

# Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

June 2016, Issue 251

R&J Titus: Devonian Greenville

A pleasant, 70 degree, almost mid-June day awaited: Marie & Bob Shaw, Sally Staunch, Terry & Garth Bryant, Mary & Charles Kruppenbacher (nice to see you again!), John O'Hara, grandson Chazz Blanton, Peter O'Hara, Kathy Smith, Donna Willard, Phyllis Beechert, Ron Golden, Erik Allan, grandson (I think I remembered) Tyler Holdridge, Beth Tilley, Deb Teator (yeay!), Lori Zoch (sister of Deb), Flip Flach, Audrey Matott, David Tschinkel, Al Hulick, Stephanie Ingalls, Katya & Paul Rehm, Nick Nahas, Ken Mabey, Christine Mickelsen, Betty Welter, and Don Teator. There must have been a couple more. If I missed you and you want to be noted, let me know.

Professors Robert and Johanna Titus were the draw of the evening. They have regaled us before with accounts of their geological research and books: *The Other Side of Time*, *The Hudson Valley in the Ice Age: A Geological History & Tour*, *The Catskills in the Ice Age*, and *The Catskills: A Geological Guide*. Both have written on a regular basis for Kaatskill Life (25 years anniversary this year), Woodstock Times, Columbia Greene Media (Daily Mail, Register Star, soon to end, company is ending paid columnists), and, in the past, the Greenville Press.

Almost needless to say but I will anyway, anyone who wants a geological perspective on our region has a wealth of information living in Freehold.

Part of my introduction was to opine that whenever I leave my driveway, or ride around the Hudson Valley and Catskills, I look at my surroundings differently since knowing, and reading, the Tituses. If you want more, read their books. (Or better yet, buy their books.) And read their columns.

I will attempt to very briefly summarize what I think I heard. If inaccurate, I will hear back.

The focus this evening was the Devonian History of Greenville and the Catskills, 300+ million years ago. The slides

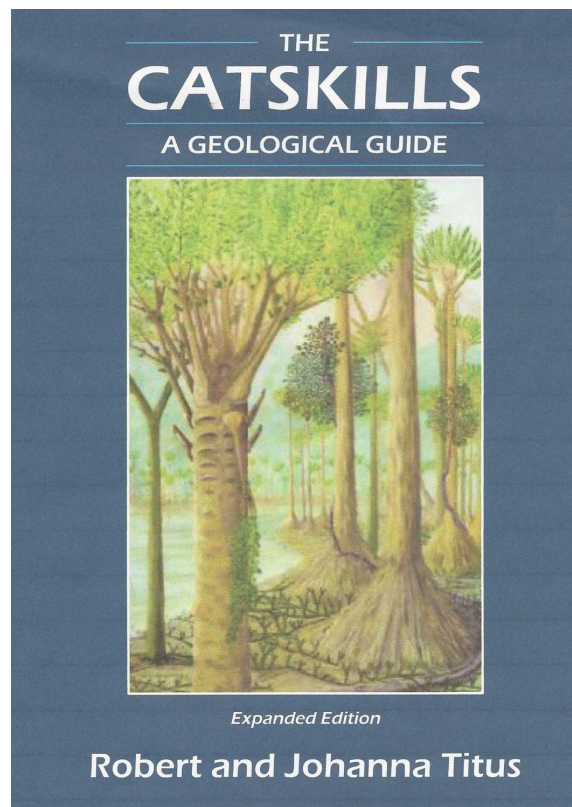


Photo: R&J Titus

started with examples of limestone—Becraft, Manlius, etc.—and examples of it in Greene County.

And then the Tituses showed maps of stratigraphy—the layers that comprise our surface.

And then Robert waved his arm, luring us to imagine 387,296,157 BCE, referencing sea lilies, crinoids, marine meadows, destructive storms, Marcellus black shale, poisoned seas, tilts and folds, collisions of tectonic plates, the Hamilton Sea, the Gilboa forest, dead river deltas, and more.

He asked us to look eastward from Greenville to where the Berkshires are and to imagine the Acadia Mountains rising as majestically tall as the Himalayas, with sediment washing our way, making us look like modern-day Ganges Delta.

All this is way before the glaciers, answering the question what was here before the glaciers.

**Thank you, Robert and Johanna,** for presenting another chapter of our geologic history. (I for one would love to see Mt. Everest rising in the distance as I stand by the edge of the Greenville pond, looking eastward.)

I will not go into much detail but attendees witnessed two firsts.

The first, due to crossing of communication lines meant two trips back to Freehold to get all the equipment needed. So, the meeting started about twenty minutes late.

And the second was a medical emergency that necessitated calling 911. I checked the following day and all was well.

It was a unique GLHG meeting.

**The July 11 meeting will be a history of Bryant's Supermarket,** with Garth Bryant narrating. He has photos and photos, of family, of the early days, of the Supermarket at its prime, etc.

I give credit to Garth (and Terry worked a whole bunch also) for helping document a piece of our history that needed documenting. I have a small folder on the Bryants – family and store. And I had been wanting to write a framework narrative that future information seekers could reliably use.

I had suggested to Garth to interview his dad, and then writing it up. I had suggested that I would be trying to research during the winter ahead (which is now two winters ago). After a couple of initial steps, Garth would show me some photos, then wrote ten pages, then twenty, and finally produced a 50+ page booklet with photos.

Come on out to re-live what many of you experienced, as shopper, worker, or friend of family. And I am guessing some of you have a story or two to tell.

**A thank you goes to Stephanie and Christine** for providing the “light refreshments” promised in our press release.

Take care,



1967 Opening! These two photos could be spliced, top on right, bottom on left, with the truck in foreground becoming a complete vehicle. Of course, we gape at the number of cars in the parking lot.





Top: store founder Al Bryant and wife Pearl , 1973 hot dog sale;  
Bottom: early Bryants, 1943, South Westerlo, corner of CR 405 & 401  
For a history, and more photos, come to July 11 meeting  
Four Bryant photos: courtesy Garth Bryant

