

July 23, 1992

Our July 13 meeting was more notable for who wasn't there than was there. Harriet, who had prepared for our cemetery tour, underwent surgery that same night. Fortunately, she's recuperating well and Harriet's notes were so good that Don Teator and Kathie Williams tried to imitate Harriet (impossible, but a good try).

Before the troupe wandered across the street into the cemetery, Don and Arlene read two pages from Rev. Granby Spees' 1872 address that commemorated the 90th anniversary of the "founding" of Greenville. The segment read noted the bravery of the pioneers of Greenville, the hazards and hardships of this trip into the unknown, and a few names of these founders.

Then the hardier souls walked across the street, while the well-heeled drove or were driven to the old section of the cemetery. (The various roadways of the cemetery break it up into sections; the old section is the second section back from the entrance.) Many of the names of the early residents of Greenville are found here.

Using a Xerox copy of Harriet's notes, the attending GLHG'ers wandered about finding the tombstones of the twenty people that Harriet had made notes about. In addition, we were sidetracked by many others whose names evoked a memory. The twenty names included:

- Abel Wakely: settled on GCS property
- Japhet Collins: Presbyterian Elder
- Erastus Hamilton, M.D.: Town Supervisor
- William Hooker: related to Talmadge & Calhoun
- Benjamin Spees: one of first three settlers
- Thaddeus Hurd: 1795 school teacher
- Benjamin Foster: noted musical talent
- Eleazer Knowles: one of first three settlers
- Joseph Calder: 1795 school teacher
- Dr. Amos Botsford: practiced for 50 years
- Nanning Bogardus: commanded Revolutionary rangers
- Ayers Goodsell Barker: died at Gettysburgh
- Francis Hickok: first town pound master
- Daniel Miller: lived at Newry
- Alexander Calhoun: one of first frame buildings in town
- Levi Callendar: State Assembly representative
- Truman Sanford: two sons were lawyers
- Eliakim Reed: State Assembly representative
- Aaron Hall: Christ Church vestryman
- Jonathon Sherrill: early tanner

In addition, the last eight names listed were all original incorporators of the Greenville Academy.

Dusk was setting in, making it highly improbable we would find the one stone left, and the footing isn't all that stable, even in good light, so we returned to the Community Room.

Phyllis Beechert brought a family bible of the Layman family, one that appears to originate with Chauncey of 1827. Other names include Elliot and Bronson. If anyone knows possible Layman descendents, contact Phyllis.

John Earl brought another of his artifacts. The two foot long, curved at the end wooden piece, he believes, was a form for a sleigh runner. John also showed pictures of his house which has been greatly altered.

Arlene Brown brought another family document that documents Amos Smith as an ensign in the 49th Regiment of the Infantry as of July 14, 1838.

Other notes:

1. A repeat reminder: Jim Planck will conduct selected readings from an anthology of poems written by a relative of his from 1800's on August 5th at 7pm in the Community Room. This anthology, *Around the Hearthstone*, contains 40 of the several hundred written by Minis Plank (1853-1930), a Cauterskill native. The poems portray a variety of topics - pastoral beauty, economic hardships, social conflicts, etc. Selected photographs will accompany the readings.

2. The next meeting will be August 10th. Bring something along for this share session.

3. The 4th grade local history assembly featured student work on the various local history projects. Students were recognized for their interview projects, a copy of which has again this year been donated by Dave Dively and the fourth grade teachers. A game of Local History Jeopardy followed; Janet Halstead, myself, and three others tried to answer questions that students asked. Priscilla Palmer stole the show in her role as Vanna White. The GLHG and the Rensselaerville Historical Society then awarded prizes for the top interview projects; the top four students read parts of their essays. A table on the side displayed the essays and the town research that various student groups had gathered. Congratulations goes not only to the students but also to the fourth grade teachers for the guidance needed to have students achieve what they did.

4. Harriet, get well.

5. A welcome to Edna Adams who recently was in the area. Edna recently married John Zivelli, a Greenville classmate.

6. Bring names for cemeteries next month. We'll affirm traditional names; those who don't have one, we'll initiate one. Those about which we know too little will have to wait until next year to be named.

