

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

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Paige Ingalls & Garth Bryant

Happy Winter!

I trust a cold ole Winter is finding you well.

The Covid era prompted winter-time newsletters, a new idea not attached to our programming. It has proven to be a worthy idea that allows for posting of articles that would fight for space otherwise.

This newsletters features a fine collaboration of Paige Ingalls and Garth Bryant.

The Ingalls Family Early Settlers in the Greenville, New York, Area

By Paige Ingalls,
with research provided by Garth Bryant

Following a chance meeting over the summer of 2024, I was shown an old map from the 1790s and noted that “J Ingals [sic]” appeared on it. This prompted me to look into the blanket chest that belonged to my great aunt Leona Ingalls Rundell. That is where I keep Ingalls family-related documents.

I pulled out copies of two Indentures dated 1792 and 1797 that were provided at an Ingalls Reunion in 2005 by Walter Ingalls and his daughter Krista Ingalls Haushalter. The originals had been given to Walt by Jeremiah (Jerry) Overbaugh, who did not know how he came to possess them but thought they should be given back to the Ingalls family. Walt and Krista made copies and then donated the originals to The Vedder Research Library in Coxsackie, New York (NY), in 2006. The Vedder houses the archives and special collections of the Greene County Historical Society. Prior to donating the Indentures, Krista asked Harriet Rasmussen to transcribe them.

Once I started looking over the Indentures, I realized there might be more to the story of

the Ingalls family’s settling in the Greenville, NY, area than what was previously thought.

Much gratitude is extended to Garth for his assistance in the preparation of this article. His previous research into the Prevost land grant was invaluable in understanding the Ingalls family’s arrival in Greenville. He also helped with clarifying what was written in the Indentures and editing. As with most things historical, the more one investigates, the more one learns.

Below are the results of this research.

It has long been the understanding of the descendants of Jacob Ingalls that, after his service in the Continental Army during the American Revolution, he settled in Otsego County in New York State (NYS). [The present-day county seat is Cooperstown.] Then, in 1793, he became the first of his family to move to Lamb’s Corners in the Town of Westerlo, NY. There he bought 160 acres on what was later called Ingalls Road and is now known as Elm Lane. After building his cabin, he returned to Rehoboth, Massachusetts

(MA), and married Susannah Goff on October 9, 1793. He brought her back to Lamb's Corners, and they raised five sons there. (A daughter died in infancy.) Theirs is a great, albeit typical, American story. However, based on newly researched information, some of the details require clarification/correction.

What did previous family historians get right? Jacob, who was born on June 27, 1764, in Rehoboth, MA, enlisted in the Continental Army in 1780 at the age of 16 and was discharged in 1781. The most interesting occurrence during his service was his presence at the hanging of Major John Andre in Tappan, NY, on October 2, 1780. Andre was the British officer involved with Continental Army officer Benedict Arnold when Arnold turned traitor. Andre was caught with the intelligence (plans) for West Point he had bought from Arnold, and he was hanged as a spy. It is also true that, after the war, Jacob moved to Otsego County. That area of central NYS had suffered a tremendous loss of life from attacks by Tories (or Loyalists) and members of the Iroquois Confederacy who had supported the British cause during the war. Consequently, many Patriot soldiers moved there after the war, as a lot of abandoned farms were available.

What did previous family historians get wrong? To begin with, Jacob was not the first Ingalls to move to the Greenville, NY, area. That honor belongs to his father, Joseph Ingalls, Jr. This is now known because of the existence of the original Indenture signed by Joseph, Jr., and Augustine Prevost in 1792. Prevost (1744 – 1821), a British officer, was allowed to keep post-war title to most of what would become the Town of Greenville through the political “interference” of Aaron Burr, who was married to Prevost's aunt, Theodosia Bartow Prevost. Prevost had a pre-printed Indenture form made up that he used when selling off parts of his property. On these forms, he would handwrite in the particulars of the lots he sold. Of the probably 100 Indentures that were produced, two are known to have survived. The printed parts are

identical. One Indenture is between Prevost and Samuel Spees for 140 acres where the Greenville, NY, shopping center now stands, including GNH Lumber and Home (founded and owned by descendants of Jacob). The other Indenture is between Prevost and Jacob's father, Joseph Ingalls, Jr.

On June 14, 1792, Joseph, Jr. paid Prevost 108 pounds and 18 shillings for 104 acres. This is the property shown at the upper left top of a map from 1795. It is situated on the very southeast end of present-day Elm Lane. Five per cent of the purchase was retained for the Town to build future roads, which indicates that no road existed there at that time. The stream that runs through it would have been known as the West Branch of the Prevost Creek in 1792. This stream would have made this a desirable property.

