



The Hope Farm / Greer School  
Alumni Association  
Newsletter



**Spring 2015**  
**Volume 8 No. 2**



High School Entrance

## Family History....And You

Each year in my American History class during the month of March we would begin a study of the Immigrants in American History. I would emphasize to my classes that immigration is an **on-going process** of what the America experience is, and then I would try and personalize this unit of study by assigning each of the students to do a personal and individual study of their own family's history which would cover four generations. Their initial reaction to the prospect of interviewing parents, grandparents, and in some cases great grandparents (if still living), was, shall we say, less than enthusiastic! However, as they started to interview family members, some very positive things began to happen to most of the students as they learned that everyone has "**a-story-to-tell,**" and even more so, how **unique** and **interesting** their own family history was! The culmination of the assignment was about their family's story to the rest of the class on an oral presentation day in class. Through the years, I

have heard a wide range of family backgrounds which included the many emotions of joy, happiness, sadness, and sometimes very poignant events their family had experienced. I strongly encouraged them to keep this research information they had gathered so they could pass-it-on to their children and grandchildren, and many of my students did so, much to my delight.

I invite you to share your story with all of the Greer Alumni. The website **Familysearch.org** is a wonderful place to start as it is a free site and has the largest collection of family records in the world. Enjoy your adventure and I encourage you pass the information on to family and friends (and to us at Greer if you would like!) Sandy has gotten back to the late 1500's on one side of her family and she enjoys doing the research...as do most people once they get started; I predict you will too. Good luck!

John Hudnor, Greer, "63"and BYU, "67"



Memorial Day Service at Cemetery

## Reunion News

The Greer School Alumni Association is very pleased and excited to announce that the date for this year's reunion is **Saturday, August 1st, 2015**. The luncheon and dinner will be held on Greer's campus. Moving the date up from late September to the first of August addresses the legitimate concerns of nighttime driving which were expressed by several of you, and we agree and appreciate the nature of those concerns.

We are very grateful for the Fountains at Millbrook to not only welcome our gathering, but to again have us gather on the Greer campus. Executive director, **Debbie Slocum** and her staff cannot be thanked enough for what they do for our Association. We look forward to seeing you on August 1st---more details will follow soon. In the meantime, if you would like to help or have any questions, feel free to contact me at (603) 448-6805, via e-mail at: JohnHudnor@gmail.com or via postal mail at: 389 East 400 North, American Fork, Utah 84003. See you in August!



Memorial Day Picnic on Von Lackum field

## Alumni Profiles

### Jack Miller

Jack was at Greer from 1945 to 1951. After leaving Greer, Jack graduated from high school in 1953 in Englewood, New Jersey. Next was a two

year stint at Rutgers University, and then he joined the New York State Police. He eventually went back to Rutgers to finish his degree in economics, graduating in 1962. Jack again went to work for the New York State Police for 20 years and after leaving the state police, he opened up a Real Estate office which he ran for over 20 years. Along the way, he has also worked for the recreation department in Malone, New York for 2 years.

Jack met his wife Sally on a blind date while he was attending Rutgers and after marrying in 1955, they raised 5 children and currently have 4 grandchildren. His interests and hobbies include working on his house, enjoying the news on TV, and spending time with his grandchildren.

In reflecting back on his days at Greer, Jack vividly remembers the **Martin Play** as one of his favorite traditions. He cited three staff as having a positive influence on his life. He stated that he loved working for **George Groh**. In the area of academics, he said **Ruth Freitag** had a wonderful demeanor in class, and got you interested in Science. Lastly, he stated that while **Clifford Cronk** ran a tight ship, he was very fair with his students. Incidentally, Jack's mother taught 3rd and 4th grade at Greer from 1945 to 1950.



A Spring Day at Gate House

L-R: Doug Skipworth, Mike Galioto, Bob Jenkins, Roger Russoman, "Hep", Albert Dilks.



## Harry McCandless

Harry attended Greer from 1952 until he graduated in 1957. While at Greer, he participated in sports as he played football and basketball. He was also the manager of Greer's baseball team for 2 years. His special love at Greer was the glee club and drama club. In both of these clubs, he participated in all four years in high school, and was the president of the drama club during his junior and senior years at Greer.

After graduating from Greer, Harry went to the New York City commercial arts school, specializing in Culinary Arts. Next came three years in the United States Army and this included service in Korea and Vietnam. His duties in Vietnam included being an infantry instructor with the South Vietnamese troops in 1961. After leaving the service, he started a career working in the dining services for Eastern Airlines from 1962-1988, and for four of those years, he was a regional manager. In 1988, he went to work for Aramark Chef which was a conglomerate food aid for several businesses, and stayed with them until 2000. From then until his retirement in 2014, Harry was the facilities manager for the 1st Baptist Church in Kernersville, North Carolina.

Harry and his wife Ruth have four children and eleven grandchildren. His interests are reading, cooking, and traveling, and he loved visits to Alaska and Bermuda.

