

# Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

October 2009, Issue 195

Share Session

The weather for Columbus Day found our share session in the midst of a cool snap, with a high of 50° making for a nippy holiday. (And since I rarely bicycle below 60°, I keep careful track of the diminishing number of good days to ride!) Venturing out were: David & Judy Rundell, Stephanie Ingalls, Harriett Rasmussen, Walter Ingalls & Donna Winans, Phyllis Beechert, Bob & Marie Shaw, Dot Blenis and daughter Beverly McKeone, and Don Teator.

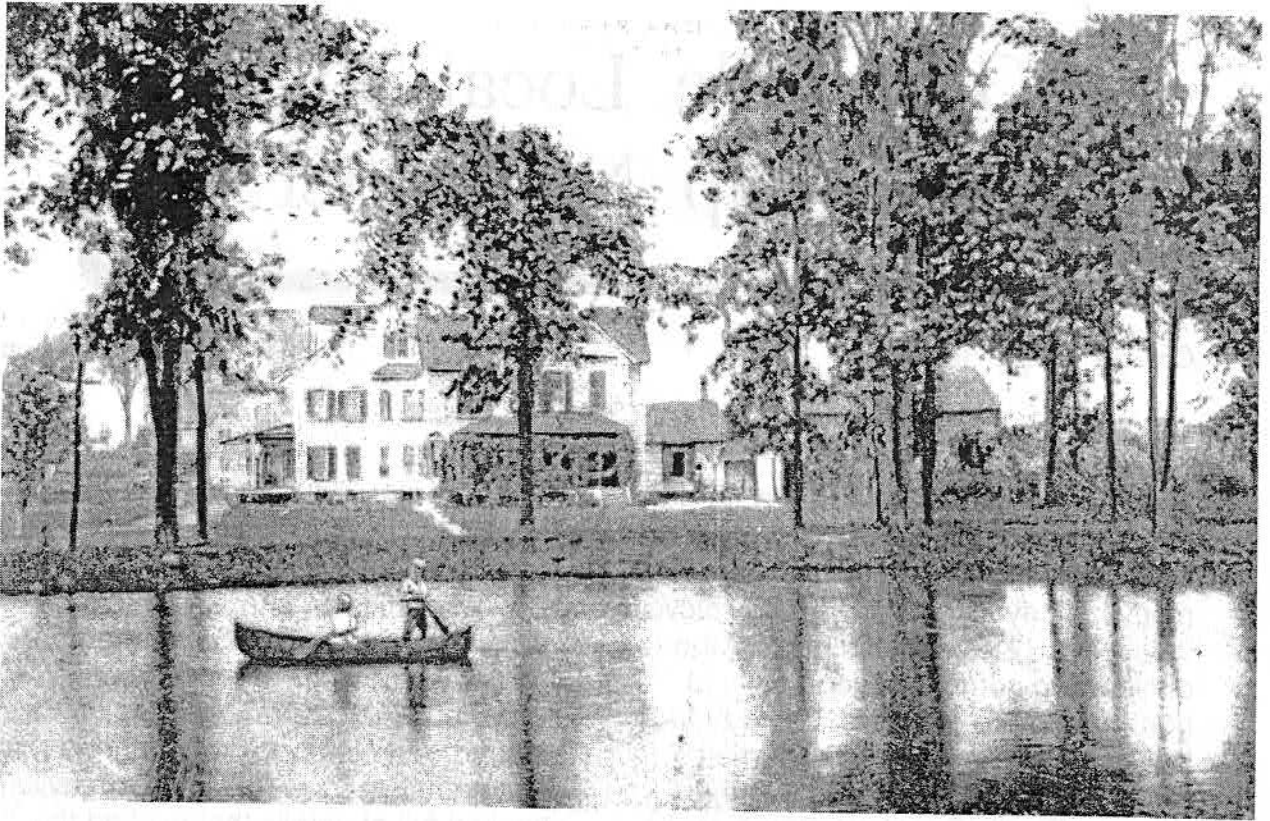
It was one of those meetings. The only planned agenda item (talking about photos for next year's calendar) never got discussed. There were, simply, too many other goodies that captured our attention until a reasonable departure time arrived.

