

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

November 2011, Issue 214

2012 Calendar, Slide Show

I trust this time between the “big” holidays finds all of you enjoying the eating of almost too much at Thanksgiving and then anticipating the wonder that is Christmas and New Year’s.

Our November program caught us on a pleasant 60° day which, in retrospect, came to symbolize what proved to be one of our more temperate Novembers in quite a while. (I’m getting the feeling that I am joining the Old-timers Club when I start to say, for example, “it’s been one of the (fill in the blank) Novembers in the fifty-some years I can remember!”)

Nearly a full house came for the evening’s program. Among our regulars were: Stephanie Ingalls, Bette Welter, Richard Ferriolo, Dot Hesel, Judy & David Rundell, Shirley & Orrin Stevens, Donna & Walter Ingalls, and Don. Among the less regular, or first-timers were: Krista Haushalter, Kay Sutton and son Walter Louis, Arlene Brown, Carolyn Savery, Ernie Burger, Steve King, Evelyn Jennings, Tim & Cathy Broder, Hardy & Jackie Menagh, Will Bardel, Tim & Judy Adams, and Deb Teator.

After a round of introductions, Richard took the first minute and thanked the Greenville Local History Group for its support of the Potter Hollow nomination for the National Historic Register. (I must confess that I drafted a letter, on behalf of GLHG, support-

ing Richard’s efforts. It nice when events unfold the way you want them, even though they are not moving as quickly as Richard is itching for.)

The reason for the turnout, I suspect, was twofold. The first was to review the 2012 calendar, with calendars in hand, turning page by page and commenting if one desired. I must admit that after seeing each photo a few dozen times, the element of surprise is gone. However, I do recall the wonder I first felt when I saw the March photo (horse, side of road, Rt 32), August (Freehold mills), and December (Greenville, winter day). A few, Deb or I had a hand in creating. A personal stirring comes from the July photo (Spohler’s) because I worked there for fourteen years. And, of course, the write-up of Walter is special just because.

All in all, although no one photo steals the show, I think the entirety represents a good effort. (Every once in a while, I sift through the calendars and rate which one was better than another, and why.)

The second part of the ‘twofold’, of course, was the chance to view the almost-250 photos of the first seventeen calendars. I have to admit – I am a bit in awe of the accomplishment, even if I was part of it.

When I first became Historian for the Town of Greenville, I was more than a little desirous of having in my archives the very few photos I had seen those first few months.

And after twenty-some years, I have to be pleased with the cumulative scope the photo files contain.

One small regret about the evening was the pacing, which I knew was going to be fast. But, I knew if we spent the time many of the photos deserved, we could easily have spent until midnight. So, if any of you were present have an idea about seeing some of them over at a future meeting (which ones, categories, etc.), let me know.

Back to the show. I had spent some time organizing the photos in categories that fit together for this showing. They went like this (the numbers do not count the 2012 calendar):

- calendar covers – 20
- school – about 20
- boarding houses – about 15
- churches – 3
- Greenville four corners – 3
- Greenville North Str – 30!
- Greenville South Str – 5
- Greenville East Main Str – 11
- Greenville West Main Str – 13
- Freehold – over 20
- Norton Hill – 15
- other places – 20
- other, recognitions, events – 60

I hope those of you who were there appreciated the wealth of photo history from the past calendars. At some point, I hope to put these on a web site and thus enable many of you to enjoy the photos any time you want (if you have a computer).

Looking back over twenty years, there are a number of thank you's to acknowledge. One goes to a couple decades worth of Town Boards who have supported and funded my efforts. The closest I come to lobbying is to ask any of you who talk to Board members to express your support of their support of historical efforts.

A second thank you goes to my wife Deb, who has shared, enjoyed, and, a very few times, endured my ideas for historical projects.

A third thank you goes, of course, to anyone who has lent me a photo to duplicate. A few of those times is the copying of twenty or fifty or more photos at a time but usually it was the batches of several, or even singles, at a time that has accumulated into a couple thousand photos.

Another thank you, especially for this evening, goes to someone who does not come to our meetings, does not get our newsletter, but who, after attending a Saturday opening show of one our photo exhibitions a few years ago, offered to scan the first fifteen years of photos. So, thank you, Cherie Ringwald.

And, again for this evening, thank you to Stephanie for hosting the 'light refreshments', something that is nice to have but I don't want to be responsible for. Thanks, Stephanie, for your efforts, and for lightening my load. And you know my weak spot is cookies and brownies.

I will be sending out the annual newsletter mid-winter, with my usual exhortations to consider writing, creating, saving, thinking about local history.

Calendar sales, currently, seem typical. A big push could help pay for the calendar. The calendars are available at Bryant's, the Library, Bear's Gift Shop, and the Hilltown Farm & Garden-Dormansville (thanks, Stephanie, for arranging this display). OK, another piece of lobbying: if you visit any of these vendors, please thank them for carrying the calendars.

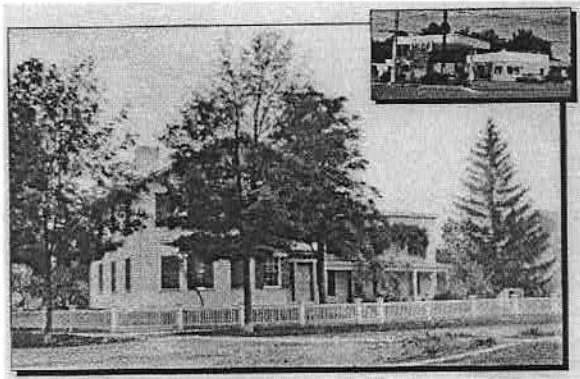
On the remaining pages, I have copied several of the photos that I think are some of the 'classic' photos of the Greenville area, the ones that many people have seen, talk about, and wish they knew where it could be seen again.

Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year,

Take care,



PS GREENVILLE LOCAL HISTORY
CALENDAR DISCOUNT (\$2)
IF YOU PICK THEM UP FROM ME.

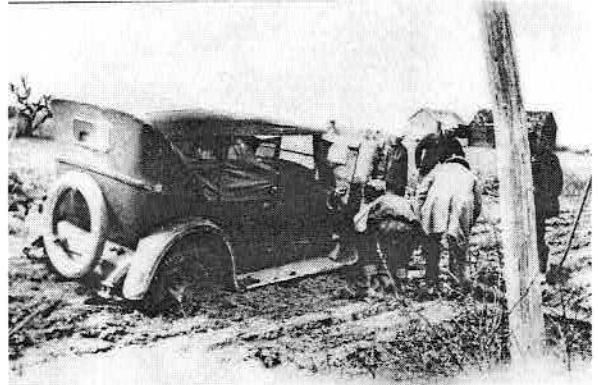


Left, top to bottom:

- Machinery show, four corners, Greenville, taken from upper floor Pioneer building;
- Private residence on northeast corner of Greenville four corners, today the empty former gas station;
- Blizzard of 1888 scene on Main Street, Greenville, in front of today's Sewing Room;

Right:

- Birdseye view of West Main Street, Greenville, today Rt 81, taken from Presby. Ch. Steeple;
- Road crew building the base for the new state road in Freehold, driven stone end; near four corners



- Sutton's Auto Livery, Freehold, across from TipTop today, the transition between horse and car;
- Powell's Store, Norton Hill, now the Thrift Store for Methodist Church;
- Red Mill Road logging yard, yards up-stream from Red Mill

- Stuck in the mud, Greenville Center;
- Freehold men clearing a snow drift the usual way
- Dr. McCabe, perhaps on a house visit