

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

September 2011, Issue 212

Share Session

A pleasant, 80° day had preceded the evening's share session. Braving the post-trauma of the hurricanes were: Phyllis Beechert, Ron Golden, Stephanie Ingalls, and Don Teator. Also here, at the start, were guests Rosemary and son Tucker Lewis.

Our first topic was of course the destruction caused by Hurricane Irene and, to a lesser degree, Hurricane Lee. Those of us along the Catskill Creek witnessed the damage caused by nearly a foot of rain in less than eight hours, surging from the headwaters in the Livingstonville area and running its course until it hit Catskill and the Hudson River. In addition, the Batavia Kill and the Schoharie Creeks caused even more extensive damage, the sights of which witnesses reported that living memory cannot recall. (Even George Story, who has always held the 1955 storm as the benchmark, yielded that 2011 is now the worst he has seen!). On a personal note, the Teators escaped disaster by the thinnest of margins, with water lapping just to the house, but without any intrusion of water, and suffering only cosmetic damage to the lawns. That could not be said for all of our neighbors on our side of the road – Story's Nursery, Freehold Airport, Greene County Highway Department, the Matthews, and the Freehold Flats a bit further downstream. Let's hope it is 200 years before the next repeat.

The occasion of the evening was Tucker Lewis' presentation of his Eagle Scout Project – the refurbishing and painting of the historical markers in the Town of Greenville.

An integral part of any Eagle Scout project is to recruit helpers for the end results and Tucker figured 246 people hours had been utilized in finishing his project.

First came the removal of signs, followed by the cleaning and sandblasting, then painting, and then re-erecting. All of this is preserved in photographs, along with the before-and-after photos that Tucker had prepared in a PowerPoint presentation for the evening.

An additional part of the project was the creation of two books (self-published through the internet site, Shutterfly) – one of before & after photos with accompanying research, and the second of the process of the project. One of each was presented to the Local History Group (as well as one for family keeping, one for the Scouts), and those of us who attended complimented Tucker (and family) on a project that we have followed.

And it has been satisfying, both for us and the Lewises, to hear all the compliments about the fine job the 'new' markers have undergone. Especially to be noted is the Grist Mill marker that used to sit on the Basic Creek, a few hundred yards upstream from Rt 81 and, thus, unviewable for practi-

cal purposes. Tucker (and help) filled in the gun shot holes and has re-created most of the original sign, now sited near the Basic Creek Bridge by Lou's Garage (done so with input from us, and others).

We had a bunch of questions for Tucker, and were amused by some of the obstacles and hidden hurdles (three marker poles, once taken down, were lost, and not by Tucker).

All in all, this has been a classic Eagle Scout project that we have followed and witnessed, and we give credit to Tucker and family.

A further note: the GLHG members have been invited to attend the Eagle Scout ceremony on Friday, October 30, 1 p.m., at the Norton Hill Church, with a reception later at Baumann's Brookside.

The evening was drawing to a close but we forged on with a few items.

Phyllis had saved for the files a flyer from 9/11 ceremonies in Greenville. Thank you, once again, Phyllis for remembering to save these paper documents.

Stephanie brought in a flat box full of older newspapers given to her from Barbara Valicenti who was cleaning out. There were several issues of Greenville Locals before the Historian's collection start in mid-1963, so these are certainly welcome. Stephanie was going to have fun and to read the issues before turning them over to the files.

Don showed three brochures of resorts recently given to him, and those present tried to place an approximate year.

Don also read a series of emails from Deborah Anne Irving Walenta Noye, a former resident and student here in Greenville, who has been digging into Irving research. If you are interested in, or are aware of, Irving research, let me know, or contact Deborah (rspnsbldeb@aol.com).

I had hoped that the 2012 Greenville Local History calendar would be ready for the October meeting but it is apparent it will not be.

