

Greene County Gleanings

by Raymond Beecher

The war was over and the troops were returning from overseas. Greene County was determined to do its part in welcoming these World War I veterans. Foremost was the Home Defense Committee's plan for a "welcome home" parade at the county seat.

At a special meeting of the board of supervisors chaired by Floyd T. Jones, held on Sept. 23, 1919, the following resolution was passed..."Resolved, that the sum of twelve hundred dollars be and is hereby appropriated to provide for a county celebration in honor of the returned or returning Greene County soldiers, sailors and marines of the World War, said celebration to be held at Catskill on Oct. 9, 1919...." Also at the same session a companion resolution was passed: "Resolved, that the sum of seven hundred dollars be and is hereby appropriated to provide medals, badges or decorations for returned or returning Greene County soldiers, sailors and marines of the World War..." The parade was held. It is not certain just if any medals were issued but it is known large printed "Certificates of Appreciation" on top quality heavy paper were awarded. Like the decorative ones from other wars, these were suitable for framing.

On Tuesday, Oct. 6, almost three

quarters of a century later, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Meo Sr., 72 Thompson St., Catskill, appeared at the Greene County Historical Society's Vedder Memorial Library. Carefully wrapped in a protective cover was Mrs. Meo's father's framed award.

It was the first one the library staff had seen. Signed by Floyd F. Jones, chairman of the board of supervisors, it reads: Certificate of Appreciation Conferred By The People of the County of Greene, State of New York. Acknowledgement of the debt of gratitude due DOMINIC ANGELO for faithful performance of military service during the World War of 1917-1919, is hereby tendered by the people of said County and as evidence of appreciation of such loyal and patriotic duty this testimonial is presented." Affixed is the seal of the County of Greene. Center top has the Statue of Liberty surrounded by the flags of the various allies, the American flag foremost.

It is the latest addition to an impressive collection of paper artifacts which range in date from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II and the overseas conflicts since 1945. Dominic Angelo is in good patriotic company.

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