

A History of Seneca Park Zoo by Maureen Whalen

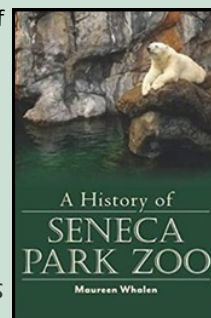
Tuesday, September 8, 2020, 7:00 p.m. ZOOM*

**Must register on Greece Public Library's web site.*

In April, longtime Greece Historical Society volunteer Maureen Whalen published the first and only comprehensive history of Seneca Park Zoo. Her book, *A History of Seneca Park Zoo*, traces the Zoo's history from 1894 through 2013. In this program Maureen will track the many changes at the Zoo from its years as a menagerie collection emphasizing the entertainment value of animals to its current role as a leader in species conservation and habitat preservation. She likes to say, paraphrasing a vintage Oldsmobile commercial, "Today, this is not your father's zoo." She will also talk about some of the animals who have been favorites of zoo-goers over its twelve and a half decades. Whalen, who has been a docent at the Seneca Park Zoo since 2006, spent eight years searching through old newspaper accounts and annual reports, conducting interviews, and writing the history. The book retails for \$25.00 and is currently available in our own Museum Shop or Amazon.



Since retiring as the Branch Manager of the Charlotte Branch of the Rochester Public Library, Maureen Whalen has pursued her interests in researching local history. She co-wrote a history of the Rochester Public Library, *One Hundred Years of Service*. As a volunteer at the Greece Historical Society and Museum she has curated exhibits on topics ranging from the Underground Railroad to Prohibition.



YOU MUST REGISTER Go to the Greece Public Library's web page, <http://www.greecepubliclibrary.org/>.

click on "Virtual Events", then "Calendar", then go to Sept 8 and register.

Greece Rotary Names Person of the Year

The Greece Rotary Club is proud and excited to share that **William (Bill) Sauers** was named the 2020 Community Person of the Year awarded by the Greece Rotary Club at their meeting on July 22. Bill is a public servant and has consistently demonstrated the Rotary's motto of "service above self." The award is given to someone who has provided service to the Town of Greece community. Bill has demonstrated leadership, good character, diplomacy, a positive attitude, good judgment, and an exemplary desire of service to the people of the Town of Greece which are all criteria considered for this distinction. Since 2002, Bill has served on the board of the Greece Historical Society, and currently is its President.

Greece Rotary is a part of the Rotary International, a service organization whose mission is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to provide humanitarian service, and to promote goodwill and peace around the world. It is a non-political and non-religious organization.

Deborah Whitt



Bill Sauers and Greece Rotary Club Past-President **Al Meilutis**.

"President's Message"

Back on March 10th we had over 80 guests at our program at the Library with another program planned for the next Sunday afternoon. That Sunday afternoon program was cancelled, and our museum "temporarily" closed for a few weeks until a strange virus scare was over. Well, as everyone knows, that temporary closure affected everyone and "temporary" became a lot longer time than anyone ever expected.

So here we are in September. Our museum is now open on Sunday afternoons with a few restrictions, and plenty of hand sanitizer, a gift from LiDestri Food and Drink. We will have no live programs on Sunday afternoons at our museum or live Tuesday evenings at the Library. Our planned tour of Mother of Sorrows is also cancelled for this year. For the unforeseen future all our programs will be via Zoom. If you haven't used Zoom yet, it is available on any PC, tablet, or smart phone. If you are not sure how to use it, maybe you could ask a neighbor or relative.

We have been using our time cleaning out the basement of our museum. Just like anyone's empty space, it was full of stuff we just do not use anymore.

Our membership season is now over, and we are extremely pleased at the response, but without fundraisers this year, we could always use a few more members and/or support from the community.

We did have a successful outdoor book sale/signing in July and an outdoor class on using archival materials to store your possessions in August and we have been documenting the history and final demolition of the old School No. 5 building on Latta Road.

On a personal note, I was humbled and honored to be named the "Community Citizen of the Year for 2019-2020" by the Greece Rotary Club. I will be attending a dedication ceremony for a new historical marker with City Historian, Christine Ridarsky, and County Executive Adam Bello on September 1. I did the research for the marker commemorating the World War I School of Aviation Photography Airfield known as Baker's Field; it will be located at the Genesee Valley Park golf course. I will also be one of the presenters at the Association of Public Historians of New York State (APHNYS) annual conference (*via Zoom*) to be held on September 22nd.

