

Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 7:00 p.m. via "ZOOM"

Carousels of Monroe County

Join **Linda Bartash-Dawley** on a nostalgic visit to the past and present carousels of Monroe County. In this presentation, visit beloved carousels currently spinning. You'll also meet forgotten carousels at Genesee Valley Park, Ellison Park, Wautoma Beach and many more. The twirl of horses is just part of the fun. Linda will share her love of local carousels in a virtual visit through their history.



Linda Bartash-Dawley is a former newspaper editor who turned her love of carousels into books. Linda grew up in Greece, where she rode the historic carousels at Seabreeze and Ontario Beach Park. She has been researching Monroe County carousels for over 20 years and self-published her first book "Horses in Motion" in 2001. She has published a total of five books about carousel history. She was also a member of the former Town of Greece Historic Preservation Commission for many years.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED Go to <http://greecepubliclibrary.org> click on "Events", then "Calendar", go to March 9 to register. Direct link: <http://greecepubliclibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=9794&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2021/03/01>

The Architecture of James H. Johnson by Katie Eggers Comeau and Christopher Brandt

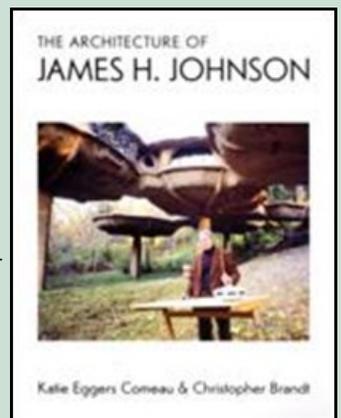
Copies of the State-wide award-winning study of architect **James H. Johnson**, sponsored by the Greece Historical Society, are now available to the public.

The Architecture of James H. Johnson documents the life and work of Rochester, New York's most innovative 20th century architect. In a career spanning nearly 60 years, Johnson designed hundreds of buildings in the greater Rochester area. Johnson's daring, expressive designs remain some of the boldest and most creative contributions to the region's architectural heritage. He is known locally as the designer of Rochester's Liberty Pole, the Antell-Whitman House (better known as the "Mushroom House") in Perinton, St. John the Evangelist Church in Greece, and Temple Sinai in Brighton.

This 170-page book includes 165 color and black-and-white images and brings to light the work of this talented man. The price is

\$35.00 at our museum shop or \$40.00 by mail/ Price includes tax and shipping/handling.

Supply is limited. To order multiple copies of this book, please contact greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com



In May 2012, Mr. Johnson spoke at [St John the Evangelist Church](#) about his career as part of our Tuesday evening lecture series. A recording of that talk is available on the "Archive Program" section of our website. www.greecehistoricalsociety.org

"President's Message"

Let's hope the cold snap is over and we can look forward to springtime. Our museum is now open on Sunday afternoons (closed Easter) and we have already planned for an outdoor class when the weather improves, More on that later.

I have heard several people in the past couple months say that we must not be doing much with the museum closed. The museum is just one part of the Greece Historical Society so there is plenty to do even when the museum is not open to visitors.

Alan Mueller and I have been organizing our collection and files and we have begun preparing for our upcoming membership renewal campaign. This past month we conducted another successful Zoom presentation and posted a recording of it on our website. We have researched and answered several questions from the public and we have received a couple of unique documents from the early years of Greece Olympia High School to add to our local schools' archives. We also submitted our required annual report to the State Education Department.



With a grant from the Community Foundation, we were able to print copies of our New York State award-winning study on the work of architect **James Johnson**. This past month we mailed copies to individuals and organizations that helped with the project and to several academic libraries. The book is now available for the public to purchase (see bookstore on our website). You may remember Mr. Johnson spoke at one of our Tuesday evening programs in 2012 at St John the Evangelist Church. A recorded video of that program is now available on our website.

There have been several meetings with County historians, local historians, and others discussing local history issues and planning, including, with the help of Marie Poinan, preparing some talks on Greece pioneer families. If you are a descendent of an old time Greece family, please email greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com or give us a call at 585-225-7221.

I realize that many of you do not use Zoom; many of our previous programs have been recorded and uploaded to YouTube and are available on our website. I hope you will enjoy these programs that you may have missed.

Bill Sauers, President

Thanks to **John Gilbert** we have one new computer. John has been instrumental in keeping us up to date with our computers and is always available to fix problems as they come up. John also maintains our website. Here he is installing software on a new computer.



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"Museum Shop"



We are ready to open March 7th.

