

# Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

June 2009, Issue 192

GLHG's 20th Birthday

Good June, to all,

June 2009. June 1989. Twenty years! Gone in a few whirls, interspersed with a few stretches that took only a bit longer. Still, A 20th birthday is one of those benchmarks that marks a moment and allows us to reconsider what we have done. And, so it was on this pleasant June day. Attending were: Phyllis Beechert, Ron Golden, David & Harriet Gumpert, David & Judy Rundell, Betty Welter, Jeannette Rose, Carol Bryant (welcome for the summer!), Richard Ferriolo, Dot Hesel (it was good to see you again, Dot), Stephanie Ingalls, Robert & Marie Shaw, Kathie Williams, Christine Mickelsen, Robert & Johanne Titus, Doug & Sancier Thomsen, John Earl, Dot Blenis, Lori Blair, Eric Egas, and Don Teator. A gratifying turnout, and thank you. Especially noticeable by her absence was Harriett Rasmussen, due to medical reasons (see note below).

Before the main event was a short share session. Richard Ferriolo brought a school bell used by a Steadman family ancestor, possibly as far back as the 1820s!

Eric Egas brought four photos pertaining to the Lambs Corners church and school house, structures he now owns. Thanks, Eric, for sharing.

We did a quick introduction of ourselves, something we try to do whenever we have new faces for the evening.

A few of us had been on the Greene County tour.

The main purpose was to celebrate what we had done for the last 20 years, and I had dragged out samples of a lot of things that represented our efforts. The variety is almost too big

to describe so I've included an intro sheet given out at the meeting. Almost needless to say, I ran out of tables to place things on, and I would have run out with ten more tables, anyway.

For those of you who got the most recent Annual Report, you also have a good idea where we have gone. I must admit I'm usually not in awe of what I do – it just happens and one keeps on chipping away at some project. For a change, and I mean this as humbly as possible, as I looked over and pondered where we have gone, I was in a bit of awe about where I find the time and energy to get this done. (Of course, an obvious answer is the help you and Debra have contributed!) Some of these projects required a focus that I suspect I would have a hard time mustering again (like shooting photos of all structures in the Town of Greenville over six weeks back in 1991).

I've also included the very first two newsletters, something I had available at the meeting but I did not get to.

The only real regret was not having Harriett Rasmussen attending. She has contributed so consistently, especially with genealogy, diary transcription, and story-telling.

So, a thank you to all of you who have helped, whether you were present at the meeting or not. And we will keep adding to our knowledge at the 20 years & 1 month meeting (July 13), when Robert Titus tells us about the geologic history of Greenville. Dr. Titus is a professor at Hartwick College, and was one of our programs several (maybe more) years ago – a speaker I think you will enjoy.

Take care,



## Greenville Local History Group – 20 Years (1989-2009)

- program structure: regular program, share combination
- programs: one room school house, WWII, farming, house histories, cemeteries, our hamlets, service and social organizations, church history, school histories, town supervisors, artists, and so on for seventy more
- Greenville Local History Group Newsletter: 191 issues – May 2009
- newspaper collection (Local: 1963ish–May 2009; Press-all)
- census transcription – 1910, 1925
- calendar – 1991-2005, 2009
- duplicate 1500 photos (loans)
- take 10,000 photos – buildings, cemeteries, people, events
- notebooks: buildings by streets; cemeteries; school; miscellaneous
- diary transcriptions: Carrie Ingalls (Don Teator); R. Edwin Taylor (Harriett Rasmussen); Eleanor Goff Ingalls (Harriett Rasmussen); and several shorter works
- published sources
- tax books: 1880s–1950
- resort information
- maps
- Greenville in the wars
- interviews of residents (on tape, a few transcribed)
- Lillian Joy scrapbooks
- Greene County home tours
- newspaper & magazine clippings: hundreds sorted by topic by former historian Edna Adams; hundreds more on wide range of topics relating to Greenville by Don Teator
- genealogy: Harriett Rasmussen (Abrams, Griffin, Elliott, Taylor, Utter, Tripp, Coonley, Wakely, and dozens of others as the topic arose)
- GCS history, newsletters, documents (3 folders from Lee & Arlene Brown)
- GCS history – Richard Ferriolo, et. al.
- GCS Alumni Association
- Concordia Circle contents
- “Things That Aren’t There”
- Greenville Homemakers contents
- Phil Ellis photos (many saved by Kathie Williams)
- pot luck dinners
- and the 100s of people who have contributed

Dear

I'd like to thank you for your interest in Greenville's local history. The following is a summary of our June 12 meeting at the Community Room. For those of you present, please review my accuracy and remind me at our next meeting of my memory lapses; for those of you not able to attend, this should be a rough sketch of this meeting.

We introduced ourselves at the onset. Present were (using the sign-in board, if I may) Harriet Rasmussen, Bunny Gundersen, Pearl Capone, Phyllis Beechert, H. Wilson Hilzinger, Chris McDonald, Bonnie Persico, Edna Adams, and three guests, whose names I've forgotten, from the Greenville Arms.

I passed out a sheet of projects and circulated some pictures of houses I had taken in March. Most of the points from this sheet (enclosed if you were not at the meeting) were discussed, several of which invited further comment. House histories invited stories of whom used to live where; Edna Adams mentioned she had taped several people during her tenure as Town Historian; Harriet Rasmussen had already completed some work on cemetery inscriptions; Bonnie Persico explained this year's 4th grade project; the idea of setting up a Historical Society, or research room, was debated; the need for a safe storage place was emphasized; and all had stories or reminiscences to share.

