

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

Winter 2017, Issue 257

Annual Report

Good almost-Spring to all,

It is Annual Report time again. Nearly 150 of you are receiving this by email; another fifty are receiving the paper copy via regular mail. (Expired subscriptions also receive this issue.)

I trust almost-spring is finding all in good health. It has been a variable winter, with surges of weather seem to average out in the end, or even a little better! I suspect the temperature has been a bit above average, with no days below zero – an oddity for Greenville.

Our 2016 schedule once again settled into our now customary monthly program schedule April through November. Ideas for programs come from different directions: discussions at our meetings, individual discussions, programs that begged for more information about a sub-topic, or just plain brilliance (if of my own, I must say this must be a small minority! ha)

A thank you goes to all of you who propose ideas, or direct me to possible leads, or become a program. I appreciate the collaboration and feedback.

The 2016 programs included:

- Farm Investigation – Ted Hilscher: signs of agriculture in the countryside
- Robert & Johanne Titus's presentation of new book edition: The Catskills: A Geological Guide
- History of Bryant's: Garth Bryant

- Anita Stevens Sanctuary: Recollections of South Street
- Boarding Houses of Durham: Nick & Mary Lou Nahas
- Presentation of 2017 Calendar
- Historian/Researcher Sylvia Hasenkopf: two local stories, and her business model

I was especially heartened by the efforts of Garth and Terry on the Bryant project and of Anita Stevens Sanctuary on the South Street Memories/Stevens Family project. The fruition of these two gave glimpses of Greenville that seemed so ordinary at the time. The preservation of that era not only resulted in worthy programs but also gave perspective, shape, and meaning to the way we lived.

Although I consider every local history idea a worthy one, I must admit I almost patted myself on the back for the worthiness and depth of the 2016 season. Those of you who attended or shared were witness to a satisfying year.

Additional topics included: Annual Newsletter, Greene County Home Tour, Potter Hollow School House update, Greenville Drive-In, Greenville Day, and our annual recognition of community members.

All the programs were recounted in the newsletter to a degree that I hoped would serve as a reminder and recorder of the evening, even though no newsletter truly captures an evening's breadth and depth. Those of you who attended a meeting or more can vouch for the degree of accuracy of my recounting of the meetings.

In addition to capturing the essence of meetings, most newsletters also contained photos from that month's meeting or of an upcoming meeting or from the files I thought worthwhile sharing.

Reminder: you can **review past newsletters at dteator.com and link to glhg newsletters.**

Your feedback about 2016's programs were most welcome and serve to help me set direction for upcoming programs. Although I know what I like, your input confirms my likes or helps explore another side of local history I would not have seen.

An appreciative thank you goes to Stephanie and Christine for providing the "light refreshments." And I noticed that a few others of you helped out during the year; thank you.

One of 2016's highlights was the **production of the 2017 calendar**. As always, I hope that the 50-75 hours of effort result in a practical historical artifact that shows a range of hamlets, of time periods, of new and old acquisitions, of seasons, and of buildings and people. Comparisons with early calendars shows more recognition of local history being made by those of us still making it. If that is a trend you like, or otherwise, feel free to comment.

Final figures for sales of the 2017 calendar are in. We came close to breaking even this year, a little closer than last year but still about \$70 short – a worthy effort but I always hope to break even.

Another factor in the financial report is the occasional donation to the GLHG. Anything I have received this past year (several \$10-\$30 donations, along with a \$100 contribution) went to the calendar and is part of a final net that nudged us ever so slightly in the black. A thank you again to those who contributed.

We thank the community spots that hosted our calendar—Tops, Kelly's Pharmacy, the Library, GNH, and Jackie Park in Town Hall. If you patronize any of these lo-

cations, please thank the owners or managers. And even though every sale counts, I must say that without Kelly's Pharmacy selling about 35% of our calendars, we would be hard pressed to continue calendar production.

So, the calendar treasury still has enough to cover this coming year, a most welcome situation.

IRS rules require every non-profit to file a yearly income form. Fortunately, if I have read the directions correctly, I have met these requirements. At this point, we have not incurred any tax liability.

The 2018 calendar is in the works, with the photo selection half done, and a good chunk of the research started. If you have an idea of a photo we should use, let me know before I make final decisions.

About recognitions.

Again, we finished the year without selecting anyone. So, in December, I found a dozen willing and helpful volunteers to forward me a nomination. With a new list, I asked those same dozen to vote.

The results: **Joann and Tom Baumann** will be recognized in the **2018** calendar. The vote indicated to me that we also have our **2019** selection: a tie between **Ginny Mangold and Arlene and Lee Brown**.

Thank you to my selection committee.

My scanner was busy this past year, with several hundred pictures added to the archives. Over a hundred of these came from the Sandy and Skip Noirot collection. Sandy was raised a Freehold Becker; thus, there is a plethora of Becker, Freehold, and area additions to the files.

Membership continues to grow, most of it because of the digital age, with nearly one hundred fifty email subscribers, and growing.

Attendance at meetings this past year varied from 20 to 100, with an average of 30-40. Those of you who were regular attendees in the "old" days remember an average of 15 or so.

A note about attendance. The August (Stevens) meeting drew almost seventy, which would have been one of our top two most attended meetings, matching the One Room Schoolhouse program we ran many years ago.

But the July meeting (Bryant) set the all-time record, with nearly 100 cramming the library space. What a wondrous couple months, and the fact that both were locally made (and not by me) added to the specialness.

This year's schedule is mostly set, and shown below. Again, I am surprised this happened so fluidly this year. In the old days, I might not know for sure what was happening the following month but the program regimen has forced some discipline on me.

