



Tuesday, March 12th, 2019 Greece Public Library 7:00 p.m.

An Equal Right to Act: Remembering the Rochester
Woman's Rights Convention of 1848
with Ira Srole & the FirstLight Players

A re-creation of the Rochester Woman's Rights Convention of 1848, which was held at the old Unitarian Church on Fitzhugh Street. This was the second such convention convened in history and the first in which the presiding officer was a woman.

The play, written and directed by Ira Srole, is performed by FirstLight Players, the drama troupe at First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY. It is based primarily on the original published minutes.



Sunday, March 24th 1:30-4:00 pm

Save the date! Girl Scout Troop #60327 will be here on March 24th selling their yummy cookies. Why not stop by and pick up a box or two?



Sunday, March 17th, 2019 Greece Museum 2:00 p.m.

Collecting Antique Bottles

A primer on collecting 19th century bottles and ephemera, plus an abbreviated overview of Rochester's Warner Safe Cure Co. of the 1880s (they sold "Hope" for \$1.25 per bottle of Safe Kidney and Liver Cure).

You are welcome to bring any old bottles or fruit jars for possible identification.



Jack Stecher is a retiree of Eastman Kodak, past president, show chairman, and current member of the Genesee Valley Bottle Collectors Association. He is also a member of the Greece Historical Society.

"President's Message"

"Is it cold enough for you?" seemed to be an overused expression that last week of January, but now that March is here and most of the snow, wind and ice is behind us (we hope) and we can look forward to Spring.

In February we had a very interesting, informative and entertaining Sunday program. Unfortunately, due to a severe weather forecast, we had to urgently postpone our Tuesday evening program on the life of Anna & Frederick Douglass. Fortunately, we were able to reschedule the presentation for the following Tuesday.

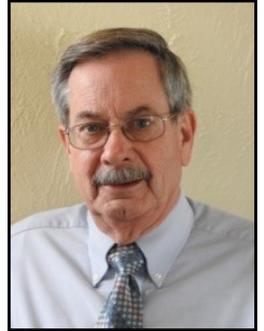
During February we also conducted a financial audit review of our organization, secured some estimates on future building repairs, held a planning meeting for upcoming events and continued our long-range project of inventory and evaluation our collection. We also received and paid for our required Town permit, reserved the tent, and began securing sponsors and vendors for our annual strawberry and dessert tasting festival in June.

This month we are pleased to present quite a different program for our Tuesday evening education series, a performance last seen at Rochester's Fringe Festival. We will be featuring an "I LOVE NY" poster exhibit in our museum during March and we are pursuing a grant to bring another exhibit created by the New York Historical Society. I will also be presenting a program to the Athena History Club and I have a couple of conferences to attend related to museums and history.

As nearly everyone is aware, our membership year is May 1 thru April 31. We will be mailing out our membership renewal reminder letters in April. Some of you have already sent in your membership renewal and those have been credited.

If you are on Facebook be sure to "Like" the Greece Historical Society" to keep up on any last-minute announcements and don't forget to download our **2018 Annual Report**. It is an opportunity for everyone to see what the Greece Historical Society has accomplished and all that we have contributed to the community this past year.

Bill Sauers, President



Our Calendar

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

Sunday, Mar 17th, 2019: Collecting Antique Bottles by **John Stecher***

Tuesday, April 9th, 2019: The American Life of Joseph Biggio by **Edward Maruggi ****

Sunday, April 28th, 2019: Col. O'Rorke Memorial Society by **Tom O'Connell ***

Saturday, May 4th, 2019 10:00 a.m.: Free Scanning Day

***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!

Address Labels on Mailed Corinthian

The date printed on your address label is NOT your renewal date. It is a Post Office mail date only.

Everyone's renewal date is May 1st.

You will receive an invoice to renew.

