



Historical Society Newsletter

OFFICERS: President, Mary Vetter; Vice President, Joan Rowland;

Secretary, Patty Schwartzbeck; Treasurer, JoAnn Rowland;

TRUSTEES: Dan Chertok, Ron Deutsch, Ron Feulner, Katie Finnegan,
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The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833

Volume 18, Issue 4



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CALENDAR

Dec. 9 – Saturday, *Holiday Party*, 1-3:30 p.m. at the IOOF Hall/Museum in Middle Grove. **Topic: *Jewish Traditions***, event will be facilitated by Dan Chertok. Please bring cookies/desserts to share. Mulled Cider and coffee will be provided. The event will end with the usual Cookie Exchange for a donation.

Jan. 16, 2018 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program: *Greg Veitch***, Chief of Police for Saratoga Springs, will talk about his book – *All the Law in the World Won't Stop Them*. It's about crime, gambling and corruption in Saratoga Springs through 1921.

Feb. 20, 2018 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** Author *Mary Cuffe Perez* will talk about her new book – *Barn Stories*.

March 20, 2018 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program: *Marie Willard*** will speak about growing up in Middle Grove in the 1950s and some of the older people and families she knew back then.

April 17, 2018 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.
Program to be announced.

May 15, 2018 – Tuesday, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.
Program to be announced.

Everyone is welcome, admission is free, you don't have to be a member to attend and refreshments are served after all programs.

December Notes

by Mary Vetter

Well we had another great meeting. Andrea Mann talked about her book "A Letter From Ginger Boy" and regaled us with stories about her childhood in Greenfield.

Everyone found the stories delightful. For most in the room, it brought back bygone Greenfield that moved at a slower pace along dirt roads. She spoke of neighbors helping neighbors when the need arose.

Andrea fondly remembered her 4-H activities and the wonderful women who taught her life skills such as sewing and cooking. She skillfully evoked a time when a young girl could ride her horse all the way to the Ballston Spa Fair Grounds and no one gave it a thought. All of us of a certain age, smiled as we remembered our own childhoods full of freedom and adventure. Perhaps we felt a little sad for all of those kids behind us who seem to have led micro-managed lives. In the end, we were glad to join Andrea on a trip down memory lane.

The video of the presentation is available at the Town Historian's Office on Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

I hope that you will join us on December 9th at the Odd Fellows Hall in Middle Grove. Gather with us to usher in the holiday season and to learn about Hanukah festivities. The event is from 1 to 3:30. Remember to bring your cookies! For those of you who can't make it; you will be missed. I wish all of you a peaceful, blessed and happy holiday. May it be filled with the light of hope and the warmth of love.

Thanks to the refreshment volunteers for November, Joan Rowland and Joyce Woodard. They served Dorothy's (Rowland) Apple Cake and Ed's Famous Brownies (and thanks for setting up and serving for me).

Please remember to bring cookies/desserts to share at the Holiday Party and for the Cookie Exchange.

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson

Shop at Amazon Smile

Help support our historical society when you shop at Amazon. Amazon Smile, the charitable arm of Amazon, will make a donation to us on qualifying purchases when you sign into your Amazon account at smile.amazon.com. The first time you do this, tap Accounts & Lists then tap Your Amazon Smile. On the right-hand side of the screen tap the change charity button and type in: The Town of Greenfield Historical Society.

Once you have saved us as your charity, start shopping. When you checkout, Amazon will let you know if any of your purchases qualify for a donation. Amazon then sends the donation to us. You do nothing more. Remember to sign in at smile.amazon.com on all your Amazon shopping trips to support us. Thanks!

Holiday Party at IOOF Hall

**Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017
1 to 3:30 p.m.**

**Topic this year is
“Jewish Traditions”**

*Event will be facilitated
by Dan Chertok*

Please bring cookies.
Mulled Cider and coffee
will be provided.

*The event will end with the usual
Cookie Exchange for a donation.*

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

With all of the warm weather we had this fall, the Christmas season has snuck up on us. I am looking forward to this year's celebration at the IOOF Hall where Dan Chertok will treat us to something a little different than our usual program.

As I watch the season approach and my extended family prepare for it, I can't help but think that a lot more goes into Christmas now than did in the past. That is, at least a lot more money is spent. When I think back on my youth, we didn't get anywhere near as many presents as today's families give. Maybe that was due to the times, since in the forties we were still either fighting WW2 or rebounding from it.

