

R.D. 1, Box 147  
Freehold, NY 12431  
November 22, 1989.

Dear

The November meeting marks the 1/2-year mark for the existence of our group. This meeting, with over 20 present, 7 new "members", and over 40 on our member list, showed all the signs of an emerging group with vitality. Many people are active, either in sharing information or in creating research not produced previously. A pat on the back for all of us!

The first half hour was a sharing of projects and information.

June Clark discussed the house history articles she wrote of her house, or, as she might say, the Botsford house. The reaction has been quite complimentary.

Mike Buttino summarized the work of the Scenic Road Committee (himself, Al Foster, Don Teator). Nominated roads would recognize the beauty of our town. Any tours or loops would lend itself to a sharing of local history.

Barbara Valicenti, who once said she wasn't sure what type of project she could do, picked a big one. Barbara plans to develop a house history of Norton Hill. This project will add to the information developed by former Town Historian Edna Adams in 1976. We wish Barbara luck and success on a worthwhile project.

Harriet Rasmussen contributed files on the Barker, Griffin, and Stevens (Uriah) families. She also has mapped and listed the gravesites and inscriptions of the cemetery on Rt. 81 by Ed Kelly (the former Henry Werker house).

Phyllis Beechert is working on or is finishing two files: one on the Trump Bicycle Tour in Greenville; the other on information about the Presbyterian Church.

Kathie Williams, on behalf of Phil Ellis, contributed The Greene County Census of 1855 (Bowman), as well as a file on Edgar Rundell's 1904 trip to the Holy Land.

Lillian Weeks has allowed several documents to be copied. They included copied records from a King family bible, a 1902 Claire Weeks diary, and a 1930's expense diary.

Don Teator announced that, with June Clark's help, 40-45 glass plate negatives belonging to James Stevens were found and positives were being made. Many had already been produced by Debbie Teator and were viewed during the meeting. Many of the buildings were of South Street in Greenville near the turn of the century.

Don Teator also announced an old picture re-shooting session on the 18th and hoped people would bring pictures of buildings and people of Greenville.

The following hour was the fun (well, more fun than usual) part of the evening. Joe Mangold "volunteered" to be the subject of a group interview, answering questions proffered by any of us. Joe talked about early Freehold, his memories of his younger days, and the usually untold stories most of us have. The interview was taped with audio and video tape and will be transcribed. (I will do the transcribing in December, but if anybody wants to do it before I get to it, call me; I will not fight you!) The

over

interview demonstrated the types of questions we might use when we tape some of people we are going to do. The Group thanks Joe for a courageous and pioneering effort in front of such a "demanding" audience.

Last, but not least, Chris McDonald, who was absent, provided refreshments with Millie Adriance's help. Talk about keeping promises! Thanks, Chris.

Some notes and loose threads:

1. The next meeting will be a sharing of topics. But, do we want to plan something for January (an interview, special presentation, etc.)? Bring ideas to December meeting.

2. Winter will keep some of us in for a while. This might be a good time to start a project, even a tiny one. I have some tapes that should be transcribed, if any one is interested. Tappings, house histories, genealogy, writing your memories or people histories, etc. are ideas to consider.

3. The Greene County House Tour is scheduled for Greenville village in June, 1990. More information as it's known.

4. Our Group's strength comes from our diversity and commitment. If you have an idea, please let us know. You might have some company; on the other hand, even if no one else seems interested, you can work on your own on a project that will help Greenville.

5. If you see things that can be reproduced (Xerox, photos, etc.) that's not in our files, please capture it before it's gone.

6. Because we've attracted so many new members, I've updated our membership list. Let others know we're here. And if I've made a mistake, or if an addition is needed, call me. I plan on updating my files list and writing a summary of our first year sometime during the winter. Those of you who have the file list, and see room for improvement, let me know and I'll try to make it better.

7. I walked out of November's meeting exhilarated. Our numbers have grown, but more importantly, the active nature of our group is reinforced at every meeting. The reason is you. The challenge will be to maintain the mix we have now - the go-getters, the resource people who know where things are, and the people who are interested and pass the word along. Our goals we made for ourselves should be our guide.

I thank all of you for an enormously productive half year.

Sincerely,

*Don Teator*

P.S. The re-shooting was a rewarding day. Harriet Rasmussen and June Clark kept Debbie and me the busiest, but Bunny Gundersen, Marianne Doorly, Betty and Toot Vaughn, and Gerald and Paige Ingalls brought in good pictures also. Later, Bunny and Ozzie allowed us to borrow their collection (and it is a collection). Altogether, Debbie shot 420 pictures. If possible, we'll try to have them ready for next meeting. To those of you who helped, thanks for making the day go by quickly.