



## 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

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

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

Volume 20, Issue 2



501(c)(3)

### CALENDAR

**Oct. 15 – Tuesday**, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield. **Program:** Come meet owners *Dave and Diane Allen* from *Lavenlair Farm* – the lavender farm in Fort Ann, NY. They will talk about the history of the Farm including the 1807 Schoolhouse, the 1820 stone farmhouse and introducing lavender as a crop to this already beautiful place. Come with questions or just to enjoy an evening of stories and lavender. Farm grown lavender products will be available for purchase.

**Oct. 19 – Saturday, HISTORICAL SOCIETY GALA, The Full Course Restaurant at Brookhaven Golf Course;** 5:30 to 9 p.m.; \$35 individual/\$65 couple; See ad on page 3.

**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.

### 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!*

### October Notes

by Mary Vetter

It was so nice to see everyone at the September pot luck meeting. As usual, the food was delicious. Lawrence Dudley talked about his book *New York Station*. Two unusual events came together to create this book set just before World War Two.

This is actual history, the Nazis funded an effort to swing the presidential election to Wendell L. Willkie in 1940 and the British established an arm of their intelligence gathering agency in New York City at Rockefeller Center. Dudley combines these two events to create a character who chases the Nazis up to Saratoga at Riley's Lake House. I always find it interesting to learn about the lesser known events that take place during big historical moments. The book has gotten good reviews and is also available as an e-book and an audio book.

Don't forget that our gala is coming up on October 19th. Tickets are available online at our website. The web address is: <http://www.greenfieldhistoricalsociety.com/>. Click on The Store Tab, then Events and you will be able to purchase your tickets.

I hope you are all enjoying the fall weather and the lovely colors it brings to our area. Just recently I did a road trip down to Long Island for a family birthday party and was treated to the various stages of fall foliage. It puts me in the mood for the hearty meals we eat over the fall. I am ready to leave the salads and the grill behind! Bring on the soups, stews, and casseroles.

On October 15th, at our next general meeting, Diane and Dave Allen from the Lavenlair Farm will talk about the history of the farm and the schoolhouse. Sounds like a fun night and they will have products from their farm for sale. As always it is at 7 p.m. and will be at the Community Center (in Greenfield).

**NOTE: Anyone who has baskets or gift certificates for the gala, please bring them to the October meeting.**

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

In the last issue, I wrote about the beginning of the Jamesville (Middle Grove) Baptist church as being an outgrowth of the Stone Church in the Town of Milton. (The Jamesville Baptist Church burned but was located near the intersection of Lake Desolation and Middle Grove Roads and sat adjacent to the east side of the present day Historical Society's museum in the old Odd Fellow's Hall.)

Some of the members of the Milton Stone Church were from the vicinity of Jamesville (now Middle Grove). In 1838, those members decided to build a daughter church in Jamesville (the building was completed in 1839) thus saving them the long commute by horse and buggy to the Town of Milton. The Jamesville congregation asked that the pastor share his time between the two churches thus beginning a three year long dissension between the churches. (Apparently, the Stone Church did not want those members to leave or at least they did not want to share a pastor with them.) However, in 1845, the Jamesville church decided to separate completely from the Milton Stone Church.

(This seems to be the pattern for churches spreading across the wilderness. A new church would be built near the edge of the wilderness. As new people moved in and extended the wilderness line, they would at first travel to the existing church, but as more came to their district, they would build their own local church and split from the mother church, or, in some cases, share a pastor with the mother church.)

In 1844, the Jamesville church experienced some frustration over slavery. On May 17th of that year, Mary Green severed her relationship with the church because of its attitude toward slavery. Later, in September of that year, Brother L. Johnson left the church saying, "... the church is tainted with the sin of slavery by extending fellowship to those who hold slaves." Apparently, some of the families in the Middle Grove area were slave holders. (Author's note: Later, after the church burned, some said that there was a section in the church where the pews had shackles for slaves attending service, but this is doubtful and no viable history of the church mentions this.)

During its heyday, baptisms at the Jamesville church were held in the Kayaderosseras Creek near the upper bridge (on Lake Desolation Road) in what is now Middle Grove. The creek had been dammed to create a mill pond for an existing paper mill on Mill Street, so the water was deep enough for a complete body immersion (including the head). Herbert Waring (I am not certain of his last name since it is blurred in the original document) described witnessing one such baptism: "A Mr. Humiston was the minister at that time and was very spectacular in his English way. Whenever he officiated a crowd of curious people would congregate. Alongside the millrace [in the Kayaderosseras] a pile of cordwood was piled and held by a wooden stake just at the edge of the stream and on this wood pile a crowd of boys and men roosted to not miss anything, and in the midst of the [baptism] ceremony that stake broke loose and down into the millrace floated a bunch of boys and men, logs, and one dog."

