

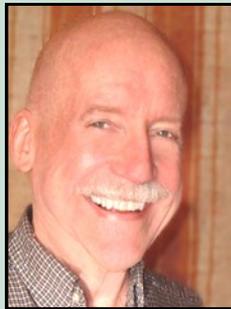


January 8th, 2019, Greece Public Library 7:00 p.m.,

A History of the Hamburger: American Fast Food

By Don Hall

You'll probably be surprised when you learn which burger chain served the first fast food hamburger. You might be surprised further to learn that the "Whopper" sandwich is 10 years older than the "Big Mac." And speaking of the Big Mac, this talk is your chance to find out who the McDonald brothers were and where they set up shop. A History of the Hamburger is filled with interesting stories about the many hamburger chains which now sell this typically American food.



Don Hall began his career in a puppet theatre, then performing as a magician. He spent 34 years as assistant director of the Morehead Planetarium at the University of North Carolina, and after, as director of the Strasensburgh Planetarium. Don gives talks on a wide range of (quirky) subjects of interest to him. In addition to presenting these talks from coast to coast at such places as the Smithsonian Institution and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, he has written extensively for publication. He is also a weekend tour guide at Rochester's historic Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Thursday, January 17th, 2019 Greece Museum, 7p.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"

Another busy year has come and gone for GHS. Last year was full of many exciting, entertaining and educational events and this year should be no different. 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the Greece Historical Society and we plan to end the year with a dinner celebration in October. The following is a short history of the Greece Historical Society.

In September 1969, with the encouragement of County Manger Gordon Howe and the Greece Town supervisor, Town Historian Virginia Tomkiewicz, while maintaining the historian's office and records in her home, organized a new historical society for the Town of Greece. One of the first members was Supervisor Fred Eckard. In 1975 the society received its charter from the NYS Board of Regents. In 1985 Mrs. Tomkiewicz and the Greece Historical Society moved into a Town-owned house on English Road. In 1988 Town Supervisor Don Riley convinced Wegmans to move the old house previously owned by Gordon Howe to Town-owned land for use by the historian and the Historical Society.



Within a few years, with the help of a New York State grant secured by then Assemblyman Joe Robach, a community fund raising campaign, and a major donation from member Donald Newcomb, an exhibit hall was opened, the building was re-sided and a new entrance was made in the rear of the building in anticipation of the new Town campus design that was planned to be built in the coming years.

In 1999 during the demolition of the old Town Hall, arrangements were made to remove the cupola from the building and with help of the Town, a new sign for the front lawn of the museum was constructed incorporating the cupola in its design.

Our eight monthly Tuesday evening lectures featuring local historians, authors, and humanities scholars have proven to be very popular with the community. Our programs have earned a reputation throughout the region for providing high quality, professional and entertaining history lessons.

Besides these programs, we maintain our museum and exhibits, offer free photo scanning days, share our photograph collection, conduct school tours, offer Sunday programs and special exhibits, and continue to help individuals and businesses with research projects.

In the past few years several members and volunteers of our organization have received recognition from the Greece Chamber of Commerce, the Greece Central School District, AARP, Monroe County Officials and in 2016 the Society was awarded a Certification of Commendation from the Museum Association of New York.

We thank everyone who has supported the Greece Historical Society throughout these past years and encourage the community to continue supporting us and all the other nonprofit organizations that contribute so much to the quality of life in the Town of Greece.

Bill Sauers, President

Museum Closings

Sundays, thru January 27th.
Reopening on Sundays on February 3, 2019.

Our Calendar is on page 4 this month

We greatly value and appreciate your donations*.

*Tax deductible per Section 501(c)(3) of the
Internal Revenue Code

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www.holysepulchre.org

Bring this ad into Holy Sepulchre Cemetery or Ascension Garden and receive a \$50 VISA Gift Card with grave, crypt or niche purchase. Offer valid until February 28, 2019.
Not valid on prior purchases.

