

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

August 2001 Issue 125

Share Session

Welcome back, after the one month break. Coming out on a fine August night were Dot Blenis, Gerald Boomhower, David & Judy Rundell, Alice Roe, Betty Vaughn, Phyllis Beechert, Harriett Rasmussen, Mimi Weeks, Kathy Williams, and Don Teator.

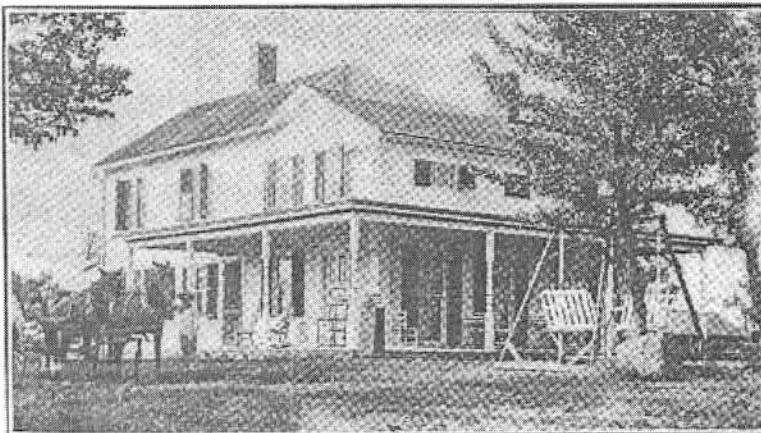
Don recounted a bit of his rafting trip down the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon, the reason why the July meeting was cancelled. For those of you who are online, you can find out more by going to www.dteator.com and clicking on Grand Canyon – 2001. The trip was one of those grand adventures with lots of nature and rapids and hikes and living with 23 people for two weeks.

Marianne Doorly gave a post card of the Hunt farm for the files, a scan of which is facing you. This building still stands at the T-inter-section of Old Plank Road and New Ridge Road in Norton Hill (despite the Greenville address). The date is uncertain so if anyone can pin it down to a decade or so, let me know.

Phyllis (it's good to see her back)

made sure the files had a copy of the Farewell Organ Recital at the Presbyterian Church.

Dave Rundell gave two rolls of pictures – Memorial Day services, dedication of the veteran's book – for the files. A reminder for anyone with a camera – if you take pictures of houses,



DAIRY FARM HOUSE, HORACE HUNT, Prop.
GREENVILLE, R. D. No. 1, GREENE COUNTY, NEW YORK.

people, events, etc., of Greenville, feel free to pass it along to Don Teator. You can be reimbursed if you give me the receipt for the photos. Also, try to turn in the negatives that go to the pictures. Thanks, Dave,

Harriett read her account of Eleanor Goff Ingalls diary for 1914,

which is reproduced in this newsletter. Keep encouraging Harriett to continue!

Don had picked up the 2002 calendar earlier in the day, and brought them to the meeting for everyone to peruse. It's always rewarding to share the calendar's pictures and get feedback. The calendars should be available in stores before Labor Day (usually Bryant's, Rite-Aid, library; for unknown reasons, Stewart's and Cumberland have been unreceptive). Anyone who wants to mail order, send your request with a check (made out to Don Teator) to Don Teator, 3979 Rt 67, Freehold, NY 12431. Prices are \$8 for one, \$14 for two, \$20 for three, and an additional \$5 for each calendar beyond the third one.

On the money topic, a few subscriptions are running out before November. To renew, send a check (same info as above) for \$5 to cover a one year subscription. If your subscription is good until at least January, I will remind everyone during the annual newsletter. Of course, if you wish to renew ahead of time, I'll accept.

Help! The library gallery exhibit for September will be photos of Greenville from the Historian's files. Yup, Deb and I and you (the Local History Group) are the hosts for September. The topic is Minding Greenville's Business, with about 45 duplications of

photos relating to businesses, past and almost current, of the Town of Greenville. The reception will be Saturday, September 1, from 2-5 PM at the large community room. I've had a couple of offers to help with refreshments, and I'll call those of you who volunteered to get our plans together. I'm hoping that most of you can stop in to see the exhibit if you have time that day. (It's a busy weekend – Labor Day weekend.)

Another help. Checking out my yearbook coverage, I have blanks for 1946, 1948, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1981, 1982, 1984, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1992, and 1993. Since '93, I've made it a point to order from the high school. If you know of the whereabouts of one of these yearbooks, please contact me. It would be nice to fill in the empty spots.

