

Historical Society Newsletter

OFFICERS: President: Skip Ballou; Vice President: Louise Okoniewski;
Secretary: Patty Schwartzbeck; Treasurer: JoAnn Rowland; Trustees:
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Janet Jones, Editor
P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833

Volume 12, Issue 3 www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

Calendar

Nov. 15, 2011: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.

Program: Lauren Roberts, County Historian, will talk about resources available from her office and the county clerk's office for people doing research – wills, estate files, etc.

Dec. 10, 2011: Saturday, *Holiday Party*, 2 - 4 p.m. at the IOOF Hall in Middle Grove.

Jan. 17, 2012: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.

Program: John Kirk and Trish Miller will talk about and play music from the Lockwood archive of music. They made a CD from old sheet music from a Greenfield family of musicians, that was played around here over 100 years ago.

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

Reminder that our membership year began on June 1 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 also will 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.

If you have any questions/suggestions/comments
on anything having to do with the Historical Society, please contact Skip Ballou at 518-378-5653 or
email: emb0744@hotmail.com.

*Coming soon – you'll be able to pay your dues online
at our website – more information to come.*

WEEZIE'S WORDS

by Louise Okoniewski

What would the day bring? How would Mother Nature treat us this year? After all, she OWED us a good day as our previous Harvest Festivals featured monsoon rains and cold winds. October 15 brought the cold winds and a sunny day. Whew!! Ann Michel, Joyce Woodard and Skip Ballou anxiously waited to show off the displays they had created. Dan Chertok had his historical site mapping setup, ready to show the historical properties he's been mapping throughout the town. The gusty winds had a chill to them, but you could warm up in IOOF Hall thanks to the new heating system. What a difference! Not only will this keep the Archives Committee and visitors warm, it will also help to preserve documents, pictures and artifacts.

About 10 vendors from the Farmer's Market sold fall vegetables, beeswax candles, honey, maple syrup, handmade beads and necklaces, jams and jellies and much more. Andy Civic from Northville provided the music for the afternoon. This is one talented young man, who stayed cool when the wind picked up his tent and blew it over. He kept playing like nothing happened.

The Chili Cook-off had seven entries this year. For two dollars, you could sample all the chili you wanted and vote for the best. The chili tent was always full with folks eating and chatting. The winner of the Chili Cook-Off were the Rowland sisters; 2nd place, The Seagrove family; 3rd place, Ron Deutsch. Other entries were, Skip Ballou, Lelah Cornell, Diane Deutsch and J'Mae Shamrose.

The kids were able to enjoy the day competing in sack races and the pumpkin roll. I don't have the winners, but the games were conducted by Alex Deutsch and Jordon and Joseph Gyarmathy.

A new event was the Laser Shot. It's a simulated shooting booth, that allows competitors to test their hunting and shooting skills. Dave Falano of the 4-H was kind enough to man the booth all day. It was a very busy event that was enjoyed by kids and grownups. Thanks to Dave and the 4-H.

The Odd Fellows Hall entertained many visitors. Everyone enjoyed the displays, books, pictures and history. Ann, Joyce and Skip have spent a lot of time arranging the inside of the hall. They have a good time going through the donations of letters, pictures, etc. If you have anything old, books, pictures, tools that is unwanted, don't get rid of it – call Skip – and have it preserved in your family's name.

This was our best Harvest Festival yet. Thanks to Ron Deutsch, who puts this together, sending out emails and contacting vendors, etc. He has done a great job with the farmers market, which will be entering the fifth year. Hard to believe it's been that long. We are growing. And thanks to all of you, and telling your friends and family about the Historical Society, we will continue to improve. We have a goal of making the IOOF Hall into a museum, and slowly it is coming along. Our website is being updated, thanks to Thom Siragusa. Take a look at the website and sign in the guest book. If there's something you'd like to see, or needs to be updated, call Skip Ballou. Skip has been working with Thom and they have some new ideas that will benefit everyone. We are also on Facebook. I hate to admit, I don't Facebook, my multi-tasking is in other fields. But Sandy Arnold has us up and going, so become a Facebook friend.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be close to thinking of Thanksgiving. If you have family you'll share the day with, take out some of those pictures and enjoy the old days. Have a happy holiday.

Historian's Corner

Cat Tale

by Ron Feulner

In case you think that we all sit around with our nose stuck in musty books at the historian's office every Wednesday, let me tell you what happened one morning.

Alice's and my cat, Dusty, has been missing from our Coy Road home for about a month. We went out of the house and forgot to latch the screen door. Dusty somehow pushed it open and left. We haven't seen him since.

Our daughter made a lost cat flyer and put it in the local Stewarts stores, and I called Channon Emigh (who lives down the road from us) as well as a few other neighbors. Unfortunately, we did not have an identification collar on Dusty's neck, so the only way to identify him is by his gray tiger color and the fact that if you run your hand out along his tail, you can feel a little knot in his tail bone about two or three inches from the end. I think probably that he got it shut in a door and broken when he was younger, and it healed with a little lump in the bone. You can't see the lump, but you can feel it.

