

# Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

June 2008, Issue 183

Share Session

A beastly, 95-degrees day awaited the June share session. (We reminisced about what we did before air-conditioning.) Braving the heat were: Bob & Marie Shaw, Allen Shaw, Carol Bryant, Jeannette Rose, David & Judy Rundell, Stephanie Ingalls, Dot Blenis, Harriett Rasmussen, Phyllis Beechert, Larry & Dot Hesel, Ron Golden and Don Teator. We welcome our sure-sign-of-summer – Carol & Jeannette, as well as congratulating Phyllis for the “Sold” sign on the front yard.

Harriett shared some photos and letters from Bob Haines – part of her Howard Taylor (son of R.E. Taylor, of diary fame) connection. The photos showed Bob in the Philippines, part of a map-making crew that cleared forests and built lattice-construction observation towers. All of this reminded us of the efforts that our WWII servicemen made.

An interesting, even if eccentric, piece of local history had started last month with the Shaws bringing in some Seneca Elliott info. Well, Harriett dug further and found some newspaper clippings that had us chuckling. It appears that Seneca’s parents may have started the operation of Shady Glen, today known as the Zoom Flume.

Side trip: Seneca’s father, Edwin, was a cousin to Merritt Elliott’s father, which involves the Norton Hill Elliotts which involves the Ingalls, which means practically the whole world, well, at least the Greenville world.

Back to Seneca: Seneca married Florence Hine who died early in the marriage (one child – Sheldon) in 1900 from typhoid fever. At some point, Seneca takes over Shady Glen from his father, and then has a relationship with a woman who promised much and intends on taking much. In the newspaper account, Seneca recounted how he suspected his second wife was poisoning him (he would remarkably recover when he left home). When Seneca left to work in Cobleskill, his wife threatened suicide if he did not come home. Eventually, he sold Shady Glen and built a house on the property. Perhaps, Harriett can expand this story more fully some time. During the meantime, comments of a hen-pecked husband drew a few chuckles.

Other items shared included:

The 2009 Local History Calendar is still in the planning stages. A few brief stories about Alberta Lodge ensued.

Don noted the Greene County Home Tour in Palenville – the range of building types, Catskill Mountain House reminders, etc. (I’ve copied a side of one insert.) Those of you who braved the heat that day saw another worthwhile tour.

A Times-Union supplement – Summer 2008 Northeast Traveler – featured the “Quirky Catskills” on its cover, with a lengthy piece inside. One of Catskill’s cats filled most of the cover. Just a reminder – Catskill has 60 painted ceramic cats lining Main Street and beyond, while Hudson will soon have dogs lining its street. A pleasant

day trip might include both presentations.

Phyllis brought a Memorial Day 2008 pamphlet. So often we throw away these types of programs and paper memorabilia, and then we wish we had a copy.

Hudson Valley magazine featured local chef Ana Sporer of Freehold's Ruby's Hotel.

*I Want That Recipe*, a 2008 effort by GCS people, reproduced favorite recipes, provoking memories of other local organizations that have produced cookbooks or recipe books. A particularly memorable one is the early 1900s Freehold Church book.

Don showed the 2008 GCS High School Yearbook. As always, it is one of those important local history documents. (Since then, the Middle School has contributed a copy of the MS yearbook to the files.)

Comments were made about the 2008 Greenville Day. It appears to have been lightly attended. It still seems like a great idea for the town.

The Durham Center Museum was featured on the HudsonValley.net web site. GLHG was the museum's guest at one of last year's meetings. Stop in once this summer, if you can.

Don brought in some newer maps that the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Revision Committee is looking over. This effort that can be political but those of us who are local-history-minded need to be aware and involved. More info is available at [www.greenvillecommunityplan.org](http://www.greenvillecommunityplan.org), for those of you who are computer literate. More particularly, your feedback on business expansion, preservation of rural character, historic preservation, etc., is of value, and can and should be shared. Some of you have already weighed in, and can continue doing so. Those of you who want to share, feel free to contact me or any town official or Peter O'Hara who heads this committee.

