



GREENSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NUMBER 49
Spring 2018

NEWSLETTER

GHS Calendar Summer 2018

Exhibits

*A Decade in Time : The
1980's in Greensboro
With Hardwick Gazette
Photos
and
The Hill Family Legacy*

July and August

Tues, Wed, Thurs
10:30 to 2:30
Sat. 10-12

Sunday, July 1, 3-5

Exhibit Opening Reception
GHS Museum

Sat. July 7, 10-12

Independence Parade
Museum Open

Sat. Aug 4, 2-4

Ice Cream Social
GHS lawn

Mon. Aug 6, 7:30 PM

GHS Annual Meeting and
Program
Fellowship Hall

*Vermont's Indigenous
Peoples*

Bobby Farlice-Rubio

Sat Sept 1, 10-2

GHS Annual Booksale
Lyles Garage

Summer Exhibit

A Decade in Time :

The 1980's in Greensboro With Hardwick Gazette Photos

This summer's exhibit is possible because of the generosity of the Hardwick Gazette which gave old photos, most taken by Vanessa Fournier or Dorothy Ling, to the Hardwick Historical Society where volunteers transferred all the relevant information to the photos and gave us the Greensboro ones. The fine display of selected photos of the 1980s provides a wonderful glimpse into our town at that time. Come to the Greensboro Historical Society Museum to take a trip down memory lane and add your own reflections. And for younger folks who don't remember, come for a taste of this most interesting time. Here are some of the categories with a sample of who's in that category.

Artists - Roland Rochette
Barr Hill - Frank Oatman
Business - Smith's Store,
Greensboro Bend
Crafts - Felicity Akin
Circus - Rob Merman
Government - Bernie Sanders
GUCC - Pat and Janet Long
Portraits - Esther Williams
Post Office - Harriet Wilson
Schools - Erika Karp
Sports - Andrew Johnson
St. Michael's - Father Leonidas
LaRoche
Weddings - Gretchen Travers
and Scott Cassell



Sugaring at Gebbie's 1985

Vermont's Indigenous Peoples



Bobby Farlice-Rubio

Raised in Hialeah, Florida from Cuban and African-American roots, Bobby is also an avid musician.

On August 6 at 7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall the Greensboro Historical Society will host a short Annual Meeting followed by an engaging talk by Bobby Farlice-Rubio on the first people to live in this area. His research challenges the conventional wisdom that European settlers did not displace anyone when they moved here. Using archaeological discoveries and scientific methods he raises questions for us.

Bobby Farlice-Rubio is a science educator for Fairbanks Museum where he teaches classes to visiting students and the public at large, on a wide variety of subjects ranging from Astronomy and Natural Sciences to History and Culture.

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

President's Corner



My first decade as a full-time resident of Greensboro was in the late 1970's and 80's. Our summer exhibit at GHS will be the Hardwick Gazette pictures from that time. What a gift to relive the town as it was then! Greensboro had its own health clinic (where the library is now),

with Roger Kellogg and Mark Lichtenstein, our doctors, and Linda Horner, PA. The library was next door to Willey's (where the historical society is now) and Leona Collier was the Librarian. Lakeview Elementary was named that decade, previously called "Greenboro Elementary" with Tom Lavallee, principal, 4,5,6 grade teacher and phone answerer. Jan Travers, Sherry Savage, and Cheryl Williams taught and Alice Fleer cooked lunch. Tim Nisbet and Steve Ferber ran the Greensboro Garage. Wallace Stegner wrote "Crossing to Safety". Ernie Hurst was whistling at Willey's, David and I were taking over the Highland Lodge from Dave and Carol Smith and building the cross-country trail network. The Lakeview was a private residence for Burt Stone, Helen Lyles sat in her green chair, Isabel Igleheart built the house next door to the Merrills'.

