

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

October 2022, Issue 310

2023 Calendar, Greenville Cemetery, Duffy

A pleasant enough October evening awaited attendees: Linda Berger, Frank Potter, Stephanie Ingalls, Christine Mickelsen, Bob Shaw (in spirit), Margaret Donohue, Charlene & Ken Mabey (also present in September), Robert Titus and daughter Denise Layman from Ohio, Bette Welter, Eileen & Ed Volmar, Susan & Peter Keitel, Flip Flach, Jack Van Auken, Gail Nichol森, Kathy Smith, Kerry (Quackenbush) & Eoin Connolly, Katie (Quackenbush) & Chris Mogahey, Kathie & Bill Quackenbush, Pat Elsbree, Debra & Don Teator, one unreadable signature, and maybe a couple others who got past the signature and memory sentries.

The focus of most October meetings is to unveil the upcoming GLHG Calendar. And this October continued that tradition. The star of the evening was the 2023 calendar when, after a brief slide show, those in attendance shared the reveal in a month-by-month narration, with highlights and background.

The anticipation grew until the final page, our recognition page, where the announcement of our recipients were Bill III and Kathie (Mack) Quackenbush.

Congratulations to Bill and Kathie.

Greenville Local History Group 2023 Calendar



aka Hush-Hush, Manor House of Augustine Prevost, Rt 81; artist Claribel Gardiner, 1976

Don gave background to the purpose of GLHG recognition: to honor those people whose service to the Town of Greenville area goes above and beyond the usual. Although we did not read the list of charitable deeds of Bill and Kathie, we did note the years of Pharmacy service that so many people remember.

Both Kathie and Bill gave acceptance speeches. In the longer speech, Bill recounted a personal family history and then the beginnings and evolution of the Greenville Pharmacy. By account's end, Bill thanked the community for honoring them. It was a heartwarming tale, to be sure. For those of you not

here, you should be proud of this recognition effort. In a reciprocal act, GLHG honors those who give much, and they, in turn, honor us.

Although we honor some community members posthumously in some years, it feels so much better to recognize our neighbors while living.

Although no one calendar captures the essence of Greenville—a quixotic quest I yearn to complete some year—I annually hope that the calendar not only brings attention to more parts of Greenville area history but also reinforces the local history values we want to share with the community.

And, I think the 2023 calendar has risen to the occasion.

In short, the calendar shows:

- the parents' bleachers at a GCS basketball game
- Town Supervisor Paul Macko's accomplishments as the second longest serving Supervisor since 1900
- consecutive pages of the same property – one as resort, one as spiritual center
- the initial effort of Arts Around Greenville
- a never-before-done three page recognition of Troop 42 Boy Scouts and a listing of all Eagle Scout projects (a special thank you to Colin and Nancy Tumey for their help)
- noting the forty years of Hudson River Valley Art Workshops at the Greenville Arms
- the continuation of renovation/restoration/replacement of houses/properties in the town
- a celebration of 30 years of the Greenville Town Park
- a delivery of three truckloads of Arctic Cat snowmobiles in Freehold

Also:

- the cover showing the Prevost House as sketched by Claribel Gardiner
- our recognition of Bill and Kathie Quackenbush

For full details, I would suggest purchase of a calendar.

Calendars are available at Kelly's Pharmacy, GNH, and Greenville Library.

Mail orders are available. \$12 each,

make check out to GLHG, and send to Don Teator, 3979 Rt 67, Freehold, NY 12431 Although selling season is in full swing and will be for a couple months, I am already beginning to shape the 2024 calendar. I like to have one-third prepared by New Year's Day and the next third by March. It is the last third that I dawdle over but it allows time for last minute good ideas.

