THE GILBOA FOREST
Today and in the Past

Bob Titus

Over the past 150 years, paleontologists have made a series of important discoveries in the Devonian Catskill Delta deposits of our region. The centerpiece is the world famous Gilboa Forest. It is the oldest known fossil forest ecology and that makes it a great deal more important than any dinosaur hunting site.

The Gilboa Forest was composed of many of the most primitive land plants that are known. It offers us a keyhole look at an ancient, very ancient forested landscape. This fossil ecology preserves not only the trees of the forest but many of the “creepy crawlers” that lived within it.

Curiously, many of the most primitive plants and animals of Gilboa are still alive today and can be recognized in a walk through the modern forest. Thus, it will be a survey of both the fossil forest as well as of modern descendents. The talk will be the highlight of the September 17th meeting of the society at the Gilboa Town Hall at 7:00.

Genealogical Corner

Sylvia Van Houten, Janette Reynolds, and Shirley Kutzscher

With David Ellerson (Timothy Murphy’s sidekick) getting his start in a log cabin on Parsonage Hill, the Genealogy Committee of the Gilboa Historical Society decided to uncover as much information on David as possible.

On Tuesday, July 29, we met at Sylvia’s home to speak with Richard J. Sharp, a descendant of David Ellerson. Richard and his wife brought a metal box containing communications, artifacts, and a CD that they had received from Richard’s natal family, which he has kindly donated to the Historical Society.