



Historical Society Newsletter

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

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email toghistsoc@gmail.com
www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

In Memory of Margie (Atwell) Jones

CALENDAR

Jan. 15, 2019 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** *Teresa Alger* will speak about their family business, Saratoga Crackers, and how it got started in our town.

Feb. 19, 2019 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** *Show and Tell Night* – bring an old object or photo and take a few minutes to talk about it.

March 19, 2019 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** *Lauren Roberts*, our county historian, will speak about *Harnessing Nature: Building the Great Sacandaga*.

April 16, 2019 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **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.

May 21, 2019 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.

Everyone is welcome, admission is free, you don't have to be a member to attend and refreshments are served after all programs.

Meetings Cancellations

If schools are closed due to weather, our meeting will be canceled. A message also will be posted on our website and on our Facebook page.

www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

[www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=town of greenfield historical society](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=town%20of%20greenfield%20historical%20society)

January Notes

by Mary Vetter

As most of you know, in December, we hold a holiday party in lieu of a regular meeting. We couple it with a cookie exchange and always have a theme. This year was holiday traditions. We were entertained by stories of the dreaded Aunt gift told by Ron Feulner. A special doll gift for a young girl told by Alice Feulner. Reminiscences of special trips to “the big city” to shop and neighborhood parades. All topped by Joan Rowland’s crazy rooster/feather duster gift. Hopefully, we got a picture of that one. You have to see it.

What all of these stories evoked were a sense of the season. Our past celebrations inform the present. The feeling of fun, family and community give this time of year a glow that we hold on to for the next twelve months. The memories recede to the backs of our minds but they are always there to sustain us. Times may change, the people who are in our lives may change but the warmth of what they gave us never fades.

I hope that this coming new year brings each of you peace, harmony and most of all family, friends and community to surround you.

It is with sadness, that I must tell you that Margie Jones and Bill Hinckley, long-time members of our society, have passed. Margie was my neighbor for almost 20 years. We were lucky to have her next door. Gentle, sweet, and she had a smile that could put you at ease in 5 seconds. Bill was a man with many accomplishments whose family will also keenly feel the loss of their loved one. I know that the legacies they left their families will always be a source of comfort to them.

*January refreshments volunteers are
Mary Vetter and Robert Roeckle.*

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

Last month, I quoted Clayton Brown (in his book *Greenfield Glimpses*) who wrote about the earliest white settlers in the Town of Greenfield. He also wrote, "In the Spring of 1786 Gershom Morehouse, a young man of twenty two years and a millwright by trade, came from Greenfield, Litchfield County, Conn. He settled at Middle Grove. Some have claimed Morehouse as Greenfield's first white settler. He is credited with having erected the first grist mill and first sawmill in town." Morehouse's mills were constructed on the Kayaderosseras Creek near the lower bridge in Middle Grove. A two story grist mill survived at the site until the mid-nineteen-hundreds.

The same year, 1786, a number of other families arrived. Charles Deake (later changed to Dake) originally from Rhode Island with his four adult married sons settled on land near the creek about a mile-and-a-half north of what is now Middle Grove near a natural spring of water.

An interesting aside to this story of the Dake settlement occurred one day in November 2018.

Local author, Jim Richmond who wrote about the Revolutionary War raid on the inhabitants of the Middle Line Road in the Town of Milton, Rick Bishop who did the field work for our cemetery book, and I (as town historian) spent several hours in the vicinity of Daketown Road in the Town of Greenfield tramping through the woods trying to see if a theory Jim was thinking about would be plausible.

His research on the Middle Line Road Revolutionary War raid suggested that the Tories and their Indian allies took a number of local farmers and some of their livestock prisoner and headed back toward Canada with them. Research indicated that somewhere enroute, the livestock was butchered (probably because it slowed their exit and they were afraid that the local militia might catch up with them).

More recently, Jim had happened across a paragraph in Sylvester's 1878 History of Saratoga County (page 436) that described the arrival of the Dake family in the Town of Greenfield. Sylvester describes the location of their settlement as being about a mile and one half North of Middle Grove and continues as follows, "Near the place was a fine large spring of deliciously cool and sparkling water, and here were found large quantities of bones of animals, showing that at some past time it had been used as a camping ground by some one, either Indians or Tories...."

On our field trip, Jim, Rick, and I visited the original Dake homestead and talked about the fact that it lies directly across the valley (about a quarter mile away) from a spring that has served area residents (and still does) for as long as anyone can remember. The spring (which is now on the side of North Creek Road) is a short distance from the old Dake Cemetery which was probably on Dake land at one time. We decided that it was entirely possible that this was the site where the Tories slaughtered the livestock, but to prove the same would be nearly impossible.