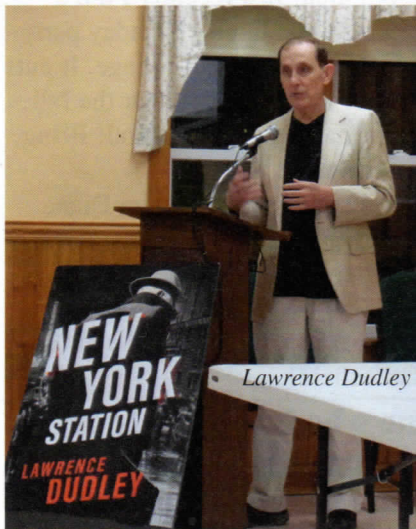
The Jamesville (Middle Grove) church was outfitted with a fine bell, which, according to an account written by Edith Dake Ellsworth, became a communication center for the hamlet. Mrs. Ellsworth wrote, "A first bell rang out the time to get ready [for church services], a second bell when to start for church and the last bell just before the service. A death was announced by tolling the age of the deceased, but it rang merrily for festivals and weddings, and clanged noisily for fires and the nation's war time victories. Thus in olden times a church bell dominated the community's emotions ..."

By 1878 the Jamesville (Middle Grove) Baptist Church membership was at forty-four. As the 20th century approached, the membership dwindled until in 1940 it could no longer support a pastor. For the next few years, it held occasional services and then remained closed until 1951 when it was sold to a local businessman, I. Reed Brown, whereupon, it became an auction house. On October 5, 1974, the church building (auction house) burned to the ground, although the carriage sheds in the back were spared.

Eventually, the Town of Greenfield Historical Society, which had purchased the abandoned IOOF Hall next to the church, also purchased the land and carriage sheds that the church had once occupied. Today (in the year 2019), the historical society uses the vacant lot as a parking area.

## Our September Pot Luck and Program

*Lawrence Dudley*, talking about his book 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.



Lawrence Dudley



Top: September Pot Luck Dinner participants  
Bottom: Ron and Alice Feulner



Harold and Earl Jones



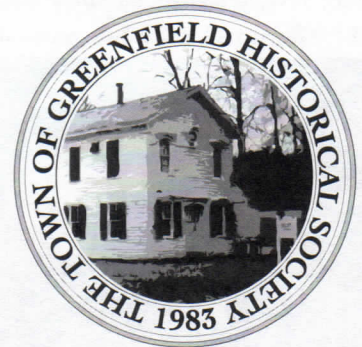
Thanks to every one that brought a dish to pass at our September Pot Luck Dinner.

October refreshment volunteers are John Greenwood and Mary Vetter.

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson

*You are cordially invited to attend*  
*The Town of Greenfield Historical Society*  
*Annual Gala*

*Saturday, October 19, 2019*  
*5:30 to 9 in the evening*



*at*

*The Full Course Restaurant at*  
*Brookhaven Golf Course*

*333 Alpine Meadows Road, Porter Corners, New York*

**Buffet With Cash Bar, Raffles, Door Prizes,  
Silent Auction, Historic Displays**

Ticket Price: \$35 individual / \$65 per couple

R.S.V.P. by October 11 to Ron Deutsch at  
518-469-6769, [mkd67@aol.com](mailto:mkd67@aol.com) or at our website  
[www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com)

*Make checks payable to The Town of Greenfield Historical Society*  
*All proceeds benefit The Town of Greenfield Historical Society*

## Farmers Market and The Chili Cook-Off Sept. 13, 2019

### Farmers Market Bags for Sale – \$10

In 2017, we asked the Greenfield Center School kids to design a logo for the Farmers Market. Four winners were selected. This summer at the Farmers Market, we sold the bags with the winning logo. To my surprise one week, **Owen Mansfield** and his family came to the Historical Society Booth to purchase the bag. (Owen was in 5th grade, now going into 8th this fall.) He also signed one for his mom and one for me. Thank you Owen for the beautiful design. If you did not get a chance to purchase your bag yet, please let us know – to date, there are only 12 bags left.

by Joan Rowland



Owen Mansfield



Alice Feulner working on one of her homemade dolls.

