

April 28, 1992

A cool April evening awaited the twenty people who showed for our share session: Gerald Boomhower, Ray and Marge Bennett, Jeanne Bear, Barbara Baron, Dorothy Blenis, Arlene Brown, Phyllis Beechert, Chris Charvat, Dave Dively, John Earl, Carol Lamb, Rosemary Lambert, Joe Mangold, Harriet Rasmussen, Alice Roe, Louise Schindler, Don and Connie Teator, and Kathie Williams.

Don Teator explained what all the books spread out on the table were about. George Allen has contributed to the historian's files the diaries of his great-grandfather, grandfather, and aunt, starting with the 1850's and continuing, with some gaps, until recent times. The older entries, as is often the case, mentions the weather and one or two notes of activity. For example, the entries of March 11-14, 1888, note a snowstorm but it is not until March 14th that some note of the historic proportions is mentioned. Mr. Taylor, the school teacher in the Freehold school, mentions items of relevance to his job at school. In addition, a couple expense and income ledgers, as well as a couple guest registrars, are part of this contribution. A note of appreciation for George is well deserved for guaranteeing that this locally historic collection is preserved for a public use.

Harriet Rasmussen contributed several pages of house history for the Maggie Cathcart / Rev. Rice house on Ingalside Road (the first house and barn on the right as you crest the hill from Route 81). This house history not only included the chain of owners but also told of Harriet's personal recollections of when her great-aunt Maggie lived there. An especially poignant part of the history was Harriet reading a poem about the house that she had written in 1947.

Arlene Brown donated an enlarged copy of a 1960 Chamber of Commerce brochure that listed the boarding houses and business of the Greenville area.

Ray Bennett contributed and described two newspaper clippings from the Greene County News from the early 1970's - pieces about blind people coping with that disability. The two subjects were Frank Bennett (the belt maker who lived on Red Mill Road) and Rev. Lynam, both of Freehold. Ray reminisced about each, sharing a couple stories about both. Of course, this led to others who had stories also.

Dave Dively described the fourth grade project of writing about the areas outside Greenville village. In addition, an interview project of to-be-announced topics will soon be started. As is the case the last two years, Dave asked the Group to sponsor prizes for the Greenville students (the Rensselaerville Historical Society does the same with their area's students). A motion was made to donate \$50, give or take \$10, for prizes (to be determined by the teachers) for the fourth graders, and the motion was passed.

Don reminded members that post cards are still available. In addition, the 1994 calendar depends on current photographs. A copy of the rules is included in this

newsletter. One reason for another major plug now is that one year remains until deadline; thus, all photographers have one more chance to shoot seasonal scenes.

Don updated the Group about the cemetery projects. Don and Debra will be photographing the abandoned cemeteries' headstones during his school spring break. The other part of the project is the mapping of the yards and the transcribing of the headstones (an explanation and example was given in last month's newsletter). As of April 25, the following people were doing these cemeteries (numbers from last month's list): Kathie Williams - 10/13/18; Ed and Louise Schindler - 21/23; Harriet Rasmussen - 17; and Robert Uzzilia - 11. Thus cemeteries 4/5/6/7/8/9/14/15/16/19/20/22/25/26/27 remain to be taken if anyone wishes to volunteer.

The last item of the night was the GLHG donation to the Town Park fund and to the Library expansion. Discussion lasted nearly a half hour with most of the time spent debating the advisability of the town having a park. Issues of taxes, vandalism, need, desirability, and past park history were the main areas discussed. To keep this account short, a motion was made for the GLHG to donate \$1,000 to the Library expansion and \$500 to the Town Park; the motion was passed with near unanimity.

Other exhortations, ramblings, and declarations:

1. Although I believe Harriet knows she is not taken for granted, this is a good time to acknowledge her work. Every month Harriet has contributed some piece of genealogy or local history for the files. It's a little like throwing your loose change in the change jar every day; it doesn't seem like much any one day, but at the end of a year you realize you have a few hundred dollars. Likewise, Harriet only adds a "piece" here and there, but a perusal of the files shows a increasingly large and still growing share of information. Thank you, Harriet.

