

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

August 2012, Issue 220

Town of Greenville Photo History

Note: There is **no September meeting**.

Good day, local historians,

A very comfortable August evening awaited the fifty-and-then-some attendees, necessitating a search of the recesses for another fifteen chairs. It was, indeed, a well attended meeting. So well attended that I lost track of who was sitting in front of me, other than a visual recall, which I will attempt (but should know better). If I leave you out, let me know, and I will fix for next time.

Among our regulars (customary regulars): Stephanie Ingalls, Dot Blenis, Bob & Marie Shaw, Christine Micklesen, Orrin & Shirley Stevens, Phyllis Beechert, Bette Welter, David Rundell, Dot Hesel (nice seeing you!), and, me.

Among the new regulars (two or meetings this year, so far): Tim Broder, Bob Titus, Evelyn Jennings, Mary Heisinger, Paul Augestein, Jack & Maureen Ver Planck, Jackie Park, Margaret Donohue, Nick Nahas, Peter O'Hara, John Garafolo.

Somewhere in between are those on the mailing list, and may or may not attend regularly: Aileen Hesel & Allen Totzeck, Barbara Valicenti, Fred & Carol Lamb (nice to see you out!).

And then there were a number of first timers: Rob Mirabelli (yeay, Class of '70), Barbara Flach, Jean Flansburgh, the Goldsburys, and another twenty I have neither

notes nor memory for.

And my categories beg the question of the definition of "regular," especially this year.

The cause of the crowd, I suspect, is a semi-rare History of Greenville in Photos program, instigated initially by Barbara Flach as part of the Library's scheduling and programming of community events, and gladly joined by the Greenville Local History Group.

The trick, of course, is to show, as fully as possible, a representative view of Greenville. However, since photography was invented 1850-ish, the first fifty years of Greenville's existence can visually be seen only in paintings and sketches. And even the Historian's files contain only a handful of photographs before 1900. So, the last half of Greenville's history dominated the slide show.

The early part of the show started with a little tongue-in-cheek portrayal of what people do for fun in Greenville – ride cows, eat hot dogs at Matt's, fish in the pond, march in parades, watch the ducks, bicycle through the four corners, square dance, fight off gigantic locusts, etc.

Then I switched to maps – the five Greenvilles (Orange Co, Ulster Co, Westchester Co, Steuben Co, and finally Greene Co). (Even worse, there are two Towns of Greenville in NY – the Orange Co Greenville being our usurper!)

Another set of maps is an eight panel page of the development of Greene County and Greenville (a reproduction in this newsletter). Of particular interest is Freehold, which can refer to various areas before 1810. So, when I get a request from someone who asks for information about an ancestor who lived in Freehold before 1810, I can't help but give a long explanation about where that person should be looking.

Another map, mounted on board, was an original 1856 map of Greene County, the one (besides Beers 1867) that includes dots where structures are indicated, along with the accompanying owners – a quite useful “document.”

Then, the show broke off into the hamlets, mostly highlighting the hamlet of Greenville, with places shown in different time periods at the same spot, or significant landmarks that show Greenville's past.

A series of slides showed agricultural scenes, while another batch showed early resorts.

The final twenty (of the 120) slides showed people, accompanied by the ringing declaration that all the events and places and buildings amount to little without the contributions of its citizens. A small discussion of native vs outsider was instigated to show the importance of the melding of the efforts of both groups, and that modern day Greenville is so heavily influenced by community members who moved into the town.

I could have shown a hundred different slides to make the same points, a comment that I think Barbara Flach took to mean another show could be done next year, and it may be a good idea.

I have included a two of the photographs included in the slide show.

Available for viewing on the surrounding tables were enlarged aerial maps of the hamlets and Country Estates; photos in and copies of past calendars; and photographs from past shows.

I hope it was a worthy effort. Those of you who have watched my efforts for 24 years know that none of this was in my files at the start, and that it is with the collective efforts of so many of you, and of so many who have passed on, that I am able to pull off a show like this. It is with gratitude, and sadness for the passings, that I share these photos and documents.