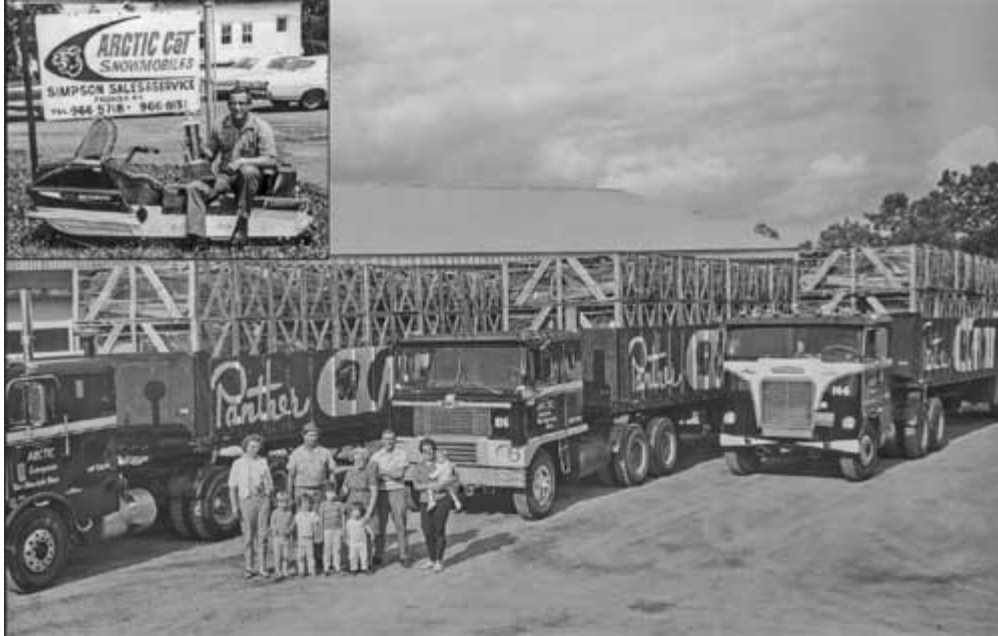
So, I am looking at my notes from this previous year, promising to look for a great photo that we have overlooked for thirty years (I found one already!) and thinking about the blank spots the calendar has not given attention to.

Thus, if you can think of a community topic, recent or middle age or old, contact me either with a specific photo or with a general idea for me to contemplate. It is your assistance that helps me create a calendar each year.

The lead-up slide show, this year, had the theme of renovations.

The last dozen calendars have featured a structure whose improvement makes that area a more appealing area. They include:

- the June Clark house, two houses above the post office (done before our regular recognition, 1993)
- the Cubillo house (next to Chatterbox, across from church, 2005)
- the Martinez structure (today Cutting Corner, formerly Janet Lacy, on Freehold's four corners, 2010)
- the Hesel house (former Phil Ellis house on South Street, 2012)
- the UMC Thrift Shop (former Powell Store, Norton Hill, 2014)
- the Corner Station Café (now Tiny Diner, former gas station, Greenville four corners, 2015)
- the Irving-Terry house (former Talmage-Irving house, next to Westerner, 2016)
- the Content house (former Flach house, on Red Mill Rd, 2017)
- the Blenis-Hulbert house (former Boyd house, corner of SR 81 & Willowbrook Rd, 2018)
- the Be Jolly Airbnb (former Howard



December photos/caption, first sentence: Simpson Sales and Service, owned by Fred and Bruni Simpson, became the largest Arctic Cat snowmobile dealer in the entire Northeast in Autumn 1969 with this shipment of 126 snowmobiles on three tractor trailers... .

house, next to Freehold Country Pub, 2019)

- the Pellerin house (former Annie Hallock house, West Rd, Greenville Center, 2020)
- the Tasting Lab business & interior (former Stevens Store, Main Street, Greenville, 2021)
- the Johnson house (former Peck, Miller house, corner of CR 38 & Newry Rd, 2022)
- and the Crawley house (newly built, Weed Rd, Freehold, 2023)

Don asked for referrals of people who have recently restored or renovated a house that improves a community's ambiance.

A topic not on the agenda but coming to attention only a couple days before this meeting was deemed too important by the program director to wait.

So, both stealing the show and alerting the audience to a new topic was Jack Van Auken.

Jack admitted that he had been hearing complaints about the appearance of the Greenville Cemetery. Although the grass-cutting is

done regularly, it was other aspects that was brought to his attention: trees that needed attention, roadways needing care, fallen and broken stones, shrubs and bushes competing with headstones, and brush that need trimming back.

The Greenville Cemetery is one of the two Association Cemeteries in town, meaning there is a private board that oversees the cemetery's operation and maintenance. It is not a Town of Greenville property (please do not call Paul Macko or other town board members.) And now this Association Board is exerting extra effort on upkeep.

