

# THE CORINTHIAN

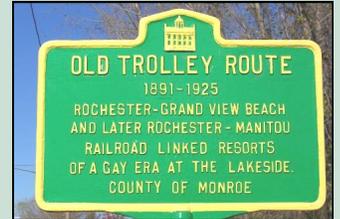
## GREECE HISTORICAL SOCIETY and MUSEUM

### January 2016

**Tuesday, January 12th 7:00 p.m. Greece Public Library**

***"Come along and Ride This Train"* The Story of the Manitou Trolley  
by Bill Sauers**

During the summer months from 1891 to 1925 an electric trolley ran from Charlotte to Manitou Beach. All but forgotten in this 21<sup>st</sup> century, it was the major transportation route for eight miles along the lakeshore. "Come along and ride this train" and learn about a fascinating time and the legacy the trolley left behind in our resort neighborhood of long ago.



Bill Sauers, a lifelong Greece resident, is president of the Greece Historical Society and a member of the Town of Greece Preservation Commission.

Please note that **pre-registration is required for this program**. Register online at the Greece Public Library website <http://www.greecepubliclibrary.org/> Click on calendar, click on event, or call the library at 585-225-8951. Please register each person attending.

#### Volume 37, Issue 1

#### January 2016

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### January 2016

**Monday, January 25th 7:00 p.m. Greece Public Library**

#### Third Odenbach Program Scheduled!

The attendance at the "**History of the Odenbach Shipbuilding Corporation**" by Marie Poinan has been overwhelming. With overflow crowds on both Sept 8th and Sept 21st, we have scheduled a third presentation for **Monday, January 25th, 2016** at the Greece Public Library. Reservations will now be required through the Greece Public Library (see page 2).



The Odenbach Shipbuilding Corporation, on Dewey Avenue, built tankers, tugs, landing barges and marine cranes from 1942 until 1947. Learn about the variety of marine equipment built in Greece and how this facility employed thousands and contributed to the war effort. (more on page 5)

Please note that **pre-registration is required for this program**. Register online at the Greece Public Library website <http://www.greecepubliclibrary.org/> Click on calendar, click on event, or call the library at 585-225-8951. Please register each person attending.

## **"President's Message"**



One of the joys of volunteering at the Greece Historical Society is engaging with the younger people who visit and volunteer at our museum. This past year we have conducted tours for over 500 students from Greece Schools.

It's fun and interesting to try to explain what a Victrola is or what life was like before electric refrigeration and to see their wonder and curiosity of a dial telephone. We specially enjoy when the students enthusiastically bring their parents back to the museum after their class visit.

We helped several high school students fulfill their "Citizens in Action" requirements by helping in the museum shop or acting as docents and greeters while they learned important skills in interacting with the public.

This past year we welcomed the Athena Junior High History Club, who spent an afternoon exploring our museum and taking notes. We were pleased to see several young people who came to hear and talk to World War II veterans Jack Foy and Wally Rust tell about their experiences. In October, many families were able to see and hear "Buffalo Bill" recount "his" true life story.

We sponsored Boy Scout Venturing Crew #1910, who have used our building for meetings and were an extra big help at the strawberry festival. We finished a yearlong program with the School of the Holy Childhood having students learn how to photograph and catalog our collection.

A special treat was a 10-12 year old young man who came by this fall and requested a special personal tour, followed by his return a week later to conduct his own tour for his friend.

We hear so much and sometimes worry about what the next generation will become; but the young people we have worked with and met this year show a lot of promise. We truly look forward to meeting more this coming year.

**Bill Sauers, President**

## **"Museum Events"**

Museum and Museum Shop hours:

Sunday **1:30 - 4p.m.**

GHS office hours: Mon-Tue 9:30 a.m.-Noon

Museum and Museum Shop also open office hours.