### Chili Cookoff Results

by Joan Rowland

Thank you to everyone that made Chili, worked (sampled) or worked the museum Friday, Sept. 13. Another great Chili Cook-off in the books. Nine chili's were sampled by around 56 people. We donated \$236 to Gale Hika of The Post Cafe. Those that donated chili were – and their winning placement – Top 3:

1. Jane Potter
2. Himanee Gupla-Carlson of Squashville Farms
3. **Ron Deutsch – FIRST Place Winner**
4. Katie Finnegan
5. **Dave Houston – Tied for THIRD place**
6. Bruce Wadsworth of Bountiful Dog Biscuit
7. Joan Rowland
8. **Kevin Digirolamo (Tinneys' cook) – SECOND Place**
9. **Liz Emerich – Tied for THIRD Place**

Thank you for the donated prizes – Tinneys a Gift Certificate; JoAnn Rowland a Watkins Gift Certificate and hand lotion; Inez of Perogi, Pierogi, Pyroogie a Gift Certificate; and TOGHS a Town Hall Mug. Winners selected from the prizes. Thanks again for everything you did to make this event a success.

*Also thanks to Ron Deutsch for all his hard work managing the market this year.*

Proceeds from the Chili Cookoff – \$236



*The Chili Cookoff Winners – Kevin Digirolamo, Ron Deutsch, Liz Emerich and Dave Houston*

### 2019 Summer Winners

Caboose Day 50/50 winner: Dan Chertok – \$35.50

Farmers Market 50/50 winners:

Don Kieffer – \$35.50

Joan Rowland – \$48.50

John Scranton – \$21.00 (donated back)

## Fundraiser for The Post Cafe / Gale Hika



Joan Rowland, treasurer; Katie Finnegan, trustee; and Gale Hika, owner of The Post Cafe



Joan Rowland, vice president; and Ron Feulner, trustee and town historian



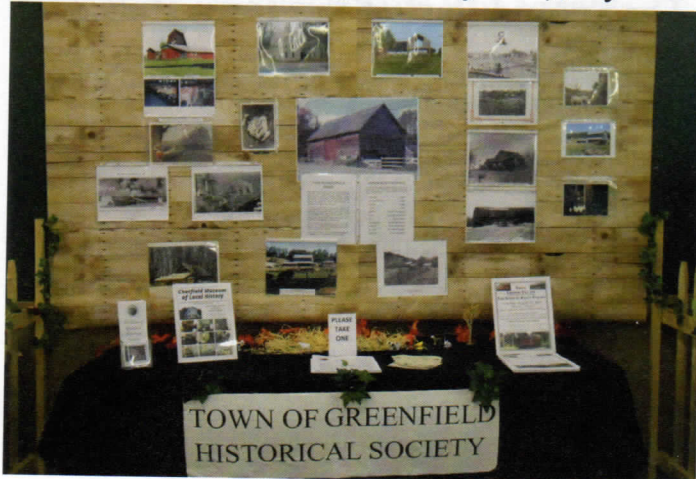
The band



Left: Ron Deutsch, trustee

Normally the Chili Cookoff funds are given to a group, organization, or person in need of help. We have given to many different disaster reliefs. This year some board members asked if we had selected someone to receive the funds and they recommended that Gale Hika at the Post Cafe receive them. Her cafe was destroyed Aug. 25, when a car drove through the building. The Cafe was closed for about 6 weeks and her employees without a job until she could reopen. Gael Hika has been a huge supporter of the Historical Society. The photos are of another community fund raiser held at the Middle Grove Town Park, Sept. 15, 2019, on Gale's behalf.

### Our Booth at the Saratoga County Fair, July 2019.



### THE GATEKEEPER'S THOUGHTS

Love through your actions  
 Wave to your neighbor (they need cheering up).  
 Keep the earth clean in your area,  
 You'll reap blessings!  
 Contemplate the universe, consider how great  
 It is to be a part of it – to be alive!  
 Dismiss all the negative from your mind,  
 Think on the positive!  
 When one door slams shut in your face,  
 Don't stand there hurting ... Get on with life and  
 look for the many open doors in other directions.  
 Be cheerful – don't be a gloom spreader.  
 Love the Creator, and again – love –  
 Where there seems to be no acceptance of it.  
 We create our own reality and destiny ... the wise  
 Saying ... "as a man or woman thinks, so is he or she."  
*Gatekeep On The Mountain: Fran Lambert*

### Holiday Party at IOOF Hall

Coming in December 2019

If you have any ideas for a theme  
 this year, please let us know.

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

Mulled Cider and coffee are provided.

The event will end with the usual  
 Cookie Exchange for a donation.

