

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

June 2026, Issue 346

N. Reese—Norton; Locust Marker; 1925 Census

A pleasant early-June evening, with a brilliant blue sky and as much sunlight as any month in our season receives, welcomed our local history program attendees: Paul Augstein, Stewart Wagner, Lawrence Brown, Roland Reissig, Eileen & Ed Volmar, Lou Knott, Stephanie Ingalls, Charlene & Ken Mabey, Johanne & Robert Titus, Rachel Ceasar, John Snider, Addie Kotsol, Jack VerPlank, David Tschinkel, Flip Flach, Tom Sweeney, Elaine & Toby Nevins, Joyce Chase, Anita Orsino, Christine Mickelsen, and Debra & Don Teator, and maybe another one or two.

Originally, I had planned on a program that would reveal what the 1910 and 1925 censuses could tell about Greenville.

In the couple weeks before the program, two strands of local history importance played their timeliness cards.

Thus, the Library's front board presented our mystery program – Norton, Locust, 1925. Details ahead.

Part I: Norton

The evening's first speaker, Noel Reese, grew up in Binghamton but now lives in Port Charlotte, FL. After retiring from USN with the rank of Commander, he then worked and retired from NextEra Energy, and now works for Florida Power & Light.

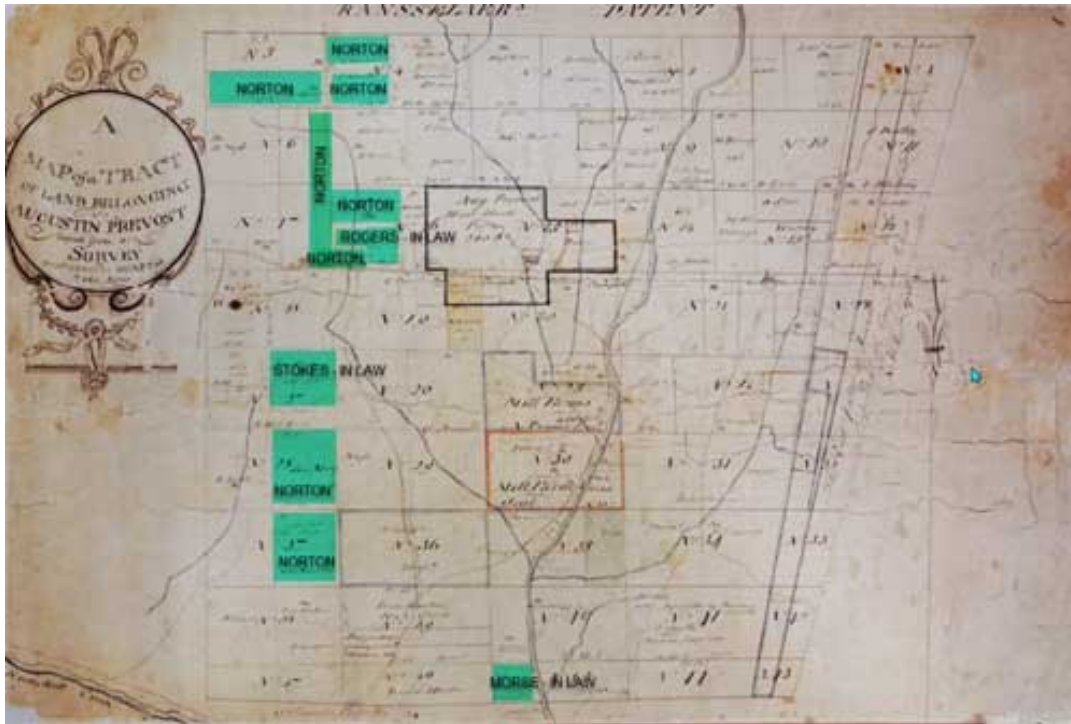
"In 2022, I came across my grandmother's 1980 obituary which said she had been born in Catskill in 1896. No one in my family had ever mentioned that the family had roots in Catskill. I signed up with Ancestry,... and traveled to Catskill in 2023 and have been to Greene County every June since then. I discovered I have 8 generations of ancestors in Greene County (3 Norton, 2 Rogers, and 3 Simmons). Other Greene County related families are Eighmeyer (East Durham), Pierce (East Durham), Garrison (Round Top)

and Foley AKA Fowley (High Falls)."

