

Historical Society Newsletter

OFFICERS: President: Ron Feulner; Vice President: Louise Okoniewski;
Secretary: Patty Schwartzbeck; Treasurer: Alice Feulner;
Trustees: Coral Crosman, Ron Deutsch, Robert Roeckle, JoAnn Rowland, and Vince Walsh

Janet Jones, Editor
P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833

Volume 10, Issue 3

www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

This issue sponsored by Dustin Barnes Sr., in memory of Raymond, Dorothy, and Daniel Barnes.

Calendar

November 17, 2009: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.
Local singers/songwriters, Nancy Walker and husband, Larry Clyman, will play and talk about song writing.

December 12, 2009: Saturday, *Christmas Party* at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. We will also have the firewood raffle drawing.

January 19, 2010: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.
Program: Dick Rowland will speak about the history and stories from the Saratoga County Fair.

IMPORTANT – If schools are closed because of the weather, our meeting will be canceled that evening.

Reminder that our year of meetings begins in September so everyone's membership renewal is due (unless you have recently paid). We have made it easy to renew your membership (or become a new member) by filling out our membership application contained in this newsletter and mailing it with your dues (if you prefer to keep your newsletter intact, you may copy the necessary information on another sheet and send it). We will also accept memberships at our meetings. The only requirement to become a member is an interest in local history (residency in the town is not required). We hope to have another good year, and we need you as a member to help it happen.

As treasurer, I want to thank you for your prompt payment of membership dues and for the extra dollars many of you have added. We have accomplished so much this past year and it's because of willing workers and generous support ...
Alice Feulner

Ron's Ramblings

Ever since I took the job as president, I have looked forward to the day when I could write a really short ramblings. Some months, I think it is going to work that way and then, by the time I have said what needs saying, I have a long section again. This month Louise, Dan, and Alice have done such a nice job that I will just say thanks for all the things each of you do to make this organization a success and wish you all a happy Thanksgiving. See you at the November meeting.

Ron Feulner

Historic Harvest Fest and Market

From Our Vice President, Louise Okoniewski

The event name, Historic Harvest Fest, proved to be true as a history making 3.5 inches of rain fell on Oct. 24. That didn't dampen the spirits of the brave and determined members, vendors and supporters who came, set-up, and shopped.

Ron Deutsch took early morning "Are you crazy?" phone calls – but when we say, 'rain (monsoon) or shine' we mean it!

Folks tromped through the mud and water to tour the Odd Fellows Hall and catch up with neighbors and friends. People were surprised at the renovation of IOOF Hall, a lot of work has been done, cataloging, hanging pictures and documents, to displays of artifacts. Joyce Woodard, Ann Michel, Skip Ballou, (Archives Committee), Harold Jones, (Building and Grounds), and many others have worked hard to make this transition possible.

Dan Chertok enthusiastically gave demonstrations on his lap top on the mapping project. This is a huge project Dan took on, but with the help of Tom Siragusa, he showed how you'll be able to go to the Web site and find pictures and history of historical sites of Greenfield. This is still a work in progress, and indeed had everyone excited.

Mary Demarco, Town Historian, met with the visitors and delighted them with her vast knowledge of the Town's History.

The Heritage Hunters showed how you can trace your family's tree, and how to get started to your own genealogy.

Earl and Margie Jones were available to answer questions and help with books of pictures and history. If you're stumped on a question, they usually have the answer, or can guide you in the right direction.

Patty Schwartzbeck's cookies and sweet bread hit the spot. The table became a place of conversation of all the information.

The Keepers of the Circle, braved the rain outside to educate on the Native Americans who first inhabited the Town and surrounding areas.

Enough can't be said about this group of vendors, members and shoppers who have made this idea of a Farmers Market a reality. Mother Nature couldn't even keep them down.

People still came and shopped. The continuous torrential downpour didn't stop the people from buying veggies, maple syrup and baked goods from our great vendors. They even ate at the Market Café, soggy buns and all.

A big round of applause goes to Ron Deutsch and his family. Ron has been the backbone of the Farmers Market. He coordinates the vendors, advertises, makes signs, sends out e-mails, and keeps everyone happy.

Earl and Margie Jones, Nancy Homiak, Janet Jones, JoAnn Rowland, Joan Rowland, Skip Ballou, Pat and Katie Finnegan, Patty Schwartzbeck, are among the members who every week help to make things happen.

I apologize for leaving out someone. To make an event a success, it takes a combined effort of a lot of people, some are out in front and some behind the scenes. If you can only help once, maybe for an hour, or stop by and say hello, we are all needed and appreciated. The Greenfield Historical Society, your History, has a lot more to accomplish. Let's look forward to 2010!