We will continue to meet the second Monday of the month, at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. For now, the **tentative 2017 schedule** is:

April: "Meet the Mayor" (Supervisor Paul Macko) about the State of Greenville

May: Dwight Grimm and Leigh Van Swall, Greenville Drive-In, history of drive-ins

June: artist Virginia Cantarella

July: Den Maurer, travelogue of his 8000 mile drive to Alaska and back

August: Don Teator, a slide tour of South Street, Greenville

September: note: NO MEETING: greetings from St. Petersburg, Copenhagen, and Bergen

October: 2018 calendar presentation

November: Sylvia Hasenkopf, topic to be determined (second annual)

Note: Remember to support other area local history groups. On Facebook or online, you can find the Cairo Historical Society, North River Research, Town of Durham Boarding Houses, Greene County Historical Society, Mountaintop Historical Society, Durham Center Museum, and more.

Notes about subscriptions.

Email newsletters: **No cost.** And forward as you desire.

Web site viewing: **No cost.**

www.dteator.com. (Issues from the last few years are online.)

Mailed newsletters: \$10 per year.

For those of you who use this method, look at the address label, and the four digit number above your name gives expiration info. The first two digits is the year, the next two digits is the month. (So, 1706 means your paid subscription expires in June 2017.) (Ignore this paragraph if you use the electronic method only.)

Anyone wanting to start or to renew a *mailed* subscription should send \$10 for a year (if by check, made out to Don Teator): 3979 Rt 67, Freehold NY 12431.

A few of you receive both email and paper.

Also, if your address label needs changing, let me know. In addition to my address, I can be reached at 518-634-2397, and, for the computer literate, I can be emailed at dteator@gmail.com.

Whichever way you use to keep up with local history, the content is almost always the same, with a very occasional extra segment in the digital forms. And the original color photos are reproduced in color in the digital. Even if all the paper mail subscribers were to stop, I will continue to print a paper copy for the records. Technology is wonderful but changes create a re-examination of how to preserve documents and photos.

More Notes:

- The contents of the Historian's Files are also linked on the web page.
- One topic that has taken a back seat for a while is the boarding house project. I manage to add a piece here and there but more is needed. Too many other irons in the fire get my attention.
- I remind you to check out the Nahas Facebook page – Boarding Houses, Hotels and Resorts in Durham NY. You are guaranteed to spend a few minutes and more perusing.



Do you recognize this house above?
One note identified it as the Vanderbilt House,
address unknown, but believed to be in the area.
Someone thought it could be the house below
but close inspection suggests not .
(not known if either house was renovated)



- I have spent 20+ hours so far cleaning up the records room and have made a dent.
- If time and energy allowed, I had another project or two to delve into this winter but my list was longer than time and energy allowed. Next winter is beginning to be penciled in.
- And, of course, keeping track of the paper documents while knowing where the photos are is a constant challenge.
- I often have a list of possible local history projects for you to tackle. I will spare you the list, but I hope you can think of some project that would be a welcome addition to the files. Or just a worthy project for you. If you need ideas, or have an idea, let me know.
- One project I should acknowledge is Christine's arranging for the transfer of old audiotaped interviews onto CDs, thus prolonging their useful life. Some of these old tapes are 25 years old, prone to breaking and thus becoming almost useless. Thank you, Christine.

Other quick notes:

- Three gaps in the **GCS Yearbook collection** still stare at me. I think I am getting 1992 in a recent donation to the library. I am still missing **1984 and 1993**. If you can find a copy, I would love to plug one of the last holes.
- Included are photos from scans I have taken this past year or two.
- The **Greene County Historical Society's Annual Home Tour** will be in....., in....., **Greenville** this year! June 3rd. A few volunteers from GCHS will be collaborating with Community Partners, Andrea Macko, and me. More details later.
- Website updating problems has caused a lag, something I hope to fix by early spring. I will need to catch up, going back to September.
- Included is a contributed photo of an older house, labeled as Vanderbilt House, believed probably to be in Greenville. One guess is the photo of a house next to the original. Could it be the same house? Look closely and you will see some dif-

ferences. Still, if you know where this Vanderbilt house is or was, let me know.

- I had a recent call from Bobby Lampoutis, recent owner of the **Ella Powell/Dr. Was-son** house, the second house on the right, north of the elementary school driveway. If you know any history to the house, ghost stories, or unusual happenings, feel free to call Bobby at 518-694-1732. His email is lampoutisb@icloud.com.
- A recent conversation with Hope Kopecny of **Big Eye Gallery in South Westerlo** (<http://bigeyegallery56.wixsite.com/sowesterlo>) hinted at upcoming exhibitions, an artists' co-op, and a need for a manager. Contact Hope on website or Facebook for more info.

I hope to see you at the **first 2017 GLHG meeting on Monday, April 10, 7:30 pm.**

Paul Macko, Greenville's Supervisor, has agreed to offer his view of the State of Greenville. I am calling it **Meet the Mayor**; consider this a chance to talk current Greenville events, discuss trends, share observations, etc. This is a rare opportunity for GLHGers to talk real current local history. Note: this meeting is clearly meant to be local history, not political debating. Of course, there is politics but more in the context of local history. I am guessing some of the topics will include: sewer history, water history, Greenville pond cleaning, state of the roads, taxes, Macko history in Greenville (old-timers know there is a bunch of that), goals for the future, NYS influence, who is responsible for what, and more.

Until then, take care.



Sandy Noirot commented during my scanning of Skip's and her photos of how many ghosts there are in Freehold: buildings no longer there from her childhood.

Top to bottom:
the boarding house **Raffo Villa**,
just south of today's Carlsen's Auction;
the **Bagley house**, about 100 yards past
the "Freehold Country Inn" on Rt 32 south,
with Sandy on her side of the street;
and **Palmer's Souvenirs**,
across from TipTop parking lot on Rt 67.
Thank you, Skip & Sandy.

