

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

September 2025 Issue 338

Adriance Scrapbook

A delightful stretch of weather, already spanning several weeks, greeted attendees on a pleasant September evening. In fact, the weather is so admirable that a call for rain is being heard, now that we are in a moderate drought designation. And as I was writing this, that plea has been partially answered, before returning to dry again.

Attending: Carol & Ralph Barger, Stewart Wagner, John Snider, Eileen & Ed

Volmar, Margaret Donohue, Susan Cunningham, Stephanie Ingalls, Christine Mickelsen, Johanna & Robert Titus, Maryann Morrison, Ken Hilland, Roland Reissig, Jack Solomon, Rachel Ceasar, Richard Ceasar, Elaine & Toby Nevins, Gail NicholSEN, Dennis Mower, Charlene & Ken Mabey, Anita Orsino, Joyce Chase, Linda Berger, Frank Potter, Debra & Don Teator and perhaps a couple more that fell through the sieve of recognition.

The original GLHG schedule had Flip delivering Part 2 of his Canvas: East Side this month. His absence opened an opportunity for an idea hatched this past spring: the Millie & Harry Adriance Scrapbook, so named from the box of goodies that daughter Carol Adriance Barger had presented the Historian's Archives. An unpretentious, inch-thick, 9"x11" album lay at the bottom of the box. I flicked through a couple of its pages in the first few days and then set it aside for a more serious look later.

A few years passed before I re-opened it this past winter and pondered that it could easily lend itself to a program. Voila!

I have scanned each page and have made a rough index of each clipping, a copy of which was emailed to everyone on the GLHG email list the week before the meeting. (If you would like the Word file of what I sent you, let me know.) Although there are a couple entries for the WWII years, the real scrap-



book seems to take effect about 1947 and continues until 1953.

In the meantime, I caught up on some of the family details: Carol's dad, Harry Adriance (1904-1978) was one of the four children (Homer, Harry, Howard, Evelyn) of Homer Adriance. Carol's mother, Mildred "Millie" Powell (1904-2001, yep, 97) was one of ten children of Gilbert Powell (Lawrence, Ina from first wife; then twins Mildred and Milliecent, Angie, Eunice, Scott, Owen, Waldo & Julia; Lawrence was the Lawrence Powell of Norton Hill store fame.)

So, how to start?

My first inclination was to sit along the imaginary hearth with the rest of you attending this evening and commenting on whatever clipping on the scanned pages caught my, or your, fancy. After doing a practice run, I realized that we would have perused pages 1-30 (of the 140) by 9:15 and a revolt would have emptied the room.

On to Plan B.

I scrapped a few early efforts in favor of just plain hard work. Page by page, I would type the title or a shortened title for each clipping. As you might guess, it did take some hours.

So far, so good. But the issue of how to present them for this evening's program loomed. So, I returned to the album and took photos (cell phone) of each article that I might want to include in the program, only 150 of them!

Then I had to crop each photo, put them into computer folders for easier managing, and finally opened the PowerPoint program. After three weeks, I was ready for the program, promising myself to give myself more time the next time, if there were to be a next time.

Instead of the initial chronological impulse, the page by page review, I latched onto a more understandable method. My reading of the scrapbook led me to formulate these categories as my chapters to present this evening:

the Sensational, Wars (II, Korean), Elections, Weather, Community (including school and school sports), Benchmarks, Vital Records (births, marriages, deaths, injuries, hospital), auto racing and horse racing.

(A philosophical quandary first: the real feel of any scrapbook is to encounter each clipping as it comes, just as time passes by in each of our lives. That had been Plan A. However, the time element led me to the Plan B – Categories, allowing a program to finish by 9 PM. On to the retelling of the program.)

The Sensational

Certain clippings jumped off the page, especially when they were not local stories.