The major attention grabber was Bob and Marie's post cards, showing times past from the hamlets of, in, and around Greenville. There were a few, maybe several, dozen cards, many of them eliciting conversations, questions, puzzlement, epiphanies, and, always, a good look. There were several I had not seen before and will copy (thank you for offering, Bob and Marie).

Starting the evening was Phyllis' contribution of gazebo commemoration documents, a Greenville Day flier, and more. In particular, she read a letter from a Rob Cooper whose mother married the Corner Restaurant owner (J. Terpowetz – excuse my spelling, if botched). The letter told of memories of young adult years working in Greenville, chocked full of details that evoked the feel of decades ago.

Harriett captured our attention, in her inimitable style, by reading her summary about the 1895 diary she "discovered" from my files. Harriett had transcribed the entries in long hand and collected her notes and correspondence (with Judy Rundell, who helped research) in a folder. The summary is included with this newsletter.

Also floating around the table was the 50th reunion book for the class of 1959, held in October at the Freehold House. Debra, who was photographing, wheedled a copy for my files. It contains biographical info about the class, with photos of some of the attendees and respondees. These reunion books capture the lives of people at the far ends of the world (and not so far, some times) and become a reference work in themselves.



The calendars have made it! It's another classic calendar. Except. Except I found a major boo-boo that has since been 'fixed'. So, anyone who bought a calendar can trade it back in for the new and improved version. (The mistake was a printing of the same text on both the inside back cover and the page facing it. The fix was a page reprint of the correct inside back cover, and Debra then glued the new page over the incorrect one.) (Shown above is the Greenville Pond, with the Roe house flanked by Cunningham's flanked by the West Road fading into the distance on its way to West Greenville and Norton Hill.)

Anyone needing a mail order can send a check, made out to Don Teator. The cost to GLHG members is \$7 each;

please add \$2 postage for the first calendar, and an additional \$1 for each one after that. The cost to the public is \$10. As of now, calendars are available at the library, Bryant's, and Rite-Aid. Please thank them for helping us.

Our November 9 meeting, our last one for 2009, will feature an interview of (with?) Phyllis Beechert, who has prepared some notes. Of course, anyone joining us around the table will have their own commentary, questions, stories, etc. A thank you goes to Phyllis sharing parts of her life with the GLHG.

Take care,

## Solving the puzzle of the 1895 Diary

Recently, Don brought in a diary someone had given to our Greenville local history group. I brought it home to read and glean pieces of information from its entries.

*I have since discovered held his diary came to be part of our files. Bill Jones had found it in the roles of a house he was working on. He gave it to Walt Ingalls and recently Walt donated it to the Greenville local history group.*

*We have no idea how many years this diary was concealed in the walls. But it has awakened now and provides us with the familiar names and interesting information.*

As I read, I got more and more curious about who it could have been who picked up this same little book 114 years ago to write his daily account. The first entry tells us he had married Sadie DeGarmo that day. But I read through the whole diary without figuring out his name.

He speaks often of Ma and Pa who are living on the same farm and in the same house. Again no names to give a clue. However, he often mentions Lester Hallock and his wife, Emma, and their small daughter Ethel. From the way he speaks and the way Ma and Pa treat Lester, I had concluded they must be brothers.

Enter Judy Rundell! She overheard to look in the Vedder library to see if she could find a Hallock who was a brother to Lester. She first reported back that the 1892 census listed Lester's wife and

four children but we still did not have anything which connected Mr. diarist with Lester.

There was often a reference to Rosa and Arthur who lived in Greenville. I felt pretty sure Rosa was the sister of the writer but there was no last name and I was looking for a Hallock.

Judy checked a Hallock genealogy and found Lester whose parents Isaiah and Harriet Butler Hallock had died in 1874 and 1872, respectively. The diary was written in 1895 so they obviously were not Ma and Pa. And none of Lester's eight siblings fit the puzzle.