Again, September has no GLHG meeting.

October looks like something similar to our share sessions but will masquerade as a program. I'd like to spend up to a half-hour to see what people want to share, so bring stuff and news in.

Whenever that runs its course, I will turn to the “program” of the evening – selecting pictures for the 2014 and 2015 calendars. Thus, I will bring a couple hundred photographs that we have not used for calendars yet, and I suspect there will be a few photographs that only a few people have seen in the last 20 years. If you want, you will be making notes, physical and/or mental, and narrowing down to a couple dozen by evening's end.

I'll give a few parameters, e.g., a school photo, a church photo, a boarding house photo, etc. And I like a balance of people pictures with building pictures. I used to try to balance the seasons but we have so few winter scenes that I gave up on that.

Also, to continue our tradition of recognizing community members, I need nominations of people for the two calendars. Included in this newsletter is the list of recognitions given over the course of our calendars. I could suggest a few names but I would rather not put thoughts in your heads at this point. So, start developing a list of worthy candidates. If you want, you can call or email choices and I will make a list to start the October meeting.

The last calendar came close to breaking even, so we will do at least one more cal-

endar. However, one of our ideas was to have a sponsor (or sponsors) for a calendar. We may need to try to head that way. If you know someone, a group, or a business that wants to sponsor either the whole calendar or part of a calendar, let me know before next summer.

Other notes:

Sometime, by GLHG year's end (November), I'd like some feedback how this year's schedule went. After facing a dwindling interest (my perception) of the share sessions, I have minimized their number in favor of the programs. I did so with a bit of sadness of ditching an idea that I thought had worked so well for years. But facing reality (my perception), I tried a different tack, bringing more people in but losing a little tightness of group (my opinion). And we added refreshments, done voluntarily so well by Stephanie and Christine. So, is it better than what we usually do? Any suggestions, comments, etc? I'd like to do what I can reasonably do to serve the community's local history effort.

Back to this past meeting: my prep for this meeting was going quite well – set up the

screen, move tables, move chairs (with lots of help), turn on computer, turn to photo show, hook up to projector, hook up to projector, ... hey, where's the projector? A phone call to Debra saved the day, who retrieved it from home and raced to Greenville within ten minutes. Whew!

Two recognitions that happened earlier this year are given space later on in this newsletter. Congratulations, Judy, and Dave.

Attendees of the meeting might have kept a copy of Town of Greenville Published Sources. I have put it online.

Of course, a thank you goes to Stephanie and Christine for the refreshments – a much appreciated task, not only by me for having it done, but also by all the attendees for whom it is a nice finishing touch of the evening.

Until October, take care,



Past Recognitions

Stanley Maltzman (1996)
Orloff & Jeanne Bear (1997)
Chris McDonald (1998)
Leland & Curt Cunningham (1999)
Ossie & Bunny Gundersen (2000)
Fred & Leona Flack (2001)
Harry & Cris Ketcham (2002)
George Story (2005)
the Nicholzen family (2005)
John & Isabelle Singer (2009)
Harriett Rasmussen (2010)
Walter Ingalls (2012)

