

Tuesday, June 8, 2021, 7:00 p.m. via "ZOOM"

Researching Your Town of Greece Family

Greece Historical Society presentation.

Join us for a presentation about tips on how to start researching your family in anticipation of the town's Bicentennial in 2022. Whether you are just starting out or you already are your family's historian, help the Greece Historical Society preserve your family's legacy for future generations. Every family has a story to tell and we want to hear yours!



Where to start? **Barb Koehler**, a genealogy specialist from the Local History & Genealogy Division of the Central Library, will show you how to use free online library resources to access census records, directories, vital records, newspapers, and maps/atlases.

GHS members **JoAnn Ward Snyder** and **Marie Poinan** are collecting stories from descendants of Greece pioneer families for a book that will be published later this year. They will share ideas on how you can take names and dates to construct a timeline that will help you tell your family story. Help us celebrate the 200th birthday of the Town of Greece!



JoAnn Ward Snyder



Marie Poinan

REGISTRATION REQUIRED:

Go to the Greece Public Library web page greecepubliclibrary.org click on "Events" then "Calendar" then go to June 8 and register. An email will be sent prior to the event with login and password instructions. Direct link:

<https://greecepubliclibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=9996&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2021/06/01>

Saturday, June 19 - 1:00 p.m. outdoors at the Greece Museum

History of the Flower Industry in Western NY by Nellie Gardner

Nellie Gardner will give us a history of the flower industry here in Western NY and will tell us about the industry today and about her own flower business. She will show us her unique style, having had no formal design classes, as she demonstrates making a bouquet with flowers from her garden.



Growing up on a self-sufficient horse powered farm on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, gave Nellie the experience, incentive, and perspective to work her way through college, graduating from Cornell University with no high school education and no money. Nellie started her own cut flower business in 1992, has restored several Frank Lloyd Wright landscapes and now consults on horticulture and agriculture. Her Flower Barn and shop is in Adams Basin, NY. This will be a socially distant, **bring-your-own-lawn-chair**, outdoor event.

Dave Seubert, a 2018 SUNY Brockport Anthropology graduate, has been helping us this past month while learning about the operation of a historical society and museum.



"President's Message"



Normally our June issue would have a full page devoted to our annual strawberry festival, but that will have to wait until next year. Even without the June festival, we are still very active and continue to offer programs via Zoom and this month we'll have two socially distant outdoor programs. If you missed last month's program, "Park Ave to Parkridge," it is now available in the Program Archives section of our website www.greecehistoricalsociety.org.

Several weeks ago, we shipped off our first group of Greece Post microfilm for scanning and uploading. We had a college student work on a County bicentennial project and another young man help with the office and is now learning how to be a docent.

Our fire extinguishers were professionally checked out and we received the final report on our energy audit conducted in April recommending several minor changes that will ultimately save a little money on our utility bills.

We conducted our board meeting via Zoom which enabled us to have a guest participate. We created a sexual harassment policy and updated our conflict-of-interest statements.

We were very pleased to receive a \$500.00 gift from Canandaigua National Bank & Trust as part of their philanthropic giving plan for 2021.

Coming up in June we will welcome back three local groups that have toured our museum in the past, but skipped last year.

We have received more than 80% membership renewals so far, with a few still coming in nearly every day. If you know of anyone who hasn't joined the Greece Historical Society yet and is a fan of local history tell them to check us out. GHS has been the center of local history in our Town and has played a significant role in preserving its history for more than 50 years. Our members are our best ambassadors. A sincere thank you to everyone who promptly renewed their memberships and especially those that added a little extra.

Bill Sauers, President



Grandfather Stories by David Kunz

Sunday, June 27 - 2:00 p.m. outdoors at the Greece Museum

Dave's stories feature some of the great narrative poetry that entertained our grandparents, as well as tall tales, personal stories, and adaptations of favorite short stories. He started telling stories formally over 30 years ago in Minnesota, although he says he's been a liar most of his life. Adults and children of all ages will enjoy Dave's unique point of view and the entertaining twists of plots and characters that characterize his storytelling.



Dave Kunz has been telling stories for most of his life. He has been an active member of several local and regional storytelling associations, including in Minnesota and New York State. And he still enjoys listening to fellow storytellers at various festivals – there's nothing better than a good story! He lives on the shores of Lake Ontario in Greece, NY.

This will be a socially distant, **bring-your-own-lawn-chair**, outdoor event.



