

# Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

August 2008, Issue 185

Share Session

Our August meeting featured a weather rarity – a cool August evening, with an inch of rain that had fallen earlier, keeping the temperatures in the low 60s most of the day. Usually, this report whines about August's 80s and humidity. Braving the cool air were: Krista Haushalter and dad Walter Ingalls, Ron Golden, Harriett Rasmussen, Jeannette Rose, Carol Bryant, Bob and Marie Shaw, Christine Mickelsen, Dot Blenis, David & Judy Rundell, Stephanie Ingalls, Paige Ingalls, Richard Ferriolo, Phyllis Beechert, and Don Teator. A hello to Paige and Krista, for a rare, but very welcome, appearance!

Our share session went many directions.

We started with a query that came my way about a possible ID of three photos sent to me by an Albany collector. The names Sunset Hill, Ward Rundell, and Alston St. John were on the photos, and the collector wanted more information. Harriett came to the rescue again. The Rundell family of topic were siblings Ward, Darius H, and Jeremy, children on Horace H. and Angeline (Hunt) Rundell. One photo showed Ward and, Harriett speculates, his son Edwin H, standing in front of the house we believe is the former House on the Hill, where Swami Bruce resides today, on top of Jennings Road, by the fire/rescue house. They were holding two scrawny horses. Another photo showed Alston St. John, with a team of horses, in front of a barn, located on Sunset Hill. We informed the collector that Sunset Hill is that part of CR 405 leading up the hills westward from South West-

erlo. Alston married into the Rundell family. The third photo is an interior of a store that no one recognized.

Don shared *The Catskill Mountains*, a 1960s-ish PR photo booklet prepared by Joslen Tobacco Company, with photos of scenes most of us recognize today, only fifty years ago. The cover is of a woman sitting on one of the rock ledges of Pratt's Rock overlooking the Schoharie Creek. Fifty years has seen some changes. The Greenville section includes the elementary school site, the pond with the Vanderbilt theater, the Catholic churches side-by-side, and an aerial of the town.

Feedback from the Greenville Center meeting was positive, and Don asked that if anyone wanted to add more information, to email or send him more information to be recorded. (Someone asked me about Mike Guli; we commented about what is fit to print, and a bit of erring on the side of caution.)

Harriett used the minutes book from the King Hill Church to prepare a write-up that is reproduced later.

Krista brought the 100th anniversary booklet of the Farmers Cooperative Insurance Company, today the Eastern Cooperative, with names and history. Krista promised to make a copy for the files.

This somehow led to reminiscences of Rip's, a tourist attraction on the mountaintop.

Don had gathered a map of the Catskill Creek watershed, which led to a discussion of a watershed, the Basic Creek watershed, the start of the Catskill Creek in

the Vly Swamp nearing Middleburgh, Hubcap Heaven, streams flowing north, and so on.

Richard Ferriolo came midway through the meeting, presenting the group with an update of the long-term project of recognizing the Potter Hollow school house. He had just come from the school board meeting where, it appears, that the authorization of a historical marker was approved. Richard had prepared the wording of the marker and shared it with us.

Don noted that a new book is out – *One Hundred Years on "Resort Ridge" – the Legendary Mountain Hotels of the Northern Catskills*. The author, John Ham, spoke at a program at the Greene County Historical Society (Aug 21). The Mountain-top Historical Society, as one might anticipate, featured the book at its annual open house.

A request for donations comes from the Greene County Historical Society Register Committee. The committee is producing a book that will showcase the 200-some places/sites that are on the county register. Donations can be made to the GCHS, with a note clearly identifying the money to be used for the Register Book Preservation list, in care of Ken Mabey. (Other people on that committee are Nick Nahas, Josephine Blakeslee, Jean Bush, Winnie Clark, Emily Kunchala, Betty O'Hara, Natalie Daley, and Ralph Grinnell.)

Don took 20 minutes to remind people of Vernon Haskins, and most in attendance knew Vernon. He regularly contributed his observations in a newspaper column and booklet titled *Yesteryear*. In addition, he collected some of his poetry in *Fire-side Recollections*, the first entry being reproduced later in this edition.

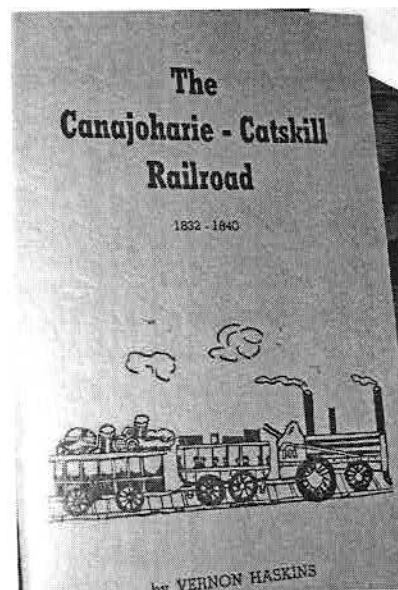
Don took time to note Vernon's booklet – *The Canajoharie-Catskill Railroad*, documenting the source information about the railroads formation and operation. Some of this connects with the Nahas's info from their stone bridge program from last year. I will refrain from reproducing anything from the booklet but anyone inter-

ested can borrow my copy or find a library that has one. Of course, the train accident at High Falls, causing the death of Jehiel Tyler, is probably the single, most remembered detail of the railroad's history (1832-1840).

The next meeting is September 8. I don't have a program yet; be prepared to share, and I will bring some "stuff" too. If a program develops, I'll make a call to the usual attendees. The Catskill slide show program will happen in October. More details later.

