



GREENSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NUMBER 31
Spring 2009

NEWSLETTER

GHS Calendar Summer 2009

July 1, 3-5
Reception and Opening of
Summer Exhibit
*Greensboro Bend: The Village
the Railroad Built*

Regular Exhibit Hours

July 1-August 29
Tuesday, Wednesday, &
Thursday, 10-1 P.M.
Saturday, 10-12 P.M.

July 11, 2-4 P.M.
Ice Cream Social

July 13, 7:30 P.M.
Annual Meeting,
featuring Lacey Smith:
The Redcoats' War
Fellowship Hall

August 2, 4 - 6 P.M.
Vermont Cheese and
Wine Tasting
The Highland Lodge

August 10, 7 P.M.
Greensboro Antique
Roadshow
Fellowship Hall

**September 5,
10 - 2 P.M.**
Book Sale
(with cider and doughnuts)
Lyles Garage

Greensboro Bend Revisited

Memories of Greensboro Bend in the 1950's came alive at the Winter Meeting of the Greensboro Historical Society held at St. Michael's Parish Hall on March 1st. Following an introduction by Cathie Wilkinson, Jan Travers offered a fascinating history of the railroad's role in developing the Bend from a cedar swamp to a lively community.

During the 1940's and 50's, the town bustled with commercial enterprises. Sonny Demars listed 23 businesses and a hotel, including two grain stores, McDonald's blacksmith shop, two potato warehouses, Piper Pool Hall, Collins' Store, Davis' Store, Smith's Store, a sawmill with a beautiful steam engine and hardwood floors, and Tanguay's Garage. This last featured prominently in the wonderful tale Bill Cook told of his adventures with Roy Bennett when they were just ten years old. They spent their days making the rounds on their bicycles to local businesses, where they worked odd jobs and were often treated to small talk and a slice of cake.



Bill Cook sharing stories.

Stories from the many families present demonstrated a strong sense of community, with memories from one person linked to those of another. Often these memories relayed the importance of the railroad in the community. Mr. Philbrook talked of his 25 years on the section crew and at the Morrisville station, and David Allen told the story of his father, Wallace Allen, who was stuck on a runaway train and lived to tell the tale to WDEV radio. Jacqueline Tanguay Molleur wasn't allowed to ride a bicycle on the main street until she was a teenager for fear that the town's one car might come through. In the Bend, the water which fed the steam engines was piped to the water tower from Evelyn Messier Gauthier's land, near what is now Cloutier Car Repair. There was a coaling station adjacent to the tracks, where Sonny Demars remembers a one-handed man who shoveled all the coal. And Albert Brochu did putt-putt car repairs. It is clear from an afternoon with those in the community of Greensboro Bend, that the railroad was the town's lifeline, trading goods - and gossip - that were vital to village life.



Viewing the display at March meeting.

If you missed the meeting, we invite you to view it at GHS building on a DVD created by Anne Molleur Hanson, as well as listen to Wallace Allen's interview with WDEV.

A display of artifacts, photos, and documents about Greensboro Bend was prepared for the event by Cathie Wilkinson, Ercel Harvey, and Debbie Kasper. The display will be part of this summer's Historical Society exhibit.

President's Corner

by Jenny Stoner



Meeting our Challenges

What do we do when times are tough? Although many of us may be tired of all the talk about the depressed economy, we must accept the new reality that requires us to act differently and look for ways to confront these new challenges. As I have been thinking about GHS and how we are affected, I find myself inspired and comforted by lessons learned from the past. Here in Greensboro we have a proud history that can help.

Lewis Hill, in talking about his wonderful collection of family tools, once said, "These are things my family made and used around the farm and household over the years. Everything's homemade. One thing that impresses me is that if I can't afford something, I go without it. But they got busy and made it." Maybe we are not equipped to make many of the things we need, but in adapting this philosophy to the 21st century, we need to find a way to do what needs to be done with resources that are already available. These resources in our community include a richness of gifted people who are willing to share their talents.

This spring, as we reevaluated our building plans, we have discovered resources close at hand: people who are willing to help. By accepting the energy and gifts of members of our community, we are convinced that we can utilize the lessons of our history and successfully meet today's challenges.

Membership Renewal Time

Now is the time to become a new member of Greensboro Historical Society or renew your membership and make a donation to help preserve Greensboro's past.

Individual Membership	\$6
Family Membership	\$12
Life Membership	\$200

An envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Thank you for your generous support.

