

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

May 2014, Issue 234

Shaws's Mysteries, St. Patrick's Day Parades

A summery, 85-ish degree day flowed into the GLHG meeting, quite unlike the cooler weather you have heard the locals complain about.

Amongst the regulars in attendance: Bob & Marie Shaw, Lew & Sue Knott, Melinda Mullen, Evelyn Jennings, Stephanie Ingalls, Christine Mickelsen, Walter & Donna Ingalls, Tim Broder, Allyn & Marie Shaw, Phyllis Beechert, Mary Heisinger, Robert & Diane Uzzilia, Johanna Titus, Rachel Ceasar and dad Rich Ceasar, Barbara Schmollinger, and Don Teator.

Filling out the cast of 30-35 were Jim & Teresa Pagan, John & Gail Kargoe, Jack Kelly, Anne Lafferty, Betty Hayden, and a few more I could not catch. If you were there, and not mentioned, and want me to in the next newsletter, let me know (and my apologies).

The evening's program was a rare two-parter. Perhaps, in the past, we would have used a share session. However, given the absence of share sessions, it is still vital to recognize these shorter, but no less important, segments of our local history. So, I predict this will not be the last two-part program.

The first part – seen in regularly in our past several April share sessions – featured Mary and Allyn Shaw's Household Mysteries of Yesteryear. Typically, they have brought several or more devices from a typical household (especially the kitchen) of our grandparents' (or older) generation. We would guess what we were viewing and occasionally correctly identify the object, leading

to even more chatter of old stuff of Yesteryear.

I had been given a hint that this evening might be different, and it sure was.

First, Allyn and Mary brought enough material to fill two table tops, most of which was books, bottles, small cases, and a couple hand-held machines.

Second, they announced they would be featuring home remedies for many illnesses and discomforts of life of Yesteryear.

Third, they needed a "volunteer" from the audience to test some of these fixes. I think they had someone in mind because, before anyone could volunteer, they named Bob Shaw as their patient. Based on the evening's performance, Bob deserved a gold star for accepting and adding to the humor and fun of the presentation (as well as for father-in-law of the month!).

Mary (as Nurse Jane Fuzzy-Wuzzy) conducted most the program, and would ask her patient if he suffered from a particular malady. Bob could try to deny such an occurrence but it became obvious he would be treated for it anyway, so he yielded and suffered through one of the sickest evenings of his life. Fortunately, by evening's end, he was no worse off than when he started, and the audience alternated between chuckling at the repartee between the two and shaking our heads at the crudeness of some of the cures.

We knew Bob was in trouble when Nurse Jane asked if he had fleas, head lice, thinning of the hair. He started to decline but had to concede, for the sake of the show, that he might, possibly, be suffering from all

those. The Invigorator, a hand-held mixer with four swirling pads, was held two inches from Bob's head for effect.

Other handy cures this evening:

- Pure kerosene was the base of many cures
- A skull drill, to relieve pressure because of depression
- An eye cup, to irrigate the eyes with whatever fluid recommend for eye troubles
- Cherry pectoral, and other medicines, for difficulty breathing and allergies
- Atwood bitters, bromo-seltzer, milk of magnesia and others of their ilk, used for indigestion
- St Jacob's lineament, for rheumatism and arthritis
- Also "curing" those last two ailments was two electrodes to be placed on the head, with an electric current to buzz the ailments away. I think everyone flinched, and Bob was ready to run if Nurse Fuzzy Wuzzy got any closer
- A raw meat press, to press raw meat, with the juice to treat general ill feeling
- Raw kidney and liver, to cure kidney stones
- Sloan's, to alleviate back pain
- Sugar, which seemed to be a cure, or accompaniment for many ills
- Patch's cod liver oil, for general health (and still today!)
- Scott's Emulsion, prepared with lime and soda, used for some ailment
- A gigantic needle could have been a flu shot injector or a bleeder (George Washington was mentioned)
- And there were several more that we appreciated not being subjected to.
- In the background, Allyn played "A spoonful of sugar makes the medicine go down" from Mary Poppins.

