

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

August 2015, Issue 245

Main Street, Greenville in Photos

A day of near 80 degrees, starting sunny, turning cloudy, with one shower just at start time greeted the August attendees: Bob & Marie Shaw, Stephanie Ingalls, Bev Myers, Lois Rockefeller, Carolyn Savery, Rick & Deb Magee, Orrin & Shirley Stevens, Audrey Matott and mom Deb; Arlene DiBello, Kathy Smith, Donna Willard, Phyllis Beechert, Paul & Katja Rehm, Marilyn Snow, Curt Cunningham, Mary Heisinger, Pat Elsbree, Walter & Donna Ingalls, Flip & Barbara Flach, Nick & Mary Lou Nahas, Sally Staunch, Barbara Lamb, Jack & Barbara Van Auken, Jack VerPlanck, Lew Knott, Ted Hilscher, Al Hulick, Water & Donna Ingalls, Christine Mickelsen, and Don Teator. I missed another half dozen; if it was you, and you want the record straight, let me know so I can acknowledge it in the next newsletter.

Main Street, Greenville: Part 2 was the follow-up, of course, to the stories and memories of the Part 1 July meeting. Same topic, two very different types of meetings.

One hundred sixty slides were prepared for the evening; I had pared down from three hundred. Our first task was to define Main Street.

We all agreed that the eastern end includes at least the junction at Rt 26, and that the western includes at least the post office. We debated about the hill going up Rt 26, and the Rt 81 curve that intersects with Rt 26A; on the western end, we almost snuck in the Botsford and Crow Griffin properties, and explored with the slides all the way to Cabin/Bensen's Power Saw.

The slide show started from the eastern side and finished westward. Much attention was given to the cluster of buildings between and including Dale Dorner's office and the Stewart's Ice cream property, as well as the views from the four corners.

If a picture tells a 1000 words, I cannot begin to tell the story of 160 slides. I will have to let several of the more discussed slides to do some of the work.

A thank you goes to Stephanie and Christine for again providing refreshments. If anyone wants to join in, contact Stephanie.

Our **September 14 meeting** features Sylvia Hasenkopf who will provide her account of the branches of the Stevens family in Greenville—the Reuben Stevens, Uriah Stevens and Peter Stevens lines and provide the proofs on their relationship to each other. Sylvia also writes a historical column for the Greenville Pioneer, and is a director of the Cairo Historical Society. She runs the Cairo Historical Society Facebook page as well as the Tracing your Roots in Greene County Facebook page. Her website: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nygreen2> is an invaluable tool for Greene County history.

I am giving early notice about the **October 12 meeting (Columbus Day Monday)**. There's been recent talk from Community Partners and other like-minded people about bettering the community use of All Arts Matter, the former Presbyterian Church. I have agreed to use the first 30-45 minutes of our October meeting for this group to present some ideas and to seek input. One idea is to

rename the church; two possibilities use the name Prevost or Hotchkin (first minister). The program's remainder will present the 2016 calendar.

The Greene County Historical Society is having a September 10 (Thursday) program at the Vedder Library, 7:30 p.m. Mary Lou Nahas and I are collaborating on a program, The Hotels, Boarding Houses, and Resorts of the Town of Durham and Greenville. Mary Lou and I are sure to have a lot in common but geography allowed for differences.

The Town of Greenville is having its first public hearing on the new revised zoning regulations on August 31, at 6:30 p.m. Although the GLHG traditionally stays out of politics, this zoning is more than politics and a topic all of us should know about. I am **urging** the Town Board to approve this revision. After reading the ordinance yourself, or having the boldness to trust my position in this case, **please contact the Board** to support the revision at this coming Monday's meeting. I am away on vacation that night but **have sent my letter to the Board. I have included it in this newsletter in case you want more background on my decision**, or if you wish to reference it in your communication

(From the Town of Greenville web site, I have taken the following contact numbers.)