Noel's trip to Greenville, and Locust Cemetery in particular, led to the discovery that the Norton branch, the topic of the evening, is/was deeply ensconced in the Norton Hill area. His findings gave an indication why Norton Hill is named Norton Hill.

The early Prevost map gave an eyeful, pock-marked with almost ten green dots, each dot, almost shockingly representing a Norton family or an in-law. Shockingly, because it is the first time I have been aware of the residences of this family line, this early in Greenville's history. The dots lined up with today's Carter Bridge Rd on the map's bottom and North Rd, roughly, on the top.

One of my obvious questions: How does a family this important disappear from



The Prevost map: on the left is the town border with Town of Durham;
the squiggly line running down the center of the map is the Basic Creek;
the four corners runs vertically three quarters across the page;

Greenville history?

Noel proceeded to flesh out some of that answer with findings from his research trips, some of which we GLHGers have heard before from Garth, albeit with a different angle.

Why would reasonably comfortable-living people leave nice civilization to come to the wilds of Greene County?

Noel cited several causes. Of course, the primary one might be the end of the American Revolution. Land previously controlled by the British was now American and thus more available. This did not mean any land was available for the taking.

The obvious second cause was living conditions back in civilized Guilford CT. As Noel related from a different account, but applicable to our area:

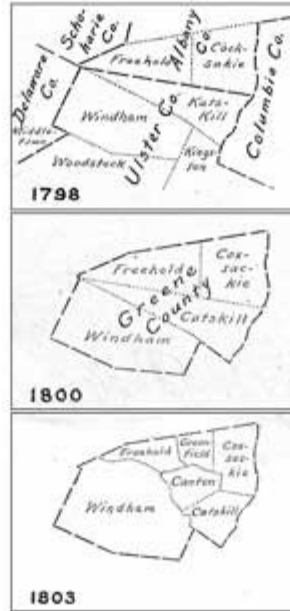
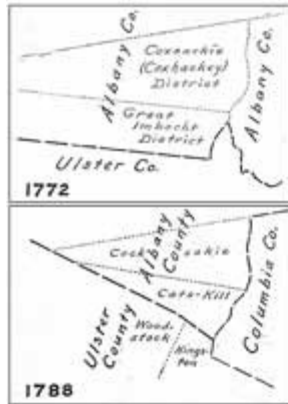
“...The chapter titled “Invasion by Yankees” is very applicable to the story of

the Norton clan migration to New York.”

This “invasion... was fueled, for example, by a father who has several sons and several daughters, the eldest being 19 years of age. Home is thickly settled and. He has not the means to buy farms for the sons there. If he goes and gets cheap land in New York, “his sons will assist him in clearing the land, and thus they will have a farm each. To a man in such circumstances and born with an axe in one hand and a gun in the other, the western countries are desirable. In New England the available farmland was not adequate to take care of the increasing population. A farmer would not divide his land among half a dozen children, for none of them could make a living. The farm went to one son, usually the eldest, and the younger sons headed west.”

Another important factor was the Prevost Patent. Another map shows the Town of Greenville and the three patents it falls in-

The Evolution of Greene County



1799 Tax Rolls - 12 Norton and 2 in-law families
 1800 Tax Rolls - 8 Norton and 3 in-law families
 1801 Tax Rolls - 8 Norton & 3 in-law families
 1802 Tax Rolls - 6 Norton and 3 in-law families
 1810 Census - 8 Norton & 3 in-law families
 1820 Census - 5 Norton & 5 in-law families
 1830 Census - 3 Norton & 4 in-law families

Recently, Noel checked the 1855 census. At least two Norton families lived in Greenville, with a few others found elsewhere in Greene County.