Well, the story begins one Wednesday morning when I first arrived at work and Channon came down to my office all red faced and out of breath. She said, "I think I have found your cat. A lady called me and said that she found it wandering around on Coy Road. I'm on my way there now."

A while later, Channon returned with a cat in a cage. He looked like Dusty and was very friendly like Dusty, but when I ran my fingers along his tail, there was no lump. "It's not Dusty," I said, and Channon was noticeably disappointed. She put the cat back in the cage and took it up to the town barn.

The next day, Channon had a new story to tell. At the town garage, one of the men had said that he knew who the cat belonged to. He said a woman on Coy Road had found the cat wandering around a Stewarts store in Clifton Park. Thinking that it must be a stray, she had picked it up and brought it home to Coy Road. The cat got away again and was wandering when Channon picked it up.

Channon works part-time for the animal shelter in Ballston, so she went through all their records of lost cats and found one reported missing in Clifton Park. She called the person and took the cat down. The lady had recently moved to the area from some place in the south and brought her cat. The cat, apparently confused with its new surroundings, had left her new home and turned up at the Stewarts store. The eighty-three year old woman immediately identified the cat as hers. It was the lady's birthday and she told Channon that she could not have received a nicer present.

Dusty is still gone, and we like to think that some nice couple with children who were on vacation at the Whispering Pines campground, just down the road from us, fell in love with him and thinking him a stray with no collar, took him back to their nice home in Canada. We prefer this thought to others that might involve coyotes or red-fox.

Alice and Ron Feulner's cat is missing. His name is **Dusty**. If any one has any information about him, please call them at 893-0620.

THE TRAIN RIDE – Adirondack North Creek Railway System

by Fran Lambert – Gatekeep on the Mountain

The waxing moon is in its' 3/4 mode. The day is cool and slightly breezy, just cool enough to wear a fall jacket to keep away the chill.

I board the train with my best friend and we look forward to seeing the change of seasons in the Adirondacks. The train slowly leaves the station, and I do not want to miss a single "good" shot with my camera.

Finally picking up more speed, I am drawn through the 'train world' behind all the vehicle roads I've often frequented. I grab my camera, aim it through the clean window, and try to peer ahead, perhaps get a glimpse of something unusual coming by. I find that this can be a daunting task, as the scenery changes so abruptly from thick forest to open field to abandoned cabins, well, you get the idea. Luckily, I have spare batteries for the camera.

Most of the trees that are out there seem to be all new growth trees, second or third generation growth, probably some as old as, say, 70 years old or so. I am amazed that even for the area covered there seems to be a lack of "old growth" trees.

As the train enters each different area, I noticed many wetlands with the typical tufts of wild grasses becoming little golden islands in the water logged spots. I become aware of the silvery skeletons of trees that are no longer animate in their own right. They took on a ghostly, but still hauntingly beautiful appearance – all standing upright – most were devoid of any branches, just the stark plainness of still occupying their space of ground allotted to them by Nature.

We begin to start crossing vehicle roads, with the announcement of the engine horn blowing first, 'two long, one short and one long' toot before entering a crossroad intersection. Little by little, I can orient myself as to the direction and our whereabouts of certain landmarks, often recognizing roads such as Daniels Rd., Route 9N, then passing through Corinth. As the train progresses, it becomes more difficult to recognize anything familiar. This is the Train World!

Onward, forward!

Yes! Another landmark! This is Lake Luzerne township! We're passing over the river with all the white water. The white rapids are really furious and make a beautiful setting against the deep dark base blue water. I've passed through this town many times and every time I view these rapids, I wonder where all this water originates from.

Then the train pulls the coaches through another area of wilderness with rocky sides so very close to the train itself. It must have been sheer horror for the early railroad builders way back 'in the day' to forge through all this area. The Adirondacks are very old, tough mountains.

Oh! Look! There are some old train tracks right along side of the one we're riding on. These old ones look still pretty straight, but the wood that they're bolted to looks ancient. I watch as we go by this set of tracks and there are trees growing up between each rail tie and some actually clinging heartily to each tie itself.

Wow! I shouldn't have looked straight down along the side of the train from my window. Why? What a deep gorge!! It is so far down there and all the trees are trying to reach up to the sunlight and are seemingly extra tall! How did the people making the bedding for these tracks ever do so much work in setting up a safe track to carry such a heavy load across this piece of land?

After passing by many small towns, we finally arrive at North Creek! A very large crowd of people emerge from each of the coaches, even from the dome coach, (the one with the spectacular view). It appears that most are seniors, very many seem to be seasoned travelers the world over. A few non-seniors make the most of this trip by taking pictures of certain

views of interest with their quite costly equipment.

North Creek has all the trademarks of proud citizens offering the visitors great places to have lunch and also great dining. A hardware and a couple of retail stores offer by way of product, all the trappings of the Adirondack style of decor. A couple of stores have retired their businesses because of the economy. There was also the Thursday offering of the Farmers Market.

Back on 'The Train.'

I have now switched my train seating place to the river viewing side of the Hudson. This offered a potpourri of river and island views, huge boulders, rocky faces of mountains.

