

RD#1, Box 147
Freehold, NY 12431
January 17, 1990

Dear

"The History of the Churches in the GCS District" slide show was the obvious reason for nearly 30 people to attend the Local History Group's January meeting. The 25 minute presentation concisely narrated dates and important facts about the nearly 20 churches.

The slides originally had been collected by Scott Ellis, left to Phil Ellis, and given to Cris Ketcham, who updated the program. June Clark narrated the program while Cris operated the projector. A special thank you goes to Cris for preserving and sharing the program, and to June for a last minute fill-in as narrator. The program was videotaped and will be available in the Historian's files soon. A five minute segment will probably be shown at the February meeting.

After the slide show, several projects were shared. Mike Buttino updated us on the Scenic Roads work (waiting for the State). Harriet Rasmussen reminded us about the genealogy folders she's working on (Griffin, Abrams, Stevens, et.al.).

June Clark and Don Teator read selections from the Ruth Bigelow correspondence. Ruth has shared her Uncle Kenneth Atwater's correspondence. The letters paint a Greenville in the early 20th century complete with tidbits of everyday life with a generous helping of character sketches. Mr. Atwater's style flows with a flair for the detail that has us seeing through his eyes.

Don Teator brought many of his pictures that had been duplicated from loaned pictures. A thank you goes out to all the people who have helped in this project; gradually, we're seeing the dividends of recording our local history.

June Clark shared her transcription of the Lillian Weeks tape - 18 pages worth, and this transcription will be on file.

Don Teator produced copies of the newly updated Historian's files index, the newly created genealogy files index, and a packet for those people wanting suggestions for their tapings. These copies were distributed to those wanting them; those of you not at the meeting wanting a copy of any of these may have one by contacting Don.

Other notes and ramblings:

1. At the next meeting on February 12, we will emphasize our own projects. June and I will take 15 minutes or so to talk about taping and transcribing. Anyone who has tried, and wishes to share their achievements and miseries, please do so.

OVER

2. I apologize for hogging so much of the meeting after the slide program. Somehow, the seating arrangement and a sense of need to fill that time got me in that predicament. Should it happen again, please kick me in the shin, if you can get close enough!

3. A thank you goes to Doris Hempstead who allowed me to copy her genealogy notes that relate to Greenville. When I figure out what to do with them, I'll let you know.

4. Another thank you goes to Cris Ketcham for allowing June Clark to copy the Presbyterian Church records. These records were indexed by Cris and will serve as a basis for another of the necessary projects - the compiling of church records of the town.

5. Another thank you is extended to Gerald Boomhower for so very unselfishly loaning his valuable post card collection so I could duplicate those cards relating to Greenville. These photos should be available at the next meeting.

6. I started to index and catalogue the photos I've shot so far. I'll explain more in a later letter.

7. Enclosed is a report summarizing the history of the Greenville Local History Group to date, a State of the Group message of sorts. Obviously reflecting my point-of-view, the report attempts to capture the highlights of June 1989 - January 1990. If you want, please give me some feedback whether it's worthwhile or not. If it is, I may try it again next year; if not, I'll not torture you again.

8. I must note the efforts of two "non-members". One, Tom Clark has lent his copying abilities so we can have records we might not otherwise have. Also, it's rumored from a not very reliable source, that Tom is the real reason why June is so dedicated and driven. (A more reliable source, however, testified that she was like that before they met.) Two, I have been negligent in not emphasizing my wife Debra's help in duplicating photos, enlarging prints, and helping in the cataloguing of the photos. Without her help, the quality and speed of this project would be diminished. THANK YOU, Tom and Debra.

9. The new files index is available. I'm inviting any suggestions you have for improvement; while I don't promise efficiency immediately, I'd like your feedback.

10. Reminder: Next meeting is a share meeting! Bring items to show, explain the progress on your projects, listen to us brag (or whine), and continue to get involved.

11. Refreshments!! Marge Bennett has volunteered for the February meeting.

12. An update of new members will appear next month.

In closing, the slide show was a vital and worthwhile project. That type of quality could be done with any number of projects that would show Greenville history and lore.

Thanks again for your interest and participation.

Sincerely,

Don Yeator