(On a side note, Noel wondered about the Prevost family in the same census but this could lead to a longer story and maybe a program.)

Another aspect of difficulties in researching in the 1790-1810 period was the changing boundary lines. As Noel notes in his 100+ page missive, "the counties and towns in the Greene County area of New York State were

in a state of flux. The convoluted tale per the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B) is as follows:"

Greene County

25 March 1800; carved out of Albany and Ulster counties

Durham was settled in 1776

1790; formed as the Town of Freehold (Durham) from the western end of the Town of Coxsackie in Albany County

1800; transferred to the new county of Greene

1803; daughter towns of Canton (now Cairo) and Greenfield (now Greenville) formed; ceded land to the Town of Windham

1805; name changed to Durham

Informally referred to as New Durham, NY by many settlers from Connecticut as the original Town of Durham is located just north of the Town of Guilford in Connecticut

Freehold: name for the Town of Durham from 1790 to 1805

Freehold today is a hamlet located in the Town of Greenville with its own zip

code 12431

Freehold was once an Indian village. The Indian village disappeared in 1616, followed by squatters in 1700, for here was some of the best land in the Catskill valley.

In 1717, the Hallenbeck Patent consisting of 1000 acres around present day Freehold was awarded by Governor Robert Hunter to Johannes Jacobse Hallenbeck (1686-1755) of Loonenburgh (modern-day Athens, NY) after he petitioned for the land. Some of the land was sold by 1720 giving credence to the idea that Freehold was the first place settled in Greenville.

Greenfield; name for the Town of Greenville from 1803 to 1808

Greenville was settled in 1750 but known as Freehold up till 1803

1768; the land was patented

1803; formed as the Town of Greenfield from the Towns of Coxsackie and Freehold (now Durham)

1808; name changed to Freehold

1809; name changed to Greenville

“It can be rather confusing as to where your ancestors “actually resided”, especially regarding where in the Towns of Coxsackie, Freehold, Durham, Greenfield, or Greenville.

“This could mean that a family living in a homestead in the Town of Coxsackie in Albany County in 1788 could remain in this same homestead and in 1790 be living in the Town of Freehold in Albany County, in 1800 be living in the Town of Freehold in Greene County, in 1803 be living in the Town of Greenfield in Greene County, in 1808 living in the Town of Freehold in Greene County, and finally in 1809, living in the Town of Greenville in Greene County, and they never moved!

“Most of the records will simply show Greenville but you need to check the “all important date” because it may have actually

been Coxsackie or Freehold in Albany County or Freehold, Greenfield, or Greenville in Greene County.”

Noel also notes: “In multiple places within this compilation, it is noted that there is no information on where a person was buried. In the article, *West Greenville, Erstwhile Marble Pillar* by Raymond Beecher, it provides a plausible explanation. “Some families followed the age-old custom of having burial plots on their own acreage...” even though cemeteries such as Locust and others were available. Locust Cemetery, also known as Locust Hill and Prevost, is one of the oldest cemeteries in Greenville. It sits on land donated by the Prevost Family and lies within the neighborhood of Norton Hill.”

Noel’s genealogy search focused on the research on mainly four Norton families: Daniel Norton Jr, Ambrose Norton, Felix Norton, and Elnathan Norton, along with many ‘in-law’ families.

Noel has provided a wonderful service in tying so much information together. However, to the ordinary, non-Norton-connected person (me), a flood of names zoom past just as I zipped through pages of unfamiliar names upon first viewing. I think this is true for all of us who have genealogy and find results for names not connected to us.

And thus I will not delve in the details of the names of the hundreds of Norton descendants. If you are so interested, contact Noel Reese, or contact me to reach him.

Noel Reese, thank you for such a detailed look at a family we might have never heard about again but for your intervention! The GLHG deeply appreciates your sharing your research this evening.

