

The History of Hamlin Beach State Park,
from the Perspective of an Ecologist: by Lara Hargrave.
Tuesday, April 14. 7:00 p.m. Greece Public Library



Shallow tropical sea, glaciated landscape, forest, farmland, park: the place we now know as Hamlin Beach State Park has experienced many transformations throughout the ages. This rich legacy is discernible to this day in the Park's creatures and features. It isn't just the landscape that has changed: the way humans interact with it has changed too. The Park once housed Prisoners of War and members of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Join us as we explore the natural forces and historical events that have

shaped our beloved State Park and learn what local landscapes and lifeforms can reveal about our past.

Lara Hargrave is an environmental educator for New York State Parks, a job that allows her to realize her dream of living a life of continual learning, dedicated to improving our collective ecological understanding. Lara has a background in chemistry and Great Lakes ecology and a particular interest in studying the biological impacts of climate change through phenological observation.

This program is offered by the Greece Historical Society in cooperation with the Greece Public Library.

Reservations required: <https://greecepubliclibrary.org> or call the library at (585) 225-8951.



Bringing Greece Pioneer Families to Life

Tuesday, May 12, 7:00 p.m. Greece Public Library



Join co-authors, **Marie Villone Poinan** and **Jo Ann Ward Snyder** for an in-depth look at their four-year journey to discover the pioneer life of early settlers of the Town of Greece by interviewing their descendants and researching each family's genealogy.

History of the American Red Cross

Our March 10 program featured **Gary Bennett** who discussed the life of Clara Barton and the establishment of the American Red Cross and included what the Red Cross does today. He also displayed his large collection of Red Cross memorabilia, letters, and books. The program was recorded and will be available on our website.



President's Message



This past month we helped someone with a cemetery question, suggested a resource for a group and assisted two individuals by providing facts for books they are writing, one was from Savannah Georgia and started discussing with the Town Historian possible options for celebrating USA 250. We also hosted a local Girl Scout troop, allowing them to sell cookies in our museum. Our spring projects have started with fixing two outdoor light fixtures.

We have two new exhibits in our museum exhibit hall; "Erie Canal in South Greece" and "Youth Groups of the Town of Greece," a display of memorabilia from local Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and YMCA Indian Guides.

We will soon begin this year's membership campaign. If your membership needs to be renewed you will receive a letter, otherwise you are probably up to date. A reminder for those of you who receive our newsletter in the mail, the date on the address label is the date the label was created and not your renewal date.

As always thank you for your continued support.

Museum Shop News

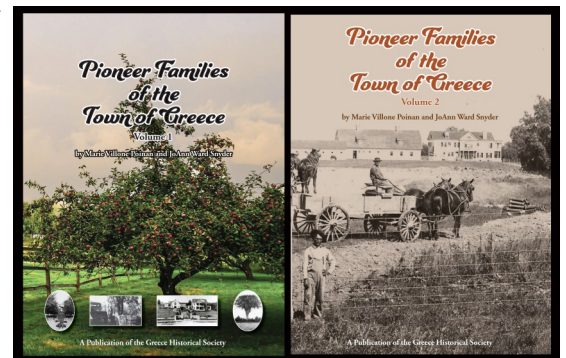
Spring is officially here! We are hoping for much warmer weather!

We had a lot of visitors for the Girl Scout cookies. They sold most of their cookies. They even got a tour through our Museum.

We are planning for our Strawberry Festival in June. We are looking into celebrating the USA 250th anniversary. We will be at the Greece Town Pavillion so we will have lots of space for the activities we have planned.

Enjoy the new Spring weather. See you soon.

Wendy Peeck, Museum Shop Coordinator



Vay-Schleich & Meeson
Funeral and Cremation Chapels

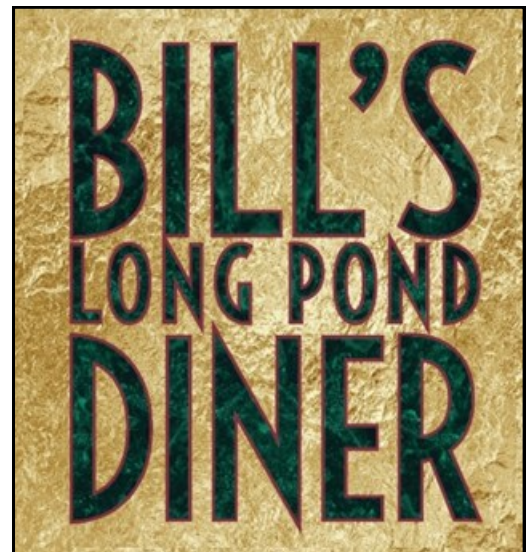
Our Family is Here for Yours
Katie, Doug & Mark Meeson