Woman Frozen Stiff – And Lives was the topmost. It was a story of a woman found in a city street, apparently dead, at 65 degrees body core temperature. Somehow she survived, it was thought she might keep her legs but they were eventually amputated below the knees.

Other stories in the categories:

- the scare that rabies gave everyone for these scrapbook years
- MacArthur ousted by Truman
- the Dixon family murder
- the hospital taking in a fawn
- a Cairo resident's occupation was executioner (Den Mower knew him and did jobs for him)
- attempts to save the Catskill Mountain House were noted
- Santa's reindeer were back at the North Pole
- Catskill (later, Cairo-Durham) coach Art Waldron captured a rare wolfhound to collect a \$7500 reward
- Medusa suffered a devastating fire, as noted in a 20 years ago column
- a woman was running for Town of Greenville Supervisor (not elected)

War

Two pages, early in the scrapbook, explain early 1945 rationing schedules in the county

Later, plenty of clippings of enlistments, visits home, and injuries abound.



Three of the injuries/deaths included: Morrison, Colvin, Birk. A highlight of this evening was the attendance of Gene Morrison's daughter Maryann who showed the audience the messages her grandparents received notifying them of their son's injuries – telegrams with lines of type pasted on a sheet. Maryann also displayed her father's two, yes, two Purple Hearts. Maryann, thank you, for a wonderful connection.

Elections

A single slide highlighted four clippings of results of elections. Other than Greenville being a Republican stronghold for the past umpteenth years, the results mattered less to me than recognition of names. Now in my early 70s, I recognized names of my parents' and grandparents' generation. It seemed like I knew half the names. For me, it was Len Gardiner, Ray Bennett, Herman Story, and even George V Vanderbilt, that GVV who I did not know, for whom the park is named. I am sure many of you would have recognized a totally different list than mine.

People

A number of clippings were about people the

Adriances knew, heard about, or were the headlines of the day. Ray Boomhower, the Stewart Fishes, Dr David Brown, Ruby Flansburg, Louise Simpkins, a truck man who gets arrested, William Jones who was granted a divorce, Prince Philip and Princess Elizabeth, a Greenville man who claimed a cabbie pushed him, Ralph Yeomans getting his 50-year pin by the Masons, and more.

Weather

Fewer weather clippings appeared than I was expecting. Two slides showed seven clippings, one of them a memory of the Blizzard of '88. I am guessing if this scrapbook would have continued, the Blizzard of 1957-1958 would have made headlines.

Benchmarks

Another category of clippings noted significant events. I was particularly interested in the founding of the Rotary Club in Greenville.

Other stories:

- the second millionth car on the Rip Van Winkle Bridge [ceremony for 90th anniversary last week],
- the Hageman Bakery involving a Greenville

person but not connected to the Hagemann's of Stevens connections (even an obituary for Charles Hagaman from South Westerlo),

- the Erwin plan in action on Red Mill Road widening and smoothing an old dirt road,
- Gerald Ingalls of Greenville being the chairman of the Greene County Rural Citizens for Ike and Ives,
- a story of Cairo being a mecca of vacationers from downstate areas,
- a story about the Greenville Butler tinware in a national magazine,
- the WCC (Women's Concordia Circle) hearing a history of Greenville,
- the Greene County Hospital getting the residuary estate of George White,
- the first county fatality in 1951,
- the Cairo bank opening a branch in Greenville and new equipment coming,
- a photo of the firing of the gun ceremony on the pond of Greenville with the flower laden model aircraft carrier,
- the new dial service arriving in Greenville-Freehold-Oak Hill area in 1949,
- GCS seniors on their senior trip to Washington,
- Pierce Stevens re-elected head of the Pioneer Company,
- Miss May Chatterton moving to Catskill after a decade in Greenville,
- the first Eagle Scout in Greenville - Kenneth F Baugh Jr,
- the Norton Hill Post Office moving its location,
- a sketch of the new Cairo Central School building,
- fire gutting the rectory in Coxsackie,
- Mountain House work should be completed in the fall of 1953,
- and more that made for good reading and slow progress finishing the program!

