

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

Winter 2020, Issue 284

Annual Report

Good almost-Spring to all,

Annual Report time comes again. Nearly 200 of you are receiving this by email; another twenty are receiving the paper copy via regular mail.

I trust March is finding all in good health. We “stayers” moaned about a drabber November than usual and the two feet of snow in early December. And except for a half-week of cold just before Christmas, we have enjoyed a very moderate winter. It is interesting to compare this winter to an “average” winter, not that such a thing exists, and also to compare this winter to the winter that is in our heads.

Once again, the **2019 program schedule** had a nice variety of topics. Amongst them:
April: a history of the Far Hill Nursing Home and Greenville Medical Center – Shelly Dobski
May: Greenville of the 1970s – Audrey Matott (Part 3)
June: Freehold Congregational Church (meeting at the church)
July: Storyteller Special – Flip Flach (Part 1)
August: GLHG History: 30 years, birthday cake
September: History of Town Park – Debbie Magee
October: 2020 Calendar
November: Fourth Annual Sylvia Hasenkopf – East Greenville, Butler & Rundell

A few old-timers can remember when we alternated between programs and share sessions. November 2013 was our **last scheduled share session**. And it would take a real old-timer to

remember when we last met in the winter. (December 1992)

Ideas for programs come from different directions: discussions at our meetings, individual discussions, programs that begged for more information about a sub-topic, or just a momentary flash of inspiration that I remembered to scribble down!

A thank you goes to all of you who proposed ideas, or directed me to possible leads, or you yourself became a program. Your feedback is most welcome and serves to help me set direction for upcoming programs. Although I know what I like, your input confirms my likes or helps explore another side of local history I might not think of.

A **thank you goes to Audrey Matott** once again, this time for her 2019 program using Greenville newspapers to shape a narrative about the 1970s. It is a challenging enterprise to tell a story that so many people in the audience experienced. Much appreciated, Audrey!

And mentioning Audrey again: Audrey undertook moderating a **Facebook page** – Greenville Local History Group. She contributes pictures and text, often coming from past Greenville Locals, with anyone else welcome to contribute or react to these posts. Fortunately, the feedback on this Facebook page has been overwhelmingly positive. I think the next wave of enthusiasm for local history will come via Audrey’s efforts.

All the year's programs were recounted in the monthly newsletter to a degree that I hoped would serve as a reminder and recorder of the evening, with the cautionary that no newsletter truly captures an evening's breadth and depth. Those of you who attended a meeting or more can vouch for the degree of accuracy of my recounting of the meetings.

In addition to capturing the essence of meetings, most newsletters also contained photos from that month's meeting or of an upcoming meeting or from the files I thought worthwhile to share.

Note: past newsletters used to be available at dteator.com, with a link to [glhg](http://glhg.com) newsletters. I intend to re-start a web site and will let you know when that happens.

An appreciative thank you goes to **Stephanie and Christine** for providing the "light refreshments."

One of 2019's highlights was the production of the **2020 calendar**. As always, I hoped that the 50-75 hours of effort resulted in a practical historical artifact that showed a range of hamlets, of time periods, of new and old acquisitions, of seasons, and of buildings and people. Comparisons with early calendars showed newer calendars allotting more recognition for local history being made by those of us still making it. If that is a trend you like, or otherwise, feel free to comment.

The Recognition segment of our calendar took a very different turn this past year. Recognizing **GCS teachers (1930-2020)**, this piece of the calendar needed another fifty hours of work. In the end, 23 teachers were recognized and further celebrated at our October meeting. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

And this response and topic accounted for the final sales figures of the 2020 calendar – a **sellout by Thanksgiving**, the first time that has ever happened, and with only the first calendar (1991) matching the sellout distinction.

Most years we are happy to break even. This year, we gained a few hundred dollars to the good.

We thank the community spots that hosted our calendar—**Tops, Kelly's Pharmacy, the Library, GNH, and Town Clerk Jackie Park** in Town Hall. If you patronize any of these locations, please thank the owners or managers.

And even though every sale counts, I must say that without Kelly's Pharmacy selling about 40% of our calendars, we would be hard pressed to continue calendar production. Marty Kelly has been a mainstay for a half-dozen years now, and now joined by son Quinn who undertook as a personal mission our sale of calendars. A record 90 calendars went through Kelly's Pharmacy this year. **Thank you, Quinn and Marty.**

So, the calendar treasury is adequate for the moment, with enough to fund next year's calendar, a most welcome situation. And now it has a few hundred dollars to spare. (For the record, I and Debra are the account holders for the GLHG saving account with Greene County Saving Bank, a total of almost \$2000.)

IRS rules require every non-profit to file a yearly income form. Fortunately, if I have read the directions correctly, I have filed those forms so that the GLHG has met these requirements. At this point, we have not incurred any tax liability.

The 2021 calendar is in the works, with the photo selection in progress, and a chunk of the research started. If you have an idea of a photo we should use, let me know before I make final decisions.

The request for nominations for recognition and the ensuing vote has produced results that will be good for the next three years. A living recognition is set for the **2021 calendar**, a group of four posthumous recognitions for 2022, and a living recognition for 2023. A thank you goes to all of you who participated.

The GLHG calendar has become not only a reminder of past and current local history but also a recognizer of **good people doing good deeds**. I am somewhat awed that the GLHG and the calendar has become the de

facto recognizer of community members. In truth, there is nothing that prevents any other organization from doing what we do.

