

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

November 1998, Issue 103

Calendar - Honorees

The last meeting of the year drew the largest turnout of the year – Harriet Rasmussen, Toot & Betty Vaughn, Connie Teator, Rosemary Lambert, Barbara Baron, Joe Mangold, Cris Ketcham, Alice Roe, Ron Golden, Dot Blenis, Phyllis Beechert, David and Judy Rundell, Jeanne Bear, and Don Teator.

Ironically, the featured program for the evening (Ingalls diary) was ready to go but, because other events filled our time so well, this program will be held for next year.

The immediate highlight of the evening was the 1999 calendar. The older pictures include the 1884 Ingalls reunion, the Vanderbilt house (Greenville Arms), a swinging lawn chair on South Street, and Henry O'Keefe's auto-taxi. The mid-age pictures (1930s-1960s) include the dredging of the pond, a fishing derby at the pond, Bryant's store at the new site, and Sutton's Garage. The newer pictures include the founders of the Greenville Press, volunteers at the new park, the Tour du Trump bicycle race, and the building of the gazebo.

The honorees for 1999 are Lee and Curt Cunningham; the posthumous recognitions go to John I. Ver Planck, Al Bryant, and Dr. Bott. The cover was a Mildred Reinhardt creation.

(Mail orders can be completed by mailing your order to Don Teator, RD1, Box 147, Freehold, NY 12431, along with a check made out to Don Teator, in the following amounts: \$8 for the first calendar, \$7 for the second calendar, and \$6 for each additional calendar. This assumes that the calendars will be sent to one address.) Otherwise, if you can pick up the calendars at Don's, give him a call.

All of this led into the next item, which occupied the rest of the evening. The selection of the honorees for the 2000 calendar needed to be made, and after someone suggested that we should know something about each of the candidates, we

ended up taking a minute or two and briefly noted the person's accomplishments.

The call for a vote prompted a few to opine that we had too many good choices to have to pick only one. Although true, we went ahead anyway to make our choice. The tally of the votes showed that the GLHG's choice for 2000 was Ossie & Bunny Gundersen.

We followed the same procedure for the posthumous awards. Although we chose three, Don reminded the group that there might be only room for two if a column of calendar corrections is entered. If that happens, the third choice will become the first for the following year. The final tally showed Harry Ketcham, Rev. Charles Rice, and Gerald Ingalls will take their places in the 2000 calendar.

The end of this process took us almost to 9:30, a good time for most of us to think about getting home.

We passed a card to sign for Ray Bennett who has been in the hospital for a few weeks. Our thoughts go with Ray.

Included in this newsletter is Harriet's summary of the Taylor diary 1868. Also enclosed is the seventy page "summary" for the Carrie Ingalls diary – 1930-1951. If you have already received one, as I have been able to recall, no duplicate is being sent. If I've made a mistake and you do not have this summary, please give me a call, and I'll mail one. This summary, as well as the ones from 1994, 1995, and 1996 will be the Carrie Ingalls diary program that I will do next year.

The end of our season is a reminder for all of us to think of working on some project over the winter. I trust the spring will find us all in good health.



R. E. Taylor Diary
1868

Harriet Rasmussen - transcriber / summarizer

On New year's Day of 1868, Richard Edwin Taylor takes his wife Louisa and their youngest child, four year old Belle, to neighbor Mary Hunt's to eat a holiday dinner. It makes me wonder where ten year old Charles and eight year old Howard are eating. Perhaps RE's mother Phebe is home cooking for them. I certainly hope she is there helping out because on January 9, we read, "Mr. Campbell & 2 children & brother-in-law came again to look at farm, took dinner and want till last of next week to determine." Louisa didn't need any extra company at her table on this day.

On January 10, RE writes, "Louisa sick and went after Dr. Payne & her mother & Mary Hunt." And on the following day, "Louisa had a boy at ¼ to one o'clock in the morning – filled Payne's cutter with wood & gave him \$5.00 – went after Arvelia and carried Louisa's mother home." And so, son Dwight is born but, as with all the other children, his father will not reveal his name for at least a year. Niece Arvelia, now 22 years old and apparently not teaching a school term, has come to help out with the new baby.

Perhaps, this is a good place to digress and reveal something exciting which has happened since I wrote the last summary. A lady from Rochester sent a request to the Vedder Library in Coxsackie for information concerning Sylvester Lord. Judith Rundell who does volunteer work there happened to be reading the last summary in the GLHG newsletter and recognized the connection. She sent the summary to Ruth Porter who is an only granddaughter of Sylvester's oldest child, Arvelia. Ruth has sent wonderful pictures, information and stories which tell about the lives of Sarah Taylor Lord's family long after her brother Richard stops writing in 1902. I have sent the summaries to date and promised to send future ones as they evolve. We are both having fun and marvel at the fact that these diaries which have been lying dormant for so many years have taken on life again and reveal so much history of a family. Ruth has told me that her grandmother's name

was really Arvella but I have chosen to keep her as Arvelia, since that is what RE calls her and how I have come to know her.

