



GREENSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NUMBER 43
Spring 2015

www.greensborohistoricalsociety.org

GHS Calendar Summer 2015

June 27-September 5 Museum Open

Tues. Wed, & Thurs,
10-12, 1-3
Saturday 10 – 12

Saturday, June 27, 4-5:30
Exhibit Opening and Reception
The Hill Legacy
&
The Doctor Is In

Saturday, August 8, 2-4
Ice Cream Social
& Yard Sale
2-4
GHS building

Monday, August 10, 7:30
GHS Annual Meeting
The 60 and 70's Counterculture
In Vermont
Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, August 12, 2PM
Co-sponsored by GAAR
An Introduction to Memoir Writing in
Greensboro
Allen F. Davis and H. Clay Simpson
Tent on the Green

Wednesday, August 12, 7PM
Timothy Breen leads presentation of
Forty Years of the Hazen Road Dispatch
Panel of Authors
With reception following
Tent on the Green

Saturday, September 5
10-2
Annual Book Sale
Lyles Garage
(across from Willey's Store)

The Doctor Is In: Greensboro Health Care Over the Years

The early settlers in Greensboro feared sickness and accidents more than Indians and wild animals. Every household had a collection of herbs drying in the attic and bottles of brewed tonics in the cupboard. Until well into the twentieth century, life began and ended at home for most Greensboroites.

In December, 1788, as the first Greensboro settlers were starting to make their claims, a meeting of the proprietors of Greensboro was held in Cabot. One of these proprietors, Timothy Stanley, on his journey to attend the meeting, had his feet frozen so badly that amputation of a portion of one of his feet became necessary. Child's *Orleans and Lamoille Gazetteer* reported that the operation, performed with a mallet and chisel, was a success. It is a testament to his hardiness that Stanley led a productive life until his death in 1825 at the age of 61.

Dr. Samuel Huntington settled in Greensboro in 1797. We know that he lived on what is today Barr Hill Road, and that he died in 1823 at the age of 55. Money was scarce, and patients often paid for the physician's services with what they had: eggs, grain, chickens, produce, or services. Perhaps that is why he opened a tavern in his home to make a living. The exhibit celebrates the long list of medical practitioners who have served Greensboro well for over two hundred years.



Did the doctor see this one?
One of the surprise displays

The exhibit also includes the story of Molly Orcutt, a Native American healer, who was a favorite of the settlers of Troy near the Canadian border around 1799, as well as midwife Hannah Parker who, with her husband Ralph Parker, built a house and tavern in the Parker Settlement in West Glover in 1799. The Greensboro Hospital Association is 80 years old this year and the exhibit will include the history of the Greensboro Hospital (now the Greensboro Nursing Home), the Hardwick Rescue Squad, and much more.

Children are invited to come help take care of the dolls in the doll hospital, and color a picture to take home. The museum will be open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 - 12 and 1 - 3, as well as 10 - 12 on Saturdays in July and August.

President's Corner

By *Wilhelmina Smith*



At the beginning of the last century there were many small farms in town. Just as they had the century before, each farm family milked a few cows, tended a few sheep and chickens. The products were used by the family or traded for

other items. The milk was made into cream, cheese, butter and buttermilk. What we call today, “value added.”

Then the creameries arrived and the farmers bought more cows and sold the milk to the creameries where it was processed, made into products and sold and shipped on the newly built railroads.

Half way through the 20th century the farmers gave up the farms because they had no one to take over: the cities beckoned. Or new regulations were too costly. Farms lay fallow. Farmhouses looked deserted.

Then the “back-to-the-landers” came and lived in communes of all types in the abandoned farmhouses. They grew vegetables, they raised bees and some meat and invented new ways of living together on the land.

As they moved on or changed their lifestyles, down-country folk bought the farmhouses, fixed them up better than they had ever been, landscaped the land or let a few remaining farmers grow their hay on it.

And today, in the second decade of the 21st century, farmers are buying the land back from the down-country folk, repurposing the houses and tilling all the acres again for prized local vegetables and hay for cows so the milk can be made into cheeses and yogurts and butters. Value added.

The 60's and 70's Counterculture in Vermont GHS Annual Meeting

The Vermont Historical Society has begun a two-year project collecting data on the 1970's in Vermont. To quote their website: “Many of the features that are today considered quintessentially Vermont—its politics, its local food movements, and its offbeat culture—have their origins in this period of recent history.”

At our annual meeting, **August 10, at 7:30** in Fellowship Hall, we would like to collect your stories of this period in the history of Greensboro and its neighboring towns. We'll have panel members who will discuss homesteading, the local food movement and agriculture, the protest movements and how they shaped northern Vermont and how we live today.

How did the counterculture originate in the society of the time?

How did the 1960's affect the 70's?

Where you living here then?

Did you consider yourself part of this movement?

Were you an observer of the vast changes happening around you?

How did you participate?

What was your role in the first food buying clubs, co-ops and farmer's markets?

