



Main Street Garage
History Coming Down

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

August 1998, Issue ONE HUNDRED

Share Session

A small, late-summer group came out for the August share session – Ron Golden, Harriet Rasmussen, David & Judy Rundell, Toot & Betty Vaughn, Rosemary Lambert, Dot Blenis, and Don Teator.

Harriet is maintaining her schedule of Taylor summaries and read her summary of 1867. She noted she's got to cut back a little of the detail; instead of a ten minute reading, she gave a fifteen minute one. However, almost everyone protested her 'threat'. Later on, you will find the 1866 summary.

A note was made of the roadwork in Greenville, and David Rundell described the condition and building of the culvert by his house.

Mention was made of the Greene County Historical Society's role in the purchase of the Cole House in Catskill. I'm sure we'll hear more of it in the next year or two.

Don read over some of the captions for the calendar pictures and biographies, and took suggestions for improvement. (Thanks, Harriet for the dates of deaths later in the week.)

Finally, Don showed a book sitting on the shelf for a few years that had been transferred from the town office. The minutes of town meetings from 1803 in the Town of Greenfield are part of the attraction of the book. The other one is the description of the marking of ears, supposedly of pigs' ears, in the front of the book. Perhaps, this is a section we can transcribe sometime. Mention of these ear marks is made on page 291 in

Beers' 1884 History of Greene County. A part of one of the pages is reproduced later.

This write-up makes it seem like a short meeting but we left about the usual time of 9:30.

Other notes:

The next meeting will feature the Orson Hallenbeck pictures, placed in photo albums that many of you saw in the Cunningham Museum. Curt has allowed me to borrow them for the September meeting. Even though we have seen many of them, it will be a rare opportunity to revisit them, and you can suggest that some photos get duplicated in case Deb and I have not done so already.

On September 16, the Greene County Historical Society will be holding a lecture. And I will be the program, with a slide show about Greenville's history. I'd be glad to see you come out.

A number of 9807, or lower, above your name on the mailing address means your subscription has run out, and that I'm sending this issue out as a courtesy and as a reminder to renew, if you wish.

This is Issue 100! That fact does not make this one any more special than any one of the others. I think it means we've been around long enough to have made a difference. Thank you for 100 issues of help, and I hope you continue to find this newsletter worthwhile.

Diary of R. Edwin Taylor – 1866
Harriet Rasmussen - transcriber

School in 1866 is unlike school today. It is taught in three month terms and there are no vacations unless, of course, the teacher is sick. Last year, the school term began on December 11th. Christmas fell on a Monday but, on Tuesday morning, teacher Richard Edwin Taylor and 27 scholars were in Lampman school ready to learn. With such a short term there is no time for days off. Even a temperature of 22° below on January 8 of this year did not discourage attendance below twenty-two.

This school term ends on March 7 to coincide with the coming growing season. That is a time when children are needed to help with the farm work. And this teacher is a farmer with his own farm to run. He teaches until March 7 and writes in his diary that night, "Paid Wm Spalding \$1.00 for building fires at school house & closed school today. Had 28 scholars & house full of company." He will not begin another term until December 17 when he will be back at Lampman School earning \$1.25 a day.

In September of last year, Taylor had entered into partnership with Addison Utter as mill owners. His first order of business on the New Year is chronicled by the entry, "Sold out sawmill to Ad Utter and am to have a note for it." Three months as a mill owner may have been just long enough to give Louisa's youngest brother a start in business. And this is the first of a number of notes R.E. would hold this year. He takes D. Ellis' note for \$150, Almeron Utter's for \$250, and Jerry Goff's for \$150. And Lorenzo Hunt buys two heifers and pays with a \$120 note. These heifers were put in his barn beside the Norton Hill church. That barn was torn down and burned in the winter of 1998.

It is supposed that these loans generated some interest. And Taylor apparently

has a business head. The July 15 entry tells us, "Met S.R. Potter on the road coming to see me & bought of him a Buckeye machine for \$126.00 without interest till last of October or November 1st." On July 17, the new mowing machine arrives. But just as man has to get used to these new-fangled contraptions, so do the animals have difficulty adjusting. On July 24, R.E. records this problem, "Hot – undertook to mow with colts. But Kate refused to. She was afraid of the machine and cut up. A. Utter came and we put her beside Frank & then mowed the piece down."

There is no full time hired man on the farm again this year. When it is crop planting time, Ed Cole helps out on a daily basis. The work seems to be more like one farmer helping another. On July 25, he explains, "Mowed some for Joseph Knowles with colts & he helped me draw 3 jaggs hay." The following day, "Helped J. Knowles draw in 4 loads hay. Charlie helped rake 2 loads of hay for me & I put it up." This entry tells us that his ten year old nephew is already learning to help out on the farm.

