

GREECE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Your Greece Historical Society boards of trustees and volunteers have been very busy during 2008.

HISTORIAN'S OFFICE



Archival material about Koda-Vista's development was provided for the 80th anniversary of that residential area.

Louis Bohn, a Greece resident, provided several CD's of photos of Ontario Beach Park, shipping and boats on the Genesee River and the Dentzel Carousel at Ontario Beach Park. The photos are from personal collections, plus the Historian's Office files.



Several display boards were assembled for the monthly talks sponsored by the G.H.S. at the town hall. After each talk they were displayed at the museum for a period of time.

A branch of the Luitweiler family, formerly of Weiland Road, visited from Kentucky and donated a CD of that families Genealogy, including photo's and document's.

From England came a request for information about the Elias Avery family. Elias was a very early settler in Greece and town supervisor in 1853-1854. He built a tavern-hotel at Hanford Landing and once owned much of the land on both sides of Ridge Road. Kodak Park and Tim Horton's Restaurant now occupy parts of that land. Further correspondence with the gentleman from Norwich, England put us in touch with another direct descendent of Elias Avery in California, which yielded several photos of later generations of the Avery - Samian family for our file.



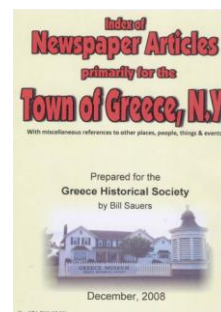
A somewhat similar request for information about the Alanson Britton family came from a family in Missouri. Through extensive research in our files we provided photos and copies of important Britton facts to them and they in return sent a full genealogy of the Britton family.

Miscellaneous requests came in from various sources wanting information about street development and widening, the history of the DeMay Hotel, the Underground Railroad in Greece, the early one room schools, the Holiday Inn Fire, photo's of West Ridge Road, etc. Additionally, research time and material were given to researchers on Olympia and Cardinal Mooney High Schools, Greece Volunteer Ambulance and the Odenbach Shipbuilding facility.

More requests are being received by Email than letter form. Phone calls with follow up visits to the Historian's Office often occur for additional data.

Two original researched stories were published in the Greece Post.

The Historian's Office files continue to be refined and archival material put in proper storage boxes.



An index to newspapers articles focusing on the Town of Greece has been updated and is now cataloged in the Monroe County Library System. Betty Fetter, Alan Mueller and Bill Sauers have continued to enlarge this index

Copies of the *Greece Press* from 1934 to 1950 have been digitally scanned and will soon be available in a searchable format on the web.

The Historian's Office not only provides information whenever available from our files, but we often receive valuable data back from folk with information that was lacking in our files. Recently a collection of Barge Canal constructions photos from 1919 have been loaned to the Historical Society and the photos are being digitally scanned by our staff



AUDIT

A committee completed a very professional audit and although no significant problems were discovered, several recommendations were made to the way we do business and many of these recommendations have already been acted on. An endowment committee is also being organized and will soon recommend an investment strategy for our small endowment fund.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

The Curatorial committee's "Quilts" and "Artists in Wood" which included exhibits and demonstrations have resulted in a large increase in our Sunday visitors. "Holiday Table Decorations" in November and December were created by area garden clubs, the Museum Curatorial Committee and others. The featured exhibit "ADA, The Ever changing Ridge" continued throughout the year. A new feature exhibit, due in early spring 2009 will focus on local transportation. The curatorial committee visited the New York State Museum of Transportation & The Rochester and Genesee Valley Railroad Museum in early Fall for tours of both facilities, to gather ideas for the upcoming transportation exhibit.



A museum case featuring the Greece Volunteer Ambulance's 50th anniversary in 2009 was assembled in late 2008 and will be on display through 2009.

MUSEUM TOURS

Approximately 1,000 individuals toured the Greece Museum during 2008. There is no way of knowing the exact number, as many individuals that tour the museum do not sign our guest book, however approximately 360 individuals did sign in. In addition, group tours which included seniors, scouts and elementary school children totaled over 600 people.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION



The Historian's office constructed a prototype Greece History Box for the Education Committee. Four similar additional boxes were made by the father of one of the committee members. Additional materials will be added on other themes. These "Kits" can easily be assembled and put in the boxes as needed. The committee is working with the Greece School District's social studies director to plan future boxes that will supply copies of local history archives to help 2nd grade teachers create lesson plans.

ORGANIZATIONAL PROMOTION

We spent two days at the Hilton Apple festival and one day at the Faris Pharmacy open house promoting our organization. The Greece Post and Democrat & Chronicle have featured the Greece Historical Society in many articles and columns during the year and the “Historian’s Notebook” by Lorraine Beane was featured nearly monthly in the Greece Post.

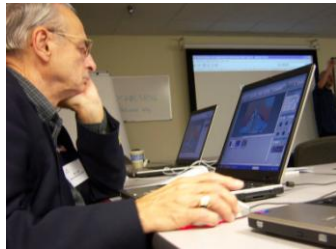


PROGRAMS



Our monthly programs have proven to be very popular with the community. Attendance has varied from as little as 65 to as many as 200. “The history of the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office” in January was featured on the Channel 13 morning new and “Songs of the Erie Canal” our September program by Allen Hopkins was recorded and broadcast later on local Channel 12, and the October program “Comic Strips as Political Literature” was part of the “Speakers in the Humanities” series sponsored by the New York Council for the Humanities.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT



During 2008 the Greece Historical Society has been represented at the American Association of State & Local Historians annual conference (*funded by a grant from Upstate History Alliance*). Also various trustees attended a grant writing workshop and a scanning and digitizing workshop (*both hosted by the Rochester Regional Library Council*), attended a cultural blueprint for New York State forum sponsored by the NYS



Council on the Arts and participated in a day long program promoting the use of archives for presentations and celebrations.

