

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

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Share Session

(Note: The top line of the address label is the date of the end of your newsletter's subscription. A 9507 means 1995, the seventh month - July, is the end. You can renew by check (cash, if you see me) for four dollars, made out to Don Teator, and the newsletters will continue one more year. I'll not bug you again about subscriptions until the Annual Report next winter.)

We finally got back to a share session after two consecutive programs. Attending were Arlene Brown, Marge & Ray Bennett, Rosemary Lambert and son Jeff, Toot & Betty Vaughn, Phyllis Beechert, Harriet Rasmussen, Dot Blenis, Ron Golden, Connie Teator, and Don Teator.

Don went first for a change. A pair of Stanley Maltzman sketches were shown, one of which will be used for the 1996 calendar cover. Voting was close so Don will probably decide. The Shaw house sketch led to Ray recounting the story of the will of Shaw family concerning that house. Also shown was the Town of Greenville map put out by the Chamber of Commerce. Of historical note will be the names and locations of businesses. Don read from part of a clipping of Athens history - the Lenahan shipyard - that appeared in a recent Daily Mail, and connected it to mention of Lenahan when Truman Ingalls was selling lumber to the shipyard.

Phyllis Beechert brought in a folder of goodies - clippings on several topics. One pile was about the formation of the Rescue Squad and some of its history, which led to discussion of its present status. Another pile described the County Conventions hosted by Greenville in 1969 and 1974 (with Freehold in 1974). Other topics in the clippings were school board, the 150th year of the Episcopal Church, and the Winter Carnival Committee of 1970.

Arlene Brown contributed a Hearthside (aka Heidi's, Roy's) dinner menu. She also read through some of the names of an Alumni Association list from 1932.

Harriet finished off the evening with clippings about the nursing home in Greenville Center, the story behind how James Evans got his start driving stagecoach (with a rather sharply worded news account, by today's standards), Numan Finch who had the distinction of being the county's oldest resident

until he died at age 107, the work Harry Ketcham did at GCS, and the marriage of Lew Griffin.

Of course, Harriet kept us up to date on the Taylors, and the next installment is reprinted following this letter.



PS

The next meeting on August 14th will be a program on the Lillian Joy scrapbooks. I'll bring the whole collection of her scrapbooks, as well as the ones Edna Zivelli kept. The Joy scrapbook collection is a pasting of many Greenville events, mixed with her family clippings, along with news of interest, mostly from the late 1950's into most of the 1960's. Edna's scrapbooks come from the years she was Town Historian, 1980 - 1988. The program's success will probably come from all of the comments and stories you connect with the stories from the scrapbooks.

R.E. Taylor Diary of 1891 transcribed by Harriet Rasmussen

January begins with R.E.'s attendance at three funerals. And before 1891 is over, he will have been to eleven. One is especially sad for him because, after about 3½ months of sickness, his own brother, William Taylor, dies on Sept. 6th. The following day, R.E. drives to Durham and pays \$15.00 for a suit of clothes. They all go to William's funeral the next day. I have not yet been able to find out where he is buried.

This January, Addie is teaching at New Baltimore. On January 30th, the entry reads, "Mr Van Slyke brought Addie home tonight." This is the first introduction of Bronk Van Slyke into the diaries. I had seen pictures of Addie Van Slyke so it was apparent to me that this was the beginning of a courtship. Four years later, on March 14, 1895, Bronk marries Addie

and becomes a member of the family. Her school finished in New Baltimore, and Addie begins teaching in Centreville on Sept. 7th. of this year.

Mary is now 16 years old and is attending Greenville Academy. On Feb. 6th. she pays \$6.50 for ½ term tuition. On April 12th, she pays another \$8.00. All this year, someone, usually her 23 year old brother Dwight, picks her up on Fridays and takes her back to Greenville on Monday mornings. She is still boarding at Dr. Smith's, the dentist on Main Street, for \$2.50 per week.

