



# GREENSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER

## *Highlights of Summer 2013*

Adding to an expanded Hill Family Legacy exhibit, and accompanying the Greensboro Arts Alliance and Residency drama *Our Town*, Charlie McAteer compiled a photo exhibit of *Faces of Greensboro* at the GHS. The photos came from Ralph Fisher's portraits taken at the 1976 Bicentennial and from Henry Merrill's collection copied from Greensboro family albums at that time. Residents added their own photos during the summer. The exhibit was funded by the Greensboro Association.



Members of the Hardwick Historical Society enjoy our summer exhibit, *Faces of Our Town*

To supplement the exhibit, Mary Lee Metcalf arranged her father's photos in a "Century of Greensboro Photos" slideshow shown at both the GHS and the Library.



Andy Dales uses a map to show the location of each of the camp areas

In a talk on July 8, Dr. Jill Baker, Executive Director of Archaeological Horizons, Inc. presented the findings of preliminary excavations conducted during 2010-11-12 at the site she has identified as that of the Greensboro blockhouse. The next day Archivist Elizabeth Dow led a seminar at Highland Lodge entitled "Treasures in Your Attic – What should you save now?"

The GHS annual meeting on August 12 began a multi-year series on memories from Caspian Lake summer camps. Lib Bishop keynoted a panel that showed images and told stories about the Randolph, Winnemere, and Edgewood Lane settlements. The same week brought over 30 old friends of Louis and Esther Kesselman to the

house where they lived, now owned by Tom Anastasio and Gina Jenkins, to reminisce and listen to Louis and Esther in taped interviews.

Rounding out these special events, GHS volunteers put on the annual ice cream social organized by Janet Long, and end-of-summer book sale, under the capable direction of Cathie Wilkinson.

## President's Corner



All our neighboring towns' histories overlap with Greensboro's history. We invited historical society members from Craftsbury,

Glover, Stannard, Walden, Hardwick and Sheffield to our society to tour our building and the Hill Legacy exhibit. Afterwards we had lunch together at Highland Lodge and discussed what each society was doing to preserve their histories and teach younger members of their communities. Contacts were made, stories were exchanged and future meetings were planned. As we continue to interpret our history, the input from our neighbors will be invaluable.

### *GHS on the Web*

Our new webmaster, Tom Anastasio is working hard to enhance the GHS web presence. GHS now owns the domain *greensborohistoricalociety.org* outright, so we are able to have email addresses for our officers. In particular, [secretary@greensborohistoricalociety.org](mailto:secretary@greensborohistoricalociety.org) will direct your mail to the secretary (presently, it's Gina Jenkins) and [president@greensborohistoricalociety.org](mailto:president@greensborohistoricalociety.org) will reach Willie Smith. You can view the new website at the same address, [www.greensborohistoricalociety.org](http://www.greensborohistoricalociety.org) in your web browser. Soon the website will include videos of GHS meetings, audio treasures such as interviews with the Kesselmans, and virtual exhibits.



Representatives of GHS and neighboring historical societies enjoy lunch together after a tour of our museum and exhibits. Seen left to right: Clive Gray, Mabel Houghton, Don Houghton, Judy Clifford, Una Lou Richardson, Leslie Rowell, Gina Jenkins, Peggy Day Gibson, Liz Nelson

### *WINTER PROGRAM*

#### *How Vermont Knitters Went to Washington and Changed the Law*

Our winter program meeting on **Sunday, March 2 at Fellowship Hall** will celebrate the remarkable work of Greensboro's home knitters, who, with their colleagues from the area, changed history. These unassuming women, who simply wanted to earn some money using knitting machines to produce sweaters and hats for sale by a corporation, were challenged by the International Ladies Garment Workers who felt they were required to pay union dues.

Come to our winter meeting to hear how Gene Gray, Bonnie Mercier, Theresa Earle, Emma Pudvah and others got support from the Vermont Legislature, our congressional delegation and finally, in 1985, had a law passed by Congress to let them work at home. We'll also learn how the result of their efforts continues to allow workers to be employed at home

*As you think about year-end giving, please remember Greensboro Historical Society at Box 151, Greensboro, VT 05841*

## *Meet Our Newest Board Member Timothy Breen*

American history expert and Yale PhD Tim Breen animated GHS seminars when he last served as trustee. His 2010 series was based on his latest book, *American Insurgents American Patriots*. The 2011 summer's topic was *Imagining Vermont at the Moment of Statehood*. Keep you eyes pealed to learn of the new seminar he will be offering in 2014.

Tim is an iconoclast among American historians, arguing that too much emphasis is placed on the founding fathers and too little on the upsurge of resentment against Britain within the mainstream population that underlay the Revolution. His current book will feature new insights into George Washington.



Tim and wife Susan came to Greensboro in 1996, brought here by his long-time Northwestern University colleague, the late Lacey Baldwin Smith. Tim retired from Northwestern only in 2013, after 40 years of service. In addition to teaching at Northwestern, he has been a visiting professor at CalTech, received an honorary degree at Oxford, and written eight books, including a textbook on American history now in its 12<sup>th</sup> edition, selling two million copies since 1980. For the next seven years Tim will hold a professorship-at-large at UVM.

The Breens recently declared their house on Edsall Road as their permanent residence. They will be seen more frequently in town, though still taking lecture tours in the U.S. and abroad.

### *Summer Exhibits 2014*

The Hill Homestead Legacy, our illustration of Greensboro history, is now a long-term exhibit in the new display barn. Each year we make improvements, adding new information and artifacts to enhance our understanding of life in early Greensboro. The front room houses a rotating exhibit featuring aspects of life in Greensboro.

*Toys and Games* will be the focus for the 2014 summer exhibit in the front room. What did we play with on wintry evenings, rainy summer days and nights by the fire? We have started our collection with card games from the Babcock Farm on Shadow Lake Road (Erika Karp's), some of the toys in the Hill Homestead exhibit and a historic model train from Lacey Smith. Please contact Willie Smith at [willie@highlandlodge.com](mailto:willie@highlandlodge.com) to let her know what historic toy or game you can loan us for the summer 2014 exhibit. We would like to have most toys by mid-June, but will be able to add some after the exhibit opens July 1. The exhibit will include a children's area with games and toys to enjoy and use.



GHS shed with new roof and paint job

The shed, which GHS acquired from the Housing Authority next door in 2006 and which we use for storage of our historic carriage and other large artifacts, has been in need of repair for several years. This summer we were finally able to grant access to a builder to repair and paint the building, and to put on a new roof. Thanks to Lee Wright for overseeing this project and to Eric Clark for his work.

## *Discovering Barr Hill*

On a beautiful September day, historical society members Clive Gray and Willie Smith led an exploration walk up Barr Hill with Leslie Campos' 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Lakeview Union. They stopped at cellar holes and Baker cemetery and matched up houses and names with the 1878 Beers Map of Greensboro. The students imagined what the road to Barr Hill looked like 135 years ago. The field trip to Barr Hill is one aspect of GHS outreach to the students of Lakeview. They also make annual visits to the GHS building and engage with the exhibits.



Cameron Potter holds an artifact, a hand-hewn nail, from the Campbell farm foundation at the beginning of Barr Hill Road

Greensboro Historical Society  
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### **GHS Newsletter**

PO Box 151  
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