

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

April 2007, Issue 172

Share Session

Welcome to another year of the Greenville Local History Group! I trust this Spring finds you in good health. I use the word, Spring, quite warily, especially since the week of our meeting was colder than normal, and was only forty degrees during the day of our meeting (the 9th), and the 15th snowed a few inches, depending on the elevation. (Which reminds me of the error in the annual report, and hope that you realized the second Monday of April was the 9th and not the date I gave. My apologies if you showed up Tuesday.)

Braving the cold, and remembering we had a meeting were: Harriett Rasmussen, Phyllis Beechert, Dot and Larry Hesel, Stephanie Ingalls, Judy Rundell, and Don Teator, a light turnout even for us.

Don started out with his collection of the 2007 issues of the Greenville Local and the Greenville Press, historical documents that portray a slice of current Greenville life. The files have all the issues of the Press, and almost all of the issues of the Local going back to mid-1963. There are a scattering of issues, about 30 in all, that pre-date mid-1963.

Harriett brought in Ray Beecher's column about an "Assembly Program" at the Greenville Free Academy and the Greenville Central Rural School. It is reprinted in this newsletter. (Any other memory-writers out there? Ray makes look simple something that few people seem willing to try. Pick a topic, or range of topics, and start writing. Your writing would be most

welcome, and possibly spur others to do the same!)

Harriett also had a letter signed by Dr. Wasson. Although I have not gone out of my way to collect signatures, sometimes the rarity of certain signatures makes them collectible for the files.

Dot Hesel brought in a rough draft of *The Trumpeter*, the newsletter for Community Partners, which is planning a Greenville Day on May 19 (rain date the following date), when people are invited to share in the activities, those that are normally going on and those that are being staged for this day.

(A mailing describes the day's events in Greenville that day: meals, a parade, fireworks, a visit-business lotto, etc. Community Partners is a worthy local organization involved in the historical and natural aspects of our community, and I would encourage you to support it with your membership, and active help, if possible).

A note was made of the school's plans for the 75th anniversary of the opening of the new central building. More details as I get them.

Harriett read a letter from France from Leslie Abrams, noted a Flossie Heinick, and updated our group on her Richard Taylor genealogy correspondence with Bob Haines, et. al.

Judy Rundell recounted a request from a person who inquired about a weathervane that may have graced the early fire house when it stood by the creek in Greenville. Someone thought the fire house

was moved (and still stands, I believe) to the Mary Stevens property across from the Catholic Church. Along the way, we discussed the propriety of disseminating information that, at times, seems personal, even though the information is in the public domain. Anyone who has searched for local history or genealogy has probably run up against this.

(Somewhere in here, the fire whistle went off at 8:25, always prompting a concerned expression about location. We noted it is rare for the whistle to go off during our meetings.)

The Freehold Congregational Church is fund-raising to preserve the stained glass windows. Anyone wanting to help can send financial help, or otherwise, to the church.

Don distributed a list showing the listing of historic houses as registered with the Greene County Historical Society, and a listing of the historical markers in the town.

Next was distributed a listing of possible historic houses in the town. This was prompted because the town is revising its Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance, a feature of which is the preservation of historical structures and/or areas. Currently, demolition permits for structures within the Hamlet Business and Hamlet Residential areas (35 or more years of age), are granted only after going through a Planning Board review, something that does not happen for buildings in the rest of the town.

Thus, the list is copied for your perusal, hoping to stir some thought about which, if any, of our buildings should have additional protection than they currently have (which, for the most part, is none, except in the three hamlet zones). This list was generated several years ago, with

names as I knew them. It was apparent that a few have changed hands since, and some have been destroyed or demolished. Some time, I, or someone else who wishes to, should revisit these sites and add 911 addresses.

However, for now, please take a look, and feel free to suggest changes and additions. More importantly, consider what protection these structures should have. Even more importantly than that, let your opinion be known to the Town Board members, to the Planning Board members, and to Peter O'Hara (chair of the Comprehensive Review Committee).

The efforts of this Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Law revisions can be found online at www.greenvillecommunityplan.com. Comments agreeing or disagreeing with whatever is proposed is much more effective before decisions are made. Unfortunately, good intentions don't count for much. This is one time where the historical is clearly connected with the political, a combination we often stay clear of, but need to be part of this time.

The next meeting is the second Monday of May, May 14. I received a packet of papers from Marla Stevens (daughter of Pierce and Ruth), which I'll share at the next meeting, along with papers associated with the building of the school. Among these are the bills and documents that Lee Brown saved from destruction from a dumpster years ago.

Take care,



Historic Houses –
1st Draft

*This is a very rough draft.
Please make suggestions
(additions, deletions, etc.)
Houses are identified by
Current Owner, Former
Owner, Description, or
otherwise. Please help out
with better identifications.*

Hamlet Areas -- (buildings
may not be historic
individually but are
worthwhile because of the
community feel) Or, should
we identify each house on
its own merits, without
regard to its neighborhood?