"Museum Shop"



Time for our winter break. I'm sure we can all use it. Our Shop will be closed through January and will reopen in February. This will give us time to reorganize our Shop. We still have many historical books for those of you that enjoy staying home to read during the snowy weather. We do have many books available at the Greece Library Second Hand Prose Shop, so if you are looking for one of our local books you can always check them out. They have been very helpful since they are open Library hours, not just Sundays.

Relax and enjoy the winter weather in Upstate New York.

Wendy Peck, Museum Shop Coordinator

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Greece Historical Society & Museum <http://www.greecehistoricalsociety.org>

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585-225-7221



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for the Future"
since 1969**



Address Labels on Mailed Corinthian

Many of you have asked about the date on the mailing address labels. The labels, which we have been using for over a year, are a relatively new system developed by the US Post Office for organizations like ours. We send them a spread sheet of names and addresses and they reply with formatted addresses, bar codes and the date the labels were created. This system has nearly cut in half the cost of mailing our newsletter.

The date printed on your address label is NOT your renewal date. Our membership year for ALL members is May 1st through April 29th.

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

~ **Cyndie Shevlin, Editor**

Museum Closed in January

As we have done in the past, the Greece Museum will be closed on Sundays during January. We will re-open to the public on February 3rd, 2019.

We will maintain regular Monday office hours in January and conduct our annual meeting on January 17th at our historic center. We will also conduct a Tuesday evening program at the Greece Public Library on January 8th.

"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**

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

**Thursday, Jan 17th 2019: 7:00 p.m. Greece Museum
Annual Meeting of the Greece Historical Society**

Sunday, Feb 10th, 2019: Beyond These Gates: Mountains
of Hope in Rochester's African-American History, by Marilyn
Nolte *

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: Remember-
ing 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!

Volunteers Needed

Care to volunteer and
make new friends? Want
to show your pride of
living in Greece? Expand
your historical knowledge
while cultivating new
friendships and a quest



for learning? Then, the Greece Historical Society might
be a good fit for you. The Greece Historical Society
needs a few volunteers who can commit their time and
talent to help us serve our community, continue to
provide stimulating programs, create new exhibits, and
preserve the history of our Town.

Most jobs only require a few hours a week and we will
provide the training. **Our most pressing needs at the
moment, are for someone to manage the membership
renewals, and docent or gift shop help on Sundays.**

Give us a call at 225-7221 or email
greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com if you have
an interest in helping and we will explain the
details of each of these jobs.

Share Your Stories and Memories

We love to read stories and memories by YOU, the average Greece resident. Each of you has a story to tell. You (or your group) can submit a local history story or memories of growing up in the Town of Greece. Email your story to: greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com along with a photo and brief bio. Your story should be no more than 500 words. Don't worry if you're not an English scholar – we will edit as needed for continuity, grammar, punctuation, etc.

This month we feature GHS member **Dick Helsey**, who has written extensively in his blog on the history of Ontario Beach Park. This month's story is a condensed version of one of many that he has written about the Park. You can read the entire series at <http://rochistory.com/blog/?p=7855>. Read his story on page 5.

Greece History

Ontario Beach Park – 1915

by Dick Halsey

In mid-January 1915, the Mayor of Rochester, **Hiram Edgerton**, started pushing for the annexation of the Village of Charlotte into the City of Rochester. It would benefit Charlotte by giving them more city services and help the City by giving them full access to the Port of Rochester that was at Charlotte. Mayor Edgerton also noted that since Charlotte would be part of the City, it would also mean that the trolley fare to the Park would only be 5 cents. Almost everyone was in favor of the annexation except NY State Railways (the trolley company) who said that they would lose \$70,000 per year. The bill for annexation of the Village of Charlotte took a few months but did finally get approval from NY State. The Village of Charlotte became part of Rochester on January 1, 1916.

The Park opened for a preview day on May 9, 1915, then for the full season on May 29th. A newspaper article mentioned that Hilarity Hall had an escalator. But it was one on which people would sit and go up to the balcony. Hilarity House had also been remodeled inside. The park had a giant band organ installed in front of Hotel Ontario. It was said to be as loud as 35 to 40 instruments. It had 100 rolls of music by the world's greatest composers that it played. An open-air stage continued to have mostly vaudeville acts. On June 19th they had four bands play at the Park. They all played separately and then together making a giant band with about 190 members.

