

# Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

October 2001, Issue 127

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Columbus Day has never prevented the GLHG from meeting the second Monday of the month before, and we continued this tradition again. The leaf color on the way in seemed rather muted but October 8 is a very early Columbus Day! Present were Walter Ingalls (welcome), Harriett Rasmussen, Rosemary Lambert, Kathie Williams, Mimi Weeks, Dot Blenis, Alice Roe, Pat Lambe, Gerald Boomhower, Connie Teator, Martha Turon, Phyllis Beechert, Ron Golden, Jeanne Bear, and Don Teator.

Harriett started the meeting with her summary of the Eleanor Goff Ingalls diary for 1915. Actually, it was for the first half of 1915! Harriett confesses she can't keep them any shorter, and every one anticipates the added depth of detail. Her account follows later.

The short stuff included another thank you for Pat Lambe for last month's classic meeting, a notice that the "Minding Greenville's Business" photo display was asked to stay one more month, and a reminder that calendars are still available at the library, Bryant's, and Rite Aid. If you get a chance, personally thank these businesses/groups for their help.

Don had brought copies of the Greene County bicentennial (2000) history booklet.

Don reminded those present of Richard Ferriolo's GCS history project

which should culminate with a written history. Others involved in the writing included Don, Phil Hershberger, Anna Acconi, and Terez Limer. If you have stories about GCS, or about a one room school house that became part of the GCS district, start writing and forward them to one of the above.

The main purpose of the evening was to select our recognitions for the 2003 calendar. We looked over the list, commented on the achievements for each person, and voted. We narrowed down to two, and voted again, and that ended in a tie. After some discussion, we decided to recognize both with their own page, and thus dispense with the page that we usually save for the three posthumous recognitions (to continue as usual next year unless we confuse ourselves with another tie). The 2003 recognitions will be George Story and the Nicholzen family.

The next (also, our last) meeting of the year will be an interview with George Jones, who is willing to subject himself to our questions of his background and of his view of and role in Greenville. (Nov 12)

Take care,



## Eleanor Goff Ingalls Diary

1915 (first half)

Harriett Rasmussen

[notes in side brackets are Harriett's notes]

The day after Christmas, the weather was severe with a temperature of 16 below zero. It moderates some and the early days of the new year are occupied by things like an all day visit from Mary and Bert Bell, and Eleanor going over to Cameron's side of the house to make out tax receipts for Irve. He is the tax collector and just twice Eleanor's age. So I am sure that Irve and Alice play a pseudo-grandparents role for Edna. On January 10<sup>th</sup>, Eleanor writes, "Irve's folks found a crib in the garret [attic] & they let us take it."

They are still giving Edna pills when she is fretful [probably from colic]. On February 15<sup>th</sup>, Eleanor worries, "We are all out of baby pills." The following day, "Edna quite cross all day but Irve sent up by the noon stage and got us some pills for Edna and she slept all the evening." In early January, Eleanor had written, "Edna real good all day but she choked terrible when I gave her Castoria at night. It scart us terrible!"

They tried the Castoria thing again on January 30<sup>th</sup> and got another bad scare. I think that scare was sufficient as Castoria is never mentioned again. In January, Stanley is busy drawing straw from Jim Cole's on the upper end of Ingalside Road. [Jim Cole was Vida Lowe's father.] On January 26<sup>th</sup>, Eleanor explains, "Stanley made his "down" [down or up is from Stanley's house in Surprise; down to Coxsackie, and up to Greenville-Norton Hill] trip & helped unload 20 tons of feed out of a car [boxcar at Coxsackie] for Peter Stevens. The boys went down from home (Ransie, Clarence & Art). Brought up about ½ of it." The next day, Stanley made his "up" trip and presumably delivered that feed to Peter at Norton Hill.

February 2<sup>nd</sup> is Observation Day [what we call Groundhog Day] and it snows hard all day. The bear doesn't see his shadow. Stanley makes a trip to the "upper"

place for buckwheat. He stops at Dr. McCabe's on the way home to get some more pills for Edna.

Their 1<sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary rolls around on February 10<sup>th</sup> and Irve brings Eleanor a butter dish for helping him with his tax books. On February 12<sup>th</sup>, "Got our fire insurance policy. Stanley hitched up Irve's horse and we went to the store – met 4 autos & Dick acted real bad."

