The Town of Greenfield

November/December 2025

Historical Society Newsletter

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

TRUSTEES: Duane Cornell, Cheryl Jenks, Louise Okoniewski, Karl Pritchard, Patty Schwartzbeck, Dan Smith, and Karl Zeh

The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, PO Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833

Find us on Facebook

email toghistsoc@gmail.com

Volume 26, Issue 3 501(c)(3)

www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, November 18, 2025 - Meeting at 7 PM

Guest Speaker is Joanne & Rick Reynolds with a presentation: "Traveling the Mother Road, America's Route 66: An Adventure"

Sunday, December 7, 2025 – Holiday Open House at the Museum. 440 Middle Grove Rd Middle Grove NY Join us from 1 pm to 3 pm Bring your families Holiday Traditional Receipt.

No Meeting in January

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

Our Membership year is **June 1** thru May 31. Dues is paid annually. **($10 per year or $100 for Lifetime)**

Lifetime Members

Vince Walsh and family would like to "Renew their Life Membership." Vince requests that a challenge be issued to other lifer's to do the same. Renew your Life Membership Today.

Lifetime Membership: Correction:

John and Susan McPhillips

Oct Refreshments volunteers were Robert Roeckle with a chocolate cake and Patti Veitch with Chocolate Chocolate Chip Cookies. November is Joan Rowland and Patti Veitch

Joan's Jabbering – October 2025

By Joan E. Rowland, President

Our fall foliage ended up really pretty, once we had rain. Even an Eagle stopped in for the day to check out the nice colors. (Or maybe it was the bird he stole from the black birds for lunch/dinner). Halloween day had very high winds. In Milton NY a small two-seater plane leaving Saratoga County Airport ended up in a tree in a housing development. The pilot passed away, and the passenger was seriously injured. That evening, as I was putting dinner in the oven, our power went out. Luckly, we have a generator.

October's Presenter was Anne Clothier, Saratoga County Assistant to the Historian. Her program was on "**Women of the Saratoga Campaign.**" Many know the story of British General John Burgoyne's Surrender to the Americans after the Battles of Saratoga in 1777, commonly referred to as the Turning Point of the American Revolution. Familiar names such as Benedict Arnold and Philip Schuyler are often associated with this history, but what about the women who were also involved in this crucial campaign? Whether actively traveling with the armies, or local residents who had the revolution brought to their doorsteps, this presentation told lesser-known stories of women on

both sides of the conflict and shares their perspectives on the ways their lives were forever changed by these events. Even our local women Anna Gould Dake was mentioned. She was very involved in caring for people, like a precursor of the America Red Cross.
Although attendance was low for this event, we who attended learned a lot.

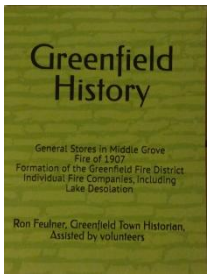
I hope you will be able to come hear about Joanne and Rick Reynold's trip on Rt 66. Learn about Motels along the route from Chicago to Arizona. Fun stories of the bathrooms they encountered. A lighthearted fun experience.

In December, Sunday the 7th – we will have our Holiday Open House, complete with stories of family receipts, wassel, cookies to taste and take home. Always an enjoyable event.

We have combined our Nov / Dec newsletter so we will be sending out our next newsletter in January complete with some of those holiday recipes. Stop by Dec 7th with a copy to share with us.

Hope everyone has a nice Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year.

Greenfield History by the late Ron Feulner



is available for purchase for $20 (cash) at our Monthly Meeting
At Community Center
25 Wilton Road
Greenfield Center NY
Or
At the Town Hall during regular business hours
Or
by mail by sending a check to our PO Box with an additional $6 for postage

Duane Cornell, Town Historian

Twice a year we all step into a time machine that transports us one hour back or one hour ahead in time. In March we spring forward to Daylight Saving (with no s) Time and in November we fall back into Standard Time. The original intent was to conserve energy by shifting the daylight to earlier in the day in

fall and winter and extend into the evening during summer. There would be more daylight during the times when people were awake and thus need less electricity, oil or candles to stave off the darkness.

