



The Corinthian

Newsletter of the Greece Historical Society & Museum

595 Long Pond Road, P.O. Box 16249, Rochester, NY 14616-0249, <http://historicalsociety.greecenyc.org>
March 2008 Volume 29, Number 2 – Issued Bi-Monthly Telephone: 585-225-7221

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MARCH and APRIL PRESENTATIONS

PLEASE PUT THESE 7:00 p.m. DATE AND TOPICS ON YOUR CALENDAR.
 MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE GREECE TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2008

ADVENTURES WITH ANTIQUES by Bob Klein

Robert Klein is a retired teacher. Beside his full time career as a special education teacher in the Rochester City School District, he created an antique studies program for the continuing education programs at St John Fisher and Robert Wesleyan Colleges, and also has taught the antique classes in the continuing education programs at Greece Central and Webster Central School Districts.



His lively presentation will demonstrate his unique views on adventures with antiques. He will focus on local items and life in upstate New York. Included in his presentation will be: Shaker furniture of Groveland, Robinson chairs made by juvenile delinquents at the Western House of Refuge now Edgerton Park, the RKO Palace and Temple Theaters, landing crafts of Greece, New York, and the Sodus Bay Trolley Line.

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2008

THE STREET CAR SYSTEM by Charles Lowe

A discussion of the history of streetcar transportation in Rochester, beginning with the horse car operations of 1863-1893 but moving quickly into the "Great Trolley Era" of electric streetcars, which ran from 1890 to 1930. See Page 5 photograph. Brief mention will be made of other electric railways at this time, which included the Subway and several inter-urbans. Mr. Lowe will then detail the abandonment of surface streetcar lines from 1929 to 1941, the end of the Subway in 1956-57, and conclude with the rebirth of electric railway transportation at the New York Museum of Transportation in Rush, NY.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Chuck will have available for sale and autograph his book "Trolleys to Glen Haven," the story of the four-mile electric railway that ran from the site of the current RGRTA bus garage on East Main Street in Rochester to Irondequoit Bay in 1889 to 1929, this line served as part of the Rochester and Sodus Bay route.

VISITORS ARE WELCOME EVERY SUNDAY FROM 2:00 UNTIL 4:30 p.m.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN YOU AT THESE ENTERTAINING AND EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS AT REGULAR MEETINGS, AN ADMISSION DONATION OF \$1.00 IS APPRECIATED FROM NON-MEMBERS

SERVING GREECE FOR OVER 35 YEARS

INSIDE:
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Business Opportunities
 Gift Shop Offerings
 Ada Exhibit
Quilt Show
 Mark Your Calendars
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 Membership Application
Bring Family & Visitors To See Greece Museum
 Please Consider Upgrading Your Membership

HELP PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

✦ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ✦

**CORINTHIAN EDITOR
TO RETIRE**

It never ceases to amaze me how many people it takes to run the Greece Historical Society and our 5,000 square foot museum. Every individual that helps contributes his or her special talents, and for some of these people we wonder how we could ever get along without them. Well, this June we may find out. **Bill Coe**, the editor of our newsletter, ~~Wk#Frulykbg~~, for the past 10 years, has decided to retire from his position at the end of May. We have certainly appreciated his commitment to the Society for so many years and we are sorry to lose his talents, but we must move on. We are looking for a committed volunteer who could take on the responsibility of editing and producing the newsletter. **Bill** is willing share his knowledge and experience with the new person. If you are willing to help the Greece Historical Society and would like to know more about the responsibilities of this important position, give me a call at 225-3760.



Bill Sauers, President



From the Desk of the Executive Director

January and February are busier than usual with large numbers of students coming in to study the exhibits, visitors touring in groups of seniors, and three Cub Scout dens.



Those months are planning days too. We have to think ahead with budgetary needs and with the nominating committee looking for qualified candidates. The endowment and audit committees are making plans to ensure the continual efficient operation of the whole historical center.

Maintenance is a key job that goes on year-round. Now that a couple bad storms managed to pull more shingles off the exhibit hall roof, we are

looking at the cost of temporary stop-gap work and investigating if the whole roof must be replaced. Grants will be necessary to cover the big job! The flagpole suffered a lot during the big wind and if you don't see a flag for a while, it's impossible to keep a flag whole and now the inner workings on the pole must be fixed.

