



## Historical Society Newsletter

*Our 30th Anniversary Year*

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

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

Volume 13, Issue 9

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

Sponsored by the Jones families  
in honor of *Margie and Earl's*  
70th Wedding Anniversary.

### CALENDAR

**Tuesday, May 21** – Community Center in Greenfield Center, meeting at 7 p.m. **Program:** *Coral Crosman will talk about her new book of short stories and the history of her house, which may be one of the older ones in town.*

**Sunday, June 16** – *Greenfield Center Business Association Car Show*, Middle Grove Town Park, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Our society will have an *Information Booth and Bake Sale* at the car show. If you would like to help at the booth or bake for the sale, contact Joyce Woodard at 893-7638 or Louise Okoniewski at 587-6060.

**Fridays, June 21 - Sept. 6** – *Farmer's Market*, Middle Grove Town Park, 4 - 7 p.m.

**Tuesday - Sunday, July 16 - 21** – *Saratoga County Fair*, Ballston Spa, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Visit our *Information and Display Booth* in the Townley Building (same as the Grange). If you'd like to help out at the fair, call Louise at 587-6060.

**Saturday, Aug. 3** – *Porter Corners School Reunion*, Middle Grove Park Pavilion, starts at noon.  
See information on page 3.

**Saturday, Aug. 10** – *Caboose Day at King's Station*, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tour the caboose and station, vintage cars and buy lunch made by the Historical Society members. Located at the corner of NYS Route 9N and Porter Road. For more information or if you'd like to help (set up, cooking, clean up), call Louise at 587-6060.

**Tuesday, Sept. 17** – *Pot Luck Dinner*, Community Center in Greenfield Center, 5:30 p.m., bring a dish to pass and your own place setting. Meeting at 7 p.m. **Program:** *Bill Dake will tell some stories and give a little bit of history of the Dake family, and also speak about how Stewart's came to evolve from Dake's ice cream.*

**Saturday, Oct. 5** – *Harvest Fest*, more information to follow.

### WEEZIE'S WORDS

by Louise Okoniewski

No it can't be! Not another snow storm or heavy cold rain. Those were my thoughts on Tuesday, April 16, for our monthly meeting. Not another cancellation. But Mother Nature cut us a break and we were able to have a wonderful meeting! There was a full house of 30 members that attended to hear Bradford Smith and Ellen Kostroff tell the story of Bradford's family's trip to Florida in the year 1922. Family vacations were unheard of in those days, especially from a Galway farm family. Bradford's parents, Mabel and Platt Smith, decided to take a trip to Miami, Florida, with the family, but it was not as easy as jumping in the car and heading out. There were farm animals that needed to be fed and taken care of, plus other farm chores. One reason that Mabel and Platt Smith wanted to go south was a change of scenery and the thought of a warm climate. Ms. Kostroff showed pictures of the family farm with snow banks as high as the barn roof. So, they decided to make this happen. They found people to take care of the farm and animals. In 1922, they packed supplies (which included food for three months, tents and other camping gear) and headed to Miami in the family's 1920 Willy's Knight. Travel to Florida was a one way rutted road. The only paved roads were near the cities. In 1921, there were 10 million autos on the road. This was the time that the nation was starting to widen it's horizons. Mabel and Platt were part of the new vacationers ... however, travel was not easy! Work was as hard at times on the road as on the farm. There was cooking, cleaning, set the large tents up and take them down. Pack everything up and off again. Not to mention the weather. The travel time took months. If you met another car on the road, one would need to back up or pull over so the other could pass. Should something happen, such as going off the road or a flat tire, another traveler was always willing to help. You just had to wait for them to come along. One of the main chores was trying to keep the children occupied. The families that traveled had the kids set up in schools along the way. Finally the Smith family made it to the Sunshine State! Bradford and Ellen showed pictures of the family along the beaches, playing in the water as we do today. Florida had more paved roads, which made it easier to get around. The

family made many trips to Florida in the following years. They truly enjoyed the trips, and the acquaintances they met along the way. Mabel Smith kept a travel log of their adventures, these were important accounts of those times. You can read more in Bradford Smith's book, from New York to Florida – An American Family's Life on the Road between the World Wars.

