



Remembering Fred Meredith, and Larry Zarnstorff, charter members of the Greece Historical Society by Lee Strauss

I learned **Fred Meredith**, passed away in April of this year. Fred quietly and competently went about fixing all the things our old farmhouse had wrong with it after it was moved to the future Greece complex. Not only did he replace dry rotted wood on the back corner of the house, he put in windows on the first-floor porch, replacing one side of it with a wall to create our gift shop. From a picture of the mantle Gordon Howe had made for the fireplace in the living room he made an exact replica and installed it, and he built a porch off the back door. I am probably not mentioning all that he did to make the house habitable so we could open it to the public.



When the museum wing was built with a grant from New York State, we didn't estimate the funds we needed correctly, and had to finish the interior with volunteer help. Fred was the first to offer help. His hobby of carpentry was a blessing to us. He and his wife, **Phyllis**, were dedicated volunteers. We cannot thank Fred enough for all he did. He will be missed.

At the time of acquiring the house and moving it, another hero comes to mind. **Larry Zarnstorff** helped plan for the move and acted as general contractor in the renovations and in the building of the museum. Larry was a dispatcher for the North Greece Fire Department at the time. He and his wife **Anne** also provided refreshments at our monthly meetings along with the Rickmans. He spent numerous hours working on the various jobs at the house and in the museum. Larry's family lived in North Greece. Anne's family name was Whitman. They owned the Whitman garage on Ridge Road and a furniture store next to it. Larry passed away in 2014.



Anne Zarnstorff in the unfinished museum wing.

During this year as we celebrate our 50th anniversary as a Society, these individuals are worthy of our remembrance. We truly appreciate their accomplishments.

Sunday, December 15th 1:30 4:00 p.m.
Greece Museum Holiday Open House

Meet our volunteers, view our new Prohibition exhibit,
hear about our past year's activities,
and enjoy some refreshments.



Annual Meeting Thursday, January 16th, 2020

On Thursday, **January 16th, 2020** at 7:00 p.m., we will hold our annual meeting at our GHS center, 595 Long Pond Road.

Here you can receive a copy of our 2019 Annual Report, view a photo montage of our activities from 2019, and hear about our future plans.

Our treasurer, **Bill Peeck**, will present a financial report and we will conduct an election of trustees (see page 3).

"President's Message"

It's been quite a year. Eight outstanding Tuesday evening programs, new exhibits, several Sunday programs, a very successful Strawberry Festival, pasta dinner fundraiser, new visitors to our museum, and several new members along with receiving several awards and citations. We also received two generous estate gifts and a \$500.00 gift from Canandaigua National Bank.

In April, **Maureen Whalen**, a longtime volunteer, received the "history" award from the Greece Regional Chamber of Commerce and our organization received the annual "Arts and Cultural" award.

We celebrated our 50th anniversary with a dinner on October 26. Nearly 80 of our members and friends attended along with County and State officials. We were presented proclamations from County Executive **Cheryl Dinolfo** and NY State Senator **Joe Robach** and County Clerk **Adam Bello**, and NY State Historian **Davin Lander** praised the commitment of the Greece Historical Society and the community for supporting us.

On November 17th, the **Landmark Society of Western New York** recognized the Greece Historical Society with two special citations for our role as sponsor of the Historic Resources Survey of The Architecture of James H. Johnson, and our 50 years of preserving the history of Greece. Feel free to stop in and see our commendations!

On December 4th, at the State Museum in Albany, the **New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation** will recognize the documentation of the work of architect James H. Johnson. **Gina DiBella** and I will be attending that ceremony along with the authors of the study **Katie Eggers Comeau and Christopher Brandt**.

Visit us on Sunday, December 15th for our Holiday Open House and meet the volunteers who have contributed to our success and view the awards we have received this past year.

As always, we thank all of you who have supported the Greece Historical Society this past year and for the past 50 years.

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
The Museum will be **closed Sundays December 22nd through February 29th** and will **reopen March 1st, 2020**
except **Sunday, February 16th** for a special program.