When asked for other ideas, the group, for the time being, added none; if you can think of any, bring them to the next meeting. I added I had purchased the federal census of 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, and 1910; I hope to be able to transcribe these for placement in our files by the end of next summer.

The meeting shifted to telling stories, adding to the stories, and asking questions. From my perspective, the information given during this brief session is one of the types of knowledge we need to preserve in an organized way.

Before we left, we discussed the future of this one night event. The consensus seemed to be we should meet again and start preparing to preserve our town's history, as well as help others learn more about this history. Thus, a meeting was scheduled for the second Monday of July, the 10th of July, at 7:30 in the Community Room.

We hope to accomplish a few things at this meeting. **One**, I will share with the group the contents of the Town Historian's files (if Edna will let me, I'll defer to her on this one since most are of her creation). **Two**, for those of you who want to, we may want to initiate a project that will fulfill one of our goals - preservation of history or educating those interested - or at least start to form an idea what each of us might do. For those of us who like to just sit and listen, and pitch in once in a while, that's fine also. **Third**, what would a historical meeting be without some more stories of historic Greenville?

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Dear

Meeting #2 has come and gone for the Greenville Genealogical and Historical Group (I picked a hi-falutin' name for now; top it if you can) on July 10.

Your attendance and interest is most welcome; I believe it's a sign of things to come. Listed below are the names of people who have come to at least one meeting or who have expressed an interest in our meetings (taken from the sign-in board):

Bunny Gundersen	Phyllis Beechert	Pearl Capone
Chris McDonald	Harriet Rasmussen	Bonnie Persico
Clarissa Ketcham	Edna Adams	Doris Hempstead
Marguerite Simpkins	H. Wilson Hilzinger	June Clark
Kevin Hingle	Joseph Mangold	Kathie Williams
Dorothy Howard	Purl Howard	Bob Willower
Arlene Brown	Carol Bryant	Zan Bryant
Barbara Chatterton	David Dively	Don Teator

Question #1, while attendance is the topic. I'm using the list for my mailing list. Do you want a list of names, addresses, and phone numbers of the group? Let's bring it up next meeting if there's a desire for a list.

The meeting opened with Arlene Brown and Bob Willower explaining their "Down Memory Lane" project. They're planning an October 27 meeting and need to have material for their story telling. If you know someone who would be a good source of folklore/stories; refer them to Arlene at 966-8498 or Bob at 966-8634.

Next, I explained the index of files of the Town Historian. Then, you had almost 30 minutes to browse through the folders and books. I hope your searching gave you some ideas about topics we still need to do or do in greater depth.

June Clark raised the idea that we, as a group, should promote the restoration needs of the Presbyterian Church steeple, since the church is part of the National Register area. We agreed, I believe, that this project could be a group cause that would additionally help us with an identity for the town. Next meeting, we are to come with ideas that might help the church in its fund raising activities.

We finished off the regular meeting with a discussion of individual projects. By next meeting, those of us who are willing should have written down something that would help in our goal of preserving the history of Greenville. Nothing big was needed. This might be: the list of owners and changes of the house you're living in, along with the neighbors possibly; or the history of your, or any, family that's lived in Greenville for as far as you know; or the various businesses that have used certain buildings, or have inhabited buildings no longer used commercially; or the recalling of your experiences as a younger person in the Town

of Greenville; or the recording of events or stories you know or have heard; or any number of things that are part of our town's fabric.

I sense our projects are of two types. One is a common project in which we pool our energy, such as helping the Presbyterian Church. The second is working on our own individual projects and sharing the results.

The meeting closed with Chris Ketcham giving us a look at the 4th grade project that was located in the rear of the Presbyterian Church. We admired the good job and effort shown by the students and teachers.

Again, some of you fell for the lemonade and cookies. It's hard not to agree with the person with refreshments, so I'll keep at my "tactics."

Somewheres between this, Dave Dively told us of the grant some teachers at school have received. Since the topic is local history, he requested our help in their search for local history resources.

If I left something out, I apologize for a massive lapse in memory. Again, if you have suggestions for our group about what we should (could) be doing, feel free to speak up. If no one says anything, I'll tend to foist my ideas upon you.

Other matters:

1: We've been meeting the 2nd Monday of the month. I believe, unless you think otherwise, that we are ready to plan monthly meetings until next summer at least. What night would you like to meet? I've avoided the following days because of other scheduled meetings: the first Monday, and the third Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The Town Board meets the first Wednesday; the Planning Board meets the fourth Thursday. I've avoided Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays on general principles, but am not opposed to them. I am aware that our 2nd Monday is also the same night as the School Board meetings. With all due respect to the School Board, I can accept meeting on the 2nd Monday of the month. Think about this matter and we'll discuss it next meeting.

2: I've been working with Ronnie Campbell in the disposition of records, with the goal of establishing some space for current Historian's records and future acquisitions. Ideally, we need a room of our own (to steal a book title).

3: The AGENDA for next meeting (Monday, August 14, at 7:30, in the Community Room) will be 1) the sharing of our individual projects, 2) discussion of ideas about the Presbyterian Church, and 3) your choices.

4: The star of our July meeting should be Edna Adams. Without her, you would have seen very little. Some of you claim to know so little; the truth is that you know much that is not in our files. Write it, or we lose it.

I've appreciated your help and your enthusiasm.

Sincerely,

*Don Teator*