



GREENSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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www.greensborohistoricalsociety.org

NEWSLETTER

GHS Calendar Summer 2014

Exhibit

Hill Family Legacy and Fun & Games

June 29—August 30

Tues, 10-4, Wed, Thurs 10-1
Sat. 10-12

June 21-22 Vermont History Exposition,
Artists and Artisans
Tunbridge World Fair Grounds

Sun. June 29 3-4:30 PM
Exhibit Opening Reception

Mon. July 14, 7:30 PM
Greensboro's Teacher in Space
Fellowship Hall

Mon July 21, 10 AM
Seminar : Lawns
Gina Jenkins
Greensboro Historical Society

Mon. July 28 10 AM
Seminar : Lawns
Gina Jenkins
Greensboro Historical Society

Sat. Aug 2, 2-4
Ice Cream Social
GHS building

Mon August 4, 10 AM
Seminar: Lawns
Gina Jenkins & Naill Kirkwood
Greensboro Historical Society

Mon. Aug 11, 7:30 PM
GHS Annual Meeting and Program
Harvey Whitefield,
The Problem of Slavery in Early Vermont
Fellowship Hall

Sat Aug 30, 10-2
GHS Annual Booksale
Lyles Garage

Fun and Games: Come Play with Us!

The 2014 exhibit features toys and games played with by Greensboro children from the late 1800s to 1960. The origin of the word 'toy' is unknown, but may have first been used in the 14th century. Toy animals, soldiers and dolls, as well as child-size representations of tools used by adults are readily found at archaeological sites throughout the world. The ancestors of today's Backgammon and Checkers games have been found in ancient Egyptian tombs and other sites in the Middle East. Cribbage and Dominoes were played in the 1600s and jigsaw puzzles were marketed commercially in the 1700s. The first American board game, *The Traveller's Tour Through The United States*, was published in 1822.

Greensboro children in the 1800s enjoyed playing with dolls, toy trains, horse-drawn vehicles, and Noah's Ark - complete with pairs of animals and figures of Noah and his wife. They also might have played checkers, cribbage, cards and dominoes, or put together jigsaw puzzles. In the twentieth century, many more toys and games became available, including Lincoln Logs, Tinker Toys, Lionel electric trains, Tootsie Toy trucks, teddy bears, Clue and Monopoly.



Greensboro Library Home schoolers Sophie Kittredge, Gracie Villareal, Keri Ann Augeri, Owen Kittredge try out some of the games from the summer exhibit.
Verdict? Wonderful fun!

A wonderful collection has been loaned to the Historical Society by many, many friends. Everyone is invited to come play as well as to view many old favorites. Modern versions of some very old toys that can be played with at the exhibit include marbles and jacks - also known as knucklebones, and pick-up sticks or jackstraws. Work on a jigsaw puzzle, make something with the Erector Set, play a game of cribbage, checkers or Monopoly.

You can see additional old toys loaned to GHS at the library.
Come play with us!

President's Corner

By *Wilhelmina Smith*

Almost as soon as I moved to Greensboro 35 years ago, I became interested in the stories of the town. I started by researching the history of the Highland Lodge and was amazed as I emerged from the town clerk's office with names of the people that built this town, that many of the names and places were still here. Every day was a day of discovery.



I spent many hours listening to the "old timers", Donald Drown, John Allen, Dorothy Ling, Lora and Bernie Atherton, Ida and Ted Perron, Lewis Hill, Gertrude Willey, Phyllis Hurst, Hazel Guile, Forest Winchester, Cleora Collier, Helen Lyles, and many more. Their stories went back to the 19th century, and some even, as oral history, to the beginnings of Greensboro.

Many people in the historical society have recorded and written down these stories; they are stored in our annual publication, the "Hazen Road Dispatch" and in our archives. Every time we work in the archives we make new connections: – see the fascinating example of the story of the blue china cups in the Hazen Road Dispatch. To add to the store of stories, a memoir writing seminar is being offered in June to benefit the historical society and give participants the tools for recording the stories of our people. That is our local history.