Holiday Open House Greece Museum
Sunday, **December 15th**, 1:30 4:00 p.m.

GHS Annual Meeting Greece Museum
Thursday, **January 9th, 2020**

History of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office by Todd Allan,
Tuesday, **January 14th, 2020** **

A Conversation with Susan B. Anthony & Frederick Douglass, by Barbara Blaisdell and David Shakes
Tuesday, **February 11th, 2020****

Meet Dr. Martin Luther King by Freeman Brown,
Sunday, **February 16th, 2:00 p.m.** *

*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.



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"Museum Shop"

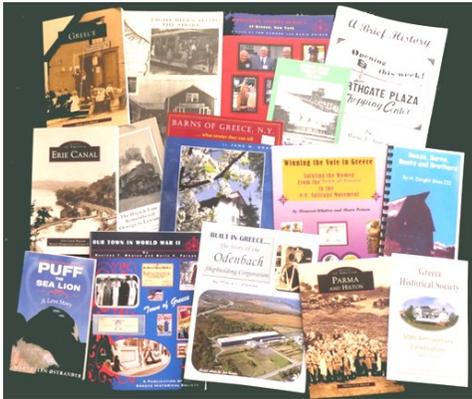


The holidays are approaching, and we'd love to see you stop in and find that special gift for someone. We have many local history books available in our Shop. Many of these books are also available at "Secondhand Prose," the Greece Library – Friends of the Library Shop. Since our hours are Sunday only, we are grateful to be able to offer our books at the Friends' Shop.

Stop in Sunday 1:30-4:00 or stop by the Library other days.

Enjoy the holidays!

**Wendy Peck,
Shop Coordinator**



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

We greatly value and appreciate your donations*.
*Tax deductible per Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Trustee Election January 16th , 2020 at GHS

Trustees serve a term of three years. Seeking re-election are: **Tom Sawnor, Cyndie Shevlin , and Gregg H. Redmond.**

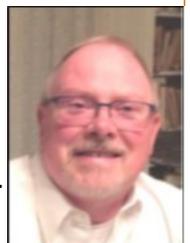
Tom Sawnor, AAS,BA,MA: is a retired 30 year Rochester Police Dept. veteran. Tom chaired our major exhibit and book, "Hometown Sports of Greece."



Cyndie Shevlin, joined GHS in 1998 and is our Corinthian editor since 2008. A 30 year semi retired decorator, she now has a décor/antique shop at The Shops on West Ridge. Cyndie is also a 38 year YMCA member.



Gregg H. Redmond is a lifelong Greece resident and a practicing local attorney. A former volunteer fire-fighter, he also volunteers with Honor Flight Rochester, Volunteer Legal Services Project, and Habitat for Humanity.



We Celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Greece Historical Society!

We would like to thank our members, friends, and sponsors for the successful 50th anniversary dinner held on Saturday, October 26th at Red Fedele's Brook House. Nearly 80 guests joined us in celebrating 50 years of saving our Town's history.

We would especially like to thank our government officials: Monroe County Executive, **Cheryl Dinolfo**, Monroe County Clerk **Adam Bello**, NY State Senator **Joe Robach**, and NY State Historian **Devin Lander**, all of whom took time from their busy schedules to attend our event to offer their congratulations. *(photos by Gina DiBella)*



Greece History

Meeting Latta Family Members by Marie Poinan

On November 8-10, I had the opportunity to do a presentation at the Latta Family Annual Meeting at in Niagara Falls, NY. There are currently 52 different branches of the family in the US, as well as branches in Ireland, Scotland and Australia. The group collects genealogy and they maintain a website, Facebook page and have a newsletter . They are currently collecting DNA test info to see how each branch might be related to another.