In reflecting on his time at Greer, Harry especially enjoyed the traditions surrounding Thanksgiving, and he loved singing in the choir. The staff that he remembers well includes **Carmine DiArpino**, who taught history and was in charge of Greer's drama activities. Harry cited being in the play, "The Mikado" as a wonderful memory. Home Economics teacher, **Gloria Bruno** helped Harry become interested in a culinary career. Harry stayed in touch with Gloria for a time and reported that she went on to teach high school in Long Island, New York after leaving Greer. Music teacher, **Dorothy Schafenacker** encouraged his

participation in Choir, and Harry still wears the cross he won for his choir participation award he received at Greer.



Graduation Class of 1962

L-R: Richard Clark, Tom McCandless, John Nicholas, Cheri Abrahamsen, Paula Pequeno, Bill Tracy, Ed Martin

## John Nicholas

John was a Greer graduate of the class of 1962. During his high school years at Greer, John played football each year and was the co-captain of the team during his senior year. He also earned all-star recognition in the Bi-Valley football league which Greer was a member of. John won the vocational award in his junior year and was president of his class during his senior year at Greer.

Following graduation, John joined the United States Army for four years and was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas and in Louisiana. He served as a medic.

In 1966, John married and attended Monmouth College in New Jersey, majoring in Biology. John became a wood worker and a builder of houses and barns after moving to Michigan. In addition to his regular vocation, he went to arts and crafts shows for many years and sold his furniture and crafts at these shows. His carvings were well received, and one of them was on the President's White House Christmas tree during the Clinton

Administration (see photo below). Today, John continues to make custom made wood products.

John is married with three children and seven grandchildren. In addition to making wood products, John says that he enjoys gardening and spending time with his grandchildren...all seven of them.

In reflecting upon his Greer days, John remembers three staff members that had a positive influence on his life. From **Herby Van Anden**, he learned the value of hard work. **Jim Morton** taught him the value of doing the job right, and from **Tom Percy**, he learned a love for the outdoors.



## Maureen Meyer

Maureen initially came to Greer in 1951, left, and then reentered Greer in 1956 and graduated from Greer in 1961. To say Maureen was active while at Greer would be an understatement as during her high school career she participated in three sports, cheerleading, Drama, Choir, Y.P.F., and the Glee Club throughout her high school years.

After leaving Greer, she went to Hunter College in New York City and became a nurse. She has worked in the nursing career for over 30 years and along the way, she raised four children. Her

interests include volunteering with the American Red Cross and she enjoys sewing.

Among her fond memories of life at Greer are the Thanksgiving traditions and being in the Greer Theater. She said that faculty member **Mrs. James Stitt** had a very good influence on her because Mrs. Stitt had a positive attitude that encouraged Maureen to continue her education.



Graduation Luncheon on Main House Lawn

## Jim Anderson

Jim was at Greer from 1950-1964, with an exception of spending one year attending a high school in New York City. After graduation from Millbrook high school in 1964, Jim became a teller at Chase Manhattan bank for one year before enrolling in Orange County community college and receiving an associate degree in Applied Science. During this time, Jim also worked in the McQuade homes for children under former Greer staff member **Jim Hamilton**. In 1969, he worked a year in Southeast Yonkers, New York with young people. 1970 saw a change in career for Jim as he started with Avis Car rental and has done very well in this business as he continues to work in this field for various car rental companies. Jim's interests are golf, boating, and traveling. He enjoyed trips to Europe and South America.

Jim has many positive memories of Greer. He cited participation in athletics and the Martin Play as activities which especially stand out. Staff members who he enjoyed getting to know were **Joe and Bea Fischer**, who he felt were great houseparents. **Warren Olsen** was one of his teachers who were a help to Jim and during his senior year at Greer, Jim was an assistant houseparent at Rapallo cottage working with **Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell**. He loved their British accents and afternoon teas, but also said that working as an assistant houseparent was his first step from being a student in child care to working with children as a professional after leaving Greer.

### Architectural Research by Peggy

I was going over some data in my book & thought perhaps this might be of interest to people who keep asking about the buildings at Greer.

<u>Structure</u>	<u>Built</u>	<u>Status</u>
Main House bought	1896	1983 razed
Farm bought	1896	1983 razed
Cemetery bought	1896	sold/derelict
Bittersweet bought *	1906	1983 razed
McKinley's home	1926	sold/standing
Camp	1929	1983 derelict
Gate House bought	1908	1983 sold now a B&B
Plum Cottage converted	1908	1983 razed
Daisy Cottage	1909	1970 razed
Marcy Cottage	1909	1970 razed
Crest Cottage	1913	1983 razed
High School	1915	sold/standing
Chapel	1914	sold/standing
Greer Cottage	1920	1970 burned
Ledge Cottage	1921	1983 derelict
Rapallo Cottage	1929	1980 burned
Library & Elementary	1931	1983 razed
Gymnasium	1937	1983 razed
Home Economics Bldg. **	1959	sold/standing
Industrial Arts Bldg. ***	1958	sold/standing

All the land from Camp Barbey, including Ledge & the cemetery going south to Camby Road belong to one person for private hunting grounds. (He

missed a golden opportunity to turn Ledge into a hunter's lodge, in my opinion.)