This same page of information from Judy contained in announcements in the Catskill Recorder that Lester Hallock and Harriet Willsey of Freehold had married January 4, 1880. Now it struck me that the writer might be Lester's brother-in-law and Emma was his sister. And I asked Judy to check the Willsey's. She hit paydirt!

She found by Isaac Willsey's (Pa) will which listed his wife Eliza (Ma), his son Romaine S. and two daughters, Emma Hallock and Rosa A. Hartt. She even found a scrapbook clipping of Romaine and Sadie DeGarmo's wedding near Poughkeepsie. Census records show they were 31 and 33 years old. Their neighbors were people like Antus, Alden, Betts, Haight, etc. on the road which leads from Freehold to what we knew as Pine Springs. Records show the Romaine and Sadie never had children.

And now we have found Romaine and I think I have figured out the brotherly

closeness that was apparent between him and Lester Hallock. Records show the Romaine was just 11 years old when Lester married his sister Cornelia Willsey. Nelia died two years later and three years after that Lester married the other sister Emogene Willsey. Lester and Nelia had no children but Lester and Emma had two daughters and two sons -- 1 of whom was our own Willsey Hallock who lived on North Street near the school in the 1950s and 1960s.

So now after 114 years I am writing Romaine Willsey's name in the front of his diary and, thanks to Judy, can declare the puzzle solved.

May 10, 2009

Harriet Rasmussen

PS

Diaries always leave unanswered questions. A trip to the Freehold Cemetery revealed that Pa died in 1900 and Ma in 1912. Her name was Eliza Gifford which explains the references to Uncle Frank Gifford. [And does anyone remember Romaine Gifford and his young wife Theresa Spaulding whose death was recalled so sadly in Carrie Ingalls' diaries?] Romaine must have been a name passed down on the Gifford side of the family.

I could not make a good search so I did not find Romaine and Sadie's graves. I do not know how long they lived and perhaps they are buried with her family near Poughkeepsie.

And I still don't know anything more about Rosalee and Arthur Hartt.

1895 MARRIED.  
WILLSEY—DE GARMO.—At the residence of the bride's parents, Jan. 1st, by Rev. R. O. Allen, of Medway, Romaine S. Willsey, of Freehold, and Miss Satie A. DeGarmo, of Poughkeepsie.  
HYMENEAL.  
WILLSEY—DEGARMO.  
A very pretty wedding took place on New Years day, at half past two o'clock at the home of the bride's parents, near Poughkeepsie. Miss Sadie, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Silas DeGarmo, and Romaine S. Willsey, of Freehold, were united in marriage by Rev. R. Osman Allen, of Medway. Willie Carpenter, of Millbrook, acted as best man, and Miss Elma Sheldon, of Salt Point, as bridesmaid. The bride and groom were handsomely attired, the bride being dressed in white silk, carrying a beautiful bouquet of roses. The bridesmaid was also very becomingly attired in white. Nearly seventy friends of the bride and groom were present to witness the marriage and immediately following the ceremony and congratulations a bountiful repast was served. The presents were numerous and valuable. At 5 o'clock the bride and groom left for their future home with the best wishes of their many friends.

1895 Diary of Romaine S. Willey  
30 yr old

Jan 1, 1895 - Very pleasant - but cold. I am  
wedding at married to Sadie A. DeGarmo today. We came  
back to Lester's to stay all night.

Our folks go to Catskill with Yeomans to  
go to the wedding. They stay there till night.

Jan 2, 1895 - Pleasant but cold. Lester and Emma  
come home with us. Pa and ma come home  
tonight with Yeoman and Helen. They stay  
to supper and Sadie and I go home with stay  
all night. The get horned.

Jan 3, 1895 - Pleasant - Sadie and I go up to  
Lester in the morning.

His 43 yr old  
brother-in-law

In the afternoon I go to Freehold with Yeoman  
to pay taxes. J. Eldridge goes along.