2. A repeat of a note from last month. The Greene County Historical Society has established a Historic House Registry. The committee handling applications would like to have a Greenville representative. Call me if you would like to be that person, or if you can recommend someone to be this liaison.

3. Many of us appreciate the fourth grade teachers and Dave Dively sharing their students' local history projects. Although today's students won't fully appreciate our ("our" assumes older) experiences of yesteryear, we can hope for a growing understanding of the forces that shaped us and, thus, shapes them. Although the personal satisfaction of recalling and recording our experiences are part of our driving force, the chance for young people to understand who we are and what we did is one of the bonuses of our endeavors. Let's continue to help this school connection.

4. The next two months will be programs (keep working on your projects to share in July). Our May 11th program will be Cris Ketcham's slide show of her favorite slides. Our June 8th program will be a cemetery tour of the early Greenville

families with Harriet Rasmussen. Ideas for programs for August onward are invited.

5. An update on membership list: Dave Dively's mailing address is: PO Box 538, Greenville, NY 12083. Also, new members: Ed and Louise Schindler, RD#1, Box 210, Freehold, 12431.

6. A reminder about newsletter expiration dates. The top line of the envelope's address label has a four digit number. The first two digits are the year of expiration; the last two digits is the month of expiration. Thus, 9206 means that June (06) in the year 1992 (92) is the last month of your newsletter subscription.

7. Subscription rates will remain at \$4 a year. Currently, yearly costs are \$3.48 for stamps and about \$.25 for envelopes. Copying costs have been minimal, and other incidentals (address labels, printer's tape, etc.) are small. I hope you have as easy a time as I do for justifying why this \$4 subscription rate is a fair one.

8. One more thought about the newsletter. Although I've received numerous compliments about the newsletter, I invite suggestions for improvement. Currently the format is my biased account of each month's meeting as well as the inclusion of any notes suggested to me or of notes I would like to print. I've tried to remind everyone that this newsletter is our newsletter and to feel free to submit material. Anything more adventuresome, like the journal format of Greene County or Rensselaerville, could take consistent efforts of several people. No matter which format we use, I'd like to think that our newsletter is one of our two glues (the other one is attendance at the meetings) that keeps people informed about event and ideas. As long as people agree that our present format is sufficient, the GLHG will continue to see this kind of newsletter. Thank you for any input.

Sincerely,

Don Teator

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

sponsored by
Greenville Local History Group

Entry Guidelines

1. Current (1991-April 1993) pictures of the Town of Greenville should be submitted.
2. Pictures should show one or a combination of topics (below) pertaining to the Town of Greenville.
 - a. structures
 - b. people at work, play, or at an activity
 - c. events
 - d. scenery
 - e. weather/nature
 - f. any other typical or unique feature of current Town of Greenville
3. Black & white 8x10 prints
(color negatives can be used to create a b&w print at some custom labs)
4. Deadline: May 1, 1993

Judging

1. Twelve winning prints will comprise the GLHG's 1994 calendar. An attempt will be made to show all areas of the town. [entrants give permission to the GLHG to use print(s) in calendar]
2. A to-be-determined number of honorable mention pictures will be printed in an honorable mention section at the end of calendar.

Entry Information

1. Entries will be returned if a self-addressed, stamped envelope is given.
2. Entrants should give the following information on a separate sheet of paper for each print submitted:
 - Name
 - Address
 - Phone Number
 - Information about the picture (100 words or less)
3. Entries can be entered by:
 - a. leaving prints at Town Office (Library, 2nd floor)
or
 - b. mailing to: Town Historian, RD#1, Box 147,
Freehold, NY 12431
or
 - c. giving to GLHG member: Don Teator, Betty Vaughn,
or Arlene Brown