The map shows just 54 acres as Ingalls' property. However, the original purchase also included the land directly south marked Ramsdell. In 1792, approximately 2.28 US dollars equaled a British pound. Joseph, Jr. paid around \$250.00 for this land. The property description states that the Ingalls had already built their cabin before the closing took place. Joseph, Jr. and his wife Rhobe had five children. It seems most likely that all of them were living together in this cabin as they performed the backbreaking task of turning virgin forests into productive farmland.

The second major change to the understanding of the Ingalls' history in the Greenville area is what happened when Jacob married Susannah Goff in 1793. He did not move her to his own farm in Westerlo, NY. In 1793, there was no such place as Westerlo, NY, just as there was no such thing as Greene County. Greene County wasn't established until 1800, and the Township of Westerlo wasn't established until 1815. In 1793, the village now known as Westerlo was a tiny little place called by its original name of Basic. What today serves as the County Line between Albany and Greene Counties was in 1793 the Township Line between two Albany County

Towns, Rensselaerville and Freehold. The report that Jacob purchased the land on Elm Lane that would become the family's ancestral Homestead in 1793 also seems to be an error. This farm wasn't purchased until 1797. For five years, the entire Ingalls clan, including newlyweds Jacob and Susannah, must have lived crowded together in their original cabin.



Ingalls Homestead, on Elm Lane/Ingalls Rd; also Zany J Ranch; now demolished; Below, the indenture

In 1794, Joseph, Jr. decided to deed his farm over to his two oldest sons, Jacob and James. Half of this transaction is described in an article written by historian Dr. Raymond Beecher. He describes a legal document where Joseph, Jr. deeded 52 acres of land to his second son, James. The price was one peppercorn per year, if demanded. In other words, Joseph, Jr. gave it to James. It is almost certain that the remaining 52 acres were deeded (given) to Jacob at the same time, although that document has not survived.

In 1797, the Ingalls' history changes again. America was going through an economic crisis due to the over-inflating of the money supply. Large scale bankruptcies were occurring, and land values were crashing. It then took 4.44 US dollars to equal a British pound. Giles Stone, who owned the adjacent land north of the Ingalls family's property, apparently found himself in financial distress. Jacob and his brother James, who now owned the Ingalls land, found themselves in a position to improve their family's fortune. They bought the 155 acres owned by Stone for 24 English pounds.

The form of the original Indenture dated 1797 is a completely different form from that of the Prevost Indenture used in 1792.



This 1797 Indenture states that this purchase, which was part of the Rensselaer Patent, was split into two parts. The northern 110 acres were purchased by Jacob for 12 pounds. The southernmost 45 acres were purchased by James, also for 12 pounds. The obvious discrepancy in value was apparently made up by James keeping fifty-two acres and the family cabin from the original Prevost purchase. The exact nature of this division is important because the lands in the Rensselaer Patent came with yearly rent payments in the form of agricultural products. This is unlike the Prevost lands which were sold for cash without rental agreements. Therefore, the land was not sold as tenants-in-common between the two brothers but as individual purchases with each brother responsible for his percentage of the yearly payment.

This new division of the Ingalls land is confirmed by the 1800 Federal Census, the first taken after Greene County was established. James is the only Ingalls listed as living in the Town of Freehold, Greene County, that year. He is listed as being more than 45 years old, although he may have been younger than this [based on his 1840 date of death]. There also is a female between 26-45 listed as being in the household, along with two male children, one under 10 and the other between 10 and 16 years old. The rest of the Ingalls family members are listed as Albany County residents that year, as they had moved north of the newly formed County line.

It seems that Joseph, Jr., who lived until 1813, moved north with Jacob. This is possibly the source of the report that he later moved to Jacob's home in Westerlo. If so, he would no longer be considered as head of household since that designation now went to Jacob. Because only heads of households were named, Joseph, Jr.'s name does not appear in the 1800 Albany County census.

(Of note is that the history found in the "Genealogy and History of the Jacob Ingalls Family, Giving the Descendants of Jacob Ingalls, Who Settled in Albany County, New

York, in 1793," printed in 1926, and updated in 1978 and 2003, implies that Joseph, Jr., late in life, moved from Otsego County into his son's house in Albany County. More than likely, he lived in Otsego County with his family after moving there from Rehoboth, MA, following the Revolution, until settling in the Greenville area in 1792. Therefore, Joseph, Jr., sometime between 1797 and 1800, moved not seventy miles from the Cooperstown area to Lamb's Corners, but perhaps 300 yards from his original cabin across the new county line into Jacob's new home.)

