

# The Corinthian

GREECE HISTORICAL SOCIETY and MUSEUM



**December 2018      Volume 39, Issue 11**

## HOMETOWN SPORTS HEROES OF GREECE, N.Y.

The Greece Historical Society has just published a new book that features prominent sports figures from the Town of Greece. *Hometown Sports Heroes of Greece, New York* features 34 athletes who had prominent contributions to and careers in basketball, soccer, football, baseball, track, hockey, golf, volleyball, track and cross country. They range in age from 26 to 87!

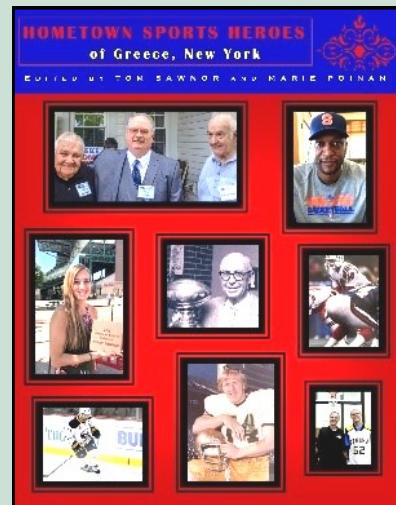
We had men and women who were in the NFL, NBA, NHL along with a major league baseball player and memorable sports figures from the town's past: **Bob Keegan, Shifty Gears, Joe McShea, Leo Lyons, Mike Conroy and Dick Post**. Three legendary coaches are also featured in the book: **Joe Altobelli, Jim Johnson and Ed Nietopski**.

The book is 64 pages plus covers and is in FULL COLOR. It is chock full of photos and interviews of each sports figure in their own words. Based on interviews and the year-long exhibit in our museum, this book preserves the stories of these athletes and is the first of its kind published by the Greece Historical Society.

What a great gift for someone at holiday time.

**Our book is available in the gift shop for \$18.00**; you won't be able to put it down! When you read these stories, we think you will be in awe of what our town, Greece, N.Y., has produced in athletes.

Thank you, **Tom Sawnor**, Committee Chair and Editor (with **Marie Poinan**), of Hometown Sports of Greece, N.Y.



## Thursday, January 17th, 2019    Greece Museum, 7 p.m. Annual Membership Meeting

On Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., our annual meeting will be held at our GHS center, 595 Long Pond Rd, where you can receive a copy of our 2018 Annual Report, view a photo montage of our activities from 2018, and hear about our future plans. A financial report will be presented by our treasurer **Bill Peeck** and an election of trustees will be conducted. Trustees serve a term of three years. Those currently seeking re-election are: **Paula Smith, Bill Peeck, Deborah Whitt and Ruth Curchoe**. All GHS members are invited to attend.



Paula



Bill



Deborah



Ruth

## **"President's Message"**

On November 13<sup>th</sup> at our monthly Tuesday night program, we had the honor of hearing the New York State Historian, **Devin Lander**, speak to us on *Why History is Essential*.

It was a long day for Devin. Upon hearing he was coming to Greece, **Peter Evens**, the Wayne County Historian contacted Devin about stopping in Lyons and talking to the Wayne County Town Historians which he agreed to do and had an outstanding meeting with more than 20 historians from that county.

After arriving in Greece, he toured our museum and had dinner with my wife and me and **Alan Mueller** before coming to the library for his program. After the program he drove to Wayland to spend the night with his family and then returned to Albany the next day.



The 60 or more guests included our regular attendees along with historians from Parma, Clarkson, Spencerport, and Wayne County and members of the Rochester Genealogy Society and Clarkson Historical Society.

November included our annual holiday craft sale on the 17th, decorating for the holidays, assisting visitors researching their pioneer Greece family, a presentation for the Gates Historical Society, having a contractor give us an estimate to repair the columns and railing on our front porch, and having our heating system checked. We have also begun planning for our 50th anniversary next year and have published our new book, *Hometown Sports Heroes of Greece, New York*.

