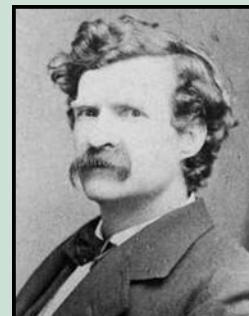


January 12, 2021, 7:00 p.m. via "ZOOM"

Mark Twain's Civil War by Rosemary Irwin

To this day, US casualty rates in the Civil War have exceeded those of all the other wars our nation has known combined. Young men in America would have been on the Confederate Side, the Union side, or might have escaped the battles and lived the Gold Rush reality of the western settlers. Mark Twain once boasted: "I am not an American; I am THE American." Amazingly he was at different times rebel, union, and Gold Rush westerner. Much of the way we see the Civil War is directly related to Mark Twain—from Huckleberry Finn to his publishing of Ulysses S. Grant's war memoir. Join us for a discussion of Mark Twain's Civil War via Zoom.



Rosemary Irwin lectures throughout our local area on topics as varied as health care, history, art, and technology. She has also facilitated classes created by Harvard, Stanford, and Humanities New York, translating complex material into lively non-academic discussions. Since 2012, her mission has been "to give lifetime learners a reason to be in the room."

REGISTRATION REQUIRED Go to <http://greecepubliclibrary.org>, click on "Events," then "Calendar," go to January 12 to register.

Direct link: <http://greecepubliclibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=9792&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2021/01/01>

Thursday, January 21st, 2021 7:00 p.m. Virtual Event via ZOOM* Annual Member Meeting

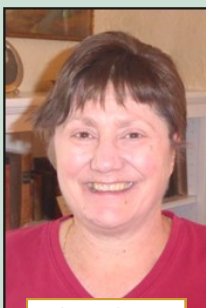
On Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., we will hold our annual meeting via ZOOM where you can receive a copy of our 2020 Annual Report, view a photo montage of our activities from 2020 and hear about our future plans. A financial report will be presented by our treasurer, Bill Peck, and an election of trustees will be conducted. Trustees serve a term of three years. Those currently seeking re-election are: **Bill Sauers, Gretchen Kozlowski, Sandy Peck, and Pam O'Sullivan** and one new member **Dave Richardson**.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED Email greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com for log-in and password.

Meet our candidates:



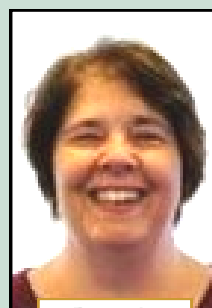
Bill
Sauers



Gretchen
Kozowski



Sandra
Peck



Pamela
O'Sullivan



David
Richardson

"President's Message"

I am sure we are all glad 2020 is over, but I am afraid that things will not be changing much in the near future. Here at GHS we have tried the best we could to engage our members with on-line presentations, and have the museum open for short periods of time, with restrictions, of course. This coming year may be no different.

We do need to look at our operation differently for the near future. We still plan to hold our Tuesday evening programs (via Zoom) and continue our monthly Corinthian, but we probably will not hold our annual strawberry festival and it looks like sit down pasta dinner fundraisers are out for the foreseeable future.



Nevertheless, we do have some interesting projects this coming year including:

- ◆ Printing copies of our awarding winning study on Architect James Johnson that we hope to sell to local libraries and a select audience. This project was made possible by a grant from the Rochester Community Foundation.
- ◆ We plan to document some lost local history by finishing a report funded by the Greece Central School District on the history of the old School 5 building on Latta Road, demolished last year.
- ◆ We started a new project at the end of last year; we are preparing a Cultural Resource Survey of the architecture of Rochester's first African American architect, Thomas W. Boyde, Jr. This project is funded by grants awarded by the Preservation League of New York State and their program partners at the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and the Rochester Area Community Foundation.
- ◆ We have applied for a grant to have the Greece Post (1967-2009) scanned and made available on <https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>. This project involves coordinating with the Rochester Regional Library Council, Rochester's Central Library, Local History & Genealogy Division, and the New York Historic Newspaper project. If the grant is awarded, within a year, this collection of local newspapers should be available online and word searchable to anyone free of charge.
- ◆ Working with the State Historian's office, we are still seeking stories of your experiences during the COVID pandemic.
- ◆ With a team to help, we hope to start working on updating "Eight Miles Along the Shore" and have it ready for the Town's bicentennial in 2022.