TOGHS CHRISTMAS PARTY



Louis Okoniewski telling about his Christmas traditions



Some of the group

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TOGHS CHRISTMAS PARTY • Saturday, December 9, 2018



The Cookie Table



Joyce Woodard, Louise Okoniewski and Robert Roeckle



Dan Chertok, Mary Vetter and JoAnn Rowland



Mary Vetter sharing traditions, Heidi Lampert patiently listening



Annette Aubin & Kurt Kilmer



Lelah Cornell & Katie Finnegan



Louise Okoniewski, Connie Murphy and Louis Okoniewski



Pat Finnegan, Sunny Nealey, Janet Jones, Alice Feulner and Patty Schwartzbeck



Ron Feulner telling "stories"



Joan Rowland's favorite gift

This article was printed in the December 2003 Newsletter.

This Tree is Just Right!

By JoAnn I. Rowland (Typed by Joan Rowland)

One year, Joan and I decided to surprise Dad (Myron Rowland) and go out right after school and get this really nice scotch pine for the Porter Corners United Methodist Church. We had seen it from the road, and it was just right for the church's high ceilings. Many years ago, a family friend had given Dad about a dozen scotch pines and a dozen spruce tree seedlings. Dad planted one of each behind the house and the rest across the creek. They were really big now. Joan and I chose a spruce and cut it down. We had taken along the correct tools, an ax and a handsaw, and, of course, the family dog went along to supervise. We cut a chip out of the tree's trunk with the ax, so it would fall the way we wanted it to. Then we started to saw it down with the handsaw. Every now and then Mom would come out on the porch and holler to us to see if we were okay. We would answer her and then saw some more. After a while, we had it nearly sawed through, and of course, we pinched the saw. So one of us leaned on the tree while the other sawed. We finally got it cut down. BUT, we were along the creek and into the wooded area by about 75 feet. The creek was too wide to jump across and drag the tree. Besides when we got it down, the tree was bigger than it had looked. You know, a tree doesn't look that big when it is standing in the woods.

It was starting to get dark by now. The dog had gone home long ago, and Mom was still hollering to us. Are you okay? What are you doing? By this time, we had got it almost dragged out of the woods, and we both were

pooped. So we decided to leave the tree for dad to get with the tractor. We got our ax and saw and jumped the creek and went home. By the time we got there, it was dark and almost time for Dad to come home. Mom, Gram and Gert had all sorts of questions. What took you so long? Where is the tree now? How will you get it home? Well, Dad finally got home and found us excited. "Dad, we got this tree all cut and you need to get it with the tractor after supper. It's a lot heavier than we thought. We just couldn't pull it any longer."

So after supper, we got dressed for the cold and went out with flashlights. Dad took the tractor, and we girls rode on the fenders. It was a good thing the tractor had lights. Well, when we showed Dad the tree, he just laughed. It was way too big even for the high ceilings of the church. Dad proceeded to cut off the bottom 12 foot and leave it there in the woods, and then we dragged the rest of the tree out. He also explained why we hadn't been able to drag it any further ourselves. We had gotten it caught in some old tree stumps, which we didn't see because it was so dark.

The next night we took it down to the church and ended up cutting another four-feet off the bottom before carrying it over the pews to the front of the church. It's top was still above the church lights. Since no one had a ladder this tall, we put the angel on top along with the top lights before tipping the tree up in place.

Joan has never let me live this down. My perfect height tree had to have 16 foot cut off it before putting it in place. Now, she sometimes asks me – "How tall do you think that tree is? Give it a good guess" Life in the country can be a lot of fun.

Daketown School Mug

by Joan 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.



PORTER CORNERS – Margie Elizabeth (Atwell) Jones, 95, died peacefully on Dec. 10, 2018, at The Home of the Good Shephard in Saratoga Springs. Earl, her husband of 75+ years, held her hand until the last breath.

Margie, born on Nov. 4, 1923, in Greenfield Center, grew up on the Atwell family farm on 9N. She loved helping her mother, Maggie (Humes) Atwell, prepare meals and maintain their home. She had a servants heart

for family and others. Margie loved her father, Roy Atwell, but the animal and barn part of the farm was far from her heart. She would continually trade her barn chores with brothers, Charles Atwell (Ruth), Merton Atwell (Pat) for their house chores. Margie bargained with sister, Beatrice Sesselman (Sylvester) to escape animal chores.

In 1941, Margie graduated from Saratoga Springs High School with a home making major. Her first employment was during high school at Dr. and Mrs. Rockwell's home on Circular Street. She helped maintain their home and began practicing childcare. Employment continued at Van Raalte as a seamstress, and as an assistant post master at the Porter Corners Post Office.

Margie and Earl were friends during their early years and through high school, at Eprith League, at Greenfield Grange and at local dances. They married on March 27, 1943, but were separated in 1944 while Earl fought in World War II. She gained a sister-in-law, Estella (Jones) McLaren (James). Soon children arrived: Harold (Annette), Nancy Homiak (John), Phillip



GREENFIELD CENTER – William Tyler Hinckley Sr., 92, left this earth to join his Lord and Savior in heaven on Dec. 22, 2018.

