



## Historical Society Newsletter

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

**TRUSTEES:** Ron Deutsch, Cheryl Jenks, Louise Okoniewski,  
Patty Schwartzbeck, Dan Smith, Mary Vetter, and Karl Zeh

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



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

Volume 25, Issue 6 501(c)(3)

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Tuesday, February 18, 2025** – Meeting at 7 p.m. at the Greenfield Community Center.

**Program:** *Ben Kemp, Grants Cottage*

*Ben will portray his relative Oscar Kemp who was a Civil War soldier from Greenfield (Mount Pleasant).*

**Tuesday, March 18, 2025** – Meeting at 7 p.m. at the Greenfield Community Center.

**Program:** *America 250: The Ballston Connection, by Rick Reynolds.*

**Tuesday, April 15, 2025** – Meeting at 7 p.m. at the Greenfield Community Center.

**Program:** *To be Determined*

**Tuesday, May 20, 2025** – Meeting at 7 p.m. at the Greenfield Community Center.

**Program:** *John J. McEneny (Jack and his wife Jan) Lake Desolation (Glass Factory)*

*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.

*February Refreshments volunteers are JoAnn Rowland and Patti Veitch.*

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

### Joan's Jabbering – Feb 2025

By Joan E. Rowland, President

It's hot, it's cold – but mostly it is another day of snow flurries. Today the Ground Hog Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow. 6 more weeks of winter. Phil from PA has been doing this since 1887 and has been correct 30% of the time. Wildlife Prairie Park in IL has a famous groundhog, Gertie who predicted an early spring in our future. Gertie has been doing this since 1993 and actually has a better track record of 65%. Either way – we have more winter in our future.

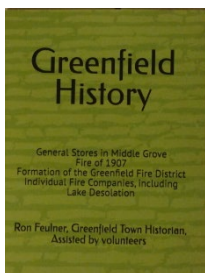
Our January meeting ended up being cancelled. When we needed to call it, Go or No – the forecast was for below zero for meeting time. Our Treasurer (and my sister) was all for staying home in the warm house. I could go either way – I can drive in cold. But for the good of the group, we decided to cancel.

Do you believe it, we have been working on **The Car Show and Live Music** in the park? Date has been set and Middle Grove Park reserved for **Saturday, July 12, 2025**. We also have been talking about **Caboose Day** which is **Saturday, Aug 9, 2025**. Mark your calendars.

**Joan's Jabbering (continued)**

Thanks to those that have been getting the word out about the Carriage Barn restoration. This month we have had \$5,145 donated. Two donations from GoFundMe, one from a member, and \$5,000 from Stewart's Shops/Dake Family. We appreciate every dollar donated.

We look forward to the Feb meeting where Ben Kemp will be our speaker. He will be bringing us, as a character, his relative, Oscar Kemp who was a Civil War soldier from Greenfield (Mount Pleasant). If you have children or grandchildren, this would be a good presentation to bring them to. The program is during School Vacation, so this could be a good way to get the kids out of the house and learn something fun.

**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

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**Alpine Meadows Ski Center  
By Duane Cornell, Town Historian**

At the end of the road that bears its name, the Alpine Meadows Ski Center had its humble beginnings in 1944 in the area that Sisto's tow was in the 1930's. Alpine Meadows operated in one form or another for more than 45 years under 4 owners with many improvements over the years. The slopes were open primarily on weekends and holidays and a few nights in later years. It was totally dependent on natural snowfall and cold weather to operate.

Ed Taylor Jr, who was no stranger to the ski scene in Greenfield, founded Alpine Meadows in 1944. Ed was also instrumental in founding Sisto's tow ski center and Darrow's ski hill in the 1930's in addition to being a ski instructor for Skidmore college and running a ski shop in Saratoga Springs. The work at Alpine Meadows was put on hold in 1945 to 1946 while he was serving in WW II. During his service in the Army, he taught soldiers to ski at Mt. Rainier in Washington state. After his military assignment, he returned to the task of opening up the ski center. By the 1947 season it appears that Alpine Meadows was indeed ready to open. A 1947 Schenectady Gazette article, it stated that the road leading to Alpine Meadows had been graded and widened to accommodate two way traffic to the ski center. Another article mentions that there were a lot of people there over the weekend and it was very busy. A new tow rope was being completed to bring skiers to the upper area of the mountain and the new beginner slope was almost done. The improvements kept coming over the years through the sweat of the brow and watchful eye of Ed. By 1948, there were 5 tows in operation and the parking lot had been enlarged to accommodate more cars and busses. Schools and ski clubs were planning trips and competitions at the center. Lights were added at the lower trail for night skiing and Alpine boasted the longest open slopes in the area in 1953. There was a ski lodge located at the top of the first hill where you could seek refuge from the cold and get a hot beverage and a snack. The lodge featured large windows to view the slopes, or you could hang out on the open-air porch. This was a favorite place for parents to wait for their children while they received lessons or were skiing the slopes. There was also a ski shop there to buy, repair or rent equipment. The rope tows were being replaced with platter pulls and "J" bars which are easier and safer to use. Two such J bar lifts were added to reach the upper section of the mountain. It was 2600 feet long with 16 support