Ted Perron ran the Perron Farm. In the spring the sap buckets went up and he sugared with Ida, Victor and Willy Hunt and Alice with help sometimes from Sherry Gray. Wayne Young was road commissioner. George Young, Larry Lumsden and Hank Merrill were Selectmen. Cleora Collier was Town Clerk. Tim Nisbet became Town Moderator. Sig Lonegren started the Greensboro awards. Craig Smith sold up-side-down ice cream cones. At Smith's Store in the Bend, Craig Smith turned ice cream cones upside down just as he handed them to you, and sent non-resident hunters to the back of the store for weighing in Deer Season, because he said their deer were "embarrassingly small". The Mastercraft Fence Factory across the road from the store was thriving. Trains still carried freight through the Bend, and Earl Hussey delivered mail on the rural routes throughout town.

Members of the Historical Society wrote "*The History of Greensboro, the First Two Hundred Years*". Dorothy Ling wrote the Local News column for the Gazette. She and Donald Drown, John Allen, Arlton and Marjorie Lapierre, Sally Fisher, Lewis and Nancy Hill, and Bernie and Lora Atherton were our oral history gurus.

These photos will be a snapshot in time for many of you, stimulating your memories, and for the rest of you, a walk through Greensboro's history. We hope you will enjoy them.

Willie Smith
Co-President

The Story of Greensboro's Dig

On 27 June 2018, Jill Baker and Pat Haslam, co-authors of *The Greensboro Blockhouse Project: An Historical and Archaeological Investigation in Greensboro, Vermont*, will present the preliminary results of their four-year archaeological dig on the Bayley-Hazen road. The project has shed light on the blockhouse as well as those who built and lived in it during the 18th and 19th centuries, including Constant Bliss and Moses Sleeper. The lecture will begin at 1.30 p.m. at the Highland Center for the Arts and is sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution.



Our famous **Ice Cream Social** will add just the right touch to your day on **Saturday, August 4 from 2-4** at the museum. Come to chat with friends, see the exhibit and enjoy a treat. Lucy Mitchell, Paula Harmon and Cornelia de Schepper serving last summer

In Remembrance

Charles William Goering	Gertrude Hardy Osterhout
Elizabeth S. Parker	Jean Millis Gilpin
Catherine P. Wilkinson	Irene I. Newburn
Robert P. Hall	Charles Spahr Sangree
H. Burton Hicock	Helen B. Renaud
Priscilla Carter	Anne E. Harbinson
Dr. Steven Phelps Sanford	Stuart Page Stegner
Ruth Lawrence	Richard Warwick Hale
Scott Smith	Marion Mackenzie Stegner
Leona Landon	Bruce Buckley
Elwyn Daniels, Jr	

From Our Collection

A March 8, 1983 Hardwick Gazette photo in the summer 2018 exhibit of Ann Bartel announces “Anniegraphics”, a one-woman advertising agency she started. Ann moved to Greensboro in 1978 with her husband Ken Bartel. She designed logos for the UCC and Economic Development Council



and for area businesses such as Willey’s Store, Common Canoe Company, Greensboro Garage, Pelletier Lumber Corp. and Sanville Realty. She also donated her time to revise the 1945 William P. Kelly “Map of Greensboro Village, Vermont, Caspian Lake and Vicinity” in 1988 and 1995. This was before computers and she painstakingly glued lines of type on the map on her drawing board.



Annie Bartel tap dancing with the Kazoo Band

Also in the GHS archive are her tap dancing shoes, top hat, tambourine and song lyrics for the Kazoo Band, led by Bill Eisner, Sr.

Hazen Road Dispatch

Coming out in June, this year's *Hazen Road Dispatch* offers a stimulating assortment of articles about the Greensboro, Hardwick and Craftsbury region. Here's a sampling: Janet Derouin's memoirs continue about her childhood summers with her grandparents in the Barre camps. Paul Wood has done extensive research about Frederick Purdy, a granite sculptor who designed a large mausoleum in Minnesota with a carving of the Last Supper overhead. Allen Davis comments upon a photograph of his father and his uncle as young baseball players which will initially shock you. Clive Gray has provided us with an overview of the duties of Greensboro's selectboards of the past.



