

# Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

Winter 2003, Issue 146

Annual Report

This annual report comes out a little later than usual. Still, I trust you survived this cold winter in good shape and health.

OK, the important stuff, food, first. The pot luck dinner that often begins our year is put on hold. Our usual arrangements just couldn't happen, partially due to difficulty in scheduling a site and partially due to busy schedules of the usual organizers. So, if someone can come up with another plan, even if it happens in May or later, let me know. If I hear nothing, than our streak of pot luck dinners will be suspended.

Now, back to the annual report. I often say that it seems like last month I was mailing out the annual report from the year before. This past year has zipped by as quickly as the one before it. A look back at 2003 found the Greenville Local History Group still using its usual pattern of meetings, rotating programs with share sessions. Our programs included a Greenville local history slide show (my presentation), a look at the Doris Hempstead genealogical index card file (many of you attending help sort), a viewing of the photo albums in the Historian's files, and a tour of the Hesel & Burns' house on South Street.

Alternating between the programs were our share sessions, our chance to show off stuff we have found and done. Harriett finished the retelling of 1916 of the

Eleanor Goff Ingalls diary, we discussed the Greene County Historical Society's Home Tour in Greenville in early June, and the increased space for the Historian's files were viewed. In addition, copies of documents and articles are included in most newsletters. Otherwise, the details of the regular and share sessions have been covered by the monthly issues, and those who subscribe know about these.

Many of you are aware that I resigned from the Planning Board in August for reasons I shared with you last summer. Finally, the Revision Committee came up with a final draft. Now, that plan is in the process of being presented to the public, and the GLHG should be interested how this plan affects our local history. I will try to bring any relevant material to our April share session.

During the last couple of years, our attention has been drawn to the survival of historic houses. The town passed a historic preservation review for whenever a structure in the four hamlets needs a building permit or a demolition permit. At this point, I think things have worked out satisfactorily. Four or five buildings have been demolished, and Zoning Enforcement Officer Bill Silk has contacted me whenever a demolition permit in the hamlets has been requested. So far, so good. All (about a half-dozen) building permits in the hamlets have met the review standards, with one exception (a metal Quonset hut in Freehold was turned down).

Again, I think the process will, at least, make people consider the community they live in.

The 2003 calendar represented our efforts of serving slices of local history to the community. This project is perhaps our most visible effort, and I have received a few dozen positive comments about the calendar, not only for sharing pictures, but also for remembering the people who have made a difference in Greenville. Again, a thank you goes to Bryant's and the Library for their help in selling the calendar. If you get a chance, take time to remind the owners/managers that their cooperation is appreciated.

At some point, we should talk about the finances of next year's calendar. We used to break even, but the last couple of years has seen a sizeable loss, something that should be turned around. Options include raising prices, more actively find buyers, or possibly suspend the publication of the calendar.

One hope is that the winter furlough has allowed some work on local history projects to be shared during the coming year. People contribute in many different ways. One of the most useful is to preserve some piece of Greenville's history. This may happen by the saving of an artifact or knick-knack; however, the part that is tougher to save is the collection of memories and stories. And thus, I urge you to audiotape or write your memories of Greenville people, events, and places. Daunting at first, this recording becomes more and more useful with the continual adding of sources.

One project I'd like to see us start this coming year would be a walking tour brochure for the hamlet of Greenville. Put your thinking caps on for the kind of details

and/or structure of information. This is one project I talked about two years ago, and I'm no further ahead than I was.

Our membership numbers about 70, with about 45 receiving the newsletter, and the average attendance at meetings often numbers about fifteen to eighteen. Our schedule will continue to be the second Monday of April through November.

Looking ahead, I still can use help in scheduling programs. The program director (me, usually) for the GLHG will welcome ideas for programs, for it is the programs that tie together our share sessions. If you have an idea, please let me know.

A note about subscriptions. Your address label has your subscription expiration date. Anyone wanting to receive the newsletter can subscribe for \$5 for a year (usually April – November issues, plus the annual) and mailed to Don Teator, 3979 Rt 67, Freehold NY 12431. Checks should be made out to: Don Teator. (I don't mind multi-year subscriptions but that's a real test of your faith!)

Also, if your address has changed, let me know. And, if you'd rather I address your mailing label differently, let me know. In addition to my address, I can be reached at 518-634-2397, and for the computer literate, I can be emailed at [teator@surferz.net](mailto:teator@surferz.net)

I hope to see you at the April 12 share session (2nd Monday of April). Come with reports of what you've been working on, or ideas that someone else might be able to use.

Until then, take care.

