

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

September 1999, Issue 110

Photo Browse

A pleasant, late summer dusk was specially made for the regulars and for the community browsers for the Browse the Photos meeting. Over thirty people showed for the seldom-held "open house" of the photo collection.

For those of you who have kept track, the photo collection keeps growing each year, sometimes a picture or three or five there, sometimes a couple dozen here, and once in a while a hundred or more. The last such larger collection of duplicated pictures was from George and Irene Williams' photo albums this past winter.

An overview was written for the Greenville Press a few weeks back, and I have copied the text on the next page.

If I can comment, without bragging too much, the last ten years has proven to be a watershed era for duplicating photographs for Greenville. With your help, the Historian's collection is one the biggest collections in the county. The looks on people's faces, upon seeing the collection for the first time, is a reminder that our everyday pictures still do touch lives. Although I still claim that Deb and I are reasonably sane and rational about this project, the largeness of it does strike once in a while.

Also included in this newsletter is the index of photo albums which was distributed on browsing night. Many of you have been involved in the GLHG from the beginning and know we started from photo album number one. It truly is a testament to a sense of purpose and persistence.

The computer database index to all the pictures has finally been updated since about five years ago, and this time, the printout is 227 pages long, and that does not include the ongoing cemetery project.

A thank you goes to those of you who helped set up, clean up, and help others explore the photo albums.

If anyone has suggestions, comments, and/or feedback, feel free to pass it along. How do we make what we have better?

Other notes:

Next month's meeting will focus on school

memories. This is partially in coordination with Richard Ferriolo's History of GCS, a project that is need of doing and I've promised that I and the GLHG will help out as much as possible. I've offered to write the framework of the history and facts. What's needed are stories and anecdotes about school to show that school involved real people. Please consider writing down some notes and/or paragraphs and/or longer entries about your experiences with the school district, whether it be the centralized school or before. So, next month's will be an attempt to capture some information that could be used for Richard's book.

The calendar is in, and I'm arranging to have it placed in various business. It currently is available at Bryant's, Rite-Aid and the Library. I'm trying to get it in Cumberland and Stewart's. If you see it in any of these businesses, please let them know that you appreciate them carrying the calendar. (Otherwise, we have to do the selling!) Prices are \$5 at the store, a decrease of a dollar from previous years. Mailed copies can be ordered \$7 for 1, \$13 for 2, \$19 for 3, etc.).

A get well goes to Cris Ketcham who broke her hip and is on the mend.

A note of sympathy goes to the Gundersen family on Bunny's death just after our meeting. Ironically, I had just picked up the calendar and was going to give Ossie and Bunny a copy of the calendar which honors their service.

Also included is Harriett's summary of R.E. Taylor's 1870. (If anyone catches me mis-spelling Harriett's name ever, ever again, yell at me! I've only done it for years, and it's got to stop!)

Also, we need to decide who to recognize for the 2001 calendar. Another sheet in this newsletter list those names, and we'll plan to choose in November. More details next month.



Town of Greenville Historian's Photo Project Don Teator, Town Historian

If a picture can tell a thousand words, then the nearly ten thousand pictures in the Town of Greenville Historian's files speak volumes.

My wife Debra and I started gathering these photos for the historian's files in 1989 upon my becoming Town Historian. After seeing Gerald Boomhower's post card collection at a local craft show, I realized I should find a way of preserving this view of the town's history.

After duplicating the post cards, we soon discovered that the real wealth of town photographic history lay in community members' photo albums. With Debra duplicating the pictures on her copy stand, the historian's files has accumulated nearly three thousand older photos. Many of them are of the hamlet centers, ranging in date from the 1880s up through the 1980s. The bulk of the duplicated photos show the town in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s.

Especially important is the Cunningham collection that was stored in the Cunningham Museum and now at the funeral home. This collection was that of pharmacist Orson Hallenbeck who captured many scenes near Greenville's four corners in the 1920s-1940s era.