So, I am asking a favor, because public support is important to keep this revision intact.

At least **contact Supervisor Paul Macko** (email: pmackogrsuper@aol.com; phone: cell 573-4703 or office 966-5055, ext 2).

The web site also lists these contact numbers of the other Town Board members.

Rich Bear (966-4360)

*email: richbear123@yahoo.com;

John Bensen (966-4346);

Ken Stern (966-5055);

and **Greg Davis** (966-8229)

*email: gdavis@townofgreenvilleny.com

Of course, if you wish to write a letter of support, that would be excellent also. (If you wish, let me know by email or phone if you did let your opinion be known to at least one of the Town Board members.)

One of the photos in the Main Street program showed the first car in Greenville. Audrey Matott, in attendance and checking online later, found this from a 2003 issue of the Altamont Enterprise.

(August 14, 1903 From Westerlo) *On Friday, quite a little excitement prevailed in Greenville, a village about eight miles south of this place. It was caused by the arrival of Miss Helen M. Gould, daughter of Jay Gould the millionaire, in her touring automobile, accompanied by two lady friends. The object of her visit was to see the graves of her grandparents, on her mother's side, who were buried in a suburb of Greenville called Newry. The homestead of her grandparents is also located at that place. She, having a camera with her, took views of the homestead and the surroundings. Miss Gould has an aunt buried in the Greenville cemetery, also distant relatives living in that vicinity which she expressed a desire to meet. Several called on her at the Coonly House where she dined. What nobleness of character Miss Gould portrays in taking such a deep interest in the humble graves of her ancestors, also the homestead which she visited, differing so widely from her own Lyndehurst-on-the-Hudson.*

Ha! Thanks, Audrey, for the find. Flip said the Gould relatives lived in the former Wallace Peck house, at the intersection of Newry Rd and CR 38. And in the post card, the ox cart belong to Ad Hickok. (The Coonly House, I am guessing is the Greenville Hotel.

Take care,

The following is my letter to the Town Board

August 30, 2015

Supervisor Macko and Town Board members Bear, Davis, Bensen, Stern:

As the Zoning Revision document comes to a public hearing, I urge you to approve the document you are presenting for public input.

After watching your deliberations for the past two years at regularly scheduled public meetings—where you read each page of the proposal from start to finish, discussed and debated a variety of perspectives, accepted input from the audience members, and finally produced a document, I believe you are submitting zoning regulations that follow the voice of the people that resulted in the Comprehensive Plan which is already approved.

The original vision statement of the Comprehensive Plan stated that “Residents will work collectively to conserve and enhance Greenville’s small-town rural character and natural beauty. Growth will be well planned and aesthetically pleasing and will create new economic opportunities for all. Desired services will be supported by a productive tax base that is broad, diverse and growing”.

You have updated the uses allowed in the zones, increased population density, looked at furthering business growth, and strived to maintain rural character.

By approving this document, you will have carefully and judiciously examined the variety of demands and expectations of the people and, with a good deal of compromise, will allow a framework to serve Greenville in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Teator



Perhaps, the first car in Greenville



Go up Steven's Hill straight ahead on Rt 26;
Rt 81 bends to the right. The small buildings on left (all gone)
elicited many comments and questions.



The reconstruction of Rt 81 in early-mid 1960s. On far right, part of
Flack's Bakery sign is visible. Out of sight on the right, on the south-
east corner, the Corner Restaurant is razed for this project.



Located at intersection of Routes 81 & 26, this was a building of many uses.
Main Street Garage (Stewart's, today) would be to the left;
the Clark house is on the right as it starts Rt 26.



Hugo's Riding Academy, behind today's book store.
This angle can be seen by looking at the open space in back
of the Lafferty Realty building.



From the four corners, looking up North Street (Academy, far left; Wessel's Garage on right; elm trees lining the street



Elsie Roe house on left, current-day site of Cocksackie Bank;
Center is view of Academy/Library; pond just out of view on right