### **Museum Closed** **January 2016**

We are taking a short break to make some changes to the museum, do a little house cleaning and get ready for our next exhibit. Our museum will be closed during the month of January. We will re-open Sunday February 7th, 2016. If you need to contact us for any reason, call the office at 225-7221 or e-mail [greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com) and we will get back to you.

### **2016**

**Tuesday, Jan 12th** Greece Library 7:00 pm  
The Legacy of the Manitou Trolley by **Bill Sauers**

**Thursday, Jan 21st** Greece Museum 7:00 pm  
Greece Historical Society **Annual Meeting**

**Monday, Jan 25th** Greece Library 7:00 pm  
Odenbach Shipbuilding Corporation  
by **Marie Poinan**  
(see page 4)

**Tuesday, Feb. 9th** Greece Library 7:00 pm  
The Story of the Cobourg Ferry by **Tom Brewer**

**Sunday, February 28th** Greece Museum 2:00 pm  
"Puff the Sea Lion" by **Mary Ellen Ostrander**

### **\*Pre-registration now Required for Programs at the Library**

Due to the success of our Tuesday programs we now ask you to pre-register for our programs held at the Greece Public Library. In most cases we hope last minute registration or even walk ins may not be a problem, but early registration is the best way to insure you get to enjoy our great speakers. We are grateful to the staff at the Greece Library for accommodating us and for their help with the registration process.

Call the Greece Library at 585-225-8951 or go online at <http://www.greecepubliclibrary.org>, click on the calendar link, click on the event and follow the instructions. *Please register individually for each person attending the program.* The Library will e-mail you a reminder or advise of last minute changes or weather related cancellations.

## "Our Museum Community"

### Annual Meeting Thursday, January 21, 2016

On Thursday, On Jan 21st at 7:00 p.m., our annual meeting will be held at our historic center, 595 Long Pond Rd, where you can receive a copy of our 2015 Annual Report, view a photo montage of our activities from 2015 and hear about our plans for the future. A financial report will be presented by our treasurer **Bill Peeck** and an election of four trustees will be conducted. Trustees serve a term of three years.

Those currently seeking re-election are **Bill Peeck**, **Ruth Curchoe** and **Paula Smith**; **Deborah Whitt** will be serving for the first time.



**Bill Peeck** is a retired Eastman Kodak Business Analyst, and a retired US Army Finance Corp Officer. As a volunteer for the Historical Society since 2004, he has been on the Historical Society Finance Committee since 2014, and has served as acting Treasurer since mid-year 2015.



**Deborah Whitt** has owned and operated an insurance agency here in Greece as a State Farm Insurance Agent. She is a member of the Society of Financial Service Professionals, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the Greece Rotary Club, and Jack and Jill of Rochester where she encourages and participates in leadership, literacy programs, and legislative initiatives.

A longtime supporter to the United Way, St Joseph Villa, GEVA Theatre, and past board member of Bivona Child Advocacy Center, Deborah currently serves on the board of the Community Microenterprise Center, Inc.

**Ruth Curchoe** is a retired nurse who has been volunteering with the Greece Historical Society for several years. She is actively involved in our governance and marketing committees and recently began helping with the membership database. Her interests besides history include painting and assisting Braddock Bay Raptor Research in educating the community about eagles, owls and hawks .



**Paula Smith** retired in 2009 after 37 years as a librarian. Her last position was director of the Monroe County Library System/Rochester Public Library. Paula has volunteered at the Greece Historical Society since 2011 and is actively involved in our governance and marketing committees.