A clipping of the May 15 Greenville Press' "Way Back When" noted the naming of the Greenville Memorial Library. The plaque mentioned in the clipping says, "The Greenville Memorial Library Building, conceived by the Women's Concordia Circle, is dedicated as a living memorial to those who have served in the Armed Forces."

A copy of the Daily Mail article publicizing two award winning "senior citizens" is included. We in Greenville certainly know one of the recipients.

A request for a photograph of Marie Bullivant serendipitously led to a photo of the Class of 1929 that I had not seen before. I am considering using it for the calendar next year. (She was a member of that class.)

Our next meeting, July 14, will record some of the memories of Greenville Center, with Bob and Marie Shaw anchoring the memories part. Christine Mickelsen, I think, will represent the "younger" crowd. If you have Greenville Center memories, come on out, or invite those who have Greenville Center memories.

Take care,



# Palenville

## Crossroads of Greene County History

At the juncture of mountain and valley, Palenville is a crossroads of Greene County history where almost every significant aspect of the county's past came into play.

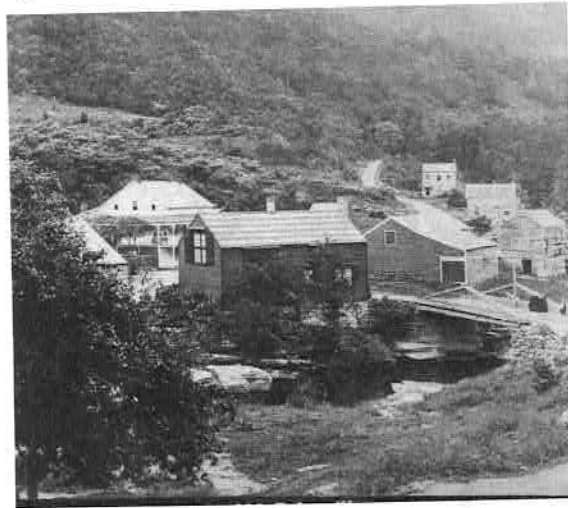
The Native Americans used the Palenville area, even during the American Revolution, as the gateway to and from the top of the Catskill escarpment - the Wall of Manitou. These routes later became the Mountain House road and the Hunter Turnpike through Kaaterskill Clove.

In 1817, Jonathan Palen put a tannery at the mouth of Kaaterskill Clove, using creek water and hemlock tannin to turn raw cowhide into leather. Palen's burgeoning workforce settled around his industrial plant, thus creating "Palenville."

Washington Irving wrote Rip Van Winkle in 1819, bringing national attention to Palenville. In 1823, James Fenimore Cooper's Hawkeye saw "all Creation" from atop the escarpment. In recognition of Rip's creator, the community even changed its name, including that of the local U.S. Post Office, to Irvingsville from October of 1833 to July of 1841.

When Thomas Cole spawned the Hudson River School of Painting in 1825

by depicting the area's visual beauty, Palenville's artistic heritage was secured. Over the next 80 years, it remained a locale for major and minor landscape artists, with important concentrations around 1848-50, earning the name "America's First Art Colony."



Built in 1823 atop the escarpment, the legendary Catskill Mountain House ruled the world of grand hotels for most of the 19th century, while at its foot Palenville's hotel and boarding industry flourished. When the Otis Elevated Railway

offered travelers a more direct route up the mountain than the stagecoach, Palenville saw even greater benefit.

During the late 19th century, when important bluestone quarries operated along the ridge and base of the escarpment, pedestrians walked metropolitan streets atop Catskill Mountain rock. By the early 20th century, there were more than a dozen mines in and around Palenville.

Fishing and hunting in the Kaaterskill Clove area has drawn visitors throughout the centuries. Today, with the rise of the ski industry and today's ever-increasing number of hikers, Palenville is again recognized for the scenic beauty of its natural surroundings.

# Outstanding Contribution and Senior Citizen of the Year

The Greene County Legislature proclaimed May as Greene County Senior Citizens Month to express its appreciation for the commitment and valuable service of outstanding senior citizens throughout Greene County.