The chickens are laying and Eleanor dutifully records every day how many eggs she gathers. On February 18<sup>th</sup>, she records five eggs and she takes a dozen to the store for 26 cents.

Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> is a beautiful day and prompts a family get together at Trum and Carrie's. Eleanor writes, "Wore my lavender waist for the first time." [This is the one that Mamma was cutting out on February 17<sup>th</sup>.] Carrie & Ed, Ransie & Ethel were there to dinner & Warren's folks came at night." [Picture at least 13 at the family table – if one remembers that Clarence, Elgirtha, Ruth, Dorothy & Leona are still at home.] Perhaps this is a family celebration for Ruth's birthday as she turns 15 two days later.

It is apparent that Ed and Carrie are not at their house during the months of January and February and I think this is a little hard on Eleanor. Several times, Eleanor gets a letter from Carrie but I had forgotten where they were until the March 1<sup>st</sup> entry which reads, "Carrie and Ed came home from Cheese Hill this morning about eleven. They came and got their stove in the afternoon." The next day there is the familiar reference to walking down to Carries.

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Cuff & Minnie Cameron come to visit his brother and Eleanor takes Edna in to show her off. The following day she writes, "Rode up as far as Frank Evans and met Stanley coming home from his "up" trip [Frank & Edith Evans lived in the big house on Sanford's Corners, next to what is now Fred Lampman's. Edith was a daughter of Sherman Sanford].

March 6<sup>th</sup> was a trying Saturday. En-

try read, "Stanley went to East Durham with a load of soft coal fro the creamery. Broke his shaft and was delayed an hour on the road." Two days later Ed and Carrie come to supper and in the evening Ed helps Stanley fix his shafts. But the next day Eleanor records, " Stanley made his "up" trip. The cross bar they made last night split."

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, "I got up about five & got ready & went with Stanley. I walked from Frank Evans [Sanford's Corners] to Greenville as my feet were awful cold. We met Marguerite and Ariel on Scripture Hill. I stopped at Vern's. Mr. Smith real miserable, very very feeble." [Vern's father]

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ransom is 25 years old. Stanley and Ed move Dan Parks' saw mill. And Edna's stomach is all upset from starting her on cow's milk yesterday.

Eleanor seems to have musical ability and, over the years to come, is often asked to sing at funerals. So it is not surprising to see this entry, "Stanley brought our organ home. We traded with Warren our wagon and he is to give us \$25.

On March 30<sup>th</sup> she hears from Margaret Goff [Leslie's wife] that the carriage is on the way and on the next day, Stanley makes his "down" trip [to Cocksackie] and he brings the baby carriage home. Margaret may have bought the carriage for them because on April 1<sup>st</sup> Eleanor writes, "Ruth came over and we went down to the store. I sent the money order to Margaret. Then I found I didn't have the money & I walked all the way back home to get it."

If we think keeping cars running today can be a pain, horses had their problems, too. April 6<sup>th</sup>, "Irve's horse, Dick, calked himself and Irve put turpentine on & it blistered. We had a terrible time trying to put lard & sweet oil on it." On September 10<sup>th</sup>, Stanley makes his "up" trip. Ed brings a message at night that Stanley has a sick horse and can't come home. The next day Eleanor writes, "Edna & I met Stanley

coming home up the hill. The horses stopped & Stanley couldn't get them started again so he backed down the hill. I was so scart!"

On April 20<sup>th</sup> the entry reads, "Went down to Carries and waited for Earl. He came about seven & we went down to Cox-sackie to the dentist. I had 3 teeth pulled and impression taken for my plate. Had our dinner at Cummings Hotel." How could she eat?

Then on April 28<sup>th</sup>, "I got up about 4:30 and got ready to go with Stanley. I went to Cocksackie to the dentist & got my false teeth & three filled. He hurt me awful."

The month of May brings a rash of deaths. It begins with the death of Vern Smith's father, William. Eleanor writes, " Smith's folks telephoned [they go to their neighbor, the Thompsons, who have a phone] down & said Grandpa is dead. He died at one o'clock in the morning." Things go on as usual the next day as Stanley helps Pop and the boys move the saw mill on Cheese Hill. On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Eleanor leaves Edna down at Carries and explains, "I went up to Vern's with Lennon. The funeral was 10:30 & I went to the cemetery with Vern's father & came home there to dinner [Vern is her brother-in-law].