Greenville hamlet

- 4 corners north to former Sherrill property
- 4 corners south to creek crossing past Hill Str
- 4 corners east to Stevens on 26 and Hill St on 81
- 4 corners west to church
- Hill Street

Freehold Hamlet

- 4 corners east to church
- 4 corners west to Bud Becker house
- 4 corners south to Baskiewicz
- 4 corners north to SHR

Norton Hill Hamlet

- on Rt 81, park area to hill just east of church

Should **Greenville Center** be identified as a hamlet cluster?

32

- Balsam Shade Main House
- Brown
- Lauria
- Mulligan

- Chatterton
- (hamlet)
- Knott
- Carelas
- house across from Carelas
- Hollowbrook main house
- Nugent
- house on corner of E.Red Mill
- Mangold
- Dwyer
- (Freehold hamlet)
- Butts
- house on flats
- Becker

81

- anything west of NH?
- NH hamlet
- White
- Preisner
- Prevost
- Carlson (and two houses between it & creek)
- Greenville hamlet
- Plattner
- Werker
- Lampman
- Horton
- Parks
- houses across from Surp-Result Rd to Surprise
- post office

67

- Story
- Teator
- O'Callaghan
- Manchisi
- Goodfellow
- Brown
- Freehold hamlet

- Henderson
- Teich
- Keefe
- Welling
- house across & down from Doman Rd
- Maplehurst
- Kiezskiel & barn
- house on corner of Vly
- Palmer
- four houses nw corner of Gayhead

26

- Turon
- Rainbow main house
- Havens
- Arnold (Butler)
- Werking (crnr Cedar)
- Kummer
- Heidenberg
- Capone
- Rundell

26A

- Flansburgh

41

- several houses in Gr Center
- Henry
- Place Corners house

Red Mill Rd

- Noirot
- Staunch
- Flack
- Simpson
- Ditges
- Oravsky
- Spohler Main House
- Scheider

- Red Mill & house
- Lewis
- Baumann main house
- reddish house
- Panzarino

Freehold Mill Rd

- former Main House

Weed Rd

- Simone
- Moxley

Big Woods Rd

- Teator
- Dittmar
- Birkett

O'Hara Rd

- two houses on corner
- O'Hara house

Carter Bridge Rd

- blacksmith house
- Bergman
- two houses south of Bergman
- house on corner of Old Plank
- house just below Big Woods Rd
- Goode

Old Plank Rd

- Mauriello
- Mirabelli
- house just before CBR
- Brown
- house across from New Ridge Rd
- Joy

North Rd

- Lafferty

Sunset Rd

- Hunt
- McAneny

Medusa Rd

- Parmiter

Ida Smith Ln

- Gundersen

Ingalside Rd

- Rundell
- Rice
- Bony Shower
- Ingalside main house
- Ingalside barn
- Howe
- Ina Greene

JohnnyCake Ln

- Flower farm

Maple Ave

- Hulick
- Augestein
- VanBenthuisen

Elm Ln

- house closest to town line

East Red Mill

- house on corner of 32

Irving Rd

- farm house other side of Newry Rd
- Roe
- Ketcham
- Brennan
- R.Brown

Newry Rd

- house across from lake
- Donohue & house next to it
- Flach

Cedar Ln

- Skidmore
- Katagiri & house next to it
- Boyd
- two older houses across from Boyd

Hillcrest Rd

- Rose
- Volmar (??)

Spring Valley Rd

- Carrk
- Barone farm

Highland Rd

- farm house close to 81

Willowbrook Drive

- Snyder
- Clancy
- south of Morrison
- Morrison

Willowbrook Rd

- house by 81
- Blenis
- house across from Blenis

Surprise-Result Rd

- house by cemetery
- house by lake
- Buttino

K. H.-Earlton Rd

- Siedel
- Hood & house next to it

Gayhead-Earlton Rd

- Kruppenbacher
- Schindler
- Paradise
- Dobert

King Hill Rd

- Weeks
- Lampman
- Warga
- house by Rolling Hill

Vly Rd

- farm between 67 & Drake
- farm between Drake & Rolling Hill

Waldron Rd

- Butler

Rolling Hill Rd

- Preisner
- farm house below orchard
- Foster

Mt View R

- Waldron
- house beside Kempf
- Kempf

West Rd

- Boesch
- Lobb
- Gr Ctr 4 corners
- Walker
- Brinkerhoff

Plattekill Rd

- Anspacher
- Macko
- Bear & house below it

Sunny Hill Rd

- house above Preisner
- Adriance & house on either side
- Teator

Fox Hill Rd

- Silk?