We are still seeking your stories about how you are coping with the corona virus pandemic. Any stories we collect will be shared with the State Historian and APHNYS.

We thank you for your continued support during these hard times and we certainly hope to see all of you soon. In the meantime, we will continue to preserve, research, and share local history with you and the community.

Bill Sauers, President



Our Calendar **"GHS Events and Programs"**

Beginning August 2nd:

Museum and Museum Shop hours: Sundays 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.
and during office hours Mondays 10 a.m.- Noon

NOTE:

All upcoming programs will be presented via Zoom
To register go to our Web page calendar for instructions.

History of Seneca Park Zoo by Maureen Whalen,
Tuesday, September 8

Eight Brave Civil War Soldiers: Past Meets the Present
Tuesday, October 13

Education Today by Kathy Graupman.
Tuesday, November 17

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

****Tuesday programs are usually 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"



It is so nice to be back in the Museum Shop now. We've had many books sold from our website and I have acquired many new books for our Shop, so we are ready for you to stop in and visit us.

Masks are required for visitors so we will all stay safe.

Wendy Peeck
Shop Coordinator



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Greece Museum Membership

Help us become more widely known to our community.

Tell your friends and family about the Greece Museum.



Please Note:

CLOSED SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6th
(LABOR DAY WEEKEND)

If you have the time, talent, and desire to help the Greece Historical Society & Museum, consider becoming a volunteer.
Call us at 225-7221 or email greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com.
We will be glad to discuss how you could contribute to the success of the Greece Historical Society.

We greatly value and appreciate your donations*.

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



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Museum Happenings

Our first outdoor presentation was held on Saturday, August 1st. **Kate Jacus** from Archival Methods demonstrated the various kinds of archival storage options that we should be using to store our family heirlooms.



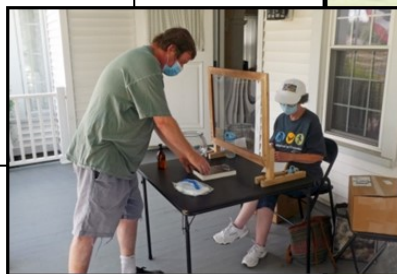
Joe Vitello and **Alan Mueller** spent a few hot July days cleaning, organizing, and purging unneeded items from our basement. Sometimes we all accumulate too much stuff!



Bill Peeck and **Bobbie Roberts** work on our membership data base.



On Sunday, July 12th, **Maureen Whalen** sold her new book about the history of the Seneca Park Zoo on our front porch while **Sandy Peck** and **Wendy Peeck** set up an outside table on the lawn with a selection of books from our museum shop. Nearly 50 people came, shopped, and purchased books. It was our first public event, other than a Zoom presentation since March 10th..