NY State Sportsmen's Association was back at the Park from June 8th to June 10th for another trap shooting contest. The first Carnival Day was held on June 15th. That day they had a torchlight parade around the grounds at 9:00 p.m. Children's Day was on Aug. 25th and children got free admission and free rides. **Leonard Brang**, aged 41 and from New York City, was hurt on June 11th by diving off the Charlotte pier. He struck the bottom with his head. He was placed in a trolley car which took him to the city line where it was met by an ambulance from General Hospital. He died June 17th.

There were many company picnics at the Park throughout the season. There was a notice in the newspapers that Sibley, Lindsay & Curr department store closed at 1 p.m. so that employees could attend their annual outing at the Park. The next week Edwards Store did the same for their employees. July 27th there was a Children's Fairy Tale Pageant. Children had to come in costume and one prize was a Teddy bear with electric eyes. Movies were taken and shown around the country.

The season closed on Monday, Sept. 6th. An ad for closing day said that "Contrary to reports, Ontario Beach Park, next year will occupy the same grounds, but with very extensive improvements." The truth was that they did not know how the Park being part of the City of Rochester would affect them in 1916.



This is a condensed version of one story from a series by Dick Halsey. Dick has written a series of more than 40 blog postings about Ontario Beach Park from the 1870s to the 1930s. You can read the entire series at <http://rochistory.com/blog/?p=7855>.



Home School Tour
February 9, 2018



Buffalo Soldiers
February 13, 2018



Free Scanning Day
May 5, 2018



Strawberry Festival
June 18, 2018



Cleaning Cemetery Headstones
Mike Warner
June 10, 2018

2018 GHS
Highlights



Aisa Purak
Bosnian Immigrants:
Opportunities & Challenges
July 15, 2018



Dewey Ave Family Fun Fest
July 17, 2018



Jean Brooks Greenleaf
Historic Marker
October 8, 2018



Holy Sepulchre Cemetery Tour
September 9, 2018



Athena History Club
October 10, 2018



Devin Lander
NYS Historian
November 13, 2018



Craft Sale
November 17, 2018

“Tours and Education”

TOURS

With 2018 coming to an end I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the docents, greeters and other volunteers that help make the Greece Historical Society a success. We were able to open our new exhibit “School Days” in time for the strawberry festival and will continue to update it. In the spring, we will feature Longridge elementary school and eventually cover all the other schools in the district. We are giving our volunteers a well-deserved break by closing during the month of January. We will reopen February 3rd. Be sure to stop in and come out of the cold to see our beautiful museum.

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



A few members gathered around the kitchen table during our Holiday Open house on December 16th.



Gina DiBella and Tony Micciche do some last-minute Christmas shopping.



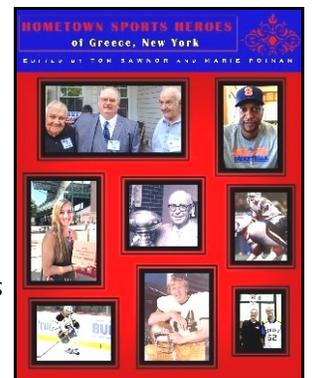
HOMETOWN SPORTS HEROES OF GREECE, N.Y.

The Greece Historical Society has 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. The book is 64 pages in FULL COLOR with photos and interviews of each sports figure in their own words. This book preserves the stories of our athletes and is the first of its kind published by the Greece Historical Society.

Available in our gift shop for \$18.00, we think you will be in awe of what our town has produced in athletes. You won't be able to put it down!

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



Greece Historical Society
 Greece Museum
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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

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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(Last) (First) (M.I.) (Spouse, if applicable)

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(Street) (City/Town) (State) (Zip Code + 4)

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

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Senior (62+, Each) Student	\$15.00	_____
Individual Adult	\$20.00	_____
Senior (62+) Couple	\$30.00	_____
Family	\$35.00	_____
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