We have some new books, including our new James H. Johnson book and one about local waterfalls in Central & Western New York. Another is about shipwrecks on the Great Lakes, always interesting reading.

We have also ordered more 1902 Town of Greece map posters. It's always fun to look at the names on the roads from when farming was the main focus in Greece.

Winter is here...stay in and stay warm. We'll see you March 7, 1:30-4:00 (with masks).

Wendy Peeck
Shop Coordinator



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CALL 500-HELP
4 3 5 7
1775 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624

Our Calendar

NOTE: Our museum is open effective March 7, 2021.

Closed Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021

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

Tuesday, April 13, Rochester Goes to Washington (a Supreme Court case) by **James Valenti**

Tuesday, May 11, From Park Avenue to Parkridge by **Kathleen Britton**

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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Our February 9 Zoom program featured **Michelle Finn** and **Emily Morry** from the Local History and Genealogy Division of the Rochester Public Library with **Karen Dinkle Bunton** and **Jerry Bunton** discussing the Dinkle family's life in Rochester and the creation "Everyday People", an exhibit at the Rochester Public Library.

A recording of this program is available on our website under "Program Archives".

History Quote

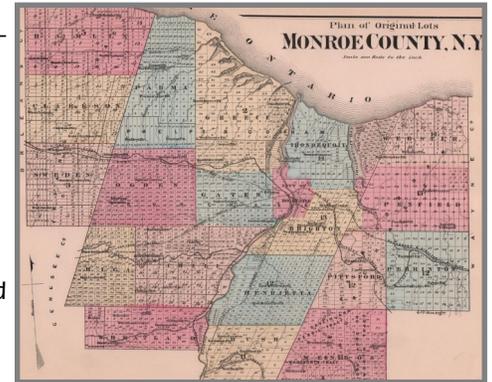
"When you help a child, you write the history of tomorrow."

~Father Flanagan

Happy Birthday To Monroe County! by Marie Poinan

On February 23, 2021, we celebrated the Bicentennial of the founding of Monroe County. Named for **President James Monroe**, the county was carved out of land taken from both Ontario and Genesee Counties; it became a new county on February 23, 1821 by decree of the New York State Legislature.

After the Revolutionary War, a treaty of 1783 established the Great Lakes as the north-western border of the United States. This treaty was referred to as "The Thirteen Council Fires" by Native Americans who were attempting to peacefully co-exist with the former colonists. Unscrupulous speculators often attempted to swindle the natives by tricking them into surrendering their land, not to mention the fact that **George Washington** had sent **General Sullivan** into western New York to forcibly remove the Seneca by burning their crops and destroying their villages.



Land speculators **Oliver Phelps** and **Nathaniel Gorham** purchased over six million acres

in western NY from Massachusetts in 1788. The land extended all the way from Lake Ontario at the north to the Pennsylvania state line on the south. Phelps also negotiated a treaty with the Seneca, who had originally refused to sell any land west of the Genesee River. Phelps "convinced" the Native Americans to part with an area 12 miles wide by 28 miles long for the construction of a mill on the west side of the Genesee. This area became known as the "mill seat tract" and was the site of the first mill built by **Ebenezer "Indian" Allan** in 1789 (the site was just west of today's Court Street Bridge).

When Phelps and Gorham were unable to pay their debts, their unsold lots were sold to **Robert Morris** of Philadelphia in 1790. Morris was a financier who quickly turned over the sale of a million acres of Genesee land the very next year to **Sir William Johnstone Pulteney**. Due to a NY State law that said that a foreigner could not pass title to any New York property, **Charles Williamson** became Pulteney's land agent and he held the legal title to the Genesee lands. He opened a land office in Bath, Steuben County.

The settlements on the east side of the Genesee became the Town of Northfield created in 1796. This land was originally a part of Ontario County with the county seat at Canandaigua. It later was known as "Boyle." The towns split off from Northfield were: Penfield (1810), Perinton (1812), Pittsford and Brighton (1814), Henrietta (1818), Irondequoit (1839) and Webster (1840). Mendon was taken from Bloomfield in 1812 and Rush was taken from Avon in 1818.

Settlements on the west side of the Genesee River were part of the Town of Northampton created in 1797. Originally a part of Genesee County, the county seat was at Batavia. Towns split off from Northampton were: Parma and Riga (1808), Gates (1808*), Sweden (1813), Ogden (1817), Clarkson (1819), and Greece and Chili (1822). (The reason for the asterisk after Gates 1808 is because the petition was presented to Albany in 1808, but it took four years to pass in the legislature and an additional year to take effect!) Wheatland was originally called "Inverness" when created in 1821 and Hamlin was originally called "Union" when formed in 1852 before being renamed in 1861. The county seat of Northampton was at Batavia.