It is interesting to view how the river twists and turns, then goes from white water rapids to serene mirror-like glass surface. I am having so much fun taking pictures of all these beautiful areas, even including the bridges that I didn't see when I was on the other side of the aisle. I also become aware of all the small feeder streams that plummet down to the river to keep it active.

Finally, after this journey, I begin to recognize some of Greenfield landmarks and much to my surprise, I was being ushered past my old homestead on South Greenfield Road. I wasn't prepared for that recognition or my camera would have been in place and aimed.

Just coming back through Greenfield made me feel so "at home." I saw a lot of peaceful nature settings today, but as they say, "there's no place like home!!"

TOGHS Historic Harvest Festival and Market – October 15, 2011

Photos by Joan Rowland of Porter Corners

*Chili Cook-Off – Chili Tasting
Some of the Vendors
Selling Raffle Tickets and Pumpkin Rolling*

Wanted

For

The Town of Greenfield Historical Society
IOOF Hall, Middle Grove, New York

We are expanding our Collections.

We are looking for Donations of

- Old Photographs up to the Present
- Vintage Clothing
- Farm Implements
- Tools, etc.

Call Us Before You Throw It Out.

Contact Skip Ballou

emb0744@hotmail.com or

518-378-5653

BOTTLE DRIVE

The Town of Greenfield Historical Society will be collecting bottles to benefit the future IOOF Hall Museum, which will be located upstairs. We'll need supplies to get this project going and your donations will help. Please email or call Skip Ballou at emb0744@hotmail.com or 518-378-5653, for more information.

Our Website is Expanding

Take a look and contribute if you can.

–Explore the Interactive Map! Dan Chertok has been busy adding new sites to the Interactive Map. Please share with Dan. He needs your old photos. It's easy. Just call Dan or e-mail him at bmmschertok@gmail.com.

- Flip through historical photographs. You can now browse through our photo collection and please leave comments.
- Read past newsletters. They are now online in case you missed one.
- Browse our book recommendations. Look through listings of historical recommended reading and books by local authors.

Attention Local Authors

We would love to put your book(s) or next event on our new website as a small thank you for speaking to our group. If you are interested, please contact Thom Siragusa at tsiragusa@gmail.com or 518-322-1486.

Harvest Festival Winners

Wood Raffle Winner	Bob Spetla Middle Grove
Tree Skirt Winner	Louise Okoniewski Lake Desolation
Chili Cook-Off (#1)	The Rowland Sisters Porter Corners
50/50 Raffle	Patty Schwartzbeck Porter Corners

The Dance of the Trees

Deep orange hued leaves tipped with gold, mixed with
Raspberry colored extensions of the branches growth,
The currents of air dart capriciously through each branch –
making them sway to the touch of the breeze,
The larger leaves flip sideways, while the oval shaped ones shudder as if in a staccato fugue by Bach ... –
While I stare at the brightness of intense color before my eyes,
I cannot imagine how these stalwarts of the forest can display such beauty.
It has been a very terrifying past two years for these inhabitants of the Adirondacks.
In this area, they witnessed their kin being abruptly removed from their roots by the ever ambitious logger.
They had to feel the earth shake beneath them, and watch as load after load were trucked to places unknown.
But in spite of all this, they somehow escaped this distress, and remained untouched by the reapers' blade.
Now they seem delighted and dance in the wind to show appreciation, and with the help of their best friend "Nature,"
they conjoin and put on the most spectacular display they can offer to please the eye.
The next time you look at the entrancing deep golds, reds,
intense bright oranges of the leaves – think – and know how precious, unique, and appealing this is to YOUR well being!
by Fran Lambert (Gatekeep on the Mountain)

The Town of Greenfield Historical Society

Wish List

Needs for the IOOF Hall

- Small Refrigerator
- Bottled Water
- Cleaning Supplies
- Paper Towels
- Kitchen Garbage Bags
- Trash Bags
- Toilet Paper
- 150 Watt CLF Bulbs (6)

Contact Skip Ballou

emb0744@hotmail.com or
518-378-5653

Please send articles and/or photos for newsletters to JJones18215@roadrunner.com or by mail to:
Janet Jones, 105 Ash St., Corinth, NY 12822.

Thanks to the refreshment volunteers for October – Katie Finnegan and Nancy Homiak. They served zucchini chocolate cake, apple crisp and German chocolate cake. November refreshment volunteers are Joyce Woodard and Alice Feulner.

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Become a member of the Town of Greenfield Historical Society and receive our newsletter. Send \$10 per **household** 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 ask (518-378-5653 or emb0744@hotmail.com). Our membership year begins June 1, 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.

Coming soon – you'll be able to pay your dues online at our website – more information to come.

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

Name _____

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 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 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 Janet Jones, 105 Ash St., Corinth, NY 12822 or email it to: JJones18215@roadrunner.com.

Updating Historic Sites Map in the Town of Greenfield

If you have any information, e-mail Dan Chertok at bmmschertok@gmail.com or dgclawoffices@cstdsl.net.

You may also call (518-893-2268) or write him at: Dan Chertok, 58 Ormsbee Road, Porter Corners, NY 12859

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