Remembrance

GHS members who have died in the last year.

Members

Barry W. Mallon,
Sylvia Lotspeich.
Clifton Jackson
Samuel H. Beer,
Frank B. Easton, Jr.
Emeric Tanguay

Life Members

Alison S. Norton
Kathryn D. Bascom
Hazel Drown Rogers
Lewis Hill
Robert Finstwait
Thomas Frank
C. William Carter
Alberta Stehle
Ruth Hunsberger
Keith M. Ladd
Dorothy Ling
Ralph Fisher
Dr. Hendrik van Olphen
Evelyn Woodruff

It is with special sadness that we note the deaths on the same April day of two of our founding members: Dorothy Ling and Ralph Fisher. Both helped to shape the vision of Greensboro Historical Society and continued their support over the years. Our thanks to each of them for their many contributions to preserving the story of their town.

Old Stone House Day

Old Stone House Day, the annual celebration of the Orleans County Historical Society, will be held on Sunday, August 9th from 8:30am-3pm. The event offers an opportunity to interact with history through demonstrations of traditional skills, tours of the Old Stone House Museum, a farmers market, craft sales and special activities for children. This year's theme is *Many Roads Home: the Cultural Patchwork of Orleans County*, which illustrates with artifacts and writings the main cultural influences on our region. Greensboro Historical Society will have a display as part of the Old Stone House Day festivities. Visit the exhibits (no special activities) Wednesday-Sunday, 11am-5pm, from May 15-October 15.

Emeric Tanguay: Raconteur of Greensboro Bend

“Do you want summer air or winter air?” Emeric Tanguay asks a young boy who stops by his garage with his bicycle. “Well, I dunno. Summer, I guess.”

Jokester, raconteur, farmer, mechanic, dowser, and family man, Tanguay will be remembered by everyone as that jolly man with the stories. Born in Quebec in 1914, as the seventh of eight children, he moved to Vermont with his family when he was two. In 1940, he married Jeanette Morin. In the early years of his marriage, he farmed, cut ice on Caspian, and logged. In 1946, he bought Heidger Garage in Greensboro Bend, a village gathering place and automotive repair shop he operated for more than 50 years.

In the words of his granddaughter, Anne Molleur Hanson:

If you’re really lucky, you have bedrock in your life. Pepère was that to his family, and he certainly was that to me. Bedrock is the solid stuff that underlies what you do, who you turn out to be, how you treat others. My whole life, that bedrock was there, in the form of a short, jovial man who was bald, full of life, good humor, a bit stubborn, and only once in a blue moon displayed a flash of the “Tanguay Temper.”

“Helloooo” is how you would be greeted by Pepère if you called him on the phone, as long as it was during his waking hours – somewhere between 4:30 in the morning and 6:30 or 7:00pm when he went to bed. His early years on the farm in South Walden had ingrained a farmer’s schedule and work ethic into his makeup that lasted his whole life. Pepère and his older sister Christine worked as a team on that farm to keep it going when their father grew ill, creating a bond between the siblings that lasted a lifetime. She worried about him, as any older sister would who had seen an infant brother nearly die in his first year. How he survived is a miracle, for the story goes that he weighed less at age one than he did at birth. My best guess is that he survived because he was loved so much by his family. Once he turned the corner, he developed a constitution that was unbelievably strong, and he gave back – his whole life – the love and kindness his family had shown.

Pepère was not competitive, but every Sunday he was determined to get to church early. I think it was a matter of pride to be the first car in the churchyard. It was always a treat to be greeted by his smiling face as he stood at the back of the church and collected the quarter for seating.

Tommy Eastman was Pepère’s “back door neighbor” on Hardwick Street. “Happiest man I ever met,” was how Tommy described Pepère a few years back. “We would hear him sing or whistle all day long if he was working the back field.” Tommy tells a story of Pepère giving him rides to school. The rule was that if you lived a mile and a half or less to school, you walked. But every morning as Pepère drove the “bus” (a large car or a box on skis with a team of horses, depending on the season), he would slow down for Tommy, who would jump up on the driver’s side running board, put his arm out the window and hold onto his young friend on the ride to school. At day’s end, Tommy would run like heck out of the schoolyard so he could catch the return ride!