## THANK YOU to the BUSINESSES that have SUPPORTED the Greece Historical Society

American Custom Interiors & Exteriors  
Fleming Point  
**Greece Chamber of Commerce\***  
**JackCin Tax Service\***  
**Legacy at Park Crescent\***  
**Long Pond Auto Body\***  
Long Pond Family Restaurant  
**Mark DeNeve\***  
Mark IV Enterprises  
Mel's Diner  
**North Ridge Glass\***  
Northwest Savings Bank (Long Pond Rd)  
**Party Productions\***  
Special T Cakes & Desserts  
The Signery  
**The Villages at Unity\***  
Tim Horton's (Long Pond Rd)  
Tops Friendly Markets (Mt Read Blvd)  
**Ultimate Interiors\***  
**Vay-Schleich & Meeson Funeral & Cremation Chapels\***  
Wegman Food Markets (Latta Rd)  
(\* denotes Business Member)

## "Museum Shop"



Well, the traditional shopping season is over. We had many guests purchase gifts from our Shop during our Holiday Open House. It's great that people look for memorable gifts for their family.

In the new year, we still have many memorable items to purchase. Stop by, we'd love to meet you.

**Wendy Peck, Museum Shop Coordinator**

**Museum Shop hours: Sun 1:30-4:00, Mon-Tue 9:30-12**



Greece Historical Society volunteers, **Paula Smith, Maureen Whalen and Bill Sauers**, met with several other local museum professionals on Tuesday, November 3rd to discuss local and

regional museum issues. The event was sponsored by the Museum Association of New York.

**Boy Scout Troup 18** from Lakeview Community Church spent a Saturday morning in October spreading new mulch and topsoil on one of our gardens. The garden has been beautifully maintained by **Lakeview Garden Club** for a number of years and is now being completely redone and will be ready in the spring for new plantings.



A portion of the funds for the work was provided by a grant from the 7th District of the Federated Garden Clubs. Thank you to Troup 18 and Lakeview Garden Club for enhancing the beauty our building and the Greece Town Campus.



**Historian Alan Mueller** enjoyed a conversation with **Senator Joe Robach** during our volunteer reception on November 16th.

## Officers & Board of Trustees

President:	Bill Sauers
Vice President:	Sandy Peck
Secretary:	Paula Smith
Treasurer:	Bill Peck
Executive Director:	Needed
Honorary Trustee:	Don Newcomb
Trustees:	Ruth Curchoe
	Pam O'Sullivan
	Sandy Peck
	Gregg Redmond
	Bill Sauers
	Tom Sawnor
	Cyndie Shevlin
	Paula Smith
	Betty Tudisco
	Jack Wallenhorst

### Committee Chairs:

Grounds	Bill Peck
Historian Office	Alan Mueller
Membership	Kathy Kier
Museum Shop	Wendy Peck
Newsletter	Cyndie Shevlin
Programs	Bill Sauers
Publicity	Marge Zercie
Registrar	Lee Strauss
Tours, Education	Kathie Firkins
	Linda Evans

## Please Remember

the **Greece Historical Society** in your tax and estate planning. We are a non-profit organization supported by your gifts and endowments\*.

**We sincerely appreciate your donations.**

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

For newsletter input only, please contact:

**corintheditor@yahoo.com**

**Cyndie Shevlin, Editor**

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

## "Tours and Education"

### TOURS:

The World War II Exhibit drew many visitors to the museum. On Monday, December 7th, the 74th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, we had a group of seniors from Messiah Lutheran Church. Their primary interest was the World War II Exhibit but they were also very interested in the other areas that we have. Many of them had never been to the museum before, saying the common phrase "I can't tell you how many times I drive by here and say I am going to stop but never do". We were glad that they decided to visit us.

The last tour was a group of Cub Scouts who came on Sunday, our Open House day. I started the tour early but fortunately for them when the tour finished they were able to meet **Mr. George Haines**, one of the veterans. He talked to them about what it was like to be in the War and about the weapons which the boys loved. Afterwards they all shook his hand and thanked him for his service. **Maureen Whalen** was also on hand and pointed out many interesting facts to them. **Marie Poinan** talked to them about the how the Odenbach Ship Building business was important during the War.

### EDUCATION:

We will be working on getting the Agriculture Exhibit up and running for the opening of the museum on February 7th, 2016.