Membership growth is stable, with slightly over two hundred members, a combination of email and mail.

Attendance at meetings this past year varied from 20 to 60, with an average of 30-35. Those of you who were regular attendees in the “old” days remember an average of 15 or so.

A distinctive achievement this past year was Greenville’s participation with **Titusville, PA and their recognition of Edwin Laurentian Drake** who is credited with creating the first commercial oil well. (No, he did not discover oil; oil had been well known for hundreds, even thousands of years.) The Drake Museum of Titusville, an excellent small museum that I would encourage you to visit, celebrated Drake’s bicentennial of his birthday.

So, armed with a Town of Greenville approved resolution, Debra and I traveled the seven hour trip to Titusville to attend a lecture and deliver the resolution. Combine that with our own birthday celebration at our Gazebo, this was a memorable experience.

As if a sell-out calendar and the Drake experience were not reward enough, my personal year was capped with the awarding of the **Zadock Pratt Museum 2019 History Award**, an award that recognizes those people and groups who help preserve local history in the Greene, Delaware, and Schoharie Counties. I was honored by the award and I thank the hundreds of Greenvillians* who have been part of my thirty-one years as Historian. **Mary Heisinger** gave the introductory speech and transferred a call bell that once was used at the Greenville Hotel. I will try to bring it to the first few meetings. It is loud. (Thank you, Mary, for the privilege of your nominating speech.)

*(side note: people from Greenville are called.... what? Audrey asked that question on the GLHG FB page and received a few different answers. As far as I know, there

is no one answer, and you may catch me using different words. I will not use Greenvillains, which looks awfully close to Greenvillians.)

This year’s program schedule is tentatively set, and shown below. Again, the program fell into place with only gentle persuasion needed at most, and I even had to postpone a program or two.

We will continue to meet the second Monday of the month, at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. For now, the *tentative* schedule is:

April: Storyteller Special – Flip Flach 2nd annual – The Greenville That Used to Be

May: QWERTY

June: Sunny Hill Resort’s Bicentennial – at Sunny Hill

July: a Travelogue by Don

August: Greenville of the 1980s – Audrey Matott: Part IV

September: an Artist’s Oeuvre – Debra Teator

October: 2021 Calendar

November: Fifth Annual Sylvia Hasenkopf (topics tba)

Note: Remember to support other area local history groups. On Facebook or online, you can find the Cairo Historical Society, North River Research, Town of Durham Boarding Houses, Greene County Historical Society, Mountaintop Historical Society, Durham Center Museum, and more.

Notes about subscriptions.

Email newsletters: **No cost.** And forward as you desire.

Mailed newsletters: \$10 per year. For those of you who use this method, look at the address label, and the four digit number above your name gives expiration info. The first two digits is the year, the next two digits is the month. (So, 2006 means your paid subscription expires in 2020 June [06].) (Ignore this paragraph if you use the electronic method only.)

Anyone wanting to start or to renew a *mailed* subscription should send \$10 for a year (if by check, made out to Don Teator): 3979 Rt 67, Freehold NY 12431.

A few of you receive both email and paper.

Also, if your address label needs changing, let me know. In addition to my address, I can be reached at 518-634-2397, and, for the computer literate, I can be emailed at dteator@gmail.com. If your email changes, let me know.

Whichever way you use to keep up with local history, the content is almost always the same, with a very occasional extra segment in the email version. And the original color photos are reproduced in color in the digital. Even if all the paper mail subscribers were to stop, I will continue to print a paper copy for the records. (Actually, it is a pdf file which gets printed.) Technology is wonderful but changes create a re-examination of how to preserve documents and photos.

April Program

I hope to see you at the first 2020 GLHG meeting on Monday, April 13, 7:30 pm – **Flip Flach's program, A Village Canvas of a Greenville that Used to Be.** Flip will delve into his memories back to the 1950s of the changes he has seen, of people and places that used to be and are no more, starting at Greenville's Four Corners and exploring a mile each way.

This is the only Greenville-specific program of the year, not to be missed. Flip is a master story-teller, and you will rue missing this wander-about.

Notes:

***Many of you know I favor black ink drawings on the calendar cover. These sketches can be original or, many times, found on note cards or holiday cards. If you can find one, good enough to be considered for a calendar cover, please let me know.

***Two gaps in the GCS Year-book collection still stare at me. If you find a spare 1984 or 1993, please call me to plug

one of those holes.

***Ahem. I seem to be missing one of my photo albums, and I do not think I have had it in my possession for over five years now. I may have loaned the album titled: Greenville: North Street: Irving Rd to Albany Co border. If someone is able to find it, I will greatly appreciate it. ***Two of my winter projects were: 1- getting the photo collection back to order and 2- deciding what to do with the six feet of paper material that had collected over 25 years. Details in Winter Email #5 (and reminder for April meeting).

***Both the **demolition of the Chatterton House** and the proposal to build a **laundromat/strip mall** on the property in front of the Town Park are causing distress in the community. If you want to get involved, and have not already done so, and want to get involved, let me know. ***As I write this, I am looking ahead to be jet-lagged for the first meeting, being home only one day from Egypt. However, the uncertainty of Coronavirus and cancellations hangs in international airs. I will either have stories of the camel that almost ran over me in front of the Pyramids, or.... I won't.

I am looking forward to another good local history year.
Take care,

The Chatterton House:
which one is next?

