



## Historical Society Newsletter

**OFFICERS:** Interim President and Vice President, Robert Roeckle;  
Secretary, Patty Schwartzbeck; Treasurer, JoAnn Rowland;  
**Trustees:** Dan Chertok, Ron Deutsch, Ron Feulner, Katie Finnegan and Aida Gordon

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

Volume 16, Issue 7



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

### CALENDAR

**March 15, 2016** – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.  
Program: Author **Ray O’Conor** will be speaking about his book, *“She Called Him Raymond.”*  
This man searched for the story of his namesake, a B-17 pilot in WWII.

**April 19, 2016** – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.  
Program: **Ron and Theresa Alger** of *Saratoga Crackers*

**May 17, 2016** – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. Program: **Ellen Steinberger** will speak about *“Down in the Valley: Exploring the Gut.”* This area in Saratoga Springs, east of Broadway, has been home to multi-ethnic working class families for over two centuries and also was important to the evolution of the Jewish community.

**Everyone is welcome;  
you don’t have to be a member to attend.**

### HERITAGE HUNTERS

**Heritage Hunters program meetings, 1 p.m. at the Saratoga Town Hall, 12 Spring St., Schuylerville. Public is welcome. For information, call 587-2978**

**Saturday, March 19**

“Ancestry DNA” – Kim McCartney, Town of Milton historian, will share the process that she used to narrow down the identity of her grandfather.

**Saturday, April 30**

Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library – 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Heritage Hunters Annual History Faire.** A family event with activities for children. Many historical societies, museums and groups will be represented.

*Our February meeting was cancelled due to bad weather, so the March refreshment volunteers are Jane Potter and Nancy Homiak.*

*Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson*

### HISTORIAN’S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

#### *The Greenfield Hotel*

One of the things that I like most about my historian’s job is the unpredictability of it. I go into the office every Wednesday with a list of projects that I want to work on, but it seldom goes that way. A good example happened recently when one of the volunteers, Nancy Homiak, who is working at organizing our photo collection pointed out that we have photographs of two distinctly different buildings, and they are both labeled “Greenfield Hotel.”

One set of photos had been provided by Rick Bishop, who is a direct descendant of Henry Bishop who once owned the Greenfield Hotel. The other set was part of our collection, which we have had for some time. It appeared that one or the other of the sets had been mislabeled.

We decided to wait until Rick came in again and ask him how certain he was of his set. In the meantime, I took a closer look at the empty lot that sits directly across the way from town hall and is adjacent to the post office and hair dresser. The lot has been vacant for as long as I can remember, but I have been told that it was the location of “The Greenfield,” which is one of the titles used for the hotel.

Rick came in a week later, and when we quizzed him about the photos, he told us that the photos were part of his family’s collection and came to him already labeled, so he had no reason to doubt them. He also added that his great-grandfather, Henry Bishop, had owned the hotel when it burned. He had then sold the lot to someone else and bought “The Tree House,” a hotel in South Corinth with a huge tree house in the front yard.

As we studied the two sets of photos more closely, we found that although the roof lines and chimneys did not match, both buildings had wraparound porches. One set of photos had large trees in front but the other had six foot high seedlings. Rick came up with the idea that based on the new seedlings, the hotel may have been rebuilt after his great-grandfather’s fire.

That week (at home), I decided to do a little Internet research on Fulton History, a searchable list of area

newspapers. Within a few hours, I was finding information that began filling in the history of the hotel. At first, I found numerous references to Captain John Erkenbrack as owner of the hotel. These references covered the years between 1869 and 1879, so he owned the property for a number of years in the mid to late 1800s. These references told of holiday balls, music programs, meetings of the Odd Fellows, and political caucuses held at the hotel. It was clearly a social center in the community. Then I found an article that said that the captain had sold the hotel to William L. Jones in 1884 for about \$8,500.

Next, I began finding references to Henry Bishop (Rick's great-grandfather) as owner, just as Rick had said, but I could not find a date of purchase. Next, I found a detailed article that was a surprise to all of us, including Rick. In the Sept. 20, 1899 issue of the Schuylerville Standard, the article stated that a man called Byron Place had become intoxicated and decided to head for Greenfield Center where he intended to have some fun by "cleaning out Bishop's place." He had caused problems at the hotel before, and this time was no different. He started trouble on the large porch and Bishop eventually went inside and closed the door, but Place tried to force his way in. He broke through a door panel using his knee and then began trying to force his way through the door with his shoulder. Bishop by now had picked up a revolver and fired it through the upper part of the door, which resulted in Place and another man leaving, getting in an automobile and driving away toward Saratoga. Bishop called the police and told them that he had shot at a man through his door and thought that he might have wounded him, and the man had left driving toward Saratoga with another man.

Place next appeared at the Saratoga hospital where he was found to have a bullet lodged in his chest. The doctors probed for the bullet but were unable to remove it, and Place's condition was thought to be very serious, but he did eventually recover, although the bullet was never removed.

In the meantime, the police went to Greenfield Center to arrest Bishop, but he could not be found. The next day, he turned himself in to the police.

The rest of the article went on to say that Place had had many run-ins with the law. He had been arrested 10 times and as soon as he was released from the hospital, he was arrested again.

