

# Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

October 2024, Issue 329

2025 Calendar, Recognition

A suddenly cooler day, following a stretch of warmer than usual,  
felt cold by meeting night!

Attending: Anne Foster, Stephanie Ingalls, Johanna & Robert Titus,  
Lew Knott, Ed Volmar, Bill Quackenbush, Harriet & Arthur Marini,  
Rachel Ceasar, Richard Ceasar, Maryann Morrison, Flip Flach,  
Margaret Donohue, Bette Welter, Stewart Wagner. Charlene & Ken  
Mabey, Christine Mickelsen, Jonathan Palmer, Linda Berger &  
Frank Potter, Mary Lou Nahas, and Debra & Don Teator.

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The program for this October, as it has been for many of the past ump-teen Octobers, was the unveiling of the 2025 calendar.

The short story:

After a brief presentation, the calendar was revealed to the audience. A review of each page was enjoyed. The Greene County Historian presented the recognition to this year's recipients.

I was tempted to let it go at that but I can hear all of you giggling now. Don will never let that happen. And you are so right!

Pondering what to expound upon, I decided three pathways were worthy of fuller exposition:

- past history & evolution
- the 2025 calendar
- the Vedder Collaboration

## **Past history:**

Producing a calendar had its start in the early days of GLHG. In the early flush of excitement

of photo gathering, one goal was to share the newly developing collection of documents and photos.

When I first became historian, the previous historian, Edna Adams, had left a file cabinet drawer laden with clippings, articles, and about twenty-five photos. Edna, who I knew well from connections with her son Tim Adams and through friendships Deb's family had, had amassed a good start for the incoming historian.

Upon becoming town historian in 1989, and after initiating a public meeting that would result in the formation of the GLHG that June, a list of goals was quickly formed. An early goal evolved from a common and pinning comment – "Would it not be nice to be able to share that photograph of (fill in the blank)." Usually, no one knew who had the photo. Usually, no one had first-hand knowledge of the photo.

And so I was faced with a daunting task –

gather, somehow, a collection of photographs that could be produced for such requests and queries.

As it turned out, a worthy collection at that time already belonged to the Greene County Historical Society and the Vedder Library. This turned out to be a bit daunting and, in retrospect, the collection there was narrowly focused because of the nature of material given to the Society. But, I had to start some place and soon found myself going to the next best source – the postcard collectors.

I had heard of two noted collectors but one did not live in the area and was difficult to reach. The other was Gerald Boomhower (his sister was Margaret Bogardus). Gerald would bring a half-dozen postcards to meetings and talk about more. I gathered enough courage to ask him if I could see more. And then I thought I was being audacious when I asked if he would consider allowing Deb to photograph the ones related to the Greenville area. Happily, Gerald was most accommodating and most generous. He practically threw the whole collection at me and allowed me to duplicate whatever I wanted. Several dozen duplications later, the GLHG had an incipient base.

And then other GLHG members confessed they had post cards also. A half-dozen members allowed Deb to duplicate another few at a time. The base was building.

Another big step was Curt Cunningham revealing he had been given Orson Hallenbeck's collection of photographs. OH was the pharmacist on Main Street and had taken or acquired photos of the early 20th century. And there was a pile. Eventually, we would duplicate nearly a hundred of those photos. I was beginning to feel pretty flush.

But time goes on, and we knew there had to be more. As it would happen, someone knew so-and-so had a photograph someplace of something and perhaps I could ask them. So, I did. In fact, we planned what we call today

an archive meeting. Deb would bring her copying stand to a meeting and would take a photo of a photo and I would gather the accompanying information about it.

