

# Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

July 2004, Issue 149

Maps — Videotape

An early summer evening, a bit damp, greeted the dozen of us who came out: Harriett Rasmussen, Connie Teator, Walter Ingalls, Dot Blenis, Betty Vaughn, Roger Teator, Carol Bryant, Jeannette Rose, Stephanie Ingalls, Mimi Weeks, Kathie Williams, and Don Teator.

We caught up on summer happenings in Greenville and beyond before settling on the first item of the night. Don had brought in a VCR and TV to replay a videotape made back in 1990 – one of our early videotapes, showing teachers and students of the one room school houses. We watched about 25 minutes worth of the memories of some of the teachers – Don Mabee, Margaret Bogardus, Irene Ingalls, Goldie White, Ruth Palmer and others. Detailed were locations, building conditions, student attitudes, etc. It is with no small amount of fascination to rehear the accounts of an era far beyond us and yet so close. The other sobering part of reviewing the tape is the realization that time has taken away several commentators of that video.

This was a good chance for Don to remind all of us to preserve our accounts of our lives, whether it being written or taped.

The other part of the meeting was Don's presentation of the maps that are in the Historian's files. Although we are more familiar with photographs, diaries, and other written accounts, maps play an important role in the recording of local history.

A few of the maps shown were: the 1856 map of Greene County, with black dots representing structures and identifying resi-

dents; the 1867 Beers map of Greene County, with the black dots again showing structures and residents; the 1970s water district map showing strips of aerial photography with engineering details; topographic maps of the Greenville and Freehold quadrangles (1940s with updates in the 1970s) on which the black dots represent structures; road maps that are generated by a business or business group; a sketch of the proposed park site from the 1970s; an artistic sketch showing the area of Durham, sketched by a Cairo-Durham CSD project; a multi-panel sketch of Greene County's borders in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries; two maps of the Town of Greenville drawn by Dot Blenis with black dots representing many residents of the area; and a half-dozen other maps that record other information.

Other maps I can think of that would qualify as historical records are past and current zoning maps, tax roll maps, building construction blueprints, and so on.

Harriett had a piece to read but we will save that for next meeting, which is August 9<sup>th</sup>. In addition, Carol will bring a Catskill Mountain House videotape to play, and I may bring another early videotape.

Enclosed on the back is a copy of a map you've seen before – a copy of a part of the 1856 map. (More about Mimi's project next newsletter!)

Take care,



