

"It was a dark and stormy night."

Excuse my stealing Snoopy's literary effort but it almost fit our August meeting. Still, about twenty of us slashed our way through the darkness in search of local history enlightenment. (Does this letter writer know how dramatize or not?)

June Clark, after a month's absence, brought the meeting to order five minutes ahead of schedule! June, speaking for Cris Ketcham, described some of the restoration progress on the Presbyterian Church steeple. Based on a Van Dyck painting of the church, the steeple will be painted gold.

Bunny Gundersen brought in a scrapbook created by her Aunt Della Tallman. The clippings show vital statistics from the turn of this century. To view the scrapbook, give Bunny a call. (A copy of this scrapbook is also on file, thanks to Bunny's loan.)

Con Baumann shared a letter written by one of the Greenville Wassons. Con also brought a picture showing the Scripture Bridge from downstream.

Harriet Rasmussen read part of a letter which "poetically" told about Ingalside and Greenville girls.

June Clark recounted her trip to the annual meeting of the Botsford Family Historical Association in Milford, CT. The Band of Botsfords gladly accepted this "outsider" warmly! June showed a dozen pictures of the Botsford homestead and the stone markers in town.

Don Teator relayed several reminders and messages: the 4th grade project folder given by Dave Dively last month should be seen to be believed; the Historian's files have been moved up to the Assessors' office and that the same process to see files is still in effect; pictures belonging to Curt Cunningham, Cris Ketcham, and the school were duplicated this past month; tapes were made of Gerald Ingalls and Everett Hempstead; Pearl Capone is transcribing tapes; Curt Cunningham gave a mug with a depiction of Fountain Square to the GLHG (the mugs are on sale in the gift shop); copies of catalogues selling the plastic photo protectors were shown; forms for the Capital District Genealogical Society and for the Palatine Society of America were brought.

Don also reviewed the refinements of the photo project. All the pictures have now been entered in a database and printed out; thus, anyone wanting more information about a particular picture can look up the number and check any further information. Also, the people pictures have been labelled. Any additional pictures will be added onto this system of numbering and labelling.

Harriet Rasmussen's "genealogical garden" has sprouted a few more files. Harriet contributed files on the Purinton family and on Oliver Bryant, as well as adding information for the Griffin family.

The last topic of the night was a calendar to be sponsored by our group. Don and Debra selected 12 pictures and, with June's collaboration, wrote captions and text. These pictures and text were shown. The one obvious hindrance is funding; costs for printing 500 calendars are about \$600. Since our fund totals \$100, money is needed to cover printing costs. Thus, a call went, and is going, out for anyone who can afford a "loan" to our group. Ideally, as calendars are sold, loaners will be paid back. At present, our plans are to

order 500 copies, sell them at \$5, and try to at least break even by selling 120 copies.

So far, \$250 has been collected. If you are able to loan the group whatever amount you are comfortable with, please contact Don Teator, or mail and make your check out to, Don Teator.

If everything goes according to our tentative schedule, the printer should be done by the end of September. Then, we'll hope everybody will help sell.

The end of our "dark and stormy" night meant refreshments. Thank you to Arlene Brown for the cake and punch.

Ramblings, roundabouts, and rumblings:

1. Mentioned previously was my move upstairs. Because of security worries about court records and the general access of my records, the Historian's files needed to be separated; thus the move to the Assessors' office. If you want to search any file, see Nancy Thorne (bookkeeper's office upstairs) for keys, or give me a call. Nancy usually is available Monday through Friday, 8am - 4pm.

2. Joe Mangold suggested we might want to be represented at the Freehold Flea Market on September 1st. I won't be around but anyone wanting to set up a booth for our group is welcome to do so. Give June or me a call.

3. A thank you to Gerald Ingalls for identifying a few more faces in the airplane pictures.

4. As if I needed to, the idea of collecting business cards struck me in a moment of high idleness. At that moment, I thought that business cards were one way of recording the types of business in town. Seriously, if you see business cards pertaining to the Town of Greenville, take them and give them to me for my new collection.

5. Argghhh! As gently as I can, I will encourage everyone to start recording some of the stories you have. The story of Ford Rundell shooting off the branch for the moving of the house is one that should be saved, and there are hundreds more like them. If we don't write them, an important view of the townspeople is gone. We "youngsters" have a way of not knowing what happened a ways back so we assume what we've done is the first time it ever happened. Please prove us whippersnappers wrong!

6. At our last meeting, the idea of writing a biographical sketch of a person, couple, or family surfaced. The Greenville Local is willing to publish them. I envision one a month but that remains flexible. Nobody has mentioned it; of course, I know ideas are percolating and you are close to starting one. Bring whatever you have to next meeting, or give me a call if you want more information.

7. Next meeting is September 10. The tentative program, Farming Life, will feature two retired farmers, who will tell what farming was like and respond to our questions. No more milking of this idea.

*Don Teator*