

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

October 2016, Issue 255

2017 Calendar

The quintessential autumn day awaited the Columbus Day meeting – sixty degrees, peak colors on the mountains, and stabs of color here in the valley.

Enjoying the weather and local history were: Bob & Marie Shaw, Christine Mickelsen, Stephanie Ingalls, Phyllis Beechert, Donna & Walter Ingalls, Lew Knott, Carolyn Savery, Mary Heisinger, Marvin Smith, Richard Ceasar, Rachel Ceasar, Marla Stevens, Barbara Tolley, Audrey Matott, Margaret Donahue, Katja & Paul Rehm, Don Teator, and another fifteen who did not sign in and I cannot remember.

(Add to the “official” list of last month: Charlene & Ken Mabey.)

The purpose of the evening was to unveil the 2017 calendar. More on that later.

The opportunity arose to review some of our accomplishments.

Over the course of twenty-eight years, hundreds, actually thousands, of photographs have been loaned to the Town Historian to duplicate. And over the course of those years, twenty-two calendars have shown local history scenes and people, old and current – nuggets of entertainment and wisdom on a yearly basis.

The Power Point presentation tried to capture the breadth of the collection, with a range of towns, people, and events. Anyone interested in seeing the show, and who has a computer, can contact me for a copy of the program and use it for your own.

Pages shown included:

- Greenville: the first car in town, three views of the four corners, birds-eye view from Presbyterian Church, and east Main Street
- Freehold: Parks Hotel, road construction, Sutton’s auto-livery
- Norton Hill: post card of Stevens’ Store, John I’s
- Greenville Center: post card of four corners
- West Greenville: Red Mill
- Resorts: early Sunny Hill
- School: Class of ’33, construction of central school
- Agriculture: drawing hay on Weeks farm on King Hill
- Town Business: town minutes describing earmarks of pigs in 1803
- Aerials: hamlet of Greenville 1991, early Bryant’s
- Quirky: Matt’s Hot Dogs, Plane Spotting on Murder Hill, Freehold Snow
- Development: Country Estates
- Old & Lost: Greenville Theater, Greenville Academy
- People: family of Trum & Carrie Ingalls
- Recognition: Stanley Maltzman

I must admit: the files have a worthy collection.

On to the 2017 calendar.

Once again, I hope our 22nd calendar has maintained a standard.



April 2002: One of Greenville's most famous photographs is that of the reputed first car in Greenville. According to the story, the daughter of famous financier Jay Gould was on her way to the family summer home in Roxbury. Traveling the opposite direction was Gideon Hickok and his oxen. The meeting of both in front of McCabe's drugstore, Main Street, is captured for later generations to enjoy. (file photo);

Found by Audrey Matott in the Altamont Enterprise, from 100 Years Ago:

Altamont Enterprise, August 14, 1903

From Westerlo: On Friday, quite a little excitement prevailed in Greenville, a village about eight miles south of this place. It was caused by the arrival of Miss Helen M. Gould, daughter of Jay Gould the millionaire, in her touring automobile, accompanied by two lady friends. The object of her visit was to see the graves of her grandparents, on her mother's side, who were buried in a suburb of Greenville called Newry. The homestead of her grandparents is also located at that place. She, having a camera with her, took views of the homestead and the surroundings. Miss Gould has an aunt buried in the Greenville cemetery, also distant relatives living in that vicinity which she expressed a desire to meet. Several called on her at the Coonly House where she dined. What nobleness of character Miss Gould portrays in taking such a deep interest in the humble graves of her ancestors, also the homestead which she visited, differing so widely from her own Lyndehurst-on-the-Hudson.

I strive for a balance: of towns, and of eras. 2017 includes:

Older:

- a pre-1928 view of North Street, Greenville from South Street
- a former resort: Balsam Shade Retreat, aka Stanton-Brown, in Norton Hill
- a simple, neat Freehold residence that becomes the Pub/Morton's
- flooding at Greenville's four corners

- 1958 work force of Pioneer Insurance
- Gus Baker gathering for World Series
- Rundell House that occupied GCS property

Relatively current:

- Carlsen's Auction Gallery
- recognition of a Red Mill Rd renovation
- recognition of Greenville Fire Auxiliary

Town Records:

- Assessments booklets
- GCS 1932 Dedication pamphlet



October 1997: Settling just north of what would become the Town of Greenville line on North Road, Jacob Ingalls arrived in this area in 1793. Many of his descendants stayed in the area and helped shape the Greenville area history. A great-grandson of Jacob, Truman Ingalls (1864-1941), and his wife Carrie Spalding Ingalls pose with their nine children in 1907; (clockwise, starting with the tallest) Warren (m. Margaret Tremmel), Carrie (m. Edward Calvin Ingalls), Ransom (m. Ethel Abrams), Stanley (m. Eleanor Goff), Elgirtha (m. Scott Ellis), Leona (m. D.H. Rundell), Dorothy (m. William Gray), Ruth (m. Merritt Elliot) and Clarence (m. Alliene Beers, Irene Worth). The Ingalls were among the earliest teamsters and lumberers in the area, as well as anchoring the nearby communities in which they settled. (courtesy of Leona Ingalls Rundell)

Calendars are available at Kelly's, the Library, GNH, and Tops. If you know of another convenient spot that will carry GLHG calendars, contact me. And if you see any of the proprietors, please make time and thank them for helping a community organization.



April 1992: The advent of the paved road made automobile travel much easier, but the making of such a road was back-breaking work. These men are pounding creek rock endwise into the dirt, thus making for a solid base in the later 1920s. The road from Cairo-Freehold-Greenville, pictured here at Freehold's four corners, would eventually eclipse the east-west road, today's County Route 67, as Freehold's main road. The building on the right was Parks Inn, today the Freehold Country Inn. The house to the left was the Lacy house and is still owned by Janet Lacy Halstead. (courtesy of Janet Halstead)

The November 14 meeting, with Sylvia Hasenkopf presenting, should prove to be another local history highlight. After some collaboration, Sylvia has agreed to do a three-parter: a Greenville story, a regional story, and an explanation and sampling of Sylvia's research business. So, we will hear about the Know Nothing Party—a nativist political group—that enjoyed some strength in the 1840s and 1850s in Greenville, with some of its prominent citizens being members.

And the regional story will be of the itinerant Saugerties Bard, Henry Sherman Backus, whose family is noted in Coxsackie. Backus is known for his retelling in poem/song form of the murder for which Murder Hill is named. Murder Hill is the hill just above the junction of West Road and Rt 81.

And Sylvia will talk about her business model – that of doing house and land

histories, as well as genealogy work. She writes for the Greenville Pioneer, is instrumental in the Cairo Historical Society, is a key in the Hometown Banners along Town of Cairo streets, and operates the Greene County web site that is chocked fuller of history than one's mind can handle.

Bring a friend and experience Sylvia.

A thank you goes to Christine and Stephanie for providing the light refreshments I keep promising in the press releases.

The Windham Historical Society has produced a local history calendar, one that those of you interesting in Town of Windham history will enjoy.

And I have shared a few of the photos from the October meeting.

Take care,