The museum and gift shop will be closed December 23rd thru January 27th. If you plan to purchase a gift at our shop before Christmas, our last open Sunday before Christmas will be December 16th. Stop by on the 16th for our holiday open house and meet some of our volunteers and board members.

**Bill Sauers, President**

## **"GHS Events and Programs"**

Museum and Museum Shop hours:

Sundays 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

and during office hours Mondays 10 a.m.- Noon

**Museum Closed** on Sundays, December 23 thru January 27.

Reopening on Sundays on February 3, 2019.

**Sunday, Dec 16th, 1:30-4:00 p.m.  
Holiday Open House Greece Museum**

**Tuesday, Jan 8th 2019:** A History of the Hamburger: American Fast Food by Don Hall \*\*

**Tuesday, Feb 12th, 2019:** Frederick and Anna Douglass ....: Their Home Was Open to All by Rose O'Keefe \*\*

**Tuesday, Mar 12th, 2019:** An Equal Right to Act: Remembering the Rochester Woman's Rights Convention of 1848 with Ira Srole \*\*

\*Sunday programs are at the Greece Museum, 2:00 p.m.

\*\*Tuesday programs are at the Greece Public Library, 7:00 p.m.

Please join us for any or all of these events. We are here for you. If you've been curious about something in Greece's past, please let us know. We might be curious, too!

*"History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illuminates reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life, and brings us tidings of antiquity."*

~ Marcus Tullius Cicero

This newsletter is published monthly by the editor for the Greece Historical Society and Museum..

~ Cyndie Shevlin, Editor

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## **Museum Shop**



We had a wonderful turnout for our Holiday Craft & Collectibles Show. I will definitely put it on my list of projects for next year. We also added some new items to our Museum Shop – beanie babies and snow babies...such memories.

Our volunteers just set up the Christmas tree and holiday decorations in the Museum. We also have a new book—*Home Town Sports Heroes of Greece, NY* — a wonderful Christmas gift about our local sports heroes. We are ready for you to come in and shop for your special gifts.

As always, we are open Sundays 1:30-4:00pm.

**Wendy Peeck, Museum Shop Coordinator**

**Greece Historical Society & Museum** <http://www.greecehistoricalsociety.org>  
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Please join us for our  
**Open House**  
Sunday, December 16, 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

## New York State Historian on "Why History is Essential"

On Tuesday, October 13th, State Historian **Devin Lander** spoke on "Why History is Essential." A few of the points he made about the importance of history were that it enables people to discover their own place in the stories of their families, communities and the nation; it lays the groundwork for strong, resilient communities, and helps people craft better solutions by better understanding the origins of issues. Another point raised was that a community with a sense of its history improves property values, attracts businesses, and promotes community involvement. He also illustrated how the positive economic impact of historic preservation helps a community. What a great topic for New York State History Month!



Hilton-Parma Historian **Dave Crumb**, State Historian **Devin Lander** and our own **Alan Mueller**.

## Greece History

### Proposed Community Center and Park

by Bill Sauers

In June of 1929, our town of only 13,000 was growing rapidly and there were no provisions for playgrounds or recreation. Then **W. Chandler Knapp**, chairman of the Greece Planning Board, with the backing of leading residents, proposed purchasing 85 acres of land, known as Glendemere Farms, on Dewey Avenue. The land, to be used as a community center and park, was ideally suited for such a purpose, with a large barn that could be used as a community center and gym, and a building that would serve as a library, and enough land that could provide excellent facilities for bridle paths and a playground. The owner had, over the past 19 years, actually developed his farm as a future park and, at age 69, was ready to sell. He had already donated some of his property to the local fire department the year before. The town council was not ready to commit to such a large endeavor at that time but would take the question up with the Monroe County Parks Commission, relative to their buying the property."

In the civic planning process timing can be crucial and the summer of 1929 was definitely the wrong time. The County was in the process of acquiring land for Churchville, Mendon Ponds and Ellison Parks, and by the time anyone gave the Greece project any consideration it was the beginning of the Great Depression. The thought of purchasing more land was the last thing on anyone's mind.

