

The Corinthian

GREECE HISTORICAL SOCIETY and MUSEUM



Tuesday, October 8, 7:00 p.m. Greece Public Library

The Lost Wineries of the Genesee Country by Jane Oakes

The story of New York's commercial wineries does not begin in Naples or Hammondsport, NY. Meet the forgotten commercial winemakers of Greece, York, Pavilion, Rochester, Charlotte, Irondequoit, Dansville, and other local towns, who sold their prize-winning wines across the country. Learn, too, about the grape varieties they used which have gained new popularity and accolades in modern wine competitions. Guaranteed to surprise you!



Jane Oakes has been involved with historic education for over forty years, beginning with volunteer work as a teen at the Valentown Museum in Victor. She taught classes at the Genesee Country Village & Museum and was a Museum Studies and Local history teacher-consultant for the regional BOCES Gifted and Talented programs.

Greece Historical Society's **50th** Golden Anniversary Celebration Saturday, October 26, 2019

Red Fedele's Brook House
920 Elmridge Center Drive

Cash bar at 5:00 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner at 6:00 p.m.
\$35.00 per person See pages 4 for details.

"President's Message"

September was like no other in our old house at 595 Long Pond Rd. During a recent garden club meeting, the **Monroe County Water Authority** needed to repair the water main in front of our building and shut off the water. Almost simultaneously our security system malfunctioned sending our friends at the **North Greece Fire Department** out to see what the problem was and the security system technician out to fix the problem that evening. A few weeks ago, **Always Safe Sidewalks of NY** fixed a sidewalk tripping hazard. Meanwhile we have contracted to have our back-exit porch rebuilt and are requesting estimates to replace the windows in the museum gift shop. Let's not forget the "emergency" toilet repair on the second floor and a problem with ground bees in the back yard. As luck will have it, in the past month we received two special substantial estates gifts which will help us with some of the needed repairs to the building.



We had a full house for our September Tuesday program about the history of the Greece Police Department. The Athena History Club paid us an after-school visit and our new Prohibition exhibit "Rumrunners, Speakeasies, and Bathtub Gin" opened on Sunday, September 22nd.

We were pleased with the number of ads and sponsorships we received for our anniversary booklet. We are still taking reservations for our 50th anniversary dinner until October 14th. See the reservation form on page 4.

THANK YOU for your continued support.

Bill Sauers, President

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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 Lost Wineries of the Genesee Country Tuesday, Oct 8th **

50th Anniversary Dinner Red Fedele's Brookhouse,
Saturday, October 26th

City Songs & American Life by M. Lasser, Tuesday, Nov. 12th **

The Prohibition Era in Greece by Maureen Whalen,
Sunday, November 17th*

Craft & Collectibles Show Greece Museum,
Saturday, November 23rd

*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.

Celebrate life.

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"Museum Shop"



Autumn is officially here, so it's time to start shopping for your family holiday gifts. Our Craft & Collectibles Show will be November 23rd. You will find lots of items for sale from several of our local crafters. I'm always excited to see their creative ideas. Our Museum Shop will also be open for you to peruse our many local history books. We have a new

exhibit on Prohibition (so perhaps we should only serve coffee!) but we do have some books on the local rum trade.

Mark your calendar for November 23rd, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to shop our annual craft sale.

We are here Sundays 1:30-4:00 pm. and look forward to your visit.

Wendy Peeck,
Museum Shop Coordinator

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

Tours and Education

On Wednesday, Sept 25, the Athena Middle School History Club paid us a visit. It is a pleasure to see so many young people interested in history. Kudos to the teachers, **Andrea Brunette** and **Wendy Barton Novellin**, who spend their time organizing and running the club.

Kathie Firkins,
Education Coordinator



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We greatly value and appreciate your donations*.

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

Join us as we Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Greece Historical Society!

This year the Greece Historical Society is celebrating the **50th Anniversary** of its founding. Your support over the years has played a vital role in the success of our mission, which is *"to preserve the past for the future."*

On behalf of the Executive Officers and Board of Trustees, we invite you to join us in celebrating this milestone anniversary at a dinner to be held **Saturday, October 26th** at **Red Fedele's Brook House**, 920 Elmridge Center Drive in Greece.

The evening will begin with a **Cocktail Hour** at **5:00 p.m.** (cash bar with complimentary cheese tray) followed by a **Buffet Dinner** at **6:00 p.m.** During the cocktail hour, music will be provided by **Richard Tosti**. Guest speaker will include New York State Historian **Devin Lander**. A souvenir program, historical displays and a raffle drawing will also be a part of the evening.

Tickets are \$35.00 each with cash bar and attire is business casual. RSVP on or before October 14th, 2019. For additional information, call **585-225-7221** or email greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

Greece Historical Society 50th Anniversary Dinner Reservation

Saturday, October 26, 2019, Red Fedele's Brook House

Check is enclosed \$ _____ for _____ tickets

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Make check payable to Greece Historical Society and mail to:
Greece Historical Society - 50th Anniversary
PO Box 16249
Greece, NY 14616

Greece History

How Different it Might Have Been

by Bill Sauers

The fall of 1953 was a rapidly changing time for the residents of the town of Greece. The Lake Ontario State Parkway was under construction and contractors had all they could do to build new homes for Greece's growing population, as 100 people a month moved into the town. According to **Ray Cole**, the town's building inspector at the time, 55 new home permits were issued in September alone. Then there was the Northgate Plaza grand opening, a three-day event that drew crowds of up to 75,000. A new shopping complex today would cause little excitement, but back then it was to be the very first suburban shopping center in Monroe County.