William (Bill) was married to Florence Bassett Hinckley for 69 years. She was the love of his life, his companion and the mother of his 7 children. Together they journeyed through all of the ups and downs that

life gave them and set an example of faithfulness to God and the importance of family that all of their children have embraced.

They were known for their prayers and for always holding hands, including up to the moment when God called Bill home.

Bill, born on Dec. 19, 1926, to Kenneth and Alice (Tyler) Hinckley, spent his entire life in Saratoga Springs and Greenfield Center. His employment history included bookkeeping/office manager for Stewart's Ice Cream Co. and Wells Pharmacy. Bill, when a father of five and in his thirties, enrolled at SUNY Albany because he thought he should set an example for his children to follow. He earned his teaching degree and taught Math, English and 6th grade for a total of 24 years in the Saratoga Springs City School District (School #4, the Junior High School and Geyser Road Elementary). In addition to teaching, Bill was a founding member of the Saratoga Teachers Federal Credit Union and worked as its treasurer for 15 years.

Faith was extremely important to Bill. He had been a lifelong active member of both the Saratoga Springs and Ballston Spa First Baptist Churches, serving as a deacon, elder, Sunday School teacher and choir member. He has served as a Gideon and shared his love for the Lord with many people. One of his favorite Bible verses is Joshua 24:15: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord". Bill loved woodworking of all types. He spent many hours in his workshop lovingly hand crafting

(Marjorie) and Janet (Brian Nicol) for her to mother, train, love, nurture and correct.

Mom found time to serve others as a Sunday School teacher, Sunday School superintendent, member of the WSCS, Home Bureau, 4-H Leader, member of the Porter Corners Firemen's Auxiliary (charter member since 1950), member/officer of the Greenfield Grange since 1937, Town of Greenfield Historical Society since 1983 and member/officer of the Porter Corners Methodist Church for 76 years. Mom "retired" around age 90.

Her skills with children began again as grandchildren arrived, Daryl Homiak, Jennifer Jones-Walker (Richard), Keith Homiak and Casey Jones. Her family continued to grow with great grandchildren: Koda, Sedona and Quinn Jones and Hayden Homiak. They loved Gram as much as she loved them. Then came step grandchildren: Dennis Jackson, Michael Jackson, Rebecca Brown (Zane), Jennifer Emery and Lori Baker (Greg); step great grandchildren: Desiree and Jenna Jackson, Emily, Julian and Alivia Jackson, Brittany, Quinton and Brooke Emery, Kaya and Zane Brown, and Morgan and Kelsey Baker; step great-great grandchildren: Spencer and Skylar; several nieces and nephews, their extended families, and some cousins.

She was predeceased by her parents, brothers and sister and her grandson Keith.

Margie, well known for her smile, leaves a legacy of caring for others as an example to those that knew her. She is missed so much by friends and family.

Our family so appreciates the care, love and patience provided by caregivers at The Home of the Good Shephard, Hospice for keeping her comfortable and Dr. Eric Borden and "Kitt." In lieu of flowers, please support the Porter Corners United Methodist Church, 512 Allen Road, Porter Corners, NY 12859.

gifts for family members. Bill fully renovated the family farmhouse then constructed his own house on the property they called "The Woodlot" in Greenfield Center. He was also known for his love of planes, popcorn, production of maple syrup, travelling, and mastery of the English language. Bill liked to write humorous poetry, letters and stories, some of which are found in the memoir he wrote called "Bird Droppings."

Music had an important place in Bill's life. He enjoyed singing and playing the trumpet and while in high school was invited to join the Skidmore College Symphony, which he did.

As an adult Bill also learned how to play the baritone horn and sang barbershop harmony with the Racing City Chorus.

Bill is survived by his loving wife Florence, his seven children, Pat Gordon (Leon), Carol Gerbing (Dale), Nancy Stevens (Tim), Diane Loviza (Bob), William T. Hinckley Jr., Daniel Hinckley (Julie) and Mary Beth O'Connell (Jim). Bill is also survived by 15 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank all of those who helped and treated Bill during his illnesses this year. Their kindness and compassion for dad, mom and the family at these locations was overwhelming: Saratoga Hospital, Wesley Rehab, The Pines, The Home of the Good Shepherd in Saratoga and Malta, and the Community Hospice.

Bill was predeceased by his parents and his sister, Ann Marie McGourty.

Donations in Bill's name can be made to the City Mission of Schenectady, 425 Hamilton St., Schenectady, NY 12301; Smile Train, www.mysmiletrain.org; The Community Hospice Foundation, 310 South Manning Blvd., Albany, NY 12208 or the First Baptist Church of Ballston Spa, 202 Milton Ave., Ballston Spa, NY 12020. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.compassionatefuneralcare.com or www.lastingmemories.com/william-tyler-hinckley-sr

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.”

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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 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, call his cell phone (518-321-0330) or text him.



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