

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

November 2018, Issue 274

Sylvia Hasenkopf—Greenville History

A classic mid-November day in the mid-40s, first sunny and then cloudy, less windier than the day before greeted the season's biggest turnout of our season: Carolyn Savery, Stephanie Ingalls, Bob D'Agostino, Lew Knott, Mary Heisinger, Kathy Smith, Terry & Garth Bryant, Arlene Brown, Bob Shaw, Audrey Matott, Debra Start, Flip Flach, Edna Huffman, Steve Johannesen, Virginia Cantarella, Susan Cunningham, Chuck Engelhardt, Al Hulick, John Garofalo & Peter O'Hara, Johanna & Robert Titus, Gail Nichol森, Rachel Ceasar, Richard Ceasar, Donna & Walter Ingalls & Aidyn, Sarah Stevens, Norma & Craig Albano, John Earl, Sylvia Hasenkopf, Don Teator, and a half dozen others who avoided my steel trap mind and the sign-in list.

The Third Sylvia (third consecutive year finishing our season in November) attracted the turnout this evening. And what a program it was. I came close to deputizing all of you attending as Greenville Town Historian in Good Standing after hearing Sylvia's thorough narration of early Greenville.

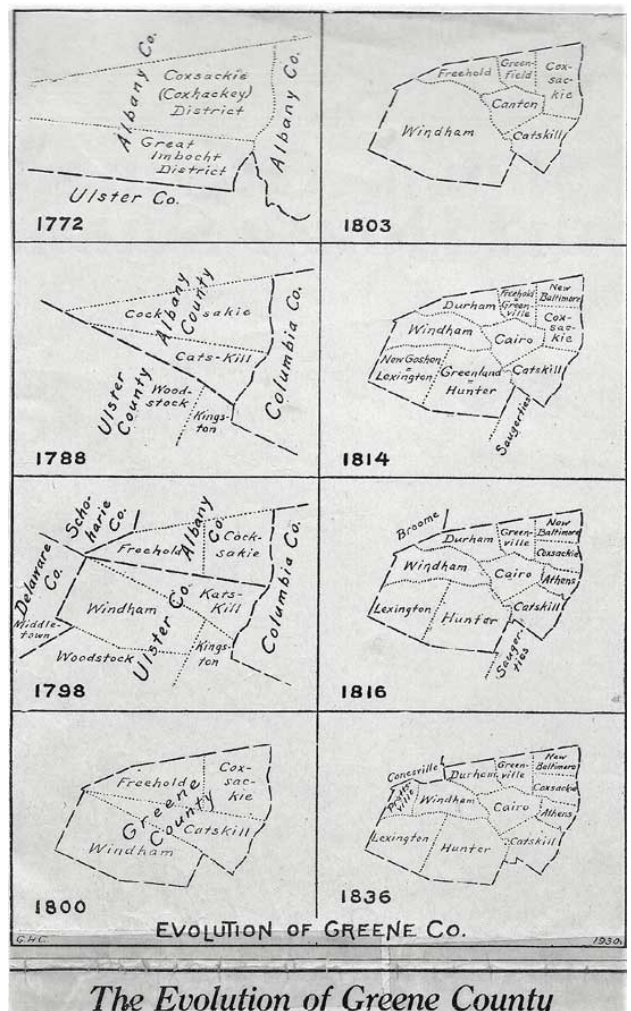
Utilizing her research over the past three decades, Sylvia crafted a worthy explanation of how our 40 square miles became Greenville. Explaining post-1809 is easy; pre-1809, well, not so easy.

To prove her point, Sylvia noted that Reuben Rundle, one of our earliest settlers, lived in these places:

- 1786 – Cossackie District, Albany Co
 - 1788 – Town of Cossackie, Albany Co
 - 1790 – Town of Freehold, Albany Co
 - 1800 – Town of Freehold, Greene Co
 - 1803 – Town of Greenfield, Greene Co
 - 1808 – Town of Freehold, Greene Co
 - 1809 – Town of Greenville, Greene Co
- And Never Moved!

Sylvia elicited a roomful of chuckles with that note, but she had prepared the crowd for this outcome. The eight-panel map (included), although not explicitly made for Greenville, does a nice job showing some of those changes.

As land was settled early, areas were named, renamed as population



grew, renamed as divisions were made, and renamed into final names

Sylvia particularly noted Freehold could refer to the current small hamlet in southern Town of Greenville, or to the Town of “Greenville” from 1808-1809, and to the early area—split off from Coxsackie—that covered area that includes today’s Town of Durham and parts of Schoharie County.



Sylvia’s talk also ventured into the first land owners. Of course, real early on there were no land “owners.” But as the continent was “discovered,” the countries claiming the land doled out parcels, or patents, as rewards, mostly in the 1700s. The included map shows the boundaries of some the land grants (patents) and the names associated: Scott, Van Bergen, Salisbury, Coeymans, Prevost, and Hallenbeck. Other names appear in historical records and are worth continued research, if you wish.

Another of Sylvia’s topics was early settlers. The big picture seems to show the first settlers entered about 1750, on the east side of town, much later than the early settlers of the Hudson Valley towns. The hostilities of the American Revolution seems to have given these early settlers (Brandow,

Lampman, Bogardus and a few others) good reason to vacate the premises until peace could be restored. And with the end of the war in 1783, a trickle of human settlers increased to a stream. Historical markers memorialize Spees, Lake, and Knowles as some of the newest of the post-war settlers. Others include Losee, King, and Waldron, as identified by Sylvia.