**Kathie Firkins, Education Consultant and Tour Director**

### Third Odenbach Program Scheduled (Cont'd)

As an added bonus a portion of the Odenbach display that has been part of out "Our Town in World War II" exhibit will be featured in the Greece Public Library during the month of January.

Although the World War II exhibit is over, the Home Front and Odenbach Shipbuilding portions will be retained as part of the ongoing museum exhibits.



### Hometown Sports by Tom Sawnor

Planning for our next major exhibit continues. "Hometown Sports of Greece, N.Y." should open in the spring or early summer of 2016. We are looking for a few more volunteers to help research our local athletes and coaches and we need help assembling the exhibit and displaying memorabilia.

If your are interested in local sports and want to help with this fun exhibit, email Tom Sawnor at [tsawnor@rochester.rr.com](mailto:tsawnor@rochester.rr.com) or call 585-730-0157.

### GHS books available at "Second Hand Prose"

Thanks to collaboration between the **Friends of the Greece Public Library** and the Greece Historical Society, the "Friends" have agreed to sell several of our books at their **Second Hand Prose** book store at the library.

For those of you who have trouble getting to our museum shop on Sunday afternoons, a few of our books and publications are available for purchase any time the library book store is open.

Thank you to our "Friends" for helping to promote our town's history by supporting the Greece Historical Society.

## **"From the Historian's File"**

### **The Dance years at the Elmheart - Manitou Dance Pavilion**

The Elmheart Hotel was built about the same time as the Manitou Beach Trolley line was constructed, circa 1890. George Weidman Sr. and his brother-in-law, Michael O'Loughlin ran a saloon on State Street in the city and decided to invest in property on Lake Ontario. They purchased the Elmheart Hotel in 1903, running it from May to October (the usual Trolley season). The families lived on Lyell Ave. "Mike" O'Loughlin was one of Mary Weidman's younger brothers. The 1915 census does not list George Weidman senior, but does list George F., age 22, as a partner in the hotel business, along with his Uncle Mike. Prohibition was in full swing by the early 1920s, but the hotel prospered in spite of the ban on alcohol beverages. Mike O'Loughlin never married and always lived with his sister and family. The combined families maintained the home at 529 Lyell Ave. through at least the early 1940s.

The onset of the depression in 1929-30 brought changes to the lake side hotel business. Automobile travel and better roads spelled the demise of the Manitou Beach trolley in 1925. Mary Weidman, who was George's mother, passed away in the late 1920s leaving George and his uncle as proprietors of the hotel. The dancing craze, which became an almost worldwide craze, had begun about 1910. It would retain its popular appeal well into the 1940s. George, who had taken over the day to day operation of the hotel from his uncle, (Mike was then in his early sixties), felt it was time to build a new dance hall. An earlier hall had been on the property. A new and larger dance pavilion was built in 1932. The rather old fashioned 1890's hotel facade was shorn of its quaint gingerbread trim; a second floor porch and tower came down and the porches were fully screened in. The grounds were improved; an addition of a water slide into the lake, changing rooms for bathers and an enlarged refreshment stand added to the attractions. The Reis Brother's Carousel was moved near the beach and continued to be an attraction, as it had been since the early 1900s.

The huge attraction was the dance pavilion. Dances were held weekly on Friday and Saturday and at other special times. The hall also catered to special parties and dances. Admission was fifty cents each in 1932 and dropped even lower as the depression continued into the 1930s. The nearby Odenbach Hotel, with its large, lake front restaurant also provided dancing. The competition apparently didn't hurt either of them greatly. George seemed to have a good ear and was savvy about attracting name bands to his "off the beaten track" location. Among the numerous name bands of the '30s and early '40s that played at the Manitou Dance Pavilion were: Les Brown, Benny Goodman, Henry Bussie, Ina Rae Hutton, Jack Teagarden and Chick Webb (Ella Fitzgerald was the vocalist). One of the biggest draws was the Jimmy Lunceford Band, a very innovative Black Orchestra. According to Mr. Weidman's own recollection years later, "Jimmy Lunceford's group played at Manitou six times!"