Another important find were the nearly thirty glass plate negatives that M. P. Stevens had developed. Showing scenes of Greenville during the first decade of this century, these large format negatives had been stored and protected in the family attic all these decades.

Other duplications came from extensive collections of Ingalls and Griffin descendants. Also, numerous photos came from Phil Ellis, the former Greenville Local editor, as he walked about town recording the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. Chris McDonald's photographs cover the same time span in her years as a Greenville columnist in a number of newspapers. Nearly forty people account for the bulk of the older duplicated pictures.

These older hamlet and structure photos are arranged in albums by street. Mixed with them are photographs that the Teator team has taken over the past ten years. In the spring of 1990, we photographed nearly every structure of the town, and have attempted to photograph structures as they change. Seen side-by-side with older

duplications, a visual history of the town's structures is recorded. These newer photos number about four thousand.

Occupying several photo albums are collections of individuals and families over the years, with several dozen families represented. Despite the recording of all these people pictures, several times that number have not been duplicated because the old photos were not, and can no longer be, identified, a situation that is probably true with hundreds of photo albums sitting in our homes today.

Over one hundred of these older pictures have been shared with the community through the Greenville Local History Group's calendar which first appeared in 1991.

A third part of the Historian's photo collection is that of cemetery stones. In an ongoing project that is about eighty percent done, every cemetery stone will be photographed, recording for future use a cemetery history, something that is harder and harder to do as age takes its toll on the legibility of the stones. Also, theft of cemetery stones has reduced some cemeteries to half their number of stones over the years.

A useful offshoot of the documenting of the nearly twenty-five cemeteries of the Town of Greenville is the placement of information into a computer database. Thus, when finished (several years away), someone wanting to know if someone was buried in the town could search for the name by computer and, if found, would know the location and wording of the stone.

Most of the ten thousand duplications and photographs of the collection (from over five hundred rolls of film), have been entered into a computer database, with information about each picture recorded. A number on each picture identifies the film roll number and the frame number of that roll, thus enabling relative ease of finding the negative of any picture of the collection.

The entire collection of pictures has been and is available for viewing, either individually or for a group presentation. Furthermore, anyone with pictures of the town's structures, people and events should consider allowing them to be given or duplicated. Inquiries can be made to the Greenville Town Historian, Don Teator (634-2397).

House & Structures

- 1 Freehold 32-S (4Crrn-Tn Line), Huntingdon Dr
- 2 Freehold 32-N (4Crrn-West Rd), Freehold Mill Rd, "Mitchell Rd", Birch Hill Rd, Surprise Hill
- 3 Freehold 67-W (4Crrn-Tn Line)
- 4 Freehold 67-E (4Crrn-FrHghtsRd)
- 5 Freehold Red Mill Rd, Wyckoff Rd, Weed Rd, Pine Crest Ln, Pine Meadow Ln, Kildare Ln
- 6 Freehold Big Woods Rd, Alberta Ln, O'Hara Rd, Shipley Rd
- 7 Norton Hill Rt 81 (Maple-Tn Line)
- 8 Norton Hill Carter Bridge Rd
- 9 Norton Hill New Ridge Rd, Old Plank Rd
- 10 Norton Hill North Rd, Sunset Rd, Medusa Rd
- 11 West Greenville Rt 81 (Basic-Maple), Ida Smith Ln, Ingalside Rd, JohnnyCake Ln
- 12 West Greenville Red Mill Rd, High Acres Rd, Maple Ave, Elm Ln
- 13 Greenville 32-N (4Crrn-GCS)
- 14 Greenville 32-N (GCS-Irving)
- 15 Greenville 32-N (Irving-Tn Line)
- 16 Greenville 81-E (4Crrn-Hill)
- 17 Greenville 81-W (4Crrn-Basic)
- 18 Greenville 32-S (4Crrn-Hill), Hill Str
- 19 Greenville 32-S (Hill-E.RedMill), East Red Mill Rd
- 20 ne Greenville Irving Rd, Newry Rd, Newry Ln, Meadowbrook Ln, Pine Hill Rd, Meadowbrook Ln So, Devan Rd, Turon Rd
- 21 ne Greenville CR 38, Cedar Ln, Hillcrest Rd, Spring Valley Rd
- 22 e Greenville Rt 81 (Hill-Tn Line)
- 23 e Greenville Rt 26, Rt 26A, Highland Rd
- 24 e Greenville Scutt Rd, Willowbrook Drive, Willowbrook Rd
- 25 e Greenville Surprise-Result Rd, Tranquillity Rd, K. H.-Earlton Rd, Gayhead-Earlton Rd, King Hill Rd
- 26 se Greenville Vly Rd, Drake Hill Rd, Waldron Rd, Rolling Hill Rd, Mt View Rd
- 27 se Greenville Rt 67 (FrHghtsRd-Gyhd), Schoharie Turnpike
- 28 e Greenville CR 41, West Rd
- 29 e Greenville Plattekill Rd, So Plattekill Rd, Sunny Hill Rd, Freehold Heights Rd, Autumn Ln, Fox Hill Rd
- 30 (save for future use)