Community-Sports-School

A steady stream of sports reports filtered in, almost all of them basketball, mostly school-related but a couple were of community teams or organizations.

Other school stories included:

- Plans were being drawn up for a school addition in 1949,
- Greenville High School's pupils take to

dairying and homemaking,

- Janet Teator and Janice Olson are the top seniors of their year,
- the flu closes School, a photo of the Senior class trip in DC,
- the honors students of another year are Margaret Stevens and Hans Erdman,
- lunch hour in the new cafeteria shows Joan Wood, Belva Pabst and Eleanor Morrison,

Other community news included:

- regular reports from Red Cross with many names of community members listed,
- 860 people receive free chest x-rays in the Greenville area,
- the Boy Scout troop is second in a Cairo rally,
- 14 joined the Greenville Methodist Church with names given,
- six observation posts are alerted in February 1951, one of them being Greenville,
- the Greenville Fire Company elects officers,
- fire destroys the Powell garage on North street,
- an Easter program for church service is attached,
- The Daily Mail building burns in a spectacular fire,
- the Greenville Center unit of the Home Bureau meets at Gudren Salvesen's home,
- electing Lola Gundersen chairman with other members of different hamlets named

Other community items surfaced in those newspaper columns labeled **10 years ago or 20 years ago**. In these columns, names will jump off the page because they appear local to me. For example I found out that Miss Ella Agnes Tryon will wed Waldo Powell; that Nettie Hollenbeck died leaving a son Orson; that the Greenville Local that was published by Yeomans and McCulloch has been purchased by editor Bleezarde of the Ravena News Herald;

Another newspaper column labeled Interesting Items from 1900 Local compares prices of stores noting that the stores are the Stevens Store and the Roe Brothers of Greenville, CR Lacy in Freehold, Gardner and Stevens in Norton Hill, L Stewart in South Westerlo, WR Merritt in Medusa; and F Swartout in Westerlo. Another item was a listing of students passing the



Regents Examinations at the Greenville Academy.

- Another source of information comes in the short clippings of local goings-on. For example, we learn that:
- the Adriances and daughter Carol visited Mrs Kniffen on West Main Street;
- the Nicholsons named a new baby girl Gail;
- Marine Corporal John Kiley who was wounded has returned to duty;
- recruit Allen Burgess Jr has entered the United States Army;
- Mr and Mrs William Carelas have a new daughter in 1950; and on it goes for a dozen dozen short reads.

It seems that births did not garner much attention in full length clip-

pings. But marriages are another matter. To name some of my memorable couples:

- Roberta Thompson and Stanley Christman,
- Mrs Ariel Smith Weeks to Stanley Ingalls,
- Mrs Gladys May and Emil Bush,
- Barbara Spohler and Fred Breiner,
- Barbara Bacon and Ernest Van Conrad,
- Barbara Thompson and William Tolley,
- Dorothy Felter and James Knott,
- Ella Tryon and Waldo Powell,
- Ruth Thompson and Pierce Stevens,
- Nettie Denton and Madison Chesbro,
- Dorothy Lange and Allen Burgess,



- Edna Long and James Wylie,
- Geraldine Wood and Gerald Mattice,
- Barbara Tolley and Vernon Martz,
- Helen Dinnel and Henry Van Deusen,
- Shirley Burnett and Walter Ingalls,
- Phyllis Velie and Richard Hannay,
- and allow me to throw in a 50th anniversary of Mr and Mrs Madison Chesbro.

(I must note that the standard of identifying women was by Mrs man's name. I grew up with that standard even in the 1960s in our broad swath of communication. But the times were changing and today, when I see such nomenclature, I almost flinch of the sexism that is so apparent to us in the 2020s but lived differently seventy years ago.)