Sincerely,

Don Teator

A Visit to the graves of Greenville's Early Settlers--here 211 years before us.

1. Abel Wakeley --At the age of 16, he joined the Army in the Revolutionary War and served with Washington at Valley Forge. He and his wife came to Greenville in 1786 and settled on 100 acres of land where the Elementary School now stands.
2. Japhet Collins--For more than 50 years he was an Elder in the Presbyterian Church.
3. Aaron Hall-----One of the original 19 incorporators of the Greenville Academy. Became one of the first vestrymen of Christ Church at it's first organized meeting in 1835.
4. Erastus Hamilton M.D.--Lived in the Newry section of Greenville and was Town Supervisor from 1823--1825.
5. Eliakim Reed----One of the original incorporators of Greenville Academy. In 1809, he was a Representative of Greene Co. to the State Assembly. He was a juror at the very first Court of General Sessions in 1800. In 1821 was given a \$75 award at the Greene Co. Fair at Cairo, for best farm.
6. William Hooker--Came in 1790 with his family, from Poultney, Vt.-- but was originally from Woodbury, Conn. The Talmadge and Calhoun families are representatives of the Hooker family.
7. Jonathan Sherrill--Built and early tannery on the site of what is now the Pioneer. He was one of the original incorporators of the Academy. His son, Col. Eliakim Sherrill was mortally wounded at Gettysburg. His son, Ezra Sherrill, lived where Edward Lake first settled. (The Marie Brown property). Son Lewis Sherrill was a prominent farmer. (Proposed Park site.)
8. Truman Sanford--Came in 1797 from Eitchfield, Ct. with his wife, Silence. They had five daughters and five sons-- 2 sons, Lyman and Mitchell distinguished themselves in the legal profession. Truman was also one of the original incorporators of the Academy.
9. Benjamin Spees--One of the first three men to come looking for land. One of the first merchants and was Justice of the Peace for nearly 25 years. He was a native of Boston and his ancestors were sea-faring men. He came here to rescue his two sons from that life.
10. Thaddeus Hurd--Was listed as a teacher in Greenville in 1795.

11. Benjamin Foster--Came from Martha's Vineyard in 1791, to save his seven sons from the sea-faring life that had taken so many of his ancestors. He was gifted with fine musical talent.
12. Eleazer Knowles--Was one of the first three settlers. He came with his four sons, Eli, Liberty, John and Eazer. He settled on 600 acres--His cabin was on the top of Budds Hill (Carelas). He was one of the first four to sign the articles of faith for the Presbyterian Church. His son, Eli, was one of the original incorporators of Academy.
13. Levi Callendar--Came to Greenville from Sheffield, Mass. in about 1800. The 1810 Census listed 7 members in his household. He opened a general merchandising store in 1816. In 1817 he was a representative of State Assembly. He was also one of the incorporators of the Academy.
14. Joseph Calder---Emigrated here from Scotland in 1793. Was listed as a teacher in the earliest school in 1795.
15. Alexander Calhoun--Came with his father, David, from Litchfield, Ct. in 1798 and they put up one of the first frame buildings in the town. Aaron Burr had an office in that house for a time. Also an incorporator of the Academy.
16. Dr. Amos Botsford--Came from Newtown, Conn. in 1801, at 21 years of age. He practiced here for over 50 years. His son, Gideon, succeeded him and carried on his medical practice. His youngest daughter married Dr. Bradley McCabe.
17. Nanning Bogardus--Settled here in 1784--He was born in Coxsackie. He enlisted in the Revolutionary Army and had command of a company of rangers.
18. Daniel Miller--Was a tanner and shoemaker. At the first town meeting, held on April 5, 1803, was elected Commissioner of Highways. He had a farm of 140 acres at Newry. Was also an incorporator of the Academy.
19. Francis Hickok--At the first town meeting in 1803, he was elected pound master. Was also one of the incorporators of Academy.
20. Ayers Goodsell Barker--Capt.-120 Inf.A. was mustered into service on May 11, 1861. After three months, he was discharged but re-enlisted for a three year term. He was mortally wounded and died on the battlefield at Gettysburg, on July 2, 1863. He was a wheelwright by trade.