

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

April 2018, Issue 267

Boy Scouts Troop 42 History

A pleasant 50 degree & sunny day greeted the almost twenty of us who came out for the evening's program: Dave Battini, Colin Tumey, Dave Tschinkel, Stephanie Ingalls, Christine Mickelsen, Bob Shaw, Bette Welter, Rich & Eileen Wells, Donna & Walter Ingalls, Audrey Matott, Sonia Griener, Ginny Mangold, Kathy Smith, Barbara Brumell, and Don Teator.

Our first meeting of the year featured the History of **Greenville Troop 42 Boy Scouts**. And a long history it has been. More importantly, those involved in Greenville Scouting make sure that the future of Scouting remains a constructive outlet for many boys and young men.

I would go on about this worthwhile history myself except Colin Tumey has drafted a document that I cannot improve upon. Thus, I have reprinted his Scouting in Greenville, following my sign-off.

The meeting took place in the Boy Scout building, aka as the American Legion Building, aka the Chapel for the Presbyterian Church. It is part of the National Historic Register area that includes the pond, library, Prevost Hall, and Boy Scout building, all of it on two acres that Augustine Prevost donated to the Town of Greenville over 200 years ago, with a stipulation that it be used for educational and religious purposes.

Some of us remember attending school in this building in the 1960s. (I am one of those, spending third grade there with teacher Miss Vaughn.)

Colin and Dave had festooned the walls with Scout memorabilia and paraphernalia, awards, banners, flags, uniforms, and billboards of photos of activities.

Thank you, Colin and Dave, for your hosting the program, presenting the history and awards won, and continuing a cherished tradition for Greenville.

A thank you goes to Stephanie and Christine for starting another year of providing the "light refreshments." Very much appreciated.

May note:

Our **May 14 meeting** will feature the genealogy collection of Doris Hempstead, a 50,000 card collection of facts and details about thousands of individuals over hundreds of families. At this meeting, we will officially hand over this collection to the Vedder Library of the Greene County Historical Society, with John Palmer accepting the collection. This is the last best chance to see this valuable collection in Greenville, a testimony to one person's efforts. The Hempstead family will be there to see their mother's collection's life be extended even further.

(Our June 11 meeting will feature Schmollinger's Pleasant View Lodge. Barbara Brumell is organizing this program. Several people have mentioned interest. Contact me or Barbara if you have or want to share material or memories. If contacting me, please do so before May 15 or after June 8. I will be checking my email from England in that interim.)

More notes:

—**Drive-In:** We are indeed fortunate to have a local institution re-open again. May 5 (Goldfinger) is the special opener, and then the season starts in earnest. Check out details at drivein32.com for more info.

—**Vanderbilt Room:** The Greenville Arms is the site of the town's newest food stop: A Pop-Up Café, at the Greenville Arms 1889 Inn. Soup and pastries are available Wednesday through Sunday, 10-4. See history and eat at the same time!

Who are the other women? What is the event or connection? I am hoping someone out there will put as quick an ending to this puzzle as the Brady Health Farm mystery!

—The Greene County Historical Society is publicizing its purchases of an **old hay press and of a large barn** in Earleton. The barn will be erected on Society grounds, showing off the hay press and other agricultural artifacts. Anyone interested in their project, or in their fundraising of these projects, should contact GCHS for more info.

—One of my communications with John Earl resulted in his query whether anyone had done a **history of the bars**, past and present, in the area. My recollection says it has not been done, but I would be desirous of someone tackling this one. Who can I delegate this to?

—Correction: I was politely reminded that Audrey Matott (Greenville in Fifty Years Ago presenter, report for Greenville Pioneer) is indeed a home-grown Greenville person.



—I have **another mystery photo**. It is stamped with a date of June 18, 1970, taken by Koenig, an area photographer widely used back then. Bette Welter, owner of the photo, had identified: Top Row: ?, ?, ?, Pearl Capone; bottom: ?, ?, Mary Gill, Anna Pratt.

Take care

Following is Colin Tumey's history of Greenville Scouting. He acknowledged the many people who helped him construct this history and reminds us that this is the best rough draft for now, meaning it will be revised as he gets more information. Anyone who wants to contribute information, memories, photos, clippings, etc., should contact Colin.

Greenville Troop 42 History

The 1930's and 40's

By 1932 America had been in a Depression for three years. Hoping to keep the boys active and out of trouble, The Asbury Methodist Church on South St in Greenville decided to sponsor a Boy Scout Troop. Chartered in 1932, the troop's first scoutmaster was William Kingsley and they met in the basement of the church. Between twenty and twenty-five boys originally signed up.



Dave Battini, Colin Tumey—hosts of April meeting

In the early years the troop camped in several places in the local area. They camped at High Rocks in Norton Hill, Lake Myosotis in Rensselaerville, and Camp Half Moon near Woodstock Dam. Most of the time they would only go overnight because most of the leaders were farmers and the boys had chores to do.