Part 2: Locust Cemetery: Collaboration, a Historic Marker, and a Garth Tribute

Noel Reese appears again. As the reader knows by now, Noel was researching the Norton line and found at least two relatives, and other American Revolution War vets, in Locust Cemetery. He wanted to install a small metal marker beside each grave.

He talked to his friend Joe Sicluna, another SAR (Sons of the American Revolution) leader (from the Leatherstocking, Central NY, chapter) who challenged him to find others and perhaps a historic marker could be applied for.

Change of scenery: Bill Pomeroy heads up the Pomeroy Foundation which sponsors historical markers in coordination with SAR. The foundation will pay for markers which can be documented and meet other benchmarks.

In the meantime, Garth and I had talked to Noel last year and were once again contacted for info (documentation) of possible Amer Rev soldiers in Locust. Because one of the Pomeroy requirements is the original stone must exist, a couple of the eventual nine soldiers could not be included on the marker.

Next, Joe discussed with me his needs and timeline to make the marker happen, one of them a Greenville Town Board resolution that would OK the marker and have the Town accept the marker on its land. I became the liaison between Joe and the TB.

At last, the marker has been approved and is being made, with an installation date possibly in the fall. Some fanfare and publicity is sought, so you readers will be cajoled to cheer on when it happens. And the American Legion Color Guard will be asked to attend

The marker will read:

PATRIOT BURIALS
LOCUST CEMETERY
BURIALS AS EARLY AS 1797.
AT LEAST SEVEN REVOLUTIONARY
WAR SOLDIERS BURIED
HERE CA. 1813-1841
WILLIAM G. POMEROY FOUNDATION 2026

In the meantime, Paige Ingalls documented the two Ingalls in Locust. Garth started looking up others, and then went further to help clean (and find) the gravestones of the Amer Rev soldiers. Garth also has a Locust Cemetery project going, with active help from wife Terry, but that will be a story, and maybe a program, in 2027.

I have played the role of traffic control, pointing in different directions, hoping all is working out. So far, so good, and stay tuned.

And, finally, Garth, as only Garth can do, thought these AR vets should be remembered. Thus, I am including in this newsletter his piece, just in time for the 250th Anniversary.

Garth, once again, thank you for another contribution that our community enjoys and finds informative.

(Just to be clear: these nine residents/soldiers were not living in Greenville at the time of the American Revolution. Greenville's population is miniscule in 1775. However, these nine moved to the Greenville area after serving in the war and were buried at Locust Cemetery.)



Honoring Those who Fought to Make our Country Free by Garth Bryant

As we celebrate the 250th year anniversary of the founding of America there are numerous events planned nationwide. In Greenville one such project deserves mention. Two men have led this project. The first is Noel Reese. Noel is a descendant of the Norton family that settled Norton Hill in the late 1700s. The second is Joseph Sicluna, Vice President for the Capitol Region Sons of the American Revolution, who works with the William G. Pomeroy Foundation in placing historical markers honoring Revolutionary War Patriots.

Through these men's efforts Locust Cemetery on Maple Avenue in Greenville will be receiving a historical marker honoring the nine known Revolutionary War Veterans buried there. In order to qualify for this marker, a large amount of documented proof had to be submitted to the foundation. This standard has been met and the marker should be placed in the cemetery this year. In establishing the provenance of this research, the

efforts of Greenville Town Historian Don Teator and Cairo Town Historian Sylvia Hasenkopf along with former Greenville resident Paige Ingalls were also invaluable.

Locust Cemetery was established in the early years of the 1800's. This land was donated to establish a cemetery by Major Augustine Prevost who fought in the British Army against the cause of American Liberty. After the war Prevost reclaimed most of the land in Greenville through the political interference of Aaron Burr who was married to Prevost's aunt. Many American patriots were displaced from their farms. Prevost and much of his family are interred in Locust. Somewhat surprisingly, these nine American Patriots are also buried there alongside their old enemy.