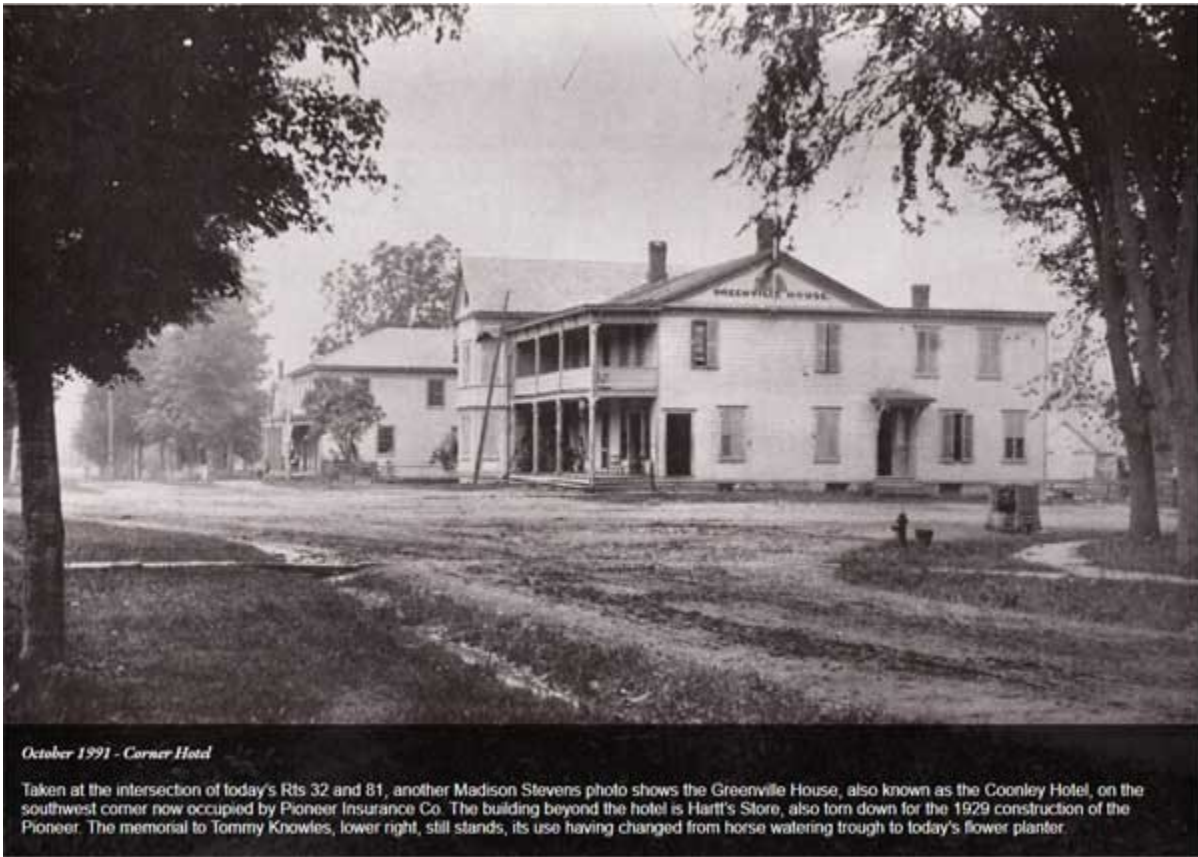
And then, when someone confessed to having more photos still at home, I begged to come visit. I might borrow the albums or pages to take home, have Deb duplicate them that day, and return the material the same day.

Most of this became the basis of our old photos, comprised of about fifteen hundred copies. And this was all before digital, meaning most of these duplications sit on pages of negatives. Somewhere in this process, Deb eventually allowed her aversion to the new-fangled digital cameras to be overcome and she swung over to this new “dark side,” making duplication of photos even easier.

I go to this length to point out that the impetus of the early photo collecting was to share with the community some of the newfound riches. And the 1991 calendar, the first one, is a classic example of a classic local history calendar. The first dozen calendars or so show a continuation of the theme of reproducing old-time houses and a few events.

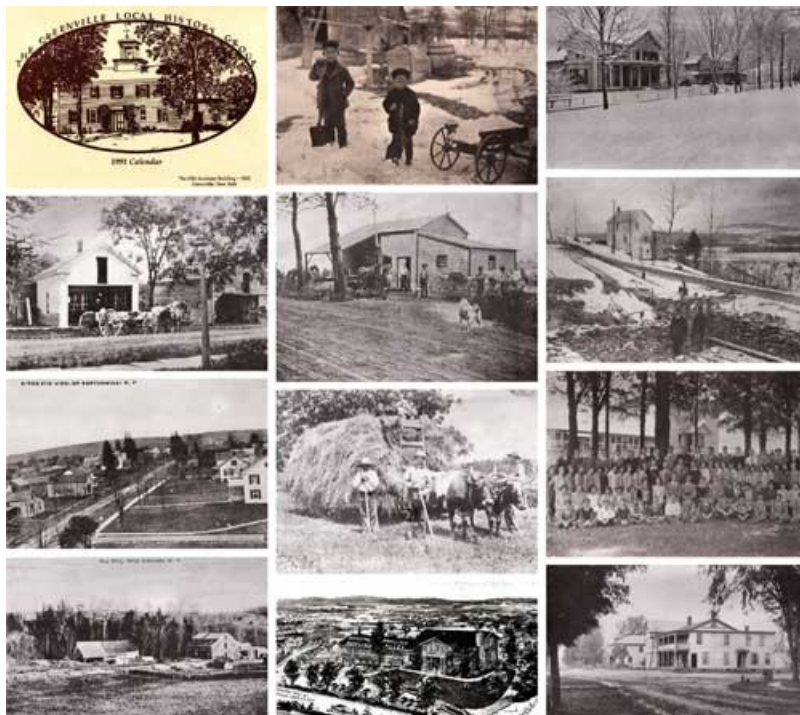
I am not sure what started it but it was one calendar page marking some current event that we knew would be “real” historical some day. And then the definition of how old something has to be to be local history started to be revised to be newer. And soon, thirty-some years after the start, we had a calendar that recognized a few classic oldies but also incorporated people and events that, in the opinion of the GLHG and/or Historian, denoted important strands of recent and somewhat recent life. I have taken all this time to make this point because the current GLHG Calendar would not meet some communities' standard of a worthy local history calendar even while, as you must surmise by now, that I take pride in what our calendar reveals about the Greenville area.