- Another page of a mish-mash of names and categories.
- Marine Ed Birk is injured in an auto accident,
- Mr and Mrs Edward Long mark their 55th anniversary in 1951,
- the Simpson family are injured in a car and truck accident with the recognizable name to me of Gordon Simpson,
- Mrs Nicholson and her son Gary were injured in an auto accident,
- the Homer Adriances celebrate their 50th anniversary,
- Paul Bear is overcome by fumes and taken to the hospital,
- Nancy and Sally Adriance are happy to announce the arrival of their baby brother Howard,
- Carol Adriance broke a bone in her leg,
- the Vaughns announce a new daughter called Mildred,
- William Jones Jr is granted a divorce,
- and Mrs. Sarah wood celebrates her 86th birthday

The last of the vitals, although usually clipped in length, dominate by their number. And a few of these death notices are lengthy. This is the one time where I have done a thorough job scrubbing the scrapbook for all the deaths.

- Curtis Austin 78 Cairo
- Mrs Arcia Stevens
- Josie Schofield Freehold
- Lester Crounse 1944

- Hillicoss children Floyd Shirley East Durham tragedy
- Madison Stevens 1946
- 1947 funeral for Mrs Thurston Vaughn; wife of Thurston W Vaughn
- Warren T Ingalls Greenville Hotel operator - 1947
- Janet Boomhower, age 4, dies of appendicitis
- Mary C Vanderbilt, wife of William S Vanderbilt
- Carrie L Haight
- John Crow
- Mrs Ross E Wickham
- Mrs Leland Cole
- Dr Ray Persons - Cairo physician
- Harrison Gardner Greenville district
- John H Hood of Greenville
- Peter R Stevens of Norton Hill
- Charles Roe 1949
- Mrs May Etta Powell
- Warner's death of suicide
- LeRoy Palmer
- Mrs Mary E Hedges
- Edward Stead funeral rites in Windham
- Windham educator Robert McNaught
- Edward Tappan of Greenville
- Morris Wolfer
- Ellen Baker
- Mrs Lena Bishop 1950
- Mrs Harold Walther of Surprise
- Charles Woodruff
- John T Butler
- Jerry Dean 1950
- George Francis
- Miss Priscilla Palmer
- Mrs Frank Hamilton
- Reverend Ed Van Dyke
- Frances M Hedges
- George Lampman
- Lloyd Brainard
- Sanford Williamson
- Mrs Jess Felter
- Mrs Stanley Ingalls
- Andrew Ellsworth
- Charles Newman 1951 Windham
- Wm Sutton
- 10 years ago - funeral – John Alvord – Surprise
- 20 yrs ago – death of Roscoe Lacy
- Dan Miller – Medway

- 20 years ago, 12 yr old Lena Parks died suddenly
- Edwin Hannay Sr
- Howard Weidman
- Seney Greene – West Cocksackie
- John Deyo Cairo
- 10 years ago – Nettie Hallenbeck
- Rev Fred White, heart attack
- Mrs. Jean Jennings
- Mrs Erwin Yeomans
- Millard Powell
- Thomas Lennon
- Dale Olmstead
- Elmer Gransbury
- Mable Feinburg
- Louis Beltz
- Alton Daley found dead near home
- George Williams Durham
- Mrs. Anna Birmann
- Mildred Kniffen
- Florence Shaw
- Matild Lucignano (Raffo)
- Carrie Ingalls
- Morris Denton heart attack
- Sgt Thmas Colvin dies in accident
- plumber Harold McRae
- Ella Stevens
- Rose Baumann
- Raymond Palmer
- Madison Chesbro Sr
- 20 yrs ago: Willis Haines
- 20 yrs ago –Euretha Whitbeck
- Marjorie Powell
- Frank Gedney
- Harry Emens, Cairo
- Elias Cohen – Tranquility
- Mrs. Wallace Peck
- Linda Rose Cross, 4
- Lulu Mae Blair
- Clinton Scutt
- Hagaman burial in Greenville
- 10 years ago: Ed Colvin
- Norman Parks
- Ira Dickson held for shooting wife – four articles whole page
- Elmer Flansburgh
- Emeline McCabe 1953
- Omar Losee
- Gordon Quay
- Andrew Thorne
- Arthur Burgess
- George Abrams

- Mrs. Marion Garretson
- Mrs. Lulu Parks
- Russell Poole
- Orson Hallenbeck
- Ada Finch Hickok
- Charlotte Louise Dressler

Two last categories remain to be detailed, both of them related to racing.

