devised a plan. Water pipes went from the basement up through the store, passing near the cash

register counter and then upstairs to the living apartment. Her father would bang on the pipes with a piece of metal when he saw a family of gypsies coming, and the whole Callenius family would rush downstairs and each would pick one of the gypsies to follow around the store. It worked and the thefts stopped.

Helen also said that her father had been disappointed with Mr. McAuley. When Mr. Callenius bought the store from him, it was the only store near that location (the former Rowell Store having burned in the 1907 fire). When Mr. Callenius viewed the store before purchasing it, Mr. McAuley had a post office set up in the corner of the store which brought in a lot of traffic and increased sales.

Following the sale, McAuley, who was postmaster, moved the post office out of the store and into his personal residence across the street. Mr. Callenius apparently wasn't aware that he intended to do this.

Less than a year after Mr. Callenius purchased the store, McAuley purchased the old Fulton Hotel next door and converted it into another store, and on May 27, 1921, McAuley opened the store. About a month later, on June 20, 1921, McAuley moved the post office from his home



Figure 35 – F. W. McAuley's Residence

to the new store where he was in direct competition with Mr. Callenius.

Mr. McAuley must have retired as post master and store clerk in the years that followed. The September 21, 1929 Saratogian has him taking a partner, Franklin Jones to run the hotel store. The article states that, "A member of the firm of McAuley and Jones General Store and Post Office at Middle Grove, having been taken into the firm in May."

Franklin Jones was the father of F. Earl Jones of Porter Corners and Estella McLaren, who lived in Corinth. Franklin died a short time after becoming McAuley's partner, leaving a wife (Viola Jones) and two children, Earl and Estella. Their mother, unable to provide for both children, sent Earl to live with his grandfather in Porter Corners where Earl grew up, married, and lived most of his life. Earl and his wife, Margie, both deceased, still have children living in the area.



Figure 36 – Middle Grove Store and Post Office 1938

Herman Callenius apparently did not expect the new competition from Mr. McAuley, but apparently did well in spite of it, as he ran a successful business for many years. The two stores, as I remember them, carried different inventories. The Callenius Store was more hardware oriented while the McAuley Store remained much smaller and sold mostly food and clothing. Both stores had gasoline pumps, but those at the Callenius Store were more accessible. After successfully running the business and raising their family in the store and apartment above it, on June 5, 1945, Herman and Wilhelmine Callenius sold the store to another German couple, Richard and Anna Roeckle.

TOGHS Program April 2023



Patricia Nugent taking about her book: “The Pen is Mightier than the Sword: The Lasting Power of the Written Word.”



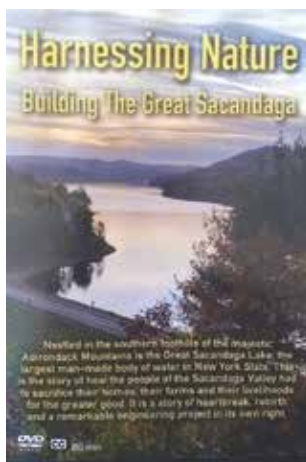
A collection of buttons donated to the Historical Society by Lynda Roeckle. They belonged to her Great-Grandmother, Mabel Darrow Potter.



Refreshment volunteers for April were Patti Veitch and Robert Roeckle. They served Oreo Thin Cookies, Vanilla Cookies with Frosting, and Tres Leches Cake (made with 3 different kinds of milk). Volunteers for May are Joan Rowland and John Greenwood.

“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.)



Tuesday, May 16, 2023 Program

Meeting at 7 p.m. – May’s Town of Greenfield Historical Society Meeting will be at The SC&H Train Station, 9 Railroad Place, Corinth. Come early for a photo op with the train.

Saratoga Corinth & Hudson Railway

Hal Raven owner and train conductor will bring us up to date on the scenic train line now operating between the Corinth Railway Station and Lamothe Landing in Greenfield Center. Hal will discuss the railway’s involvement and train schedule for our August 12, 2023 Caboose Day. We’ll learn about the past history of the train and the rail line itself, as well as some exciting news about the railway’s future plans and how it impacts our community. There will be plenty of opportunity for comments and questions.

