

# Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

October 1994

Greenville Chronicleers

The archetypical mid-autumn evening, crisp & cool & colorful, awaited the about fifteen historically minded locals (or, is it locally minded historians?).

The program for the evening, colorfully titled The Chronicleers of Greenville, was presented by GLHG members Chris McDonald and Kathie Williams. Absent was Phil Ellis, Greenville Local editor, who is on the mend.

Chris and Kathie gave some background on how they got started writing their column, how they typically create their column, the pleasures and quirks of their craft, and other aspects of an avocation that is seen by hundreds of people each week.

Each of their columns of the October 6 edition of the Local was read. First, Kathie read hers, commenting or explaining or digressing or inviting others to digress as she read. Meanwhile, Don read Chris' column. Many agreed that both Chris and Kathie do something that many of us cannot do or wish not to do - write a column of several hundred words on the average each week, for almost every week of the year. In addition, Chris has a fuller text and picture column in the Greene County News / Catskill Daily Mail, thus opening her column to thousands more readers.

Chris credits (or is it, blame?) her beginnings on her husband. They had moved to Greenville in 1966; Chris' sociability led to joining a variety of organizations, which, to make a long story short, led to her writing for a county paper in 1968. Chris brought along with her a couple of 1974 columns, citing a few names, and prompting some chatting about some long familiar names. Someone noted that Chris used to write more about people back then, whereas today's column tends to be notices of events in

the community. Because the events cover an area larger than just Greenville, Chris has changed her column's title to Greenville And Beyond. Especially noted were Chris' birthday and anniversary reminders, occasionally still presenting one or two that need to be pruned from the list. Some wag in the audience praised Chris for not wishing a Happy Birthday to anyone deceased! Chris noted that some topics are off limits, sometimes for personal preference or demand of others, sometimes for sensitivity to general considerations. So, for over 25 years, Chris has been the public "crier" of events for our area.

Kathie started working for the Local in 1979, and sometime after, started writing a column that has evolved into today's Kathie's Column. Over the years, she has picked the topics she wants to write about, occasionally stepping on someone's toes, but usually delighting and satisfying her loyal coterie of readers. The column read at the meeting was typical Kathie - a meandering account that hopped from the weather to Coeymans Hollow schoolhouse to her garden to the TV to birds & pumpkins & hickory nuts to a Coxsackie historical tour with Pearl Capone to, oh well, you get the picture. Kathie indicated she keeps jotting down a few notes of her daily experiences and travels and somehow ends up with her column by the end of the week. To make things even tougher now, she's been pitching in with the Local's publication since Phil was hospitalized.

Most agreed that while Chris has the news and notices of the town, and that Kathie does the travelogue and journal, both contribute a something special to the Local. While it would be easy to take both for granted, this night was meant to look more closely, to recognize, to appreciate, and to commend two women whose

talents Greenville has had the fortune to share.

A big thank you goes to Chris and Kathie for allowing us to peek into one of the many slices that comprise the Greenville experience.

Notes:

\* The next meeting, a share session on November 14th, will be the last of the year. Harriet will have more of the Taylor diary, I'll give an overview of the first 5-7 years of the Ingalls diary, and we're likely to see the usual range of items that are brought in.

\* At this meeting, we'll also discuss the desire of members to have a dinner get-together in March. Suggestions have been a covered dish meal at the Norton Hill church hall or to go out to a restaurant. Of course, if both fall through, we will start the year with a regular meeting in April as planned. Although I like the food idea, I would rather have one or two somebody elses to be the ones who organize it.

\* Also to be discussed will be a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII.

\* An assumption I'm making is that an April through November schedule of meetings is appropriate for 1995, considering the consistent turnout and good participation throughout the 1994 season of similar structure. If you have a differing opinion, do so before January.

\* If you have ideas for programs for next year, let me know. Better yet would be to have someone ready to do the program you have in mind. Otherwise, you may very well have to endure my preferences, or, more likely, my limits of imagination!

\* Cairo has a historical calendar for sale. Check at the Cairo Library.

\* I nosed in to the Ingalls reunion held on Columbus Saturday and shot several group pictures. In the hustle and bustle, five Ingalls reunion attendees and now new members of GLHG

subscribed to the newsletter. Welcome to Kathy Gizzi of Albany, Howard Snowiss of Marlboro NJ, Hilda Burton of Delmar, Shirley Spad of Guilderland, and Linda Steinberg of Princeton NJ.



### ONION CURE FOR PNEUMONIA

Owing to the prevalence of pneumonia and the great mortality which attends its ravages during the winter and spring, several boards of health in northern New Jersey have been taking measures to protect the citizens of their towns from the disease. The Washington health board has published a remedy which is said to be a sure cure for pneumonia and other health boards are looking into the matter with a view of having the same thing published for the good of the general public. This is the publication as it has been issued by the Washington, D. C., board of health: "Take six to ten onions, according to size, and chop fine, put in a large spider over a hot fire, then add the same quantity of rye meal and vinegar enough to form a thick paste. In the meanwhile stir it thoroughly, letting it simmer five or ten minutes. Then put in a cotton bag large enough to cover the lungs and apply to chest as hot as patient can bear. In about ten minutes apply another, and thus continue by reheating the poultices, and in a few hours the patient will be out of danger. This simple remedy has never failed to cure this too-often fatal malady. Usually three or four applications will be sufficient, but continue always until the perspiration starts freely from the chest. This remedy was formulated many years ago by one of the best physicians New England has ever known, who never lost a patient by the disease, and won his renown by simple (word can not be read)" - Newark News, date unknown

*(A thank you goes to Harriet for sharing this finding)*