The next meeting will be September 10th. (A mistake in the 2001 calendar is the date of Labor Day!) We'll look at the gallery display, and our program will be Pat Lambe as the main speaker about the decline of agriculture in Greenville, especially from his point of view. The rest of us are encouraged to jump in with comments and opinions along the way too, so be ready to pitch in.

Take care,



Eleanor Goff Ingalls

Diary – 1914

account by Harriett Rasmussen

(wording in [--] are Harriett's notes)

Now it is 1914 and Eleanor has an engagement ring which she received last Christmas Eve. It is apparent that there will be a wedding soon. On February 7, our diarist writes, "We went to Ford Roe's for a license." Two days later, Stanley's sisters, Carrie and Elgirtha, come up to Mary Bell's to see Eleanor's trousseau. I'm sure it was made by Mamma. And that same day Mamma comes up from her sister, Lillian VerPlank, where she is living and stays all night with Eleanor.

On February 10, Eleanor writes that it is their Wedding Day. They aren't quite ready when Henry O'Keeffe comes to get them. Elgirtha and Clarence go to Mr. Mead's in Greenville; apparently they are the Maid of Honor and Best Man. The Norton Hill people give them a send-off with rice and songs. They are married at the Greenville (Methodist) parsonage on South Street. Henry takes them to Catskill where they have dinner with Elgirtha and Clarence [probably at the Saulpaugh Hotel]. The next day they leave for New York to stay with her brother Leslie and visit Jerry, Joe, Aunt Mary Mattice and any other family there.

On February 19, they come home from their honeymoon and are given a party like a wedding reception at the home of the groom's parents. It must have been a grand time with at least 30 people there. In this entry, Eleanor lists all their wedding gifts and remarks, "I wore my white dress, satin pumps and silk stockings. The decorations were green & white crepe paper and white hearts. Had a lovely time all evening."

The newlyweds stay at Trum and Carrie Ingalls' until the end of March when they move to Surprise. An entry from Carrie Ingalls diary on March 31, 1914, gives this explanation, "Ed & Carrie moved down to Aunt R' Celia Losee's house. Stanley & Eleanor moved in where Ed & Carrie moved out – in David Losee's house." [I haven't attempted to figure out the Losee family. I only know that Stanley's paternal grandmother was Adaline Losee, and that the initial L. in his name is for Losee.]

It soon becomes apparent that there are tenants on the other side of the house. Irve Cameron and wife are living there and are helpful to the new young couple. Eleanor writes on April 2, "Mr Cameron came in and merescoed the

ceiling. I painted the wood work." Mamma is there also unpacking and helping to settle.

Eleanor's life is now quite different from the life she lived in the city. But from the tone of her entries one can see that she is happy taking care of her chickens and recording her 2 or 3 eggs gathered each day, helping Stanley get off with his team in the morning, and spending time in the barn helping him tend to his horses in the evenings. During this period in her life, she and Stanley are very close to Carrie and Ed. They live near enough together that Eleanor and Carrie visit back and forth daily – going to the store and after milk, etc.

They have their share of visitors in Surprise. Dorothy and Leona come and alternate between Stanley's and Carrie's. Then on April 17, they take the girls up home and bring Marguerite back with them. On Sunday, April 19, Vern's people come to spend the day and they take pictures of Mamma and her two granddaughters, Marguerite and Ariel, with Ida. It would be interesting to know if someone has these pictures today.

On May 10, they make a Sunday visit to Lambs Corners and she writes, "Went up to see Grandma Spalding. We drove Irve's horse Dick. Uncle Lon and Aunt Bertie weren't home. Grandma feels some better than she did. Harold Lewis & Theresa and little boy were there." [Grandma is Hannah and Theresa is the daughter of her oldest son Jerome Spalding.]

On July 12, Eleanor writes in her diary, "Terrific warm. We sat out under the tree all afternoon. Was very blue. When Henry came after Mamma & Mr. Nikola's folks he asked me to go down with them. We started around six. I got out and went on the boat with them & saw their staterooms. They went on the 'Clermont.' When we got back Stanley was down to Carrie's to meet us. Had a lovely ride."

After Mamma has been in Richmond Hill for a month, a letter comes for Eleanor and the entry reads, "At night, about supper time, Mrs. Blenis brought the pk'g from Mamma. My dresses are lovely. Just as pretty as they can be. She sent me the big bone hair pins and a comb. Also an aluminum tea strainer and two fans. A funny paper for Stanley."

