

January 1992

Although a State of the GLHG letter may still sound a trifle hi-falutin', I do hope it gives us a chance to look at our accomplishments, compare our goals with our activities, and suggest places we need or might want to go.

Our goals have been:

1. to encourage active research
2. to gather, preserve, and display artifacts, documents, and photographs relating to the history of Greenville
3. to encourage a greater knowledge of the history of Greenville
4. to promote recognition of historic buildings and sites in Greenville

This past year was a productive and active year for the Local History Group on many fronts with almost all members contributing.

Our program schedule generally followed a schedule alternating between share sessions and programs. Topics have included Len Ciufo's Rotary history slide show (February), one room school houses (April), female artists (July), former supervisors (October), and WWII (December). A smart aleck might say that our programs really are spacers between share meetings. A long view is the mix of share sessions and programs has proven to be a productive, stimulating arrangement. Every couple months, we have a chance to share our findings sandwiched around those meetings that focus on topics.

The 1991 calendar became another way for us to share local history with the community. The annoyance of selling and dealing with "big finances" were more than outweighed by the public acclaim instigated by this worthwhile project. The calendar project brings additional attention to the Historian's photo project. Production credits go to June Clark, Debra Teator, and Don Teator; credit also goes to the many members who loaned money and sold calendars. Because of all of our efforts, calendar sales meant we paid back our loans, made enough money to pay for the 1992 calendar, allowed us to have a treasury from which to take money for worthwhile projects. A special selling thank you goes to Ariene and Lee Brown, June Clark, Ellen Smith in the Library, and Jim and Jeannette Valentine of the Freehold Store.

The 1992 calendar continues our first effort. Thanks to the Library, the Greenville Pharmacy, and the Freehold Country Store, as well as several of the resorts, the calendars sold even better than last year. Thank you to Harriet Rasmussen, June Clark, Betty Vaughn, Debra Teator, and Don Teator for acting as the photo selection committee. Don and Debra coordinated the printing through Tee's of Coxsackie.

The GLHG's involvement with the 4th grade local history

projects is a worthwhile one. Thanks to Bonnie Persico's and Dave Dively's involvement, we have shared the talents and work of the GCS fourth graders. The immigrant experience drew attention to the challenge that newcomers to America and Greenville faced. The GLHG contributed \$45 for two prizes for students living in the Greenville half of the district (the Rensselaerville Historical Society contributes for their half).

Membership in the GLHG has levelled off, as could be expected after almost two years of rapid growth. Nearly fifty mailings go out to the almost seventy members. Even more telling, our percentage of contributing members and percentage of total members at meetings are ones many local history societies would be proud of. Although some day our circle may become unwieldy, our commitment to sharing and producing is symbolized by our circle.

A wide array of individual projects have been accomplished or are in progress. A listing of over three-quarters of our membership would be found in at least one of the activities now mentioned: genealogy, loaning pictures to be copied, loaning material to be copied, writing house histories, writing personal memories of places and people, the giving of material for the files, and assisting with the photo project. In the background, ideas are percolating, people listen to what others are doing, and word continues to get out about our efforts. All of this is necessary for the continued health of this group.

Despite the achievements of many people of the GLHG, other projects still await someone's energy and talent. A list of projects was recently sent out; those not receiving it then (not on regular mailing list) are receiving one now. If time allows, this list may be a reminder that each of us do make a difference. If you can help even more than you are already, you will be saving a piece of local history that otherwise might pass unnoticed.

We still have not been active in efforts to foster preservation of historic sites. Although the town and planning boards have a large say in such matters, the initiative of preservation-minded people will be needed to kickstart this effort. Maybe we're not ready for this part yet; the political part of working for preservation laws may be beyond us for now. The financial part of preservation is another daunting element that keeps many at arm's length. For now, we'll deal with the informal awareness raising of the value of our town's architecture.

Where do we head for next? One answer has to be that we're doing fine the way it is. Maintaining the effort and interest we've generated is a worthy goal unto itself. This means the looking into of small projects, the consistent adding to the files, the spreading of the news of our activity, and an occasional tackling of a new or large project.

For the ambitious, the tendency to try for "larger and better" things lures. Of course, if energy allows, great.

Yet, at the same time, changing directions for the sake of changing direction leads to many loose ends.

For better or worse, we've settled into a pattern of energy and the types of activities we'll try. Anyone wanting to alter that pattern has the blessing of the rest of the Group but as with all the other projects, someone has to see it through. The invitation is still there, is still being met, will always be there as long as people like us think the past and the present are links to the future, as well as a source of pleasure to share with others.

Let's try to make 1992 as productive as this past year.

Sincerely,

Don Teator

P.S. Anyone with an alternative view of the state of the Group is encouraged to share his/her view in an upcoming newsletter.

GLHG Financial Report - January 1992

The credit balance of the GLHG as of January 1, 1991 was \$1,283.98.

Bills paid for from the GLHG treasury in 1991 were:
\$750 printing of 1992 calendar by Tee's, Coxsackie
75 photography lab work, Debra Teator, Freehold
45 prize money for 4th grade project
5 income tax (estimated by Don Teator)

A near sellout of 1992 calendars meant all calendar expenses were met as well as a profit realized.

Interest credited in 1991 to the account was \$82.57.

The GLHG credit balance as of January 1, 1992 is \$2,567.39.

As has been true for our existence, this money remains in an account bearing my name in the Coxsackie National Bank, Greenville Branch, with the understanding that interest from that account goes to the GLHG after any tax liability to me has been taken from the credited interest.

I am willing to continue this arrangement as long as the GLHG is willing to accept this understanding. Should any member wish to become treasurer for a GLHG account, I will give up this responsibility without a whimper.

Jun 1989	First meeting
Sep 1989	June Clark accepts chairperson ship of GLHG
Oct 1989	Greenville Local History Group formed
Nov 1989	program - Videotaping of Joe Mangold
Jan 1990	program - History of Churches in GCS District slides by Cris Ketcham
Mar 1990	program - House history worksheets
May 1990	program - Union Station preservation video
May 1990	GLHG at CVHS Hobby Show
Jun 1990	GLHG at Rotary Fair
Jun 1990	GLHG supports 4th grade project - interviews
Jul 1990	program - how-to-tape & transcribe
Sep 1990	GLHG at Oktoberfest
Oct 1990	program - Early Farming Days w/Weeks & Bear
Oct 1990	1991 calendar presented
Oct 1990	GLHG at its own Open House
Dec 1990	program - Service & Social Organizations
Feb 1991	program - Rotary history / tape of Ciufu work
Apr 1991	program - One Room Schoolhouses
May 1991	June Clark resigns chairpersonship
Jun 1991	GLHG supports 4th grade project - immigrants
Jun 1991	GLHG at Rotary Fair
Jul 1991	program - Area Female Artists - Clement & Thomsen
Sep 1991	1992 calendar presented
Oct 1991	program - Former Supervisors
Nov 1991	first cancellation - weather
Dec 1991	program - WWII in Greenville

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