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"Museum Shop"



Summer is here! It is great to get outside and enjoy the beautiful weather. Why not stop by our Museum and check out the great items in the Museum Shop! We always had a great crowd during our Strawberry Festival, but this year we have cancelled it again for safety reasons. Remember when your ticket gave you a discount on your purchase? Well, here is your ticket to save 10% on your purchase in our Shop for the entire month of June. Many items now have a special sale price so you can save even more.

As always, we'll see you on Sundays 1:30-4:00 p.m.

NOTE: We will open the shop after our Saturday, June 19 program and we are available on Monday mornings 10:00 am - Noon. The museum is closed Sunday, June 20.

Wendy Peck
Shop Coordinator



Our Calendar

NOTE: Our museum is open Sundays 1:30-4:00 p.m..

Closed June 20, July 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.

June 8 - 7:00 p.m. Researching Your Greece Family (via Zoom)

June 19 - 1:00 p.m. History of the Flower Industry in Western NY

June 20 - Father's Day, Museum Closed

June 27 - 2:00 p.m. Grandfather Stories by David Kunz

July 4 - Museum Closed

July 11 - 2:00 p.m. Charting Your Family Tree, Part I with

Aug 8 - 2:00 p.m. Charting Your Family Tree, Part II

"History is a relentless master. It has no present, only the past rushing into the future. To try to hold fast is to be swept aside."

~ **John F. Kennedy**

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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HELP WANTED

Due to our aging membership committee, we are seeking a detailed oriented individual to help with our membership database. The effort is needed primarily during the months

of April and May as our memberships come due. The work involves entering incoming renewals in our database program, PastPerfect, and sending out thank you letters. Training will be provided.

Interested in helping with this important job? Call us at 225-7221 or email greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com. Salary will be equal to our other volunteers!

Greece Happenings

Pioneer Families Book Update by Marie Poinen

We are celebrating our roots here at the Greece Historical Society in anticipation of next year's 200th birthday of the Town of Greece. Board member **Tom Sawnor** is heading up the society's Bicentennial Committee and co-editors **JoAnn Ward Snyder** and I continue to receive more stories of early Greece families for the book that will be published this November.



Please check out our Facebook page and also visit our website to download a pedigree chart to document your Town of Greece family. The next time you visit the museum, check out the family photos we have on the new display poster.

No sure how to start? Sign up on the Greece library's website and attend the June 8th Zoom meeting to see why telling your family's story is so important. JoAnn and I will also be holding two "hands on" sessions outdoors at the museum on **Sunday, July 11** and **Sunday, August 8** with local genealogy expert, **Holly Ricci-Canham**, who will join us to help you chart your family info. Come hear the reasons why you should participate in this project and save your family story for future generations.

We are here to help you get started or to scan your photos.

Feel free to contact us via email but please put "PIONEER FAMILIES" in the subject line.

Maybe your pioneer family moved from Greece to other parts of the country, but they may have lived here early on. Are you related to any of these pioneer families who were living in Greece before 1872?

Bemish- Bouchard - Brickler - Burger - Colby - Conway - Covert - Currier - Day - Doty - Ducolon - Frisbee - Frey - Goodwin - Granger - Greer - Hadlock - Hanford - Hurd - King - Kinyon - Lane - Lewis - Loper - Mulligan - Neary - Petten - Phillips - Reniff - Ryan - Sharpe - Shearman - Soper - Tennson - Warner

GRASP – Greece Residents Assisting Stray Pets by Tami Becker

It all began many years ago when **Barbara Pingree** worked at the animal hospital where Greece Animal Control rents space. During this time, she watched animals coming in through animal control being routinely put down if they were not claimed by their owners. Working on her own, she managed to find homes for some, took some home with her, and transported some to Lollypop Farm, crying as she left because she would never know what their fate would be.



Before long, the groomer at the same animal hospital saw what she was doing and joined in to help. The groomer told some friends. In those early days there were only five women, and their husbands, working together to find homes for the animals and raise funds. It was not easy, but the group was dedicated and they kept going. Eventually, more people joined the cause and on February 16, 1996 Greece Residents Assisting Stray Pets Incorporated (G.R.A.S.P., Inc.) was born! In February 1997 the group received it's 501C3 nonprofit status.

Today the group has many volunteers working in different capacities to support the same mission and vision.