Mamma Carrie has always been a good seamstress and I am guessing she has gone to use the sewing machine, possibly at Mrs. Nikola's to make maternity dresses for Eleanor. On September 17, Mamma's sewing machine bureau and chair arrive at Eleanor and Stanley's. Does this mean that Mamma is coming to stay

with them? We get our answer on September 24 when Stanley returns from an overnight trip to Jefferson with lumber and he brings Mamma home with him. Eleanor notes, "She brought things for making little clothes." On September 29, they were busy cutting out kimonos and canning peaches. The days ahead would find them canning pears, pepper relish, tomato pickles, squash and other harvested crops to see them through the winter. Only a few days previous something had caused enough excitement for Eleanor to record it in her diary. Warren and Margaret were visiting on a Sunday and while they were there Gerald ran away to a neighbor. Since he was only two years old, one can only imagine the anxious time.

Eleanor has a wide variety of other concerns this month including family members and animals. On October 9, Mamma gets a letter that Joe is sick again. And on October 11, Eleanor complains that "Mr. Walker has filled the cow stables so our pig has no place to go at night." And the next day, "Pig sleeps in the horse stables now." On the last day of November, Tom, the horse, lays down on a nail and Eleanor helps Stanley doctor him. By December 5, she and Marguerite have to go out and bathe Tom's leg with salt water every hour.

In late October comes the beginning of really happy news that chronicles the birth of her first child. "Was sick all day long. Mamma went down to Carries about one and had her telephone up to Mother [Carrie Ingalls]. Mrs. Cameron stayed with me while she was gone. Carrie came and spent the afternoon. Elgirtha brought Mother down. Stanley got home around 5:30 and about 7:30 he went to telephone for the doctor. He had to go three times to telephone as they couldn't find the Dr. [Charles McCabe]

There is no other explanation about when the Dr. came but on Friday, October 23, 1914, she writes "Little Edna Carrie was born this morning at 12:30. She weighs 9 lbs with her clothes on." They have obviously named the baby in memory of her older sister Edna Smith. Both grandmothers are named Carrie so that was easy enough.

Mrs. Cameron becomes a big source of comfort to the young mother in the months to follow. Eleanor speaks often of the baby being cross [probably colicky] and Mrs. Cameron has welcome arms.

Five days after Edna's birth, Eleanor becomes an aunt for the fourth time when brother Joe and his wife, Florence, have a baby girl named Beatrice. And one month to the day,

brother Jerry Goff and his wife Bessie have a baby girl. [This is Ruth who marries Merritt Roe. She died January 1, 1973 at 59 years.]

Stanley turns 22 years old on December 7th. Eleanor gets him a cup from Peter Stevens' store and the handle is broken. The following day Eleanor writes, "Got Edna & myself ready and we went to Vern's with Irve. Girls [Marguerite and Ariel] were very surprised to see us. Vern is working with John Griffin at carpenter work on O.C. Stevens house."

Eleanor and her mother-in-law sometimes record the same events in their diaries and it's often fun to compare. On December 13, Stanley left about 4:30 A.M. to go up home to help Pop. Eleanor writes, "Felt awful lonesome after he went. He went up there tonight so as to be ready to start early in the morning. Pop took a lumber job up on Cheese Hill [Preston Hollow]. Art, Clarence, Warren, Ransie, Ethel, Mother & Pop went also. They are going to keep house up there." Stanley was home in six days but the rest stayed on. Carrie Ingalls chronicles their stay there in detail.

This year there are two grandchildren to join the Christmas gathering on December 24th at Trum and Carrie Ingalls. Gerald is two years old and Edna is two months. A second celebration is held on Christmas Day at Grandma Spalding's in Lambs Corners [Now the home of Esther Lamb].

Throughout 1914, Eleanor recorded these deaths.

- April 17 – Heard of Jerry Tucker's death
- April 26 – Eleanor & Carrie sang at Eugene Palmer's funeral [he worked at Obadiah King's]
- May 7 – Mrs. Ed Losee died
- August 7 – Aunt Loretta died at noon [She was the wife of Wm. Harrison Ingalls who was a brother to Grandpa Ransom Ingalls.]
- September 4 – Mrs. Cameron and I watch the funeral procession of Mrs. Herman Waldron. She left 5 or 6 children.
- October 5 – Heard of Ed Waldron's death at Greenville – of typhoid fever.
- November 26 – Ethel Abrams grandfather, Mr. Eldridge, buried on Thanksgiving Day.