



## Historical Society Newsletter

**OFFICERS:** President, Joan E Rowland; Vice President, Robert Roeckle;

Secretary, Patti Veitch; Treasurer, JoAnn Rowland

**TRUSTEES:** Ron Deutsch, Cheryl Jenks, Louise Okinowski,

Patty Schwartzbeck, Dan Smith, Mary Vetter, and Karl Zeh

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

Volume 24, Issue 10



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email [toghistsoc@gmail.com](mailto:toghistsoc@gmail.com)

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

### IN MEMORY OF RON FEULNER

*sponsored by Louise Okinowski*

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Thursdays, June 20 to Sept. 19 – Farmers Market, 4 to 7 PM, Middle Grove Town Park**

**Fridays, July 12 to Aug. 30 – Chatfield Museum Open House, 4 to 6 PM, Middle Grove**

**Saturday, July 13 – Car Show & Music in the Park, Middle Grove Town Park, Cars: 10 AM to 3 PM; Music: 11 AM to 3 PM (\$10 to enter a car for show)**

**Saturday, Aug. 10 – 14th Caboose Day, Kings Station, Greenfield Center, 10 AM to 3 PM**

**Tuesday, Sept. 17 – Covered Dish Dinner** before the meeting, **Community Center** in Greenfield Center. Dinner starts at 6 PM. Bring a dish to pass and your own place setting. Meeting starts at 7 p.m. **Program: Dave Waite, Vischer Ferry – A Forgotten Crossroads Film Screening**

*Everyone is welcome. Admission is free and you don't have to be a member to attend our meetings, programs or events.*

**Our membership year begins June 1 and ends May 31, dues are paid annually.**

**(\$10 per household or \$100 for Lifetime Membership)**

**The Town of Greenfield Historical Society is looking for people/businesses to sponsor the "Trolley" for Caboose Day on Aug. 10, 2024. Your name or business will be posted on the Trolley and in our September newsletter.**

**Please call JoAnn Rowland at 518-698-2902 or email [jirene6@verizon.net](mailto:jirene6@verizon.net)**

### Joan's Jabbering – Summer 2024

*by Joan E Rowland, President*

Another day of heat and humidity, but this third day is the worst. Feels like 105 they say, and I believe they are correct.

Our May meeting was election of officer and board members. We would like to welcome Cheryl Jenks and welcome back Louise Okinowski. I would like to thank John Greenwood for the many hours he has given the society. These are very big shoes to fill, and I thank him for giving me a couple more months of programs for the fall since we have not had anyone step up to fill the Program Chairperson part of his volunteering. He also posts on our Facebook page, events and meeting and ends up answering many questions. Thanks for everything you have done for us. Note: He is keeping the lawn mowing for the schoolhouse.

Our Daketown #8 one room school Open House was a big success. People came and went for the entire 4 hours. A brother and sister, Ed Wardell and Madeline Wardell-Wade, were students there. It was nice to talk to them and get a feel of how it was back then at school. Ed mentioned playing baseball in the field in front of the school. A little boy that was there looked in amazement, that field is all trees now. Thank you, Stan Zeh and John Greenwood, for cleaning the school, inside and out, for the annual open house.

Lots of upcoming events happening which all will need extra helpers:

July 13 is the "Car Show and Live Music" at Middle Grove Town Park. Stop in starting at 10 AM with your old car, truck, tractor. (\$10 Registration Fee per vehicle.) There is a great line-up of live music. Starting at 11 AM with Elizabeth Conant, Bonnie Greco, Out of Reach, and New American Cuisine. Food Booth will be provided by the Historical Society. Grab hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks, chips. Vendors will be providing crafts, baked goods, maple syrup, etc. We will also be having a 50/50.

*Continued on page 2*

## Joan's Jabbering — Summer 2024

*Continued from page 1*

15 peoples choice trophies and a “Ron Feulner Trophy” chosen by his family will be given. This event ends around 3 PM.