It was fun, and words cannot replicate the amusing half-hour we enjoyed.

Thank you, Allyn & Mary!

We took a five minute intermission for the Shaws to clear the front table and for me to set up a slide show.

I proceeded to pretend that I had just happened to be driving through Greenville the Saturday after St. Patrick's Day and stumbled upon a parade breaking out, and just happened to have my camera along.

It was a good excuse to recount a Greenville institution that many of us take for granted. The 1960s and early 1970s had seen the wave of tourism that had drawn many City area residents to Greene County, and who enjoyed the entertainment & the scenery, bought a second home, or moved permanently. After one local spot used for dancing closed, a few people got together to continue the practice elsewhere, and St. John's Hall was the first convenient spot (in case you were wondering why Greenville is the Irish parade center!).

According to my earlier notes, some of the very beginning organizers included Pat O'Regan, J & E Mc Loughlin, P O'Keefe, Millie and Jim Donohue. A year later the Laffertys were involved.

A slide show of the pictures of the 2014 parade ensued, with the usual cast of characters filling the parade route on a typical March day.

With the slide show done, Don questioned if any of the founders could still be living. All but two are deceased, and one of those two is in a nursing home. But, Anne Lafferty, of course, is still active and was called up with her friends and fellow organizers Betty Hayden and Jack Kelly. Betty has organized the parade the last ten years (Anne the twenty years before that).

So, history straight from the sources was revealed. The year following the first parade (1974), the Irish-American Club was founded and has become one of Greenville's most active social clubs. In addition to the parade, the Club sponsors dances in the spring and fall, a summer picnic, monthly meetings, and gobs of fund-raising. The fuller story is contained in the included copies of two pages from the 1998 (25th Anniversary)

Greenville Irish American Club booklet: the guest of honor page, and the history page.

This evening was a good opportunity to recognize a slice of current history that works so seamlessly in our lives that sometimes we recognize the efforts of those people only after it has passed into a hazy history. So, **thank you, Anne & Betty & Jack** for representing the Irish American Club, and thank you (and the others involved) for all your efforts, and may there be at least another forty years of parades.

CAUTION: The next meeting on June 9 will **NOT** be at the Library but will instead occur at **Pine Lake Manor**, about a mile east of Greenville on Rt 26. Go past Stewart's, take the left fork up the hill (Rt 26), wend your way past Rainbow and then Highland Road. At the next intersection with Newry Rd, continue straight for another 100 yards and you have arrived at Pine Lake Manor. We will meet in one of the dining rooms, and drivers should look for an empty parking spot. Joanne said she would try to have someone directing traffic into the parking lot spaces.

This is GLHG's third foray into live, on-the-spot history of the boarding-house/resort era in Greenville. (Two years ago was Sunny Hill; last year was at Baumann's Brookside.)

Joanne (Schirmer) and Tom Baumann (with help from the matriarch Jo Schirmer, I am told) will give us the history of Pine Lake Manor and of Twelve Maples (and a certain parrot!). It promises to be another highlight of our year. If you want to reminisce, or want to know more about the early boarding houses, this may be one of the last of the great opportunities to do so.

Those of you who receive this by email, feel free to forward. Or send me an email address and I will add it to the list. It seems the email list just keeps growing, with about another ten added this past month.

Another reminder that my web site (www.dteator.com) will take you back to the

last two years' worth of newsletters (and documents and photos).

Other Notes:

The **Greene Country Historical Society** is sponsoring another Homes Tours, this year in the Kiskatom and High Falls area on June 7th. Go to www.gchistory.org for more info on this and other activities.

The **Civil War Round Table** continues its monthly schedule on the second Wednesday of the month. Call or email Mary Heisinger for more info (966-4832, Kler98@aol.com).