I could not find any resolution to the arrest of Bishop, but the newspaper article was clearly putting the blame on Place.

Rick Bishop was completely surprised with the article and was anxious to share it with other family members.

I continued my research and next found an article in the November 24, 1902 issue of the Saratogian that stated that Henry Bishop's hotel had burned to the ground on Nov. 22 "... and leaving a soar [sore] that sadly mars the otherwise attractive village. It is too soon to say what Mr. Bishop will do but it is probable that someone will erect a new building and provide for the comfort of those who may come from the hot and dusty city to enjoy the pure air and beautiful scenery of this healthful town." Another article stated that

the fire had started in the office and spread rapidly, and it was impossible to save any of the contents.

I next found a brief article dated 1903 that said that Clarence E. Latham had purchased the site of the Greenfield Hotel. I then looked for Clarence and found that he was a ticket taker at the Kings railroad station on Route 9N and was also involved in a number of area businesses.

The trail grows thin at this point but I did find some clues. One of the photos showed a sign on the hotel identifying it as the Kingsley hotel. Then I found a short article in the April 22, 1908 Saratogian that said, "Mr. Chandler is working at his trade, carpenter, on the C. Kingsley Hotel." Another said, "Richard Menshausen has taken a position with C. Kingsley for the coming year."

Next I found an article in the Troy Times dated Jan. 9, 1912 stating, "Greenfield Center – John J. Forgette of Hudson Falls is the new proprietor of the Greenfield Hotel formerly owned by Cassius Kingsley.

Then, about three months later an article dated April 2, 1912 in the Glens Falls Daily Times states, "The hotel at Greenfield Center was burned to the ground yesterday. The barns escaped." Apparently the hotel had burned a second time.

This would explain the two sets of photos that we have showing two different buildings both labeled The Greenfield Hotel."

Based on all these newspaper clues, I am pretty sure that there were two different buildings on the site across from town hall that were both called the Greenfield Hotel or just "The Greenfield." Both appear to have burned to the ground leaving the empty lot that exists today.



# Stone Harvesting (continued from November 2015)

by Joan E. Rowland

Back in November 2015's newsletter, I had given you an example of stone harvesting at the Rowland Farm. Since our weather has been so mild this year, in December, Dave Wardell, who now farms our land, came to the corn fields to harvest stones.

Here is the modern way. He has a stone harvester that hooks on the back of his tractor. It digs down in the ground two inches and digs out the stones. Then the blades will roll the stone to the one end (where the flat is) and will leave the stones in a row.

But as in yesteryear – you still need someone to go along that row and hand pick them up. Works much faster since you are only doing the row, not the entire field. Plus, they are laying on top of ground for you.

Here is a John Deere with a bucket on front. One guy is driving it and the other is loading it. Then they drive the stones to edge of field and dump. This process is a lot faster but still requires manual labor.

Happy Stone Harvesting.



**Editor's note:** We recently became aware that long-time member and past president, Robert (Bob) Dake, recently died. We hope to have more information in the future.

**MAPLE VALLEY'S  
OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND**

**APRIL 2 AND 3, 2016 – 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.**

**84 HARRIS ROAD, CORINTH, N.Y.**

FREE HAYRIDE AND TOUR OF THE SUGAR HOUSE  
KIDS PLAY AREA  
HONEY BEE DISPLAY  
BOY SCOUTS  
DAN DAN THE MOUNTAIN MAN

\$ BREAKFAST AND LUNCH – PANCAKES AND SAUSAGE W/WARM MAPLE SYRUP \$  
\$ MAPLE PRODUCTS AND MAPLE COTTON CANDY \$  
\$ HONEY PRODUCTS \$  
\$ DREAM CATCHER FARM PONY RIDES \$

**DIRECTIONS:** FROM CORINTH, GO NORTH ON 9N FOR ABOUT TWO MILES AND TURN LEFT ON ANTONE MOUNTAIN ROAD. GO ABOUT ONE-HALF MILE AND TURN RIGHT ON HARRIS ROAD. THE FARM WILL BE ABOUT TWO MILES DOWN THE ROAD.

**518-654-9752 OR 518 796-4721**  
**EMAIL DCMONICA@ROADRUNNER.COM**  
**FACEBOOK MAPLE VALLEY FARM-MONICA'S**

CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED  
**PLEASE WEAR BOOTS**



*A photo of the Stewart's Plant on 9N between Saratoga Springs and Greenfield Center. In the background, you can see the drive-in where the mobile home park is now. The snack bar building is still there.*

*"Stewart's and Spar Drive-In – AKA Greenfield Drive-In – Circa 1950"* Photo credit: Don Mosher, Facebook



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL AVAILABLE ONLINE

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. **YOU CAN PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE! [www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com)**

**CLICK ON:**



**AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS.**

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

**PLEASE SEND ARTICLES AND/OR PHOTOS FOR OUR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS.**  
Mail to: **The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833**  
or email to: **JJones18215@roadrunner.com.**

**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.**

**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).  
You also may call (518-321-0330) or write him at: Dan Chertok, 58 Ormsbee Road, Porter Corners, NY 12859



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