Also in January we learn that we were right when we tried to guess what those wood-chuck skins, which Taylor was working so hard on last December, would be used for. On January 7, he tells us, "Sewed robe together today." On January 14, he "Went to Wm Smith and borrowed glove pattern." The following day, he "Cut out a pair of gloves and commenced sewing them." On January 17, RE "Put lining in my gloves." On January 21, it snows all day and RE uses the time for more sewing. He writes, "Finished putting lining in robe & border on today." So the skins have been put to good use.

Taylor is not teaching this winter but he records his many trips carrying the boys to school. I'm not sure if they are going to Lampman School or to Norton Hill.

The February 7 entry tells us that this month has some severe weather. It reads, "Tremendous blustering all day – snow flies – remained at home all day with a lame back – boys did not go to school on account of weather." This weather does not hinder work in the barn though. RE engages 400 hay hoops of Edward Wakely, and neighbor Elihu Ingalls helps him press hay. By February 20, he is drawing 1676 pounds of pressed hay to Reed & Powell in Coxsackie. Another 1768 pound load, two days later, proves unlucky for his horse, Fan. The entry tells us, "Had to bathe Fanny's leg as she wrenched it yesterday & it is swelled." Apparently the bathing does the trick because we don't hear anymore about it.

One week after Dwight's birth, RE takes Arvelia who has been helping out to Potter Hollow to see about school. I think this does not materialize because RE does not mention her teaching. It is not clear if niece Celinda is teaching either since she only appears in two entries this year. On Sunday April 26, RE writes, "Took Louisa over home & Celinda to Durham – brought Addie home." And on October 28, "Charlie carried the girls to Durham – let Celinda have \$50.00 on Sarah a/c & Charlie \$1.00 to pay for cutting clothes." Charlie may have been having some clothing made as the other "men" in the family are

doing. On November 17, Taylor goes to the river with his pork and "Bought cloth for suit of clothes for Howard." On November 21, "Went to East Durham to get clothes cut for Howard and myself." On November 24 he leaves them at Mrs. H. Cowells to be made.

Although he is not teaching, RE is involved as trustee again this year. He hires Miss Julia Hayes to teach at Lampman School again and, on May 4, he records, "Went to school house to set things right for school & Miss Hayes commenced her school." Apparently May 13 was the day the Taylors were to take their turn at boarding the teacher because he writes, "Miss Hayes came home with me when I went after the school children." I get the feeling he may be carrying Mary Hunt's children along with his own. I hope the roof on the farm house was a good one because, on May 14, he tells us, "Tremendous rain through the night – land completely flooded – carried the school mistress to school this morn."

On July 4, he pays George Barlow \$1.75 for cleaning the school house. On October 3, he pays Miss Hayes \$68.38 due her for teaching, and the following day he finished his school report. At the school meeting on October 13, he is elected Trustee again and hires Miss Julia E. Hayes to return and teach for the winter term. She is to get 8½ dollars for four months and board herself. I surely hope that meant \$8.50 per week.

On Sunday, October 25, he carries school tax to S.W. Griffin and pays his part of it, amounting to \$2.00. On December 28, we learn that the full amount collected in this District is \$99.45.

And he has his offers to teach again. On October 20, "Mr. Spalding came after me to teach school again & offered me \$1.25 per day." And on October 29, "Ashley Bryant came after me to teach school – offered me \$2.00 per day – am to give him an answer in about 2 weeks." On November 12, he gets some mortar and plasters the school house but he never tells us what his answer to Mr. Bryant is. Since he doesn't mention school in the succeeding days, I guess we know his answer.

While last year RE only mentioned one funeral, this year there would be four. Lyman Smith died in January, John Hartt and Mrs. Hall

within two days of each other in April. But the one which would have the biggest impact was the wife of his good friend, Briggs Tripp. On April 30, RE writes in his journal, "Went up to see how Mrs. Tripp gets along & found her alright." That would seem like an ordinary visit but on May 2 we read, "Mrs. Tripp died last night & have been making arrangements for the funeral tomorrow – went to Durham after coffin & some things at the milliners." May 3, RE "Went to Mrs. Tripps funeral & took charge of the procession." A tombstone in the Medusa Cemetery reveals that Almira Tripp died at 42 years of age. She and Briggs had sons Curtis and Asa who appear in later diaries.