On August 22, 1797, the southern half of the original Ingalls land bought from Prevost was sold off to Nathan Merwin. This Indenture also has survived. It was donated to The Veder by Historian Barbara S. Rivette, a daughter of Mabel Parker Smith, Greene County Historian from 1961 to 1992. It is a very simple, handwritten, two-page document that in no way resembles the 1792 and 1797 Indentures previously discussed. It was witnessed by Judge Leonard Bronk.

Joseph, Jr., Jacob, and James had made a series of very shrewd land transactions. They sold 50 acres for 61 pounds, which was 37 pounds more than they paid for the northern 155 acres the same year. Using the adage of "buy low and sell high," they managed to double their land holdings to 209 acres and put 37 pounds in the family bank account.

Jacob's northern farm would go on to become what is known as the family's historical Homestead. The Homestead today would be identified as being part of Lamb's Corners in the extreme southwest of the Town of Westerlo in Albany County. However, it is part of the Greenville Central School District, and its postal address is listed as 202 Elm Lane, Greenville, NY. Jacob would run an award-winning farm there, and future generations would add more acreage to the family's holdings. This would include, among other pieces, the land purchased by Jacob's son John just south of Lamb's Corners years later. This home would be known as Lena Bishop's

boarding house in the 1950s and 60s.

James' land would be owned by the McNaughton family in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s.

They ran a boarding house/resort known as McNaughton Farms on the property. There also were other owners in between, including Ingalls descendants.

In conclusion, this is the Ingalls family's early Greenville history as we understand it today. However, don't be surprised if new information comes to light, and the story changes again in the future.



Hush-Hush (Prevost) at bottom right;
Ingalls at top center

NOTES

1— An Indenture is a legal agreement, contract, or document. Harriet Rasmussen (1925 - 2010), a longtime Greenville, NY, resident, local historian, and researcher, transcribed the two Indentures given to the Ingalls family by Jeremiah (Jerry) Overbaugh that are discussed in this article. Her work is greatly appreciated.

2— Gratitude is extended to Dr. Raymond Beecher (1917 - 2008), Greene County Historian, for his "Greene Gleanings" article printed in the Catskill, NY, Daily Mail on April 2, 2006, pertaining to the importance of the discovery of the two Ingalls Indentures to local history.

3— Thank you to Jacob Ingalls' descendant John M. Bewley, who provided information about, and transcription of, Jacob's 1832 Revolutionary Claim Act Application, which includes his presence at the hanging of Major John Andre. Jacob's application is archived with The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), the official repository for records of military personnel.

4— In the "Genealogy and History of the Jacob Ingalls Family, Giving the Descendants

of Jacob Ingalls, Who Settled in Albany County, New York, in 1793," printed in 1926, and updated in 1978 and 2003, Jacob Ingalls' wife's first name is spelled Roby. However, in the 1797 Indenture where the sale of half of the original Prevost purchase was documented, she clearly signed her name Rhobe. Therefore, this spelling has been used in this article.

5— The Ingalls family is part of what would be described as the second wave of settlers of the Greenville area. The original settlers arrived in February 1782 from Woodbury, CT. This was the follow-up to the scouting trip performed in 1781 by Eleazer Knowles, Benjamin Spees, and Edward Lake. At about the same time, the Norton family arrived from Dutchess County. [Norton Hill, NY, was named for this family.] These settlers came fully expecting Major Augustine Prevost to lose claim to his Greenville land because of his fighting for the British and NYS's passing of the Attainder and Forfeiture Act in 1779. However, these plans were thwarted by the interference of Aaron Burr, who was married to Prevost's aunt. By 1792, when the Ingalls arrived, the legal war was over. The early settlers either lost their land or bought it back from Prevost. Joseph Ingalls, Jr., bought his land directly from Prevost. 1792 would have

been the first year Prevost was in town, as he didn't arrive until all the legal proceedings were over. The Ingalls, along with the other settlers in the second wave, would have missed all of the preceding legal drama.