Stop over to the Saratoga County Fair (July 23-28) to see our Historical Society booth in the Townley Building. (Our first booth at the fair was in 2011.) Thanks to Louise and Robert for designing the booth again.

August 10 from 10-3 is “Caboose Day” – All things train. Stop in for lunch, our bake sale, grab a T-Shirt, a

drink. Visit with the vendors that come to sell their items. Step on the caboose or crawl up to the top and look out the upper windows. Stop at the station and visit the ladies who have been waiting for the train. The “Greenfield Flyer” will take you on a shorter ride on the train. See [CorinthTrain.com](http://CorinthTrain.com) for details of all trains running that day.

We always need helpers for setting up, take down, and selling 50/50 tickets for all the events. We need bakers for the Bake Sale for Caboose Day. People to park cars at both events. Let Joan know if you have some time to volunteer. [Jrowland25@verizon.net](mailto:Jrowland25@verizon.net).

## Greenfield Farmers Market History

*(Started and sponsored by The Town of Greenfield Historical Society)*

*by Joan E Rowland*

I was asked when the Farmers Market had started, which led to this timeline. Ron Feulner had a vision of a community event to bring people together. He asked Ron Deutch if he could chair this event. Ron D started it's creation in 2008 and was the head volunteer for 12 years until we ended in 2020 due to the pandemic.

2007 – Wing Road CSA operated a roadside vegetable stand at IOOF Hall every Monday from 4 to 6:30 PM during harvest season.

2008 – IOOF Hall field on Fridays from end of June thru September 4 – 7 PM

Included many vendors, music, and Market Café complete with “Deutchie Dogs.”

Ron Deutch is Market Manager  
(Note, he brought in veggies from Middle Line Road for resale.)

2009 – Market moved to Middle Grove Park since the field was not large enough for vendors and parking. Also takes care of Insurance needs. Fridays from June thru September 4 – 7 PM.

Ron Deutch is Market Manager. Cost to set for season is set at \$25 which included your \$10 membership to Historical Society.

Local Authors were invited to sell their books (one author per week) at a free tent.

Local music was provided each week under a tent.

2013 – Farmers Market continues, Ron Deutch alone with new interest running the market.

J'mae Shamrose (Mayhem Organic Farms),  
Anne Marie (Johnson Family Farm),  
Tom Seagrove (Seagrove Bakery).  
They ran as a committee.

2014 – Market continues, with J'mae Shamrose (Mayhem Organic Farms) as Market Manager (a paid position) with Tom and Ron as overseers. Sawyer Fredericks was singing for the market most weeks. He wons “The Voice.”

2015 – Market Manager is back to a volunteer position.

2016 – Started having a revolving volunteer “Market Manager of the week.” Ron was still getting the vendors, but the manager would be there in charge each week. They would put up tents for Live Music, Historical Society, and over picnic table for people to sit and eat.

Tinney's is food vendor each week.

2020 – Ron Deutch wants to resign but then the pandemic hits and Farmers Market is closed down due to health concerns.

2021 – Still no market.

2022 – Chuck Veeder and the Middle Grove United Methodist Church take over the Farmers Market. All Market related items are given to Chuck. Market continues on Fridays from 4-7 PM in the church parking lot.

Historical Society is provided a space to promote community functions and their own events.

2023 – Town of Greenfield Rec Department and Chuck move the market to the paved area of the Middle Grove Town Park (halfway thru the season). Attendance increased.