The particular parcel of land that the Greece Planning Board was interested in was owned by **George H. Clark**, one of the most well known and wealthiest individuals in Monroe County at the time. At the age of 24, he and his father purchased stock in the Eastman Dry Plate & Film Company, thereby becoming one of the original investors in what would become the Eastman Kodak Company.

Eight years after the Greece project died, the Catholic Diocese of Rochester, negotiated the purchase of the farm from Mr. Clark for \$25,000, forever ending any possibility of a town park and community center at that site. Although now in private hands, and developed for other purposes, the land would be used by neighborhood youth for quite some time. Ball diamonds had been laid out by its new owner, and they were open most of the time for pick-up games, the large field was excellent for Fall football and an adjacent gully made for some of the best, although very dangerous, winter sledding in the area. For many years, long before environmental and safety rules, it was also the site of an annual community Christmas tree burning.

Most people in Greece have long forgotten the name George H. Clark, but his legacy lives on. In 1928 the Barnard Fire Department built their firehouse on the land he donated. That original firehouse still stands today, albeit with a few additions. In June of 1942 several children and nuns took a bus from the City and moved into their new home, named St. Joseph's Villa. (now the Villa of Hope) That barn, the one George built years ago, still stands today, although the building that could have been the library is long gone due to the reconstruction and re-alignment of Dewey Avenue.

It took 77 years from that proposed community center and park at George Clark's Glendemere Farms to the opening, in 2006, of our Greece Community and Senior Center on the Greece Town Campus. So what would we have called that community center and park in 1929? I'm sure no one will ever know, but in 1949 when Supervisor Gordon Howe announced the name of a new street connecting Dewey Avenue and Almay Road, a street that was on the land once owned by George Clark, the land that may have been our town community center and park, did he realize the irony in the street's name, CLARK PARK?

This building might have become our Town's community center.



*This a condensed version of a story originally published in the Greece Post in 2006*

## "Tours and Education"

On November 15th I gave a tour to friends from the YMCA. They truly enjoyed our Museum.

The Volunteer luncheon was a huge success. A great time was had by all who attended. I started by giving a brief history of the One Room School Houses and how the changing times and increased population progressed to individual class rooms. The theme for the day concentrated on comparing Math problems from early days of learning to today's style. **Jack Heller** dug deep and found some word problems to solve dating back to 1952. We then solved some current 2nd and 4th grade ones. There is quite a difference between the two. I also gave a short Spelling test.



One of the items that I pointed out was the "Dunce Cap". Because **Alan Mueller** consistently talked during class time, interrupted the teacher and did not do well on his tests he had to wear the cap. He had to stand still and face the corner until the teacher decided he had enough punishment. Thanks, Alan for being such a good sport!!!



We continue to update our new School Days Exhibit. If anyone has any memorabilia that they would be willing to share, please contact the GHS at 225-7221.

**Kathie Firkins, Education Coordinator**

## Museum Happenings

### Volunteer Award

During the volunteer reception on Oct. 29th, **Wendy Peeck** was awarded our 2018 Volunteer of the Year. Wendy has been volunteering with GHS for over 20 years. For the past several years she has managed the museum shop and organized the annual Craft Sale.



The Greece Historical Society thanks **Canandaigua National Bank & Trust** for their generous gift of \$500.00 as part of their corporation's philanthropic giving plan for 2018.



On November 13th we had the honor of having the New York State Historian, Devin Lander speak to us on *Why History Is Essential*.



It was a busy day on November 17th for our Holiday Craft Sale.

Greece Historical Society  
Greece Museum  
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### **CONTACT US**

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**Website:** [www.greecehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.greecehistoricalsociety.org)

Your tax deductible membership in the Greece Historical Society is available at several levels. To join, renew, upgrade your membership or to donate a gift, fill out and mail the form below or bring it to our next program meeting. To pay via PayPal, visit our website at [www.greecehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.greecehistoricalsociety.org)

**Only your donations and memberships keep our Museum open. Thank you for your support.**

### **GREECE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM**

### **Membership Application**

(Please print)

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