6— In the Greenville area in the 1790s, farms like that of the Ingalls were self-sustaining. The few livestock that were raised were for consumption by the family. Dairy cows provided milk for drinking and the making of butter and cheese. Every farm had a vegetable garden, and an apple orchard was common for the supply of fresh fruit. It was only by raising grain that Greenville's early farmers could earn the cash they needed to pay their mortgages, taxes, and other expenses. The raising of grain was a labor-intensive operation, especially in an area with such rocky soil. Every year the fields needed to be plowed, every year more rocks needed to be cleared from the fields, and every year the stone wall fences got higher. All of this was accomplished with manual labor and the assistance of horses.

7— It is likely that the two brothers Jacob and James Ingalls were starting their own families during the mid-1790s and required commitment from their father Joseph, Jr. Ingalls to make the land transaction decisions that divided his acreage into two parts. Of note is that the younger children of Joseph, Jr., and Rhobe did not participate in these decisions and eventually moved away to make their own futures. It is assumed that Joseph, Jr. and Rhobe continued to work every day on the farm, even after he gave up ownership. Maximum effort by every family member was required just to survive.

8— There are two maps related to this history.

The map dated 1795 uses a copy of the survey Richard Edwards did for Prevost. Subsequent land purchases and cabins are drawn in. It was used over a period of years by Prevost and is a pivotal piece in understanding Greenville's early history. The original is located at

The Vedder. Garth discovered it and had it enlarged and framed. It has the Ingalls cabin and land marked. This map and another, later, map are two different versions of Prevost's original survey. They were both used by Prevost to manage his land holdings.

The cabin sites of everyone living on their land when Prevost reacquired this land through the interference of Aaron Burr are shown on the 1795 map. The later map uses the same survey but shows the land ownership after Prevost evicted many of the first settlers and resold the land. Some early settlers managed to buy back their land. Many did not. The Norton family seems to have suffered the worst. This land was part of Albany County when Joseph, Jr. acquired his land. However, a search of Albany County records found no registered transaction between Prevost and any Ingalls before 1800, when Greene County was formed. This was not unusual, as most of these deeds were never filed. The later map described here is in possession of Historian Sylvia Hasenkopf of Cairo, NY.

9— Joseph Ingalls, Jr., born June 8, 1744, in Rehoboth, MA, married Rhobe Norton (Horton?) in 1763. He was a Revolutionary soldier from 1775 to 1780. He died on March 2, 1813, and is buried in the Locust [also known as the Prevost] Cemetery, in Norton Hill, NY. His wife, Roby [sic, per her gravestone] died on February 13, 1812.

The following information pertaining to the family of Joseph Ingalls, Jr., comes from "The Genealogy and History of the Ingalls Family in America: Giving the descendants of Edmund Ingalls, who settled at Lynn, Massachusetts, in 1629." It was compiled by Charles Burleigh, MD, and originally printed, Malden, Massachusetts, in 1903, and reprinted, Baltimore, Maryland, in 1984, by Gateway Press, Inc., Linda I. Wright, Sponsor.

— Joseph Ingalls, Jr., and his wife Rhobe, had five children, all sons [refer to 218 – page 48 and 561 – page 85]:

Jacob, whose life story is told in the “Genealogy and History of the Jacob Ingalls Family, Giving the Descendants of Jacob Ingalls, Who Settled in Albany County, New York, in 1793,” printed in 1926, and updated in 1978 and 2003.

Jacob lived out his life in the Greenville area, died on October 17, 1841, and is buried in Locust Cemetery in Norton Hill, NY. A plaque marked his grave, noting he was “A soldier of the Revolution, Jacob Ingalls, placed by Philip Livingston Chap. Sons of the Revolution.” However, as of this writing, it appeared to have been vandalized, as all that remained was the stake to which it was attached. His wife Susannah, who died on September 23, 1839, and their daughter, Cordelia, who died on May 17, 1797, aged six months, also are buried in Locust Cemetery [and share a gravestone].

Of note is that it is difficult to decipher what is written on Jacob’s gravestone due to its deterioration, and two different Web sites pertaining to Locust Cemetery...

- https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/71914485/jacob_ingalls#view-photo=163408164 (printed 09/29/2024), and
- https://tracingyourrootsgcny.com/locust_hill_cemetery.htm (printed 09/29/2024)

... report his year of death differently, i.e. 1841 and 1844. However, a rubbing of the gravestone made several years ago by Jacob’s descendants Edna Ingalls Adams Zivelli and her sister Claribel Ingalls Gardiner show that the date recorded in the Genealogy referenced above, i.e. October 17, 1841, is accurate.

Amaziah, who seems to have died young.

Davis and Joseph, who both moved to Erie, NY, but probably lived in Joseph, Jr.’s original 1792 cabin as children.

