



GREENPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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A Note From the President

In these uncertain times, we wanted to reach out to let you know that the Greenport Historical Society is exploring ways to keep in touch for the upcoming year. As you know, we, like many other organizations, have been "on pause" in an effort to remain safe during the pandemic.

One of the options we will be exploring for 2022 is the potential for a temporary change in venue for our programs and meetings to an outdoor and more spacious meeting place, such as the Greenport Town Park during the warm weather months. Many people from the local community of history-lovers have complemented us over the years on our programs and expressed their appreciation for their variety and exceptional quality. Nancy Guarino, our Program Chair, has a number of speakers waiting in the wings for the opportunity to restart public speaking. We will assess the situation during our usual winter hiatus as the spring approaches and determine what will be possible and will be back in touch with you. Hopefully, we will be able to resume gatherings that will be safe for our membership and the community.

Meanwhile, the Society's officers have agreed to continue to serve for another year to assure continuity and we are in good shape financially. The website will be updated and continued as a contact point. Please enjoy the articles in this newsletter and thank you for your continuing support.

Regards,
Jo von Bieberstein
President, GHS

In Memorium

We offer condolences to the families of Life members George Clowe and Dr. Edward Ginouves, as well as the family of member Madaline DeCintio who have passed away this year.

Special Edition: News From the Archives Fall 2021

In some ways, what follows is a tale of a road, Joslen Boulevard

Early this summer, the Greenport Historical Society had two requests for information on two houses. One was by a new owner of the well-known Captain Alexander Jenkins House and the second was a request on behalf of an individual who had a childhood remembrance of a home somewhere on Joslen Boulevard.

First, the history of the Federal style Jenkins House has been well documented by historians of Columbia County and Hudson, including Ruth Piwonka, Margaret Schram and Byrne Fone. In 1987, the GHS publication, "Greenport, the Forgotten Town" (on sale at Greenport Town Hall and available at your local library) included a self-driven tour of homes in Greenport. The latter includes not only Capt. Jenkins' house, but his sister Eunice's home, the Turtle House, once entered from Joslen. Eunice's husband, Job Center, was also a sea captain.

GHS archives maintain an extensive file on homes; plus there is also a small research library. Therefore this search request was handled easily from the town hall where the GHS collection is maintained.

The second request was more challenging. Our publication shows an 1873 map of Greenport with four houses which could be the correct home search request. All on Joslen Boulevard! Several of these homes are cited on the map linked to the McGiffert/MacGiffert family historically. In addition, two others are listed on the GHS tour of Joslen and the map. They were owned by another sea captain, Alexander Robinson. The home search request had included a photo of Wilfred McGiffert Sr.'s home previously on the present site of Anshe Emeth Synagogue. (Review of this house and conversation with the family, now owner of a Robinson/McGiffert house, narrowed down and completed the search.)

As Greenport separated from Hudson in 1837 and was incorporated as a separate town, the city of Hudson historian, Pat Fenoff, was contacted to help with both searches. Our many questions resulted in information on the Jenkins grave at the Cedar Park Cemetery which will be added to our files. Mrs. Fenoff was key in the preservation of this family grave plot. Also the original 1873 map is available at the Deed room in Hudson City Hall for public review. Many thanks to Pat for her assistance and support to GHS. Thanks also to Nancy Guarino, Bob MacGiffert and Nancy Sullivan for their invaluable aid. Photo credit and thanks to the Congregation Anshe Emeth historian.

Carol Harp Biernacki
Collections Chair



Wilfred McGiffert Sr.'s house on the site which is now Congregation Anshe Emeth Synagogue on Joslen Boulevard.

Message from the Treasurer

Although we haven't been able to meet for two seasons, we are grateful to those who are able to send their \$15 annual dues. Life memberships remain at \$100 per person. We understand these are trying times, but we appreciate your support. If possible, please mail annual dues to:

Patricia C. Hart, Treasurer
Greenport Historical Society
520 Route 66
Hudson NY 12534

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Happy Holidays

and

all best wishes for the New Year!

We hope to see you in person in 2022!

Greenport Historical Society

<http://greenporthistoricalsociety.org>

