

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

April 1995

Share Session

Welcome back!

Another GLHG season officially started at the April 10 meeting. Actually, near twenty of us came out on March 13 for a pot luck dinner get together. Thanks to Arlene Brown and Betty Vaughn for organizing, and several others who helped in the setting up and cleaning up, we shared a taste of everything. The Episcopal parsonage was a cozy place to eat, tell stories, sing, and view slides. After pot luck, Thelma Bell played the piano for twenty minutes, followed by a slide show that highlighted some of the types of pictures in the Historian's files. Sometime near the end of our season, we might want to consider whether we do this again.

Back to the meeting. As usual, although we advertise 7:30, we allowed ourselves to ramble on until 7:45 before Don wrested control (or, is it, all allowed him to think he should start the meeting?) and welcomed everyone back. About a dozen attended - Toot & Betty Vaughn, Ray & Marge Bennett, Rosemary Lambert, Harriet Rasmussen, Phyllis Beechert, Alice Roe, Cris Ketcham, Connie Teator, and Don Teator. Note was made of Ray's attendance, especially with all the hospital "visiting" he has done this winter.

Don hoped the Winter - 5 Year - Winter Newsletter had not offended too many people. Most who spoke up felt it to be a worthy summary of the GLHG's existence. Next, note was made of the Cooperstown summer seminar series. In conjunction with the opening of a new American Indian Wing, the NYS Historical Association is having a typical array of topics: roadside America, NYS in the Civil War, hops, family research, children's clothing of the 19th century, and a symposium on American Indian art, as well as workshops on green woodworking, blacksmithing, farm wife's day, Shaker boxes, tinsmithing, faux finishes, decorative carving, dovetail joiner, crafts for children, beadworking, Iroquois pottery, basketmaking, soapstone carving, and cornhusk dolls. Before the main part of the evening, note was made about the change of the Greenville Local and some disappointment was voiced.

Next, Betty Vaughn spread out the array of goodies in her large envelope. Some of the items given to the Historian were: a Greenville area Chamber of Commerce flyer of about 1968, invitations of

local history events at school, newspaper clippings of the Playhouse, a 1970 Local, the 30th Anniversary Sale notice for GNH, a couple of school newsletters, a piece of V-Mail, the 50th Alumni Association flyer, several mid-1960's local history projects done by the class of 1969 when they were in junior high, and the memorial service program for the Bigelows.

Harriet Rasmussen has continued her saga of Richard Taylor, as shown in the Taylor diary. Harriet summarized 1890. Taylor is 61 years old at this point, and has suffered a winter illness that must force him to consider how to maintain the farm. Perhaps this "story" can be printed in the next issue. In the meantime, Harriet's summary of 1886 that she had created last fall is reprinted on the back.

Don is still transcribing the Carrie Ingalls diary, and gave a brief glimpse of the first four years after the nineteen year break (1894-1912) Carrie took from her early diary of 1886-1893. The diary after 1912 will probably be a program later this year and thus the major details will be recounted when that happens.

The next program, the end of World War II in Greenville, will be held May 8. Arlene Brown will be the key organizer of the program which will focus how Greenville looked and faced the world in 1945. Please call her (966-8498) if you have questions, have material you can bring, or just want to help with the program. Some of the material from our earlier program will be seen again. In addition, we'd like to invite some of our townspeople who served their country. Thus, feel free to share your experience of living during that time, or of having served our country; also feel free to invite someone who normally doesn't attend our meetings. This will likely be one of our last chances to recognize the effects of WW2 for some time.

If you have ideas for future programs, call Don.

See you in May,

P.S. Do you know someone who transcribes from audiotape? I have some money in the Historian's budget for transcription this year. Call me if you know someone who might.

The Taylor Diary Summary - 1886
- Harriet Rasmussen -

The family is as follows:

Richard Edwin Taylor - 57 yrs

Louisa Utter Taylor - 55 yrs

Howard - 26 yrs (Howard lives out west)

Addie - 24 yrs

Isabel - 22 yrs - married George Allen who works on the farm. Their son Percy is 14 mo. in Jan. Their daughter Ada was born Nov. 12 of this year.

Dwight E. - 18 yrs - working on the farm

Mary E. 12 yrs

R. E. is not teaching in 1886 although in September he is asked to teach at Centreville. At that time, Addie is asked to teach at Gayhead for \$7 a week. She starts her school there on September 20th. Mattie Garrity is teaching the school on the Taylor farm property for \$4 a week.

During the winter months, RE & George draw many loads of straw to the paper mill in Woodstock. This is their own straw and that which they buy from other farmers. Sometimes they just draw it for others. At the mill they are given straw tickets for the amount they bring in and then the tickets are turned in for money. (Mar 3 - I went down to Woodstock & passed in straw tickets to get check for \$266.17 and left the check with C.R. Lacy.)

In January, RE & Louisa sat overnight with Mrs. More's body and on Jan 11th, RE was a bearer at her funeral. I think this was his friend Madison More's mother.

In 1886, they are selling produce in Catskill regularly. They also buy butter & eggs, chickens, beef, etc., from other farmers to sell to their regular customers. Sometimes he goes to Potter Hollow, Preston Hollow, Oak Hill, etc., for it. He goes to places as far away as Livingstonville, Franklinton, & Crystal Lake to buy cattle. Usually he stays overnight.

This winter his brother, Charles, asked him to find a buyer for his house. I think it may be somewhere near RE Taylor's because they plant oats, etc., in Charles' fields.

February entries for the 5th and 6th show that it is 10 degrees below zero. It seems

to be a hard winter for Ben Dutcher who comes several times for something to eat. They let him have flour & meat - usually about 50 cents worth. Then when he gets his pension he brings it to RE to pay his debts. This winter they are using a coal stove and bring coal from Omar V. Sage coalyard in Catskill.

During this year RE is clerk at several vendues or auctions. By this time he is trading at I. U. Tripp & Ford & Hallenbeck at Oak Hill. He takes butter from I.U. Tripp's to Catskill to sell. Remember that stores took in butter to pay for other goods and that butter had to have a market. He is also still selling W.W. Coler Bonds on Dakota Territory and he's still selling an occasional Watertown Platform wagon.

In March he hires George Allen for another 10 months at \$150. Dwight has sheep and sells the wool at 32 cents per lb.

RE complains of not feeling well quite often this year and is often lame. On Oct 13th he goes to Albany to see a physician and pays him \$18 for medicine. He stays at the Globe Hotel there, and is bothered with rheumatism all year.

This year seems to be the year to do something about the horses. He traded Prince whom he had had since 1864 to Frank Overbaugh for a new pony, and in July he sold Kate who was his since 1870 to Mr. Hatfield for \$8 (I felt bad about these decisions).

In August, RE and Louisa make a trip to Rhode Island which is where his parents migrated from. (Read entries from Aug 16-24)

In September they take five boarders to Cairo Fair, Shady Glen, Mt. Pisgah and the old Mt. House. In October they sell the apple crop at \$1.30 bbl. delivered at Cairo Depot. The first week of November Addie spent at the Institute at Cairo and on Nov 12th Belle had a girl they named Ada. So now R. Edwin and Louisa have two grandchildren. The household now consists of Mother & Father, one son, three daughters, one son-in-law and two grandchildren.