Sooooo, our October 10 meeting will be a share session. I have a transcribed interview from Anne Foster she did of Lillian Weeks about the topic of Result. I will read that and await your commentary. Also, I will describe my local history bus tour I narrated on Wednesday mornings during this past summer at Sunny Hill. Bring whatever else you may have. And I have a long letter from a Sunny Hill guest who recalls her early vacations at the Freehold House (1960s, Jennie Parks, etc.).

The November meeting will be a program showing the first fifteen years of calendar photos in a slide show (PowerPoint), to go along with the unveiling of the 2012 calendar (which I have to assume will be ready by then).

Also included are copies of a few pages from *The Greene County Catskills*, three pages of which were already copied into last month's newsletter (most of this booklet is Catskill centered). One page from last month's newsletter referred to:

Kelsey's Stage Line—Daily service between Durham, Oak Hill, Cornwallville and Catskill, connecting with Hudson River Day Line.

This is of local interest because of Phyllis (Kelsey) Beechert's father was a proprietor of this enterprise.

Take care,



TOURING THE TRAILS.

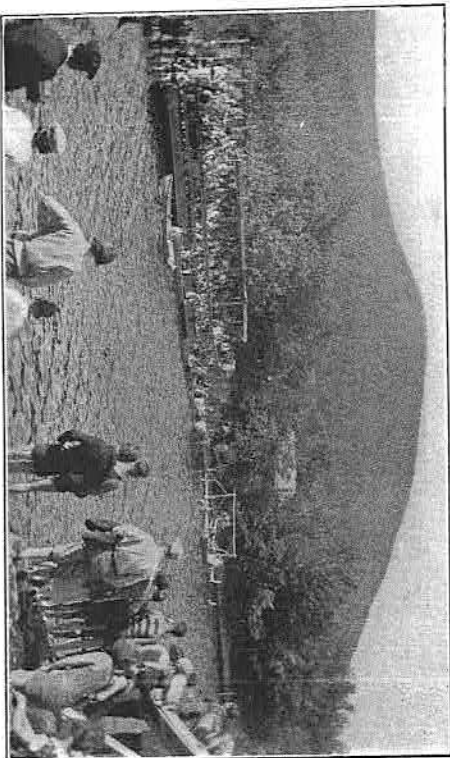
mer guest you would mingle with the thousands that pour into the village annually for the biggest event of August, the Cairo Fair.

PURLING.

Purling, bisected by the Shinglekill Creek just where it tumbles over the rocks as the Shinglekill Falls, is a delightful hamlet cooled by mountain breezes. It is a mile off the Mohican Trail directly South, and easy of access by a good dirt road. Purling's Summer colony grows annually, a marked tribute to its diversified amusements and excellent boarding houses.

ACRA.

A panoramic view of rare beauty unfolds as the Mohican Trail ascends the mountain grades, winding up the East side of Acra Point to the pretty village of Acra with its large quota of contented Summer boarders.



Water Sports at Popular Silver Lake.

EAST WINDHAM.

JUST AT THE SKYLINE at East Windham begin the Silver Lake properties, with their 650 acres of beauty land. These properties include Mount Zoar Park, which is now being planned for a Summer colony: Little Mountain Farms and Silver Lake, known as the "Playground of the Catskills." This forty-acre lake, with an altitude of 2,000 feet, is like a gem in its incomparable setting between Mount Zoar, 2,700 feet, and High Peak, 3,500 feet above sea level. Silver Lake Camp for boarding guests, and Catskill Auto Camp are located here, as well as refreshment booths, bath houses, picnic grounds, children's paddle-boat, and whirling doughnut for swimmers. At East Windham you are 2,300 feet above sea level, the highest point on the Mohican Trail. It is hard for motorists to realize this fact, because