In May the Museum Curatorial Committee and docents held their annual luncheon at the museum.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

The preservation and presentation of history has to move in to the 21st century, so we recently acquired a new printer/fax machine and a VHS to DVD converter.

CAPITOL IMPROVEMENTS

Capital improvements this year included a roof replacement on the museum addition in June by Savage & Son LLC with a grant secured by Joe Robach. Meanwhile our parking lot was resurfaced by North Coast Paving and re-stripped thanks to the support from the Town of Greece DPW crew. The cupola also has received a much needed paint job.



ORGANIZATIONS:

It's imperative that the Greece Historical Society maintain a relationship with professional and community organizations. The following are the organizations that the Society is a member of or has a working relationship with: The Association for Public Historians of New York State, Greece Chamber of Commerce, Landmark Society of Western New York, Western New York Association of Historical Agencies, Upstate History Alliance, American Association of State and County Historians, Rochester Regional Library Council. Bill Sauers, president of the Society, also meets monthly with an informal group of local historians, and a member of the Town of Greece Historic Preservation Commission

INVENTORY – CATALOGING

Betty Fetter continues to catalog all new acquired artifacts. The hand written inventory of our collection of artifacts has been totally transferred to an Excel spreadsheet, and the collection of artifacts has been photographed. Future plans are to combine these data collections into one combined data base using PastPerfect, a museum program.



MEMBERSHIP

The membership is down slightly from the previous years which is typical for many non-profit organizations. As a new membership promotion, we are offering “A Growing Legacy, An Illustrated History of Rochester’s Parks” to anyone who visits our museum shop and purchases a new or renews a membership. The books were a gift from the City Historian to be given away as a promotion. A business membership drive has also begun.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Greece Historical Society provides information to the Historic Preservation Commission and Bill Sauers is a member of that commission.

NEWSLETTER:

Our by-monthly newsletter, “The Corinthian” has been completely up-dated by our new editor, Cynthiana Shevlin. A black & white version is mailed to our members. Complimentary copies are also mailed to local schools, historical societies, and various organizations in the area. The newsletter is also available, in color, on our web site.



WEB SITE:

<http://historicalsociety.greecenyny.org>

Our web site was had over 3800 hits during 2008. (It can be assumed that some of these hits were seeking information on the Country of Greece). A calendar page and contact information page have recently been added. The web site is hosted by the Greece Central School District.



VOLUNTEERS

The Greece Historical Society is a 100% volunteer organization and it takes many volunteers to run the Society. Some may loan us a treasured heirloom, fix a broken window, help with a single event or guide visitors through our museum on Sunday afternoons, still others spend literally hundreds of hours during the year to keep the place going. The following are volunteers who gave their time or talent in 2008 to help the Greece Historical Society.

Al & Joyce Adaskin, Cathy Anderson, Doug Angold, Jim Beane, Lorraine Beane, Carolyn Brewer, Phyllis Brown, Sue Bryant, James Butts, Edie & Bill Coe, Faye Coe, Edith Crawford, Dory DeJaeger, Sally Dickerson, Linda Evans, Betty Fetter, Kathie Firkins, Kathleen Firkins, Pat Flugel, Evelyn Gardner, John Geisler, Lester Haines, George Haines, Pat Haines, Mary Lou Hartley, Debbie Haskins, Jack Heller, Allison Hopkins, Eleanor Kanous, Paula Koerner, Lucy Kraemer, Keith Kroon, Dick Lewandowski, Lois Janiak, Lorna Logan, Sharon Logan, Dean MacGregor, Merrilee MacWilliam, Alex MacWilliam, Martha



March, Bob Martin, Bonita McClure, Lucia McEntee, Ed McKeown, Mary Lee McWilliams, Bethann Merrideth, Beth Mitchell, Diane Monaghan, Kevin Monaghan, Alan Mueller, Bob Myers, Sue Oakden, Bob Padden, Pat Palumbo, Holly Pearl, Sandy Peck, Bill Peeck, Wendy Peeck, Andrea Peeck, Ann Pepe, Craig Ristuccia, Virginia Robinson, Carol & Joe Riesenberger, Renee Sanger, Michael, Sue & Bill Sauers, Tom & Dot Schommer, John Schroedl, Ruth Schroedl, Cynthia Shevlin, Betty Smith, Bettie Schmidt, Dee Stein, Fred Stock, Mary Lou Straub, Heidi Strauss, Richard Strauss, Lee Strauss, Karen Strong, Beverly Tulloch, Marcia Turpyn, Richard VanMeter, Jack Wallenhorst, Bernice Wallenhorst, Rene Ward, Anna Wemes, Wilma Wheten, Vi White, Carline & Scott Wiley, Josh Woodland, Roberta Young. The Shorewood, Woodside, Thyme in the Garden, & Lakeview garden clubs, The Signery sign shop, Boy Scout Troop 5, Vay Schleich & Meeson and the employees of the Town of Greece.

2008 BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

William M. Sauers (*President*)
 Lorraine Beane (*Executive Director*)
 Wendy Peeck (*Vice President*)
 Lee Strauss (*Treasurer*)
 Roberta Young (*Secretary*)
 Cynthia Shevlin (*Newsletter Editor*)
 Alan Mueller (*Historian's Office*)
 Phyllis Brown
 William Coe
 Wilma Wheten
 Lucia McEntee
 Keith W. Kroon
 John F. Wallenhorst
 Viola White
 Sandy Peck
 Donald C. Newcomb (*Honorary Trustee*)