According to The Franklin Institute the idea was first thought of by a New Zealand entomologist names Goerge Hudson in 1895. He proposed a two hour shift to allow more evening light to pursue his hobby of bug hunting. Bengamin Franklin wrote a satirical essay in the Journal de Paris joking that if Parisians got up earlier in the day they could save on candles. He did not, however, suggest shifting time on clocks. Although some say that Franklin invented Daylight Saving Time it is more folklore than fact. Another proponent of shifting time was William Willet, who was a builder, inventor and entrepreneur in Britian in the early 1900's. He was also an avid outdoorsman who noticed many people were still in bed after the sun had risen while horseback riding in the mornings. His proposal was the first one that was seriously considered although nothing became of it.

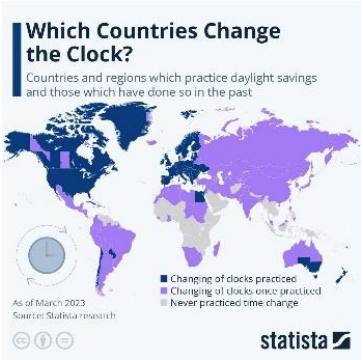
The first country to adopt a change in time was Germany and Austria-Hungry in 1916 during WWI as a measure to reduce the amount of energy used by the civilian population. Soon after that the UK, Italy, France, Russia and Australia adopted a time change to aid in their war efforts. The United States did not adopt it until 1918 when President Woodrow Wilson signed it into law, however it was repealed several months later. As part of the war effort in WWII President Franklin Roosevelt brought it back in 1942 however it wasn't a law until 1966 when President Lyndon Johnson signed the Uniform Time Act. This set the schedule of when the time would be changed as the first Sunday in November, time would set back one hour and the second Sunday of March time would be set ahead one hour. The time that was chosen to change clocks was 2am figuring most people are asleep and it would not interfere with business.

Only about one third of the countries in the world practice time changes. Most are in Europe, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean. Egypt is the only African country that changes it's time and only part of Australia does. In the US, Arizona (with the exception of the Navaho Nation), Hawaii, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam and the Virgin Islands do not practice time change.

There has been much discussion lately to abolish changing the clocks twice a year in the United States. In 2022 the Senate unanimously passed the Sunshine Protection Act to do just that, however as of 2025 it has not passed the House of Representatives. Studies show that there is not much if any energy savings achieved by this, especially with today's highly efficient appliances and lighting options. Other studies show that changing the time affects people's natural cycle known as the Circadian Cycle. Disruptions of this cycle can cause increased heart rate, elevation of a person's body temperature and changes in hormone production, depression and sleep disorders. This is much the same effect as jet lag and shift changes causes on the body. It is also of interest to mention that fatal automobile accidents increase about 6% for a few days after the change to Daylight Saving Time and auto deer collisions increase 16% after switching back to Standard Time. Some of the deer collisions can be attributed to the increase in movement of them and that it is darker earlier in the day.

It seems that time changes no longer provide the intended purpose and perhaps its practical time has passed. If the Sunshine Protection Act will be passed in the near future and the United States joins the majority of the world only time will tell...an hour ahead or an hour behind.

Note: As this newsletter was being reviewed by the Historical Society Board Members, Cheryl Jenks reminded us of a big local link to Eastern Standard Time. It was started by Charles Ferdinard Dowd, who was living in Saratoga Springs. He suggested standardization of time to help with the railroad getting the trains in on time. This was in 1868. Dowd was a Yale Grad. (The big sundial behind Adirondack Trust Company on Church Street is dedicated to Dowd.} Ironically, Dowd was killed by a south bound train Delaware and Hudson on Broadway in Saratoga Springs. He's buried in Greenridge Cemetery. He's usually credited with pushing through standards for time. Brookside Museum has information on him.