The vendors at the Historic Harvest Fest and Market (on a rainy day).



Dan Chertok, Nancy Homiak, Ann Michel, Joyce Woodard and Louise Okoniewski checking out the Historic Sites Map



Our president, Ron Feulner, in his rain coat. Earl and Margie Jones in background.



Our treasurer, Alice Feulner, and our secretary, Patty Schwartzbeck.

A Message from Dan

Hello Friends and Fellow Fans of History: Thanks to the energy and expertise of Thom Siragusa, our Interactive Map is up and running, to be found within the Town of Greenfield Historical Society's web site. To view and interact with it, click "*Resources*" along the top, then "*Interactive Map*" along the left side. Now click: "View Greenfield in a larger map" at bottom left. That gives the full view and a list of locations appears. A map should pop up, with a load of little bubbles on it. Each one can be clicked and opened and something about that site should be contained therein (text and/or photos). To open a site click the name of it in the menu along the left side; you will be brought to that site. Or, use the navigation prompts in the upper left to move about the map, zoom in or out, or scroll up or down (should a window open which is too small to reveal all of its contents at once). A little practice goes a long way, and I can give a quick lesson to anyone who needs it.

The really nice thing about this project, as it is shaping up, is the concept of "filling up" the map. It takes just a few minutes to set up a site, and every one added to the map makes for a richer result. There should be no limit to the number of sites we can place on the map. I have a bit of information and a few photos connected to many well-known sites within the town, largely from Greenfield Glimpses and the soft covered Heritage book. Mary Demarco at the town, and our own treasure keepers have promised to help us get all the photos we need. That is a big part of this.

However, in my opinion, the factual or personal information is more important than the photos. We are looking for the "thousand words" that the picture is worth, so as to "capture history" in details greater than any photo can convey. This information comes best from the people who lived here, and we are soliciting input. For this project to be a great success we need Your Help:

Please spread the word to friends and neighbors who might not be numbered among our members that we seek the stories of their older homes (including, generally, homesteads and buildings as well), or their own lives as they lived in their homes, or the stories they were told when they were kids growing up in their homes, or photos of their family members who lived there, or their old horse they had in a younger and more carefree time, or their mother's garden, or ... you get the picture. There is no limitation on what is a matter of interest, and any photo can be forever connected to a site with this process. (A good example is the photo presently posted at the Ballou House icon. We do not have a photo of the house as of yet, and when we do we will add it. That is how this will work, an ongoing compilation of information ...)

The way the information should be submitted would be either via e-mail including photo attachments (e-mail is preferable in general, as I can then process it more easily and quicker) or old fashioned methods of delivery. Residents can submit a brief write-up of the history of their location (anything goes). Along with written history,

submissions can include any photos associated with the site, old deeds or contracts, gravestone etchings, personal letters, or whatever is interesting on paper. This stuff can be scanned in and posted, along with the written history. Submitting good copies and not originals would of course be best.

Our next level will be to link our map site with the video sharing site YouTube and to post there video interviews of residents. As to the interviewing and videotaping process: It is my belief that an effective video clip should not run more than a few minutes, in that people do sometimes have short attention spans. Our interviews probably won't run much past 10 or 15 minutes. We could tape an interview at a monthly meeting, or some other publicized time and place (maybe in the home of the interviewee). We should all give some thought and communicate with each other about how this can come off in the funniest possible way. As I have said in the past, we need to get rolling on this, so anybody wanting to participate in (what we could call) the Video Project, please let me know.

I look forward to your responses. My e-mail is BMMSCHERTOK@GMAIL.COM (caps not necessary). Phone 893-2268. Thanks for your support on this exciting project designed to Put Us On The Map.

*Best regards,
Dan Chertok*

P.S.: I wish to correct what was a serious factual error in my article last week about baseball in Greenfield. Apparently, the credit for starting the sandlot baseball program does belong in part to Betty Jenks, however the other person at the forefront of the program, who spent his money on equipment and devoted his time to the kids, was Rudy Rumpf. I was told this by his son, Wally, who (though being a little young for playing when the program started in the 70's) proudly recalled his dad's generous contribution of time and more to the young people of our town.

Updating Historic Sites Map in the Town of Greenfield

If you have any information, e-mail Dan Chertok at BMMSCHERTOK@GMAIL.COM or DGCLAWOFFICES@CSDSL.NET.

You may also write or call him at:

Dan Chertok
58 Ormsbee Road
Porter Corners, NY 12859
Phone: 518-893-2268

A Cradle's Journeys

By Katie Finnegan



My mom and dad, Donald and Carolyn Keefer are Historical Society members who live a few miles away in the town of Glenville. If you ever went to their house and they took you upstairs into the attic, you might see a handsome piece of furniture stored up there – a baby cradle made out of maple with a walnut finish. It has spindle sides and rests on a stand. If you pull out a wooden knob at one end it can rock; pushed in, it is locked in place. All in all, a cozy place for a baby's nap. You might see it there, but maybe not. It has done some traveling over the years, and it's probably not done going places yet.