Scrapbook

- 31 Hannay Scrapbook I --- 1887-1905
- 32 Hannay Scrapbook II --- 1887-1905

Genealogy

- 33 Genealogy I A-Br
- 34 Genealogy II Bu-Gu
- 35 Genealogy III H-I
- 36 Genealogy IV J-Po
- 37 Genealogy V Po-St
- 38 Genealogy VI St-Z
- 39 Genealogy VII (blank - future use)

People

- 40 People I Yeomans-Baumann-King-Weeks-Losee-Hickok-Cowell-Nelson
- 41 People II Pioneer-VanDyck-Francis-Cunningham-Harrison-Gumport-Talmage-Hartt-Botsford-Wilgus-Robbins-Easland-Brown-Stanton-Winnie-Palmer-Teator-Hempstead-Garrison-Sutton
- 42 People III Rasmussen-Abrams-Brown-Cathcart-Griffin-Purinton-Decker-Archer-Wright-Smith-Chesbro-Layman-Tallman-Salvesen-Stevens-Rundell-Blenis-GLHG
- 43 People IV Phinney-Ingalls-Elliott
- 44 People V (blank-future)

School

45 School

Miscellaneous

46 Miscellaneous I Waterway
47 Miscellaneous II Historical Markers, Other Towns, To Be Identified, Events

Cemeteries (# indicates negative roll)

48 Greenville I #237-249
49 Greenville II #250-257, 273-279
50 Greenville III #280-295
51 Greenville IV #296-309
52 Greenville V #311-320
53 Greenville VI #229-236
54 Greenville VII #349-365, 438
55 Locust I #334-348
56 Locust II (to be determined)
57 Freehold #258-271
58 King Hill (S-R Rd) #366-374
59 Craw Jump - #194
King - #209-210
Raskopf - #195
Stevens - #208-209
Gardner - #196
Edgett - #215-216
Greenville Center So - #195-196
Canniff-Hoose - #199
Butler - #206
Palmer - #217
Pierce - #204
Old Freehold - #200-203 (not finished)
60 Greene - #210-211
Rundle - #207-208
CR 38 - #204-206
Blaisdell - 198-199
Place - #210, 214-215
Waldron - #196-198
Wilber/Smith - #212-214
61 (future use for cemeteries to be done - CR41 north, Gayhead, KH south)
62 (future use)

Business Cards

63 Business Cards

Other Albums

- GCS Papers I, II, III
- GLHG Newsletters 1989-1994, 1995-1998, 1999-
- Carrie Ingalls Diary 1886-1893, 1913-1919, 1920-1926, 1927-1932, 1933-1939, 1940-1947, 1948-1951
- R. Edwin Taylor Diary 1858-1868 (and continuing to 1905 eventually)
- Slides
- Interview and transcripts