Thus, this year's calendar again reflects this



Below: This is the view one might see when opening the 1991-2010 calendar link. These are photo pages from 1991, in order, including the cover. Click on one of them (bottom right) ....

Top: ... and a full page of that photo appears. Roll your cursor over and you will see the original caption appear, as shown in the photo.



wide community mix.

**classic:**

- driving the cows home on foot
- long gone resort
- 1920s Vanderbilt Farm
- 1940ish Main Street Greenville
- 1922 Irving house

**newer or alternative views**

- pre-development town park aerial
- 8 panel map of Greene County
- Clematis Garden Club
- the “new” Drive-In
- new Ingalls Pavilion
- Baumann’s Septic service
- Greenville Cemetery

Insets often show the current scene. However, only three insets adorn this year’s calendar, a surprisingly small number compared to most years. Some of that is due to the larger than normal number of multiple-panel pages.

As for covers, the calendar producer is partial to black ink sketches. This year’s cover continues that thread with a sketch from the 1977 Methodist Church Bicentennial Calendar, with this sketch created by our beloved Jeanne Bear. And that particular calendar has contributed almost all its pages for GLHG Calendar covers.

As for the GLHG Calendar Recognition, it was awarded, forgive my third person, to Debra and Don Teator. More later.

One other significant part of the calendar production is sales, without which production costs would be otherwise addressed. For now, GLHG thanks Kelly’s Pharmacy, GNH, and the Greenville Library for hosting the calendars. I would ask that if you frequent any of these establishments to thank the owners and/or staff for helping GLHG to share our calendar endeavor.

And attention already is turned to the next calendar. 2026 preparation has started. The process continues and will likely consume

another 50-75 hours.

Now, onto the third calendar pathway to expand upon – Vedder Collaboration.

The newest calendar will be fresh in everyone’s mind, for a year, maybe two.

The 1991 calendar used to be fresh also... until about thirty years ago. And still the power of those photos and the accompanying information is just as strong today as it was then... except time fades the immediacy of that power. And I have wished for a way to share with people our efforts from ten years ago, twenty years ago, thirty years ago.

A bit of serendipity led to that direction. And Jonathan Palmer’s name comes to the foreground once again.

In early 2022, Debra and I had deposited Debra’s collection of forty years of aerial photography—photos and negatives—to the Vedder Library, an effort that in its own right is quite an achievement.

I sort of slipped to Jonathan—Vedder Library Archivist, at the time—about my burning desire to host past calendars on a website and of my frustration that I did not have the tools to do so.

He let slip he had an idea. And within six weeks, and some sixty hours of work, the basic model came to exist. Over 400 photos of the thirty calendars are now available online. I plead with you, if you have not already done so, to check out this site, if only for five minutes. (Of course, once you start, you could spend more time!)

For starters, for those with internet, link to:

<https://vedderresearchlibrary.org/>

Click on Reference Tools and scroll to Town Resources Pages.

Finally, click on Greenville.

You will end up at:

<https://vedderresearchlibrary.org/greenville-resources>

You are at pay-dirt. Three links await – one for calendars from 1991-2010, another for calendars 2011 to current, and the last one is devoted to our recognitions.

Click on the first one and awaiting you are the photos of all the calendars in that date range, in chronological order.

Now for some magic! Click on a desired photo for full size. Then, roll the cursor over the photo, and presto, the original calendar caption appears. Roll the cursor off and the caption disappears. If you have time, click the arrow on the side to go to the next photo. Or click the x to go back to the original page.

The same method works for the next link to the newer calendars.

A link to the third listing takes you to a list of recognized people. Pick one and all the text devoted to that person will appear.

You are now witness to a labor of love, stretching over 35 years and consuming several thousand hours. Jonathan, thank you for your part in making one of my dreams happen.

Also on the resources page are two chunks of variable size lettering. They represent labels, or tags. The larger the lettering, the more photos in that category can be viewed. Roll the cursor over the text, select one, and view all the photos tagged with that label. So, if someone wants to see all the Winter photos, it is now possible. The next chunk of tags works the same way.

Also available on this Resources page:

- a link to the resorts page
- a link to GLHG Newsletters, all 300+
- a link to Historian's Files (Files, Documents, Projects) which includes lists of contents of documents in the files, a number of town histories, the million word summary of the Carrie Ingalls diary, and a link to Audrey Matott's programs utilizing the Greenville Local. (I have plans on developing a Garth and a Flip section during this winter.)