Curtailed driving and the draft during World War II saw the gradual end of dance halls and the Big Band Era. After the war a much diminished schedule of dances was resumed but eventually George closed the dance hall, except for an occasional party or dance. It was used for winter boat storage by 1970.

George lived on in the hotel with his sister, Edna for a long time after their Uncle Mike had passed on. He kept the bar room open on weekends and then only to people he knew or liked. George passed on in 1986. His sister inherited the closed hotel. Eventually it was sold and not long after a fire destroyed it. The same ending happened to the Dance hall a couple of years after that.

Not one of the hotels along Greece's north Lake Ontario shore survived. There isn't much to see where the dance hall and hotel once stood. A sagging chain link fence, some cement pilings in the lake that helped anchor the wooden pier into the lake and scrub bushes make for a melancholy scene. The waves along the shore might echo Lunceford's band "jivin' through" some of their tunes: Runnin' a Temperature, Slumming on Park Avenue or Frisco Fog! ....but the memory of those are now off shore!

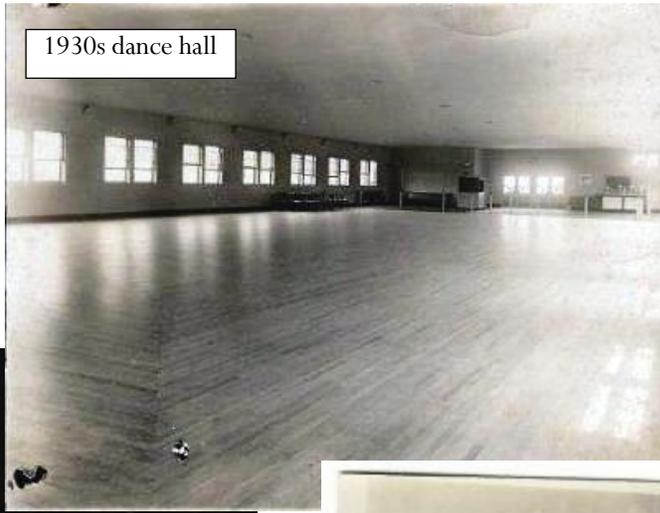
See photos on page 7....

Photos, data supplied by **Alan Mueller**, Historian's Office. If you have any information on our photos, call Alan at 663-1706.

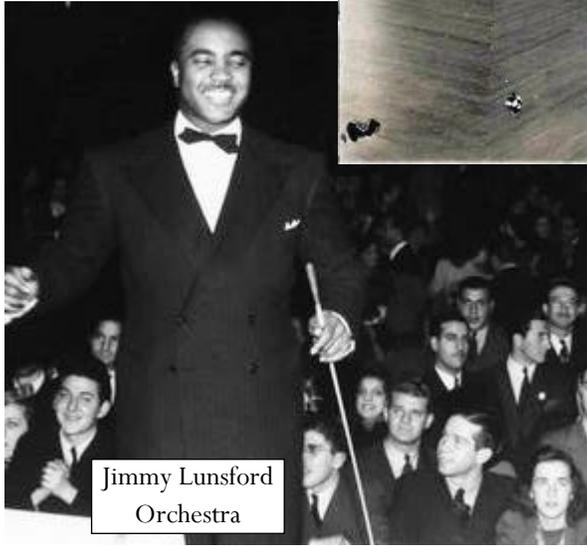
# "Historian's File Photos"

All of the photos are from a large group recently donated to the GHS from the widow of Randy Price, who was a close friend of George Weidman in later years.

1930s dance hall



Krupka, Benny Goodman at the Manitou Dance Pavilion 1937



Jimmy Lunsford Orchestra



Manitou Dance Hall 1932

Carousel - Manitou Beach 1925



Refreshment Stand 1937

George Weidman



Mike O'Loughlin, L Wintish 1945

Elmheart Hotel 1930s



