

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

June 2011, Issue 209

Share Session

A perfectly normal 70° evening that had morphed from a cool day greeted a full turnout for the share session: Phyllis Beechert, Christine Mickelsen, Bob & Marie Shaw, Dot Blenis, Allyn & Mary Shaw, Carol Bryant, Charles & Mary Kruppenbacher, Stephanie Ingalls, David & Judy Rundell, Walter Ingalls, Ron Golden and Don Teator.

I am pleased to see each and everyone who comes out on Local History evenings, but special note goes to Carol (a sure sign that summer had come to Greenville) and Mary (healthy again!).

First note: Our July meeting, for the first time ever, will NOT be the second Monday of the month. INSTEAD, GLHG is merging with the Civil War Round Table on the second WEDNESDAY of July (the 13th). (This is for July only.)

I know it's a change of week nights but I hope you will attend what should be an interesting program with Judy Gudeesynakowski, who re-enacts Mary Todd Lincoln.

Last month's Civil War program featured author Stephen Muller who, in some detail, talked about the ironclad

Monitor, its history and fate, and its connection with Troy.

Don had strung out about fifty articles, clippings, documents that he had gathered from his 'wait until I am retired' pile, and more from Harriett's clippings, on the table for everyone to peruse.

Next was an email from Debra Sanderlin (grandparents – Gerald & Anella Ingalls), and her connection to the boarding house era, and with a thank you to all of us who contribute toward the preservation of Greenville local history. Thank you, Debra, for such kind feedback.

Also, the Greene County Historical Society's 2011 Home Tour is on July 9th. I find the exploring others' houses and ways-of-life another local history connection; the admission is mostly inexpensive entertainment for a day (although the accompanying gas expense has us shaking our heads).

The highlight of the evening was Part III of Mary Shaw's presentation of "What is this old apparatus?" Mary passed around each one, allowing us to guess what the machine was, and very diligently ignoring our attempts to wea-

sel an answer out of her before its time. Four of the devices were grinders (we knew that) but we guessed only one for its individual purpose – the invalid food grinder (probably because Mary may have shown us before and because Bette had a good memory). This grinder ground solid food a puree so that an invalid (bad teeth, need for soft food, etc.) could take nutrients.

The other three were a nutmeg grinder, a spice grinder, and a coffee mill (a bigger version of which Mary was pondering how to get to a meeting.

Also shown was a two-box, carved wood wall hanging that turned out to hold matches. That one was easy.

The other intriguing one was a double hook device, with the hooks rising and falling, with an odd end that looked like it was meant to push something out, like cherries. But, then a little trough lay underneath a crossing bar. We guessed cherries, of course, and it was not. It turned out to be an olive pitter, with the hooks pushing and then grabbing the pit, pulling it out of the olive, and as it crossed the bar, the bar knocked the pits off the ends and the pits rolled down the trough onto a collection plate. It took me longer to describe than it took to demonstrate!

Judy forwarded a message from someone looking for information about Ingal-side Resort, initiated because of a post card in his father's collection. I had also received the same message and had been in contact. Thanks, Judy.

This led to more questions that led to Breezy Knoll, and then who the owners were in 1946, which led to several answers, which led to more connections, a daughter-in-law, her sister, a neighbor, a classmate – a classic moment for us, where the sum is greater than the parts.

David asked about the Concordia Circle and its records, now that it is extinct. Hearing that the records are in the Historian's files, Dave contributed a 1978-1979 program booklet, perhaps the last one of the Greenville group's existence. This led to questions about the nature of the group, comparisons with the Freehold Literary Club, etc.

Stephanie came back with a project Don had asked to investigate – determine the contents of a folder that the library had turned over to Don years ago, containing remnants of the Mary Talmadge collection. At some point, there was a corner of the library that showed 40 boxes worth of material left by this Mary Talmadge. This was probably assisted by the \$10,000 that Mary's estate left to the library after she died in 1961. (The resulting auction from the house is still a legend of Greenville, as is Mary during her later years, as is Rod, her husband, and his taxidermy, a picture of which was in an early calendar.)

Phyllis contributed a couple pieces of paper, the kind that is easy to take for a day, but so easy to throw out later that day – stuff like the 2011 Memorial Day parade flyer. Thanks, Phyllis, for a good eye and your diligent efforts.

Walter showed a 1938 Sunday School minute/account book from the Lambs Corner Sunday School, noting a name he and I have run across recently – Spohler vs Spuler.

Writing of Walter, I persuaded Walter that his account of the 1947 cross-country trip with his parents and uncle and aunt, with the maps and diaries, should be the August program, and so it will be. If you want to hear Walter Ingalls stories, a bit of travelogue, some Norton Hill history, digressions of all kinds, come to the August meeting.

Don finished with the scrapbook given to the files several years ago, a book that held clippings of area goings-on from 1941-1944. It was probably compiled by Cliff Powell's parents when he was serving in WWII. Don selected three clippings – one about a fire at GNH that destroyed one of the mills; another that he read the tragic story of a fire that claimed Paul Colvin's life and house. Also included was a photo of Greenville during a wartime blackout (wanna guess what color the photo was?).