Rose - his  
sister

Jan 4, 1895 - Squally and cold. Rose and Arthur  
are here today.

hair cut

Jan 5, 1895 - 4 below. Cold - Sadie and I go to  
Freehold today after the mail. Willey  
Hallock is here to have his hair cut in  
the forenoon.

Yeoman's  
friend  
55 yrs.

Jan 6, 1895 - Sun - Snows and rains. Towards  
night Sadie and I go down to Y. Haight's.

Jan 6, 1895 - Mon - Cloudy in the forenoon. In  
the afternoon Sadie and I go to Cairo. It  
rains all the way home.

## NEW YORK STATE CENSUS - Greene County - 1892 - Greenville - District 2

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<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Occup.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Occup.</u>
Whitford, Alexander	60	US	Farmer	Whitbeck, Charles W.	38	US	Farmer
Whitford, Sarah E.	43	US		Whitbeck, Fronie E.	33	US	
Whitford, Eldora L.	27	US		Palmer, Jessie L.	14	US	
Cameron, Jacob	29	US	Farmer	Allen, Prentice	62	US	Basket Mkr.
Grogan, Alonzo	21	US	Laborer	Allen, Margaret	57	US	
Palmer, Edgar	15	US					
Story, Lewis M.	28	US	Farmer	Hallock, Edwin	50	US	Farmer
Story, Viola	25	US		Hallock, Julia	58	US	
Story, Lena M.	2	US		Hallock, Ella	21	US	
Stevens, Uriah	58	US	Farmer	Story, Jane	57	US	Farmer
Stevens, Mary L.	44	US		Story, Charles H.	26	US	Farmer
Stevens, Alanson	22	US	Farmer	Story, William R.	20	US	Farmer
Stevens, Maria	21	US		Story, Herman L.	18	US	Farmer
Stevens, Arthur	14	US		Story, Ester E.	16	US	
Stevens, Alvin	8	US		Story, Sarah K.	14	US	
				Story, Ralph T.	28	US	Teacher
Bishop, Luther	54	US	Farmer	Willsey, Isaac L.	67	US	Farmer
Bishop, Rhoda A.	54	US		Willsey, Eliza L.	65	US	
Finch, Charles F.	22	US	Farmer	Willsey, Romaine S.	28	US	Farmer
Finch, Estelle	19	US		Weaver, Albert	48	US	Farmer
Van Houten, Jacob	23	US	Farmer	Scofield, Erastus H.	47	US	Farmer
Van Houten, Nettie V.	19	US		Scofield, Emily F.	44	US	
Van Houten, Luella M.	1	US		Scofield, Anna L.	4	US	
Layman, Sylvenus	46	US	Farmer	Haight, Alanson	70	US	Farmer
Layman, Sarah J.	36	US		Haight, Lorinda B.	56	US	
Layman, Cora	15	US					
Layman, Ida M.	9	US		Simpkins, David W.	55	US	Farmer
Williamson, Washington	49	US	Farmer	Simpkins, Rachael	64	US	
Williamson, Catherine C.	46	US		Simpkins, Elting L.	29	US	Farmer
				Eimpkins, Lena	22	US	
Greene, Edwin P.	62	US	Farmer	Simpkins, Iva	24	US	Teacher
				Simpkins, Mary A.	18	US	Teacher
Powell, Joshua P.	35	US	Farmer	Cooke, Jennie	45	US	Farmer
Powell, Fanny J.	29	US		Cooke, Attie	24	US	Teacher
Gardner, Amanda	72	US	Farmer	Simpkins, Truman H.	57	US	Farmer
Hempstead, Richard	54	US	Farmer	Simpkins, Hannah E.	58	US	
Hempstead, Sarah	48	US		Simpkins, Emma	27	US	
Hempstead, Harvey	20	US	Farmer	Simpkins, Arthur L.	5	US	
Hempstead, Lucy A.	16	US		Simpkins, Teresa E.	3	US	
Hempstead, Sada A.	12	US		Simpkins, Lloyd L.	1	US	