

## Historical Society Newsletter

**OFFICERS: President: Skip Ballou; Vice President: Louise Okoniewski;  
Secretary: Patty Schwartzbeck; Treasurer: JoAnn Rowland; Trustees:  
Coral Crosman, Ron Deutsch, Katie Finnegan, Ron Feulner and Robert Roeckle**

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

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*This newsletter is sponsored by J. Frank Goyette in memory of Martha Older.*

### *Calendar*

**Dec. 10, 2011: Saturday, *Holiday Party*, 2 - 4 p.m.** at the IOOF Hall in Middle Grove. *“Christmas Trains”* will be our theme this year. Please bring cookies to share and sell.

**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.*

**Feb. 21, 2012: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m.** at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. *Program: “The 77th New York Bemis Heights Regiment” presented by Larry Handy. A large number of men were recruited in Greenfield and filled the company in Saratoga.*

***Please Note:*** Most of you have paid your dues for the current year, but a few have forgotten. To jog your memory, we are placing a box near the return address on the last page. If a red “X” appears in the box, it means, that according to our records, you have not yet paid. The January issue will be sent to only those who are up-to-date with their dues. If you feel a mistake has been made, please contact JoAnn Rowland at 518-893-7786.

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 follow.*

### **WEEZIE’S WORDS**

*by Louise Okoniewski*

Our monthly meeting on November 15 brought out a few friends that we have missed. It was sure nice to have Henry and Dorothy Rowland, Mike Smith, Jane Potter, and Fran Lambert at our meeting. Lauren Roberts, Saratoga County Historian, spoke on the many resources that are available at the county historian’s office in Ballston Spa.

After WWI, the NYS Arts and Cultural Affairs Law stated that Towns must appoint a historian to acquire photographs, papers, documents, etc., and maintain and preserve these documents (this is a very short version of the historian’s responsibilities!). Through the years a number of pictures, maps, documents, and cemetery records have been collected. These records can be viewed by the public. Resources available include Surrogate Court and cemetery records that are very helpful for genealogy. Land records, deeds, mortgages, titles, etc., are kept in the County Clerk’s Office.

State and Federal Census' should be online within a couple of months, thanks to the work of County Clerk, Kathy Marchione.

Maps that are available at the County Historian's Office include the 1856 Geils Map, the 1866 Beers Atlas, and the 1890 Farmer's Directory. Her office holds hundreds if not thousands of documents, and these barely touch what is available.

In her presentation, Lauren brought a few pictures of the Greenfield area. The first photo was McCauley's store in Middle Grove with the trolley. The second was of a mill in Middle Grove by the lower bridge. The third photo brought the most interest – a picture of an experimental fur farm in 1941. Florence Hinckley provided us and the County Historian a great deal of insight as her father was the director of one of the farms. That farm was on Route 9N, near the railroad bridge on 9N and Daniels Road. He was employed by the U.S. government, and raised fox, mink and martens. After the animal was harvested, he would travel to New York City and meet with furriers about the quality of the pelts. Some of the folks remembered other fur farms on Plank Road and Sky Ranch. You never know what you'll learn about the history of Greenfield!

The County Historian's job is only part-time. Her hours are Tuesday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. She encourages you to call ahead if you plan on any research. She has volunteers who help her during the week. Her email is LRoberts@saratogacounty.ny.gov.

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We have made a lot of progress in the renovations at IOOF Hall in Middle Grove. The new heating system has worked out very well and our archive ladies (Ann Michel and Joyce Woodard) are very happy. They have had more visitors to the hall and enjoy showing the collections. Our president, Skip Ballou, has been hard at work to install the alarm system and new (composting) facility. Past president (and now Town Historian) Ron Feulner, got the ball rolling on preserving the hall. Skip has taken the bull by the horns and steam rolled ahead. He's also been working on some code updates – so of you see Skip – tell him THANK YOU! With the Daketown School and IOOF Hall, over the years, the Historical Society, it's members, volunteers, donations, and hard work have helped to preserve two jewels for the Town of Greenfield and it's residents for years to come.

## ***THE CHANGE***

**By Weezie**

Little snowflake  
Falling slow  
You were a raindrop  
A month ago.

Landing in the grass  
Now all brown  
Once full of flowers  
From the greenhouse in town.

Oh the breeze  
That once was warm  
Has the fragrance  
of a big snow storm.

The call is six or more  
That's a bummer  
It's only six months  
For the warmth of summer.

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

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

## ***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.

## ***Historian's Corner***

**by Ron Feulner**

It's that time of the month when Janet Jones is expecting something from me for the Historian's Corner space in the newsletter, and I don't have an idea in my head about what I will write about. Maybe if I keep typing something will come.

One thing that I would like to mention concerns the cemeteries in the town of Greenfield. According to our records in the historian's office, there are 37 cemeteries in the town. St. John's in Greenfield Center and Middle Grove cemeteries appear to be the two largest. The remaining ones range in size from the Hutchings Cemetery on Coy Road, that I would estimate about an acre and one-half in size, to smaller ones that have just a few grave sites. Most are being somewhat maintained, but a few like the Mount Pleasant Cemetery at the Glass Factory site above Lake Desolation doesn't have any visible grave markers and is located in a wooded area. If we didn't know where it was, you would have no clue that it ever was a cemetery.