In March of 1801, **Abel Rowe** built a cabin in Batavia and **Joseph Ellicott** moved his Holland Land Company office into Rowe's cabin. Abel Rowe soon became a pioneer settler of Gates (later the Town of Greece) and married the daughter of **William Hinch** of Charlotte in 1804. Their son **Asa** would become the famous nurseryman of Ridge Road in Greece.

In 1805, Pulteney land agent **James Wadsworth** (1768-1844) offered land for sale in a letter written at Genesee in 1805. (see page 5, New Lands for Sale photo)

At first, there were very few permanent settlers in our area. Pioneers included **Orringh Stone**, **Daniel Penfield**, **Glover Perrin** and **William Hinch** who built log cabin in 1792 on the bluff where the Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse now stands. The "Genesee Fever" pretty much wiped out the settlers at King's Landing where **Gideon King** and **Zaddock Granger** had bought 6000 acres in 1796. The earliest settlers of the Town of Greece are buried at the Hanford Landing and the Charlotte Village Cemeteries.

The 1971 Monroe County Sesquicentennial booklet, Preface to Tomorrow, referred to our area as: "a God-forsaken place, inhabited by muskrats, visited only by stragglng trappers, and through which neither man nor beast could gallop without fear of starvation, or fever or ague." Nevertheless in 1803, **Charles Carroll**, **William Fitzhugh** and **Nathaniel Rochester** contracted to buy the "Genesee Fall mill tract" property (100 acres) from Sir William Pulteney, through his attorney Robert Troup. (continues, page 5)



Oliver Phelps



Nathaniel Gorham

Greece History (cont'd)

(continued from page 4)

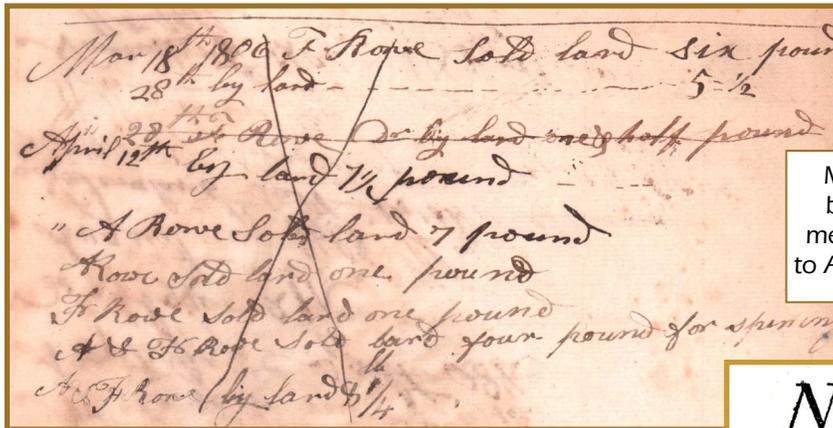
But it was the area's waterways that were key to the early growth of Monroe County. The arrival of the Erie Canal was a huge boon to the local economy by providing a cheap and efficient way to get bountiful crops to market. The waterfalls of the Genesee River provided power to its flour mills, mills that shipped over 200,000 barrels of flour in 1826, the very next year after the Erie Canal opened. Schooners and steamers at the busy port at Charlotte brought in lumber from Canada and exported finished wood from its sawmills and flour from its gristmills.

Early settlers planted fruit orchards and grain fields of wheat and barley. Wheat was ground into flour and the excess was turned into whiskey. An early census of western New York noted that there were more distilleries than gristmills.

The population of Rochesterville was less than 5000 people when it became an incorporated village in 1817. That number grew to over 12,000 residents when it received its charter as a city in 1834 and annexed another 4000 acres of land obtained from the surrounding towns of Gates, Greece, Brighton, and Irondequoit.

Both Genesee and Ontario Counties fought the establishment of Monroe County and it took four more trips to Albany to persuade state legislators. But the locals grew tired of the long and arduous journey to either Batavia or Canandaigua to record land transactions. Monroe County was approved by the NYS Legislature on February 23, 1821.

Today, the County of Monroe has a total of 19 towns. The current Monroe County Office Building is on the same spot that the first courthouse building of 1829 occupied. After two hundred years, most of the farmland is now gone, but Monroe County can trace its roots back to the farming pioneers who came to the area after the Revolutionary War.