Meanwhile, in October, a small group of town citizens would affect the future of Greece. A grass roots group, the Shoremont Association, headed by **Mario Berardi** of Edgemere Drive, was protesting the proposed construction of a factory at Dewey Avenue and Ling Road. It seemed that a 47-year old local company with 800 employees was rapidly outgrowing their plant on Hollenbeck Street and other sites scattered around the City of Rochester.

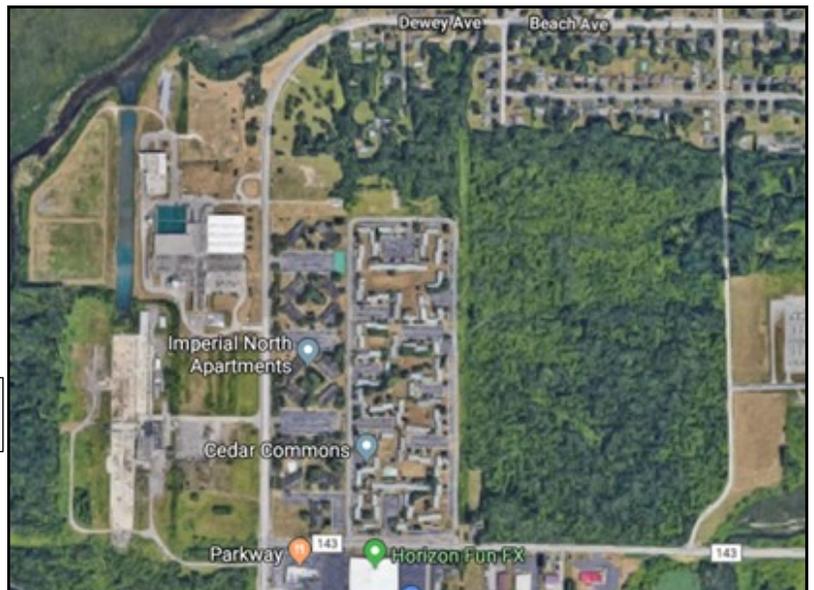
The company had acquired an option on the land and was seeking a zoning change to build their proposed "campus-type" research and production facility. The group of residents was afraid that a factory "would destroy the natural beauty of the lakeshore site, increase traffic, cause a smoke and industrial dirt nuisance and depreciate nearby property values and those of Greece as a whole."

A *Democrat & Chronicle* editorial praised the residents for their opposition to changing the town's zoning laws "that might allow the installation of a big factory in their neighborhood." The editorial stated that "the company was one with a conscience and a sense of civic responsibility. Its officers were public spirited, and it could be taken for granted they would not willingly ruin a great public asset". (Indeed, the president of the company had been mayor of the City only 20 years before). "The citizens were wise to move rapidly in trying to repulse an effort to change the zoning laws." Because of the residents' protest, the company pulled out of the deal and began the search for another site.

Were the right decisions made that first week in October of 1953? Certainly, it would have changed the character of the neighborhood and we now know the site that company had chosen would have been woefully inadequate. Would they have soon abandoned the site when they ran out of room, leaving another empty building, such as the old Odenbach ship building factory that was unoccupied for many years, or would they have continued to expand throughout the town of Greece? We will never know.

The Town of Greece certainly did prosper over the years without that factory, but so did the community that eagerly welcomed it. In 1954, **Joseph C. Wilson**, the president of the Haloid Co. announced his company's plans for a new complex in the town of Webster. Several years later in 1961, the company changed its name to Xerox.

The area as it looks today
(Google Maps)



This is an edited version of a story by me that originally appeared in the Greece Post, Oct 16, 2003.

Museum Photos

September meeting of the **Lakeview Garden Club** at our historic center. They have graciously cared for our front gardens for many years and this year took over the care of the garden in front of our sign.



A big thank you to "**Always Safe Sidewalks of NY**" for their free service of grinding down a tripping hazard on our front sidewalk.



It was a full house on September 10th as Greece Police **Officer Jered Rene** presented the History of the Greece Police Department. He was joined by **Officer Jeff Phillips** with **K9 Ryan** and retired Police **Chief Gerald Phelan** who reminisced about his first days as a police officer. There were also artifacts and photos for our guests to look at.



The Prohibition Era in Greece

Please join us on Sunday, **November 17th** at 2 p.m. at our museum center for a presentation by **Maureen Whalen** on the Prohibition Era in Greece. The program is based on the museum's newest exhibit, *Rumrunners, Speakeasies, and Bathtub Gin*. What a colorful time in our history. Latta Road was condemned as "the highway to hell," the most dangerous gang of rumrunners in Western New York lived in Greece, and police and Coast Guard pursuits often ended with bullets flying.

Maureen spent eight months researching the events and personalities of the time and curated the exhibit with the help of **Joe Vitello, Alan Mueller, Wally Rust, Bill Sauers, and Arnie Ammering**. A special thanks goes to The Signery for making and donating our title sign and curbside signs.



Joe Scanlon brought his 1929 Ford Model-A Deluxe Town Sedan to the opening of our Prohibition exhibit on September 22nd. Thanks, Joe.



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The Signery

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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

Membership Application

(Please print)

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

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(Street) (City/Town) (State) (Zip Code + 4)

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You will receive your membership card and receipt by mail.