The **Mountain Top Historical Society** offers a full season of events (as well as hikes in the Catskill Mountains). Consider becoming a member, or check out its website: www.mths.org

Community Partners of Greenville (aka as Greenville Citizen's Park Committee) is a "non-profit organization committed to the protection, preservation and development of natural and historic resources in the Greenville area." Among its recent achievements are: Vanderbilt Park improvements and planning, Greenville Beautification project, Freehold Beautification project, Greenville Day, Adopt a Highway program, and more. Go to communitypartnersofgreenville.org for more information, and please consider membership or a donation. (Community Partners of Greenville, PO Box 252, Greenville, NY 12083)

In addition to the two pages of Irish American Club material, I am copying a page from the Shaw presentation. (There are many books about old remedies, in case you are interested.)

Stay healthy (or Nurse Jane will be after you!),





Greenville Irish American Club & Parade History

The first St. Patrick's Day Parade was held on March 19th, 1974. It was organized by a gentleman named Patrick O'Regan, a native of Co. Cork. The first Grand Marshall was Patrick Fitzgerald from O'Hara's Corners, Freehold.

In September 1974, a group of local people got together and formed the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. Patrick O'Regan was Chairman, along with officers, Pat O'Keefe, John & Eleanor McLoughlin & Molly Donohue. This was truly a group of energetic and enthusiastic people who were determined to make the continuation of an Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade a reality.

The group would meet in St. John's Hall after Mass on Sundays. The first task was to raise money to sponsor an Annual Parade. A dance was planned for November 1974 in St. John's Hall. In this area, times were not good, just after the gas shortage, money was tight and unemployment was high which made it difficult to raise money. However, one gentleman had a big heart, Dennis Fitzgerald, a farmer from Westerlo, donated a cow which was auctioned and brought in \$283.88. This helped a great deal and many of the members made personal donations, and contributed to making the second parade a definite reality.

In September 1975, it was decided to form a Social Club and it was named the Greenville Irish American Club. It was incorporated in 1980 with the help of Senator Nolan who was later made an honorary member.

It was agreed that the Club would meet on the second Friday of every month and to have a 50-50 drawing at every meeting. The first Sunshine lady was Kay Rafferty. She also donated an American Flag to the Club in memory of her late husband James.

The Club decided to hold Spring & Fall Dances each year and the proceeds would help to defray the cost of the Annual St. Patrick's Parade. The first picnic was held in Cedar Grove in Athens in 1976. Other picnics were held in Brandow Park, Oak Hill and the Town Park in Westerlo. For the past several years, it has been held at Sunnyhill Resort. As years went by, other events were organized. These included trips to the Egg, Saratoga Race Track and Cape Cod.

In the early years, after the Parade, the Club would go to the American Legion Hall for Corned Beef etc., but soon outgrew the Legion Hall, and began organizing Dinner Dances. Some were held in the Brass Rail, the Fireside and several were held in the Shamrock House. In recent years we have held our Dances in St. John's Hall on the night of the Parade.

Unfortunately many of the founding fathers have passed away. They must not be forgotten for the work they started. We must strive to continue this annual event and make every effort to do so in a way that would have made them proud.

Past Grand Marshalls

Patrick Fitzgerald	Tom Mullervy	Anne Lafferty	Emily Maxwell
John McLoughlin	Vincent Bergin	Vinnie Gilmore	Mary Fitzgerald
James Donohue	Bob Dempsey	Kathleen Smith	Eugene Moynihan
Henry McGuire	Mike Kelly	Molly Donohue	Rose Gilmore
Harold Tumey	Jack Kiernan	Patrick Lafferty	Amy McGuirk
Martin Cassidy	Pearse Maxwell	Kay Rafferty	
Peter O'Neill	John Kelly	Mary McGlynn	

Past Presidents

Patrick O'Regan	Tom Mullervy	Ursula Fennelly	Mike McGlynn
John McLoughlin	Peter O'Neill	Bart Fitzsimmons	Mike McGuire
Betty Cassidy	Mary Tuohy	Amy McGuirk	Jack Kelly





GUEST OF HONOR ANNE LAFFERTY



Anne Lafferty, formerly Anne Maye was born in Kilkelly, Co. Mayo, attended Kilkelly National School and St. Louis Convent, Kiltimagh. She immigrated to London, England and spent 5 years there.

