

**GREENSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**Meeting Minutes- September 8, 2015**

**In attendance:** Wendy Parrish, Janet Long, Erika Karp, Tom Hurst, Clive Gray, Nancy Hill, Jenny Stoner, Martha Niemi, Gina Jenkins, Anne Harbison, Willie Smith.

**President's Report-** Nancy Hill thanked everyone who has been involved with the various projects of the Historical Society this summer for all their work. The tree in Dr. Mark Lichtenstein's honor has been planted at the Greensboro Nursing Home with a plaque. The Ice Cream Social and Yard Sale were successful, and we were able to clean up the upstairs storage area. The wonderful 1970's meeting, organized by Willie Smith now has the video on our website. Leslie Rowell, who has attended a number of these meetings of the 1970s for the Vermont Historical Society, said that it was the best one yet. The Memoir-writing workshop and panel on the 40 Years of the Hazen Road Dispatch were well-attended and provided an interesting evening. Nancy thanked Janet Long for taking over the Labor Day Booksale when Cathie Wilkinson fell and broke her shoulder the night before. Janet noted that she had to sort the culled paperback books from the hardback books that were taken to recycling. Behind the scenes, Nancy thanked Tom Anastasio for his work on the website, which she noted is the best historical society web site in the State. It has become a real research site for genealogists and historians. Jenny Stoner noted that at the Vermont Historical Society reception in August, the VHS representatives said that Greensboro does more than most of the historical societies in the state. Nancy ended by saying that GHS needs more people to do some of this good work, and asked everyone there to invite a guest to the next meeting.

**Secretary's Report** - The minutes of the Annual Meeting in August were accepted as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report** - Clive Gray noted that the Labor Day Book Sale receipts brought the total from the book sale to almost \$700 for the year. We have surpassed our budget for dues and donations, including a donation of \$1000 for the publication of the anniversary edition of the Hazen Road Dispatch. To date, there has been \$7,000 in receipts for the HRD against \$7,338 in spending. Sales have been double the number projected and there are only 75 copies left. Nancy Hill agreed to take several copies to the Vermont Historical Society's Museum Shop to see if they would sell them.

**History Moment:** Janet Long talked about the Greensboro High School. The building was constructed in 1913 and opened with the first eight grades in attendance. The first year of high school classes was 1917. The High School closed in 1968. The largest high school class was 15 and the smallest included two students. Students enjoyed a sugaring vacation every spring that lasted from 3 to 6 weeks depending on Mud Season. Elementary school students were required to attend for 34 weeks, while high school lasted for 36 weeks a year. Before 1917, few Greensboro children attended high school because they were needed at home for farm chores. The few that did boarded during the week with families in Craftsbury to attend Craftsbury Academy.

**Building Committee:** Clive Gray reported that Mark Snyder will add additional insulation to the building this month or by early October. Willie Smith will notify members for a work party on Wednesday, Sept. 16 from 10-12 to organize the upstairs so that the insulation can be installed. The access road designation as a Class 4 road by the Greensboro Select Board has been voided by the Vermont Superior Court. David Masse is appealing to the Vermont Supreme Court for damages.

**Acquisitions:** Willie Smith reported that Tom Hurst has given a number of papers and items on permanent loan from Willey's Store. This includes a bolt of fabric from the inventory transferred in

1900 when the Willey family became the new store owners. Allen Wilson has also donated the post office window used by his mother as postmaster.

**Research:** Cathie Wilkinson couldn't give her report this month, due to her accident.

**Exhibits:** Gina Jenkins reported that the exhibit hours were changed this summer after a trial Tuesday afternoon worked well in 2014. Hours were Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10-12 and 1-3, and Saturday 10-12. We averaged 5 visitors during the morning hours and 11 during the afternoon hours.

Clay Simpson is working with 4 Greensboro families who lived in Shanghai in the 1930s to produce an exhibit for 2016. Several GHS members have offered to help with the exhibit including Nancy Hill and Gina Jenkins. The exhibit will include a description of each family's arrival in China, life in Shanghai in the 1930s, their adventures in returning to the U.S. after the Japanese invasion of China, and their history in Greensboro. They are planning a panel discussion for the August 2016 Annual Meeting.

**Hazen Road Dispatch:** Gail provided a written report as she has already left Greensboro. "Of the 250 copies of the Forty Years book 75 remain. Next week Allen Davis, Charlie Morrissey, and Wiz Dow will be reading selections from the book at the Hardwick Historical Society's annual meeting, and more copies will perhaps be sold then. And we assume that the book will find buyers over the next year. Since we received a grant from the Greensboro Association and from private donors specifically for offsetting the costs of printing, we are close to meeting our expenses and breaking even. For 2016 we've received several articles and others are in the works, with some new writers joining our stalwart supporters. I think 250 copies is a good number for us to print. I don't like to see excess copies stacking up, and we need to accept that our readership is small."

**Fall Newsletter:** Jenny Stoner said that the deadline for articles for the Fall newsletter is November 1, and that we will send out the four-page newsletter the week after Thanksgiving. There will be an article about the anniversary issue of the Hazen Road Dispatch. Gina Jenkins will write an article on the digital genealogy project and the digital highschool yearbooks, Clay Simpson will be asked for an article on next summer's exhibit, Erika and Nancy will write an article about Greensboro's heroes in the 4th of July parade. The newsletter will also provide information on the 2016 meeting schedule.

**Website:** Gina Jenkins worked with OCI Digital Imaging Services this summer to digitize our collection of Greensboro High School yearbooks. This was a free service that other historical societies in the State have also used. Gina sent all the books for which we had duplicate copies, including 1941, 1943, 1950 - 59, 1960 and 1961, 1964 -1966, and 1968. OCI has returned the copies of the yearbooks and two copies of the CDs. Tom Anastasio will put them on the GHS website. OCI provides digital imaging services to state agencies and other tax-exempt organizations to preserve documents such as newspapers, magazines, images, county records, rare books, college and other annuals, and any other documents needed.

A motion was made and accepted to pursue hiring someone to become the GHS technology advisor and website manager.

**Program:** Willie Smith reported on the Program Committee meeting earlier today. The Vermont Historical Society's History Expo in Tunbridge will have water as the theme. Therefore, the winter program, on March 6, will be "Water Brings Life to Greensboro" and a panel discussion will be organized by Jennie Stoner. Material from this program will be used for the June exhibit in Tunbridge, organized by Gina Jenkins. The summer program at the Annual Meeting on August 8 will be a panel

discussion on the Greensboro connection to Shanghai in the 1930s organized by Clay Simpson.

**September School Visits:** One class from Lakeview Union school has visited and another will be coming on Friday, September 18.

**Acquisition of Greensboro Arts Alliance and Residency Materials:** GHS has been asked to accept copies of CDs of GAAR productions. These are not for public use.

**Sleighs:** Mary LaBlanc has offered two Will Ingalls' sleighs to the Historical Society. Willie Smith invited any interested persons to go with her to look at them. It was agreed that we could have room in the shed for one.

Respectfully submitted,

Gina Jenkins, Secretary