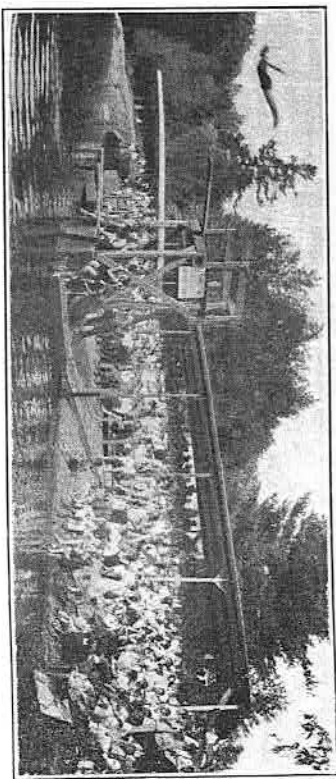
TOURING THE TRAILS.

of the ease with which a car climbs the wide State highway as finely balanced as a city boulevard. Yet the altitude is substantiated by the magnificent view of 20,000 square miles. East Windham is the tourist's favored spot, and an ideal Summer resort.

BROOKLINE AND WINDHAM.

Continuing through Brookline, the Mohican Trail enters Windham four miles further on. Surrounded by high peaks, Windham's scenery is of the finest, and its clustered Summer cottages and hotels are of the best.

The Bataviakill, winding along its mountain-bound bed, harbors the finest trout-speckled beauties—to test the sportsmanship of the most experienced fisherman. Everybody enjoys the delightful bathing and outdoor sports at Cole's Glen Lake, too, just one of the numerous fun centers at Windham. If you are a lover of horses, select a mount from one of the stables, and experience the thrill of a brisk canter in the early morning mountain air.



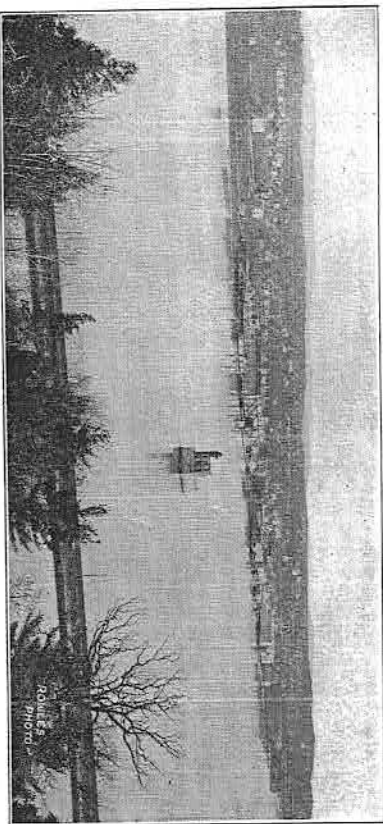
High Diving at Cole's Glen Lake.

For perfectly blended mountain resort life, this locality is remarkable. Windham is a village that you will thoroughly enjoy. Good stores, a National Bank, a commercial hotel, a movie house, a newspaper, a high school and a modern electric light service are a few of the evidences that, even in the midst of mountains, one may enjoy many of the business, social and economic privileges of the city. Services are conducted every Sunday in the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches. Mass is said each Sunday morning in the Roman Catholic Chapel. At Brookline, just South of Windham, are located a number of large Summer resorts affording a wide range of accommodations at attractive rates.

A shortcut back to Catskill via the Rip Van Winkle Trail is available at Windham by turning South over the macadam road leading through the popular resort of Hensonsville to Hunter. The latter village is the Ulster & Delaware Railroad station for Windham, and the point of intersection with the Rip Van Winkle Trail.

Other Greene County Beauty Spots.

NATURAL, beauty abounds in Greene County. It is difficult to select, even at random, a location that is not a beauty spot. If you are in search of recreation in lower altitudes, the following vacation hamlets, all within sight of the mountains, are suggested:



Hudson River at Athens.

ATHENS.