By the way of security, the small light on the front porch is always on and costs about \$3. per month. Our porch used to attract loiterers and now the area is open to view and prevents this.

We are planning the Strawberry Festival, a big Quilt Show, and many more events. We also hope that all of you value all the plans and will support all by paying your annual dues and perhaps adding extra to keep us encouraged. Please come in and bring visitors too on Sundays – 2:00 'til 4:30 P.M.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Many of the museums in the surrounding area depend on local business support both through annual memberships and sponsorships of events and projects.

Because we use local businesses for our projects, we hope that local businesses will help us too. In return, we will publicize your names and description in our newsletter, which reaches 400 people, and through our publicity. We will have a special sponsor category to help defray the cost of the Strawberry Festival, the newsletter, brochures, and other exhibits.

This is your opportunity to help us — we strive to promote and use local businesses and we hope you will do the same for us.

Requests will be sent out soon to local businesses. If you care to help us, please call 225-7221 and I will call you with all the details.

Please read the column in the "Greece Post" called the "Historical Notebook." It appears monthly and it gives me a space to talk about history.

Call 225-7221 if you would like to help or advise us. We'll see you soon, I hope.

Lorraine Beane, Executive Director

GIFT SHOP OFFERINGS

Our Museum Gift Shop offers a variety of items for gift-giving. We have local history books; books by local authors; Greece t-shirts, sweatshirts & mugs; tapestry throws depicting historic Greece Buildings; cookbooks; and a variety of unique one-of-a-kind items. New this year - Jacob's Ladder - the toy that needs no battery. Or, the perfect gift - a Gift Certificate to the Museum Gift Shop. Stop in and check us out Sundays 2:00-4:30 p.m.

“Eight Miles Along the Shore—An Illustrated History of Greece, N.Y.” continues to be one of our best selling books.

The regular **Gift Shop** hours are **Sundays from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. and during office hours on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.** Call **585-225-7221** for an appointment for any other times.

Wendy Peeck

See you soon. The Gift Shop Staff



MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

THE EVER CHANGING RIDGE — KNOWN AS ‘ADA’

The current exhibit at the Museum is called “The Ever Changing Ridge (ADA)” A thriving little community was located where Long Pond Road crossed Ridge Road around 1900. This was called Ada because the local postmaster came from Ada, Michigan, and named it after his former place. After rural free delivery was instituted, the name fell into disuse. Today, the Greece Town Mall is on the site of the old post office.

Our exhibit includes pictures and artifacts from Buckman’s, Former Greece Town Hall, Greece Grange, Greece Baptist Church, St. John’s Catholic Church, and other related homes and businesses up to the present time.

Phyllis Brown, Committee Chairperson

If you have questions, contact **Phyllis Brown** at **(585) 865-4168** or **225-7221**



QUILT SHOW SUNDAYS MARCH and APRIL

On Sunday, March 2nd, the Genesee Country Village and Museum’s Movable Museum program entitled “Quilting in the 19th Century”



will kick off our quilt exhibit with a presentation by costumed staff person **Jan Almstead** at 2:00 and 3:30 P.M. Because we have limited seating, reservations are necessary and can be made by calling **Lorraine Beane** at **225-7221**. Jan will give a history of quilting and show some of the 19th century quilts in Genesee Country Village’s collection as well as patterns from that era. She will be happy to answer questions at the end of her talks.

Among the 35 quilts displayed are classic patterns such as Dresden Plate and more modern fun designs. One is called “Chicks and Checks”, an appliqué quilt featuring colorful chickens with a red and white checked border. We have some quilts from the 1800’s, some from the 1930’s and 40’s, and some newly made.

The quilts have been loaned to us by members and friends from Greece and Hilton. Assisting us is **Merrilee MacWilliams**, president of the Heat in Hand Quilt Guild in Hilton. **Sue Bryant** has loaned us Amish style miniature quilts and a larger one in the Bars pattern. **Annie Foos**, a charter member, taught quilting years ago in Greece and made quilts for all of her family. To honor her, we are featuring some of her quilts. We have one of her quilts in our Museum’s collection – a Log Cabin pattern. Other quilts in our collection will be displayed, too.