At school, Christmas was a big deal back then. We spent hours cutting strips of colored paper and pasting the ends to make chains for the Christmas tree. We also made popcorn chains by threading popcorn onto a string, and I remember thinking popcorn balls were a real treat when someone brought them to school. Of course, we did not have the more demanding curriculum that schools have to live up to today.

One of my fondest Christmas memories came later when I was a teenager. My father owned a lot of timber land on the old Feulner homestead north of Lake Desolation. He was a lumberjack and would cut pulp wood and saw logs on that property for his entire career. He was always careful to cut only the most mature trees and therefore was able to manage the timberland in such a way as to provide him a long career on the land.

One Christmas, my younger brother and I decided that we wanted to earn some extra money by cutting

and selling Christmas trees. My father gave us the go ahead, and we used his bulldozer to pull his home-built pulp wood sled (which would carry about one full cord of wood on two long timber runners shielded in iron) along the many logging roads on the property looking for Christmas trees.

Most of the timber was hardwood, but there were several vlys (wet areas) and beaver ponds on the property, and wherever the land was moist, spruce and balsam trees grew. My brother and I took our axes and roamed the property finding, cutting, and dragging the Christmas trees back to the sled to be hauled back to where they could be loaded on a truck.

I remember the blue sky and cold air, the smell of spruce and balsam and the beautiful land that we roamed to find the trees. That, along with the invigorating activity of chopping them down and seeing our breath condense in little clouds as we worked, completed the experience.

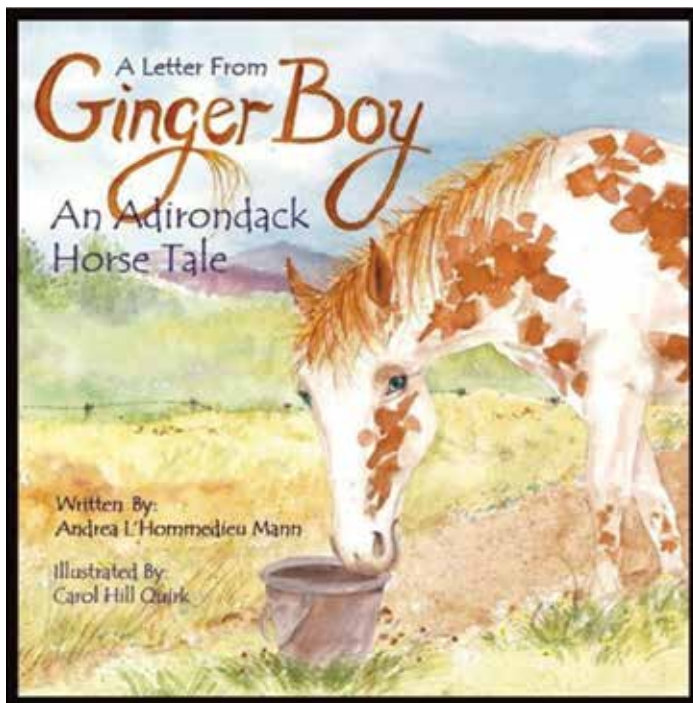
My father must have trucked the trees down for us because we set up shop in our driveway on Murray Road and sold the trees. I think back on this enterprise and now realize that my father had as much invested in this as we did, but he never mentioned sharing the profits. I guess he figured that it was good business training for my brother and me. As I think about it now, it was a wonderful Christmas present that he gave us that year. The fact that I can remember that experience in vivid detail and have absolutely no recollection of what our presents were under the tree, suggests their relative value. I guess what I am trying to say is that sometimes the best gifts are not those under the tree.

Letter to Editor:

I want to thank all of you who signed my card at our last meeting. I had recently fallen and was unable to attend. Looking at all the names on the card brought back memories of happy times we have had together. It seems life goes by so fast, and we do not take the time to say how much friendships make our daily lives better.

Alice Feulner

November's Program



Andrea (L'Hommedieu) Mann talking about growing up in Greenfield and the children's book she wrote, "A Letter From Ginger Boy," which is the true story of a girl and her horse growing up in the Adirondack foothills, circa 1964.