Who are the people that make up GRASP? Quite simply, dedicated VOLUNTEERS. We are not a humane society; we do not receive any public funding. No one in our organization is paid. All have families, friends, jobs, their own animals, and have other commitments. Somehow, they fit in all that is needed to run an entire organization. It is a labor of love, of course, but it is a large sacrifice that they make every day to serve the animals in our community. Every volunteer, follower, or supporter is needed in order to succeed.

GRASP is committed to reducing the number of homeless pets in Greece, by decreasing dog and cat reproduction, promoting responsible pet ownership, and placing homeless dogs and cats into compatible, loving, permanent homes.

GRASP envisions a day when every dog and cat will live in a loving, safe, healthy home environment and will be cared for responsibly and humanely.

If you would like to help in any way, we invite you to learn more by visiting our Website at www.GRASPInc.org or by following our Facebook page. The animals in our care will appreciate it more than you know!

Greece History

Changing the Name of our Town? by Bill Sauers

Many years ago, while being interviewed for an article for a home town newspaper, I was asked what town I lived in. When I told them Greece, New York, I was asked if that was spelled like the lubricant or the country. Until that time I had not realized this could be a problem nor did it bother me at the time. Later on, I found out that, over time, others were bothered by our town name and the occasional jokes that the name might conjure up.



In the spring of 1946, the question of the town's name boiled over to a news worthy grass roots effort that made headlines in the *Greece Press* and the *Democrat & Chronicle*. It seems that a faction of town residents was sounding out the sentiment of townspeople on the possibility of changing the name of the Town of Greece. This resulted in the *Greece Press* conducting a survey of Greece residents.

The Greece Press was amazed to find that opinions were almost equally divided. Some thought the name Greece certainly wasn't complimentary and its residents were frequently the butt of jokes by city people and it recalled earlier days when people of other towns and the city regarded Greece as a "broken down shack community." Others thought we should not cast aside history; after all it was easy to spell and there are over 30 communities in New York State with Greek names. Surprisingly it was the old timers who favored the change while an equal number of newcomers were perfectly satisfied with the present name.

It was suggested that "flossier" names like Lakeview or **Ridgedale** would result in a faster development of the town. Others noted that we were already one of the fastest growing communities in the State.

Supervisor Gordon Howe said he had heard the matter discussed in many quarters of town and that ultimately the citizens of the town would have to make the decision.

Apparently, the subject quickly died down, maybe because of lack of interest or organization on the part of the instigators of the idea, but soon the newspapers dropped the story never to be brought up again.

We will never know if this effort to change the town's name was serious or someone just wanting to start a controversy, but the story was reported in the local newspapers. Those newspapers were then saved and are now available to anyone researching the past, on sites like <https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org>. Unfortunately, today we have lost nearly all local news reporting and like most communities we no longer have a local community newspaper. One wonders what stories about today will be saved for future generations?



Share Your Stories and Memories

The story about GRASP is continuing our series about organizations in and around our community. History is not just about things that happened years ago, history happens every day. Organizations, especially nonprofit ones, are what makes a community so great. Their stories need to be told.

We love to read stories and memories by YOU or your organization. Each of you has a story to tell. Submit a story about your group or a local history story or memory of growing up in the Town of Greece.

Email your story to: greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com along with a photo and brief bio. Your story should be no more than 500 words.

Don't worry if you're not an English scholar — we will edit as needed for continuity, grammar, punctuation, etc.



Happenings at GHS



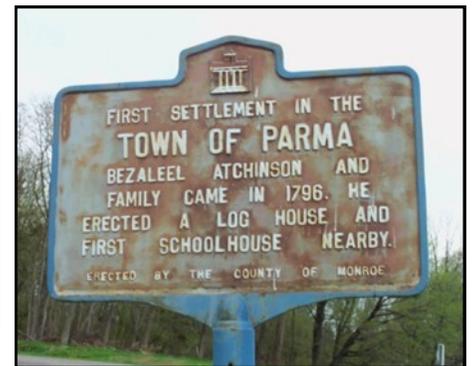
In late May, **Benjamin Perl**, a St John Fisher history student, recorded a video about our fire wagon for an upcoming County bicentennial project organized by his professor and County Historian **Carolyn Vacca**.

Brendon Fess, librarian at the Local History and Genealogy Division of the Rochester Public Library, and GHS President, **Bill Sauers**, at the Greece UPS store, shipping off the first batch of Greece Post microfilm to be scanned.



Lakeview Garden spent a spring day preparing the gardens at our cupola sign and in front of the house. **Lakeshore Garden** has also been getting our side garden ready for summer.