James, who married a woman named Isabel Daggett in 1788 before arriving in the Green-



The headstone rubbing

ville area. They had eight children. Four died young: William, James, Serrell, and another (second) son named James. Two moved from the Greenville area: Darius to Missouri and Reuben to Virginia. Elihu farmed in Norton Hill, but then his whole family seems to have moved to the Albany area. Daughter Silvey married Wilson Husted and it is possible their descendants may still be in the Greenville area. James, who died on August 21, 1840, and his wife Isabel, who died on January 1, 1832, lived out their lives in the Greenville area and are buried in Locust Cemetery in Norton Hill, NY. [Her gravestone notes the spelling of her husband James’ surname as “Engles.”] Because each of James’ living male heirs moved away, the Ingalls who remained in the Greenville area were all descendants of his brother Jacob.

10— From the “Town of Westerlo - Then and Now, Bicentennial Booklet, 1976.” Lamb’s Corners’ early residents were the Lamb, St.

John, and Ingalls families, who established prosperous farms there before 1800. Stores, a blacksmith shop, a barrel factory, and even a photographic studio filled the area generations ago. In 1976, only the remains of a Methodist Church (Olin Chapel), built in 1853, were left as well as a few homes and descendants of the pioneers.

Of note is that, although the large house that was built on the Ingalls' Homestead property in the 1800s was still in existence at the time of the American Bicentennial in 1976, it has since been razed.



Modern-day Elm Lane, aka Ingalls Rd on its west end some years ago, now connecting Maple Avenue and North Rd (CR 409)

Garth: While helping Paige Ingalls with research on her family's early history in Greenville, I was inspired to write this companion article. At the time I was unsure if Paige was going to publish her work. Once Paige was done it became obvious that it was such an important history that it had to be published and preserved. Because of this, there is obviously some overlap of information between the two. Nonetheless, it was decided by Paige, Don and myself that the best way forward was to publish them simultaneously. My story is of little consequence. It is the story of a road. But, when told with Paige's, it shows how history connects us all.

A Road with Two Names by Garth Bryant

When I was a boy growing up on North Road in Norton Hill there was a road with two names. It started just north of my parents' house. At its intersection with North Road, the road sign proclaimed that you were entering Ingalls Road. From there it ran east for approximately three-quarters of a mile where it made a ninety degree turn to the south along the bank of the West Branch of the Prevost Creek.

After about another three-quarters mile it made another ninety degree turn, this time to

the east. A short way after this turn, it intersected with Maple Avenue. There the road sign informed you that you had just exited Elm Lane. There was no obvious explanation for this - it just had two names. It was as though if you were driving west to east you were on Ingalls Road but if you were driving east to west you were on Elm Lane.

It wasn't really much of a road. No blacktop marred its dirt surface. It was good old Greenville clay, slippery when wet and dusty when dry. No guardrails lined its way and no caution signs marked its ninety degree turns. In those days there were only two houses along its entire length. On the east end there

was a vacant house.

My Uncle Bud Young had rented this house in the early 1950s but it was abandoned by the 1960s. On the west end there was an old white farmhouse. This house and its adjacent barns were still in use. It was being run as a saddle horse-for-hire business, at that time by the McCarthy family. This business catered to the numerous boarders who vacationed at North Road's and Greenville's many resorts.

A couple times every summer, my mom would pay for myself, my sister, and some of our friends and relatives to go riding. I can remember my mom on the phone as all of us kids shouted out the names of our favorite horses that we wanted to reserve. After a short ride through the woods and fields, we would ride all the way to the far end of the road and back. In all these rides I never remember passing a single car.

In the winter time the stretch between the two houses wasn't even plowed. Locals used it as a snowmobile trail. I can still remember bouncing off a snow drift on the far end of the road, hitting a fence post and wrecking my dad's old Boa Ski snowmobile. That was not a happy day in the Bryant household. Every spring after the snow melted and the mud dried the road would once again open to traffic. I never heard anyone explain why the road had two names. It just did and it would continue to be one of those small-town oddities for all the years I lived there.

Now, more than a half century later, I have finally uncovered why the road had two names. While helping Paige Ingalls with some family history research, the whole story came to light. It would not only explain why the road had two names but it would shed light on the history of one of Greenville's most prominent families.

As Paige explained in much greater detail, in 1792 Revolutionary War veteran Joseph Ingalls Jr. came to Greenville. He purchased 104 acres from Augustine Prevost for 108

pounds and 18 shillings, approximately \$250. Joseph was the first Ingalls to arrive in Greenville and is the patriarch of every Ingalls to live in Greenville over the last 230 years. His land purchase was located on the east end of what would become Elm Lane, west of current Maple Avenue. Its northern border was the current Albany and Greene County Line.

