



# 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>  
November 2007 Volume 28, Number 6 – Issued Bi-Monthly Telephone: 585-225-7221

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 NEWSLETTER...  
 EDITORS: Edie & Bill Coe  
 MAILING: Betty Fetter  
 PLANNING: NEEDED  
 PUBLICITY: Bill Sauers  
 PROGRAMS: Bill Sauers  
 Lorraine Beane

### NOVEMBER PRESENTATION

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

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2007

### FIRST FERRY TO FAST FERRY by Gerard Muhl



The “new fast ferry” had its turn in Rochester. Was it ahead of its time? For the time being, it did not succeed. It has moved on to Spain to cruise in the Mediterranean and

Rochester is left with a “Port of Rochester” with no ferry.

But there was a time when a car ferry was very active from Rochester to Canada. It was the Ontario II. This will be a lively presentation of the 50-year history of the old slow Rochester Car Ferry to Canada, illustrated with slides.



The audience is asked to bring their stories of the ferry as well as photographs they might have to show. You will want to be a part of this presentation.



6:00 p.m., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2007



**§ HOLIDAY GALA §**



LAKE SHORE COUNTRY CLUB

Mahi-Mahi with Tropical Fruit Salsa, Chicken French, Prime Rib au jus, Dessert  
Musical Entertainment, Door Prizes, Drawings

See the accompanying form to order your tickets. Deadline is November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**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**

*HELP PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE*

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 To See Greece Museum**

PLEASE SUPPORT  
 OUR BUSINESS &  
 PROFESSIONAL  
 MEMBERS

## ✦ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ✦

The motto of the Greece Historical Society is "Help Preserve the Past for the Future." In some respect we have to realize that the future is already here and that technology has changed the way history is recorded, preserved and, especially, the way it is retrieved. Your Greece Historical Society has tried to keep pace with these changes. We have had a web site for the past two years, with an average of five visits a day. We have acquired a state of the art computer and recently the Town of Greece gave us a high-speed internet connection.



Our entire inventory is being catalogued into a data base and a complete inventory of our library is being indexed. A two-year project of indexing old Greece Press newspapers may soon go on-line through the history department of the Rochester Library.

The Society now has membership in the Upstate History Alliance, the American Association of State and Local History, and the Rochester Regional Library Council, which gives a vast on-line resource of knowledge and the ability to advertise our programs throughout the region. We have also been active in our community outreach goals, especially our coordination recently with the Greece School District in helping them establish a new local history curriculum.

In September, Society volunteers attended a Local History Day at the German House\* on Gregory Street in the City of Rochester. Volunteers also spent two days at our booth at the Hilton Apple Fest\*. In October, three of us are attending an Archives Month Event titled "Primary Sources in Teaching and Learning" held at the downtown library. \*See pictures.

New technology is necessary, but takes money. That is why your membership support is so important. Remember to renew your membership and as a special favor to the next

generation, ask your neighbors and friends to support the Greece Historical Society.

*Bill Sauers, President*



### *From the Desk of the Executive Director*

Fall is here and our outdoor activities taper off, but good indoor events are coming.

The monthly program on the second Tuesday of each month is held at the Greece Town Hall and we are so grateful to be able to use that big, comfortable room. President Bill Sauers has many great programs planned. The November 13<sup>th</sup> program on "First Ferry to Fast Ferry" by Gerry Muhl is going to be one of the best.

Having attended a regional history meeting in September, an anniversary celebration at the Charlotte Lighthouse, and the Hilton Apple Festival, we learned a lot and told a lot of people about the Society.



More activities are planned. The new exhibit honoring good old times on West Ridge Road will be very interesting. We hope to see all of you often. It opens on Sunday, October 21 — for six months.

Our membership has slipped a little so we appeal to all of you to keep your museum on a good financial basis by bringing in new members or increasing your membership to a higher category.

We are always thinking of what you want us to do and the museum belongs to all of you. Come often!

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. *Lorraine Beane, Executive Dir.*



**FIRST FERRY TO FAST FERRY**  
by Gerard Muhl

**Tuesday, November 13, 2007**

This will be a lively presentation of the 50 year history of the old slow Rochester Car Ferry to Canada, illustrated with slides.

The audience is asked to bring their stories of the ferry as well as photographs they might have to show.

**Gerry Muhl** (Mull) was born in Syracuse, NY. He did his undergraduate work at SUNY Cortland in History and Science Education. His graduate work was at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University.



He came to Rochester in 1968 as an Educational Specialist to open the Strasenburgh Planetarium and help develop programs. In 1976, he joined the Greece Central School system where he taught Middle School Social Studies and Biology. From 1989 until his retirement in 1999, he was department chairman at Athena. In 1991, he was Monroe County Social Studies teacher of the year.