And now it seems with his wife gone, 49 year old Briggs does not know how to manage. One week after the funeral, RE records just one line, "B. Tripp wished me to see Sarah & try to have her keep house for him." I don't think that ever happened or Sarah would have been mentioned often this year. She only appears a couple of times and I cannot tell if she and Rosa are still at John Milton's in Medusa. On July 29, RE tells us, "Wm brought Sarah here a short time." It is not clear if Mother Phebe is there or at William's since she has visited back and forth again this year.

On March 26, the entry introduces someone new. It reads, "Went to Medway to get a load of goods for Peter Hummell." This man begins making a ditch for Taylor on April 20 and I wondered if he might be a new hired man. There has not been a steady one for several years now. But when June 13 finds Taylor ploughing for Mr. Hummell, I realized that Mr. Hummell had become a new neighbor. And when it is time for haying, and the cutting of rye and oats, these two farmers share the work on each other's land. Brother William also helps with the haying for three days in August and is paid \$7.50.

On August 24, just as the haying is finished John DeFrate comes and requests Taylor to attend the Congressional Caucus at Greenville. Two days later he tells us more. "Worked at Lay Rulands ¾ day on chimney and then went to Greenville to caucus & was put on the delegation to Cairo Convention to select a candidate for Congress." And on August 28 - "Went to Cairo to

convention to elect candidate for Congress." He tells us he paid 50¢ for dinner but not a word about the elected candidate's name.

Perhaps Taylor has decided to forego teaching in order to pursue his masonry work. He is busy this year from the end of May right through to the end of October except for the month of July and the first three weeks of August, working for seven different people. The time frame for this work shows that it begins after the planting is done and the two skipped months are the times to put in hay, oats and rye. Apples are not mentioned until late October. And so the seasons fit into his work schedule.

There are more visitors at their house this year. This makes sense since there is a new baby and Louisa presumably would not find visiting around too easy. In February, when the baby is a month old, she spends a whole week with her mother and father. There are twelve entries telling of RE taking Louisa away from her home and usually it is to a family member. She does not get out to church services except on December 6 when RE pens, "Louisa rode with B. Tripp's folks to meeting & I took care of the children."

This year finds Taylor going to hear preachers like Elder Noble and Mr. Coffin about 15 times which is three times last year's attendance.

There has not been a need for the services of a lawyer M.B. Matice of Oak Hill except once in April. On the 10th, "The Lacey Brothers sent John Lacey after \$2000 with a note and I let them have it." On April 13, he explains, "Went to Oak Hill & Hiram & Abel Lacey gave me Mortgage of \$2000 against their farm bought of L. Weeks & left them with M.B. Matice to be recorded.

Charlie Lord is still living with the Taylors and going to school and, at eleven, is now old enough to be sent out on errands. There are entries like, "Charlie went up after Mother today & carried Wm some peaches." and "let Charlie go after the girls." Presumably, this is to pick them up from school. And speaking of the girls, they are growing up enough that on a Sunday in June RE tells us, "Hot - took girls over to G.A. Stone to

have their hair shingled & my own." A subsequent haircut for RE comes on August 2. "John DeFrate came over & cut my hair." Who knows what kind of conversation went on during this cut. On August 16 the entry reads, "John DeFrate came & took the revolver." I wonder if it was what was used by RE to shoot the skunk on the morning of March 18.

The year ends on a good note for this farmer who has been looking for a buyer for his farm for quite a few years now. Many have looked but sales have fallen through. One hardly dares to get his hopes up in November when one reads, "Simon Lobdell came to look at my farm." Then on November 5 Lobdell comes to look again and the following day there is a new prospect. "Jahiel Lamb & wife came to look at farm." We are relieved on November 11 to read, "Mr. S. Lobdell said he had made up his mind to take my farm & requested till next Tuesday to close the bargain." Mr. J. Lamb comes around the next day but he is too late. On November 16, the deal is sealed, "Sold my farm & drew writings with S.H. Lobdell - he paid me \$200 down & is to pay \$3900 on the first day of April next - Spalding drew the writings & charged 30¢ each."

So now RE is happy and it seems he will have four months to look for a new farm and move his family. Perhaps he already has one in mind. Besides there are family birthdays coming up although their father never reminds us. Howard turns eight on November 25, Addie is six on December 3, and Isabelle is four on December 10th. And for the first year, RE feels compelled to refer to some kind of celebration of Christmas. On December 25, he pens these lines, "Cool & clear - took family over to Louisa's father & spent the day with the family gathering - came home & went to J. Goff to a small party for Rev. M. Lent of Oak Hill gave him \$2.00."

I hope this upbeat atmosphere sustains him at least into the New Year of 1869. On New Year's Eve, he writes simply, "Went to Donation at Eld. Coffin at Medusa & paid him \$3.00 - tipped sleigh over & sprained Louisa's wrist.