

# Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

July 2018, Issue 270

Family Collections, Dairy Farming

Classic July evening weather awaited the attendees of this month's meeting: Lew Knott, Dave Dorpfeld, Judy Rundell, Donna Willard, Stephanie Krasney, Kathy Smith, Barbara Sanborn, John O'Hara, Peter O'Hara, John Garofalo, Arlen Brown, Al Hulick, Bette Welter, Albert Drexel, R. Feit, Nick & Mary Lou Nahas, Dave Tschinkel, John Earl, Norma-Lee Pettit (?), Robert & Johanne Titus, Stephanie Ingalls, Christine Mickelsen, Don Teator, and a couple more who escaped my memory and my sign-in sheet.

If I missed you and you want the record corrected, let me know.

The Greene County Historical Society was well represented this evening with a two-part program: Caring for Family Papers, followed by Dairy Farming & Milk Delivery in Greene County.

Vedder Library Archivist Jonathan Palmer starting with Caring for Family Papers: Evaluating & Managing for Long Term Preservation. Anyone who has ever collected a pile or more of family documents or ever wondered what to do about them heard a concise, forty-minute talk about general guidelines. John condensed THE PLAN to six steps:

## Dealing with papers step-by-step

- Gather it all together.
- Take an Inventory.
- Weed out the stuff that isn't worth saving.
- Identify things that are a preservation risk.
- Look for a meaningful order or pattern.
- Sort and box it up!

- gather your items together
- take inventory
- weed out the stuff not worth saving (and how to know)
- identify those documents at risk
- find the best organization
- box it up (do it right!)

Jonathan took time to explain each step, with extra time and care taken with the weeding out part, with examples given to suggest a framework.

And more time was taken with risks to our collection, especially wet basements, hot attics, changing electronic standards, etc.

A strong recommendation was made to have us use archival containers to store items, with a plea to not use tape and paper

clips, and also using care in keeping like materials together.

A lengthy question and answer period followed, with some interesting points about email, videos, and digital photos. Of course, paper documents comprise most of our collections but modern technology raises some difficult choices. (Anybody have an 8 Track or a floppy drive?) There were another half-dozen questions about a variety of preservation topics.

John was willing to share information from his slide show, and I would not be surprised if this topic is requested at least once a year.

Thank you, Jonathan for an apt discussion.

County Historian David Dorpfeld followed with his Dairy Farming program, an adaptation, I suspect, of a Spring/Summer 2016 article in the Greene County History Quarterly Journal of GCHS. This issue contained information mostly from the valley towns of Greene County, addressing early milk delivery, breeds of cattle, photos of bottles of the various dairies, photos of the Dairymen's League Co-operative Association buildings, and bottle caps.

Dave's talk consisted mostly of answering

### 3. When do I throw it away?

- Generally, archivists don't like to deal with personal financial papers, check stubs, receipts, and school work. Most books are also of little value once they have been read, used, and abused.
- Unorganized boxes of clippings, unidentified pictures of people and groups, and old newspapers are also of little interest with few exceptions.

four questions. (see the accompany photograph), supplementing his information with input from the audience. Dave had extra copies of that issue (shown in the accompany photos).

Thank you, Dave, for keeping a piece of history that is beginning to be beyond the range

How has the face of dairy farming changed since the 1950s and 1960s?

What caused dairy farming to die out in Greene County?

How did home delivery of milk come about?

How extensive was home delivery in Greene County?