Gerry has contributed articles to Rochester History, Journal of the N.Y. State Historical Association, Rochester Business Journal, It's About Time, The Rochester Historical Society Observer, the Crooked Lake Review, and to other publications.

Currently, he lives with his wife Jeanne in West Irondequoit Where he has been researching articles for publication related to his hobby of collecting coins.



## GIFT SHOP OFFERINGS

The Holiday Season is fast approaching. Our Museum Gift Shop offers a variety of items for holiday gift-giving. We have local history books; books by local authors; Greece tee-shirts, sweatshirts & mugs; tapestry throws depicting historic Greece Buildings; cookbooks; Christmas items; 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. Happy Holidays.

*"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. Happy Holidays! *Wendy Peeck*

See you soon. The Gift Shop Staff



## MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

### THE EVER CHANGING RIDGE — KNOWN AS 'ADA'

The next exhibit at the Museum planned for early fall is called "The Ever Changing Ridge (ADA)" A thriving little community was



Wittman's original service station on West Ridge Road. Alfred J. Wittman, proprietor, is standing in front of the pumps. A toll gate once stood opposite the Larkin house, at left. Tolls collected from travelers helped pay for road maintenance.

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 will include 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. A business or prominent family of that era will be featured in upcoming issues of the *Corinthian*.

*Phyllis Brown, Committee Chairperson*

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



## HOLIDAY GALA FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2007 CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Greece Historical Society annual Christmas Party will be held at the Lake Shore Country Club, 1165 Greenleaf Rd. at 6:00 P.M. Musical entertainment, door prizes, and drawings will round out the evening. See ticket order form in this issue.



## DONALD NEWCOMB FIRE

The Barnard, Hilton, and North Greece Fire Departments assisted the Lakeshore Fire Department in responding to a fire on Kirk Road, Greece on the morning of Saturday, October 6. **Don Newcomb's** property was heavily damaged, but there were no injuries. The fire engulfed three attached garage-like structures as well as most of the main house. The house was built in 1983. The cause is still undetermined.

Don is well-known far and wide as a master blacksmith. He had an unmatched, extensive collection of blacksmithing tools and other old mechanical parts that were kept in the attached structures. They represented some of the oldest artifacts remaining from the early years of the Town of Greece. Unfortunately, all of his

collection was destroyed in the fire. It was a sad day for local history buffs.

Don is an honorary director on the Greece Historical Society Board of Directors. He has been our benefactor for several years. Our Museum exhibit room is named after him as "Newcomb Hall." We are sorry for his losses. If you feel you can assist Don in any way, be sure to contact him. Mail to 532 Kirk Rd, Rochester, NY 14612 will still reach him.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### 2007 — 2008 MONTHLY PRESENTATIONS SCHEDULE

Dec. 7 Annual Christmas Party, Lakeshore Country Club (Friday, 6:00 P.M.)

Jan. 8 "History of Monroe County Sheriff's Office," Todd Allen

Feb. 12 "History of the City Parks," Jim Farr

Mar. 12 "The Street Car System," Charles Lowe

Apr. 8 "Adventure with Antiques," Bob Klein

May 13 "Annual Meeting"

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.greecenyny.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.



## FROM THE HISTORIAN OFFICE FILE

Another in an occasional series of vintage “Gems” from the files of the Greece Town Clerk (circa 1910 –1930) archived in the Historian Office at the Greece Historical Society.

Tools etc. in hands of Greece Town Highway Supt. - Nov. 20, 1912 - Hand written list by C. E. Clark

- 1. Steam Roller
- 1. Sprinkler
- 1. Lumber Wagon – See picture
- 1. Tank Wagon
- 1. Stone Crusher
- 1. Bin & Screen
- 1. Sperry Tooth Harrow
- 5. Road Scrapers
- 2. Pulverizers
- 1. Rooter
- 1. Plow
- 1. Steel Tank
- 2. Tool Chests
- 3. Wheel Barrows
- 2. Stone Forks
- 12. Shovels
- 3. Picks
- 1. One Man Saw
- 2. Cross-Cut Saws
- 1. Rip Saw
- 1. Pair of Pliers
- 1. Level
- 1. 100' Tape
- 1. 50' Tape
- 1. Axe
- 1. Breast Drill & Bits
- 3. Sythes (sic)
- 2. Rakes
- 4. Guard Rails
- 4½ Sacks Cement
- 1. Flat Trowel
- 1. Molding Trowel



### 3. Lanterns

Miscellaneous Engine & Cylinder Oil - Axel Grease

Various lengths of lumber & tile

Various sizes of Bridge Forms

Filed in Office of Greece Town Clerk

Nov. 29, 1912 - H. G. Hughes, clerk

*NOTE: All photos courtesy of Bill Sauers and Alan Mueller.*



## CHILI HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOURS GREECE MUSEUM

On Sunday, October 14, 2007, seventeen members of the Chili Historical Society were guided on a tour of the Greece Museum by Lorraine Beane, Executive Director. Special arrangements had been made in advance for them to tour before the usual opening time for the day. Refreshments of cookies and coffee were offered.