Granite sundial stand carved by Frederick Purdy, now in Janet Long's yard

As always, we welcome new contributors to the *Dispatch*. Send your proposal to Gail Sangree at our new email address: hazenroaddispatch@gmail.com.

Opening Reception July 1, 3-5



Willie Smith and Martha Niemi welcome guests to an exhibit opening - Plan to come July 1 from 3-5 PM

Jane Sprenger Woman of a Century

By
Kyle Gray

Jane has already prepared coffee and a plate of cookies as Janet Long and I join her for an afternoon chat in the glass-enclosed parlor of her home on Country Club Road. She has also prepared notes; though, not for herself but rather for me, to peruse and to pick-out points of interest. This introduces the helpful practice of writing questions for her, in turn, in order to avoid raised voices to breach her hearing loss...something her ever-present toy poodle companion “Penny” surely appreciates but seems accustomed to in any case as she trots about the room and happily joins Jane on the couch.

Born in Manhattan in 1917, Jane Sprenger grew-up with a sense of adventure; whether she was riding the top level of the 5th Avenue bus along the Hudson Parkway to see the sites, or riding her horse “Playboy” from the 65th Street horse stable to the trails in Central Park. Her youthful exuberance still shines through as she recalls story after spirited story, often with perceptive wit.

Jane’s marriage to a Navy seaman continued her adventures to numerous port cities, though she considered San Francisco to be her main residence. During the war, while her husband was often away, she worked as a nurse’s aide on a hospital floor with only one other nurse (as most nurses had been conscripted into military service). Treating the sick and wounded included her unexpected assistance in the surgical wing. The stress of work was partially relieved by the friendship of a schoolmate who was a daughter in the Levi-Strauss family — Jane was thankful for her time as an “adoptive war daughter” by the affluent family; but her mother reminded her that the lofty lifestyle would not be waiting for her back East.

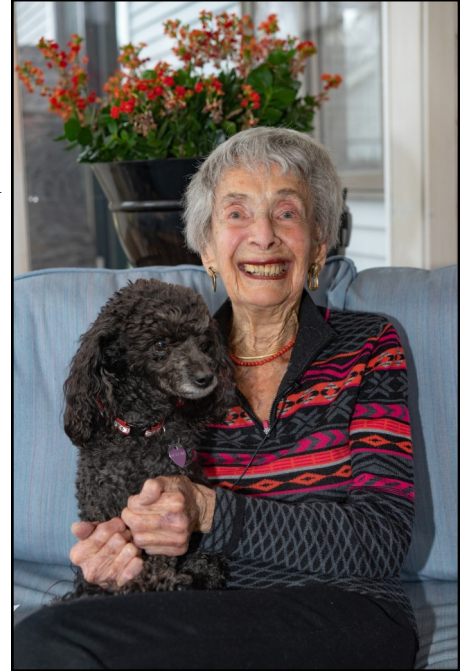
After the war, Jane was involved with teaching and civil rights activism in “steel country” Pennsylvania and the ghettos of Baltimore. Her first-hand experiences spanned from acts of non-violent civil disobedience, marching in Washington D.C., reporting racially prejudicial practices at restaurants and apartment rentals and a short stint of helping the Black Panthers to feed inner city children in Baltimore.

While not overly fond of sailing, Jane supported her husband in his circumnavigation of the globe by way of a 30-foot boat named “Lady Jane”. After sailing in the Caribbean and from Ecuador to lesser-seen parts of The Galapagos Islands, Jane subsequently flew to meet her husband at ports in Tahiti, New Zealand, Australia, Africa and Brazil.

Jane loves the clean air, the beauty of Caspian Lake and Barr Hill and the hard-working fortitude of Vermonter’s spirit; but she also laments the current work-climate wherein visiting families spend less time in Greensboro when they visit — She feels it decreases the familiarity and intimacy of the small town.

In talking with Jane, you feel as if you’re catching-up with an old friend who is always about to smile. And while she expresses fatigue at the current state of politics, she hopes that folks, especially youths, will learn and keep the history and understanding of Greensboro and the broader world alive and thriving.