It will take hours of work, volunteer efforts, and money to make this happen. Jack came to announce the new efforts, voice a plea for help, and coordinate a new effort to preserve one of Greenville's gems.

The history that the cemetery represents is vast enough, important enough that GLHG, and other organizations, should consider how to help.

There will be more info as the next few months roll on.

Notes:

*** **November meeting: cancelled.** The Teators should be in Luxor by our regular meeting date. No program replacement was in the works. The next regular meeting will be next year, with the newsletter indicating the details of the start of the year. (Usually, April but...)

*** A calendar note: the Greenville community never sees the printer of the calendar but it has been my pleasure to know Jim and Wanda Gardner of Enterprise Printing and Photo, of Altamont, for thirty years. With the help of his staff, the ragtag collection of real photos, digital photos, text for captions, and directions for layout comes into shape. The last several years, Rich Schreiberstein has plied his magic to produce some of our best calendars.

*** Again, a round of applause and a rousing thank you to Stephanie and Christine for providing the abundant “light refreshments” this newsletter keeps promising.

*** I made a rare appearance at the 93rd annual Ingalls Reunion on September 16. This is one of our community’s most enduring family events and would be a good role model for other families. Genn Ingalls retold the story of a beam found in Ed Griffin’s barn with the name Trum Ingalls signed on it. Coupled with Carrie Ingalls diary, the historians of the Ingalls clan have created a nice account of the importance of the wood business to the Ingalls families in the area.

*** GLHG needs to select community members to recognize. The last time we did it, three years worth of choices were made: 2021: Bill & Sue Von Atzingen; 2022: posthumous: Helen Brown, Ray Beecher, Phil Ellis, Ruth Stevens; and 2023: Bill & Kathie Quackenbush. I will be sending out that email at the end of November.

*** I will return to Greenville mid-late November as long as I take a photo of Deb on a camel with the Pyramids in the background. (Any Photoshoppers out there?!)

Playing Catch Up: Sharing Garth Bryant Material

Some remember a few of Garth piece’s from this last year or so: the Sawmill Marker, the Greenville Pond, a new Aaron Burr marker, and the Lake Family. He has not stopped. However, this newsletter lacked room to include his articles once regular programming started. This is a first chance to catch up. More to come during the winter months. So, here is a piece found on PorcupineSoup.com just before last Memorial Day.

“Duffy” - Greenville’s Forgotten Hero by Garth Bryant

When I was a boy, I knew a man named “Duffy”. I knew him through my friendship with the McNaughtons who owned the resort and bar next door. Duffy was a friend of their family.

John and Don McNaughton were around the same age as my sister Beth and I, and we all became very close friends. We

spent countless hours together at their resort doing all the things kids do. One thing we would do was search the roadside ditches for beer and soda bottles. There was a two-cent deposit on them and a small bottle of Coke at McNaughton’s Bar cost, I think, 14 cents. If you could find seven bottles you could get an ice-cold Coke on a hot summer day.

When we brought our bottles in, sometimes Duffy would be tending bar. Sometimes he was on the other side of the bar drinking. He was a small man with an Irish accent. I assumed he was an Irish immigrant. He was almost always impeccably dressed. He would usually be wearing dress pants and a dress shirt. Much of the time he wore a tie.

During colder weather he often wore a stylish leather coat. His wavy dark hair was always neatly combed back and held firmly in place by some thick hair product. To everyone who greeted him, he was simply “Duffy.”

I didn’t even know if it was his first or last name for quite a while. But his full name was William M. Duffy and he was born in New York City October 18, 1931, not in Ireland.



When I grew up and started to go to the bars myself, Duffy was still there. He worked in all the North Road bars as a bartender and in some as a cook. When he wasn't working, he could often times be found on the customers' side of the bar. Most people seemed to genuinely like him. I know I did. He had a soft spot for all the children. For many years he organized a Christmas party for local kids at either the American Legion or the Brass Rail.

Sometimes Duffy drank too much. Some people didn't approve of this. I never really gave it any thought. I never wondered why he drank. He was always really nice to me and I was respectful to him. That was good enough. It was an era when a lot of local men drank in the bars on an almost daily basis. Many of these men had good reason to drink, I just didn't know it at the time.