One of the activities early in the meeting was Don sharing a photo album with Walter. The photo album, Walter believes, is that of Elizabeth Griffen, taken during the early 1920s, capturing shots of family, as well as buildings. I'll share when I have scanned them on the computer.

Other notes:

I finally took time to view Historic Places in Greene County, heavily illustrated (quality photos, I may add), which is the

listing of all the Greene County Historical Sites designated so far. It may be a bit pricey for many of us (\$50) but it is a good book to curl up to and turn and skip pages until you see a house that attracts one's attention.

The 2nd Annual 2011 Greenville Garden Tour, sponsored by the Clematis Garden Club, was held in mid-June, with eight gardens in the Freehold area. It's a worthwhile project, and I am hoping that you will attend next year's.

Thanks, Pat Lambe, for your feedback on the role of technology today. Some days, I wholeheartedly agree.

Included in the newsletter is a copy of Daily Mail article about the 2010 census; of note, of course, is Greenville's growth this past decade. I am sure that these figures will bolster some debate or will be pooh-poohed as being meaningless but at least we have some facts to make a case. As a local history group, we often talk about a changing Greenville, a growing Greenville, a declining Greenville, some other kind of Greenville, and then postulate what might be done, or how good it was, or some other memory.

Reminder: next meeting is with Civil War Round Table, July 13, WEDNESDAY, 7:30. Light refreshments.

Take care,



Census shows Greene growing

By Colin DeVries - March 25, 2011

Hudson-Catskill Newspapers

CATSKILL — Census data for New York, which was released to Governor Andrew Cuomo and the state Legislature on Wednesday, showed that Greene County, and the Hudson Valley at-large, grew over the last decade.

Greene County's population increased 1,026 since 2000, bringing the total population to 49,221.

The Hudson Valley, from Albany and Rensselaer counties south to Rockland and Westchester counties, grew by 125,639 people since 2000, with a total population of 2,789,254.

Greene County's position in the most populous counties statewide improved since 2000, moving from the 52nd most populous to the 51st of the 62 counties in New York.

The most populous county in the state was Kings County (Brooklyn, New York City) with 2,504,700 residents, growing by 39,374 people since 2000.

The least populous county was Hamilton County in the Adirondack State Park with 4,836 people, falling 543 since 2000.

Locally, Catskill, the Greene County seat, still stands as the most populous town. Including the village, Catskill's total population was 11,775, though it declined by 74 people since 2000.

The village of Catskill declined from 4,392 residents in 2000 to 4,081 in 2010, a loss of 311 people, or 7 percent.

Coxsackie, including the village, remained the second most populous town with 8,918 residents in 2010, an increase of 34 from a decade ago.

The village of Coxsackie declined, dropping from 2,895 residents in 2000 to 2,813 in 2010.

Most other townships experience growth over the last 10 years.

Halcott grew 33 percent over the last decade, from 193 residents to 258 residents.

Greenville grew from 3,316 residents to 3,739 since 2000.

Windham increased from 1,660 residents in 2000 to 1,703 in 2010.

Athens, including the village, grew by 98 residents to 4,089 in 2010. The village of Athens

shrank from 1,695 people to 1,668 people in the past decade.

Cairo grew from 6,355 residents to 6,670 residents, or about 5 percent, in the last decade.

The town of Durham grew from 2,592 residents in 2000 to 2,725 residents in 2010.

The town of Hunter, including two villages, grew from 2,721 to 2,732 residents since 2000.

Prattsville added 35 residents since 2000, with a population totaling 700.

Lexington lost 25 people, with a 2010 population of 805.

Jewett lost 17 residents, from 970 to 953 in 2010.

New Baltimore decreased from 3,417 residents in 2000 to 3,370 in 2010.

The town of Ashland increased population from 752 residents in 2000 to 784 in 2010.

The United States as a whole grew 9.7 percent since 2000, from 281.4 million to 308.7 million residents.

That national change, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, was lower than the 13.2 percent increase from the 1990s and comparable to growth during the 1980s, when the country grew by 9.8 percent.

The fastest growing decade in the last half of the 20th century was the 1950s, with 18.5 percent growth.

For more census data visit www.census.gov.

(borrowed from Paul Macko – Tn Superv)
Summary of town growth in latest census

Town	change,total	%increase
Halcott	+65 – 258	33%
Greenville	+424 – 3739	12.8%
Prattsville	+35 – 700	5.3%
Durham	+133 – 2725	5%
Cairo	+315 – 6670	4.9%
Ashland	+32 – 784	4.3%
Windham	+43 – 1703	2.6%
Athens	+98 – 4089	2.4%
Coxsackie	+34 – 8918	0.4%
Hunter	+11 – 2732	.01%
New Balt.	-47 – 3370	-1.4%
Catskill	-311 – 4081	-7%