The Chili members enjoyed the tour and were very pleased with what they saw. They reported that they learned a lot about ways to get Chili residents interested in their local history.

If you have a special group who would like to learn more about our museum, please contact Lorraine Beane at 585-225-7221 to arrange a customized tour.





Keith Krown at Local History Day  
at German House



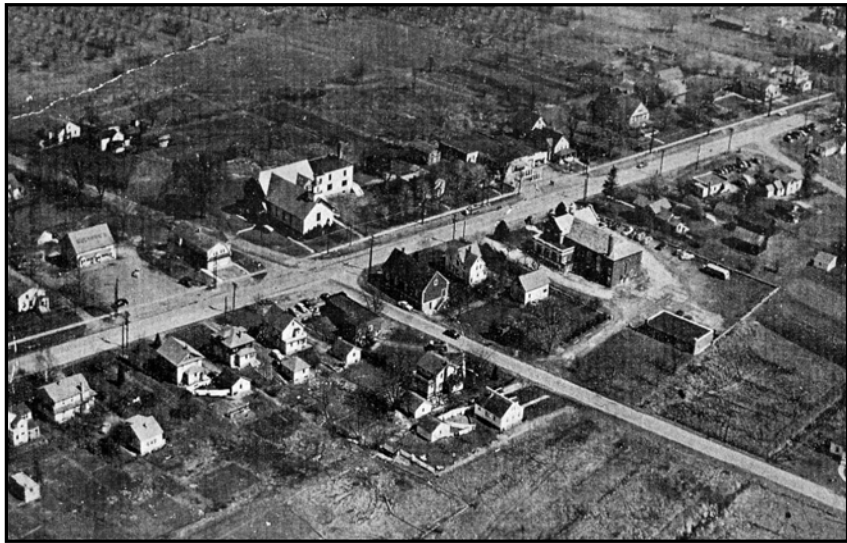
Greece Historical Society Booth  
At Hilton Apple Festival



Chili Historical Society Tours  
1930's Kitchen Exhibit



Firefighters knock down fire at  
Don Newcomb's House



The former Ada, NY at the crossroads of  
West Ridge Road and Long Pond Road



# Holiday Gala

Friday, December 7, 2007

Lake Shore Country Club

1165 Greenleaf Road, Greece, NY

Cash Bar 6:00 P.M. • Dinner 7:00 P.M.

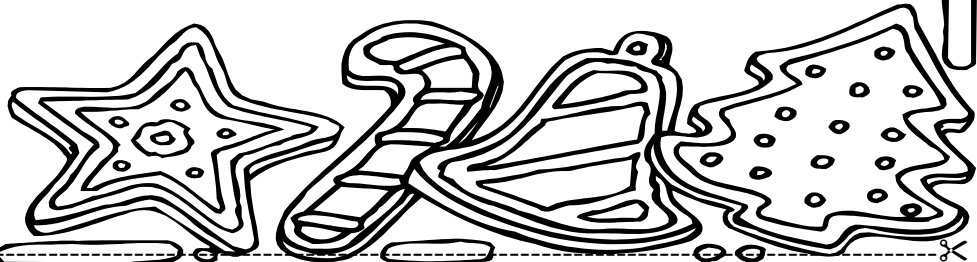
Mahi-Mahi with Tropical Fruit Salsa • Chicken French

Prime Rib au jus • Dessert

\$23.00 per person incl. gratuity

\* Musical Entertainment • Door Prizes • Drawings \*

Adult Friends and Family Welcome



## Reservation Form for Greece Historical Society Holiday Gala

Name: _____	Dinner Choice: _____
Name: _____	Dinner Choice: _____
Name: _____	Dinner Choice: _____
Name: _____	Dinner Choice: _____

Total Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$23.00 each / Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this registration form, your check(s), and a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** no later than November 30<sup>th</sup> for tickets to:  
 Roberta Young, Gala Co-Chairperson \* 337 Drumcliff Way, Rochester, NY 14612  
 All checks payable to: *Greece Historical Society*  
 For information, please call **Phyllis Brown**, Co-Chairperson @ **865-4168** or **Viola White**, Co-Chairperson @ **663-1991**

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

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<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, @ \$27.00, 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**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student - Senior (65 & over) \$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$12.00            | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$20.00            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Contributing \$35.00          | <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Professional \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Supporting \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$150.00                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Members (Each) \$500.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$75.00            |