Remember

The ongoing GHS exhibit: **The Hill Family Legacy** makes our town's history come alive.

Greensboro's "Monuments Man"

Greensboro has an important connection to George Clooney's recent film *The Monuments Men* -- the story of an international group of approximately 350 men and women—soldiers and scholars, conservators, architects, and artists—who were assembled to protect Europe's cultural treasures from the destruction of World War II. This dedicated group searched for and rescued priceless art objects stolen from museums and private owners by Hitler's men and returned the treasures to their rightful owners. In the years following the war, the remaining group of "Monuments Men" worked under the supervision of the U.S. Department of State, continuing to recover and return more than five million works of art. The work of identifying, recovering, and returning previously lost works continues to this day.

Frederick Pleasants, the generous donor of Greensboro's "Pleasants Fund",

was an important member of that group serving as Director of the Central Art Collecting Point in Munich, Germany. Fred, brother of Virginia Lonegren and uncle to Lee (Dabney), and Sally, and Sig Lonegren, was an art collector specializing in pre-Columbian and other primitive art. He had been curator at the Brooklyn Museum's Primitive Art and New World Culture collection, and did curatorial work at Harvard's Peabody Museum and Buffalo Museum of Science. He also lectured at Harvard, the Pratt Institute and the University of Arizona.



Fred Pleasants at work as a Monuments Man

His first Greensboro home on Breezy Avenue had belonged to Dr. Luther and Katherine Eisenhart (parents of Katherine Brown and great-grandparents of Vanessa Compton). Sally Lonegren believes her uncle would be pleased to know that his property is to be the future home of the Circus Smirkus camp for children.

Book Sale August 31

Now's the time to look through your books for favorites you are ready to pass on. You can leave them in Janet Long's garage, across from Willey's, ready for the August 30 Annual GHS Book Sale.

GHS Exhibit at VT History Expo Past Perspectives of Caspian Lake

Since early in the 20th century, Greensboro has attracted artists and artisans as summer and year around residents as well as itinerant travelers. For many of these, the beauty of Caspian Lake was and continues to be an inspiration for oil and watercolor paintings, color, black and white and hand-painted photographs, hand-painted and black and white postcards, wood carvings, and trophy mounted lake trout.

For the Vermont History Expo in Tunbridge June 21 and 22, GHS has assembled an exhibit featuring the creative talents of some of the earliest but now-



Gina Jenkins, Cathie Wilkinson & Willie Smith assemble items for Expo. The display frame behind them was given by Elizabeth St. Louis

deceased artists and artisans who captured the essence of what Caspian Lake means to so many of us. If you are attending VT History Expo this year be sure to stop by to visit our exhibit and refresh your memories of these special Greensboro treasures.

The New GHS Website

Did you know that the GHS website has data on the five Greensboro cemeteries (Baker, Lincoln-Noyes, McLaren, St. Michaels, and Village)? You can search by name to find gravesite locations and tombstone information. Look under the *Resources* heading on the web at

www.greensborohistoricalsociety.org

The *Resources* heading also will lead you to videos of past meetings, a virtual look at GHS exhibits, audio interviews, information on holdings at the GHS building, an up-to-date calendar of events, and links to resources at other historical societies and community organizations. You may be surprised by the wealth of resources available on-line. You may also pay dues or make contributions on line.

Greensboro's Teacher in Space July Program

Did you know that over 11,000 teachers applied to participate in the Teacher in Space program announced by President Reagan in August 1984 and that Mike Metcalf of Greensboro, teacher at Hazen Union, was one of the 10 finalists? On July 14 at 7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall, Mike will tell about the selection process when two representatives from each state were selected to be present for the space launch, then, following a battery of tests, the finalists were chosen.

Christa Mc Auliffe of New Hampshire was trained to be the first teacher in space.

Many of you will remember the fateful day, January 28, 1986, when she joined a select crew of astronauts in the space shuttle Challenger, and 73 seconds into the flight, the shuttle exploded. Mike will share stories about the selection process, how his interest in science prepared him for this, and what it was like to witness this terrifying landmark in the US Space Program. Join us for a memorable evening.

