

November 2011 Program

Tuesday, November 8th, 2011 Greece Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

Seabreeze Memories: "The Park When You Were A Kid"

a presentation by **Matthew Caulfield**

Matthew Caulfield, the archivist of Seabreeze Amusement Park, will share his knowledge of the history of this, the fourth oldest amusement park in the United States. He will describe the park as it began and grew to be what it is today, with an emphasis as it was in the 1950s and 1960s. He will also include a brief mention of Karnival Kourt and Boardwalk as developed by **Andrew Bornkessel** and finally, its demise.



Volume 32, Issue 6

Nov.-Dec. 2011

In every issue:

President's Message	2
Director's Message	3
Museum Shop	4
Contact Us	8

Points of Interest:

Programs	1
Museum Exhibits	2
Museum Education	5
Greece History	6,7

December 2011 Program

Sunday, December 11, 2011
1p.m.- 4p.m.

Christmas Open House

Join us for festive décor and holiday spirit.

See more inside ...

"President's Message"

Executive Director Retires

At our September 13th program meeting, Lorraine Beane, our executive director for the past 16 years officially retired. Supervisor John Auburger read a proclamation recognizing her and her accomplishments. She was also presented with a gift and a Lifetime Achievement certificate from the trustees, volunteers and members of the Society. Although she will still be volunteering in various capacities, she will no longer be running and making decisions for the day to day operation of the Greece Historical Society.



Efforts are underway to find the right person to lead the Society into the future, including the formation of an advisory board and think tank with former town Supervisor and G.H.S. member, Donald Riley.

We are very fortunate that we already have a dedicated group of volunteers, including the local garden clubs, the curatorial, education and museum shop committees, our museum docents, the Monday morning office crew, our board of trustees and the individuals that help out on special occasions. Even though many of you do not volunteer your time, we really do appreciate your financial support and realize without you we could not continue with our mission.

Our ultimate goal is to hire a part-time curator and/or a director. In the mean time, if you live nearby, have administrative, organizational and computer skills, like to work with people and would be willing to commit several hours a week, give me a call at 225-3760.

A Busy Season for volunteers

When you drive by the museum during the week and see cars in the parking lot, it may or may not be visitors. It could be those dedicated volunteers. In the past couple months the curatorial committee has been busy planning our Christmas open house and a Victorian tea in February. The Education committee has been planning the Native American Day on November 5th, an author-booking signing event on November 13th and also met with the director of Social Studies for the Greece Central School System. The 2012 class of Leadership Greece began their tour of Greece at our museum on October 15th. Meanwhile other volunteers have attended the New York Archives Month Program held at the Rundel Library and met with regional municipal historians. We are planning a program for local historians and teachers of history at the museum in November, all the while planning for a new exhibit that will focus on the Paddy Hill area. Beginning in the new year we will be having more of the popular Sunday programs, similar to last winter. There is always something interesting going on at the Greece Museum.

Bill Sauers, President

"Museum News"

New Sunday museum hours are 1p.m. - 4 p.m.
The office hours are Mondays 10 a.m. to Noon.

"VERONICA REITTER, Seneca, Wolf Clan"

Saturday, Nov. 5th 10 a.m. - noon
Town Hall Meeting Room

"Book Signing by Local Authors"

November 13th, 2011 1p.m. - 4 p.m.
Several well known local authors will be at the museum to autograph their books which will be available for purchase. See page 4.

"Garden Clubs Sale " December 4th, 2011

Area garden clubs will Holiday decorate the Historical Center and hold a sale on December 4th of their festive creations.

Vi White, Curator

Meet Our Newest Team Volunteer

Paige Doerner is a student at Brockport who is helping us by photographing the artifacts in our collection. Recently, we photographed the hats and accessories in the **"Putting on the Ritz"** exhibit. We learned in researching one of the hats that Leghorn straw, a fine light weight straw used to make hats, got its name from the port it was shipped from. The straw is from a strain of Italian wheat.

The talented granddaughter of MCC chairman, Vi White, Paige is a senior at Brockport taking a double major in history and anthropology with a minor in art history – AND she is working on her masters degree in history at the same time. Still she finds time to help us.

Paige will spend the summer of 2012 on a dig in the Mt. Morris area. Thank you, Paige, for lending your time and talents to our museum projects. We truly appreciate all your efforts.