Each year the Department for the Aging Advisory Council conducts a search for outstanding senior citizens to be recognized for their contributions. Dedicated individuals are chosen to receive special recognition from the Greene County Legislature in the categories of Senior Citizen of the Year and Outstanding Contribution by a Senior Citizen.

At the May 21 meeting of the Legislature, David Hart of Freehold was announced as the Senior Citizen of the Year and Walter Ingalls of Norton Hill was honored with Outstanding Contribution by a Senior Citizen.

A Retired Senior and Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteer for over thirteen years, David Hart makes a significant impact on his community, especially through his volunteer activities with the Greene County Department for the Aging.

Year-round, two to four days each week he is on the road delivering meals to homebound seniors. When he isn't delivering meals he is a driver for the Department's Homebound Transportation Service, transporting older county residents in his own car to medical appointments.

On his own time Mr. Hart checks on older people in the area, taking them shopping, taking care of their sidewalks and driveways in the winter, and taking them out to dinner on holidays if they are alone.

He is active in the community as President of the Cairo

Rotary Club, a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and a participant in all community events. David Hart is an excellent example of a caring and active individual giving back to his community.

Walter Ingalls is a dedicated individual who has served the community in many ways.

A charter member of the Rotary Club, he has helped with all fund raising efforts such as barbeques, auction, etc. He has hosted several exchange students and has taken all the students to all of the area meetings which they needed to attend.

He has served as a fireman since he was a youth and is always among the first to arrive to offer help. At church he is involved in any building project, donating his time and on occasion supplying materials from his lumber yard. After snow storms he is ready to plow out the driveways of both the fire house and the church.

During the Christmas holidays he is one of the first people available to set up trees around the park and help with the lighting.

Mr. Ingalls willingly and cheerfully takes senior citizens to their doctor appointments even to the point of changing his family commitments to accommodate those in need.

Walter Ingalls is an individual who makes an outstanding contribution to his community through his time, commitment and caring.

In recognition of their significant contributions to the Greene County community, the Greene County Legislature presented Certificates of Merit to Ralph and Beverly Beede, Thomas Hitchcock, Kathy Jurgens, Joseph Pahl, and Chris

## GREENE COUNTY

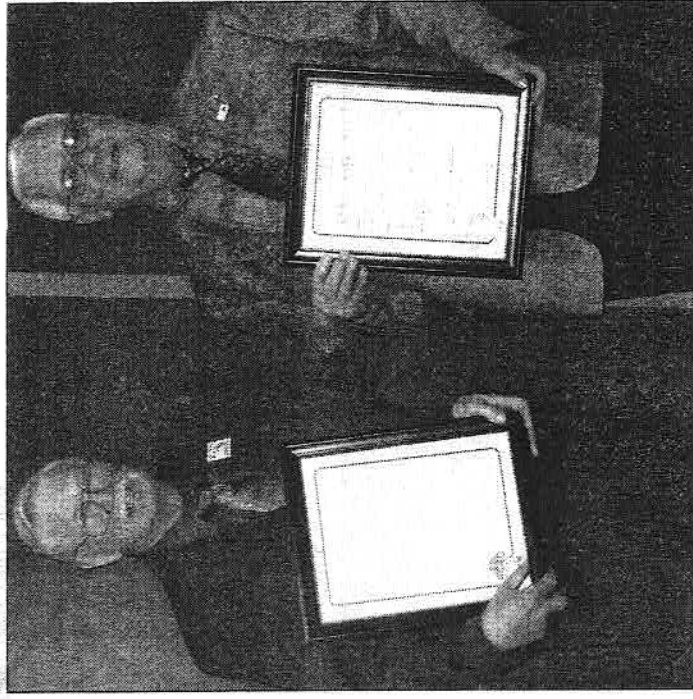


Photo contributed

At the May Greene County Legislature meeting, nine outstanding senior citizens were recognized for their contributions. Walter Ingalls, left, was honored for Outstanding Contribution by a Senior Citizen and David Hart was acknowledged as Greene County Senior Citizen of the Year. Receiving Certificates of Merit for their contributions were Ralph and Beverly Beede, Thomas Hitchcock, Kathy Jurgens, Joseph Pahl, and Chris and Carol Pfister.