towers. Some of the steel that was used to construct these towers, and terminal platforms came from a dismantled bridge that spanned the Hudson River in Schuylerville. A new ticket booth and ski shop were built at the end of the parking lot that made it more convenient for people to rent equipment. That way they did not have to hike up the first hill to take care of that business. This also made more room at the ski lodge for dining and lounging. Extensive trail work was a constant chore to clear, widen and make new trails creating a mile long run from the top to the parking lot.

As time went on Ed Taylor wanted to retire from running the ski center and around 1963 operations ceased and the slopes were empty. An article in the November 20, 1964, Schenectady Gazette said the buildings had been removed and the equipment had been sold. Dr Ernest Winslow, a dentist from Corinth, was the next person to take the reins at the ski hill. Dr. Winslow already had experience in the ski industry as the owner of Royal Mountain and Moon Valley (now Titus) ski centers. The Saratogian from November 22, 1965, reports that the old Alpine Meadows Ski Center had been leased by Dr. Winslow and expected it would be open by Christmas weekend. The ski area was renamed Adirondack Ski Center. A new 132 foot by 40-foot ski lodge was built that included a central heating system, modern plumbing and a large stone fireplace. The lodge housed a cafeteria, cocktail lounge and ski shop as well as a first aid room and the ski patrol. Three T bar lifts were installed with a length of 2590 feet that reached the top of the mountain and was said to be the longest in New York State. New trails were added, and existing trails were widened. By 1973 Ski Guide to the Northeast reported a total of 8 trails and 5 slopes and a vertical drop of 1000 feet were in operation. According to Dr. Winslow, most of the trails were graded for beginner, novice and intermediate skiers, making Adirondack Ski Center ideal for family skiing. Not to leave the more adventurous

skier out of the fun, the Powder Mill trail on the upper section of the mountain was rated for experts. As with its predecessor, Adirondack was open on weekends and holidays and was dependent on the weather to operate. Dr Winslow operated the ski center until around 1984 when it was bought by Tom and Jody Roohan along with Stan and Barb Lawrence.

The Roohans and Lawrences changed the name back to Alpine Meadows. They operated the ski center for several years and eventually it was run by a non-profit organization. I am still piecing together this part of the history and will write about it here hopefully next month. If anyone has any firsthand knowledge of who, how and when the non-profit organization ran the ski center, please let me know.

The articles that I have been researching and writing about these ski centers in this newsletter are going to be used to create a historical file for the town's archives. Anyone wishing to contribute can reach me at [dcornell@greenfieldny.org](mailto:dcornell@greenfieldny.org) or I am at the historian's office Wednesdays from 9-2. The phone number there is 518-893-7432 ext315.

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## **Looking for Information:**

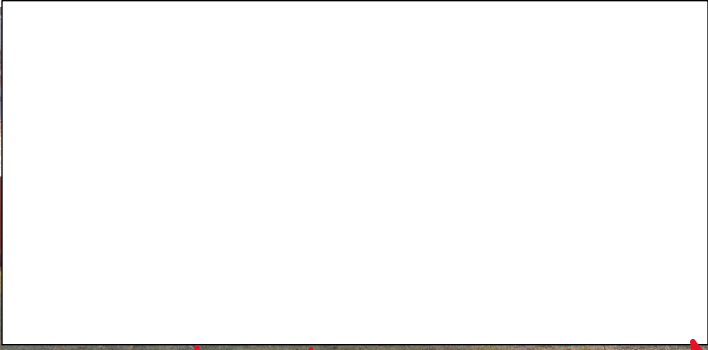
1) Duane received an email at the historian's office from a person whose grandmother's obituary stated she was a member of the **Greenfield Center Leisure Club**. He is looking for any information of this club. There is no mention of it in any file I have.

2) As Duane mentioned in his article, he is looking for any information on the non-profit that ran Alpine Meadows.

# 1830's Carriage Barn –

## Goal Chart

Established fund to raise \$72,000



0 \$10,000 \$20,000 \$30,000 \$40,000 \$50,000 600,000 \$70,000 GOAL

**Currently at \$25,145**

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.