This brings me to my point; Patti Veitch contacted us recently and asked if anyone could show her where the two Harris cemeteries are located. Skip Ballou, our historical society president, took Patti to both sites. She in turn told me where they are, and I think that I could now find them. The problem in finding them is that the current map that we are now using (we think) was prepared by Jayne Lynch, when she was historian a long time ago. The map shows all the roads in our town and shows the location of the cemeteries marked using circles with a number which corresponds to a key that gives their names. The problem is, the map scale is such that the size of the circles covers about two or three hundred acres. This, of course, would still present a challenge for someone trying to find a fifty-foot square cemetery in a heavily wooded area.

What we need is a new map showing much greater detail and perhaps even a GPS reading for each cemetery (some genealogists are now identifying individual grave sites with their GPS's). Anyone volunteering for such a project should have some basic map reading skills (such as the ability to interpret contour lines on a topographic map). Perhaps this would be a good project for an Eagle Scout or a retired senior who has some time on his or her hands and enjoys being outdoors. Anyone interested can contact me at the historian's office (518-893-7432, ext. 316) on Wednesdays or leave a message with your phone number.

Best wishes to everyone for the upcoming holiday season, and I hope to see some of you at the historical society's Christmas party at the IOOF Hall.

*Thanks to the refreshment volunteers for November – Joyce Woodard and Alice Feulner. They served cookies, brownies and cranberry cake.*

*January refreshment volunteers are Skip Ballou and Patty Schwartzbeck.*

*Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson*

**by Paul Post**

**ppost@saratogian.com**

**July 19, 2011**

**BALLSTON SPA** – As kids, JoAnn and Joan Rowland would have spent a hot summer day helping their father, Myron Rowland, make hay – a memory they don't relish.

However, the Greenfield residents remember him fondly and paid tribute to him during the monthly Honoring Our Deceased Veterans ceremony Tuesday at the County Offices in Ballston Spa.

Rowland, a World War II veteran, was well-known to friends and family members for his wide-ranging community service – fire department, grange, but seldom discussed his military career.

“That was that generation,” JoAnn Rowland said. “They talked very little about it.”

Myron Rowland (1916-1994) was a combat rifleman in the U.S. Army's 151st Regiment, 38th Infantry “Cyclone”

Division that served in the Pacific Theater. He saw heavy fighting in New Guinea and was involved with the liberation of Luzon and Leyte.

He and three brothers served during World War II. A newspaper clipping tells how he once encountered intense combat action during a 12-mile march through dense jungle.

He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal with Bronze Arrowhead, the Good Conduct Medal and the Philippines Liberation Medal with Bronze Star.

“No one ever heard his stories of the war,” said Rowland’s nephew, Greenfield Supervisor Dick Rowland. What he remembers best is boyhood experiences with his uncle – learning how to drive a tractor and butcher a pig or riding an old workhorse.

Myron Rowland worked for 48 years in production and plant maintenance for Ellsworth Ice Cream Co.

“Could that be any better, to have an uncle make ice cream?” Dick Rowland said.

Myron Rowland was a charter member and long-time treasurer of Greenfield Fire Co. No. 2. He also was a member of the Volunteer Fire Police, State Fire Police Association, Saratoga County Volunteer Fire Association, Greenfield Grange No. 807, Saratoga County Pomona Grange and Greenfield Senior Citizens. [He was a member of the Town of Greenfield Historical Society also.]

“He provided us with a message and an obligation,” said Assemblyman James Tedisco, R-Schenectady, who presented Rowland’s family with an official Assembly proclamation. “We have an obligation every day to stand up and make America great.”

Board of Supervisors Chairman Thomas Wood, R-Saratoga, gave the family a Saratoga County World War II Service Medal, State Sen. Hugh Farley’s office presented a New York State Senate Liberty Award and U.S. Rep. Chris Gibson’s office provided a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol Building.

Korean War Veteran Gene Corsale of Saratoga Springs read a proclamation from President Barack Obama, Navy Cmdr. (Ret.) Paul Martineau read a letter from County Clerk Kathy Marchione, and Veterans Service Agency Directory Andrew Davis also read a letter from District Attorney James Murphy III.

Following presentations, attendees went outside for an honor guard rifle salute and flag raising; the flag will fly at the county offices for 30 days until next month’s program.

“He was a great man, a family man, a farmer,” JoAnn Rowland said.

*Ballston Spa Post 234 members stand at attention Tuesday as a flag is raised in honor of deceased veteran Myron Rowland.*

*Below: Ceremony Coordinator Gene Corsale presents Rowland’s daughters, JoAnn, left, and Joan, with a certificate signed by President Barack Obama.*

*Photos by Ed Burke/eburke@saratogian.com*

*Ceremony coordinator Gene Corsale presents Rowland’s daughters, JoAnn, left, and Joan, with a certificate signed by President Barack Obama.*

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:bmmschertok@gmail.com) or [dgclawoffices@csdsl.net](mailto:dgclawoffices@csdsl.net). You may also call (518-893-2268) or write him at: Dan Chertok, 58 Ormsbee Road, Porter Corners, NY 12859

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