November Meeting 11/18/2025 Traveling the Mother Road, America's Route 66: An Adventure Presented by Joanne and Rick Reynolds

US Route 66 had its official beginnings in 1926 when the Bureau of Public Roads began the nation's first federal highway system. The creation of the road led to development of businesses all along the route and created the American idea of "road trips." But, as we come close to its 100th anniversary, do you know that you can still travel most of that road and relive the era when cars were beginning to dominate the American scene? This presentation is the story of our personal and professional road trip from the beginning to the end of America's Route 66- from Chicago, Illinois to Santa Monica, California. This presentation is not a travelogue but an examination of the story of this road. Full of stories, pictures, and an emphasis on preservation of the past for all to experience now and into the future.

Greenfield – Forgotten Crossroads (Movie)

Greenfield is the 4th film in the Forgotten Crossroads series designed to share the story of communities and towns in Saratoga County. This film will include several segments with total film length targeted for ~45 minutes. Previous films are available on Brookside Museum's YouTube channel. (Rock City Falls, Bacon Hill, and Visher Ferry are the first three) The committee includes: Dave Waite, Videographer and Editor; Jim Richmond, Director, Duane Cornell, Town Historian, Joan E Rowland, President of Historical Society, and Rick Bishop. The committee started in June plotting whom and what to include.

This past month was Samantha Hall at Lester Park, Mark and Clifford Young at the Ormsbee Cemetery & the brick house, and Bill & Gary Dake at Stewarts.

Next up will be Joe and Jesse Bruchac at their center.

Samantha Hall at Lester Park

Robert Roeckle and Cathy Hall (Samantha's Grandmother)

Mark Young at the Patriots Plots, then his Aunt Mildred Brill. View of Vermont in distance behind him.

Clifford Young

Holiday Open House
at the Museum.
440 Middle Grove Rd Middle Grove NY
Join us from 1 pm to 3 pm

Bring a copy of your family's Holiday Traditional recipes
Share traditional foods stories with the group.

Since we always like to eat cookies, please bring some cookies to share and at the end, you can mix them up and take home a variety of cookies (for a donation)
Wassil and water will be available.

What is your family's tradition? At the Rowland household, it is Cranberry Relish (recipe was off the cranberries bag years ago), & Oyster Dressing. What, you don't have Oyster Dressing? I will bring you the recipe – Joan E Rowland

1830's Carriage Barn –
Goal Chart

Established funds to raise $72,000

Currently holding at $27,627.36

Included in this amount is $111 from Go-Fund-Me site (minus fees)

As you know, we are in need of some maintenance for the Carriage Barn. What can you do to help? Donations are always Accepted. Please send a check to our PO Box 502 Greenfield Center NY 12833 or deliver it to our next business meeting or any event.

Current Status:

- Most of the items to be kept are out of the barn and have been placed in a rented storage unit.
- Some remaining items need to be sold – like the old storm windows (single pane) off the museum. Could be good for someone to build a greenhouse. If interested or need to know size – please let us know and we can discuss with possible buyers.
- Other items to go – plastic lawn chairs and old pallets (note local cat has been in building)
- Some items for the dump. We have an offer to move junk to dump at their expense but need to know if there are more things to be sent.

Current Schedule of maintenance – is now starting April 2026. (We lost our slot for this summer while getting prices to remove and replace roof).

This will allow us more time to find a cement floor contractor and to raise more money.

Membership Application/Renewal Available online or by US Mail

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, PO 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 Click on **"Store," "Membership"** then click either **"Annual Membership – Household"** or **"Lifetime Membership."** Email **toghistsoc@gmail.com** for more information

Please Print – Please indicate how many persons 10-years-old or older are in your household). ____ ___New ___ Renewal

____ E-mail ____US Mail Newsletter

Name _____ ___ I am interested in volunteering.

Address _____

Email _____Phone number_____

Areas of interest to you _____

If you'd like to dedicate and/or sponsor a newsletter, send $50 to *The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, PO 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: jrowland25@verizon.net

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