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

~ **Cyndie Shevlin, Editor**

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"



Winter is still here and it has been so cold. Did you know we have long sleeve shirts and sweatshirts here in our Shop? They are nice and warm for this time of year and have the beautiful Museum photo on them. I get lots of attention when I wear mine.

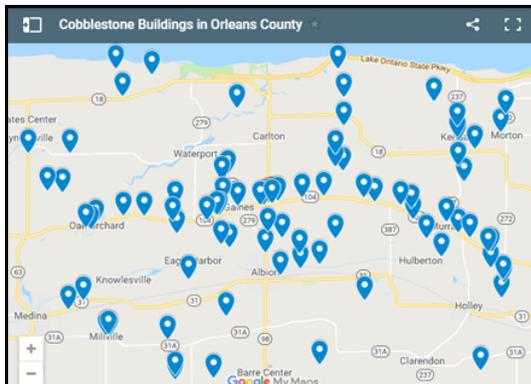
Stop in and see us.
We are here on Sundays, 1:30-4:00.

Wendy Peeck,
Museum Shop Coordinator

EST. 1979
585.663.1570
25 STONEWOOD AVE. ROCHESTER, NY 14612

Interactive Cobblestone Site Map

Our friends at the Cobblestone Museum, 14389 Ridge Road, Albion, NY have created a "Cobblestone Trail" interactive map highlighting nearly 100 separate Cobblestone sites in Orleans County. This driving tour is intended strictly as a "roadway tour." No access beyond the roadway should be presumed. The Cobblestone Museum is pleased to offer public tours of their buildings for those who would like a close-up inspection. For more information about the Cobblestone Museum or their interactive call 585-589-9013. The interactive map can be found at : <http://www.cobblestonemuseum.org/interactive-cobblestone-site-map>



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Greece History

Willow Creek Ranch by Gene Preston

Located at 1118 Long Pond Road about 80 years ago was the Willow Creek Ranch. Far in the rear of the 10 acres was a farm house. Owner, **Irving James Thompson** known as "Tommy" Thompson, was a big strong fellow weighing nearly 400 pounds at one time, who could pick up a heavy iron anvil by its point with one hand. He was a cowboy who created Willow Creek Ranch where he had several horses and a large pasture. In the late 1940s he went to Nebraska and brought back several horses to his ranch where he broke them and sold many of them. Others he trained for rodeo events. There was never a horse he couldn't ride. Rodeos, combined with a western theme parade, became a very popular event at the Long Pond Road location .

A Greece Press newspaper dated August 4, 1944 shows an advertisement headed, "Come One! Come All! Come to the home town rodeo at Willow Creek Ranch, Long Pond Road near Maiden Lane, Sunday, August 6, 1944 at 1 PM, with a parade at 2 PM led by Monroe County Sheriff horses. Thrills for young and old." It goes on to say: "Bucking broncos, calf roping, knot tying, bull dragging, bronc-busting, and a western horse show. Local amateur cowboy entries invited. Cash prizes and trophies." It shows Tommy Thompson and his trick horse, Duke Thunderbolt, an Arabian gelding. Said the poster: "Tommy Thompson, Ray Slaght, Lucky Boy Williams, managers. 10% goes to Red Cross."



Duke Thunderbolt performed amazing tricks such as pulling the family wash off the clothesline, blowing the horn on the family car with his nose, counting, rocking a chair, and executing a horse prayer. Other tricks included: taking off Thompson's hat, rolling over and playing dead, and holding an American flag in his teeth. Thompson would demonstrate his rope skills and knot tying.

Much of this information I learned from sons **Gary** and **Bob Thompson**. Bob is my brother-in-law and lives in Greece. Today the Willow Creek Ranch site is the Ronald J. Arndt Funeral Home. Nothing remains but memories from the days of the Thompson family being there and the excitement of the rodeos. Mr. Arndt was in awe learning of the history of his place.