I'm hoping the calendar will be ready by October's meeting. For those wishing to make a mail order, send cash or check (Don Teator); \$7 for the first one; orders containing more than one, please add \$6 for each additional (\$13 for 2 calendars, \$19 for 3, and so on).

Take care,



from *Fireside Recollections*  
Vernon Haskins—December 16, 1946

“Fireside Recollections”

Tonight, as I sit in my humble home,  
As the sun sinks down in the west,  
I sort of get to thinking  
Of the things with which I am blest.

I have a dear wife and a daughter  
Whom I adore with all of my might;  
And it's a sort of comfy feeling  
To have them kiss me, and say good night.

Tonight their mercury is below zero  
And the winds wail over the hill;  
The four strong walls protect me  
And a fire keeps a way that chill.

There is seasoned wood in the shed,  
Plenty of preserves in the cellar too;  
Two porkers to be butchered on the mor-  
row,  
And a beef in a week or two,

My pocketbook is sort of empty  
And Christmas only a few days away;  
But that tinsel tree in the corner  
To-night seems to be most gay.

With all the anguish in the world,  
There is little for me to say;  
But I give my thanks to the, O Lord,  
For Thou hast been good to me this day.

## King Methodist Episcopal Church

Submitted by Harriett Rasmussen  
July 2008

I'm not sure when the original Methodist Church was built on King Hill but on Feb 19, 1853, a group came together to raise money to build a new church. An old note-book documenting this event was given by Kathie Williams recently to Rev. Carney, Pastor of the United Methodist Church of Greenville Norton Hill to put with that church's records.

Besides the solicitations for the new church, this book records a meeting almost every year, until the 1900s to elect the church trustees. Ironically, these short yearly meetings do not often give a clue as to who the minister is at the time.

After 1906, the meetings were more infrequent. There was a meeting in 1911, 1912, 1913, 1916, 1917, 1922, and the last one on March 8, 1925. Obediah King was elected trustee for three years; Ariel Smith Weeks was secretary and there was \$127.00 cash in the treasury. That was an improvement over 1912 when the balance was \$17.08. In 1903, after paying \$2.00 to fix the organ, the amount in the treasury was \$8.27.

At the annual meeting in 1898, after the election of trustees Alexander Widdis, Leander Roe, Shubel Losee and Lewis Hickok: "The Chairman, Obediah King, then handed Paster Rev. G. E. Archer a clause containing a legacy bequeathed to the above church. A resolution in accordance with the terms of will was then read and adopted the Chairman, Obedhiah appointed to collect the bequest." (No mention was made of the amount.)

Just inside the cover of the book was a list which said "Shed at the Meeting House."

Peter Stevens	Stall No. 1
Johnathan B. Palmer	Stall No. 2
Amos Story	Stall No. 3
Wm R. Palmer	Stall No. 4
Jacob W. Story	Stall No. 5

Wm Wilkins Stall No. 6  
 Philip Hoose Stall No. 7  
 Ep Hoose Stall No. 8  
 Ch. Seabridge Stall No. 9  
 E. Smith Stall No. 10

These must have been the assigned places where the horses could be kept during the church service.

Only Pastors mentioned in the book:

1896 Rev. G. E. Frances  
 1898 Rev. George E. Archer  
 1904 Rev. Mr. Williams  
 1906 Rev. Leadbeater  
 1916 Rev. Mr. Libbie

I have included here the minutes of the 1853 meeting and the list of subscribers and the amount they pledged:

—We the subscribers promise to pay to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church at the M.E. church called old Greenville M.E. Church near O Kings, the amount placed opposite the individuals name for the purposes of building a new church on the lot where the old one now stands.

All subscriptions to be paid on or before the tenth day of May next. Greenville Feb. 19, 1853

At a meeting held according to notice at Greenville Old Church by the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the congregation for the elections of a Board of Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church aforesaid according to the foresaid notice.

President – J. Birch

Secretary – Erastus Smith

Jacob Story

William Palmer

Stephen B. Palmer

Charles Seabridge

Erastus Smith

Chosen Trustees  
 March 7, 1853

William R. Palmer	\$87.00
John Hoose	77.00
Charles Seabridge	51.00
Erastus Smith	52.00
Obediah King	50.00
Isaac Titus	5.00
William Losee	10.00
Hiram S. Losee	10.00
George King	25.00
Philip Hoose	25.00
Ephraim Hoose	25.00
Peter Stevens	36.00
Jacobus Story	26.00
Stephen B. Palmer	26.00
Stephen Tryon	12.00
James B. Watson	5.00
Nathan Bloom	5.00
Samuel Losee	5.00
Levi Seabridge	16.00
George Weeks	10.00
Robert Webber	5.00
William M. Palmer	1.00
Luman Baker	10.00
Thompson King	10.00
Ebenezer Finch	5.00
Gilbert Bogardus	5.00
Townsend Finch	10.00
Benjamin N. Finch	5.00
Truman Waterman	3.00
Isaac Bogardus	2.00
Robert Holley	10.00
Aaron N. Losee	5.00
Solomon Losee	5.00
Aaron Whitbeck	3.00
William A. Lampman	4.00
John T. Story	2.00
Amos Story	1.00
Epenetus Boyd	1.00
Aaron Weeks	2.00
Gideon Botsford	5.00
Bradley McCabe	3.00
Simeon Stevens	5.50
Madison Stevens	2.00
Peter Smith	1.00
John H. Cobb	1.00