Historical Marker Stolen On March 6, 2021, the Historic Marker on the Hill Rd. in Parma was stolen. A vehicle hooked a chain on to the Atchinson Historical Marker that marks the site of Parma's first settlement in 1796. The pole remains, but the sign is gone. Should anyone see or know of its whereabouts please contact the Parma Town Hall at 585-392-9461.



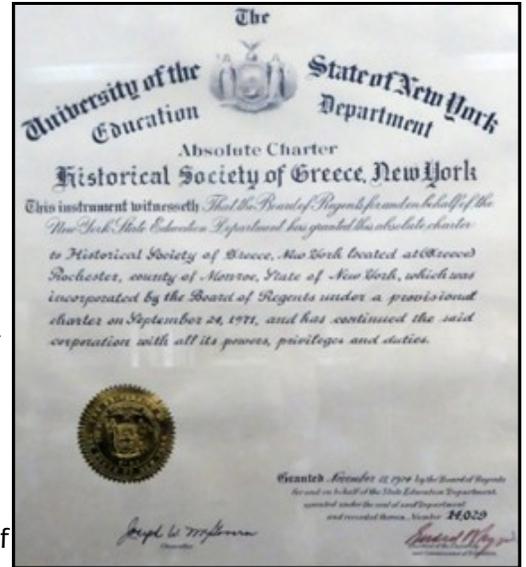
For the past year, like most organizations and nearly all government agencies, GHS has depended on Zoom and email to conduct business. Our board has been meeting via Zoom since last April, which even allows guests to attend. We realize it is not the best situation, but for now it is working quite well and hopefully someday we can meet in person again as a group.

Of Interest at GHS

Who and What the GHS is...

By definition, a historical society is an organization dedicated to preserving, collecting, researching, and interpreting historical information or items. Unlike many other states, which recognize cultural agencies as nonprofit private businesses, New York State sees them as educational organizations. Chartered historical societies in New York are a significant part of our educational system, are incorporated under the State education law, are subject to the Board of Regents University of the State of New York. Finally, incorporation by the Board of Regents gives museums and historical societies with collections the prestige and recognition of being a member of the University of the State of New York.

The Greece Historical Society (GHS) was organized in 1969 by Greece Town Historian **Virginia Tomkiewicz**, with the encouragement of Town Supervisor **Fred J. Eckert** who became a charter member. The Society received its absolute charter from the New York State Department of Education Board of Regents as a not-for-profit 501(c)3 corporation on November 21, 1974.



Our all-volunteer Society's purpose is to preserve, collect, research, and share local history with the community. Concerned and interested community volunteers of various backgrounds and education lend their talents to govern the organization as the Board of Trustees. We strive to provide the community with an awareness of the past, an appreciation of the present, and a vision for the future, giving a sense of "roots" and a greater feeling of belonging.

GHS owns, operates and maintains the Greece Museum at 595 Long Pond Road, on land leased from the Town of Greece. This Society and Museum are not part of the Greece Town government and since 2016 has received no monetary funds from the Town of Greece.

To accomplish its purpose the Society offers:

- ◆ Public programs
- ◆ Articles about local history
- ◆ Group and school programs
- ◆ Docent led tours of our museum, especially to school groups and scouts
- ◆ Resource materials and books to area schools and libraries
- ◆ A resource library at our History Center
- ◆ Special events
- ◆ A web site and Facebook page informing people of upcoming programs and events
- ◆ DVDs, YouTube videos, and live presentations of various history subjects
- ◆ A museum shop selling a variety of local history books
- ◆ Personal research as requested

You can be proud to be a member and supporter of your **Greece Historical Society!**

Greece Historical Society
 Greece Museum
 595 Long Pond Road
 P.O. Box 16249
 Rochester NY 14616-0249



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CONTACT US

GHS Office: 585-225-7221

Office Email:

greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

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)

DATE: _____

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

ADDRESS: _____
(Street) (City/Town) (State) (Zip Code + 4)

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

<u>Membership Classifications</u>	<u>Annual Rate</u>	<u>Select</u>
Senior (62+, Each) Student	\$15.00	_____
Individual Adult	\$20.00	_____
Senior (62+) Couple	\$30.00	_____
Family	\$35.00	_____
Business, Professional	\$50.00	_____
Benefactor (Each)	\$100.00	_____
Senior Life (62+, Each)	\$350.00	_____
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You will receive your membership card and receipt by mail.