

August 19, 1992

Our August 10th share session was one of our smaller groups this year; those in attendance were Carol Lamb, Dorothy Blenis, Kathie Williams, Barbara Baron, Joe Mangold, Ray & Marge Bennett, Don Teator, Alice Roe, and Connie Teator.

Carol Lamb and Kathie Williams shared their progress on their cemetery mapping. They have transcribed the tombstone inscriptions of three (four?) cemeteries in Greenville Center and are about to produce maps. The fourth cemetery is across the street from Carol - two stones hiding in the bushes. An excellent job on a time-consuming project.

Carol also brought in genealogical material. One indexed book placed names with cemeteries in Columbia County. Also shown was a Hayes genealogy, for Fred's line, that was xeroxed by UMI, a company that reproduces out-of-print material.

Don presented several items for viewing. About 50 duplicated pictures from Rosemary Lambert's photo albums, another 20 current shots of changes in the town, and 50 more prints on a variety of topics were seen.

Documents about the building of the house for Moses Van Zandt, the black family whose house was razed when Rt. 81 was widened in the 1960's was shown. These documents were passed on to Don from Ted Hilscher of New Baltimore.

The 1993 calendar has gone to the printer and should be available at the September meeting.

The 1992 4th grade local history essay project was briefly summarized by naming the interviewees of the Greenville students. Don read half of Janice Parmiter's first place essay about Gene Smith, drawing nods of approval for the quality shown in the work.

Chris Warga of King Hill Road donated the product of her 4th grade local history project - a mapping of the King Cemetery on King Hill Road, including transcriptions and a dozen photos. Nice work, Chris.

A clipping of the August 8th Times Union article on Blossom Farm on Johnny Cake Lane was brought in for anyone who might have missed it the first time around.

Don briefly reported on a seminar that he and Debbie attended in July. These three day seminars are sponsored by the NYS Historical Association and are held at the Farmer's Museum and the Fenimore House.

Robert Uzzilia's work on the Waldron Cemetery on Waldron Road was presented. Excellent work, Robert.

Don produced a one-page computer printout from his cemetery database showing what might be an end product from the cemetery project. The database would list names of people, location of cemetery, the inscription, and the negative number.

The evening closed with Don's ambitious (harebrained?) idea for a project that would produce a book about Greenville

in time for the town's bicentennial (2003). Although ten years away, much work needs to be started. Further details continue on page three. A half hour discussion intertwined with story telling and suggestions before we called it a night.

Other notes:

1. Our September 14th program will feature a slide show - Catskill Creek nature photo essay - by Kevin Berry representing Trout Unlimited and by Deborah Berry representing the National Audubon Society. This program comes at no charge to the GLHG; the Berrys will be willing to accept donations on behalf of their organizations.

2. A thank you card from Janice Parmiter was received for the GLHG donating her first prize in the 4th grade contest.

3. Jean Daley Gwynn, 605 Fir St, Coulee Dam, WA 99116 is researching her Palmer lines. She wants to buy a copy of Palmer Families in America (by Horace Wilbur Palmer) but has been unable to find one for sale (appears to be out-of-print). In addition to the Palmer line, Jean is researching the Crawford line. A few of her ancestors are buried in Grapeville.

4. Barbara Matthews, PO Box 361, Chestertown MD 21620 is researching the Backus line. She submits names of Delucena (b.1788, m.1815 to Eliza Mulford) and Emily (b.1824, m.1846 to Theodore Lyon). Any information?

5. George Page, Rt.2, Box 148, Bryan's Road, MD, 20616 is searching for tombstone inscriptions of Ephraim Page, his wives and family. Should you find them, contact Mr. Page, or call me.

6. Any ideas for programs?

7. Rachel Dawson Riefe, PO Box 1255, Camden ME 04843 is looking for information for John Dawson (b. 1749 in England, d. 1818 in Greenville), his wife Maria, and children Catherine, John Charles, Sally, Francis, Betsy, Mary Hamilton, Hugh, Prudence, and Richard Hawley. Mrs. Riefe is interested in any information but is especially interested in burial sites.

Sincerely,

Don Teator

WHAT: a history of the Town of Greenville
WHEN: by 2003, Greenville's bicentennial
WHY: to record what we know and can research

The Greenville book project comes from a belief that enough information exists to write a reasonable quality book about Greenville and Greenville life. In addition, it would be fitting if we could achieve this in time for Greenville's bicentennial in 2003. That leaves us ten years to gather information and to write.

The only books available now are the 1884 Beers' History of Greene County and Ray Beecher's Out to Greenville. It's time for a book.

But, first, is this too preposterous an idea? If so, say so, and we'll not torment ourselves any further.

If it is worthwhile enough to continue, decisions will need to be some time about structure and writing.

Below is one suggestion for the organization of the book. Each line is a chapter and researchers could focus on this aspect.

Geography

History until 1776

Early settlement / pop. and town clusters

Prominent families up to 1900

Hamlet histories: Greenville, Norton Hill, Freehold, the others (GrDntr, EGr, WGr, Surp, Gayh, misc. corners)

Transportation

Industry

Agriculture / horticulture

Wars

Businesses - pre & post 1900

Boarding houses

Religion

School - pre & post 1932

Social life

The kitchen

Role of women

Home life

Immigrant groups

Minorities

Entertainment

Politics

Physicians / medical care

Census

Sports

1970's Bryant

Power line, land fill, et.al.

Zoning

Biographical sketches

Trends for the future

con't

Another common organization would be chronological, starting with earliest Greenville and working our way to present.

If we work on topics, as is proposed, what suggestions, additions, deletions would you want?

The next major decision is, who writes?

As was said at the August meeting, this project will not be finished if I am left alone to write it. Thus, we're left with a few alternatives.

One would be for a person to take a topic and research for a while. That might mean interviewing others, digging out statistics and printed sources, etc.

A second idea, Kathie Williams's idea, is that everyone jot down notes about their own experiences as they apply to various topics. A collection of ideas is gathered and edited by someone at some point.

At this point, we're leaning toward Kathie's suggestion, meaning that as many of us who can start making notes, collecting notes from others, think about chapter titles, consider writing a chapter in a few years or take responsibility for a chapter.

This project, if not killed off early, will surely evolve as ideas and experience come into play. Your feedback and contributions are vital in accomplishing a worthwhile end.

Think this out and feel free to put in your "two cents".