Read more about Paige's interesting travel study to Jordan on our website.

Would you like to be a volunteer?

"From the Desk of the Executive Director"

My sincere thank you to the members of the Greece Historical Society and the Board of Trustees for the Life-time Achievement Award plaque given to me as I resign the Office of Executive Director. It was a nice surprise at the meeting on September 13th. The gift of a trip to Florida to visit my daughter, Mary Jane, was a great surprise!

As a life member, I intend to continue to volunteer wherever I am needed. It is a pleasure to work with and visit with the staff and visitors.

Sincerely,
Lorraine Beane



REMEMBERING WALTER GOULDING.....

Sadly, we have lost one of our life members who made such an impact on our Society. He was 95. Walt served as president during the years we were in the house on English Road and as a trustee for many years. He was a gentle, encouraging leader and a joy to work with.

His art work adorns our museum in the mural painted in the Native American exhibit which depicts a summer Seneca fishing camp, and in the murals showing how ice was harvested on the ponds in winter. Another example of his artistic talent can be seen in the early trains and autos that hang in the transportation exhibit.

Walt was active in a craft group we had in the 1980s, teaching us how to carve applehead dolls. He demonstrated the old-time craft at Apple Fest in Hilton as well. He painted a 4'x8' rendition of the Manitou Trolley which we took to fairs, our Strawberry Festival and so forth. You almost want to wave to the conductor he painted, it is so realistic.

He had a vast interest in and knowledge of history. He enjoyed bringing it to life in his art work. He and Ardell were married 66 years, residing in Koda Vista. Walt was employed by Bausch and Lomb until he retired. He will be missed by friends, neighbors and loved ones. We feel blessed to have known him and thankful for all he did for the Greece Historical Society.

Please support our current business members and affiliates

We want to thank them for their support:

North Ridge Glass—Long Pond Auto Body—Hose 22 Firehouse Grill—Long Pond Family Restaurant—Pettis Pools—Brook House Restaurant—Vay, Schleich and Meeson Funeral Home—Greece Chamber of Commerce—Butler Insurance—Flower City Printing—Sonitrol Security System—



****** Please Help Us ******

We are in need of Docents for our Museum 1 or 2 Sunday afternoons a month. Call Kathie Firkins, 621-2869.

"Museum Shop"

Do some early Holiday shopping while supporting local authors. Other books will also be available in the Museum gift shop, including:

History of the Rochester Library System

Eight Miles Along the Shore

If you lived 100 Years Ago

Cobblestone Quest

Horses in Motion

Manitou Trolley Days



Wendy Peeck, Museum Shop Coordinator

All sales support the Greece Historical Society & Museum.

Museum & Museum Shop hours: Sunday 1:00-4:00 pm

LOCAL HISTORY AUTHOR DAY

Sunday, November 13th 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

To help kick off the **90th Anniversary of American Education Week** the Greece Historical Society is hosting an author/book signing event focusing on local history.

The **Greece Museum** will host nine local authors who have made a significant contribution to recording the history of our community and State. Each author will sell his/her own books accepting only cash or checks (sorry no plastic).

Rosemary O'Keefe: Historic Genesee Country, Southeast Rochester

Pat Wayne: Irondequoit, Early Irondequoit Memories

Richard Reisem: Frederick Douglass and the Underground Railroad,

Erie Canal Legacy, Historic New York

Sally Valentine: The Ghost of the Charlotte Lighthouse, Theft at George

Eastman House, What Stinks? An Adventure in Highland Park, Lost at Seabreeze

Donovan Shilling: Bausch and Lomb, A Towpath Tale

Marie V. Poinan: Firefighting in Charlotte – Hose 22, Discover Charlotte in the War of 1812, Discover Charlotte and the Port of Rochester

Ron Mazzarella: There's a Whale in the Canal!