Who were these brave men who took up arms in the cause of Liberty? As it turns out many of these names still echo through the Town of Greenville 250 years later.

We will start with **Joseph Ingalls, Jr.** He is the patriarch of all the Ingalls who have lived in Greenville for the last 234 years. A resident of Rehoboth, MA, he was a member of Samuel Bliss's company of Minute Men. This unit marched to the alarm of the April 19, 1775 attack on Lexington and Concord. He enlisted in the Continental Army eight days later on April 27, 1775 in Colonel Timothy Walker's 22nd regiment and served in the siege of Boston. He reenlisted numerous times over the next five years and is listed on the muster rolls of various units of the Continental Army until December 31, 1780. He moved to Greenville after the war in 1792 and purchased 104 acres of land on Elm Lane from Prevost.

Jacob Ingalls, son of Joseph. He enlisted into the Continental Army in June 1780 at the age of 16. He served in Captain North's company of Colonel Henry Jackson's 16th Regiment of the Massachusetts Line. He immediately marched west through Springfield and on to West Point, NY. Later, after a short posting in New Jersey, he was present at the hanging of Major Andre in Tappan, NY. Andre, a British officer, was captured with the plan to capture West Point that had been sold to him by Benedict Arnold when he turned traitor. Andre was hanged as a spy. Jacob was discharged in December 1780 and returned home to Rehoboth. In April 1781 he was drafted to a 40-day term and marched to Rhode Island with Simeon Cole's Massachusetts Militia. His final discharge was at the end of this term. He also came to Greenville in 1792 and lived in his father's cabin before building his own award-winning farm on Elm Lane.

Captain Daniel Norton, Jr. Born June 17, 1733, Daniel was a French and Indian War veteran. He joined America's fight for freedom as a 42-year-old. He served in the Guilford, CT Militia during the Lexington alarm.

He later served as a Captain in the 7th Regiment of the Connecticut Militia. In the early 1780s he led the Norton family migration to Greenville. Norton Hill was named for him and his home stood near the site of the current Methodist Church. Although we are confident that he is buried in Locust Cemetery, Daniel's headstone is missing. The toppling of a large tree that once stood in the Norton plot may have destroyed it.

Jonathan Stokes was the son-in-law of Daniel Norton, Jr. He was married to Sarah "Sally" Norton. He served 15 months as a private in the Continental Army. He then went to sea and served in the fledgling US Navy. He served on the Brig of War, the Defense, and later on the frigate "Confederacy." After the war he joined the Norton migration to Greenville. His farm was located just south of Norton Hill on the current Carter Bridge Road.

David Morse married another one of Daniel Norton, Jr.'s daughters. He married Lucy Norton in Guilford, CT in October 1777. David served three times during the Revolution. In April 1775 he served 16 days during the Lexington Alarm in the Guilford, CT militia. He also served as a private in Captain Hand's Company of Colonel Talbot's Regiment from March 22nd to April 18th 1776 during the New York Expedition. Finally, he served as a sergeant in Captain Vail's Coastal Defense Guards in 1781. He also moved to Greenville after the war. His 68-acre farm is shown in the very northwest corner of the future Town of Greenville on early maps.

Ambrose Norton was Daniel Norton, Jr.'s distant cousin. He served as a member of the Connecticut Line from 1777 to 1783. He achieved the rank of Corporal in Captain Hall's Artillery Company in the 7th Regiment. He fought at Germantown, PA, in

1777. He survived the brutal winter at Valley Forge in 1777-1778. He then fought at the American victory at Monmouth, NJ, in 1778. He later fought during the storming of Stoney Point, NY, in 1779. In 1781 when the Connecticut line was consolidated, he became a member of Captain Comstock's Company in the 2nd Regiment. He, too, moved to Greenville following the war, and his farm was located on the southern end of Carter Bridge Road.