The goal of the Greece Historical Society is to "save our past for the future." Projects like these go a long way in fulfilling that goal and in some cases go beyond just the Town of Greece. Although we won't be able to continue with "business as usual" in the new year, with your support, the Greece Historical Society will continue to seek innovative ways to preserve and share the history of our town.

Thank you to all our members, friends, community organizations and businesses for supporting the Greece Historical Society.

HAPPY NEW YEAR and please stay safe!

Bill Sauers, President



Gregg H. Redmond PLLC

ghredmond@yahoo.com
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"Museum Shop"



The holidays are here, and we will be closed until March. If you are "desperate" to buy any of our local history books you can check out our website and order with PayPal, as some of our books are available there, or email us at greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com.

The Friends of the Library no longer have our books for sale. With all the donations they have received recently, they have very little space for our books. Maybe in the future they will again carry our books.

Our closing will allow us to inventory our items and look for some new ideas that might be interesting to our customers. We are always open to any ideas that you may have on items that we could offer for sale in our Museum Shop.

Winter is here...stay in and stay safe and warm.

As always, we are open Sundays 1:30 - 4:00 pm; please stop by (with your mask, of course).

Wendy Peeck
Shop Coordinator

History Quote

"History is waiting to be made as each new opportunity passes before us." ~*William Jennings II*

Our Calendar

NOTE: Our museum is closed until March 7, 2021.

We will maintain office hours, Mondays 10:00 a.m. till noon.

To make an appointment send an email to:

greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

All programs will be conducted via Zoom. Registration required.
To register go to our web page calendar for instructions.

Tuesday, January 12, Mark Twain and the Civil War by **Rosemary Irwin**

Thursday, January 21, Annual Membership Meeting

Tuesday, February 9, "Everyday People: The Dinkle Family and Rochester's African American Past"

Tuesday, March 9, Carousels of Monroe County by **Linda Dawley**

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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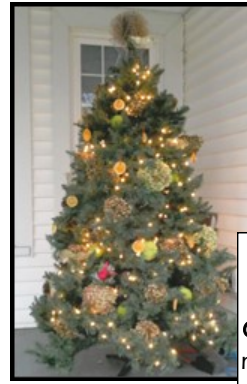
Celebrate life. MeesonFamily.com

GHS Happenings



Gordon Howe Jr., shown here with **Alan Mueller**, recently stopped by to donate artifacts that his family used in their home, now our museum. He also donated some photographs of his father with other local dignitaries.

Shown also is Alan reviewing, recording, and accessioning the items.



Thank you to all the ladies from **Lakeview Garden Club** for decorating our front porch.



Kathy Firkins decorating our living room Christmas Tree.



Museum Closing December 20 through February 2021

The Greece Museum will be closed during January and February. *(Unless we are required to close sooner because of COVID restrictions)* We plan to re-open to the public with regular Sunday hours on March 7, 2021. We can still accommodate small private tours during January and February by appointment only. Call 585-225-7221.

CLOSED
WILL REOPEN
MARCH 7TH

We do, however, plan to maintain our regular 10:00 a.m. until noon Monday office hours. We will also conduct our annual meeting on Thursday, January 21 via Zoom and continue our Tuesday evening programs via Zoom on January 14 and February 11. If you want to schedule a private tour, email greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com.