For a while he drove around in a big light blue convertible. That car ended up in the small stream just north of the Brass Rail one night. I can still remember stopping on the bridge and he was still sitting in the front seat. As was the custom in those days, a bunch of locals helped him pull it out without any reporting necessary.

Duffy died without fanfare Dec. 1, 2009

at Stratton VA hospital in Albany and was buried in Saratoga National Cemetery.

In talking to Phil Wendell about him, Phil mentioned that Duffy was one of Greenville's most highly decorated veterans. It was surprising to me that in spite of having known this man for more than forty years I didn't know this. I decided to look into his story a little deeper.

William Duffy served in the US Army, Company F, 17th Infantry, 7th US Infantry Division during the Korean War. He was awarded the following badges and medals - Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Combat Medical Badge, Parachutist Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Expert Qualification Badge with Rifle BAR.

He was awarded four separate Bronze Stars for Heroism in Ground Combat. One of these actions resulted in him being wounded in action and for this he earned a Purple Heart. Only 30,359 Bronze Stars were issued during the Korean War. Of those perhaps half were issued for valor. The rest were issued for non-combat activities. Duffy earned all four of his, the hard way, for valor in combat. He was also awarded America's third highest medal, the Silver Star, for Gallantry in Action. This is an extraordinary number of medals. The number of service men decorated for five separate acts of bravery is exceedingly small. This is the official report of his Silver Star commendation:



on Heartbreak Hill, 1951

“Award of the Silver Star – By direction of the President, the Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to the following enlisted

Sergeant William Duffy RA12361188, Infantry, United States Army, a member of Company F, 17th Infantry, distinguished himself by gallantry in action near Sokkogae, Korea. On 8 & 9 July 1953 when Pork Chop Hill was being counterattacked by Fox Company, 17th Infantry, Sergeant Duffy displayed great courage and esprit de corps. Early in the morning of 8 July, 1953, while directing fire from Hill 347 to Brinson’s Finger, Sergeant Duffy noticed wounded and dying men in the valley separating those ridges. Acting quickly, he obtained an aid bag and while under constant mortar and sniper fire, went to the aid of these men. He administered first aid and did not leave the area until the last wounded man was evacuated. Unknown to Sergeant Duffy his unit had been ordered off Hill 347 to counterattack Pork Chop Hill. Although he hadn’t eaten in 24 hours, Sergeant Duffy moved to rejoin his platoon. While in charge of the left flank of an assault platoon on Pork Chop Hill, armed only with grenades and a carbine, he crawled forward and destroyed an automatic weapons position to enable the platoon to advance. He then aided two more wounded comrades by moving them to a more sheltered area. When Sergeant Duffy learned that medical supplies were low, he mounted a personnel carrier and manned the 50 Caliber machine gun, while constantly exposing himself to mortar and small arms fire, so he could deliver the much needed medical supplies. After arriving at the checkpoint for the second time, Sergeant Duffy was so weak from hunger and fatigue that he had to be removed from the personnel carrier. The gallantry displayed by Sergeant Duffy reflects great credit on himself and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.”

As impressive as this written record is, I am sure it doesn’t come close to his real lived experience. The Battle of Pork Chop Hill is one of the best known and most ferocious of the Korean War. The horrors he witnessed and the terrors he must have experienced in this and all the other battles he fought in are beyond imagining. Through it all Sergeant Duffy heroically fought on, serving more than two years in combat in Korea.

When Duffy came home, he lived a very simple life. Maybe he had trouble shaking the memories of what he had been through. Maybe those times when he drank, he could forget those memories, for at least a little while. Who knows, and who are we to judge? Perhaps if more of us had known and acknowledged his heroism we could have made it a little easier for him, perhaps not.

Never once in all the years I knew him did I hear a single person say, “that man over there is an American Hero”. It’s hard to understand how this oversight occurred.

Regardless, I would at this time like to offer a much belated but heartfelt THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, Sergeant William Duffy, and THANK YOU FOR YOUR HEROISM. You were one of the bravest men to ever live in our Town. I wish I had known earlier.

The service of all our veterans is too quickly forgotten. These men and women deserve our support. Locally one of the best ways of doing this is to support the various activities of Greenville American Legion Post 291.