China Cups

The story of these traveling Chinese tea cups that may have come to Greensboro from China with Amos Porter in 1802, (see his China Journal at GHS) and were certainly sold at auction from George Porter's estate in 1938 and have just found their way back to Porter's house (now Tom & Merrill Hurst's) is told more fully in the Hazen Road Dispatch.



Writing Memoirs

A two-day memoir writing workshop, sponsored by GHS and Highland Lodge in June is already fully subscribed with 10 participants. It is being offered by Margaret Edwards, retired professor of literature at UVM who lives in Barnard, VT and teaches adult education classes in the Woodstock area. All proceeds will benefit the Greensboro Historical Society.

Slavery in Vermont?

For the August 11 Annual Meeting of the GHS we are honored to welcome Dr. Harvey Amani Whitfield, Associate Professor of History at UVM to speak on slavery in early Vermont. Most of us are proud of the fact that Vermont's constitution was the first to forbid slavery and assumed that there was none. But Dr. Whitfield's research led him learn that such was not the case. He will be sharing with us his discoveries that are now found in his latest book, *The Problem of Slavery in Early Vermont, 1777-1810*. Be sure to come to hear a much sought after speaker uncover some hidden history of our state.



Dr. Harvey Whitfield

The program will be preceded by a brief annual meeting at 7:30 at Fellowship Hall.

The Lawn: A History of an American Obsession

Summer Seminar at the Greensboro Historical Society led by author Virginia Scott Jenkins Ph.D. and on August 4 joined by Professor Naill Kirkwood FASLA, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University.

Lawns now blanket thirty million acres of the United States, but until the late nineteenth-century few Americans had any desire for a front lawn, much less access to the grass seed, lawn mowers, or garden hoses needed for growing one. This seminar will trace the origin of the front lawn aesthetic, the development of the lawn-care industry, the impact of the game of golf, and will look at modern alternatives to lawn mania.

Free for members. Suggested donation for non-members \$20. To sign up call Gina at 533-9045 or email at: virginiascottjenkins@gmail.com.

Mondays: July 21, 28 and August 4
10 am at the Greensboro Historical Society
29 Breezy Avenue, Greensboro

Congratulations!

Our own Pat Haslam has been feted far and wide for the book she co-authored "Ski Pioneers of Stowe, Vermont, the First 25 Years". It chronicles the development of the ski industry in Stowe in the words of the men who led it and includes mini-biographies of 25 people who were there.



Emma Puduah, Bonnie Mercier and Susan Earle (for her mother Teresa) told the GHS March meeting how they went to Congress and changed laws. In the 1980s they challenged the union that wanted them to join in order to use knitting machines at home and won. A great saga!

Membership Renewal Time

This year your GHS membership gives more benefits than ever. In addition to giving you a voice in shaping programs and exhibits, and providing essential support to GHS, it gives free participation in the seminar on *Lawns* and, in anticipation of the special 40th anniversary anthology edition of the Hazen Road Dispatch in 2015, your dues will provide you with a **free copy of the 2014 Hazen Road Dispatch**. Your dues (or a donation of any amount for Life Members) entitles you to pick up your free copy of HRD either at the building or at any of our programs.

In Remembrance

GHS Members who have died since May 2013

Life Members

- W. Brinton 'Buzz' Whitall
- Doreen Brown Freeman
- Jean W, Whitall
- Florence Peet Scholl
- Mabry R. Lyman
- Richard Nelson Lovett
- James Anderson Carpenter

Members

- Madeline G. Gebbie
- Joseph Fairbanks
- Robert P. Davis
- Russell H .Peck
- Ernest H.(Pete)Dimick
- Margaret B. Jenkins

Mike Metcalf

Mike Metcalf, teacher, scientist, outdoorsman, Vermont State Senator, husband, father and grandfather is a man with a wealth of diverse experiences. After starting his life in Montpelier, he moved with his family to Woods Hole on Cape Cod where his father worked at the Oceanographic Institute and his mother taught biology. From a young age he loved to lie in the back yard and watch the skies, tracking both satellites and heavenly bodies.