Woman of Greece in the Suffrage Movement

by Marie Poinen

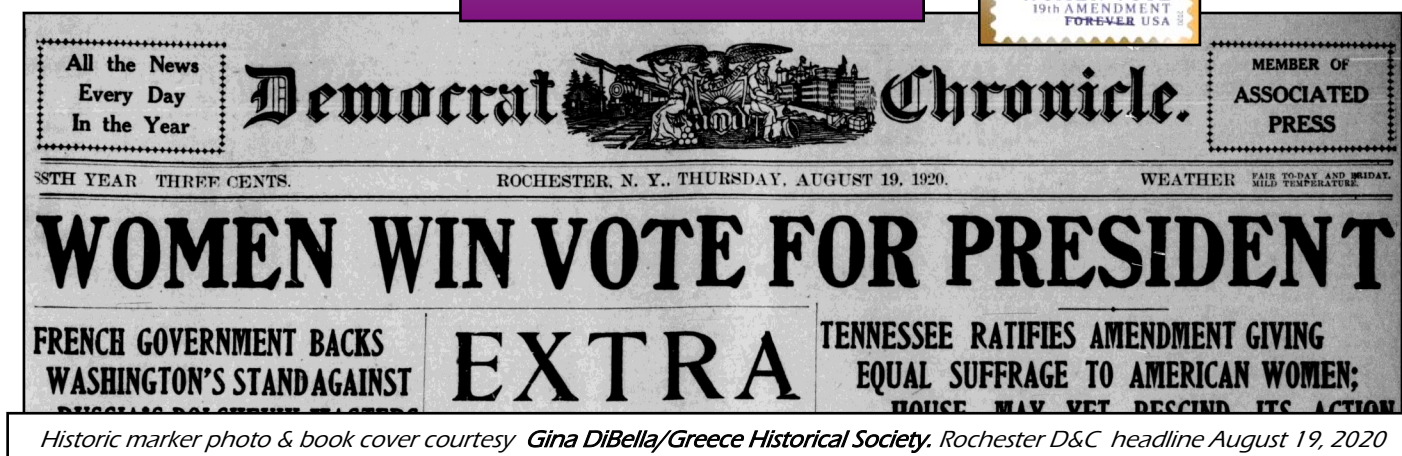
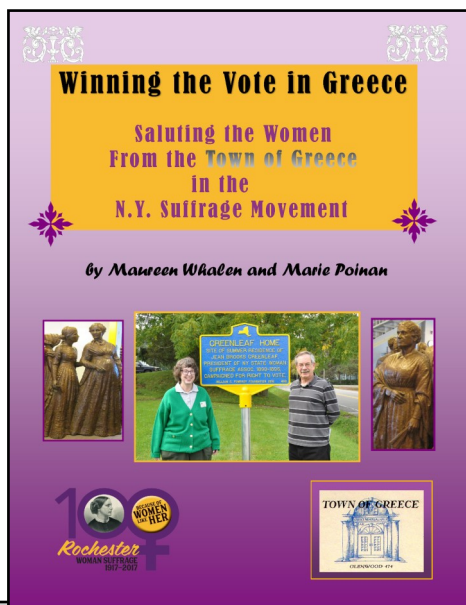


On August 18, 2020 we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment that gave women the right to vote. A new book and exhibit at the Greece Historical Society documents the story of the fourteen (14) known women of the Town of Greece who participated in the suffrage movement. One of them was **Georgia Bonesteel Raynsford** who lived at Barnards Crossing. She was the President of the Rochester Political Equality Club from 1905-1910 and delivered the eulogy at Susan B. Anthony's funeral.

Many others lived in Charlotte, but **Jean Brooks Greenleaf** had a summer residence and farm near Beach Avenue. It was there that the Charlotte Political Equality Club was formed on September 15, 1892. She had worked with Susan B. Anthony and was Vice-President of the Charlotte Equality Club and was President of the Rochester club for 3 years before being elected President of the New York State Woman Suffrage Association in 1890. The Greece Historical Society installed an historic marker at her former farm on Greenleaf Road, on the grounds of Lakeshore Country Club in 2018.

Three Monroe County Annual Conventions were held in Greece in the Village of Charlotte, two at Lake Methodist Church in 1893 and 1897 and one at the Presbyterian Church in 1909. Although New York State had already passed universal suffrage on November 6, 1917, almost three years before the 19th amendment was ratified, the citizens of Rochester had voted against giving women the right to vote!

A book entitled Winning the Vote in Greece is available in the gift shop. Written by **Maureen Whalen** and **Marie Poinen**, it features detailed information on each of the fourteen local suffragists.



Historic marker photo & book cover courtesy **Gina DiBella/Greece Historical Society**. Rochester D&C headline August 19, 2020

GHS Happenings



Census 2020 traveling exhibit was on loan during August from the Rochester Regional Library Council. GHS is doing our part in promoting the 2020 US Census.



Correction

The photographs in the story about Manitou Beach in the July-Aug 2020 Corinthian were labeled incorrectly. The photographs were not at Manitou Beach. They were shown to merely illustrate a typical Park Band event and an Orphan's day picnic and were incorrectly labeled "at Manitou Beach."

GHS Board Members

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Greece Food Shelf



The Greece Historical Society is still collecting food for the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf. If you can spare a few items, drop off your donations of canned food (and only canned food, please) at any time to the front porch of the Greece Museum. Thank you for your help during this time of critical need. Our friends and neighbors have donated approximately 1,200 pounds of food since April.

For more information about the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf, go to <https://www.facebook.com/greecefoodshelf/>

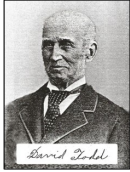
The Victorian "Survivor" on the Ridge

by Alan Mueller

More than 170 years is a long time for a structure to survive on West Ridge Road. Directly across from the south end of North Avenue at 3349 West Ridge is one of those survivors, a house built of brick in the Victorian-Italianate style, a very popular style of that period, especially for upscale homes.