He and Memère loved to go out to dance and party on weekends. His daughters tell us that he and Memère were often out most of the night with friends. He was a great storyteller, and he was in his element when he was telling one. His story-telling at the Hardwick French Heritage Festival is now legendary. At family gatherings, he would sit at the head of the table telling stories, often in French. Pepère loved to have family around, especially at mealtimes. He’d spend half the meal passing dishes, inquiring if everyone had had enough to eat. But always, after lunch, as he did every day of his working life, he took a nap. On Sundays he napped on his bed; other days in work clothes on an old bedspread he’d put down on the living room floor. We think this was the key to his longevity – and laughing every day.

We will miss Pepère, Dad, Emeric dearly. We were lucky to have him as the bedrock in our lives. And the good thing about bedrock is – it’s always there.



Emeric Tanguay, Greensboro Bend resident and winner of the 1998 Greensboro Award, had a reputation for being able to fix any car that came into his garage. He died in his home on March 22, 2009.

Report on GHS Building Progress



While momentous events have been occurring in our nation and the world in the last ten months, major changes have also taken place in the life of the Greensboro Historical Society. We started our ambitious capital campaign last August, using plans developed by a prestigious architect with extensive experience working on historic buildings. The plans were lovely, but very expensive.

In light of the economic downturn that started last fall, GHS' leadership realized the need to reevaluate the situation and design a more modest undertaking. Consulting with key state regulators, we have learned that some measures that seemed necessary are not. After changing architects, we now have a more modest plan that will meet the most urgent needs for GHS and the building. It includes provision for completing the vision in

two phases, at a substantially reduced cost. Instead of \$400,000, the cost of Phase I is now estimated at \$175,000, with some additional renovations to the existing building that the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board has shown interest in funding. The total project cost is projected at \$251,000.

Phase I is comprised of a "barn-like" addition behind the existing building and the needed connections to the current building. This will create space for a collection of 19th century Greensboro agricultural and household tools bequeathed by one of our founders, Lewis Hill, as well as other artifacts (not including photographs and documents). This space does not need heating, as we will continue holding exhibits in warmer months.

Phase II involves completion of the lower level of the new structure to provide heated and climate controlled work and archival space. This includes installation of fireproof storage for the society's records, as well as those of Mountain View Country Club and other groups who have entrusted their historic documents to us.

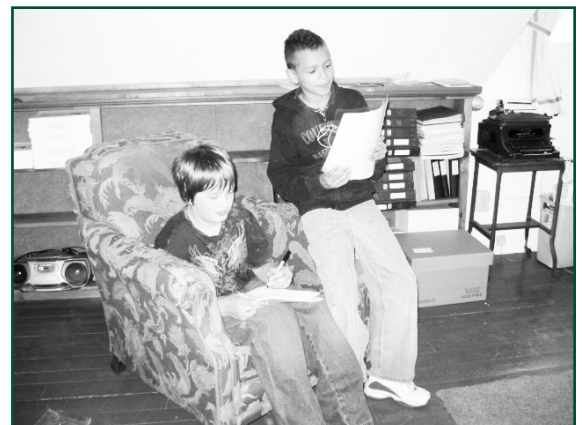
We would love to be able to complete the total project in 2009-10, but can defer Phase II until funds are available.

Lakeview Students at GHS



Richie Thompson, Cheryl Lumsden, Tyler Rich, and Joot Wright do research, assisted by Cathie Wilkinson.

Mrs. Morrissey's 6th grade class from Lakeview Elementary visited GHS on May 20th. They learned about the role of the historical society and were eager to do research for their project on Caspian Lake. Cathie Wilkinson, Ercel Harvey, and Debbie Kasper helped them find information in the vertical files and in the photo files.



William Anderson and Axel Cruz share their findings.

July Program and Annual Meeting

Most of us understand that the American Civil War (as we call it in the North) is perceived differently in the South, where it is still referred to as the War Between the States. But have you ever thought that perhaps our glorious War of Independence was looked at differently by the English? On Monday, July 13th Lacey Smith will bring a new perspective to the discussion about the Revolutionary War, when he presents, *The Redcoats' War: the American Revolution from the British Perspective*. As Smith notes, "few Americans appreciate how important the War of Independence was to global history or how extraordinary the conflict was. At eight years and five months, it was the longest war in American history."

Come to Fellowship Hall at 7:30 P.M. on Monday, July 13th for a new appreciation of this pivotal event that shaped our collective history. All who have heard GHS member Lacey Smith know that this will be an enjoyable and enlightening evening.

Because the Antique Road Show will take place in August, we have chosen to hold our Annual Meeting a month early. The Annual Meeting, then, will precede Smith's presentation. Reception to follow.