March 18, 1806 record book of Northampton mentions money payable to Asa and Frederick Rowe.

NEW LANDS For Sale.

THE subscriber offers for sale, about 40,000 acres of excellent LAND, situated within six miles of the Landing in Fall-Town, on the west side of the Genesee River. This Tract is divided into Lots of about 100 acres. In order to encourage and accommodate industrious and enterprising settlers, one half of the Land, consisting of every other three hundred acres throughout the Tract, will be sold for Wheat, Pork and Neat Cattle; the Wheat and Pork to be delivered at Fall-Town Landing.—The very flourishing settlement of Fairfield is within this Tract; the inhabitants in this settlement have been remarkably healthy.

Vessels of 200 tons sail from Lake Ontario up the Genesee River, to the lower falls: this place is called Fall-Town Landing, and is only six miles from the Tract now offered for sale. A barrel of flour can now be sent from Fall-Town Landing to Montreal for one dollar, and a barrel of pot-ashes for one dollar and a half;—these prices will be reduced as the business of transportation increases. Most articles of American produce command as high prices at Montreal as at New-York. The Intervals and Swails are timbered with Elm, Butternut, white and black Ash, Walnut, &c.—the upland with Sugar Maple, Beach, Baffwood, Hickory, Oak and wild Cherry.



March is Women's History Month

In honor of Women's History Month, we would like to recognize Greece resident, **Joan Korsch**, the first woman to sit on the Greece Town Board. Joan first joined the Town as secretary for Supervisor Don Riley. When Roger Boiley left his council position in April 1989 to serve as Town Supervisor, Joan was selected to fill his seat on the council. She continued to serve as a councilwoman for eight years. It had only taken 167 years of Town history to select its first woman to serve in a governing position!

Bible School Association of Greece

*Last year the Greece Historical Society acquired a handwritten book containing the secretarial notes and minutes of the Bible School Association of Greece dated 1905-1921. **Kate Huppé**, a recent graduate from SUNY Geneseo, offered to write this story about what she discovered reading these minutes.*

This year marks the one-hundred-year anniversary of the discontinuation of the Bible School Association of the Town of Greece. At that time, the Bible School Association was reorganized to better represent the needs of Greece and the surrounding areas. Yet, what led to this reorganization by the end of 1921?

The Bible School Association of the Town of Greece convened three times yearly, once in the winter, once in the spring, and once in the summer to elect officers, according to the Association's constitution. These meetings strove to bring together "the Bible school workers of the town, to promote more thorough study of the Bible and better teaching of its truths." **Miss Mary Moall**, secretary of the Bible School Association, kept meeting minutes for each of the meetings, allowing for a deeper understanding of how the people of Greece, and eventually other towns, approached promoting and teaching the Bible. Record keeping by Miss Moall began on December 5, 1905 and continued through December 15, 1921.

Topics frequently discussed were the creation of an effective Sunday School, the characteristics of an excellent Sunday School teacher, and the mission of the school itself. Naturally, these topics turned towards the youth of Greece, and how to keep them involved in the church and Sunday School. Especially mentioned were young men and how to keep them in attendance - a comment which may sound familiar one hundred years later!

Meetings typically opened with a devotional led by a minister followed by the discussion topics of the day. On April 9, 1906, the Bible School Association convened at the Baptist church. A presentation, "The Bible- Where Is It?" given by **Reverend J.J. Kelly** led to the discussion of what makes a good Sunday School teacher. Miss Moall told the group "of an old Scotchman who held a class of boys by throwing out the lessons ... and teaching first about the Bible." **A. E. Truesdale**, a frequent attendee of the Bible School Association meetings, responded that "The most successful teachers always carry their Bibles. If we use it, and are familiar with it, it will make us tactful, it has magnetism which gives tact. Religion cannot be described but felt." In this way, the attendees seemed to believe that a good Sunday School teacher had distinct vindication for the teachings of the Bible. They should emphasize its importance by leading through example.

As the meetings continued, readers of Miss Moall's secretarial notes will see, attendance increased, both from individuals and representatives of churches in the surrounding areas. Publications in the Democrat & Chronicle also record an increased geographic scope. By the December 15, 1921 meeting, Miss Moall writes not of the reconvening of the Bible School Association of the town of Greece, but of the Bible School Association of the Town of Greece and vicinity. That being said, the meeting on December 15 was held at the Dewey Avenue Reformed Church, located in the Town of Greece.