In 1792 neither Greene County nor the Town of Greenville had yet been created. This boundary was then the dividing line between two Albany County Townships. To the north, the Town of Rensselaerville which was formed out of part of the original Rensselaer Patent. To the south was the Town of Freehold which encompassed most of the Prevost Patent. This property was virgin wilderness when Joseph purchased it and 5% of the land was retained by deed for the building of roads once it was cleared. The original crude pathway into his cabin site from Maple Avenue would eventually become known as Elm Lane.

For five years, Joseph and his wife Rhobe lived on this homestead with their five sons. The whole family spent these years in the backbreaking work of turning virgin forest into productive farmland. The two oldest sons started their own families during this period and moved their new wives into the household. It must have been quite crowded.

In 1797, during a countrywide economic downturn, the two oldest boys, Jacob and James, would make a business deal that would start the Ingalls on their way to success in Greenville over the next 230 years. A man named Giles Stone owned the 155 acres of land in the Town of Rensselaerville that adjoined the north side of the Ingalls' farm at the Town line. In financial distress, Giles sold this parcel to the Ingalls for 24 pounds.

The same year the Ingalls sold 50 acres of their existing farm to Nathan Merwin for 61 pounds. These two transactions combined doubled the Ingalls' land holdings and gener-

ated a 37 pound profit. This greatly improved the Ingalls' financial situation. James kept the remaining 54 acres of the original farm and 45 acres of the new purchase. Jacob got the remaining 110 acres of the new purchase. Jacob would move his family and parents north over the town line where he built his own farm.

There is no record of any house being on this land when Jacob purchased it. It may have been vacant land. There is some family memory that he first built and lived in a cabin while he was building the permanent farmhouse and barns. This is most likely accurate and construction would have followed the same order as all early farms.

First the cabin, then the clearing of the crop land, then the barns that were vital to the farm's success and finally when everything else was completed the permanent family home. We know that this massive amount of work was all done by no later than 1818. We know this because that year Jacob's farm was voted the finest fenced farm in Albany County by the Albany County Agricultural Society and Jacob was awarded a silver tea service for this accomplishment. What a proud day that must have been for Jacob and his family. Jacob's farmhouse and barns were the ones that still stood 150 years later and served as the horse ranch in the 1960s.

Jacob's land, being part of Rensselaerville, had its access road from the Lambs Corners side. This is where the two names came from. After Jacob built his new farm this western access road understandably became known as Ingalls Road. After all, he was the only one living on it. It became the road to Jacob Ingalls' house, Ingalls Road.

The eastern end served as access to a number of different family farms and therefore acquired the more generic name Elm Lane. What about the piece in between where no road existed? While the new farm was being built, members of the Ingalls family had to walk to the new location every day to clear

the land and build the buildings. To go by road out Elm Lane and all the way around to Lambs Corners is a few miles. The two homesteads were only a few hundred yards apart. Nobody was walking three miles to go a few hundred yards.

So, it would seem a trail was soon established to haul gear and supplies between the two sites. Over the years as the families continued to work together to develop these lands, the trail was improved by thousands of trips back and forth between the two farms. This farm lane not only provided access to both of the brothers' fields but also provided Jacob's family a shortcut to town. As the fields were cleared and plowed the rocks were piled up into stonewall fences along the lane and the road began to take shape.

At some point, probably very early, friends and neighbors were granted permission to cut through on this trail as it saved time for farmers taking their grain to the Basic Creek mills or going to Greenville. Eventually it became a public road and it would continue to serve Greenville's residents with its two names through many generations. Sometime in the 1970s, the Ingalls Road end was changed to Elm Lane also. After almost 200 years the road with two names ceased to exist.

At first it seemed to me that it was wrong that the name of the whole road was changed to Elm Lane. It seemed that the whole thing should have been changed to Ingalls Road. After all, it was through this family's labor that it exists at all. But recently I was reminded of something that made me reconsider. Just to the east there is another road named after the Ingalls family. It is Ingalside Road where I live today. I was reminded that for most of my life the signs on each end of the road were spelled differently. One end with one "L", the other end with two "L's". The Ingalls family has done many great things for Greenville over the years but maybe naming roads isn't their specialty. Just kidding.

Thanks for reading. I encourage everyone to preserve Greenville's history.