2024 – Town of Greenfield Rec Department heads up the Farmers Market. (Chuck is looking to retire. He will be working with Jenn Zeisler as the market moves forward.) Market moves to Thursdays 4 to 7 PM. Historical Society does not have manpower to man our booth.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR HISTORIAN

*Duane Cornell*

The Manville Rock, is it folklore, fact, or fiction? Perhaps a bit of all three. *Lucinda* or *The Mountain Mourner* is an epistolary novel written in 1806 by P. D. Manville as a series of letters to her sister in Pennsylvania about the plight of her stepdaughter, Lucinda Manville. The book was originally published as a small pocket size book and has been reprinted as many as 10 times. Some of the editions have been transposed or include additions to the original novel. It is not specifically stated in the book itself until the epilogue and a letter written by magistrates of the town, included in the 2nd edition, the Town of Greenfield is given as the setting for the story. By the descriptions given, it is believed to have taken place in the area of the old plank road between Buckets Pond and Archers Vly. Although never mentioned in the story, a large rock in the area is named the Manville Rock.

This rock is a glacial erratic left behind when the glaciers receded some 13,000 years ago. Glacial erratics are defined as a glacially deposited rock differing from the type of rock native to the area it is found. There are several large rocks of this type scattered in the area that appear as though they were dropped on top of the ground like marbles dropped by a child. Glacial erratics are found all over the world and range in size from a pebble to a 18,000 ton stone located near Alberta, Canada, which is the largest in the world.

It is not known when or by whom this specific rock was named but it is thought to be in the area of or connected to the Manville homestead. It had become such a part of local folklore that families would travel there and take pictures with it. In the town archives there is a picture post card of the Manville Rock where Pearl Rhodes states they are visiting Porters and all is well. It is sent to Lottie Wilsey in Saratoga Springs, May 30, 1908.

My introduction to this tidbit of folklore happened one Wednesday when Joan Rowland came into the historian's office and asked me if I knew of the Manville Rock, to which I replied, "huh?" She explained that it is a large rock in the woods off the end of Plank Road and is associated with the book *Lucinda*. The historical society received an email from a fellow who was looking for the location of the rock. He writes guide books and wrote about the Manville Rock 20 years ago in a book titled *Adventures Around the Great Sacandaga Lake*, but was unable to locate it again.

This started to sound like an adventure to me so I set out to find this rock. I asked a few people who are snowmobilers if they knew of this rock as it should be in the area of the trail system but no one was aware of it. I was steered toward Mark Young or Kevin Older for information as they know this area well. I stopped at the town garage looking for Mark but he was not there at the moment. I spoke with one of the guys, who stated he lived on Plank Road, and told him I was looking for a large rock in the woods. He chuckled and said they are all over in the woods up there. I left my number with him for Mark and

received a voicemail a few days later. He said it was about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from the iron bridge at the end of the road on the left. He described it as "it's just a big rock, kinda by itself." So armed with this information I headed into the woods. Despite the black flies and the light drizzle that started about 15 minutes into this trek I pushed on and kept a keen eye to the south side of the trail. There are other rocks scattered in the woods but soon enough I came upon THE rock. I took some pictures and noted the GPS coordinates and triumphantly made my way back to my pickup parked at the end of the pavement. I emailed the GPS coordinates and a several landmarks along the way to the person who made the request. He thanked me and said he would keep me posted if he relocates it.

Now I became curious about the *Lucinda* book. I'm not one to sit and read novels but I found myself sitting for few hours reading an edition that I found online. It was written in what Ron Feulner referred to as "flowery 18th century" style of writing. It was rather difficult to read and I needed to reread some passages over and over to comprehend them. Ron transposed the 3rd edition of the book in 1998 to a more modern style, which is much easier to read. Copies of this edition are being reprinted and should be available soon. I did find the story was a good read and gave insight into the hardships and moral dilemmas of the early 1800s.

So indeed it is a bit of folklore, fact, and perhaps a little fiction.