Before the program, we had a little trouble getting Ellen's computer and PowerPoint to work. But that gave the members time to mix and mingle, and catch up with each other. The meeting started a little late, but no one seemed to mind as they were having a great time visiting with each other. After the meeting and the program, the members enjoyed the refreshments and camaraderie. It was very enjoyable!

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*We have a few events scheduled for this summer.*

**Farmers Market** will start Friday, June 21 through Sept. 6 at the Middle Grove Park.

**Odd Fellows Hall** will be open on Friday nights, from 4 to 7 p.m. during the Farmers Market.

We will be at the **Fair** with a display from July 16 - 21.

**Caboose Day and Car Show** is Aug. 10 at King's Station.

*Look for more information in our next newsletter.*

## HERITAGE HUNTERS GENEALOGY AND LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

*Heritage Hunters regular program meetings are at 1 p.m. on Saturdays, at the Town of Saratoga Town Hall, 12 Spring St. [Route 29], Schuylerville, N.Y.*

*For more information email [melfrejo@aol.com](mailto:melfrejo@aol.com) or call 518-587-2978.*

**May 18, Saturday, 1 p.m.** – **Kim McCartney** will talk about DNA testing; come prepared to share your experiences with DNA testing.

**June 15, Saturday, 1 p.m.** – **Bill Greer**, trustee and treasurer of the New Netherlands Institute will present: "Sex and the City," the early years in Dutch, N.Y., from 1624 - 1664.

**July 20, Saturday, 1 p.m.** – **Steve Clarke**, of Churchville, N.Y., will speak about his Palatine research.

**Aug. 17, Saturday** – We will tour the village of Round Lake, on foot, with Village Historian **Bill Ryan**. [Note: time to be announced].

**Sept. 21, Saturday, 1 p.m.** – **Lisa Doherty** will speak on "Immigration Myths."

**Oct. 19, Saturday** – All day genealogy conference – **Michael Brophy**, professional genealogical researcher, columnist and lecturer in the Boston area will be the speaker.

**Nov. 16, Saturday, 1 p.m.** – **Kathleen Roe**, director of operations at the New York State Archives, will speak about "Finding Genealogical Treasures in the State Archives."

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by **Ron Feulner**

With all the outdoor work that most of us have at this time of the year, work on the museum has slowed but has not stopped. I am still gathering photos and writing story lines for the displays. If you have old family photos that you would like to share, there is still time. Either bring them into my office in town hall on any Wednesday or call me at 518-893-0620.

We are in a bit of upheaval at the office, as we are moving the desks into the next office space and using the first one as a records room. At the same time, our computers are being hooked up to the town networking system. This will allow our computers to "talk" directly to one another which will be a big improvement for us as in the past we had to download information on to a flash drive, physically walk it to the other computer, and then upload it on that computer. Now we will be able to transfer data electronically.

Also, as part of this new system, everything that we do such as digitizing old photos will be backed up not only on our computers but also upstairs and in addition at an off-site location.

Very soon, we hope to begin printing the 13x19 poster size story boards for the museum on the new printer that the historical society just purchased. We could have them done at other places like, but this should be less expensive for us.



*Earl and Margie Jones celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary at a party hosted by their children and grandchildren, at the Porter Corners United Methodist Church. They would like to thank everyone who attended and those who sent cards and gifts.*

*Margie and Earl Jones*



*(Nancy, Phil, Marjorie, Jennifer, Annette, Janet, Harold)*

## ORMSBEE ROAD

by Daniel Chertok

Our neighbors, Lou and Pauline Dutcher, who live in the beautiful home which sits where the pavement ends way atop Ormsbee Road, recently gave me a title “abstract” of their property. My review of the abstract revealed some interesting items.

