

R.D. 1, Box 147
Freehold, NY 12431
October 13, 1989

Dear

Now we've done it! We committed, or should I use the word dedicated, ourselves to being called the Greenville Local History Group. The name reflects our desire to be recognized as a Town group but also maintain an informal attitude.

The word "Greenville" recognizes the Town of Greenville as a political unit comprised of smaller hamlets - Greenville, Freehold, Norton Hill, Surprise, Gayhead, East Greenville, West Greenville, and the numerous place names not officially recognized. In addition, we need to consider those places outside our township that interact and influence us.

The purpose of our group, for present, is fourfold:

- 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

Operating procedures will be kept as simple as possible. We will meet every 2nd Monday of the month, in the Community Room, at 7:30 p.m. We will have no regular dues but may take a collection if deemed necessary by the group. Our only officer will be a chairperson (June Clark, for an unspecified term). I will assume the role of newsletter writer until next summer. In addition, a "vice-chairperson" is desired. Any other rules will be made up as needed.

We decided refreshments will be served if a volunteer is found from month to month. November's volunteer is Chris McDonald; December's is Phyllis Beechert.

The rest of the meeting was a sharing of projects and information.

Dave Dively contributed the learning packet, Local Visions of History, for placement in the Historian's files. The project includes postcards, maps, photographs, and teacher's guides for teaching the local history of Greenville and Greene County. The project is a worthwhile creation.

Joe Mangold contributed to the files a 1903 Spoor Cemetery Association, Freehold, Rules Book as well as the 1987 175th Anniversary Booklet for the Freehold Congregational Church. Joe also brought several pictures with him of the Freehold vicinity.

Dorothy Howard brought an early 1900's recipe book of

the Freehold Church. She had made numerous notes about people. Of special interest is the extensive business advertising in the book.

Harriet Rasmussen brought several pictures of her ancestors, as well as of her husband's. She has been developing folders for our newly created genealogy files.

Don Teator showed a couple minutes of videotape of a cemetery he had taken. Also, he had transcribed the Bennett interview.

Assignment: Bring 5, or more, questions to ask Joe Mangold who willingly allowed himself to be the "victim" of a taping session at our November meeting. Joe grew up and has lived in the Freehold area, so questions about Freehold might be a direction in which to head.

I'll write up a short piece for the Local indicating the "official" existence of our group.

Reminder: If you can help Arlene and Bob at Down Memory Lane II, let them know.

A list of people who have attended meetings or who have expressed interest in our meetings is included in this mailing. Please make me aware of any mistakes.

As usual, I enjoy eavesdropping on your stories of our past. I strongly encourage you to somehow record some of them. In case you're not sure what some of these activities are, I've enclosed a sheet given out at our first meeting as a reminder. I'd rather not appear pushy but I guess my impatience or sense of urgency impels me to get as much as we can before someone says, "You should have talked to 'so and so' when they were around." We're the so-and-so and now is the right time.

One last note. For the present, your work shows up in the Town Historian's files. Being a town appointee, the files belong to the Town of Greenville, in the broadest sense I hope. As long as I'm historian, I want to make the files available to anyone who'd like to research. But, in the long run, if the Local History Group wants to guarantee it has its own file, duplication of some kind might be needed. I realize we're not presently able to do that but I feel this might be a long term consideration. If you feel this is an issue needing discussion at one of our meetings, feel free to bring it up.

Three cheers for the Greenville Local History Group!

Sincerely,