The Todd-Casey-Craig House circa 2010



Built by David Todd, it once was part of a substantial farm. The Todd name disappeared long ago in town history. No street carries the name, let alone a public building. In the late 19th century a large volume titled "The History of Monroe County, N.Y. illustrated" was published. Within its pages are several paragraphs on the Todd family and specifically David Todd, plus a double page lithograph of the vast acreage, the farmstead, and out-buildings as they appeared in an 1877 artist's rendering.

David Todd was born in Peekskill, Westchester County in April 1820. With his Scotland-born parents he moved west with them six years later to Genesee County. He married Elisa Speer in 1843, daughter of Abram Speer, an early settler in Greece, and engaged in farming for himself on a seventy-acre tract, not far from the family homestead. By the 1850s the elegant brick house was the home of David and Elisa, plus two daughters, Mary Frances, who never married and Sarah Elizabeth, who married Thomas Pryor of Greece. He kept buying and selling adjacent real estate until he finally owned 340 acres of fine farmland. Mr. Todd became interested in town government. He was town supervisor of Greece in 1874 and 1875.

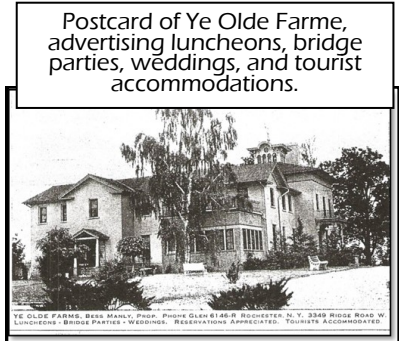
Eliza Todd died in 1884, leaving David a wealthy widower living with his unmarried daughter.

At the age of 60, he decided to leave farming and sold the house and extensive property for \$40,000 (over \$1,000,000 in today's money). He and his daughter, Mary, moved to Rochester. He spent the rest of his retirement at his Fulton Avenue home, dying at age 79, on March 21, 1899. Little is known of the Ridge Road property until a Mr. James D. Casey is shown owning 206 acres in the very early 1900s.

William H. Craig enters the picture as the last of the owners of 3349 Ridge Road West to operate the farmland. William H. Craig was the son of Charles and Mary Craig, born in Cobourg, Ontario, Canada. Craig and Mary hailed from Ireland. William was an entrepreneur like his father. He ran a livery stable and managed his father's hotels in Charlotte. He helped to develop Ontario Beach Park into an amusement park. Loving horses, he had many winning racehorses. While running a successful livery business for 16 years, he was elected an alderman for the Fourth Ward for four years. Albany called and he was assistant sergeant-at-arms of the New York State Capitol from 1897 to 1900. Sheriff of Monroe County (1906-1908) was his next job. Then in 1908 he became the superintendent of the Monroe County Penitentiary on South Avenue, Rochester. He purchased the Ridge Road farm about 1912 and sent his only son, Charles E. Craig, to Cornell Agricultural School to learn about farming. Now in charge of the farm, Charles made many improvements. There were a variety of crops, including fruit-bearing trees. He also had a herd of high-grade milk cows.

Modern farm implements and crop techniques were put in practice by William's son. William died about 1928 and by the 1930 census the property no longer belonged to the Craig family.

Times were changing by the early 1930s. Greece's population had expanded in the 1920s and many farmers were discovering it was no longer profitable to farm a small acreage, but selling land to a developer had its advantages, putting some money away, they sought factory jobs. The depression halted much of that. The Todd-Casey-Craig property of 206 acres began to shrink in size, until in 1959 it was only about 144.23 feet wide by 170.73 feet deep.



Postcard of Ye Olde Farme, advertising luncheons, bridge parties, weddings, and tourist accommodations.



The 1940 suburban directory lists a Herbert and Bess Manly running "Ye Olde Farme" tearoom with tourist over-night accommodations available. Remembered by several local folk, the restaurant lasted until the early 1950s.

Greece Press ad - June 21, 1935

In the last almost seventy years it has been "remuddled" into a number of apartments by several different owners. Ridge Road went from barely a two lane, dirt wagon trail to four wide lanes. The house that David built over looks **The Ridge**, and weathers storms, pollutions, and humans!

Greece Historical Society
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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

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

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