

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

April 2001, Issue 122

Share Session

One of the few spring-feeling evenings awaited those who came out to the first share session of the year. Attending: Harriett Rasmussen, Connie Teator, David & Judy Rundell, Cris Ketcham, Alice Roe, Kathie Williams, Dot Blenis, Mimi Weeks, and Don Teator.

Harriett entertained us with her recounting of some more work of a diary – this one belonging to Eleanor Goff, who started keeping diary from 1905 and continued until her death in the 1950s, with a break around 1920. Eleanor Goff married Stanley Ingalls, and so we have, at times, Eleanor Ingalls' and Carrie Ingalls' diaries to compare with each other. A write-up follows.

Harriett got things rolling with a "brief" family history of Millie Adriance. Harriett compared the obituary with the information about Millie's siblings and who they married and so on, and filled in information about a few of them.

David Rundell showed a milk bottle from the Greenville Dairy, an artifact from a piece of local history that some recall but it is beginning to be long enough ago that I would wager that more than 80% of area residents have no idea that such a business ever existed. (That 80% does not extend to GLHGers, who are a tougher crowd to stump.)

David also brought in some Concordia Circle material which will be put into the CC box in the Historian's files.

Kathie Williams brought even more material from the Ellis collection that will be filed.

On a sadder note, we members presented acknowledged the loss of Toot Vaughn and Millie Adriance, both members who were shared in our local history endeavors. Toot was reknown for his memory of details that went back farther than any of us could recount.

Other notes:

2002 calendar preparations are underway.

If you have an idea for a program, please refer them. May 14 is the next second Monday!



Diary of Eleanor (Goff) Ingalls
(starting with 1909)

The Goff family is living in Richmond Hill (NYC), NY. We don't know how or when that move from the Norton Hill farm came about. It was obviously after 1906 because in the 2001 GLHG calendar showing the Norton Hill school picture for that year, Eleanor Goff is pictured as a student. The names of her classmates will come up many times during her years of diary writing.

Now, in 1909, fifty-one year old Carrie Ingalls Goff (Carrie was the daughter of Joseph Truman Ingalls and Abigail Cowell) lives in an apartment with her 22 year old son Jeremiah, 19 year old Joseph and 14 year old Eleanor, the writer of the diary. She has lost her husband, Henry Goff (whom she had married in 1876), in November, 1901, who died at age 48. Her youngest child, 2½ year old Lewis, had died ten days before Henry.

The firstborn child, Edna, had died in 1902 at age 23, leaving her husband Vern Smith and six year old Marguerite and three year old Ariel.

Carrie's oldest son, 28 year old Leslie, is also living in Richmond Hill. He is working for a building contractor and I suspect this may have prompted the move of the family because Jerry and Joe often have work with the same man – a builder named Wooden.

Leslie is married to Margaret Moore – a local girl here. They have two children – five year old Evangeline and nearly one year old Howard. They must live very near his mother because

there is a lot of visiting back and forth.

This is the year that Jerry marries and he and Bessie get their own place in July. Bessie is a city girl.

Eleanor, the writer of the diary, was six years old when her father died. She is now 14 years old and going to school. In the summer, she goes back to the country where she spends time with Vern and the girls. They are her nieces but more like sisters.

She visits the Truman Ingalls family where she is very close to Elgirtha and Carrie. And the reader notices that she mentions any time she sees Stanley.

Carrie Moore, who would become the wife of Raymond Ingalls in 1913, comes down to visit Leslie and her sister Margaret. The day after Thanksgiving Eleanor comes down with diphtheria. The doctor inoculates Mama and Joe and no one else gets it. But the month of December is filled with colds, earaches, etc.

In September, Leslie comes to Norton Hill and helps Vern Smith set the stones on Lewis and Henry Goff's graves.

There was no diary for the year 1910. And the entries in 1911 end on June 15th just after Eleanor has recovered from ptomaine poisoning. Since the diary ends in June there is no record of a summer visit to Norton Hill.

Eleanor is still in school. Jerry and Bessie now have a baby named Clifford, and Joe is still at home with Carrie and Eleanor.

In 1912, Eleanor is sixteen years old.

On January 9, 1912, a great

building in New York City worth \$14,000,000 burned. It was the Equitable Life Insurance Building.

During the year, Eleanor keeps up a steady correspondence with Marguerite and Ariel and Stanley. She mentions Aunt Lillian's birthday on January 13th. This is her mother's only sister who is married to Isaac Ver Plank. He is sick this year and April 30th brings news that he is worse.

The family diversion in the city is frequent trips to the movie theater. Eleanor tells what movies they see and also the numerous books she read this year.

On May 7th, she receives a card from Ida and Vern, so it is apparent that Vern has married Ida Layman. His first wife, Edna Goff, died in 1902, which was stated above.

May 18, 1912, Stanley's older brother Ransom marries Ethel Abrams. Eleanor always refers to him as "Ransie".

June 10, 1912, Warren's baby is born and they hear of Gerald's birth in The Local.

June 24, 1912, Marguerite and Ariel come to visit their grandmother and Aunt Eleanor. They have to be met in Weehawken. Marguerite is now 16 years and Ariel 13 years.

July 11, 1912, Eleanor goes to the country with her two nieces. "Went out with Stanley that night. Went for a hayride with Elgirtha. Visited Uncle Isaac (Ver Plank) who looked terrible."

July 18, 1912, Carrie (Mamma) comes to Norton Hill to be with her sister Lillian Ver Plank.

July 31, 1912, Isaac Ver Plank dies and Carrie stays on with her sister until September 28th.

Eleanor had returned to the city a week or two before but she is homesick for the good times in the country. She applies for a job at A&S but can't be hired because she doesn't have a birth certificate to prove she is 17 years old. So, she decided to take night classes to learn dressmaking.

This year she records that Bertha Ingalls marries Clarence Jennings, Vice President Sherman dies, John I. Ver Plank is five years old, and Woodrow Wilson is elected.

On December 21st, she and Joe meet Stanley at the station. He is visiting for Christmas and New Year Eve. On the last night of 1912 they all go to brother Leslie & Margaret's. She writes, "We all went out and drummed on tin pans and had a little parade at 12."



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