Posthumous

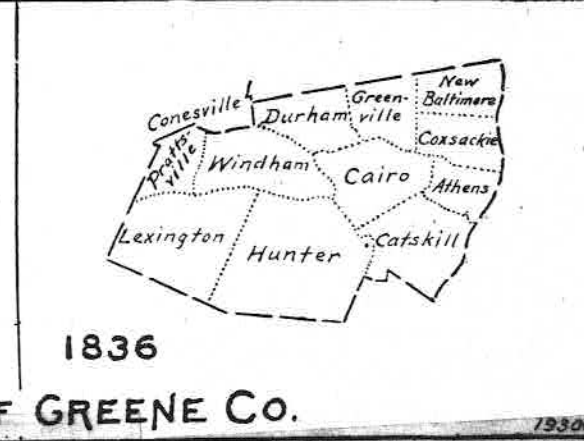
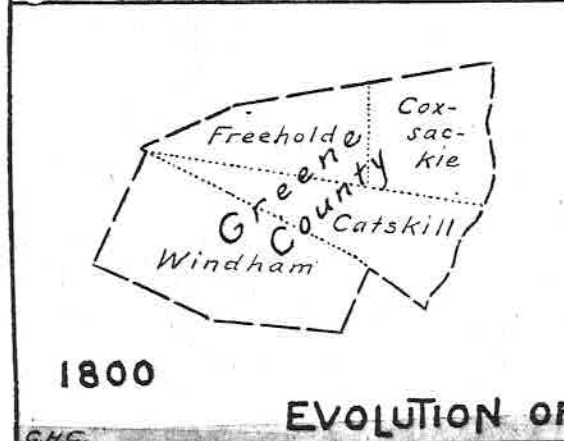
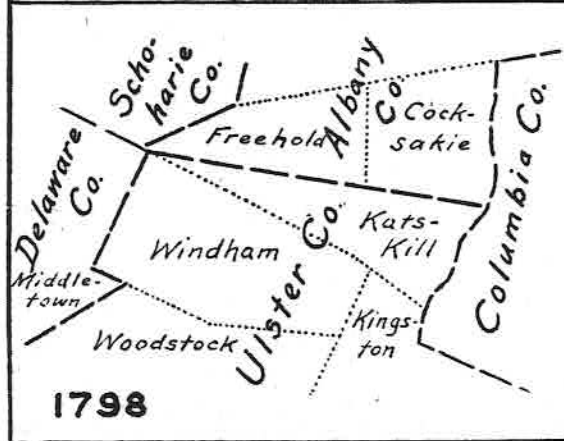
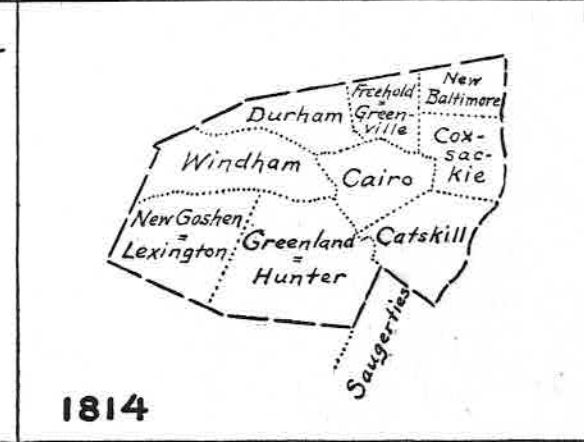
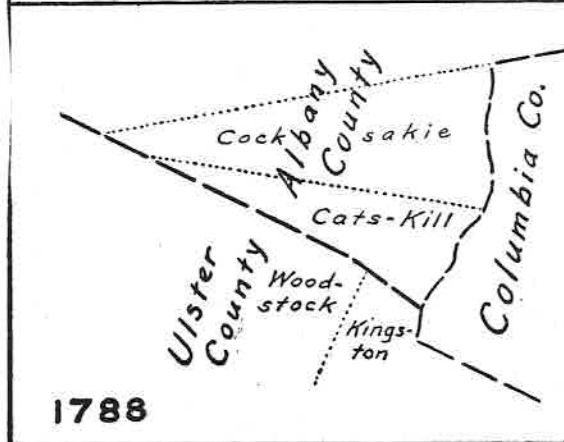
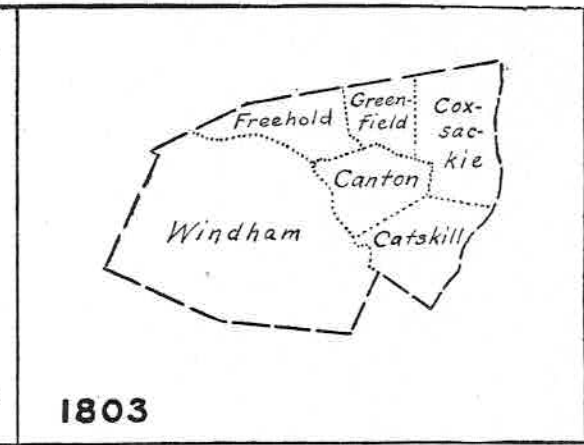
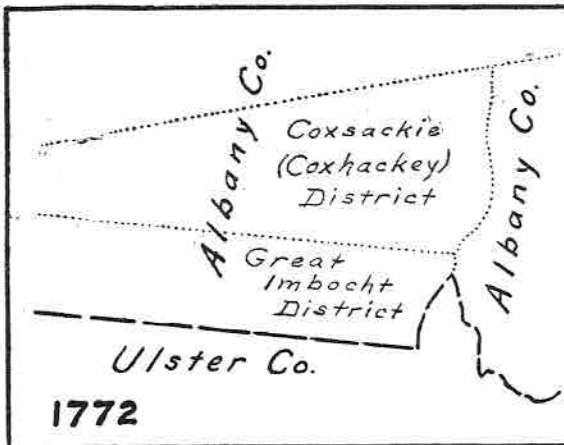
Al Bryant, Sr (1999)
Dr. Bott (1999)
John Ver Planck (1999)
Harry Ketcham (2000)
Rev. Chas. Rice (2000)
Gerald Ingalls (2000)
Edna Ingalls (2001)
Scott Ellis (2001)
Rev. Richard Clark (2001)
Capt. Leslie Gumport (2002)
William Vaughn (2002)
Arnold Nicholzen (2002)