Drop us a note for contractor suggestions.

Keep in touch with us to help clean out the building for renovations. Will need Volunteer Manual labor/manpower.

## Life Along the Kaydeross

Recently John Greenwood and Dave Waite began making plans to record the memories and experiences along the *Kayaderosseras Creek in the town of Greenfield*. The name of this project is: *Life on the Kaydeross*: In the words of those who live, work, and play along the creek.

While the true name for this creek is the Iroquois Kaydcrossras, or the more common spelling Kayaderosseras, the locals often say Kaydeross, and for this visit to the creek and its inhabitants, we leave it up to our speakers to use the name they are most comfortable with.

John and Dave are asking for volunteers to share their stories to be recorded on video or audio narrative that will be used in the future both as an oral history as well as a presentation to be shared with the Greenfield community and beyond.

To discuss participating in this exciting project, please contact: Dave Waite: [davewaitefinearts@gmail.com](mailto:davewaitefinearts@gmail.com) or John Greenwood: [jgreenwood3@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jgreenwood3@nycap.rr.com)

This letter and photo were given to us for the newsletter. Pat Finnegan had written it to the people of Viet-Nam in 1982.

24 Sept. 1982

Dear Sir;

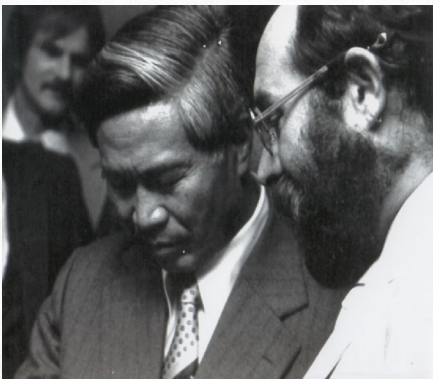
I've wanted to write this letter to the people of Viet-Nam for many years, but never did. Now with the opportunity for these thoughts to be hand-delivered there are no excuses for not offering my sincere apologies for waging war against your homeland. I served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Binh Dinh province from Dec. 68 thru Oct. 69 as a member of a machine-gun team and as a battalion clerk. I believed when I went to your country that it was to help the Vietnamese people defend their freedom and uphold their democracy. It soon became apparent that I was fighting against the freedom of the Vietnamese people and that the government of South Viet-Nam bore no resemblance to a democratic republic. What I saw was a gentle caring people, that rightfully wished that myself and the rest of the Americans would leave as soon as possible.

I would not say this was the opinion of all the American Viet-Nam veterans but it is the predominant consensus of the ex-infantryman I have talked to.

My brother Dennis served three and one-half years with the U.S. Army in Viet-Nam, starting in July 66 and ending in Oct. 72. My brother was killed on Oct. 31, 1972 when the helicopter he was in was hit with a Sam missile. During the tour Dennis was assigned to MAC V Hdqs. in Saigon. The other two and one-half years Dennis was assigned to the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division, where he served in the capacity of an infantry officer. Dennis received four Purple Hearts and many valorous awards. Dennis was not a bad person and in the beginning believed that he was making the world a safer place to live in. By the time of his death it had become just a job to him. He was an OCS officer with three years as an enlisted man. For him to advance on the same level as the ROTC and West Point officers, he needed a lot of combat command time.

I wanted the Vietnamese people to know that there is no hatred directed toward them because of my brother's death, not on my part, nor our mother's part, nor on Dennis's wife or children's part. We all realize that of all the factors involved with Dennis's death, the Vietnamese people are the least to blame. My parents, for many years, did not understand why their son died. Our mother allowed herself to be put on display for a few years, on American military holidays. When our mother realized that what the government wanted of her would only cause more mothers to feel the pain that she felt, our mother stopped doing it. Our father died last year. Before our father died, he had come to realize that the death of his son and all the other sons and daughters on both sides served no other purpose than to make other mothers and fathers feel as sorrowful as he did.

Many, many of us that have seen the uselessness of war, now do all we can to ensure that there are no more wars. Though we would pick up our weapons again to defend our families, we would only react to a direct and immediate threat. I sincerely apologize for having to learn that lesson at the expense of the people of Viet-Nam.



Peace and Friendship

*Pat Finnegan*

Patrick Finnegan  
258 Lower Newtown Rd.  
Aterford, NY, 12188

**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](http://www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com).. Click on **“Store,” “Membership”** then click either **“Annual Membership – Household”** or **“Lifetime Membership.”** Email [toghistsoc@gmail.com](mailto:toghistsoc@gmail.com) for more information

**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'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](mailto:JJones18215@roadrunner.com).**



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Historical Society  
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Greenfield Center, NY 12833**