

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

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George Jones Interview

A cool November evening greeted us for the last meeting of the year. For the second month in a row, the GLHG meeting ran on the same day as a national holiday, this time Veteran's Day, even though the real Veteran's Day was

the day before our meeting. At-

tending were Gerald Boomhower, Walt Ingalls, Elsie Turon, Phyllis Beechert, Connie Teator, Mimi Weeks, Kathie Williams, Ron Golden, Martha Turon. Dot Blenis, Rosemary Lambert, Jeanne

Bear, Dot Hesel, Alice Roe, Judy Rundell, and Don Teator, as was the topic of our program, George Jones.

The evening opened with Don grabbing about 20 issues of the Greenville Local from early 1976 and laying them out for anyone to read. Anyone hiding behind a partially open door would have sworn the swarm of activity must have meant

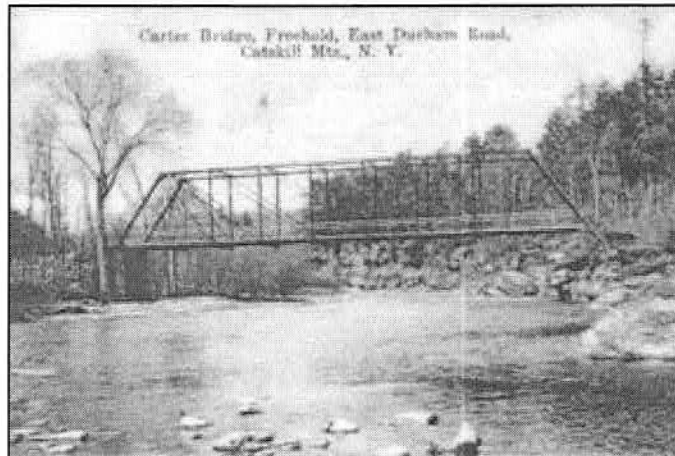
the recent issue had just arrived, so intent we were to read the news that had been current twenty-five years previously. I think we all felt younger again.

George Jones graciously accepted an invitation to be interviewed,

despite his long days. And so, for about an hour, we peppered George with questions, told stories that may or may not have connected with George's, and recorded the life story of one of Greenville's influential people.

George told of moving to Pre-

ston Hollow from Queens when he was a boy. His family would move to Fox Creek Road, and he went to school to Preston Hollow and then to Middleburgh. He started helping his father with the carpentry trade, turning into a life's work. Many a reminder of George's handiwork dots our countryside, reflecting the pride and craftsmanship of the buildings' maker.



Post card postmarked 1918
card courtesy of Tom & Deb Karnes, Freehold

George would marry, have children, and eventually move to Newry Lane in the late 1980s. A major project George worked on was the expansion of Bryant's to its current configuration. A current project is the building of the housing at Country Estates, a project that one day may feature about 150 units, thus doubling the number of houses in the hamlet's water district. To say George Jones has had a little to do with the shape of Greenville today is a bit of an understatement.

Some of the side stories were memories of Preston Hollow, of floods along the Fox Creek, of different people we encounter in life, trips to Stamford, keeping the Bryant's project on schedule, his association with Zan Bryant and Bill VonAtzingen, how Greenville has changed, George's "retirement", and so on. (We also learned that initials STG, one of the company names, stands for something. Ask someone who was there for the answer. Otherwise, I'll put the answer in the annual report.)

Well, the off season of the GLHG approaches, and I hope you might consider some local history projects. One in the back of my mind is a walking tour brochure for the hamlet of Greenville. Perhaps this is one that I'll try to start next year but if anyone is interested in helping out (or taking over!), contact me some time.

Another project that begs for doing is the listing of historic houses and a

brief explanation for all. Any writing of any aspect of Greenville history would be welcome, and even if it meant taking notes, it would be worthwhile.

Calendars are still available. If you can't find one, give me a call.

The annual report should be out mid-winter. I'll check with the potluckers and see if we continue our traditional March pot luck dinner.

The post card was one of two that the Karneses found in central New York at one of the road side flea markets. Carter Bridge is still remembered by many as it is portrayed in this scanned copy.

One last note. The GCS history project with Richard Ferriolo continues, and one of my parts in it is to compile a list of teachers who have taught at GCS. I believe the District Office can give me lists going back to 1937 or 1938. Thus, anyone who knows who taught at GCS before 1937, pinpointing the exact years, could help me out by getting that information to me. (We have that one picture of the 1932-1933 faculty.) Also, anyone knowing who taught at the one room school houses (including the Academy) can again be helpful and get that info to me.

Trusting your holidays are enjoyable,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the word.