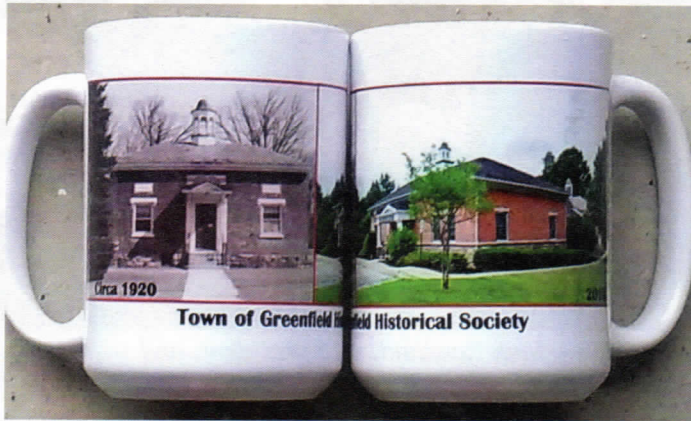
### Updating Historic Sites Map in the Town of Greenfield

If you have any information, email Dan Chertok at  
[BMMSCHERTOK@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BMMSCHERTOK@GMAIL.COM).

You also may call (518-321-0330) or write him at: Dan  
 Chertok, 58 Ormsbee Road, Porter Corners, NY 12859

## Greenfield Town Hall Mug

by Joan Rowland



*This years mug is the Greenfield Town Hall. This is the history of the town hall and it's three sections of growth.*

Cost again this year is \$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.

### GREENFIELD TOWN HALL HISTORY

Greenfield Town Hall is the attractive brick and stone building located at Greenfield Center's four corners. It was a gift to the town by the late E. Clarence Jones in 1920.

Supervisor Claude Scott (1918-21) was personal friends and had business relationships of Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones wanted to give a gift of material benefit to the town so the erection of the town hall was made.

The building was placed on the site that was formerly occupied by a barn, often used as a slaughter house, of the Greenfield Center Hotel (which was located across the street on Wilton Road).

The building was to be 21x37 feet and is 1½ stories high. With an estimated cost of \$10,000.

The vault for records (fire and waterproof) located in the basement will be 10 foot square. In addition, there will be a furnace room and a toilet room. Heating will be by means of a pipeless furnace and the plumbing will be the most modern. Entry to basement is both from inside and outside the building.

The main floor was divided into two parts by an office railing. At the right of the main entrance will be the town clerk and to the left the town supervisor. The remaining space will used as an assembly hall for town meeting and other purposes.

The plan was to have the interior finished in Georgia pine and will have double floors. The exterior of the building will have veneer brick, marble tablets, and white paneled window frames and shutters. Over the main entrance there will be marble slab with the inscription "Town Hall Greenfield Center" and to left hand corner of building, there will be a marble slab with the words

"Presented by E. Clarence Jones." The grounds will be picturesque. The roof of the building will be sea green #1 slate and, in the center, will stand a white paneled cupola. The stairs to the main entrance will be concrete with wrought iron rails. A concrete walk will lead from the main highway to the door and grounds around the building. The grounds will be made attractive with vast grass plot, shrubs, and flower beds.

Aymar Embury II of Madison Avenue, New York City is architect. Completion of building is to be April 1, 1920. [Source: *The Saratogian* dated 10/4/1919 – taken in part]

William S. Robertson, Saratoga Building contractor was awarded the contract for \$7,500. Tony Smoldone, Saratoga was sub-contractor for masonry work and N. Gustave Ericson for outside gutter around the building.

According to the contract, the contractor erected a temporary privy, the main room had seasoned spruce lath plastered with 3 coats and finished coat to be putty finish, installed inside chimney flue. The heat was #36 Richardson & Boynton one pipe furnace, 22" firepot, with 30"x30" floor register. Guaranteed 70 degree in zero weather.

They would continue using kerosene lamps as electric lighting was one of the refinements omitted from the new building.

On August 2, 1920, the Greenfield Town Board held it's first meeting in the new office. It was no longer necessary to meet in the Odd Fellows Hall or the residence of Town Clerk Dr. Clayton T. King.

[Source: *CH Brown* 10/21/1976]

### The Second Part of the Town Hall 1984

Town Supervisor Glen Hammond says, "The one room town hall just could not handle it. The addition is way over due."

Additional land had to be purchased next to the present town hall to make this addition possible. This was purposed by then Town Supervisor William Bokus.

The addition will include two town justices, a court room and a lawyer's room will be in the basement (lower level). The offices for the town clerk, town assessor, town supervisor, town building inspector-planning and zoning departments will be on the first floor. The present town hall will be used as the Town Board meeting room. Air conditioning was added for the comfort of the town clerk and town patrons.

Capital reserve funds made up of revenue sharing and sales tax revenue money will provide the funds for this addition.

Joseph W. Collura Associates of 9N Saratoga Spring is the Architect.

F. T. Collins Construction Co. of Glens Falls \$85,000. This does not include the cost of electrical, plumbing, and heating work for the addition or the finishing off of the lower level of the addition.

Groundbreaking took place December 8, 1984, with Town Supervisor Glen Hammond and Town Clerk Pauline D. Levo.