It seems to me that this year's diary has required me to read between the lines more often than in other years. Just who is living where is not quite clear at times. On a Sunday in February, the entry reads, "Mr. Cook came after Sarah & Rosa." I did not understand this message until August 25 when R.E. writes, "Louisa & I went to Livingstonville to see Sarah & stayed overnight at Cook's Hotel." So it appears that Sarah, who was living with her mother, may now be working at Cook's Hotel. Her young son, Charles Lord, you will recall, is living with R.E. and Louisa.

There has been no mention of brother Charles Taylor getting married so the May 5 entry comes as a surprise. It reads, "Charles' wife came up & stayed all night." And the following day, "Took Charles wife down home." I read between the lines

that now both Charles and his wife are on Wright Street at his mother's home.

And now mother Phebe's visits to the Taylors become more frequent. She begins with a two week visit in June. By August and September she appears to be making her home there. On August 23, he writes, "Louisa took mother down home", but on September 23 it is, "Carried mother down to Charles to get some things." I take this to mean that she is letting the newlyweds have the place to themselves. R.E. does not refer much to what his mother is doing daily but on July 9 he writes, "Took wool to the carding machine at Westerlo & mother went along and chopped."

Regarding the children: Howard turned six on November 25 although his father does not remind us of any birthdays. On January 3, he writes, "Howard went to school again." It is not mentioned again so I don't know if that is a visit or if Howard has started school.

Addie was four on December 3 and during this year seems to make extended visits to her Utter grandparents at Oak Hill. There are various entries referring to her twin uncle and aunt, Addison and Adelaide, taking her home with them or bringing her back. They are still living at the home of their parents, Cynthia and Bani Utter.

The baby is now nine months old and for the first time her father reveals her name. On Oct 1, he writes, "Paid \$1.00 for Isabel a pr of shoes at Laceys." It has been a pattern with each of the children that we are not told their names until they become old enough for their first pair of shoes.

This year R.E. does some smaller masonry jobs for Lewis Weeks and Henry Cropser, Alonzo Spalding and Charles Pullman in the spring. On August 4, he records,

"Repaired boiler fireplace at paper mill at Medusa for JT Milton – rec'd \$2.50 for it." But on September 17, he starts a job on which he works daily until November 21st. He has hired out at \$2.50 a day to lay cistern, build chimney & chimney tops, piazza piers, cellar & cellar steps. Inside the house he does the lathing, plastering, browning and hard finishing. This must be a brand new dwelling for Elijah Shaw who pays him \$160.00 for the work.

But now winter is setting in. On December 11, Taylor tells us he has finished banking his house. Only a few days before Peter Grogan had come to look at his farm. And the following day, he writes, "Mrs. Grogan and Mrs. Knowles called to look at our house with a view of buying." Another false hope it seems, because the deal is never mentioned again.

There are a total of six funerals to attend since January. And March 31 finds Richard Edwin sitting up all night with "Jer Lampman's corpse."

In May, Taylor had taken his niece Arvelia to Berne to be certified for teaching. And now, on December 16, he "Took Arvelia over to Aaron Jennings to stay through the winter & go to (teach) school. He begins his new school term on December 17th. So now there are two school teachers in the family looking to 1867.

Postscript: On the cover of our 1996 GLHG calendar is a sketch of the Shaw Homestead on Big Woods Road. This diary tells us something about that house which was abandoned in the 1960s. We now know that it was built in 1866 and Richard Taylor and his brother William did considerable work on it. After 114 years it burned, possibly in 1980. The residence of Kay Sinkway is now on the site.

Car marks

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Samuel B Spies, Car mark to wit, a Tenant
in the left ear Enter, on Record 10th day Apr^r 1803 -

Harvey A Stones Car mark (to wit), a square crop
off the left ear - Enter, on Record 12th day Apr^r 1803
Given to John Hunter

John Stones Car mark - to wit - a square crop
off the right ear - Given to Rufel Norton

Joel Stones Car mark - a halfpenny the underside
of the right ear Given to Moses Butler the 5 July 1813

Ozier Stones, Car mark - a slit the underside of
the right ear given to Harvey Norton 9 June 1813

Francis Hitchok, Car mark - a nick the underside
of the left ear -

Gideon Hitchok's Car mark - a halfpenny the
uperside of the left ear -

Joshua Bakers, Car mark - a half crop the uper
side of the left ear - and a halfpenny the underside
of the same -

Daniel Norton's Car mark - to wit, a slope the
uperside of the right ear -

Joel Norton's Car mark - to wit, a slope the
uperside of the right ear -