My parents bought this cradle on their way home from work on the day that our son Michael was born. It came from the Charlton Village Shop, which is still in business today. Then they went down to Scotia to pick up my grandparents, Harold and Helen Bishop, so that they could take them up to Saratoga Hospital to meet their first grandchild and Granny and Grampy's first great-grandchild. I know it had been a busy day for me, and looking back I guess it was a pretty busy day for them, too!

Mom and Dad offered us the cradle, but at that point we had already set up Pat's old bassinet that he had used as a baby, so we thought it would make more sense to leave it at their house, so we'd have a place for Mike to nap when we went out there. So that's what we did, and although neither of our boys were easy to put down in those early months, the cradle did get some use from Mike.

After that the cradle did not stay put for too long. Any time Mom and Dad's friends and neighbors were having babies, the cradle came out of storage and went off to a new place for a couple of months. It rocked three more grandsons: our Dan and my sister's two boys, Christopher and Jonathan Allen. Here is a list of all the little ones who have used it. Some are all grown up, but the last one is still a little fellow. When the cradle is back up in the attic, Mom and Dad have a copy of this list in a plastic sleeve, tucked under the mattress.

Michael Barry Finnegan	Born Sept. 10, 1981
David Isaac Page	Aug. 22, 1983
Zachary Harold Atherton-Ely	March 28, 1984
Nicholas Steven Schrader	Dec. 7, 1984
Katelyn Rae Page	June 13, 1985
Christopher Keefer Allen	Aug. 18, 1986
Daniel Eamon Finnegan	Feb. 19, 1987
Kristian James Mylroie	Apr. 28, 1987
Benjamin Kyle Hudson	Sept. 9, 1989
Jonathan Ashton Allen	May 14, 1990
McKenna Rose Murphy	Jan. 24, 1991
Shelby Rae Olds	Nov. 6, 1991
Luke Benjamin Murphy	Apr. 13, 1993
Kathryn Skye Murphy	Feb. 17, 1994
John Peter Seamus Murphy	July 16, 1994
William Josiah Turner	Sept. 16, 2007

It's quite a list and has really turned into a family tradition of sorts. As of this writing there are no reservations for it yet, but it has always been gently used and still looks brand new. There's lots of use left in it, and I think it will rock plenty more babies before it's done.

Lightning and Thunder – Within the Halls of Splendor

Echoing through the valleys
The magnificent Thunder announces
The arrival of splendor and power of
Forces not yet seen.
The trumpeting – an awareness of
the majestic Voice of Force!
How regal the jewel of
flash, sparkle and dazzle.
No throne on this sphere can
compare to its' magnificence!
Unbridled terrible beauty –
so free of constraint.
It winds its' way through
the Valley Halls ...
Sometimes choosing to show
spectacular veins of superb
diamond flashes.
Its' voice resounds sometimes
with a crack ...
Other times with a booming bass voice
rolling in undulating waves over the mountains.
This event is the one thing that
has never yet been tamed.
Were we to know the how, when and why?
Best to leave it unanswered –
within the Halls of Splendor – Way up in the sky!

fran lambert – 2008

*November refreshment volunteers are:
Joyce Woodard and Katie Finnegan.*

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson

Letter from Marie Barnes Willard

Hi Ron, thanks to whomever thought to send me an application to join the Greenfield Historical Society. I did not know one existed. I collect everything I can find on Saratoga County and particularly Middle Grove and Greenfield.

While reading the newsletter, I saw Ruth Donogh had sent a picture of the McAuley house. I have the original postcards from photographer Wooley that I purchased from the Dake family over 20 years ago. One shows Mr. McAuley sitting on his front porch across the street from his store – McAuley and Henry's (better known today as Roeckles Store). All of the houses from McNutts to the church were destroyed in the fire of 1905, which included 2 hotels. Uncle Wilber Barney once described the fire as jumping from one side of the street to the other. Several were killed in the fire, including one of his relatives.

I have postcards of the graphite mine and some of the miners were Andy Mousman, Doug Kilmer, Louis Eichorst, and Billy Mont---. Miss Corcoran, our former teacher, took these postcards back to Middle Grove to Jack Feulner who gave her information on them. I have her notes. I do have pictures of Roeckles store when it was known as McNutts store. One of the early owners of the store had a poster in the window stating Buffalo Bill Cote was coming to town. It is so hard to believe Middle Grove was such a thriving town. It got its name from the grove of trees in the middle of town where people would picnic. They had to change the name of the town from Jamestown named for John James, son of Jesse James (unknown if related to the bandit) because a post office was already established with that name. Thus came Middle Grove. We had doctors and lawyers including Dr. Asa Barney, several hotels, one of which housed "the ladies" which drew the men from the graphite mine and the glass factory into town. There were several mills, one of which was the Barnes and Gray broom factory. These mills lined the Kaydeross creek.