How does Greensboro today reflect the lifestyles of the 70's?

Come and share your experiences.

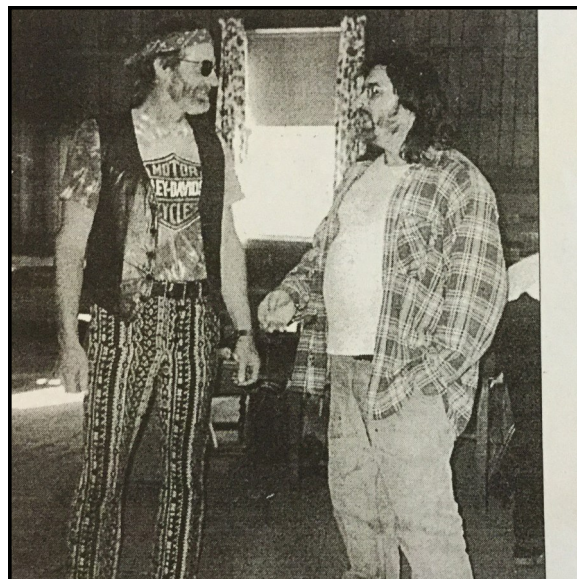


Photo by Dorothy Ling in *Hardwick Gazette*

Tim Nisbet talks with Tom Farrow at a 2001 GHS program on the 1960s and 70s.

The GHS Website

Did you know?

...that most of the original settlers of Greensboro came from Connecticut?

...that in the early 1900s, 3 Greensboro commercial Ice Houses in 2-3 weeks in January-February harvested 180,000 tons of ice, some of which was shipped to Cuba?

These and other fascinating facts can be found in the *Glimpses of History* on the GHS website. You can also find the names of the "residents" of all 6 Greensboro cemeteries and their grave-stone inscriptions.

The *Resources* heading 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. Soon you can do your genealogical research on our site and also pay your dues or make donations at www.greensborohistoricalsociety.org. All this thanks to webmaster Tom Anastasio.



Rowan Hill (descendant of the first Hills in Greensboro) and friend pull the GHS buggy in July 4th parade

Remember

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

Anniversary Edition Hazen Road Dispatch

The advisory committee for the *Hazen Road Dispatch* has been working for the past year to create its special commemorative issue coming out in June, Forty Years of the *Hazen Road Dispatch*, which was founded in 1976 by Daniel Metraux. Over the years the *HRD* has had contributions from some very distinguished writers, such as Alan Howes, Lewis Hill, and Sally Fisher. A difficult aspect of the task involved selecting which of the many entertaining and insightful articles from the past thirty-nine volumes to include. If you have heard tales of a love-struck couple drowning in Caspian Lake, or of Greta Garbo skinny-dipping therein, or why the French Canadians came to farm here, this publication will answer your questions about these events and so many others.

Working digitally with Brian Prendergast, a book designer who lives near Montpelier, we have put together seven chapters ranging from the early settlement of towns through which the Bayley Hazen Road passes (Hardwick, Greensboro, Walden, and Craftsbury) to biographical material on unforgettable people from the region. Some of the articles are serious and scholarly, some are more whimsical, but all of them enhance our understanding of local history.

By Gail A. Sangree

The Anniversary edition of *HRD* will be on sale at Willeys, at the GHS building, at the Galaxy Bookstore, as well as online through the Greensboro Association's website.

Recognition of the outstanding nature of this anthology is the reception for and discussion of the book under the auspices of Greensboro Arts Alliance (GAAR) on August 12 (see separate article)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! *To staff our exhibits*

Gina Jenkins is the volunteer coordinator this summer. Since our trial afternoon hours were so popular in 2014, we're going to have the museum open from 10 - 12 and 1 - 3 on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and from 10 - 12 on Saturday. Please let Gina know if you are interested in volunteering in July and/or August - virginiascottjenkins@gmail.com or 533-9045. Many thanks - it should be a fun summer.

Wednesday, August 12
two special programs
under the Tent on the Green
Sponsored by GAAR

Memoir Writing in Greensboro.
2PM

Allen F. Davis, well-known local historian, professor and author of *Generations, Your Family in American History*, who taught college students to write about their families, and H. Clay Simpson, a member of the Editorial Board of *The Hazen Road Dispatch* (HRD), will conduct a memoir-writing workshop. Reservations and payment (a donation of \$10) may be made online at mirrorarts.org after June 1 or on-site anytime after 1:30 on August 12, the day of the workshop..

Introduction & Discussion
7 PM

Introducing the Greensboro Historical Society's new anthology of outstanding articles about our community, *Forty Years of the Hazen Road Dispatch*.

Timothy Breen, Professor of History at Northwestern University will chair a discussion about the anthology with its editorial board: Gail Sangree (Editor), Allen F. Davis, Elizabeth Dow, H. Clay Simpson, Patricia L. Haslam, Charles T. Morrisey and Paul E. Wood.