Greece Chapel 1075 Long Pond Road Rochester, NY 14626 (585) 227-2700	Hilton Chapel 38 East Avenue Hilton, NY 14468 (585) 392-1500
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Celebrate life. MeesonFamily.com

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Donate to Our Collection

Do you have an historic Greece related item or photograph? We are always interested in unique items that help document the story of Greece and enhance its presentation to the public. We are a small museum with limited storage space, which forces us to be very selective in what we add to our collection. If you have an item or photographs you would like us to consider, please tell us about it. Our collections team is usually available on Monday mornings between 10:00 a.m. and noon. Give us a call 585-225-7221 or email greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com.

Our Calendar

Our museum is open on Sundays 1:30–4:00 p.m.

We maintain office hours, Mondays 10:00 a.m. until noon
To make an appointment send an email to
greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

Upcoming Schedule

The museum is open on Sunday afternoons 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 12, Easter Sunday, Museum Closed
Tuesday, April 14, History of Hamlin Beach State Park
Tuesday, May 12, Bringing Greece Pioneer Families to Life
Monday, June 22 Strawberry Festival

Tuesday programs are held at the Greece Public Library at 7:00 p.m.

Please check our Facebook page prior to any event for un-anticipated changes



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We greatly value and appreciate your donations. (Tax deductible per Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code)

Alan Mueller (1932-2026)

This past month we lost a long-time volunteer and historian **Alan Mueller**. Alan was a volunteer here at GHS for a quarter century, starting with the time-consuming job of sorting the records of retired historian Virginia Tomkiewicz. As Town Historian until 2015 he wrote more than 25 history stories for the Democrat & Chronicle's "ROC Roots" series and was an active member of the Monroe County Historians. He also wrote dozens of short stories and articles for our newsletter, the *Corinthian*, and assisted with many of our exhibits.



He set up many history displays at the Greece Public Library, often using his own personal collections. He was always willing to help and do research for anyone and helped identify unusual artifacts. He was also very active with the Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse acting as docent whenever the need arose. In 2015 he was awarded the Greece Regional Chamber of Commerce HISTORY award.

Before joining Greece Historical Society and the Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse Alan was a volunteer at the Strong Museum for nearly 20 years.

Alan was well-known through the community as the master piano tuner. For several years he was the record manager of the Music Lovers Shop. For decades he maintained his own business as a piano and player piano repairman. He had a lifelong interest in music and music-making machines and was a prolific collector of antique phonographs, gramophones, nickelodeons, and all manners of sound-reproducing machines. He was a trusted authority on their repair and maintenance.

Alan will be remembered as a kind, congenial person and devoted friend who always had a good story to tell. He leaves his friends and family with deeply cherished memories of a true gentleman.



Alan at Greece Public Library in 2015 instructing patrons on how to research their home's history.

GS Cookie Sales

On Sunday, March 22, because it was a cold rainy day, Girl Scout Troop #60826 set up inside to sell cookies. Troop #60826 is a Brownie troop, working on projects that include community service, badges to build strong young women, and outdoor activities such as camping and archery. The Greece Historical Society was delighted to be able to offer them this opportunity.



" History does not belong to us; we belong to it" *Hans-Georg Gadamer*

Dick Halsey Receives HISTORY Award

On March 19, **Dick Halsey** a Greece resident and longtime member of the Rochester Genealogical Society and Greece Historical Society, was recognized for his contribution to the community with the Greece Regional Chamber of Commerce HISTORY Award.

For over 50 years, Dick has been the heartbeat of Monroe County's history and genealogy. While others might look at an old yearbook at a garage sale or a stack of faded programs at an estate sale and see "clutter," he sees a bridge to the past. He sees a name that deserves to be remembered and a story that needs to be shared. He doesn't just find these treasures; he rescues them, ensuring they find their way back into the hands of the community and the hearts of descendants.

His dedication is legendary. From the countless hours spent walking through our local cemeteries, documenting the lives of those who came before us, to his tireless research into churches, historical societies and archive offices, he has done the "heavy lifting" that most people wouldn't dream of. Dick has been a pioneer in the truest sense, especially through his work preserving history in Monroe County. Because of his generosity in sharing his findings, he has turned what could have been a private collection into a public legacy.