*Manville Rock 1984*

## TOGHS Program May 21, 2024 *Ron and Alice Feulner*

### *Memories*

I saw a child, my heart stood still.  
I thought about a windy hill, we raced  
Through grasses tall and dry  
Another child and I  
We romped and raced and out of breath  
We settled back to take a rest  
The sun was warm upon our backs  
We talked a little, took a nap  
And later when we woke the day  
Had suddenly turned rainy grey  
We took our basket, hand in hand  
And wandered down the hill again

*by Alice J. Bull Rickett Feulner*



*Ron presenting his mother, Evelyn, with his rendering of their homestead on Lake Desolation Road.*

*Photo courtesy of Matt Cinadr*

*May refreshment volunteers, Joan Rowland and Robert (Robbie) Roeckle, served Lemon Bars and Chocolate Cake.*



We want to thank those who attended our May 21, 2024, Town of Greenfield Historical Meeting dedicated to the memory of Ron and Alice Feulner. We began with the business portion of our meeting, where we voted on our 2024 Budget and installation of new board members. Afterward, we decided to enjoy the lemon-themed (in Ron's honor) desserts and other refreshments while sharing individual stories and memories of Ron and Alice. We circled our chairs and, in no particular order, began a loving tribute to two of the most genuine people you could ever hope to cross paths with. A few common themes quickly emerged. Ron and Alice were extremely talented artists, teachers, and storytellers. They were also generous and humble in their endeavors. The town was fortunate to have two people with so much of their own local history working so hard to preserve it.

Similarly, they went to great lengths to share it with the community. The legacy and impact of Ron and Alice's contribution will last generations. You could tell by the emotional tone that each of our stories held that everyone who had the pleasure and honor of knowing Ron and Alice was grateful for the opportunity. We also want to thank the families on both sides for their continued generosity and support of the Town of Greenfield Historical Society. Our Town of Greenfield Historical Society President Joan Rowland, Board, society membership, and our new Town of Greenfield Historian, Duane Cornell, are jointly committed to carrying on the traditions and professionalism that the Feulner's provided us.

*by John Greenwood*



*Alice telling a story*

*Ron and Alice*

# Daketown School #18 Open House – Saturday, June 8, 2024



*Ed Wardell and Madeline Wardell-Wade, were students when the school was being used*



*Brigid, Eve, Lily and Charlie Dake*



*Sam and Ashley Ellis and their family*



*John Greenwood and Stan Zeh, the clean-up crew*



*Historian Duane Cornell and grandson, Jase Parker*



*The Out House*

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**Please call JoAnn Rowland at 518-698-2902 or email [jirene6@verizon.net](mailto:jirene6@verizon.net)**



**Anna E. Michel (Marshall)** passed away on May 3, 2024, in Schenectady, NY, at the age of 95.

Born on December 18, 1928, in Brooklyn, NY, she was the only child of the late Gustav and Emma Marshall. Anna was the loving wife of the late Fred Michel, with whom she shared 49 wonderful years of marriage.

After spending her early years in Brooklyn, her family moved to a farm in Highland, NY. There she attended High School where she first met her future husband Fred Michel whom she married in 1951. After Fred served in the Korean war they moved to Sharon Springs where they raised their three children, Richard, Paul, and Karen.

While the family was growing up Ann and Fred would travel widely throughout the region, taking the family on camping trips and visiting historical sites along the way. As the family grew older and the children became more independent, Anna and Fred were able to travel further about, including trips to Germany to visit family and research the family’s heritage and where she made use of her German language skills gained while a child.



**Russell Mason Ormsbee,** a cherished resident of Porter Corners, NY, passed away peacefully on June 1, 2024, at the age of 100. Born at home on July 22, 1923, he was lovingly attended by Dr. King M.D. Russell was the beloved son of Alahna (Jones) Ormsbee and Guy Greeley Ormsbee.

Russell’s journey through life was marked by remarkable achievements and unwavering dedication. He received his education from Porter Corners schools and later graduated from Saratoga Springs High School in 1941. After briefly working at the General Electric Company in Schenectady, NY, Russell answered the call to serve his country. On December 10, 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps, where he served with distinction until his honorable discharge on March 4, 1946, holding the rank of Sergeant.

Following his military service, Russell embarked on a successful career at International Paper Co. in Corinth, where he dedicated 39 years of his life before retiring in 1985.