It appears by the end of 1921, it made sense to reorganize the Bible School Association to better address the needs of the churches of Greece and the surrounding area. Miss Moall concludes her book of meeting minutes writing that the Bible School Association was discontinued, and the First District of Monroe County Sunday School reorganized at Hilton. A new secretary's book was established. One may assume that topics of discussion of this new Sunday School organization followed suit of those discussed by the Bible School Association, as those remained overwhelmingly similar over the course of Miss Moall's dedicated meeting minutes. Yet an expanding jurisdiction could have prompted discussions of various kinds.



Kate Huppé graduated from SUNY Geneseo in May 2020 with degrees in History and Political Science. She currently is a VISTA (*Volunteers in Service to America*) volunteer through AmeriCorps for Rochester Regional Health. Outside of reading history books, Kate enjoys riding horses, hiking, and yoga.

Thank you to Professor **Michael Oberg**, Geneseo Center for Local and Municipal History, SUNY Geneseo for connecting us to Kate.

GHS Information

COVID-19 Pandemic Stories

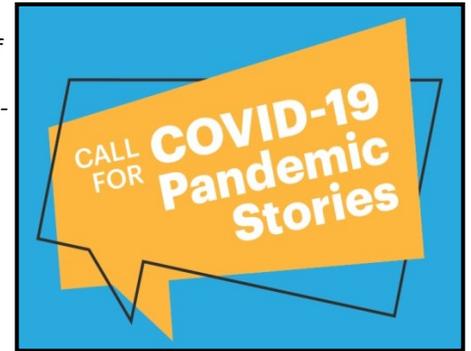
Tell us "your story" or send photographs of how you are coping with the current pandemic, or tell us how your organization is affected, or how you are engaging with the community.

As your local historical society, it is our responsibility to record and preserve the history of our Town. If you send us your story, an account of life in Greece (and Charlotte) during this unusual time can then be recorded and preserved in our permanent collection, possibly published in a book, and shared with our libraries and the New York State Historian's Office. We can only do this if you tell us your story.

Jot down a few thoughts or observations about everyday life and the changes you had to make, and please send. We can put a collection together that will give an historical picture of what it was like to exist, compared to the 1918 Pandemic. Don't worry about proper writing, just tell us your thoughts and we can edit appropriately.

The stories you tell your friends or share on social media will be impossible to retrieve decades from now, but your written word and/or photographs can be cataloged and retrieved for future generations. Please help us preserve the history of this current crisis.

Email us "your story" and photographs to greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com or mail to Greece Historical Society, PO Box 16249, Greece, NY 14616.



Our Program Archives

Over the past several years many of our programs, especially the ones held at our museum on Sunday afternoons, have been recorded and recently we recorded several of our Tuesday Zoom programs. These are now available on our website under the "Program Archives" section. The following is a list of those programs:

African Americans at Mt. Hope Cemetery (Feb. 2019)
Architect James H. Johnson at St John the Evangelist Church (May 2012)
Barns of Greece (May 2017)
Bosnian Immigrants in Rochester: Adapting to America (July 2018)
Buckman's Dairy History (July 2017)
Charlotte Blast Furnace (Sep. 2016)
Cleaning Cemetery Headstones (June 2018)
Collecting Antique Bottles (Mar. 2019)
The Colonel Patrick O'Rorke Society (Apr. 2019)
The Dobson Farm and Northgate Plaza (Oct. 2018)
Education in Greece Schools During the COVID Pandemic (Nov. 2020)
Erie Railroad History (Apr. 2018)
Everyday People – The Dinkle Family (Feb 2021)
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery (May 2018)
Irish Families of Greece (June 2019)
Jogging Through Cemeteries (Nov. 2017)
Koda Kids (Nov. 2015)
Lake Ontario -the Past Sixty Years (July 2019)
Lemcke-Tofany Farm (Nov. 2016)
Making the First Atom Bomb (Sep. 2016)
Mark Twain and the Civil War (Jan. 2021)
The McShea Family (Oct. 2016)
Museum Quality Storage of Family Heirlooms and Photos (June 2020)
Past Meets the Present when Fourth Graders Honor the Fallen_(Oct. 2020)
Public Shortcuts (Sep. 2020)
The Rookie (Modeling for Norman Rockwell) (Apr. 2016)
Sons of the American Revolution (Nov. 2020)
Yates-Thayer Farm (Oct. 2016)