None on:

- Alberta Ln
- Autumn Ln
- Birch Hill Rd
- Devan Rd
- Drake Hill Rd
- Freehold Heights Rd
- Garland Ln
- High Acres Rd
- Huntingdon Dr
- Kildare Ln
- Meadowbrook Ln
- Meadowbrook Ln So
- "Mitchell Rd"
- New Ridge Rd
- Newry Ln
- Pine Crest Ln
- Pine Hill Rd
- Pine Meadow Ln
- Schoharie Turnpike
- Scutt Rd
- Shipley Rd
- Shipley Rd
- So Plattekill Rd
- Surprise Hill
- Tranquility Rd
- Turon Rd
- Wyckoff Rd

Freehold artist credits desire, strong work ethic for his talent, success

1.9.07 By Alvaro E. Alarcon
Hudson-Catskill Newspapers

One day, an 85-year-old Freehold landscape and portrait artist heard a simple edict that moved him to pursue art professionally and keeping him from literally becoming a starving artist.

"You're good enough so go find a job," the famed sports cartoonist Willar Mullen of the *New York Telegram* told Stanley Maltzman, during his Bronx youth.

So Maltzman started his career rising through the ranks in commercial art, illustrating for large companies like Norelco. But disgusted with certain working conditions, in the 1960s in his Freehold home he began painting and drawing full-time the landscapes and portraits which have won him spots in the Metropolitan Museum of Art collection and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History as well as a 1995 book of which he is the author.

That book, "Drawing Nature," sold 25,000-plus copies.



Alvaro E. Alarcon/Hudson-Catskill Newspapers

"Forest Queen," by Maltzman, who started his career in New York City working as a commercial artist.

He readily points to an ethos which guides his art, and as a teacher whose assignments extend to out of the area, said this ethos can be shared by artist and nonartist alike.

"It's a little more than a hobby ... it's a desire," he said of his talent, and that desire of wanting to create art led to a steady work ethic where a man

with once poor penmanship mastered the art of drawing a line. That, coupled with love of the outdoors dating from his Boy Scout days, let him to take up "plein air" painting.

Anyone with a desire to live a dream and the willingness to work that dream in a reality can succeed, along with

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a necessary can-do attitude. "I try to do a little every day ... sometimes you work all day, sometimes you work half a day," he said.

However there are caveats.

"It's a glamorous occupation," he said of art, "but it's a tough buck." Plus, there's plenty of politics that comes along with people who have a desire

to be artists, but lack the willingness to work out the dream.

That includes time for ample experimentation.

That persistence has won Maltzman national acclaim, including a listing in the "Who's Who of American Art." He is also curator of the Greenville Library Gallery and screens art at the Rensselaerville Institute just north of Greenville in south-

ern Albany County.

He's expected to appear in a showing at Roshkowska Galleries in Windham come July. Currently he has a limited edition signed book coming out.

"It's kind of an occupation you have to keep grinding away at," he said, adding, "I teach a lot and I tell the student what you put in is what you're going to get out."

Greene Cleanings

By Raymond Beecher
Greene County Historian

The weekly "Assembly Program" was long a part of the educational process in the early decades of the twentieth century and no more so than at the Greenville Free Academy. There can't be many left who recall the ones each Friday held in the large second floor combined teaching classroom, study hall and auditorium with the slightly raised platform at the front.

Those of us who had our classes in the two room annex would be "sandwiched" in a room when there was a special program of merit. The high school classes all took turns — one program a month. Of course there were few stage props or stage curtains but that was all accepted as a matter of course.

Scott Ellis and his Academy predecessor principals always opened the weekly assembly program with the "Pledge of Allegiance" and a patriotic song or two. A musically talented student would play the somewhat ancient upright piano with its occasionally

come the shade with a crash, much to the amusement of the rest of the student body who would give a round of applause.

For very special events such as graduation or the scheduling of the traveling professional players of Shakespeare, we walked in orderly procession by classes to the Vanderbilt Opera House. The Presbyterian Church was much closer but some members of that congregation frowned on "play acting." (Today it is a Center for the Arts).

When the new Greenville Central Rural School (then its correct title) was first used, the auditorium with its proper stage facilities was a luxury beyond comprehension. In the spring of the second year of its use (1934) our class had the responsibility for the Senior Play - "Sally Lou." Miss Muriel Wooster had the faculty practice we did! I had one of the major male roles and even recited the lines walking to and from school. The previous night's dress rehearsal was a



sticking keys. The west and north walls had numerous windows. For a slide program, some of the boys were assigned the task of pulling down the heavy dark shades and reversing the process at the program's conclusion. More than once, yanking the cords roughly down would

disaster with some of the actors missing cues and forgetting their lines. A few of us were playing practical jokes behind the backdrop. It was the last straw for Miss Wooster who ordered the curtains closed and sent us home predicting a complete disaster the next evening for the ticket purchasers.

Came Saturday night at 7:30 p.m., the auditorium filled to capacity, the curtain opened and the three acts performed without an error and to much applause. Years later when Muriel Wooster and Leonard Palmer came to my house at Coxsackie for assistance with the Christ Church, Greenville historical booklet, with a broad smile I reminded Miss Wooster how the Greenville Class of 1934 had defeated at least one of Murphy's Three Laws. (Sybil Tannebaum of Thomas Cole's Cedar Grove can testify to my efforts at practical joking.) Sybil, my training came on the stage of the Greenville Central School.