In 1977 the family moved to Saratoga Springs. While there, Anna worked at Skidmore College. Anna and Fred would spend much of their time improving their property, gardens and sitting in the screenhouse with Fred watching her birds.

She liked her independence, following her passion for art, creating flower arrangements in her own flower shop in Sharon Springs, reading and painting. In her spare time, she volunteered at the historical society and the library helping other people with their own research.

During their retirement years Anna and Fred enjoyed wintering in Florida. She was an animal lover and had many cherished cats and dogs throughout her life.

Anna made a wonderful life with her husband and family. She will be deeply missed by her children: Richard (Lesley) Michel of Troy, Paul (Theresa) Michel of Greenfield Center, Karen (John) Major of Porter Corners, grandchildren: Lauren Michel of Syracuse, Alex Michel of Greenfield Center and Allyn Noradki of Omaha, NE. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Kay, nieces, and nephews.

A graveside service was held for family members on May 8th, at 10:30 AM. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Estherville Animal Shelter, 100 Russell Road, Greenfield Center, NY, 12833.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Russell was a man of many talents and passions. He was a devoted musician, skilled electrician, and avid model railroad enthusiast. Russell’s love for country music led him to form numerous bands, entertaining audiences for an impressive 65 years. His talent as a bass player and square dance caller earned him recognition on radio, television, stage, and screen. Notably, his band “Melody Mt. Boys” achieved acclaim, even securing second prize on Ted Mack’s Original Amateur Hour television show in 1952.

Russell’s zest for life extended to his personal relationships. He leaves behind his beloved wife, Dorothy G. Baugh Dumont Ormsbee; daughter, Gail Ormsbee; stepson, Jeffrey Dumont and wife, Patricia Dumont, along with several cherished relatives and friends. He found joy in his second family, his pets, and the many friendships he cultivated over the years.

In honoring Russell’s memory, a military service will be held at 11 AM on June 11 at Middle Grove Cemetery, Middle Grove, commemorating his dedicated service to his country.

Russell will be dearly missed but fondly remembered for his remarkable life, his enduring contributions, and the love he shared with all who knew him.



**Town of Greenfield Historical Society**  
**CAR SHOW AND**  
**LIVE MUSIC IN THE PARK**  
*MIDDLE GROVE TOWN PARK*  
428 Middle Grove Road

**Saturday, July 13, 2024**

**CARS: 10 AM to 3 PM – Registration: \$10**  
**Top 15 Trophies announced at 2:30 PM**

**MUSIC: 11 AM to 3 PM – FREE**

*Elizabeth Conant, Bonnie Greco, Out of Reach, and New American Cuisine*

Vendors, Food and Drinks available for purchase

*Rain or Shine. Free Public Admission. For information, call*  
*CAR SHOW, Tom Clute – 518-580-0655 or MUSIC, Patti Veitch – 518-428-9343*

**Town of Greenfield Historical Society**

**14TH CABOOSE DAY AT KINGS STATION**

**Saturday, August 10, 2024 – 10 AM to 3 PM**

*Tour Kings Station and Caboose*

**4000 State Highway 9N, Greenfield Center, NY 12833**  
**(Corner of Route 9N and Porter Road)**



Vendors, Bake Sale, T-shirts, Food and Drinks available for purchase

*Train rides from Saratoga Corinth & Hudson Railway,  
9 Railroad Place, Corinth to Kings Station and Special  
“Greenfield Flyer” from Kings Station to LaMothe Landing  
and back. Book your ride now at [CorinthTrain.com](http://CorinthTrain.com)*

**Trolley will bring you to Kings Station and back to train.**

*Rain or Shine. For information, call*  
*Louise Okoniewski at 518-796-4066*



## 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 for your household, 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).** Email [toghistsoc@gmail.com](mailto:toghistsoc@gmail.com) for more information.

Click on “Store,” “Membership” then click either “Annual Membership – Household” or “Lifetime Membership.”

**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](mailto:JJones18215@roadrunner.com).**



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