Vermont Cheese and Wine Tasting

On Sunday, August 2nd, from 4:00-6:00 P.M. the Highland Lodge and GHS invite you to sample nationally acclaimed Vermont cheeses and wines with local vintners and cheese-makers. Mateo Kehler of Jasper Hill Farm will share the story of their success and answer your questions. Several local farmstead cheese-makers will also be available to talk about their specialties. This is a wonderful opportunity to taste some of the wide variety of farmstead cheeses you see at the local farmers' markets.

Nothing pairs with cheese quite like wine. Come and taste the incredible wines that are made in Vermont, and learn how Vermonter vintners have risen to the challenge of our climate. If non-alcoholic beverages are your preference, there will be plenty of options from which to choose. All this and much more for \$20 suggested donation. Please make reservations at Highland Lodge (533-2647).

Hazen Road Dispatch: Stories to Remember

This year's *Hazen Road Dispatch* has articles by several new contributors. Take a look at a few snippets from some of those pieces:

"At home in East Hardwick, I had been the nearest neighbor to an American icon - a bonafide, established, general store, complete with white-haired 'mom and pop' storekeepers." Anne Molleur Hanson, writing about McFeeters' Store.

"Camp Ethan Allen was created from a hill farm in the late 1940's, on the high ridge north of Hardwick, Vermont, above Lake Eligo. George F. Seuffert, a bank executive and part-time leader of a concert band in the borough of Queens in New York City, purchased the property on June 22, 1948, and founded the Ethan Allen Music Camp." H. Clay Simpson

"The old clubhouse was falling down. Bad as these things were, perhaps a more unfortunate circumstance was that there had evolved a rivalry...contributing to the general stagnation. The struggle was between those who wished to keep things as they had always been, and those who wished to modernize." Henry A.G. King, quoting Fred Broad, on the recent renovations to the Mountain View Country Club.

Read these articles, as well as those from our regular contributors, Daniel Metraux, Allen Davis, Paul Wood, and Charlie Morrissey. *The Hazen Road Dispatch* will go on sale at Willey's Store and at the Greensboro Historical Society in mid-June. If you would like a copy sent to you, please send your request with \$10 to GHS: PO Box 151, Greensboro, VT 05841.

Gail Sangree

Stegner Centennial Celebration

A Wallace Stegner Centennial celebration, including speakers, book discussion and self-guided tours of Stegner's favorite Greensboro Haunts will take place September 25-27 at Highland Lodge.

Antique Roadshow, Greensboro Style

Most of us have treasures we love, but whose value we don't know. Perhaps you have a painting, a small piece of furniture or an antique tool. On August 10th at 7pm, have your questions answered at a Greensboro Antique Roadshow. Antique appraiser Jim Marquis of Wallingford, will bring his 30 years of professional experience in buying, selling and appraising antiques to Fellowship Hall. Marquis is certified by the Society of Antique Appraisers as a generalist, and is eager to appraise your favorite heirlooms (except fine jewelry).

As a fundraiser for the new building, GHS is inviting you to what is sure to be an interesting evening. Appraisals are \$10 per item or \$25 for three items. To pre-register the number of items you are bringing, please send an e-mail to jennystoner@gmail.com or phone her at 586-6913.

Summer Exhibit

Greensboro Bend: The Village the Railroad Built

What would life have been like in Greensboro if the St. Johnsbury and Lake Champlain Railroad had followed the original route, going straight to Walden and bypassing Greensboro Bend? How would farmers have gotten their milk and butter to the Boston market? How would Willey's Store and other grocers received their merchandise? Did you know that the intervention by a few key people persuaded the Greensboro Town fathers to offer a \$25,000 incentive to bring this vital resource to our town and change our history? This year's summer exhibit features Greensboro Bend, the commercial center that outshone the Greensboro village, and has continued to preserve its own distinctive identity.

A special addition to the exhibit will come from students at Lakeview Elementary School, many of whom are studying Greensboro Bend as their local history project this year. Their displays will add a contemporary note to the exhibit.

Summer Exhibit Hours

July 1-August 29

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 10 - 1 P.M.

Saturday, 10 - 12 P.M.

Opening Reception: July 1, 3 - 5 P.M.

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Newsletter Contributors

*Anne Hanson, Debbie Kasper,
Elizabeth Metraux, Gail Sangree,
Wilhelmina Smith, Jenny Stoner*