Ronald C. Anderson: Growing Up in Charlotte--Encore Edition

Mike Keene: Folklore and Legends of Rochester, The Mystery of Hoodoo Corner; DVD: Visions, True Stories of Spiritualism, Secret Societies & Murder

Officers & Board of Trustees

President	Bill Sauers
Vice President	Wendy Peeck
Secretary	Sandy Peck
Treasurer	Jack Wallenhorst
Executive Director	NEEDED
Honorary Trustee	Don Newcomb
Trustees:	Sue Hodge
	Sandy Peck
	Wendy Peeck
	Bill Sauers
	Cyndie Shevlin
	Paula Smith
	Lee Strauss
	Jack Wallenhorst
	Viola White
	Roberta Young

Committee Chairs:

Grounds, Building	NEEDED
Historian Office	Alan Mueller
Membership	B. Wallenhorst
Museum	Viola White
Museum Shop	Wendy Peeck
Newsletter	
Editor	Cyndie Shevlin
Mailing	Betty Fetter
Planning	NEEDED
Programs	Bill Sauers
Publicity	Marge Zercie
Tours, Education	Kathie Firkins

Please Remember

The Greece Historical Society in your tax and estate planning. We are a non-profit organization supported by your *gifts and endowments.

We sincerely appreciate your donations.

*Tax deductible per (Section 501(c)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code

Please send information for this newsletter to **corintheditor@yahoo.com. Cyndie Shevlin, Editor**

This newsletter is published bi-monthly by the editor for the Greece Historical Society and Museum.

“Happenings at the Greece Museum”

Round Pond Creek and Round Pond Falls



Gene Preston, "The Sun Flower Mogul", is the third generation to live on his family's farm.. Round Pond Creek meanders between his home and farm field and Long Pond Road. Earlier this year, Gene traced the southern source of the creek, which goes under the Erie Canal and begins in the Town of Gates. Turning northward, he then followed it's wandering path to Round Pond Creek and Lake Ontario. Gene took many photos along the way. He recently donated a fact filled spiral bound booklet with numerous little known facts interspersed between maps and photos. His effort has to be one of the first attempts to document one of the town's numerous creeks that were very important to the farms and businesses in **Greece** of the long ago. We thank him for his donation to our reference library, which is located on the bookshelves in the museum dining room.

Alan Mueller

“Tours and Education Committee”

Meet Jeff Henley

Coordinator of Social Studies K-12, Greece Central Schools

We were pleased to have as a visitor, **Jeff Henley**, the new Social Studies Coordinator of Greece Central Schools. He brought his Apple iPad to take photos of exhibits in the Greece Museum to show new teachers what our museum has to offer. We also showed him the resources we have in the historian's office. **Kathy Firkins, Alan Mueller & Lee Strauss** shared ideas for hands-on activities and in-class programs we can provide before students tour the museum.



Jeff Henley visited the Greece Museum September 22nd.

Kathy Firkins, Lee Strauss & Jack Heller preparing for Native American Day, November 5th



Kathie Firkins, Lee Strauss, Education Committee

"FROM THE HISTORIAN'S FILE"

Why was it called the Elmheart Hotel?

Back in the early 1890s, Frederick Odenbach, a Rochester liquor dealer, bought land on Manitou Beach and started to build a hotel. The newly built Manitou Trolley from Charlotte had finally been extended over a trestle across Braddock Bay to just beyond the Odenbach property. The Skinner family that owned property just to the east of the partially built hotel claimed it was on their property. A court trial in 1890 ruled in favor of the Odenbachs; however, that did not end the dispute. Odenbach ran his new hotel for several years, but the Skinners did not accept the court's decision, so they filed an appeal in May 1894, the plaintiff being Faulding W. Skinner (father of Albert, Sheriff of Monroe County 1930s to 1950s). Faulding's father had purchased the land from Nathaniel Rochester in the very early 1800s. After a long trial with many witnesses, the deciding evidence would be the surveyor's marks put in a tree when the land had first been surveyed in 1802. After much controversy and subsequent new surveys, the tree was found, cut down, and indeed the faint markings on the trunk* indicated the original surveyor's marks. The authenticity of the marks were proved by the growth rings. This proved the plaintiff's appeal should prevail. The Skinners had a new hotel and in honor of the fact that a tree proved the point of their ownership, the hotel was called "The Elmheart Hotel" from then on.