In the Rochester area, anyone who has ever caught the "genealogy bug" knows Dick's name. It's on everything. We see it on almost every record, every transcription, and historical documents. Dick has spent half a century building a map for the rest of us to follow, and because of him, thousands of families have been able to learn about their roots and the history of the Flower City. <https://mcnygenealogy.com/>

Dick is also one of the kindest, most humble human beings I have ever met. He is soft-spoken and does not seek recognition or notoriety for his work. We all owe Dick a debt of gratitude that we can never truly repay. He hasn't just preserved records; he has preserved our identity. We thank him for his passion, his persistence, and his kindness in sharing his life's work with us all.

Congratulations, Dick Halsey! - David Richardson



Maintenance Projects Continue



Our Spring maintenance projects have begun. In March our electrician friend **Ben Camelio** replaced a malfunctioning light fixture on the south side of our building and a big thank you to the **Town of Greece DPW** crew for repairing our driveway streetlight and updating it with a more efficient LED bulb.



We have recently received a donation of CD recordings of the Greece Performing Arts concerts. We look forward to listening to them ourselves and sharing them with you!



New Exhibits!

Not one, but two new exhibits made their debuts on the museum's season opening day March 1st. Many thanks to the volunteers who worked so hard on these exhibits and the events tied to them. A special thanks, also, to those who have shared stories and items.

Rob Cunningham, Gina DiBella, Deborah Cole Myers, Rebecca Quinn, Bill Sauers, Maureen Whalen

Four Miles Along the Canal

A compilation of the information displayed in honor of last year's 200th anniversary of the completion of the Erie Canal, and the impact it had on the town of Greece's economy and daily life.



Youth Groups of the Town of Greece

Were you a Girl Scout, a Boy Scout, or a Y-Indian Guide?
Come take a stroll down the wooded path of your youth!



Photos by Deborah Cole Myers

What's the story behind those tiny houses set on the back of the property?

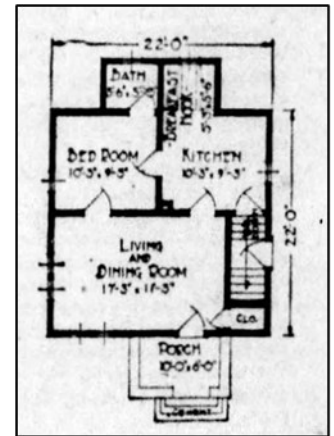
Home ownership has always been the dream of most people. During the “roaring twenties” average people began to have enough money to spend on luxuries like their own home, but for many, city property was too expensive. Meanwhile, builders began to lay out streets in the suburbs, and Greece was no exception.

In order to entice buyers, some builders offered a building lot for an average of \$500 (\$9,000 today) and offered to build a small temporary house, averaging 500 square feet, for about \$1,500 (\$28,000 today). This small house, set back on the lot, could be used until the owners accumulated enough savings to build a permanent house on the front of the lot.

We Will Build You Your Bungalow to Live in

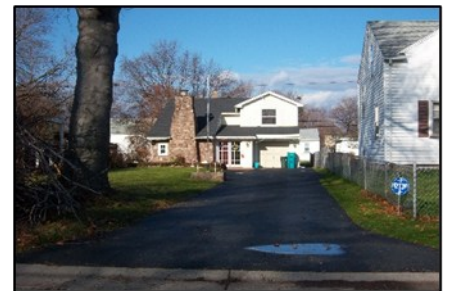
**While you're waiting and saving to build your home - a good, substantial home, with four or five comfortable rooms, toilet, water, bathtub, hot water boiler and electricity - for a small payment down
PRICE OF BUNGALNETTES ONLY \$1,200 TO \$1,600—EASY TERMS**

Democrat & Chronicle, July 13, 1924



As can be expected, with the onset of the Depression the savings never accumulated, and instead of building the permanent house, many people just added on to their small house as the need required. These houses had no basement as they were intended to be temporary or to be eventually used as a garage. Today there seems to be no two alike.

These houses, set back in the property, have been collectively called “garage houses,” but back then these houses, and nearly any small house, were called “Bungalettes.” The largest collection of these homes is still in the Dewey-Stone area, although there are few which can be seen scattered in other parts of Greece, in Brighton, and in the City of Rochester.



Some of the many “Garage Houses” in Greece (photos by Bill Sauers)

Greece Historical Society
Greece Museum
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CONTACT US

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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: _____

Membership Classifications

Annual Rate

Select

Senior (62+, Each)	\$15.00	_____
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	_____
Life (Each)	\$500.00	_____
Donation	\$ _____	_____

☐ New Application
☐ Renewal
☐ Upgrade
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 My donation is in memory of _____

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