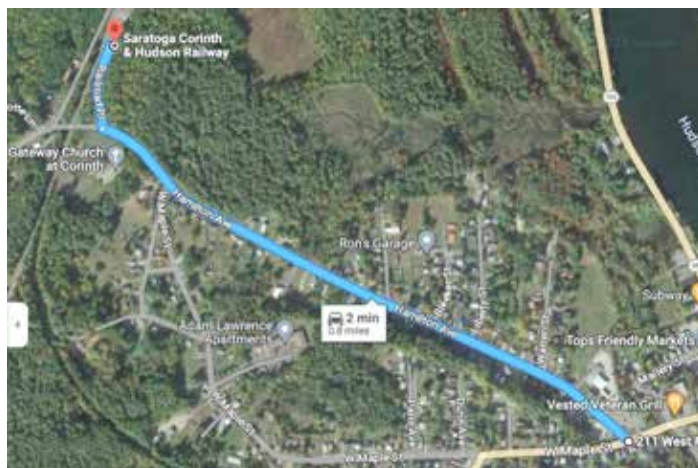


Photo taken by photographer/owner of Steel Wheels Photography Transportation and PR Photography. Shared on Facebook by John Greenwood.

Directions to 9 Railroad Place, Corinth, NY 12822

Go North on Route 9N, into Corinth (name of street in Corinth is also West Maple Street). Turn left onto Hamilton Avenue (Whites ACE Hardware is on corner).

Continue on Hamilton Avenue until you see the railroad overpass – turn right into 9 Railroad Place – The Train will be sitting at the station. Lots of parking available.



MUSEUM'S FEATURED ITEM BALLOU SCHOOL – DISTRICT #5

by Joan E Rowland



This School Teachers Box and School Bell were donated by Joan Lutz.

Within the books was this note:

Age: c1835-40

Source: Greenfield, NY, from the old one room schoolhouse.

History: This box was purchased from a 94-year-old lady in October of 1993 who said her mother, E.M. Ballou, used it when she taught in this one room school in Greenfield, NY. The daughter is now in a nursing home in Saratoga.

On January 25, 2023, Joan Lutz delivered this box to the Greenfield Historian's office and donated it to the Town of Greenfield Historical Society.

From what I know, the 94-year-old lady would be Lucy Ballou. She was a well-known teacher in the Porter Corners School. She lived on Ballou Road just west of the Ballou School (large white house before Ormsbee Road).

I asked our Historian Ron Feulner what he knew about such a box. He said it was like our modern briefcases. A teacher would move into their newly

assigned school with this box of books. They are the books they wanted to be teaching from.

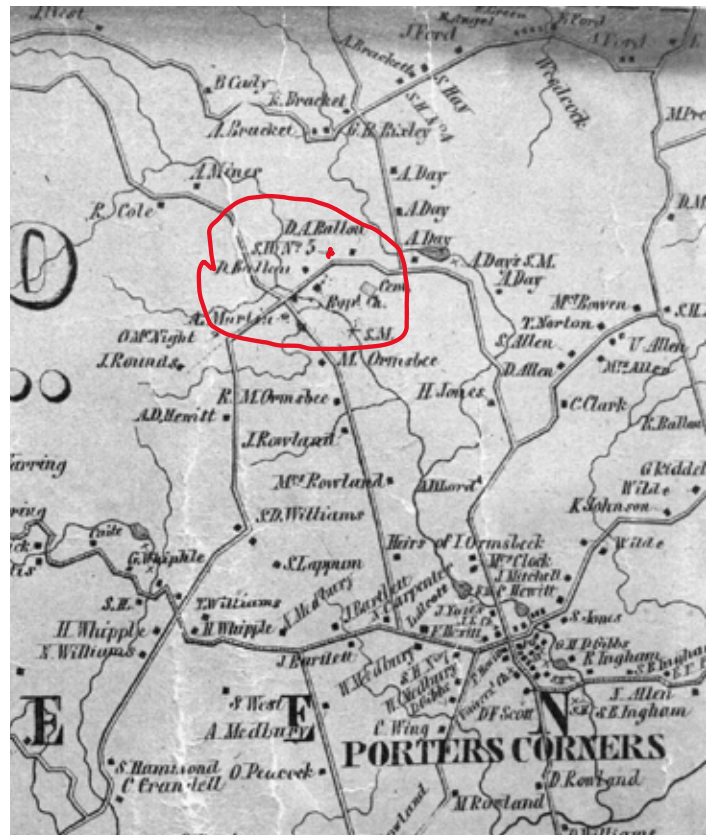
Here is a photo of the box and school bell which is believed to have come from this District #5 school. I found a photo labeled to be Ballou School District #5. I also asked Ron where the school was located.