Susan Sauers cleverly duplicated a quilt from the quilt pieces that were found in the seat of an old chair she and **Bill** were reupholstering that date to about 1875. They have a display of the pictures of their project next to the finished quilt. Also featured will be a Civil War Diary Quilts mini-exhibit which pictures the quilt squares made by women who endured the Civil War that depict events they experienced in their lives during the war. “A Telegram from Lincoln” is one of the squares; another is called “Sorrow”.

On Sunday, April 13th at 2:00 and 3:30 P.M., **Chris Liebold** of Bear and Apple Studio will talk on quilting trends of the 20th century. She will have some of the quilts she has designed for us to see. She finished quilts that others have pieced in her business, as does **Merrilee MacWilliams** in her business. We will have time for questions and answers. Once again, reservations will be needed for these two presentations.

As I write this, we plan to have some of our quilters present each Sunday in March and April. We love our quilts and love to talk about them.

Plan to visit us and enjoy browsing through our colorful and interesting quilt exhibit. Extra help is needed so if you would like to be a part of it, please call **Lorraine** (225-7221). She welcomes all volunteers. By the way – donations will be most welcome when you come to visit.

Mary Lee Strauss



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2008 MONTHLY PRESENTATIONS SCHEDULE

Mar. 12 “Adventure with Antiques,” Bob Klein
Apr. 8 “The Street Car System,” Charles

Lowe

May 13 Annual Meeting and “Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse” Fred Amato
Monthly programs are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at the Greece Town Hall, One Vince Tofany Blvd (off Long Pond Road, north of Latta Road). Reservations are not required. Society members are FREE, a donation is appreciated from others. For more information, visit our website at: <http://historicalsociety.greeceny.org>

Phone: 585-225-7221; or write to Greece Historical Society, P.O. Box 16249, Rochester, NY 14616-0249. Visit the Greece Museum at 595 Long Pond Rd.; Open Sundays 2:00 – 4:30 P.M., or by appointment.



GUEST HISTORY ESSAY GREECE SCHOOL DURING WORLD WAR II

by: **GERARD MUHL**

On September 1, 1939, World War II began with the Nazi invasion of Poland. How would America respond? In Greece, NY, citizens were alarmed, but stayed calm. A leader in this response was the Greece Central School District. Its teachers, students, and administrators rose to the challenge.



The largest school in Greece in the 1940's was Barnard School at the corner of Dewey Avenue and Stone Road. Greece had no high school since the taxpayers rejected a Works Progress Administration (WPA) offer to build one in the 1930's. Still, the Barnard community did its job at organizing support for the war effort.

Even before America entered the war, the Barnard Parents / Teachers Association (P.T.A.) was organizing volunteers to sew clothes for war refugees. In April 1941, the school sent a check to the country of Greece to help its war relief effort.

In November 1941, the talk around town was of the need to build the Lakeshore Parkway in the Town of Greece to help protect the area if the Nazis were to invade America through Canada. A newspaper article of the time even cited Irondequoit Bay as a good area for anti-aircraft gun emplacements in case of invasion. People took news of the war very seriously.

December 8, 1941, the day after Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was bombed by the Japanese, was a particularly serious day. Classes at Barnard School were halted as children were led into the gym to listen to President Franklin Roosevelt's speech and Congress' declaration of war against Japan. The following week a canvass of all homes in Greece was launched to list volunteers for special duty in a local defense program and to check on housing available in the event of a damaging air raid in this area.

Teachers began conducting practice air raid drills in school by January 1942. The Barnard School principal discussed with Town officials the line of work to be done at school in case of massive evacuations of people from New York City and from the coast to this area. Later in the year, the School Board met to go over the possibility of building a large school bomb shelter to be used as a cafeteria after the war. No action was taken.

The year 1942 also saw the first of many blood drives to be sponsored in the Greece Schools. Countless battlefield lives were saved due to the generosity of Greece citizens. First Aid classes were also offered in school.