R.E. Taylor Diary – 1870
Harriett Rasmussen - summarizer

On New Year's Day of 1870 there is no thought of any kind of holiday. George Frayer comes to kill the beef. It is a job that Taylor never puts his own hand to. He does, however, always tend to the cutting up and distributing of the meat. This day he writes, "Let M. Powers have 1 qtr. of it & settled with him in full for work." So, we know that Matty has finished his eight months of work and will go home until there is need for him again in the spring. RE will be without a full time hired man but Charles Ingalls comes sometimes to cut wood and help out while Taylor teaches.

Matty must have fit in well enough as hired man that RE wants to be sure to get him back. On January 30, he writes, "Matty Powers came down here & hired him for 8 months to commence the first of April at \$20.00 per month & am to let him take a horse to go home once in a while." Matty has apparently learned to bargain a little, giving him a \$1.00 a month raise and the use of a horse. On April 17, he takes advantage of this promise for the first time when he goes home with horse and wagon.

Also on the first day of this year, RE makes a trip back to his old neighborhood carrying 109 pounds of beef, at 10¢ per pound to Mary Hunt. Also, he takes Mary's daughter Ida home to help while George Hunt and his mother are sick. Whatever they have, it appears that Taylor catches it and misses a few days of teaching. By January 8, in spite of the snow, he is well enough to get out and pay his town tax. The size of his new farm is reflected in the \$61.12 tax he pays this year. On his Sunset Road farm last year he paid \$23.90. In October, he would find his school tax jump from \$4.85 to \$8.00. But he does not register any complaints.

February's entries this year record daily whether school is full or small and sometimes that is dictated by the weather. It is not a particularly snowy month but he speaks quite often of the creek being high. He trades now mostly at C.R. Lacy's in Freehold, bringing his eggs there at 30¢ per dozen and trading them out. On February 16, he writes, "Went to Freehold & returned Lacy's oil can & paid \$.97 for pr. shoes

for Belle and 3 lemons."

It has been six months since the death of Louisa's father, Bani Utter, and on January 15, his son-in-law writes in his diary, "Carried Louisa up home & they all not there to settle up Estate. Addison is to take the farm & each one \$500 the first of April. When their mother is gone to pay \$275.00 apiece more – he to pay all debts & expenses & papers, etc. – the household goods are left undivided."

This seems like a logical solution. Addison, the youngest of Bani's nine children, is still living at home and apparently has been running the farm since his aged father could no longer do it. His twin, Adelaide, married John Burgett last year and the March 6 entry announces, "Adelaide had a girl." As with his own children, Taylor does not tell us her name, but I have discovered she was called Della.

Just three days after Della's birth, RE writes, "School about as usual – closed 3 o'clock to go to Addison Utter's wedding – held at Almeron's." Addison, who has had a lumber mill for several years, this year gets a farm and a wife. I will be watching for any information to satisfy my curiosity about who this new bride might be. To date, I have not found out where Addison is buried so some parts of my puzzle are still missing.

We know that Addison is able to keep his agreement when RE records, on March 31, "Afternoon went to Oak Hill – Rec'd \$94.97 for Supervisor School & Library - \$85.50 for A. Utter on note & \$500 from him towards Louisa's share in Homestead." The following day he makes his first mortgage payment of \$780 to Augustus Mygatt and takes Louisa to sign off her rights and title on the Homestead.

On April 5, the entry reads, "Went through the creek to East Durham to Town Meeting & was appointed one of 5 committee to draft resolution expressing approval of the course Supervisor took in appraising bank claims." I have no clue what the Supervisor has done but the reference to crossing the creek makes me think that the bridge which was swept away last October 4 has not been rebuilt. This is probably just as well because two weeks later, on April 18, we read, "Rainy all day – creek high – the biggest freshet we have had in

a great many years." On the following day comes this tragic news, "Cleared up & went up and down the creek viewing the destruction the creek made last night – Geo. Turner's daughter was drowned getting away from the creek – it has cleaned out things on the Medusa Creek."