Sylvia spent some time discussing one of the pre-war settlers, Godfrey Brandow, in particular. GB seems to have settled a farm on what is today King Hill Road, married an Overbaugh of the Embought District (Catskill area, today), and together bore the first white child born in the Town of Greenville.

Another major discussion involved Augustine Prevost, one of the few patentees who lived on his land (the others being speculators). The importance of family connections and political pull was detailed as was the selling of parcels of his land, his good deeds, his connection to Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton, and more that is worth your research if you are so inclined.

Sylvia finished with a listing of hamlets and their beginnings, the importance of early churches, and the significance of the Greenville Academy.

Thank you, Sylvia, for another worthy segment of local history that not only informed us of our history but also demonstrated your high level of research expertise and story-telling!

An interesting segment of the post-meeting was Curt Cunningham’s five minute presentation of the Spees material he has. Curt is a descendant of early settler Benjamin Spees and has collected a volume of material related to the family. Of note is his copy of the Spees diary.

A follow-up note, involving the floor debate about the map showing the Basic

Creek and the location of Greenville's center: at meeting's end, Sylvia approached me and, possibly because of a couple discussions with those attending, clarified her thoughts. First, her identification of the Basic Creek was correct. Second, the location of Greenville, as most of you realized, needed to be to the east of Basic Creek, and it was, as it still is. (ha). The roadway first confused with today's Rt 32 seems to coincide with today's Ingalside Rd and Red Mill Rd. A thank you to all for the thoughtful participation. (A copy of that patent map shows the squiggly line to be the Basic Creek.)

Notes:

- A thank you goes to Stephanie and Christine for producing the light refreshments promised in the newspapers and for doing so for the entire GLHG year.
- I had talked to Ron Golden earlier in the day, who wished to be remembered to all.
- The Civil War Round Table still operates during the winter months. Check in with Mary Heisinger for the schedule. If you need an email, contact me and I will relay her email.
- A memorial service was held for Nick Nahas (Town of Durham historian) on Thanksgiving Saturday. His passing is a loss for the family and community but one of my takeaways from the service was for us living to be like Nick. For those of you who knew Nick, you know what this means.

Projects Note:

Our 2018 program year draws to a close, to be continued in April 2019. The long stretch of winter in between allows for work on local history projects, yours and mine, to be initiated, continued, and/or shared during the coming year, and there are many ways to contribute. I would urge you to think of a topic to record and detail. These might include: family history, people in the community, community events, e.g., Fire Company history, hot air balloon fest history, weather events, bars in town, GCS musicals, a history of a street

based on your memory, a family genealogy, the service organizations, eateries of the town, the Greenville Pond, artists, lifestyle changes, events that shook the town, town politics, budgets of the school or town, and more. I hope this gives an idea. Feel free to make notes, write out into an article, or use audiotape & videotape. If you would like to share your idea with the group, contact me with your idea and I will share with our email group (180 strong). If you need help editing, I have a couple volunteers who have offered.

Calendar Note:

Calendar sales season is at its peak. If you have helped, thank you. If you can still help, thank you. Calendars are available at Kelly's Pharmacy, Greenville Library, Tops, and GNH. If easier, you can arrange to pick them up at my house. Please thank the owners/managers/staff at these businesses for their assistance.

Calendars can be ordered by mail. Make a check to GLHG (Don Teator, 3979 Rt 67, Freehold, NY 12431). One for \$11, and then add \$9 for each additional calendar (\$20, \$29, \$38 etc.)

2020 Calendar - Teacher Recognition Note

Based on feedback since the last newsletter and at this last meeting, the GLHG wants to recognize GCS teachers. The details will be sent in an email in a week or so. For those of you reading this **without** access to email, I will be asking for your choices of teachers to recognize, with a sentence for each. For those of you without email, call me or mail me soon, if you have not done so already. And I will try to contact you non-emailers, if I can, just to be on the safe side.

Wikipedia Note:

(to accompany Sylvia's piece, I am including this online entry)

As of the census of 2000, there were 3,316 people, 1,345 households, and 918 families residing in the town. The population density was 85.2 inhabitants per square mile (32.9/km²). There were 1,694 housing units at an

average density of 43.5 per square mile (16.8/km²). The racial makeup of the town was 96.95% White, 0.48% Black or African-American, 0.15% Native American, 1.15% Asian, 0.27% from other races, and 1.00% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 1.63% of the population.

There were 1,345 households out of which 30.8% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 55.5% were married couples, 9.0% had a female householder with no husband present, and 31.7% were non-families. 26.5% of all households were made up of individuals and 12.3% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.47 and the average family size was 3.01.

In the town, the population was spread out with 25.1% under the age of 18, 5.4% from 18 to 24, 26.3% from 25 to 44, 25.0% from 45 to 64, and 18.2% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 41 years. For every 100 females, there were 95.1 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 94.1 males.

The median income for a household in the town was \$38,423, and the median income for a family was \$45,880. Males had a median income of \$35,217 versus \$25,216 for females. The per capita income for the town was \$19,113. About 6.2% of families and 8.7% of the population were below the poverty line, including 14.7% of those under age 18 and 6.3% of those age 65 or over.

Longevity Note

It is with pleasure and pride that I conclude my thirtieth year as Town Historian. This coming June will be the thirtieth anniversary of the first GLHG meeting.

In closing, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, a cloudy Ground Hog's Day, a loving Valentine's Day, and all the rest that happens between now and the annual newsletter (later winter).

Take care,

Prevost Patent map: vertical squiggly is Basic Creek (courtesy Sylvia Hasenkopf)