War Bond drives began in February 1942 with the Barnard P.T.A. buying its first \$25.00 bond. War Stamps were purchased as card party prizes. Bond drives intensified with a three-week drive the next year raising nearly \$85,000. That amount provided for the military's purchase of three harbor patrol boats, the outfitting of ten men on each boat, and money for incidentals. The boats were purchased from the Irondequoit Boat Works.

During the war, children of war workers had recreation programs sponsored after regular school hours by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). With raw materials scarce due to the fighting, the P.T.A. sponsored a rubber and sneaker exchange. Another scarcity was Cub Scout Pack leaders. The P.T.A. had to drop its scouting program by March 1943 since all available scout masters were either drafted into the war or were working extra hours in war industries. Every harvest season, word was sent to every Greece School asking for help from teachers and P.T.A. members for the local canning industries.

As the war intensified, rationing became a patriotic duty for all citizens. Greece teachers volunteered their time for the distribution of gasoline ration books at most school buildings. Gasoline was becoming so scarce that P.T.A. card parties to raise money were held in private homes to save people from having to drive. Evening black-out drills also made getting to card parties difficult at times. Nevertheless, the P.T.A. did get its own ration card to allow it to buy 20 pounds of sugar to help in one of its bake sales.

Greece students by 1944 had a new way to pass the time as reported in the Greece Press. Youngsters in Greece went into the fields to gather great quantities of milkweed floss, which was needed as a substitute for kapok in the manufacture

of life jackets for the Navy's fighting men. With sap stained fingers, students gathered and dried over 300 bags of floss.

Just before D-Day 1944, Barnard School unveiled a plaque with the names of former students serving in the military. There were over 200 names on it.

With the end of World War II in 1945, the Greece Schools could take pride in their efforts on the homefront to bring that conflict to a successful conclusion and to bring their former students home safely.

Gerry Muhl



SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

We were ~~wkulochg~~ and ~~hcdwhg~~ recently when we received two membership renewals. Members **Miss Eleanor Lofthouse** and **Mr. & Mrs. Michael and Susan Bargmann** upgraded their membership status to that of "SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP." This kind of additional support is really appreciated! Should you wish to consider the same action, you do not need to wait until your membership fee is due. You may contact the office to arrange the change in category at any time – just call **225-7221**. See Back Page.

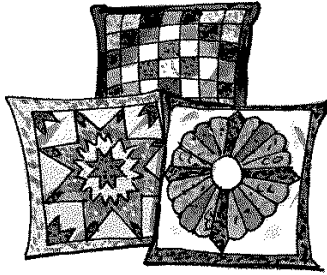


Rochester, NY 1910 Main Street

**VISITORS ARE WELCOME EVERY
SUNDAY FROM 2:00 UNTIL 4:30 p.m.
☞ BE SURE TO VISIT
THE QUILT SHOW ☜**

GREECE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
595 Long Pond Road
P.O. Box 16249
Rochester, NY 14616-0249

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QUILTS GALORE

MARCH and APRIL

<http://historicalsociety.greecenyc.org>

ORDER FORMS

Book Order Form – Books by Mail

GREECE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Please Make Checks Payable to:

BOOKS, Greece Historical Society, P.O. Box 16249, Rochester, NY 14616-0249

_____ “Manitou Trolley” @ \$10.00, incl. Tax (Shipping: \$2.00 for one; \$0.50 each add’l.) \$ _____

_____ “8 Miles Along the Shore”, Std. Cover, @ \$32.00, incl. Tax and Shipping \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

(please print)

DATE _____

NAME _____
(Last) (First) (M.I.)

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

See <http://historicalsociety.greecenyc.org> for additional information.

Membership Application

GREECE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

New Application Renewal Upgrade

(please print)

DATE _____

NAME _____
(Last) (First) (M.I.) (Spouse, if Family Membership)

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

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

Student - Senior (65 & over) \$10.00
 Family Contributing \$35.00
 Sustaining \$150.00

Individual \$12.00
 Business/Professional \$50.00
 Life Members (Each) \$500.00

Family \$20.00
 Family Supporting \$50.00
 Patron \$75.00

Please Make Check Payable and Mail to:

Membership, Greece Historical Society • P.O. Box 16249 • Rochester, NY 14616-0249

(Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope to receive your membership card.)

OR BRING COMPLETED FORM TO THE NEXT MEETING