

# Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

October 2025, Issue 339

2026 Calendar, Recognition

In the previous nine weeks of drought weather we have enjoyed/endured, and only two rain events,... yes, you guessed it, our meeting day/evening featured a day-long, cool, soaking drizzle-rain, which would eventually measure almost two inches. Braving the showery weather for this meeting:

Eileen & Ed Volmar, [Volmar family: Kerry & Michael Houlihan, Karl & Neala Houlihan;

Kirsten & Kevin Dougherty, Emma & Ryan Dougherty], Terry & Garth Bryant, Jeff Pellerin, Stewart Wagner, Bill Quackenbush, Anita Orsino, Johanna & Robert Titus, Stephanie Ingalls, Carolyn Savery, Caroline Pollard, Elaine & Toby Nevins, Flip Flach, Maryann Morrison, Win Morrison (first-time, welcome), Christine Mickelsen, Debra & Don Teator, and perhaps a couple more that eluded my sign-in sheet and memory.

The focus this evening, as in past Octobers, was the revealing of the 2026 Greenville Local History Group calendar.

The cover looked different – a black and white sketch but looking much like one keeping its beige background.

And the first turn of the page screamed – COLOR! Yes, the first color calendar.

We flipped pages, with a commentary for each page given.

Pages of older scenes included:

- an early-mid century Greenville street scene
- mid-century aerial of Better Days Resort
- 1905 blueprint of Greenville Academy (now the Greenville Library)
- mid-century creation of town highway department/town hall building
- New SR 32 leading into Freehold

Pages of newer scenes included:

- Episcopal Church bicentennial celebration
- the shuttering of the Westerner and a bit of history
- House of Glory, with history

Combining old and new:

- a 1990 adaptation of the 1867 Beers map of the hamlet of Greenville

- O'Hara Corners history with modern day scene
- renovation of the Norton Hill spotter shed and history
- the founding of Van Auken Express, and current shot

The inside back cover and its facing page include our recognitions. (more later)

Back to the cover. For the first time ever, the cover is adorned with a building that was never built. Huh? Instead, an architectural drawing for front façade of the Greenville Academy is shown, the one that might have been... if the 1904 plans had been used. Instead, the 1905 plan was adopted. The caption for the cover reads: front elevation University of Greenville. And that elicits another Huh! I know more explanation is needed but more research might be useful for a future update.

I started to regale everyone about the creative process of starting and finishing a calendar. However, I had asked Paige Ingalls if she would craft an article about her two years of experience proof-reading the calendar. Her response succinctly conveys the process well enough that I needed to add nothing.

## Assisting Don with Calendar Captions

Paige Ingalls

When Don asked me to write about my experience assisting him with the GLHG calendar captions this year and last, I remember thinking, “Seriously? What does he want now?!” After all, he already had persuaded me to write an article last winter about my family’s early history when settling in the Greenville area. And then he talked me into providing a presentation about my findings - along with a Part Two about our annual Ingalls Reunion – which I did at the August GLHG meeting. Of course, I responded, “Okay.” Don is nothing if not expert at motivating people to respond positively to his suggestions!

He told me he wanted to share my article at the October GLHG meeting, or, as I’ve come to call it, “The Big Reveal.” I know it’s not as exciting as attending a “gender reveal” event, but for those interested in local history, it is, nonetheless, a special night each October. Who will be honored this year? Will there be an old photograph of a person or place taken where I live in the Town of Greenville? Which business, place of worship, boarding house/resort, renovated old house, and/or road, will be featured? Will I recognize a relative in a picture from a bygone time?

At the beginning of my first year assisting Don, I, too, had the same questions. My sense was that he had a special “formula” for choosing the photographs he uses to create the annual calendar. His choices are very comprehensive, covering the history and diversity of the Greenville area. They also are eclectic, for example featuring topics involving maps, farming, cemeteries, schools, and you name it!

It turns out I was correct, and one of the things I’ve enjoyed most about working with Don has been learning about a wide range of local history subjects. For instance, I’d never thought much about septic systems and where the waste goes. Helping with last year’s calendar caption for Baumann’s Septic Cleaning

informed me. This year, I learned about plane spotting in the 1940s and 1950s in our upstate region. As the saying goes, “The more I learn, the more I realize how much I don’t know.”

The process Don and I have arrived at is as follows:

- He chooses the topic and photograph to be featured on a calendar page.
- He completes his interview(s) and research into the subject. He uses his Historian’s records for inspiration and research along with the hundreds of photographs Deb and he have taken and accumulated through the years. I’ve also gleaned some understanding about how diplomatic he must be at times when trying to persuade people to have their houses, businesses, etc. spotlighted in the calendar.
- He emails me his rough draft of the caption.
- Next, I get to work. I proof what he has written, checking spellings, dates, and addresses. (Spell check makes this pretty easy.)
- After that, I pose questions that Don attempts to answer in emails that go back and forth between us. I ask myself what does the typical community member already know about the topic and then try to make certain that what is written will make sense to them, as well as to someone who may be fully unfamiliar with the subject matter. Sometimes this entails rearranging the chronology of what is written so that it makes the description clearer. At other times it means providing more context and/or better explaining something.
- Lastly, I email my edits back to Don to “do with them what he will,” as I often tell him.