I did the program at the request of **Randall (Randy) Phillips**, captain of Branch #4, which is to which our local Lattas belong. Randy descends from the **Samuel Latta**, the brother who remained in the Geneva area after the others moved west to the Towns of Greece and Lewiston in Niagara County. Samuel and his brother James both moved to the west side of Seneca Lake (south of Geneva) in the 1790s. James' oldest daughter was Agnes, who married to Benjamin Barton and moved to Lewiston; their house was burned to the ground by the British during the War of 1812. Her brothers Sam and George settled in Charlotte and served in the War of 1812 in the Rowe and Atchinson militias.

During the course of the weekend, I also met **Kathy Latta** of Edmonton, Alberta (captain of Branch 17) and **Dr. E. Michael Latta** (Branch 7) of Raleigh, North Carolina. Kathy records all submitted DNA materials while Dr. Mike tracks his branch which has been in N.C. since 1755 and writes for the Latta family newsletter.

I was able to arrange for us to visit the Lewiston Museum on Saturday, where I was pleasantly surprised to find out their Curator, **Tom Collister**, grew up on Windsor, off Latta Road in Greece! He shared family files and showed us the Barton family Bible which was recently obtained by their historical society. Executive Director **Patricia Maloney** and Tom also shared portraits of **Benjamin and Agnes Latta Barton** (see photo), both of whom are buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery, a block away from the museum.

I shared photos of the Latta-Meech house (owned by Sam), the Kenmore Hotel (owned by George) at the corner of Lake/Latta Road, their tombstones in the Charlotte Village Cemetery and how the Charlotte Community Development Corporation obtained a historic marker from the Pomeroy Foundation as only the 5th owner of Sam's 213 year-old house.

I was honored to take part in the weekend's events, but my biggest surprise came when Randy Phillips shared a photo of School District #5 (Paddy Hill) which he is donating to GHS. This school (see photo) also has a historic marker, which our Society obtained and dedicated in 2014.

Note: for more information, please visit these websites: www.historiclewiston.org and www.latta.org



Left to right: Curator Tom Collister , Mike Latta, Kathy Latta and Randy Phillips

Barton's Quartermaster records from the War of 1812



School house #5 from Randy Phillips



Allen Mueller & Bill Sauers at School #5 historic marker dedication.



Agnes Latta Barton

Museum Photos



On November 14th, GHS volunteers enjoyed a tour of the Greece Police Dept headquarters conducted by Sgt Jered Rene.



On November 12th, **Michael Lasser** entertained us with his stories about City Songs and their influence on the "Great American Songbook"



It was a full house at 595 Long Pond Road on November 17th as **Maureen Whalen** presented her research on Prohibition in Greece. .



Ben Camelio installing new light fixture on the parking lot side of our building. Thanks Ben!

Museum News and Notes

Thank you to Charlotte & Clifford Streams

For more years than anyone can remember, once a month **Charlotte Streams**, with the help of her husband **Clifford**, cleaned our building. They cleaned the kitchen and bathrooms, vacuumed the entire place, and just generally made the place look better. Unfortunately, due to health problems they can no longer help us. **If you or anyone you know would like to take on this job, please give us a call.**

Landmark Society Special Citations

Sunday, November 17th, the Greece Historical Society was honored to receive TWO Special Citations from the Landmark Society of Western New York at their annual awards ceremony held at Rochester's City Hall.

G.H.S. was presented a Special Citation for its role as sponsor of the Historic Resources Survey of The Architecture of James H. Johnson, along with preservation consultants **Katie Eggers Comeau, Christopher Brandt** and **Gina DiBella**.

The Society was also recognized with a Special Citation for its 50 years of supporting preservation initiatives and saving the history of the Town of Greece.



Thank you, LyteSpeed Computers,

We at the Greece Historical Society would like to thank **Dave Meyer, John Gordon**, and the rest of the gang at **LyteSpeed Computers** for their assistance in the last month. As they say, when it rains, it pours.

When three of our somewhat dated office computers encountered difficulties at about the same time, they were right there with solutions to help us get back up to speed and improve the efficiency of our equipment, while at the same time upgrading them to Windows 10 where appropriate.

LyteSpeed Computers is located in [Stoneridge Plaza](#), 1522 W Ridge Rd, Rochester, NY 14615



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

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