The program will be followed by a reception to meet the authors hosted by the Board of Trustees of the Greensboro Historical Society.

Do You Remember?



Tom Hurst with a recent gift to GHS: a sign that hung in Willey's Store when the post office was there.

March Meeting

Photos from the extensive collection of 20th century photos of Greensboro collected by Henry Merrill, were shown by his daughter Mary Lee Metcalf at the March 1 meeting of GHS. They provided a marvelous window to the past and the catalyst for rich recollections from the audience. Audience members delighted in sharing stories of various places and people, and even identifying members of some of the school classes. If you have missed this collection you can see them at your convenience in a slide show at the Greensboro Free Library.

Ice Cream Social & Yard Sale
10-2

Our traditional Ice Cream Social will take place **Saturday, August 8** from 2-4 with a bonus opportunity of a yard sale of some interesting items. Come enjoy delicious ice cream, music, a visit to the exhibits and conversations with friends.

Book Sale September 5
10-2

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 (Lyles) garage, across from Willey's, ready for the September 5 Annual GHS Book Sale. This Labor Day event is the chance to peruse potential winter reading, while sipping cider and visiting with friends. See you there!

Membership Renewal Time

It's time to become a new member of Greensboro Historical Society or renew your membership and make a donation to help preserve Greensboro's unique past. Dues of \$20 per household assure you newsletters, invitations to all the programs for the year, a voice in shaping programs and exhibits, as well as providing essential support to GHS.

An envelope is included for your convenience or you may donate online at our website. Thank you for your generous support.

Gail A. Sangree, Editor-in-Chief

By H. Clay Simpson

According to Daniel Webster's famous dictionary, an Editor-in-Chief leads the writers and editors of a publication by selecting and arranging the content and preparing the manuscript for publication. Gail Sangree does this for the Greensboro Historical Society's *Hazen Road Dispatch* (HRD) and so much more.

She became interested in local Vermont history in 1985 and submitted an article about local cemeteries to HRD editor Sally Fisher. Sally set her straight about the people buried in the Bayley Hazen Cemetery near her house and urged her to adopt a playful and entertaining approach to writing articles for HRD. Gail followed her advice and wrote a number of successful articles. She became the HRD editor in 2001. Last summer, her work expanded when she chaired the committee preparing the first HRD book, *Forty Years of the Hazen Road Dispatch*. This anthology of outstanding articles will be published in June.



Gail Sangree

Like many of us, Gail Ames found her way to Greensboro through a family connection. She grew up near Providence, RI and was enrolled at Bryn Mawr College. Her first day there she met Hu Sangree on a scavenger hunt. She needed a Haverford College banner, and Hu provided it. The following summer, she took a train through Crawford's Notch to St. Johnsbury, then on to Greensboro to visit Hu. They were married in 1955, and honeymooned at the Sangree cottage on Caspian. They have been summering there ever since.

When Gail graduated from Bryn Mawr, she taught at a private girls' school in New York City to provide income while Hu attended medical school and completed his training to become a doctor. By the time they emerged from poverty, four children and a series of golden retrievers were part of the household. Her last child entered kindergarten in 1968, and she enrolled at Wesleyan University to earn a Master's Degree in English. She taught English at both the high school and college level for more than thirty years.

Gail discovered many talented writers in the Greensboro-Hardwick area. Every time she receives a manuscript or story idea, no matter what the level of experience, she is willing to help, because she is "just so thankful for people who contribute their time to preserve stories from our history."

In Remembrance

GHS Members known to have died since May 2014

Horace Warner Strong
Margaret "Pedge" Daniels
Virginia "Gene" Gray
Jeannette Morin Tanquay
Peter H. Jenkins
Alma H. Rowley
Paul Slater
Joan Barton

Philippe Thurneyssen
Mary Cognetta Morrisroe
Joseph J. Piela
Ardys Lamonda Luther
Mary B. Ciaschini
Dorothea Jacobs
Jesse Nichols

Ann Strieby Philips
Marjorie Rochette Gamble
Phyllis Zecchinelli
Beatrice Croft Skillen
Betty Hull Maynard
Jean Stewart
Carroll Vancour

Museum Acquisition

The hand-tailored cape below has been reunited with the sewing machine on which it was made and is now displayed at our museum. A few years ago, Sig Lonegren donated the sewing machine which Louis Kesselman used to tailor clothes for the Greensboro town folks and summer people. This May Sally Lonegren donated the cape Louis Kesselman made for her grandmother, Blanche Pleasants, in the late 1930's.



Building News

The wallpaper behind the sewing machine is part of the spring redecorating of the front museum room of the GHS building. It was selected to be typical of the original wallpaper found as the bottom layer of paper when the walls were stripped 20 years ago. Also this spring Mark Snyder began the process of making the building energy efficient which he will finish this fall.

To receive by email, send your email address to secretary@greensborohistoricalsociety.org

GHS Newsletter

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