Photo provided by Joan Rowland

This article was published in the Dec. 2010 Newsletter **December – Christmas at Our House**

by Marie Willard

Memories of our early Christmas's are lodged in my memory forever. We had the Christmas plays at church and school, the caroling, making wreaths, and lots of other things.

Mr. and Mrs. William Barth lived across the bridge where Clothworthy's now live. They had a son, Fred, who was in the military. We would go to their house and sing Christmas Carols. She would give us hot chocolate and cookies. On their front porch stood a tall Christmas tree. From its branches hung comic books tied with pretty ribbons. We were each allowed to take one. When Mr. and Mrs. Barth moved to West Milton to open a store we were all sad.

At school we had the usual Christmas pageant. The wise men all wore their fathers bathrobes. The girls all fought over who would be Mary. After the pageant, we sang fun Christmas songs like "Up on the Housetop." My father and mother took turns between church and school. One of them stayed at home with my sister and brother. It was my special night. We did all the decorations and made the scenery for the plays. Our parents baked goodies and Charlie Dake Sr. brought us dixie cups packed in dry ice for our party.

At home getting ready for Christmas was a big event. We would go into the woods and get bags of running or Princess Pine. We would form the wreaths and decorate them with small decorations. Mom would finish them with a big bow. We would go to Mrs. Gaba's tree stand at the end of Murray road and pick out our tree. It always took a couple of hours because we had to get just the right one and she always had so many.

On Christmas eve, Dad would pull out the meat grinder and attach it to a tall wooden stool. Mom would have piles of bread, onions, celery, hamburger, sausage and spices ready. Dad would turn the handle, calling out what he needed. We would feed the grinder. When the piles were gone, Mom would mix it together and add whatever else she needed. Dad would stuff the bird and pop it in the oven where it would slow cook all night.

My father didn't believe in credit. Our parents let us choose one big thing we would like for Christmas. If they could afford it they would get it. If not, our big gift would be nice but probably our second choice. On the year I entered high school, I asked for a typewriter. I can't remember what my sister and brother wanted that year. We all got our big gift. I didn't find out until much later that Dad had gone to Union Fern in Saratoga and got my typewriter on credit. This made it extra special and I kept it long after I married.

For a couple of years, we collected used toys from people around town. Dad would repair them if necessary, and both Mom and Dad would paint them to present them to the welfare department to distribute to children. I particularly remember a black and white jumping pony with bright red reins. It looked like it came out of a store window. Today, if you want to donate toys, they must be new and unwrapped. They will decide if they are good enough to distribute. In fact, they would rather you "adopt" a child and purchase the things on their wish list. This is how far we have come?

FUN FACTS

Feb. 15 – The Town of Greenfield Historical Society has a museum in the IOOF Hall in Middle Grove. The deed for the hall states that no dancing shall be allowed in the building as the person donating land in the 1800s for the hall was a strict Baptist. To our knowledge, no one has ever violated the mandate!

March 2 – The “Sheep Dip,” one of Greenfield’s favorite swimming holes, was located on the Kayaderosseras Creek just below the Sand Hill Road bridge. It had a diving board and was a favorite hangout for people of all ages on a hot summers day.

March 23 – Ice skating on Latham’s Pond (Porter Road near intersection with 9N) was a favorite winter pastime for area residents.

April 12 – Greenfield Mud Season Happening Now! Be Careful! Your horses may get stuck in the mud when you are harvesting your logs! *(provided by Town Deputy Historian Joyce Woodard, volunteers: Mary Vetter [techie] and Joan Rowland)*

April 28 – Children in the Porter Corners area were in heaven when their parents gave them a nickel to go to Joe Doherty’s Store (now Mom and Pops) to buy penny candy. If they were young, Joe would point to first one and then another of the candies until they shook their heads yes!

May 10 – In the 1940s and 1950s, there were square dances at a Dance Hall on Lake Desolation that extended out over the water and had screened windows all around so the music and laughter floated across the lake water. In the Porter Corners area there were country western square dances at Weirman’s Barn (property now owned by Tom Siragusa) on Plank Road.

May 17 – In the late 1960s in Greenfield, N.Y., girls were allowed to wear dungarees (we would call them jeans) rolled up to their calf on the last day of school!