On February 11th, the entry reads, "Howard is fixing for going away." On Feb. 12th, "Paid Howard \$12.00 for his fur coat and he has packed up for the West again." On Feb. 13th, "Howard started this morning for the West again." It was just 11½ months ago that 30 year old Howard came home to help on the farm because R.E. was ill. In some addresses listed in the back of the 1889 diary, I discovered that son Howard was living in Bowers, Wisconsin. This is the last reference to Howard in 1891.

An now, with Howard gone, there is a need to find another hired man. They will need help when spring comes. On Feb. 26th, R.E. Taylor hires Ben Edwards for 7 or 8 months at \$14 per month, to start April 1st. Now we have both a horse and a hired man named Ben, which leads to some confusion for a diary reader. Ben does start work April 1st and his first job is to help Dwight to the spring cleaning of the privy and the hen house. On April 7th, he sows the first clover and timothy seeds. I think things went pretty well with this hired man until October 3 when R.E. writes, "Ben is as crabbed as he can be - says he will quit work." Ben never did quit. His eight months were up and two days before Thanksgiving, the entry reads, "Settled with B. Edwards in full and paid him in full \$91.25." It is the season for threshing oats and the shipping of tons of straw to Cairo. On Dec. 2nd, R.E. writes, "I have rode all the morning to get help without success." But, on Dec. 14th, Burton Goodfellow signs on as the new hired man.

During this year, R.E. does not sell the Watertown Wagons, as he had previously. But in March, he takes the agency to sell mowing machines for a Chicago Co. On May 21st, he finds two mowing machines at Cairo - presumably at the railroad station because he pays \$2.60 freight on them. On May 25th, "Paid Winnie \$1.00 for Local for a year and \$1.33 for advertising Mowing Machines." On Aug. 31st, he sells the first one to Wm. Delamarter, and in September, sells one to H.V. Smith for \$72 in full.

On March 3rd, R.E. is elected Justice of the

Peace again on the Democratic ticket - by 1 to 20 majority. Only one constable votes against him but he doesn't say who that is. There are also duties to be done as a member of the Town Board. The March 24th entry reads, "I went to Durham to meet Town Board and am to meet at Winchel's two weeks from today, at 10 o'Clock, to draft course for Board of Health."

In April, he and his brother William make mortar and do some patching on their brother Charles' house and chimney. It has been rented, at \$12.50 for three months to Frank Bush. The 1889 addresses finally disclose Charles' whereabouts as Omaha, Nebraska. It is the first in a very long time that R.E. has mentioned anything pertaining to his early profession as a mason. William, also a mason, falls ill about a month later.

R.E. has a strange accident of August 6th and he writes, "I drank some washing fluid for Root Beer. Sent for Dr. Safford." Aug 7th - "Spent an agonizing night burning up inside. Dr. Safford staid all night with me and been here twice today. Kept to bed all day." the Dr. calls every day for the next five days and his patient survives this apparent lye poisoning to get back to his daily farm duties.

I think 1891 must have been a good apple year. In October and November the men are very busy heading up Spys, Greenings, Baldwins, Kings, York Pippins, and Gravenstines. I noted the shipment, by rail from Cairo, over those two months, of at least 226 bbls.

I though the women might have been busy sewing because on Nov 16th, the entry was, "Sent check of \$18.90 to the Avery Sewing machine Co. for a No. 5 Sewing machine to be sent by boat to Catskill, N.Y. And on Nov. 22nd, "Addie paid me \$7.00 toward sewing machine." This is the first year that R.E. has made any reference to it being Christmas. This year, the Dec 25th entry reads, "George and Belle came down to our Christmas tree. They had a sewing machine given them & I a chair." And so, we know that the sewing machine bought in November was gift for Belle - probably from her parents and Addie who had chipped in her \$7.00. With three children now, Belle probably needed a machine.

In 1891, there is still the dealing in Coler Bonds; collecting of Dr. Safford's bills; shipping of butter and produce to New York, Nyack, Savannah, etc.; working on the roads; selling of his wool; and entertaining the boarders. The first killing frost came on October 12th and the first snow came on Dec 15th - although it rained a lot in December. But, worry not - the family has prepared for the winter of 1892.