Video excerpts and further stories with Jane will be online at: www.greensborohistoricalsociety.org



Annual Book Sale *** September 1, 10-2 at Janet Long’s Garage

Now’s the time to look through your books and choose some you have enjoyed that would be perfect to pass on. Books can be delivered to Janet Long’s garage across the street from Willey’s anytime. Volunteers are needed to sort and arrange books two weeks before. Can you help?

GHS Winter Meeting Features Former Selectboard Members

Our March 4 winter meeting featured a panel of six past members of Greensboro's Selectboard: Marsha Gadoury, Larry Lumsden, Mike Metcalf, Tim Nisbet, Anne Stevens and George Young. They described high points of Selectboard intervention, and told anecdotes of town life during their tenures.

Tim, the first to serve, was elected in 1974 at age 27. His co-Selectmen were farmers, often not available to take constituent calls, so Tim received most of them. In 1975 the town could buy a fully equipped fire engine for \$25,000. The next members elected, Larry and George, each served 24-25 years. Mike served a variety of terms starting in 1983, when the old town office on Wilson Ave. had proven antiquated. The question arose of moving to the old school building, which some people proposed tearing down. Mike was able to secure a federal grant of \$83,000, and the building was rehabilitated to serve as the new town office.



Seated: Larry Lumsden, George Young, Anne Stevens and Tim Nisbet. Standing: Marcia Gadoury & Mike Metcalf

Only the second woman to serve on the board, Anne Stevens, elected in 2005, spoke of being bothered by the high proportion of time spent on discussing town trucks, eventually getting the topic assigned to an expert member. Several members talked of the gravel pit in Glover, bought by the town for \$315,000. With the rising price of gravel, the cost was amortized in only eight years. The gravel pit abutted Glover's Bread and Puppet space, and Mike recalled B&P Circus attendees who parked or camped on pit land, yielding the town some revenue. All the speakers described their Selectboard service as generally pleasurable. Anne mentioned the importance of the SB and town committees and encouraged residents to join and serve. Marsha recalled representing the SB at Barr Hill's 40th anniversary celebration, and the furtive removal of the oversized balsam on the village green early one Sunday morning.

You can watch the entire program on the GHS website, www.greensborohistoricalsociety.org.

GHS website

Our website: www.greensborohistoricalsociety.org is the font of much information about Greensboro. For example, you can check out previous issues of this newsletter: under "Publications" and then by clicking on "GHS Newsletter Archive."

Likewise, you can find archives for our audio interviews and video presentations by hovering over "ResearchAids" and then clicking on the appropriate sub-heading. We live-streamed and archived the entirety of Greensboro Town Meeting this year; and many of our programs.

Membership Renewal Time

Now is the time to become a new member of Greensboro Historical Society or to renew your membership and make a donation to help preserve Greensboro's unique past. Your dues of \$20 give you a voice in shaping programs and exhibits, as well as providing essential support.

An envelope is included for your convenience. **Thank you for your generous support.**



GHS and Chinese dragon
July 4 parade 2017

A Near Disaster at GHS



Kyle Gray, Lise Armstrong
and Leslie Rowell reassembling
the archive room after
the furnace problem

Early in the morning of a blustery Thursday, April 5th, the temperature/fire alarm at the GHS building rang and Countryside Alarms called to let us know we had a problem. It was discovered that we had a temperature drop due to a furnace failure and subsequent boiler rupture. Water was running down the back wall of the archive room.

The situation was quickly contained with the help of Ron Kerr who turned off the water, the crew from Paul Davis who vacuumed up water and set up heaters and dehumidifiers, and GHS members who helped clear artifacts from the back of the room. As of our April 10 meeting, the area was dry, and space heaters served to warm the space. There was drywall damage but no artifacts were affected.

We collected bids for a furnace replacement and by the time you read this we hope that a new one will be installed in the area just outside the washroom, where our museum bookstore has been. It will be expensive to install this new efficient propane furnace, prepare space for it and remove the old oil tank. Donations to help this effort will be much appreciated.

A big thanks to all the members, friends and vendors who helped deal with this serious situation!

GHS Newsletter
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