May 24 – End of school year picnics in the 1930s and 1940s, Moms would bring the food for the picnic, the students would have field day and play next to the school, and some of the games would be dodge ball, baseball, sack races, relay races carrying a real egg on a spoon and tug of war! Seems like things really have not changed that much, nice to see!

June 8 – The Town Historians want to know who remembers Alfred Steadman’s post office. It was a tiny building in his front yard in Middle Grove just down the road from the present day Stewart’s Shop.

June 21 – The General Store in Middle Grove where the Stewart’s Shop now stands was once owned by the Callenius family. They sold farm and wood chopping equipment along with food and many other items that the community might need. Their young daughter Helen was good at art and sometimes her father would call her down from their apartment above the store to draw a broken part from a piece of farm machinery that a local farmer had brought in. Her father would then send an order along with the drawing to the company and they usually received a replacement part.

June 28 – The Callenius store in Middle Grove was sometimes raided by a family of gypsies who would keep Mr. Callenius busy while others roamed the store in their long skirts and stole items. He finally devised a plan where he would bang on the water pipes that went upstairs to their apartment, and all members of the family would come down and follow the gypsies around the store to prevent thefts.

July 13 – When Mr. Callenius who ran the general store in Middle Grove retired, he sold the store to the Roeckle family, but they did not purchase any of his debt. Many consumers still owed for purchases and were carried on the store books. Mr. Callenius retired to a small home on the corner of Sodeman and Middle Grove Roads. The only consumer that eventually paid his store debt was Mr. Palm who was a blind man and had a large family.

July 19 – Following WW2, Middle Grove had a baseball team called the Middle Grove ACs. One day they held a fund raiser. A traveling business brought a truck load of donkeys, and they played a game of baseball while riding the donkeys. There was a wedding in the morning which most of the players attended, so when they showed up for the late afternoon game, many of them had been drinking, and the game turned into somewhat of a circus show. Unfortunately, the only person injured that day was Earl Jones from Porter Corners, and he was the only player who had nothing to drink.

July 27 – In 1920, the first town hall was erected at its present site. Since that time additions have been added, but the original is still part of the structure.

Nov. 16 – Norman McMaster operated an auto repair shop on Murray Road in Middle Grove (the second house on the south side from Stewart’s Shop). Norman’s shop had been a blacksmith shop in earlier days, but was converted when automobiles began to outnumber horses.

This information was found on the Town of Greenfield NY Facebook page – provided by the Town Historian (or his helpers)

Dorothy's Apple Cake 9-26-73
 1 1/2 C. Cooking oil Bake 325° in well
 2 C. Sugar greased pan
 3 eggs beat all well 1 1/2 hrs or till done
 3 C flour
 1 tea salt
 1 tea soda
 3 C diced apples
 2 tea vanilla
 1 cup raisins
 1 C nuts

(over)

Beat oil, sugar, eggs well.
 Mix all dry ingredients together.
 Add nuts, raisins, apples and vanilla.

This should be made in a bunt cake pan but has to be greased then floured for it to stay together when turned out. ("Dorothy" is Dorothy Rowland.) Joan Rowland (our vice president) prepared this cake and served it at the November meeting. She also submitted the recipe.

Second Mug Now Available

This year's mug features the IOOF Hall which is now The Town of Greenfield Historical Society's Chatfield Museum of Local History. The Baptist Church, which dates in the early 1900s, is seen before the IOOF Hall and the carriage house is not visible.

Cost again this year will be \$10. You can place your order by contacting Joan Rowland at 518-893-7786 or by mailing in your check and request to The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833. If you are in need of the mug to be mailed to you, please add shipping cost of \$8.



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 \$10, 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.** Email toghistsoc@gmail.com for more information.

CLICK ON:



AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS.

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

Name _____ I am interested in volunteering.

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'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. Please send articles and/or photos to: JJones18215@roadrunner.com.

Updating Historic Sites Map in the Town of Greenfield

We invite our membership and readers of this newsletter to share with Dan any historical information about an interesting person, place, structure or event within our town. Dan reserves the right to proof read and edit submissions, but he will be very happy to add your information to our map. We are always looking for historical information to add to and enhance the map, which we consider to be an ongoing work in progress. Please email Dan Chertok at Chertok@LCYLAW.com or write him at: Dan Chertok, 58 Ormsbee Road, Porter Corners, NY 12859



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