He met his future wife, Mary Lee Merrill at Colby College in Waterville, ME when Mike and Mary Lee's brother were planning the annual outing club trip to Mt. Katahdin and she stopped by to talk with her brother. They both participated in that 1966 trip, and in the annual outings for the next 3 years. Their love of hiking continues for they have hiked all of Vermont's Long Trail, all the Green Mountain Club maintained side trails, and all but one of New England's 4000 footers. The Metcalfs have also hiked about 600 miles of the Appalachian Trail in New England. After retiring this June, Mike wants to complete the remaining 2200 miles of Appalachian Trail and hopes Mary Lee will want to share the hikes.



Mike hiking on Mount Madison

From college, where Mike majored in Government, he taught at a parochial school for a year, then served as a Med-Evac pilot in the US Airforce. This involved flying evacuation missions in Western Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, occasionally even east of the Iron Curtain in support of NATO and the State Department. It also gave an outlet for his love of science. He loved the aeronautics and math, which involved using slide rules, pencils and graph paper to do the plotting that is now done instantaneously by computer, at least as much as the flying.

Mike writes, "When I left the Air Force in 1974, Mary Lee and I had both just received MA degrees in International Relations and had taken the Foreign Service test for a posting in the US State Department. Hoping for career(s) overseas, we decided to move back to Vermont to the farm on which Mary Lee grew up to build a house while we waited to hear. We would give our children roots in America and build a future retirement home for ourselves.

To support the family while building a house, I took a job teaching at Hazen Union School." They soon decided that this was a great place to raise children, a supportive place to teach, and that teaching was his preferred career choice.

During his 40 years of teaching at Hazen Union, Mike has also taught as an adjunct professor at Johnson State College, worked at NASA while on sabbatical in the mid-1980s, operated a waste disposal business for nine summers and served 6 years in the Vermont State Senate. He has been a town officer since 1976, serving six three-year terms on the Selectboard and over 25 years as a Justice of the Peace, among other positions. For nine years in the 1970s and 1980s he emceed the lake concerts from the Landons' porch.

Mike got his first personal computer to generate billing statements for his waste disposal business which he called "Garbage In, Garbage Out". Business was always picking up.

In the State Senate Mike was reporter of a rewrite of Vermont Special Education Law, what became Act 230, increasing the flexibility of how special education funds could be spent, and cutting some administrative costs. During his six year tenure, he was vice chair of the Appropriations and Transportation committees and served on the Education Committee.

Mary Lee, Greensboro's librarian who grew up on a Guernsey farm in Greensboro, and Mike have two sons. Chase is an Army Lt Colonel, doing plans and academic-type work for Special Operations; he and wife Leigh and daughters Abbey and Maddie live in North Carolina where he is stationed at Fort Bragg. Keyes is a Green Beret Major, stationed in Tampa, Florida, where he lives with wife Kristen and daughter Sarah.

Hazen Road Dispatch

This year's issue of the Hazen Road Dispatch contains a mix of familiar and new voices with topics ranging from the region's earliest times to more recent years. Among this year's offerings, Alan Lukens reminisces about Greensboro's teenagers in the summer community seventy-five years ago. Tom Hurst explores the provenance of 6 Chinese teacups which he found at an antique shop in Johnson. Pat Haslam completes her three-part study of Greensboro's earliest settlers. In "The Education of a Young Farmer" Paul Wood analyses Clyde Babcock's diaries from 1913-1915. And veteran library sleuth Charlie Morrissey reports about two notable women, both born in Greensboro in 1852, who had remarkably similar careers.

Next summer, the Dispatch will celebrate 40 years of publication, the longest-running journal of its kind in Vermont. We plan a special, colorful anthology edition featuring the best of the articles over the years (with some of them updated), along with some entirely new pieces. Historical discoveries and new perspectives continue to emerge.

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, send your email address to secretary@greensborohistoricalsociety.org

GHS Newsletter

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