The first is auto racing. Nearly ten clippings detail early Clearview, a small oval in South Westerlo where the park and ball field are today. This racing scene has been detailed by Garth Bryant. This account is linked to: <https://www.dteator.com/glhg/glhg%20320pdf.pdf>

The second seems to have started after the beginning of Clearview. Cocksackie resident Walter Parks proposed and then built the Cocksackie Speedway. A few clippings give some details. This is bound to be a local history topic for Cocksackie.

And the final category: horse racing.

I was caught by surprise years ago upon first hearing about horse racing in Greenville. First, my world was too isolated to be aware of this activity. And I was just young enough that the peak of it in Greenville was in my rearview window. Even today, I have little information about this slice of life.

However, the raising and racing of trotting/pacing horses attracted a dedicated group in Greenville.

Serendipitously, the January 2025 issue of the Cairo Herald, published quarterly by the Cairo Historical Society and Sylvia Hasenkopf, contained a wonderful four page article about the Greene County Riding and Driving Club.

According to the article, this group formed in 1939, held its first annual meeting at the Greenville Academy, and whose officers and board members were predominantly Greenville area people, with Windham well represented. This group included: vice president Harry Adriance of Greenville, secretary Lawrence Powell of Norton hill, Treasurer Charles Bogardus of South Westerlo, director Pierce Stevens, Harry Adriance, Robert Van Houton, John Lowe, Augustus Shepard, a who's who of Greenville community members.

I go to this length to underscore the background that is not shared with the first entries in the scrapbook. The first mention is in 1942, and another clipping tells of the annual meeting in 1946 in Greenville at the Stevens shop.

In a conversation with Carol, she tells of her father's eighth-mile oval and riding course at the back of the house, between the Adriance house and Orlie Bear's house. And there were others in the area.

Back to the scrapbook. A couple dozen clippings tell of details at the Cairo Fairgrounds, the center of the riding club, as well as Rhinebeck and especially Saratoga. I would realize that some of the clippings about people referred

to the people and their families that the Adriances socialized with in the riding club. (For example, why are there so many mentions of the Thompsons of Windham? As it turns out, fellow club member Pierce Stevens married Ruth Thompson who had four sisters in Windham.)

And the last ten or more pages are clippings of horses and horsemen that Harry must have known but they seem to have no local connection, other than Harry's interest. And my interest quickly diminished.

And so my review of the Scrapbook comes to a close. Anyone wanting to view the real scrapbook, let me know.



Notes:

—Thank you, Stephanie and Christine, for another fine sampling of "light refreshments."

—Flip news: A recent conversation with Flip reassured me that he is on the mend

—Don showed three yearbooks from GCS from this past school year: one for high school, one for middle school, and one for elementary. Gone are the days of one for all. And the prices would make your pockets feel heavy.

October Program

The October 13 program features the 2026 GLHG Calendar.

Following a slide show of selected pages from past calendars, the calendar will be reviewed month by month. Also, the 2026 GLHG Recognitions will be announced and honored. Because the September audience did not want the recognizees to be announced at that meeting, I will announce the recipients the week before in an email and also announce on the local Facebook pages I post on.

Calendar prices have changed for the first time in a long time. With the use of color, production costs also increased. 2026 calendars will retail for \$15 each. However, attendees at the two upcoming meetings can receive a membership discount.