

First meeting—May 9

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

Winter 2016, Issue 249

Annual Report

Good almost-Spring to all,

It is Annual Report time again. Over 100 of you are receiving this by email; another fifty are receiving the paper copy via regular mail. (Even the expired subscriptions receive this issue.)

I trust almost-spring is finding all in good health. And for the second time in five years, we are experiencing a winter that has not really been winter, perhaps atoning for one of our harshest winters last year.

Our 2015 schedule maintained a monthly program schedule April through November. Ideas that would have come from the old share sessions sometimes morph into half or full programs if the topic has enough fill. Many of you spot ideas for programs, or are working on a local history project, and then relay your ideas and comments to me. Keep doing that please.

The 2015 programs included:

- “President and Mrs. Lincoln” relating April 1865 to us 150 years later
- slide show - history and houses of O’Hara’s Corners with brothers John and Peter O’Hara on hand
- memories of Main Street, Greenville, as related by dozens of residents
- Main Street, Greenville slide show of 160 photographs of different eras
- a portrayal of the Stevens families, as narrated by Sylvia Hasenkopf
- presentation by Beautification Committee

for the preservation of the Presbyterian Church

- unveiling of the 2016 calendar
- a travelogue of a trip to Italy

Additional topics included: publicizing the Ducks of Greenville, the finding of a barn timber in the Griffin barn signed by Truman Ingalls, drawing attention to the aspects of the Zoning Revision that related to local history interests, and the GLHG’s recognition of Mary Heisinger.

And most issues contained photos from meetings or from the files to share.

Your feedback about 2015’s programs were most welcome and serve to help me set direction. Although I know what I like, your input confirms my likes or help fill out another side of local history I would not have seen.

An appreciative thank you goes to Stephanie and Christine for providing the “light refreshments.” And I noticed that a few others of you helped out; thank you.

One of 2015’s highlights was the production of the 2016 calendar. As always, I hope that the 50-75 hours of effort result in a practical historical artifact that shows a range of hamlets, of time periods, of new and old acquisitions, of seasons, and of buildings and people.

Final figures for sales of the 2016 calendar are in. We fell short about \$200 of breaking even, a happenstance that cannot continue too long but it is the first time in

three years.

We thank the community spots that hosted our calendar—Tops, Kelly's Pharmacy, the Library, and GNH. Town Clerk Jackie Park kept a display copy to remind her travelers-through where to purchase a copy; thank you, Jackie. Please thank the owners and managers of these business.

The treasury has about \$1000 remaining. Most of that came from the Russell Lewis Eagle Scout donation and from the Connie Teator memorial donations. And I do receive a welcome contribution to GLHG from a couple of you during the year; thank you for contributing to the calendar or to a project not covered by town reimbursement.

A topic new to most of you (and to me a couple of years ago) is income tax filing with IRS. The IRS, I think, is trying to get a handle of how much money is handled by charitable groups. Fortunately, a short form is all that is needed for GLHG, with no tax liability.

The 2017 calendar is in the works, with the photo selection mostly done, and a good chunk of the research started. If you have an idea of a photo we should use, let me know before I make final decisions.

About recognitions.

We usually select a living person whose contributions to the community we want to note. We started our list clean again. However, I received little substantive nominations, and I did not push too hard.

However, after starting the calendar process, I felt guilty about not recognizing anyone. So, I took an idea I had voiced at our last meeting and proceeded forward.

I formed a committee of six to nominate posthumously community members we had not recognized while they were living. After the list was formed, the six of us voted.

The results: Stanley Ingalls and Wilbur Baumann garnered the most votes.

In a close vote for third and fourth was the idea of recognizing both our our longtime town justices, Bob Rose and Rich-

ard Schreiber, even though Rich obviously still contributes to our community. So, about a half page each on the inside back cover of the 2017 calendar will be filled. Thank you to my committee of six.

My scanner was busy this past year, with several hundred pictures added to the archives.

Also available on my website are all of last year's local history group newsletters, as well as the two years previous.

The contents of the Historian's Files are also linked on the web page.

One topic that has taken a back seat for a while is the boarding house project. I have managed to add a few pieces to it; it begs for much more time. (I should also note that Mary Lou Nahas has a Facebook page about Town of Durham boarding houses—Boarding Houses, Hotels and Resorts in Durham NY—that is a delight to scroll through. And worth a program.)