The following day she writes, "Aunt Eleanor Winegard's body was brought up & her funeral was at the Norton Hill church [Eleanor Ingalls Winegard was a sister to Stanley's Grandpa Ransom Ingalls and her descendants are the Winans, Williams and Dedies. Eleanor and her first husband, Addison, moved to Staten Island when he retired from farming on Maple Avenue, thus the reference to her body being brought up.] She continues, " Mary Hunt's funeral was this afternoon. [This is the Mary Hunt mentioned so often in the Taylor diaries when she was R.E. & Louisa Taylor's neighbor on Sunset Road.]

May 14<sup>th</sup> the entry reads, "Ed came over after supper & told us about Grandma Spalding's death." [This is Stanley's maternal grandmother.]

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, "A cold disagreeable windy day. We got up about 5:30 and then got ready to go to Grandma Spalding's funeral. We started about eight & met Ed & Carrie at the corner. Went around by Ingalls [Trum & Carrie's on Old Plank Rd]. Then Stanley & I went in a four seater with his folks. The funeral was 10:30 & we went to Ingalls to dinner."

And it continues on into June when she writes, on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Uncle Theodore Coonley died yesterday morning. [Theodore was a brother-in-law of Eleanor's father, Henry. He lived where Bunny & Ossie Gundersen used to live before they moved to Vern Smith's house.] On June 4<sup>th</sup>, "Mamma not feeling so very well. She couldn't go to Uncle Theo's funeral."

June 5<sup>th</sup>, "Mamma was taken with terrible pain in her stomach. Her hernia came down. We telephoned to the doctor and after he got here he must have worked over an hour over her. We were terribly frightened."

The next day Mamma is not well and Eleanor goes to Libbie Losee's to telephone up to Elgirtha and Aunt Lillie. A man comes to take the census. On June 9<sup>th</sup> Burdette Bear and Edith Story are married; Aunt Lillie come to spend the day with Mamma and a man comes with citation papers from Aunt Mary Mattice's will.

Mamma has attacks on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, and on the 27<sup>th</sup>, Eleanor writes, "After dinner Mamma was taken sick. Her rupture got out. We got the Dr. He worked from about 3 to after 5. Then he decided to send her to the hospital [at Albany]. She went about nine. Mother [Carrie Ingalls] came and went with her. Stanley went with her, too. Henry took them [Henry O'Keeffe who had a kind of taxi service], Pop, Carrie & Ed called. Ida [Vern's wife] stayed all night with me."

And on the 28<sup>th</sup>, "Stanley got home about four and said Mamma got through the operation all right. The Dr. said she had a good chance. They took 14 inches of her intestine and it was mortified [necrotic]. Vern and Marguerite came early. Marguerite stayed and Ida went home. Mother went home. Carrie said Mama was in danger yet." [We may be picturing the patient as an elderly lady but she will be only 57 years old just one month from today.]

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, "Carrie came up [presumably to take care of Edna]. Then Henry's chauffeur came with Aunt Lillie [Mamma's sister]. We went to the hospital to see Mamma. She don't look very good and was too weak to talk to us. Leslie [her 34 year old brother from Altamont] came to see Mamma & we had a good visit."

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Stanley's mother sends news that Dr. Charlie [McCabe] has been to see Mamma & he feels real encouraged about her.

There are references to Stanley's visit to the hospital and by July 11<sup>th</sup>, Eleanor writes, "Mamma is much better. Edna is getting so mischievous. She tipped over a quart of milk."

Eleanor makes one trip to Albany with Edna. She comments, "Leslie saw me on the train to come home. Edna cried about all the way to Coxsackie." On July 25<sup>th</sup>, comes the day to bring Mamma home and it doesn't sound like it was very easy. The entry is recorded like this, "Henry, Nina [his wife] Aunt Lillie Pop & Mother came about 1:30. Mother stayed with Carrie and we left Edna with them. Had a blowout on our way to the hospital. Mamma had a terrible hard trip home and was pretty near used up. Mother stayed all night."

--to be continued--

*(Carrie recuperates from this illness and lives for eight more years. Eleanor is not keeping a diary for 1923 so there is no account of her mother's death.)*