Athens is located five miles north of Catskill on the west bank of the Hudson directly opposite the city of Hudson. Athens charmingly blends the old with the new. Incorporated in 1805, it is one of the oldest villages in the state. Good stores, a modern Bank, a postoffice, excellent garages and a number of first-class boarding houses afford the tourist, the camper or the vacationist plenty of accommodations. A new, modern, commodious ferryboat, making frequent trips daily between this village and Hudson, affords direct connection with the Berkshires and New England. Good roads West from Athens join the mountain trails.

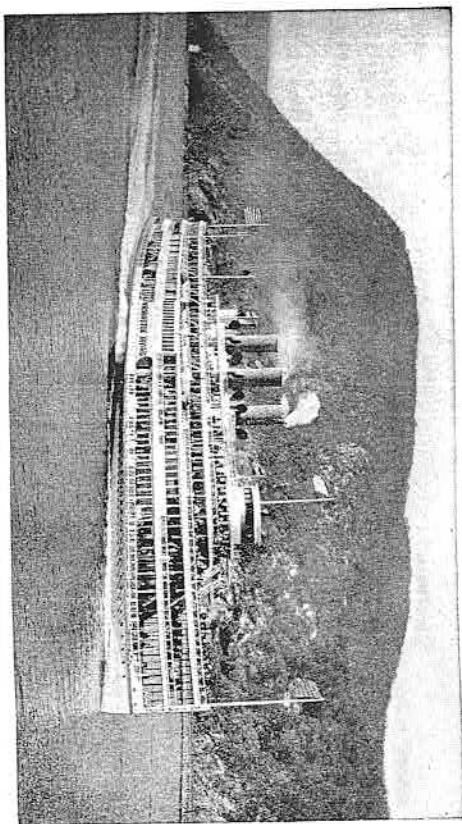
GREENVILLE.

Few villages are more attractive during the Summer than this urban resort in the Polie Hills. It is situated fourteen miles Northwest of Coxsacke. Boarding houses in settings of green lawns and wide-spreading shade trees, a moving picture house, a variety of stores, tennis courts and a baseball diamond form a happy combination for vacation time.

FREEHOLD.

Freehold overlooks the valley of the Catskill Creek five miles North of Catsv. Boating, swimming, riding and outdoor sports generally are splendidly provided for. Dancing and musicals feature indoor entertainment. An atmosphere of cordiality and genuine hospitality is in part accountable for the popularity of Freehold.

THE HUDSON RIVER EXPRESS.



How to Reach the Catskills.

You may conveniently reach the Catskills by water, rail or highway within a few hours from the farthestmost corner of the State.

Hudson River Day Line—

The Hudson River Day Line boats, the largest and speediest inland steamers in the world, make landings twice daily at Catskill. The North-bound steamer leaves Desbrosses Street, New York City, at 9 a. m.; Portly-bound steamer leaves Desbrosses Street, New York City, at 3:35 p. m. The South-bound steamer leaves Albany at 9 a. m., arriving at Catskill at 11:40. From July 15th to Sept. 5th, the Day Line will operate the Robert Fulton as a Catskill Special, leaving Desbrosses Street at 1:25 p. m. on Saturdays.

Night Boat Service—

The Saugerties & New York Steamboat Company steamers leave Christopher Street, New York City, at 6 p. m. daily, except Sundays, arriving at Saugerties early the next morning. Auto-stages leave Saugerties daily for Catskill, Palenville, Kiskatom, Platte Clove, Elka Park and Tannersville.

New York Central Railroad—

Operates fast train service from Grand Central Station and from Albany to Greendale, where ferry connection is made with Catskill. Ferry service also at Hudson (to Athens) and Newton Hook (to Coxsackie). Bus lines, over good roads, run from Athens and Coxsackie to the Catskills.

West Shore Railroad—

The West Shore Railroad trains from New York and Albany make daily stops at Catskill, Saugerties, Kingston and Coxsackie. From these points motor-bus service is obtainable to all mountain resorts.