Captain Abram Post enlisted in 1776. He served as an Ensign in the 6th Company of Colonel Swift's 5th Battalion in the Connecticut 2nd Regiment. In those days Ensign was a junior officer's rank in the Army. At some point he may have been promoted to Captain as that is what is on his headstone. His name appears on a large section of land between Maple Avenue and Ingalside Road on the earliest map. A later map shows him as owner of only a small piece of this property. It is assumed that Post, like most of the earliest settlers, lost claim to his land to Provost after the war and could only buy back a small piece of it.

Jehiel Lamb enlisted in the Dutchess County Militia in October 1777. He served in Peekskill, Fishkill and New Windsor, NY. He was discharged with the rank of Sergeant in January 1778. After the war he moved to southern Albany County. The now almost forgotten hamlet of Lamb's Corners is named after him and his family.

Lastly, we have **Jacob Bogardus**, but he really should be first. He is the only known Revolutionary War veteran who lived in Greenville before the war. He arrived in 1772 being just the third European to arrive. His home was the furthest west of any at that time and completely exposed to Native American attack. Having found signs of Iroquois rummaging through his farm

when he returned from being married in Cocksackie in 1774, he made the decision to abandon his farm and move with his new wife back to Cocksackie until more settled times. When the war broke out, he joined the NY Militia in Cocksackie. He and his unit served around the State during the fighting. They marched north in 1777 to join the fight near Saratoga. They were later stationed in Fort Johnson (Johnstown) and Schoharie to protect these frontier settlements from British and Iroquois raids. Both of these towns were attacked during the war. After the war he returned to Greenville and lived out his life. His headstone in Locust Cemetery was discovered near his old adversary Prevost's plot. It turns out that Prevost's second wife, Anna Bogardus, who married him in Catskill in 1794, was Jacob Bogardus' daughter.

As we celebrate America's 250th anniversary, we honor these nine Patriots who are buried in Locust Cemetery.

We do this acknowledging there are thousands of other heroes resting in countless cemeteries around the country. But for these nine at least they are no longer nameless and the details of their service are remembered. These men risked everything to help build a country where men and women could be free.

Having, against all odds and probability, accomplished this, they then came to the wilderness that would become Greenville and helped build a community. This is a noble record of sacrifice and achievement.

This Fourth of July when we are celebrating America's 250th anniversary, I encourage everyone to take a moment and remember these nine remarkable veterans and all the other brave men and women who fought and continue to fight for our Liberty.

God Bless America.

Notes:

- Thank you, Stephanie & Christine, for yet another sterling presentation of “light refreshments.”
- Debra provided the audience an update on the Library art gallery and of the doings of the Clematis Garden Club.
- Don held up a cloth gift bag from Greenville Dental from its grand opening a couple days earlier at the lot in front of the Town Park. The GLHG has been interested in this property for the past quarter century when the stately brick Vanderbilt house was targeted for demolition a quarter century ago. But that is another chapter in GLHG history.
- For the spring and summer music schedule, go to cpog.org
- Debra and I will not be in the county from 6/22-7/6. If communication is desired, contact me either before or after.



The two stones on this page represent two of the American Revolution soldiers buried in the Locust Cemetery.

The extra clean look comes from a Bryant scrubbing and the sunlit reflection from a Teator mirror.

Part 3: Town of Greenville in the NYS 1925 Census

The length of details for the first two parts have been extensive enough to test the limits of our newsletter. Thus, I will save the Part 3 write-up for a future newsletter, even if it moves into a winter slot.



July Program

The July 13 program sees Flip Flach return with Part VII of his *An Extended Village Canvas*. Flip's idea has been to retell his memories of "ex-buildings, ex-businesses, ex-entrepreneurs" that graced and inhabited the roadways of Greenville. Originally, the idea was to start a half-mile away from the Four Corners and work our way back. Past programs bear witness to a much expanded area.

This time, south of Greenville is the subject. Flip and I have debated where the southern edge will be. I think we finally decided that Carlsen's Gallery will serve as that southern edge although it will become Freehold's northern edge whenever some does a Freehold canvas.

Those attending should feel free to share your memories also.