According to the Atlas of 1866, the cemetery and school are as we remember them. The next house (which is where I remember Billy and Alice Older living next to a church not yet built in 1866 was the R.F. Weed house. Across the road which we knew as Dottie Jones house was a house owned by George West, almost at the corner which was Mr. & Mrs Baugh's homestead, belonged to Kassen, going down Lake Desolation Road on the right, in the house we knew as Elliot Olders was the home of J. Wagman, owner of Smith and Wagman paper mill which stood to the left of the bridge.

Going down the road where Bessie Thibodeau lived – that house belonged to a J. Mulranan. There was a house where Jack Feulner and his mother lived, but no name attached. Going up Porter Road are two more mills. From the school (across the street) down to the Baptist church were eleven houses. Directly across from the school was a house with quite a bit of property around it belonging to a P. Figner, next was S. Kilmer (which I think is Wilber Barney's) then B. Drake (McNutts?), Coy, Masten, Raninll?, Coy, Tourtelot, Wheeler, West and Smith. Round the bend to the church. It looks like there is a house across from the church where Heritages house used to be. There were old trolley tracks crossing the road and the house where Vicky Barss lived belonged to A.B. Hawthorn, across the street was Silleck, and next to him was J.W. James. The houses on the other side of Murry Road are unreadable on my copy, except for the first two. They are Wheeler and J.W. James. I do know there were two hotels and stores before getting to the bridge. Going back to Hawthorns on the other side of the street was Ingersalls. The next place was the hotel, which we knew as McAuleys (Jessies) store. According to Mr. Feulner, it belonged to Fulton before McAuley. It looks like some businesses, then the general store (Roeckles) another house and 2 properties owned by J.W. James and a home owned by J. Wheeler next to a mill owned by Dake and Wood. Although I cannot read my map any longer it can be found in the Atlas of 1866 at Saratoga County Clerks Office. I do not know if they have later Atlases on file or not. We used these maps when we used to bottle dig years ago.

I see that the NYS Library is sorting an extensive collection of transportation from Fred Abele. I noticed in box 7, item 7, Mr. Abele has scenes of the Kaydeross RR & Ballston Terminal that includes 6 pictures of Rock City Falls Hotel and Henry's store at Middle Grove, ca. 1903. The collection was not yet ready for public viewing but perhaps your Historical Society could obtain or download these pictures.

I am doing genealogy on the Abner Hawley family of Greenfield, from the mid 1800's. Abner married Alma Jane Sweet and they had three children, Jessie Addie, Allie M., and a son, Fred. Do you have files for any of these people there? Jessie and Allie both became school teachers. Jessie married John Barnes of West Milton, my father's father. Jessie is my grandmother.

*Thank you again,
Marie Barnes Willard*

E-mail for Historical Society Newsletter

I am happy to announce that I have been accepted as the very First Church Historian for Old Stone Church, on Stone Church Road. My interest began in my Greenfield area research, then, the realization that much of Greenfield had an overwhelming influence on the towns across the area. I recently gave my first introduction of research to a wonderful group whose interest was in the Old Stone Church beginnings. It went well, but with all the early facts I've gleaned, it was too much to try to fit in all at once. I get rather enthusiastic! Realizing this was my first endeavor, the people were quite forgiving. There was a luncheon served before my presentation. All in all, it was a very pleasant day in early October!

Fran Lambert, Ormsbee Rd., Gatekeep On The Mountain

Membership Application/Renewal

Become a member of the Town of Greenfield Historical Society and receive our newsletter. Send \$10 along with your name and address to the address shown below. If you send more it will be considered a donation. Other types of memberships are also available (lifetime, corporate, etc.), just call and ask (518 893-0620). Our membership year begins in September, and dues are paid annually. You may also join at one of our meetings.

Send this application form and fee to Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833. Make checks payable to: Town of Greenfield Historical Society.

Please indicate how many persons 10-years-old or older are in your household). _____

Name (please print)_____

Address _____

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 the newsletter dedicated to (please print):

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 free copy of our newsletter along with information on how they can join.

Name (please print)_____

Address _____

We need articles for the 2009-10 year. If you would like to write an article for the newsletter, send it to: Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833 or if you type it using Microsoft Word, e-mail it to: aliron@localnet.com.

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