

R.D.1, Box 147  
Freehold, NY 12431  
September 20, 1989

Dear

The 4th monthly meeting of the Local History group met on September 11 with 15 participants.

The main issue was our discussion about forming a Historical Society in Greenville. Handouts on how to form a society, the likely process of a group like ours, alternatives, suggestions from Ed Winslow (State Historian), what other organizations are doing, and sample constitutions and bylaws were examined.

The group decided we need more direction but not with the formality of some societies that focus on fund-raising and business meetings. The size, informality, and general purpose of our group is adequate for now.

Thus, we agreed, those interested should come to the next meeting with a name for our group, as well as goals we should strive for. We will try to reach consensus, creating an identity that will be recognizable to outsiders.

We shared some projects, but with time running short, we were able to share only these: (the rest - next meeting)

- Cris Ketcham contributed the Bogardus scrapbook to the files. This scrapbook contains genealogical and historical information from the 1890's through the 1920's. In addition, Cris contributed manuscripts dealing with church, town, and townspeople early history.
- Chris McDonald showed the playbills for the Vanderbilt Theater she had saved. These she contributed to the files.
- Phyllis Beechert gave a folder about the building of the gazebo for placement in the files. (An example of keeping material that will be "history" a few years down the road.
- Don Teator show about five minutes of a video he made with Edna Adams, who narrated places of importance in her life.
- Janet Halstead had allowed Don Teator to duplicate old post cards of Freehold in 3.5x5 picture form. These were shown.

Other topics brought up were:

- June Clark will act as chairperson of the group for the near future.
- A list of addresses and phone numbers of those people who have attended meetings or who have expressed interest will be made available at the next meeting. If you wish to not have your name on the list, please call me before the next meeting.
- Emphasis was made about the various types of contributions that people can make. Not everyone is a creator of new material. Equally important to us is the contribution or duplication of materials that you have. This might include pictures, notes, and other research. Also important are those of you who know where to find information. And, of course, those of you who like to sit and listen are important to us also.

- The Town Board has transferred more money into the Historian's files. A couple projects I had anticipated waiting to do next year will be started this year.
- Spread the word! 1- Arlene Brown, Rosemarie Harrison, and Bob Willower will present on Tuesday, October 10, at Catskill High School from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. "Local History in Story and Song" as part of the Greene County Historical Society Fall Lecture Series. 2- On Friday, October 27, at 7 pm at the United Methodist Church Hall in Norton Hall, Down Memory Lane II will be held.

Personal observations:

- This meeting showed the strength of many people who have an opinion and interest in the shape of this organization.
- Thanks, June. A group's health is only good as the diversity of the group and its leadership. My passing on the torch is good for the group. And thanks to all of you for the leadership you've shown through example.
- As for money. So far, most of what I've spent is money budgeted by the Town, to be used at my discretion as befits my job description. I appreciate your concern where the money is coming from and know our group will have to address it soon, but I'm willing to use some of my budgeted funds to keep the newsletter going through the spring. If you disagree, let me know. As for refreshments, we will share the duty, make a donation, or do without refreshments. We can decide that next meeting, but I'll supply refreshments one more time.
- We need to make a list of projects we're doing so we don't duplicate. So far, I know :
  - Harriet Rasmussen - copying cemetery names/inscriptions
  - Joe Mangold - maybe! Freehold house project
  - Don Teator - photographing town buildings/houses
  - other - I know some of you are thinking of different things to do, but I haven't heard "I'm doing that."

If I've forgotten anything of major note, I apologize for my temporary(?) amnesia. Next meeting is Monday, October 9, same time, same place.

Sincerely,