The abstract starts by referencing the description of the property, contained within three separately described parcels, and includes the usual old-fashioned boundary marking system with property lines running “in a straight line, for twenty-two chains and eighty links” to “a stake and stones standing near the creek.”

The first and second parcels reference a prior sale from Jonathan Cole to Rufus R. Cole in 1847. The third parcel was later conveyed from Amasa Martin to Rufus R. Cole by deed dated April 24, 1859. Later on, Irving W. Wiswall, Referee, sold the land to Mary E. Brown in 1900. The land was further conveyed in 1906 to Louis Bowman.

The earliest reference in the abstract is to “Anthony Martin and Susannah, his wife” by virtue of a deed dated 12 April 1833. The people to whom they sold eventually sold to a person who was required as part of the purchase price to:

“deliver at the foot of what is called Cole Hill in said town fifteen (15!) cords of a good fine quality of cord wood including top and body wood as the trees furnish in each and every year so long as the said party of the first part or his wife shall require him to do the same.”

Now, that could be a long running obligation, but the obliged party [of the second part] was probably heartened to know that there was some money involved, to go back to them for their efforts. The party of the first part (or his wife) agreed to pay exactly \$1.50 per cord (!), as long as the wood shall be delivered by the first day of January in each year.

It is not clear from this abstract when the 15 cord indenture began, but there is proof that in 1868 the debt was considered satisfied, as the release states: “... the covenant for the delivery and sale of cord wood mentioned in last deed is fully paid and satisfied and [here’s to] a consent that the same be discharged of record.”

Later names in the chain of title include Clayton Finch (1890); Wray S. Littlefield (1912); and William P. Moody (1916). It is interesting to note that on some older maps (including the 1954 topographical map I have by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which shows the “Kayaderoseras Quadrangle”) Ormsbee Road is shown as Moody Hill Road.

Lou Dutcher was not surprised to learn of an earlier Lou who owned his place. He told me that some years ago two sons of Louis Bowman came on a Sunday and stayed for a visit.

There are more stories to tell about Ormsbee Road, and I will endeavor to get them to the newsletter. This former country road might look like a modern day racetrack now, with its broad clear shoulders and wide open views, but its history remains intact. More on this road later.

## Save the Date and Pass the Word

### THIRD PORTER CORNERS SCHOOL REUNION

Saturday, August 3, 2013

Middle Grove Park Pavilion

Please bring pictures, memorabilia and stories to share.

The reunion will start at noon.

Please bring a dish to share, your own beverages and lawn chairs.

Everyone is welcome – even if you didn’t attended any of the schools in Porter Corners.

Call Don Young, at 893-2643, if you have any questions.

## Wish List for the Museum

External Hard Drive

Digital Camera

Label Maker

**The Historical Society’s 30th Anniversary**  
July 26, 1983 – *First Meeting of The Town of Greenfield Historical Society*

**I NEED ARTICLES AND/OR PHOTOS FOR OUR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS.**  
If you would like to write an article for the newsletter, send it to: **The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833 or email it to: [JJones18215@roadrunner.com](mailto:JJones18215@roadrunner.com).**

## IOOF Hall Visitation Hours

The IOOF Hall will be open for visitors on Friday nights, from 4 to 7 p.m. during the Farmers Market.

Joyce Woodard – 893-7638 or Ann Michel – 306-6632

One of our long-time members, **Bud McKnight**, has moved. If any one would like to send him a note, his new address is: Earl McKnight, Evergreen Commons, 1070 Luther Road, East Greenbush, NY 12061-4020.

*April refreshment volunteers, Katie Finnegan and Sue Martin, served chocolate zucchini cake, ginger snap cookies, lemon bars and cream cheese/salsa marmalade with crackers.*  
*May refreshment volunteers are Patty Schwartzbeck and JoAnn Rowland.*

*Janet Jones, Refreshment Committee*

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

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 ONE YEARS DUES, 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.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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## Updating Historic Sites Map in the Town of Greenfield

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

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