Don always is open to my questions, proofing, editing, and thoughts about the content of the captions. This year, he took a chance and asked me to write the first draft of a caption. I was relatively pleased with it until he gently

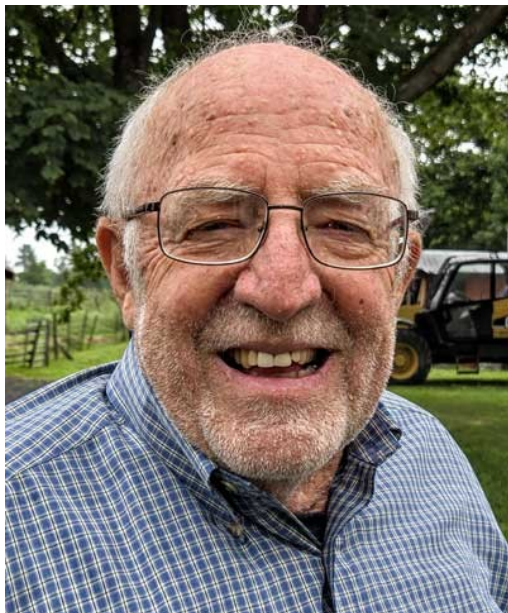
Continued next page

pointed out that it was way longer than what would fit on a page with four photographs (however small he made them)! He patiently guided me, and I deleted half of what I'd originally included. I learned that brevity is necessary while ensuring that the most salient points about the topic and photograph(s) are included in the caption.

In conclusion, I have learned a lot by assisting Don with two GLHG calendars. He has been a great mentor throughout the process.

I hope everyone enjoys the 2026 GLHG calendar!

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Thank you, Paige, for your account. And your assistance has been, and is, much appreciated.



#### 2026 GLHG Recognitions: Ed Volmar, Johanna & Robert Titus

One section that invites GLHG input is the selection of our Recognitions.

As noted in a previous non-newsletter email, we as a community group award our recognition to community members who 1) serve the Greenville area above and beyond the call of duty and office and/or 2) accomplish or have accomplishments that bring acclaim to the Greenville area.

The 2026 calendar recognized Eberhard 'Ed' Volmar and Johanna & Robert Titus. The Oc-

tober 13 email (the reminder note) gave the short account of accomplishments for each. (sales pitch alert: the full account is in the calendar)

At the meeting, as each was invited to receive the award (praise, and a calendar), Don made summary notes of the accomplishments of each. This was followed with a public acceptance and comments from each. It is always a touching moment, and one we should all be proud of. Few other calendars recognize our own community members.

All this was preceded by Don's presentation. Usually, it is intended as an entertaining selection of past calendar pages comprising a certain theme. However, this year deviated from that with Don presenting a broader topic – an overview of online sources of calendars and local history.

One of those sources led to the free website PorcupineSoup.com.

PorcSoup, as I refer to it, carries news of the Greenville-Durham-Cairo area and extends to the next ring of bordering towns. Often the news is recent.

Another benefit provided by PorcSoup is the inclusion of several columnists, three of whom are local historians. One is Mary Lou Nahas's Durham column; another is Sylvia Hasenkopf's regional research; and the third is the Greenville Local History Group. And the past contributed posts are archived under each of those particular headings.

Mary Lou and Sylvia write almost all of the contributed articles. On the other hand, I act more as a gatekeeper, sending it on to PorcSoup when I have approved submission. I have had the good fortune of having other writers creating posts. Most notable is Garth Bryant with almost twenty features in the last couple of years. All of them are available on PorcSoup. (I will give more details on the GLHG page as soon as it is re-organized early this coming year.)

Other online sources include the biweekly Greenville Pioneer and the almost daily Daily Mail and they are certainly appreciated.

The one remaining part of the program is indeed a momentous one for me. I have described in past newsletters the part that County Historian Jonathan Palmer played in creating a link from the Vedder Library site to show every calendar page of every Greenville calendar – over 400 photos from 30 calendars.

A half-hour was spent scrolling through the first few calendars and then proceeding to one of the more recent ones to highlight how the calendar has evolved over three decades. (fewer building-only photos, more community member efforts; much longer captions; recognitions)

Someone wanting an overview of Greenville history, even if a scattered view, could do so by perusing this calendar collection.

These are the directions to view these 400 photos:

- go to [vedderresearchlibrary.org](http://vedderresearchlibrary.org)
- then click on the drop-down menu:
- select Reference Tools
- and then select Greenville

Also on the Vedder website are links to other efforts I have accumulated over the years.

One: pdf files for each of the over 300 newsletter from the last 35 years is available. (A worthy winter project to be done: index major topics. If a volunteer wants to tackle that one, let me know.)

Second: the Resort page. A list of each resort ever found in the Town of Greenville fill this page. Almost all the links need more fleshing out. If you would like to help with any, let me know.