This flooding caused noteworthy damage even farther up the Catskill Creek. The following Sunday, it is pleasant and the Taylors take a ride to see what has happened outside their neighborhood. On April 24, he tells us, "Carried Louisa to Oak Hill to see the destruction made by the freshet – Almeron & wife went up home with us & we went up the Saybrook to see the flood wood & other damage." The clean-up would go on for months. On September 2, this farmer writes in his diary, "We drew flood trash from the flat all day." This clearing of the flat goes on for three days so that Matty Powers can plough it.

Without any previous notice of a death it came as a surprise to me when, on May 10, RE penned these few lines, "Wet & rain again – we went to Mr. Purinton's funeral & carried Charles & his wife." So, the same Joseph Purinton who had gone to buy a coffin and shroud for Mother Phebe last May would follow her to the Wright Street cemetery to be buried just a year and a day later. Early maps show that the Purintons lived on Wright Street in the second house below School House Road. Thus, in 1870, my great-great-grandmother Ann has become a widow and will not join her husband until fourteen years later. Living with her are her two sons, Anson and John, who have returned from the Civil War, wounded and disabled. Also, at home is her youngest child, 26 year old Elizabeth, who in just three years will marry James Evans. Elizabeth and James are my great-grandparents.

The corn ground is ploughed and planted in May. Oldest son Howard is nine and it is interesting to see how he is being integrated into the help on the farm. On May 25, while Isaac Hennicutt and Dutch John help Taylor plant his fodder corn, he records, "Howard put the phosphate in hills." Howard's name is seen more and more this year as he is sent to Freehold with the eggs, to Wright Street to have harnesses repaired, and to Oak Hill to have

horses shod.

In the middle of this bustle of ploughing, planting and laying wall, on June 1, he notifies all property owners to work on the road on Friday and Saturday. This is an excellent way to learn who his neighbors are. Each one on his road is assessed a certain number of days work. The use of their animals and equipment counts to help them make up those days. Taylor's June 3 entry explains, "Fair – worked roads today – Eli Stannard drew the slot stuff – I worked 4 day beside Chestnut to cover sluices – Cunningham 5 days – J.T. Place 4 days – Barlow 3 days – Elliott 4 days – B. Edwards 1 day – O. Wood 3 days – J. More & Ezra More 3 days – Barker 1." The following day he takes his oxen and goes after cords for the bridge while some of the above continue to work out their road time. Then, on Sunday, he writes, "Remained at home all day – had strawberries for tea for the first time." I think he has earned the treat and I can see Louisa and the two oldest children, possibly with Ida Hunt, setting off with their pails to the meadows in search of berries to provide it.

Summer days are busy with the haying. He draws the first load to Catskill on June 15th. By the time he draws his last load on August 4, he has put eight tons on the boats for shipment. Well in November he is shipping straw on the same river.

In September he begins to do a little masonry work and from then until November 21, he is hired by Frank Penn, Wallace Jennings, Ransom Stannard and Orrin Wood to work on boilers, kettles and chimneys.

Sometime during the summer an agent had come to ask about the selling of a tombstone for Phebe. Nothing more is said about it until October 20, when RE writes, "Rec'd \$6.30 of C.S. Taylor to pay for tombstone for mother – we went and set it – the am't of all expenses \$33.75 – each \$11.25 – Wm gave me \$5.00 – C.S.T. that balance of his to pay. I paid Miss Brown's agent who called for the \$19.00." Only a few days earlier Charles Taylor had asked his older brother to sell his place for him. Perhaps he plans to move on and wants the matter of his mother's tombstone settled before he goes. After 129 years, I wish it could be reset. I have visited the cemetery recently and find the headstones of both Phebe

and Owen askew and sunken into the ground.