At the rear of the property was Round Pond Creek. Our family farm was not far away at 1036 Long Pond Road where the same creek flowed through our property. As a lad I remember the "ranch" being up the road and Tommy Thompson who always wore a large western cowboy hat and leather boots. My dad, "Cap" Preston, was a friend of Tommy's and would take my brothers Eddie and Ken and me along to visit at Willow Creek Ranch. It was named that because of the many large willow trees along the creek.

Tommy Thompson was also a heavy equipment operator at Kodak and retired in 1969. He was born in Napanee, Ontario, Canada, arriving here at age 18 on a ferry boat from Cobourg, Canada to Charlotte. He passed away in 1982 at his Hamlin, NY home at age 72.



Gene Preston is a lifelong resident of Greece, retired Kodak Deputy Fire Chief, Army veteran, 58-year active member of the North Greece Fire Department, produce grower, president of Chapter 35 NYS International Harvester Tractor Club, and a freelance writer of numerous publications. He lives on what remains of the family farm today.

Share Your Stories and Memories

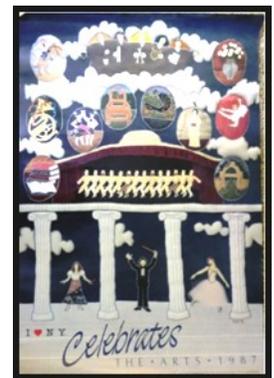
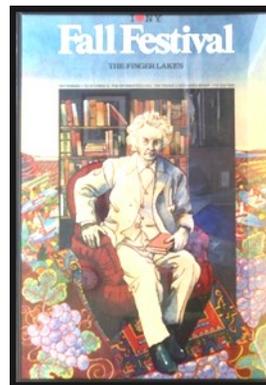
We love to read stories and memories by YOU, the average Greece resident. Each of you has a story to tell. You (or your group) can submit a local history story or memories of growing up in the Town of Greece. Email your story to: greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com along with a photo and brief bio. Your 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.

share your
story with us

Museum Happenings

"I Love New York" Poster Exhibit in March

The I LOVE NY logo was created in 1977 to promote tourism for New York State. During the month of March, we will be exhibiting several original 24" x 36" posters from the early days of the campaign. It is an opportunity to see one of the many ways that New York State promoted tourism over the years. Our museum is open Sunday afternoon 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.



It was a full house on February 10th at our historic center as our guests listened to **Marilyn Nolte** talk about Mt. Hope Cemetery and the notable African Americans interned there. Marilyn was followed by Frederick Douglass family descendant **Jacqueline Sprague Cooper** who talked about African American burials and promoting genealogy research and the importance of telling your families stories.



Our volunteer committee planning the next pasta dinner fundraiser and our 50th Anniversary Dinner. They are: **Dan Silver, Gina DiBella, Sandy Peck, Bill Peck, Wendy Peck** and **Kathy Firkins**.

Recently we met with **Donna and Ken Preston**. Donna donated a collection of papers from the 1940s from her mother who was very involved in the Republican Party at the time. We are always grateful for donations like this that tell the story of our Town.



Greece Historical Society
 Greece Museum
 595 Long Pond Road
 P.O. Box 16249
 Rochester NY 14616-0249



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

GREECE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Membership Application

(Please print)

DATE: _____

NAME: _____ PHONE: (____) _____
(Last) (First) (M.I.) (Spouse, if applicable)

ADDRESS: _____
(Street) (City/Town) (State) (Zip Code + 4)

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

<u>Membership Classifications</u>	<u>Annual Rate</u>	<u>Select</u>
Senior (62+, Each) Student	\$15.00	_____
Individual Adult	\$20.00	_____
Senior (62+) Couple	\$30.00	_____
Family	\$35.00	_____
Business, Professional	\$50.00	_____
Benefactor (Each)	\$100.00	_____
Senior Life (62+, Each)	\$350.00	_____
Life (Each)	\$500.00	_____
Donation		_____

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Memberships are tax deductible. Please pay online via PayPal or make check payable and mail to:
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 You will receive your membership card and receipt by mail.