Some of the Merit Badges a scout could earn were for a ten-mile hike, cooking over an open fire, and woodworking. By 1934 or 35 the Troop moved to its current meeting place.

In 1937 the Troop was re-chartered by the Greenville Central Rural School District #1. The district would run the troop throughout the war years until 1951.

In the 1940's, Captain Gumport was one of the Scoutmasters of the troop. At that time the Troop went to the Gumport property on Sunset Road in Norton Hill to camp. The boys would build small lean-tos out of saplings for shelters. A second camping location was near Jerry Ingalls' farm and the

Basic creek. From there they would hike along the stream to South Westerlo.

The 1950's and 60's

In 1951 the troop was again sponsored by the Asbury Methodist Church with the Rev Francis Potter listed as Scoutmaster. Then in 1952 American Legion Post 291 took over sponsorship and has done so for 67 years.

Ken Dudley, owner of Tip Top furniture, was a member of the troop during the mid-50s and he remembers camping at the Ingalls's farm and a campground by the Woodstock Dam. It was during these years that the troop had our first Eagle Scout, Dr. Kenneth Bott. He also earned the bronze, silver and gold palms.

The Greenville Explorer Post 42 was also formed during these years. This was an organization for older scouts that complemented the troop. Designed for older scouts, the Post would be involved in a more active camping, hiking and backpacking program. The Post flag is on display here.

By the late 1960's the troop was on the ready to make some personnel changes that have impacted the activities of our Troop till this day. Troop 42 was looking toward the future with high adventure activities in its plans. It all started when George Hood took over as Committee Chair. He was looking for future leadership for the troop and asked David Gumport for advice. He suggested a school teacher from Durham. Dave Battini started as Assistant Scoutmaster in 1969.

The 1970's and 80's

In 1971 Dave Battini took over as Scoutmaster and the Troop started planning a more active calendar. We did not realize where that would take us in the future. In 1973 Troop 42 undertook a six- week, 11,000-mile trip to the west coast and back. We went to the National Scout Jamboree in Ida-



1973 Trip

ho and were entertained by Bob Hope, then on to the National Order of the Arrow Conference in California. Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Yosemite, The Grand Canyon, and Sequoia National Parks were a few of the stops along the way. This was also the first trip Dave Stuhr, from Troop 54, went on with our troop. The total cost of this first trip was approximately only \$300.00!

With Mr. Hood's encouragement the troop became very active in canoe racing. Between 1972 and 1976 the troop won over 25 trophies. Randy Hood and Colin Tumey were one of the most active teams, traveling around the state to race. Other active racers were Doug and Gary Welter, Neil Baumann, Larry Smith, John Rose, Christian Martens, and John Conlon. They went to the Bainbridge area on Memorial Day, Old Forge, and Tupper Lake just to name a few places. It was a wonderful time of achievement and adventure.

Several boys became active in the Order of Arrow and the Troop traveled to the 1975 National Conference in Indiana and the 1977 National Conference in Nashville, Tenn. Colin Tumey became secretary and vice chief of the Half Moon Lodge and in 1977 became the first scout in the troop to receive the Vigil award the same year Mr. Battini received his Vigil.

The 1970's is when the boys began earning the rank of Eagle on a regular basis. Randy Hood, Doug Welter, Phillip

Kerns, Larry Smith, Neil Baumann, Al Cardamone, John Conlon, and John Whittaker started a run of achievement that continues today.

Explorer Post 42 was revived as a first aid post that aided the Rescue Squad. It was co-ed for older scouts age 14-18. Colin Tumey was the advisor for several years.

Troop 42's first trip to Philmont was in 1977, and members of our Troop have been there more than twenty times, each time with our sister troop in high adventure, Troop 54, from New Jersey. We have also traveled with them to England in 1986 and 2002.

A total of 71 Scouts have earned their Eagle rank since our troop started in 1932. Seventy of these have been since Dave Battini took over as Scoutmaster in 1971. With Dave's guidance and their parents' help, brothers continued to motivate brothers to achieve the rank of Eagle. First, the Welter and Smith/Baumann families, then the Conlons, Blakes and Wienbergs, Wellses, and finally all four Whittaker boys!

Over the years the Troop traveled to Washington DC, Camp LeJeun, Gettysburg, NYC, and Mr. Battini traveled to World Jamboree's, in Australia, 1987 and Korea, 1993.

In 1988 Dave Battini was awarded the prestigious Silver Beaver award by the Rip Van Winkle Council. It's the highest award a leader can be awarded by a local council for his service to scouting. ASM Colin Tumey would also be awarded this in 2007. It was just announced that Greenville Cub Scout Pack 42 leader, Michelle Brandon, is the 2018 Silver Beaver recipient.