Right after the November 8 election where RE acts as clerk and earns \$4.00, he and Louisa start for Albany. He does not say how they are traveling but they stay overnight with his good friend, G.B. Head. On the following day, November 12, he records, "Went to Troy & took dinner at Geo. Humiston's – went to the cemetery – our fare both ways \$1.12 – staid at G.B Head again." I do not know the significance of the cemetery visit but the next day's entry speaks to us of Taylor's desire to observe and learn new things. It is a Sunday and he writes, "Pleasant – we went to the Catholic Cathedral to church in forenoon & at the 4th Presbyterian in Eve." By November 15, after being gone four days it is time to check on things at home. And now he tells us this about the travel, "Weather fine – started for home on the 'Martin' – Paid George's boys 5¢ each & 50¢ for boat ticket - \$1.00 for dinners – 17¢ for candy." Presumably the children will be greeted with a candy surprise.

On November 25, Howard turns 10 years old but no mention is made of a birthday. On that day the entry reads, "Louisa went to Durham to get Dwight's likeness taken." I would love to see this picture of two year old Dwight. I have not found pictures of any of the Taylors as children.

This has been a year with many more visitors than ever before. Forty-three evenings or afternoons are spent entertaining callers. Some are their new neighbors calling to get acquainted while others are old friends who I'm sure want to see what the Taylors are now calling home.

Attendance at church is up also, especially during fall and winter. The family goes to services at both Freehold and Wright Street. They attend five funerals and RE does not mention being bearer at any this year.

The census taker comes on July 13 and there is one new name to be added since the 1865 census. On October 6, Taylor goes to the County Convention at Cairo. Perhaps that accounts for the fact that he did not attend the Cairo Fair on the day before. Only young Ida Hunt had time off to go.

Two things are conspicuously absent from the entries this year. After he closes his school on March 15, he does not mention it again. There is no talk of whether he will start again in 1871. Also there is no mention of his sister or her family after April. Charlie Lord drops in occasionally in those early months. William brings Arvelia Lord to visit on April 8 and on April 14, RE tells us, "Carried Arvelia to Oak Hill." It leaves me wondering if Charlie is still working on the Calvin Mygatt farm and what is happening in the lives of the others.

On December 25, instead of the usual, "Carried Louisa up home...", we read, "C.S. Taylor & his family came here and took dinner today." With a change in the status of the old Homestead, the dynamics have changed. The word 'family' tells us Charles and Lib now have at least one child to join RE and Louisa's brood for holiday dinner. It is good that they are spending these times together because later diaries will reveal that Charles moves his family West and the distance prevents any chance for family get-togethers.

GLHG Calendar Honoree Nomination List

The following are people who have been mentioned in some of our meetings. You can add to the list by letting me know of your suggestion.

Battini, Dave
Baumann, Ron & Evie
Baumann, Tom & Joann
Bryant family
Campbell, Ed & Ronnie
Carney, Tom
Elsbree, Dave & Pat
Flack, Fred & Leona
Gardiner, Len & Claribel
Heisinger, Bob & Mary
Ingalls, Walt & Shirley
Ketcham, Cris
Macko, Andy
Nicholsen, Gary (or family)
Quackenbush family (or individuals)
Schreiber, Rich & Carol
Story, George
Tiberi, Frank
VonAtzingen, Bill
Wilcox, Mark
Williams, Kathie

(Posthumous nominations are possible, even though we have tended to honor a person who is alive to enjoy it.)

Posthumous Recognition List

Adams, Edna
Blenis, Rob
Carelas, Pete
Clark, Richard Rev.
Ellis, Phil
Ellis, Scott
Gumport, Capt.
Howard, Purl
Ingalls, Warren
Bill Maxwell
Nicholsen, Arnold
Parks, John
Parks, Marvin
Shaw, May
Stevens, Pierce
Stevens, Ruth
Vaughn, Bill
Weeks, Lillian