Even if I may have created all the content, the public viewing by anyone in the world was made possible with the assistance of Jonathan Palmer and with the support of the Vedder Library.

The other Jonathan connection I must note.

## The Tag chunk

*Click phrases to view subject categories for Greenville Calendars from 2011 to 2023:*

Aerial Calendar Cover Freehold - Other Streets Freehold Four Corners  
Freehold Main Street Greenville Academy Greenville Center Greenville Freehold - Other Streets - NJ Building  
Greenville Central School - Sports Greenville Central School - Staff and Students  
Greenville Churches Greenville Farms Greenville Four Corners  
Greenville Main Street - East Greenville Main Street - West Greenville One Room Schoolhouse  
Greenville Resorts Greenville Route 32 - North  
Greenville Route 32 - South Greenville Winters Norton Hill Other Hamlets  
People RENOVATION Source: Curt Cunningham Source: M. P. News-Globe Photo Collection West Greenville

It was during one of these sessions where I was inputting the calendar photo info that I must have mentioned the list of the next GLHG recognitions, one of which would be Debra and me in 2025. I must have expressed my discomfort of writing my own recognition page. It seemed like a moral conflict of interest, to me.

Without any hesitation, Jonathan offered to write the recognition. With barely any hesitation, I thankfully accepted. And

### Sorted Files on Shelf

- Main File 1 - up to 2012, 50 pages, [doc download](#)
- Main File 2 - 2012-2020, 40 pages, in 12 magazine boxes, [doc download](#)
- Ingalls-Adams - via T&J Adams - 2018, one shoe box, [web page](#)
- Miscellaneous photos - 70 envelopes, folders, [web page](#)
- Walter Ingalls basement - one box, [web page](#)
- Vanderbilt folder - via B Valicenti - manila folder, [web page](#)

### Greenville Histories

- Don Teator - written for 2003 Bicentennial - 1700 words, [doc download](#)
- Ray Beecher - GCHSQJ, Summer 1990, six pages, [pdf file](#)
- Mr & Mrs Stanley Ingalls - 1960, 200 words, [doc download](#)
- Elizabeth Cunningham, 1954, Early Settlers, [pdf file](#)
- Elizabeth Cunningham, 1954, Early Homesteads, [pdf file](#)
- Beers 1884 Greene Co History, Vedder Library website: <https://vedderresearchlibrary.org/beers-history-greene-county>, then click Greenville

### Multi-Part Projects

- Audrey Matott Greenville Local Project, [web page](#)
- Carrie Ingalls Diary, [web page](#)

thus readers of the calendar recognition will see the result.

Even better, I asked one more favor from Jonathan – to attend this meeting and to introduce the recognition part of the meeting. Done.

I am so grateful and fortunate to have Jonathan share in our local history and to provide a personal favor. I have been blessed to have another kindred spirit in my life!

Finally, the recognition.

Debra and I are honored to be this year's recipients. We do acknowledge we have been busy souls over the years, much of those efforts given in service to the public good. And many of you have complimented and thanked us over the years. Such feedback is appreciated.

Still, I am quick to note, and hope I adequately did so this evening, that I have had the good fortune to have a few hundred fellow historians who support Greenville area local history. Each of you helped me achieve and gather what I have and, thus, each of you share in a piece of this recognition. I thank each of you for the kindnesses and sharing over some part of my three dozen years being your Town Historian.



I will take some of the next newsletter to publicize the contents of Jonathan's account. Better yet, please purchase a calendar, or two, and read Jonathan's contribution.

Thus comes to an end the simple explanation of how the calendar presentation went. In the future, anyone asking about the formation of the calendar, I will reply by say to Refer to GLHG Newsletter #329 (available online). Or then again, I will be glad to explain again.

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### November Program

November will be a two-part program. Although I had originally planned on two presenters, calendar conflicts and personal preferences have resulted in zero, meaning I will cover for both.

**One:** Based on a Kevin Lewis comment, a discussion about future historical markers ensued, with the germination of an idea to be presented. A short slide show of our current markers will be viewed, with the presentation of the marker idea to be shared. Your reaction over the winter will be crucial for future direction.

**Two:** this newsletter has mentioned this past year the bringing back to life of the

Norton Hill Observation Tower from the WWII era. Its completion is near, and the half-program will detail the progress of Walter Preisner who single-mindedly, and almost single-handedly, revived the building.

### Notes:

— A thank you goes to Stephanie and Christine for the light refreshments.

— Quack Quack Greenville has lined up sponsors and artists for the third round of the Greenville Ducks. A look on Facebook will tell you more as will an email to [ducks@cpog.org](mailto:ducks@cpog.org). This effort will be a community attraction for Summer 2025.