1970 began the demolition of buildings: Daisy went down, Marcy followed, and Greer caught fire. 1980's began the dramatic destruction of buildings: Main House, Farm homes & buildings, Bittersweet, Plum Cottage, Crest Cottage, Library & Elementary, Gymnasium and Rapallo (fire).

Peggy Mathewson Sparks, Class of 1959

\* AKA Paine Cottage    \*\* AKA McAlister House  
\*\*\* AKA Charles Hayden Vocational Training Center

### **The First "Warden"**

Bishop Greer selected Reverend Thomas R. Hazzard to be the first "Warden" of Hope Farm, a title which was correctly abandoned in a few years.

Rev. Hazzard was the rector at All Saints Church at Briarcliff, in Westchester County, New York. Bishop Greer put him in charge of organizing the daily operations of Hope Farm. At first Rev. Hazzard was very hesitant to accept the offer, for he felt he was not qualified for children's work and his wife, Betty Vance Hazzard also opposed the move. But the Bishop prevailed and, once located at the farm, the Hazards' became very enthusiastic. Rev. Hazzard could not give his full time until the summer of 1907, and Deaconess Hall from St. Bartholomew's church was in charge until his arrival.

from Peggy's book

### Newsletter Changes

(Repeated from the Winter 2014 newsletter for the benefit of our newly joined alumni.)

As most of you may be aware, John and Sandy Hudnor resumed the authorship of the **Greer School / Hope Farm Alumni Association Newsletter** effective with the winter issue.

What you may not know is that the publication and distribution of the newsletter will remain the responsibility of Tony Vaz with support from

Peggy Mathewson Sparks and Mitzi and Doug Berry.

Tony will edit and format the newsletter as before, print and mail hard copies, and will e-mail versions in only .PDF format. The reason for this change is that due to the large memory requirements of a Microsoft Word document with many graphics, it causes problems with e-mail delivery. If you are unable to read the .PDF format by downloading and installing the Adobe Acrobat Reader from this gratis Adobe web site: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>, let us know by e-mail or postal mail and we will send you a hard copy, at a reasonable cost (see below).

Peggy will maintain a database of addresses, both postal and e-mail. If you have a change in address to either, you need to contact Peggy. If you fail to do so, your continued receipt of the newsletter may end. Peggy's mailing address will be provided on request.

Mitzi and Doug will maintain the Alumni bank account set up long ago in the Bank of Millbrook. All forms of payment should be sent to them, whether it is "dues", newsletter subscriptions, reunion funds or donations.

The correct address is as follows:

Mitzi and Doug Berry

Contact [tonyvaz@greerschool.org](mailto:tonyvaz@greerschool.org) for address information.

You should realize that printing out and mailing hard copies of the newsletter is not done without a cost. Beginning with the next issue of the newsletter, we are asking all of you that receive a **hard copy** to contribute to its publication and mailing. The approximate cost of printing and mailing newsletters to you is approximately \$5.00 per year (for four quarterly issues). **Former staff members are exempted from this cost.**

If you decide to not contribute, we may have to discontinue the service, although we may reconsider on a case-by-case basis. We have had some very generous, anonymous donations that

will allow us to continue for a period of time, but are not likely to last forever without additional funds. We can't expect the anonymous donors to keep covering the costs for everyone.

If you are receiving the electronic versions, with the color photos, you will receive them gratis (**free**) as long as we are able to put them together. If you also want to receive the hard copy (sans color photos) in addition, we are asking you to contribute. Please consider getting only the electronic versions. Again, send your contributions to Mitzi and Doug.

### Greerschool.Org Web Site Update

Nothing new has been uploaded to the web site since the last newsletter except the following deaths we have learned about and have been entered on the In-Memoriam page:

**Louise Partington Schneider** passed away September 11, 2006.

**Sylvia Ellen Shumer** passed away November 16, 2006. She was a 1960's relief houseparent.

**Isabelle Rebecca Shay** passed away January 4, 2014. She was a 1950's-1960's houseparent.

**Winifred Partington Krasting** passed away January 1, 2015.

**Charles Anthony "Tony" Voight** passed away on January 20, 2015.

That's all for now.

Tony Vaz – Webmaster Greerschool.Org  
Greer Class of '61 (Honorary)

In addition to reporting any change of address to Peggy Sparks, you can contact me at [tonyvaz@greerschool.org](mailto:tonyvaz@greerschool.org)

Send newsworthy articles to:

John Hudnor - johnhudnor@[REDACTED]

Sandy Hudnor - shudnor@[REDACTED]

Peggy Sparks - pegsparks59@[REDACTED]

or "snail mail" them to the return address on your hard copy envelope.