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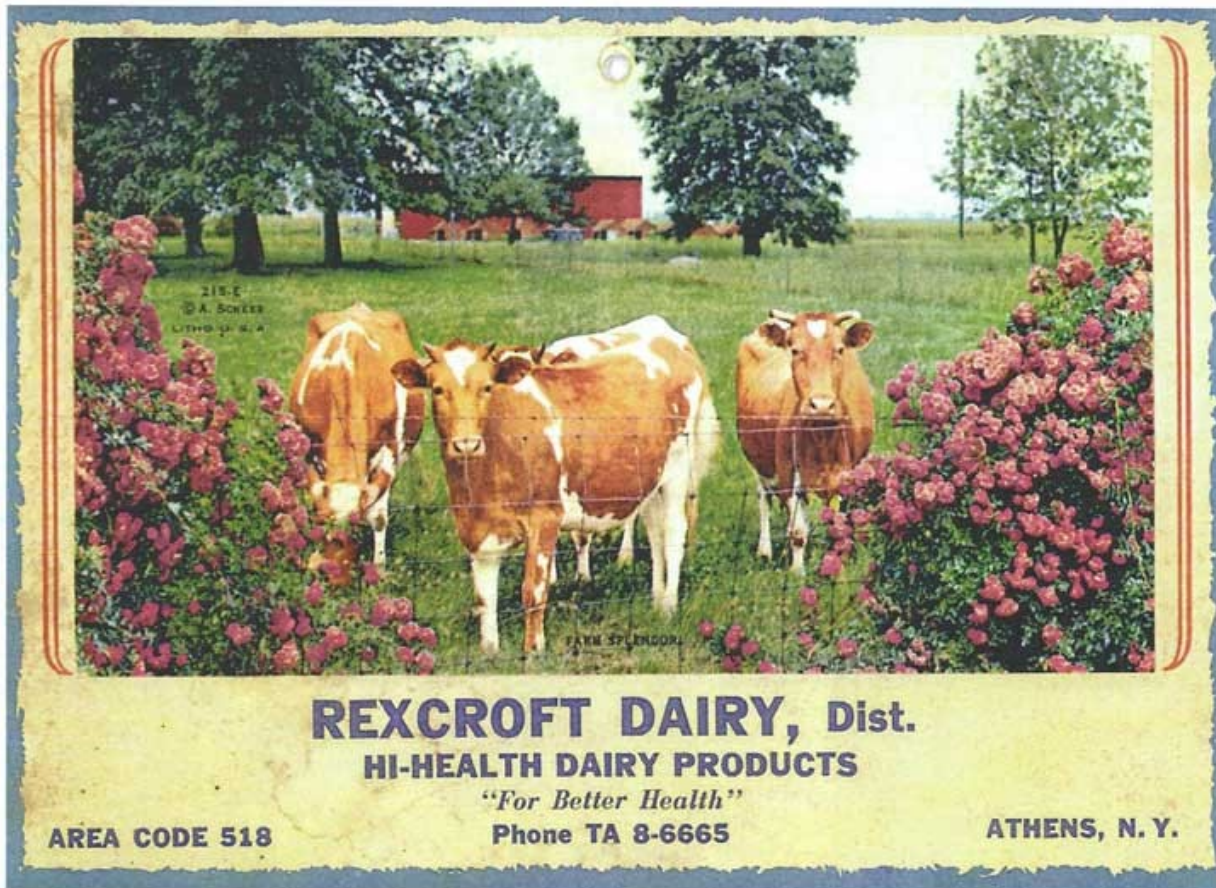
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## From the Farm to the Doorstep

by

David Dorpfeld

Greene County Historian



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*This was the full-color front page of the calendars distributed to the customers of Rexcroft Dairy in 1961. Rexcroft Dairy was on the Leeds-Athens Road about halfway between the village and Route 9W. The beautiful cows shown here are Guernseys. Collection of the Athens Museum, Lynn Brunner, Director of the Athens Museum and Athens Town Historian.*

From Dave's slides: what breed cow is this? (clue— begins with G)



of common memory. (Makes ya wonder what is happening today that will be a mere memory in a generation!)

#### August meeting note

The August 13 meeting finds me hosting a one-of-a-kind program, one that will share both local history and personal findings. For decades, my parents had stashed receipts and papers in three suitcases, to be moved only when my mother moved off the farm. My siblings believed I should hold the suitcases, with me vowing to take time to better realize what was there. One of my winter projects this past year (a promise made the last few years) was to finally peruse, analyze, and inventory my findings. (I can hear Jonathan now!). I will try to stick to local history but cannot avoid a personal look of the Don and Connie Teator family, with documents ranging from the mid-1930s until the late 1980s.

#### More Notes:

—A thank you goes to **Stephanie and Christine** for another creative supply of “light refreshments.”  
—A photo captures the effort to move the Doris Hempstead collection to

the Vedder Library. **Leroy Bear, son, and fellow worker** (and I) removed all the drawers of each of the three cabinets, moved the cabinets, and re-inserted the drawers into their rightful places on the Town of Greenville truck. At the Vedder Library, we reversed the process, with the placement of these cabinets in a much more visible and utilized area. A thank you to all who helped moved the cabinets, and to those who have helped make the files be more available to the genealogy community.

—As part of collecting Greenville local history, I have placed the GCS 2018 HS & MS Yearbooks in the files. I am missing only two years since published yearbooks began in 1939. The years of 1984 and 1993 still escape my grasp. If you can help, thank you.  
—Some of you have been attending the solar facilities meetings – a unique piece of local history that could be easy to overlook. And Tractor Supply Company will be done soon. Trivia question: In what year did TSC come to Greenville. Of course, you all know the answer now. But, this answer will not be so knowable in 30 years.

—Dave Dorpfeld left several copies of the revised *Out to Greenville and Beyond*, by Ray Beecher. Interested in a copy? Contact me.

Take care,