GHS Board Members

William M. Sauers *(President)*
Tom Sawnor *(Vice President)*
Gretchen Kozlowski *(Secretary)*
Bill Peeck *(Treasurer)*
Cynthia Shevlin *(Newsletter Editor)*
Paula Smith
Ruth Curchoe
Jack Wallenhorst
Gregg Redmond, Esq.
Pam O'Sullivan
Sandy Peck
Deborah Whitt
Donald C. Newcomb *(Honorary Trustee)*

Thank You

During the first weeks of the pandemic lock down (New York Pause) we realized that nearby community drop off points for the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf, Inc. were unavailable. So, the Greece Historical Society partnered with the Food Shelf and placed a donation box on the front porch of our museum. From April through November more than 2,000 pounds of food was donated by our neighbors. It was our way of helping those in the community in need.

Many thanks to everyone for their generosity.



Greece History

Rotobowling Never Quite Caught on in Greece by Bill Sauers

In the late 1940s, as bowling was becoming more popular, the residents of Greece had several choices of where to bowl, including Boem's on Edgemere Drive and the Charlotte bowling hall on Stutson Street. Along the Ridge there was the Lyon's Den, Domm Brothers, and Ridge Bowling, but with no AC and the dependence on pin boys, they were not what anyone today would call truly modern. The first truly "modern" bowling hall in the Town of Greece was first proposed by the Fasano family. Their plan would not only bring a modern bowling hall to the town, but at the same time introduce a new game that might revolutionize the bowling industry.

In 1946, **Michael Fasano** and his sons, **Ernest and Donato**, purchased the Lee property at the intersection of Dewey Avenue, Maiden Lane and Stone Road and within a year proposed building a "Huge" Shopping Plaza which would include a 24 alley bowling hall. The facility would not be the standard bowling game, however, but a new revolutionary game called Rotobowling.

First patented by **Orville Whittle** of Florida and being franchised around the country, it was unlike regulation bowling. The game used a 94-foot carpeted alley with lights along the edge, rubber cushion banks on each side, and hazard pins suspended over the courts. The balls were propelled down the alley with a device that looked similar to an upright vacuum cleaner. The game was dependent upon a player's ability to bank shots rather than on physical ability. Scoring combined the total number of pins downed and the number of times the ball was banked.

It seems the Fasinos had some trouble explaining the game to the Town leaders who had the mistaken impression that it was a gambling game with an elaborate pay-off device. Gambling of any kind, including bingo, was illegal in New York State at the time. There was also the fear that the bar in the facility would be too close to Barnard School. By the time things were worked out with the Town, the Fasinos began to realize there was no future in the game. They probably discovered that people were not amused with a noiseless game that took no physical effort.

The Fasinos then looked for other opportunities and in 1954 opened their plaza with a new modern Loblaw's grocery, Cramer's Drug Store and several other stores, including a restaurant with a bar. We can wonder if the Fasano's realized that as they opened their plaza, bowling was in fact, being revolutionized. Down the road a mile and a half, Sam Mink at his Ridge Bowling Hall was introducing the Rochester area public to the AMF "pinspotter", the first automatic pin setting machine, the single most revolutionary item in bowling history.

Modern bowling halls would eventually come to Greece, but not without a struggle. In 1956 Schantz Construction proposed a bowling hall opposite the new Northgate plaza and in 1957 a hall was proposed at McCall and Stone Roads on the Frear Estate. They were both opposed by neighbors and the Town. But soon Dewey Gardens and nearby Terrace Gardens were opened, followed by Maiden Lanes in 1960.

History has all but forgotten the Rotobowling game, and the Fasino's proposed plan. Luckily for the Fasinos, they realized the public didn't want to play their game and gave up their Rotobowling franchise before construction began. They did build a plaza, and although the tenants changed throughout the years, the plaza itself lasted nearly a half century.



This is a condensed version of a story that first appeared in the November 9, 2006 Greece Post



Greece Historical Society
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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)

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

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

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