The 1990's and 2000's

During these decades, the Troop has added fourteen more Eagle Scouts to the rolls and a growth of leaders to the Troop. Troop 42 has active assistants and an active, committed sponsor rep from the American Legion.

In July 2002, 18 leaders and scouts, traveled to England, Scotland, and Wales for 14 days. This was the Troops second trip to

England and in 2015, 23 members went to Costa Rica. We have been able to give the boys many opportunities.

The Troop 42 has served the Greenville area since 1932. Whether it's our Scouting for Food to support the Food Pantry, helping at the annual Old-timers Party, or volunteering to help at the town park, the Scout's from Troop 42 have been there to help. We have built backboards for the Rescue Squad and assisted the Fire Company. They have stocked steams for the DEC, helped the American Legion, assisted area churches and saluted our veterans each Memorial and Veteran's Day.

The National Order of the Arrow (OA)

Since the early 1970s, members of the Troop, have been active in the OA. Dave Battini and Colin Tumey received the highest award you can earn in the OA, the Vigil Honor, in 1977. Starting in 2004, several of our leaders and scouts have become more involved in the OA and our local Half Moon Lodge, #28. Colin Tumey has been an Associate Lodge Advisor since 2005. Scouts Brian Tumey, Dan King and Steven King all served as lodge officers and were awarded the Vigil Honor, over the last 10 years.

Several Troop adults served in some RVW Council position. Helmut Phillips and Colin were on the Executive Board, and Colin was the Mohican District Chairman and Roundtable Commissioner for many years.

Activities and Troop Program

Over all these years, our Troop has been successful because we run a great and active program. We have always offered a wide variety of activities that interest the young men in our community. Every year, we march in the Memorial Day Parade every year and participate in the Veterans Day ceremonies to remember those who died to save our freedom.



Board of Knots

ASM Dave Crosby specializes as our hiking MB councilor and planning our spring trips. We have traveled to several Civil War battlefields, Washington, Philadelphia, and Quantico Marine Base. We went the NYC to visit the Intrepid and are looking to return to Gettysburg again in 2019.

With the help of ASM Kevin Lewis we have added fishing and rafting weekends and have started getting back into canoeing. The Troop owns eight canoes and has been adding canoe trips to our schedules in the last few years.

With the help of a very successful Greenville Cub Scout Pack, our Troop has grown into the largest Troop in the council. We currently have 51 boys in our Troop. This is a blessing and a curse. It shows that we have a great program, but that many boys are sometimes very hard to manage. We are fortunate to have a good group of Assistant Scoutmasters to help run our program. With our active schedule, we need their help.

Summer Camp

Troop 42 has been going to Summer Camp since the 70's. We now take about 35 boys to

camp. Last year the boys earned 180 merit badges. The last few years, in addition to boys going to Philmont, we have sent them to the National Order of Arrow Conference and the National Jamboree.

Since beginning of 2015 we have gone to Philmont twice, sent three Troop members to the 100th Anniversary National OA Conference (NOAC), and had seven from our Troop go to the 2017 National Jamboree. We also had 23 members go to Costa Rica in 2015. The Troop is large enough to take 35 boys to summer camp each year the last three years. In 2017, the boys earned 180 merit badges at camp.

New Property

A few years ago, Helen Brown, who recently passed away, donated 32 acres of land to the American Legion Post, for Troop 42. We have been making improvements and in the spring of 2018 the Troop will start camping on the property. We have put in a driveway, parking area, pavilion, and are working on finishing a latrine. In the future we plan to have lean-tos and fire pits and to be able to use it on a regular basis for camping and advancement work. Ms. Brown has given the Troop an invaluable gift to the Boy Scouts of Troop 42.

In the last few years the Troop has been honored by the New York State American Legion as the NYS Troop of the Year, twice. Both Scoutmaster Dave Battini and ASM Colin Tumey were honored as NYS Scouter of the Year by the Legion.

This Troop has been shaped by two men. George Hood served as the Troop Committee Chairman since 1968, finally stepping down after 46 years. Mr. Hood brought Dave Battini as Assistant Scoutmaster in 1969, and Scoutmaster since 1970 a position he still holds after 48 years. The combined 95 years they have led the Troop, has made it the success it is today.

The Troop has been successful because of the support of the community, but three groups have been special friends to the Troop. American Legion Post 291 has been our Charter Organization since 1952 and supported the Troop since then. The Lewis and Schreiber families of Baumann's Brookside Resort, have five Eagle Scouts in their extended families. They have been supporting the Troop in large and small ways for



Roster of Greenville Eagle Scouts

many to make our program successful. The third long-time supporter is GNH Lumber. They have been especially helpful to our Scouts as they work on earning their Eagle projects. Without these three, and many longtime supporters, Greenville Boy Scout Troop 42 would not be what it is today.

At 86 years old, we have no plans to slow down from serving the young men of the Greenville area.