The Greenville Academy, with the addition, dates this photo in the 1910-1930 era. Taken from the Pioneer Building, a skim of ice masks water reflecting the elm grove.



This photo captures the transition from horse to car at Freehold's Sutton's Blacksmith Shop and Auto Livery.



EVOLUTION OF GREENE CO.

G.H.C.

1930

The Evolution of Greene County

Greene County names its 2012 Senior of Year

David Battini of Greenville was honored as Greene County's Senior Citizen of the Year at a May 16 meeting of the county Legislature.

David was employed as a teacher in the Cairo-Durham School District from 1968 to 1998. He served the Boy Scouts as an assistant scout master in 1969 before moving up to scout master in 1971, a title he still holds. He was chosen New York State Scouter of the Year by the American Legion.

Battini has been a member of the Greenville Volunteer Fire Company since 1970 and also serves with the Fire Police. He was the founder and initial first aid trainer for the Greenville Rescue Squad in 1972. Since 2007, he has been the No. 1 responder to ambulance calls as an advanced intermediate EMT. A certified instructor for the American Heart Association, he has conducted many classes in cardio pulmonary resuscitation for the American Heart Association.

Battini serves as a member of the Greene County Rural Health Network, the Greene County Emergency Medical Service Council and the REMO Executive Board. He is also treasurer for the Greene County Paramedic Program and chairman of the Board of Assessment Review. In addition, he serves as a driver for Greene County Department for the Aging's Homebound Delivered Meals.

David Battini is a tireless volunteer, an excellent example of a caring and active individual volunteering not only to his hometown of Greenville but to all of Greene County.

Vedder Research Library Volunteer Judith Rundell receives Beecher Award

AT THIS YEAR'S VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION RECEPTION, Vedder Research Library volunteer Judith Rundell received the Beecher Award. Each year this award, named for Greene County Historian Raymond Beecher, is presented to a GCHS volunteer who has dedicated many hours to the Society and its successful operation.

"Judy has been a dedicated volunteer since the library was built in 1995", said Bob Hallock. "She is an invaluable resource for anyone doing research at the library. She recently was mentioned in a book by author Ilyon Woo who had worked with

Judy at the library while writing her book *The Great Divorce.*"

Judy was quite surprised and very thankful to receive the award.

"I really enjoy the research and working with the other volunteers," said Judy.



Judith Rundell with Chairman Joe Warren and President Bob Hallock.