Third: everything else.

- the files section: a listing of everything in the records room
- the histories section: links to a half-dozen histories of Greenville, including the Beers benchmark
- the multi-part section: the several sections of the Carrie Ingalls Diary; Audrey Matott's "life in Greenville according to the Greenville Local."

Don opined that a person, all curled up in a comfy nook, could take all month reading these sources.

### **November Program – Breaking News**

Flip's Extended Village Canvas, his memory trip of places and businesses of his lifetime, continues! A recent email revealed Flip feels recovered enough from his medical issues to present the November program. This time, Flip heads east into the Four Corners. He will travel the short distance from Hill Street to the junction at Stewart's, travel the short but steep hill from Stewart's to the top of the hill on CR 26, and then come back to the junction to share his memories of the heart of Greenville on east Main Street. This trip is one to share and enjoy with Flip. Come with your memories.

Welcome back, Flip.

## Greenville Local History Group Calendar Recognitions



Debra (Hoover) & Don Teator (2025)



Jack and Barbara (Baker) Van Aukens (2024)



Barbara Walter (2024)



Clockwise, from left:

Vedder site—list  
of recognitions;

March 2026 main photo—  
leading into Freehold;

Vedder site—first  
four calendar pages;

cover of 2026 calendar—  
University of Greenville.

(more details in newsletter)



Front Elevation University of Greenville BY



Cover 1991

Greenville Free Academy, pre 1906



January 1991 - Stevens legs - 1905

Williams and Pierce Stevens, moving snow as boys did in 1905. This picture was one of several drawn done by Madison Stevens using the 5 x 7 glass negative format.



February 1991 - South Street, Greenville in winter

A classic winter scene shows South Street, Greenville about 1905 as seen by Madison Stevens. Left is the Randall house, center is the Greenville Arms. Right, telephone pole brings new service to Greenville.



March 1991 - Cartman House, Rt 67, Freehold

The Cartman house (today owned by John & Laurie Marchai, one half mile west on Rt 67, Freehold starts with the building of the last stone foundation. Lewis Cartman and unidentified men stand in the cellar. The Crawford house (owned by Sandy & Cindy Nickamp) stands in the corner. The snow covered hillside is today the site of the Greenville High School.

### **2027 Calendar**

Although it may seem one calendar just arrived, planning for the next starts now.

The 2027 calendar will deviate from its usual format of showing slices of life from Greenville lurking around each corner.

Instead, I have yielded to the lobbying of a fellow historian and instead the calendar will focus on a theme – Barns of the Greenville Area. Thus I am starting my hunt for barns for calendar inclusion.

Of the thirteen photos (12 + cover), six are planned to be in Greenville and one each from our neighboring towns: Durham, Rensselaerville, Westerlo, Coeymans, Cocksackie, New Baltimore, and Cairo.

If you can think of a barn that I must have in the calendar, please contact me. As of this writing, I have selections done for Coeymans and New Baltimore, as well as three of the Greenville six.

### **Note from Flip**

To my fellow Historians:

I just want to thank everyone for their good thoughts, prayers, and cards for me during my hospitalization and recovery time – they are much appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Flip

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[dt] I owe Flip an apology. He had asked for a moment to talk to the audience at this October meeting. In all the hubbub, I forgot.

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### **Donation Thank You**

A recent contribution from Linda Berger is appreciatively received. If you wish to donate by check, please make it out to GLHG. Thank

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### **Want a calendar mailed?**

Contact me with a name and address, how many and submit a check for \$15 per calendar.

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### **Notes:**

- Thank you, Stephanie & Christine, for your tempting refreshments. I know there might be a person or two who show up mostly for the tasty treats!
- Debra updated the group on the new art show in the gallery that is our meeting room, as well Clematis Garden Club events (check out CGC on Facebook, or contact Debra Teator [518-669-6262, email quiltdat@gmail.com] or Terry Buel).
- I recently traded emails with Orrin Stevens who wished to be remembered to the group. He says he keeps Greenville in his heart! And I remembered to note Ron Golden and June Clark who I keep in touch with.
- Calendar will be available on meeting night, with a special discount given for the last time. The first-time color calendar seems to be drawing rave reviews. And if you cannot purchase one at this meeting, be sure to support our local business – Kelly's, GNH, Library.
- Dues: There are no dues if you receive this by email. However, costs to cover a year's worth of mailings is \$10. Payment can be made to Don Teator, 3979 Rt 67, Freehold, NY, 12431.
- Starting time: I will send out a separate email to the usual attendees to take a vote: Should we keep our 7:30 start time, or should we change it to 7 pm starting next year? An email will be sent within this next month.
- Correction: from the Adriance Scrapbook program, it should be noted that Greenville's first Eagle Scout was Kenneth **Bott**.
- Win Morrison offered a 50 ear bag of corn to attendees. All 50 were spoken for by the time I closed the meeting. I must say that the corn ears that arrived in Freehold were delicious, just as close-to-home fresh corn should be. Thank you, Win.