The Skinners ran the hotel until about 1903 when they sold it to a Mr. Johnson who resold it to Michael O'Laughlin and George Weidman (they were related) of Rochester and the Weidmans ran the hotel. After the early nineteen-thirties rooms were no longer available. Only the bar was open after 1933 and light refreshments and ice cream was served. George Wiedman (the way he spelled his name) ran the bar only, usually on weekends and other times when "regulars" and friends might stop by. George died in 1986 and the aged hotel was sold to several investors in 1988. They had hoped to restore the hotel and run it as a lounge, restaurant and inn. The town granted them a permit in December, 1988 for one year. By the end of 1989 no action had been taken and it remained a shuttered ghost from another day. A few years went by with several break-ins and minor damage reported by Greece Police. The end was at hand in the early morning hours of September first, 1992 when a spectacular fire burned the hotel to the ground. Saved from the fire was a nearby dance hall (built in the 1930s by Wiedman) which was also torched by arson in May 1995. What happened to Fred Odenbach after his loss to the Skinners? The larger Hotel Manitou (just west of the Elmheart and built by the Mathews and Servis Company) was purchased by Odenbach. He and his sons operated it until it closed in 1943 and never reopened after World War II. The Odenbachs had an auction of the contents in 1955 and tore the hotel down. Manitou Beach (Hick's Point) is now residential, it's past glory days faded almost beyond recall.

For more insight about George Wiedman go to our website, greecehistoricalsociety.net - click on the library site. Click on the last entry for a 1977 interview with Wiedman by the late, former historical society members, George Caswell and Ed Spelman.

*Two sections of the Elm tree (actually an Oak) were given to the Greece Town Historian. They have been on display from time to time here at the Greece Historical Society Museum.

See pictures page 7.

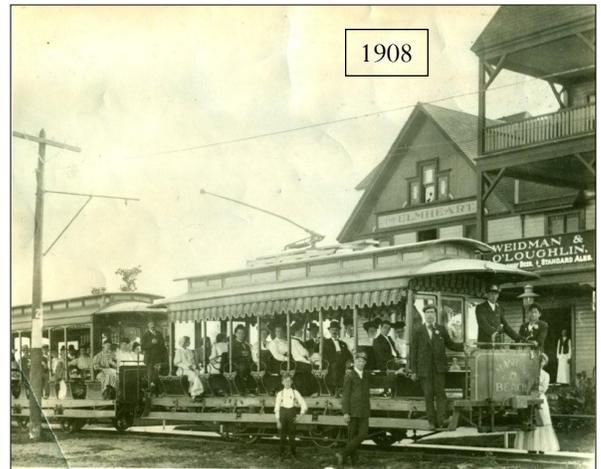
If you have any information on our photos, call Alan at 663-1706.

Photos, Data supplied by **Alan Mueller,**
Greece Historian's Office, Greece Historical Society

...continued from page 6



1898



1908

ELMHEART HOTEL MANITOU BEACH, N. Y.

Remodeled and Refurnished Throughout.

WEIDMAN & O'LOUGHLIN, Proprietors

Our Specialty, Whitefish and Chicken Dinners

This popular hotel has unequalled facilities for general enjoyment. Boats and fishing tackle always on hand. Baseball grounds free to picnickers. The finest brands of cigars, liquors, ales and beers. Organizations desiring particulars in regard to rates, please address

WEIDMAN & O'LOUGHLIN
Rochester, N. Y. Manitou Beach, N. Y.
Bell Phone



1992



Dave Ruch from Buffalo entertained over 110 guests with historic music of New York at our first program of the season.



Upcoming Programs/Events

JANUARY 10, 2012 *"Agriculture & County Fairs in Western NY"* - Lynn Belluscio

FEBRUARY 14, 2012 *"The 140th N.Y. Civil War Regiment"* - Brian Bennett

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



Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Rochester NY
 Permit #1188

Return Service Requested

CONTACT US

GHS Office:
Telephone: 585-225-7221
Email: greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com
Website: www.greecehistoricalsociety.net

Historian's Office: greece.historian@frontiernet.net
Corinthian Editor: corintheditor@yahoo.com

Support Your Local Museum

Greece Historical Society & Museum

*Help Preserve the Past
 for the Future*

Membership Application

GREECE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

(please print)

DATE _____

NAME _____ PHONE: (____) _____

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

ADDRESS _____

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

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

- New Application
- Renewal
- Upgrade
- Donation

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

Student - Senior (65 & over)	\$10.00	___	Business/Professional	\$50.00	___
Individual	\$12.00	___	Patron	\$75.00	___
Family	\$20.00	___	Sustaining	\$150.00	___
Family Supporting	\$50.00	___	Life Members (Each)	\$500.00	___

Memberships are tax deductible. Please make check payable and mail to :

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

(Please include a self addressed stamped envelope to receive a membership card or bring completed form to membership meeting)