You will see from the map attached, it is across from the Ballou Cemetery, West (next) to D A Ballou land.

Stop into the Open House Saturday, June 10 from 10-2 at Daketown School #8 and see this School Box and Bell on display.



Ballou School District #5



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



We are a local summer market place that promotes local products and home grown business – we are looking for vendors in the following areas: local meat products, farm raised meats and jerky; herbs and spices; flowers and plants; local brewery, winery, distillery; pet products; up to two food vendors or food trucks; musicians to supply music (small stipend to cover your cost).

Our annual fee for vendors is low; \$60 for the season these funds are used to promote the market and your local business – would love to have you join us.

WEB HELP WANTED

We are looking to form a small group of people who would like to look at our website and give it a fresh look. Some Web experience would be welcome.

Take a look at our website at greenfieldhistoricalsociety.com

Please contact us using our email address at toghistsoc@gmail.com

Mary Vetter will be chairing this group. Thanks in advance for your help.

BOOKS FOR SALE



We have three books for sale: *Saratoga County Stories* (\$18), *Follow My Moccasin's Tracks* by Ira Gray (\$15.95), and *More Saratoga County Stories* (\$20).

Pick your copy up at the next meeting or order from the Town of Greenfield Historical Society, PO Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833, with an additional \$3.50 postage and handling.

A Strong Foundation

by John R. Greenwood



The photo above may appear average and unremarkable. Still, as I knelt there this April morning, the view reminded me of my personal foundation. Growing up in a small country village surrounded by a supportive community proved to be one of the most valuable contributions to my life. Whenever I begin to dissect what true happiness is, I inevitably return to my roots. Not simply family roots but those of my youth in general.

There isn't a day when I don't refer back to a face or story from my early life. Grade school classmates, backyard adventures, scout meetings, tree climbing, hay fort building, and visions of the old swimming hole all surface. When it's quiet with no outside distractions, I can visualize the endless list of people who strengthened my foundation. The obvious are parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and my dear sister. Then the surnames of the childhood families that added mortar to that foundation flow like water: Shay, Dake, Atwell, Davis, Gibbons, Cornell, Baldwin, Frasier, Hodges, O'Donnell, Rumpf, Pantan, Lindahl, Bootier, Levo, Orisek, Barney, Brown, Wheatley, Allen, Claydon, Gordon, Cote, Kahl, Sherman, Hall, Sesselman, Kostka, Bowen, Cline, Schwartz, Hurd, Smero, Koptula, Homiak, Pasmik, and Jones, all just a fraction of the mountainous collection of contributors to my life. I could fill pages with the names of people who've positively influenced me. Every day I channel an event or lesson I've experienced. Even the painful or uncomfortable ones have meaning and purpose in some remote way. How lucky I've been to have lived in the time and places that I have.

I saw that when I stood up and looked at my freshly painted foundation. Those names began popping into my head, inspiring me to write them down. As I write this, the gentle rain falling outside has given me a moment to ponder each name and attach a memory. It's an activity that I practice often and one that gives me immense pleasure. I know many people spend their lives searching for happiness via material things. Although a new car, exotic vacation, or motorboat can bring you short-term joy, the list of names above could only be obtained by growing up where stone foundations can still be found today.

Thank you, the 1960s and Greenfield Center, NY.

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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