

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

May 2002, Issue 131

Interview of Walter Ingalls, Pt. 1

Another good turnout awaited the Interview of Walter Ingalls program. Present were: Paige Ingalls, Stephanie Ingalls, Walter Ingalls, Len & Claribel Gardiner, Harriett Rasmussen, Connie Teator, Dot Blenis, Mimi Weeks, Kathie Williams, Ron Golden, David Rundell, Phyllis Beechert, Pat Lambe, Dot Hesel, and Don Teator.

As was suggested in the last newsletter, this evening was the first part of a two part interview of Walter Ingalls. Don introduced Walter through the diary of Walter's grandmother, Carrie (Spalding) Ingalls.

What followed was a mix of family and community memories. Jacob Ingalls came to this area in the 1790s, just above the town line on North Road, Norton Hill. Actually, those of you familiar with Elm Lane area will recognize the attractive farm house visible from North Road. A genealogy of the Ingalls family was written decades ago, revised, and soon to be revised again.

Walter traced who lived in what house on the main street in Norton Hill when he was a youngster, starting on his side of the road (the lumber yard side) from the Medusa Road junction until the first rise east of Norton Hill, and then tracing the other side of the road. As you can imagine, a few dozen stories followed, with the memories of many others complementing

Walter's. In addition, Walter's memories were added to by his sister, Claribel, who, at times, had a slightly different twist on the story, as anyone who has siblings knows will happen.

The stories of the business were an integral part of the evening, with the Powell store and Ver Plank store being two centers of town. Other tales detailed boyhood activities, work, foods, holidays, town personalities, etc. I got most of it on tape and will try to transcribe it when opportunity allows. (If anyone knows someone who will transcribe audiotapes, please let me know. This is one task I would rather allow someone else have the pleasure of!)

By the time we ventured this far, it was time to close for the evening and we will continue in July with Walter's school days and adult years. A thank you goes to those of you who added to Walter's stories. Come on out and add your version of history, too.

On the back is a copy of a document. I will let you guess the source and content (which is a feat until itself), and I will confirm your guesses in the next newsletter.

The next meeting will be June 10th, a share session.



Given under our hand this 28th Day of March
Greenfield in the year of our Lord 1868

Henry B. Lee
William Thomas
Jubah Barber
Francis M. Clark
Thomas Mayland
Superintendents

Thomas
Thomas
William
Green
Day of 44

At a special town meeting held at Greenfield
Records, held at Greenfield on the first day of
The 1st and County of Green on the first day of
Capt. William Chapman Chairman. Noted that
supervisor was one hundred and fifty dollars
pay up the orders that are given the town
Noted that the name of the town is altered from the
same records to the name of Greenfield