She arrived in New York on October 1st, 1963 and worked as an Executive Secretary for Westinghouse Electric Corporation for five years. In 1964 Anne married her husband Patrick, a native of Merville, Co. Donegal. They lived in the Bronx and Flushing, Queens for 10 years and in 1974 moved to Greenville.

Anne and her husband became involved with the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee when it was first founded in 1974 and after it became the Greenville Irish American Club continued to do so. Patrick was an officer in the Club when it was first founded. He passed away suddenly in October of 1993.

Anne became involved in the Real Estate business in February 1978 and opened her own office in 1981 and today has two offices, one in Greenville and one in East Durham. She received the "Realtor of the Year Award" in Niagra Falls in September 1993, and "Graduate of Realtor's Institute Designation" in 1986. She is a member of the National Association of Realtors, State Association of Realtors, Greene County Board of Realtors, Greene County Multiple Listing Service, and a member of Greater Capital Region Multiple Listing Service. She has also been a member of St. John's Parish Council and the Greenville Chamber of Commerce.

She has three children, John, Eileen, and (Mrs. Michael Bowden) Margaret, and two grandsons Cody and Patrick.

Anne has been the Co-ordinator of the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Greenville for the past seventeen years.



Constipation

1) make some pills of castile soap and rhubarb, using $\frac{1}{2}$ grain of each. Take two pills before retiring.

2) eat dandelion greens

3) the bark of the root of wahoo is good for a torpid liver and for constipation. The dose of the tincture is 1 dram and of the powder from 20 to 30 grains. This is also good in combination with blood remedies.

Hemorrhoids, Piles

1) butter, turpentine and salt - make an ointment by taking 1 tablespoon of fresh butter and two tablespoons of turpentine, adding a little salt. Several times a day apply this ointment either inside or outside the rectum. This is a very fine remedy for piles and is well worth trying.

2) Indian Pile Ointment. Take, say, a teacupful of hog's lard, more or less; put into a flat tin or dish and take two bars of lead, flattened a little, and rub the lard with the flat ends and between them until it becomes black or of a dark lead color. Then burn equal parts of Cavendish tobacco and old shoe leather in an iron vessel, to a charred powder and mix into the lard until it becomes a thick ointment. Use once or twice a day as an ointment for the piles. It is a never failing cure.

Kidney stones

To a quart of sour cider add an ounce each of bruised horseradish and bruised parsley root and $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce each of bruised juniper berries, mustard seed and ginger. Let them stand and seep for several days and take a wineglassful 3 times a day. A man in Pennsylvania who had kidney trouble for years and who had tried several specialists was finally cured with this simple remedy. It will be found excellent for many kinds of kidney troubles.

Rheumatism

Eggs, Vinegar and Turpentine - for external use put 2 eggs into a pint of vinegar, shake well, and add $\frac{1}{2}$ pint turpentine.

Lamp oil, Skunk's oil, and Red Pepper - For chronic rheumatism take 2 ounces of skunk's oil, the same quantity of cheap lamp oil and 1 teaspoonful of red pepper: shake well together and bathe with a piece of flannel dipped into this mixture.

Cancers, tumors and ulcers

Egg, soot and arsenic - Mix the white of an egg with wood soot to make a paste; add 10 grains of arsenic and of this make a plaster and apply to the cancer. When it breaks or is killed, apply a slippery elm poultice and keep on until all is removed and