

December 23, 1992

This special mailing (monthly newsletter and yearly report) goes to everyone on the membership list. The yearly report was written to coincide with the December program so that everyone can share the ideas about the Greenville book that were discussed at the December program.

A note before I get to the program. The top line of your address label contains my computer code of those currently receiving the GLHG newsletter. Any number greater than 9301 (1993, January <Q1> means you are a subscriber. Any number less means you once were a subscriber or never were a subscriber. If you wish to re-subscribe or to subscribe for the first time, send \$5 to Don Teator. For many of you, the number 9306 means your subscription is good until 1993, June <Q6>.

On to the meeting.

A small group braved this post-snow storm, pre-Christmas evening, whose express purpose was to give further shape to the idea of a Greenville history book.

This "ten year" project, or however long it takes, is being done with an eye towards Greenville's bicentennial in 2003. No comprehensive history of Greenville has been written since Beer's 1884's History of Greene County. (Fortunately for Greenville, Ray Beecher has researched a variety of topics in his published articles and his Out To Greenville.) Thus, despite a current shortage of experience and know-how, the GLHG approaches this project with the hope that a record of Greenville can be completed.

First, we looked at other towns' histories. These ranged from booklets of a dozen pages to tomes of 300 pages. Many of the ones we liked included a fair amount of pictures to demonstrate what was written. A thank you goes to Carol Lamb who loaned her library of town histories to use.

Don had written up a sheet of possible topics that might be included. After the evening's discussion, and a few more additions, the following seems to be a direction to shoot for:

- * Geography * History until 1776 (1900?) * Early settlement / population clusters * Prominent families up to 1900 *
- * Hamlet histories: Greenville, Norton Hill, Freehold, the others (GrCntr, EGr, WGr, Surp, Gayh, misc. corners) *
- * Transportation & communication * Industry & businesses - pre 1900 * Agriculture / horticulture * Wars *
- * Businesses -post 1900 * Boarding houses, resorts, tourists
- * Religion * School - pre & post 1932 * Service and social clubs * Money, bankers, and finance * Social life (a night out, calling of friends, typical communications, common trips out of the house) * Depression years * Inventions, fads, and gadgets * The kitchen * Role of women * Home life *
- * Immigrant groups * Minorities * Entertainment * Politics *
- * Physicians / medical care * Census * Sports *
- * 1970's Bryant * Power line, land fill, et.al. * Zoning *

* Standards of living * "Vices" - Liquor, smoking, crime *
* Biographical sketches - (could be a sizable section with
brief sketches of families anyone would want to contribute)
* Trends for the future
* (another sizable section could be of the older and/or
distinctive structures of town)

As you can see, potential exists for a voluminous work. The size and shape of this work will evolve as the next couple years passes. Especially important is the written contributions from many people on one or several of these topics; a single person, it may be believed, is not likely to be successful in this venture unless that person can devote considerable time and effort in research and writing, and first appearance says we don't have that person yet.

Our current strategy is to encourage people to note or write whatever contributions they have, channel that work into a few writers who will start piecing together these notes, publicize what we do have and what we need, and encourage and actively seek out people to add to the picture we have. Perhaps, a person with expertise or interest may research an entire topic. Sources and credits will be noted throughout. Pictures are another topic to come up later.

Those of you receiving this letter form the initial network of information gatherers and shapers. Your efforts in finding others to contribute will be vital to creating a book that shows a rounded picture of Greenville life.

Your response and contributions will determine the success of this work. Although a small group can shape much of the work, it will be efforts of as many people who've ever shared the experience of Greenville that will smooth the jagged edges. And, from a personal perspective, we still need those people who will form that core group that will make the major decisions.

Thus, the challenge is here. Over the next few years, our actions will determine if our vision can be produced. Updates of progress will be made. (Anyone who wants to join the editorial staff should let Don know.)

Reminders:

1. The next meeting is a share session - January 11th.
2. Calendars are still available. Please try to sell another two or three.
3. The photography contest for the 1994 calendar has four more months before deadline. Contest rules are in the 1993 calendar. Encourage people to look over current pictures that show the typical or quintessential Greenville.
4. Westerlo Historical Society calendars are on sale at Westerlo businesses. Congratulations, Westerlo.

Sincerely,

Don Teator