If time and energy allowed, I had another project or two to delve into this winter but my list was longer than than that time and energy allowed. Perhaps, next winter.

And, of course, keeping track of the paper documents while knowing where the photos are is a constant challenge.

I won't repeat my list from last year, but I always encourage people to work on some project. If you need ideas, or have an idea, let me know.

One project I should acknowledge is Christine's arranging for the transfer of old audiotaped interviews onto CDs, thus prolonging their useful life. Some of these old tapes are 25 years old, prone to breaking and thus becoming almost useless. Thank you, Christine.

Membership has grown the past three years, most of it because of the digital age, with over one hundred email subscribers, and growing.

Attendance at meetings this past year varied from 15 to 60. Those of you who were regular attendees in the "old" days remember

an average of 15 or so.

This year's schedule is mostly set, and shown below. I am surprised this happened so easily this year. In the old days, I might not know for sure what was happening the following month but the program regimen has forced some discipline on me.

We will continue to meet the second Monday of the month, at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. For now, the tentative schedule is:

- **April:** note: NO MEETING: greetings from Venice and Istanbul
- **May:** History of Greene County Agriculture: Ted Hilscher
- **June:** the Tituses, with the latest edition of their geology book
- **July:** the Bryant Store era, as told by Garth and help from Zan
- **August:** Life on Greenville's South Street, as recalled by Anita Stevens
- **September:** Durham Boarding Houses, with Nick & Mary Lou Nahas
- **October:** 2017 calendar presentation
- **November:** Sylvia Hasenkopf, with topic to be determined

Note: Remember to support other area local history groups.

The Cairo Historical Society is active with their projects and worth your discovery.

Mary Lou and Nick Nahas have done a nice job for Town of Durham, especially Oak Hill, material. Mary Lou's Facebook page was mentioned above.

Sylvia Hasenkopf competently juggles more projects than I think is possible. A google search will reveal her web site and Facebook site.

Of course, there is the Greene County Historical Society that I know several of you are members of.

And I enjoy the Mountain Top Historical Society's offerings, especially since I see the Escarpment from my back porch every time I look out my kitchen window. (mths.org is their website.)

The Durham Center Museum is another local treasure that we should visit between Memorial Day and Columbus Day.

Notes about subscriptions.

Email newsletters: **No cost.** And forward as you desire.

Web site viewing: **No cost.**

www.dteator.com

Mailed newsletters: To cover postage, envelopes, and paper, **ten dollars (\$10)** will keep a paper copy of the newsletter coming to your address for a year (usually April – November, plus the annual report). On the address label, the four digit number above your name gives expiration info. The first two digits is the year, the next two digits is the month. (So, 1606 means your paid subscription expires in June 2016.) (Ignore this paragraph if you use the electronic method only.)

Anyone wanting to start or to renew a *mailed* subscription should send \$10 for a year (if by check, made out to Don Teator): 3979 Rt 67, Freehold NY 12431.

A few of you receive both email and paper.

Also, if your address label needs changing, let me know. In addition to my address, I can be reached at 518-634-2397, and, for the computer literate, I can be emailed at dteator@gmail.com.

Although I am not espousing any one of these methods of keeping up to date, I will not be offended if you choose the electronic route, especially if it is easier, better, and/or more economical for you; and the content will be the same, (I will continue to print a paper copy for my records)

Other quick notes:

Included are photos from scans I have taken this past year or two.

I hope to see you at the **first GLHG meeting on May 9, 7:30 pm.** Encourage anyone with longtime farming experience to share their experiences with Ted

Until then, take care.

One of the more unusual finds this winter started with a phone call from Catskill. Dan and Theresa Palmich met in 1953 at Rainbow Lodge where Dan bartended for the Birmans. They married in 1955, coming to Catskill seasonally before settling in the Hamburg area (by the western end of the RVW Bridge). In 1975, they bought for \$12, from the Bronck Museum, what the big picture shows below—a four envelope by seven envelope spread of letters returned to William Stevens of Greenville, NY, from all the other Greenvilles in the US. The Palmiches were moving and wondering what to do with this curious piece of local history.

Thank you, Dan and Theresa.

