

GREENSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, November 19, 2019 Greensboro Free Library

Present: Lise Armstrong, Clive Gray, Marion Babee, Janet Long, Paula Harmon, Nancy Hill, Jenny Stoner, Lynette Courtney, Erika Karp, Leslie Rowell, Barbara Brooke

History Moment: Leslie Rowell provided an impressive slide show for the group featuring a collection of stereograph photos courtesy of Pat Haslam. This glimpse into the past included an 1873 view of a tent campsite on Caspian, an 1875 portrait of Huckleberry Rock and a 1944 freight train collision in Greensboro Bend. Leslie's navigation of the GHS web site provided a sample of the vast collection of photos and documents available.

As for acquisitions, Nancy told the group that there was an Allen oil safe stored in the GHS shed, donated by Betsy and Ed Donlon. This safe housed a supply of lamp oil. She asked Paul Wood about it and he told her it would commonly be found in a General Store setting. Kerosene could be filled from a spigot. The model that we have would have been put on a stand or kept in a home.

GHS also acquired a sign from the Davis General Store in the Bend. The store was established in 1893 by Nancy's grandfather and a partner. The store operated 7 days a week, 15 hours a day. She read a description of the stock. The store operated for 76 years in the Bend, closing in 1970.

There was a discussion of the Town appropriation to the GHS. In 2019/2020 the GHS received \$1500.00 from the Town. Because we have increased archiving activities and have 2 salaried positions, Kyle and Leslie, plus increased supply costs it was decided that we would request an appropriation of \$5000.00 for the 2020/2021 fiscal year. Nancy told the group that the local historical societies are the memory keepers of the town.

There was also mention of the need to have the building repainted and for the front room floor to be refinished. The GHS secretary, also the Town Treasurer, observed that these repairs would come under a Capital expense and that she would relay the need for them to the Select Board, who would be working on the new budget in the coming weeks.

Secretary's Report: There were no additions or corrections to the Secretary's report; it was accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa sent the 2020 budget to members. It will be discussed in January. The current budget was reviewed. There was a brief mention of a possible fundraiser. Nancy, Willie and Jenny will work with Lisa on a budget committee. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Newsletter: Jenny gave a report on the upcoming newsletter. It was suggested that she incorporate the stereograph photo of the tent. If photos of the children's visit were used, use their backs. Clive volunteered to write up the summer exhibit. Clive and Willie have photos. Leslie would provide photos of the oil safe and Bend store sign from our archives.

Nancy will provide a writeup on the upcoming winter program with speaker Linda Radtke. And Nancy will work with Jenny on the Bayley Hazen walk. Hal has photos. A future stuffing party will be announced.

Building Update: There are two windows that need a cover for the outside. Anna Kehler was mentioned as a good reference since she offered an energy efficient window lab. It was decided that shrink plastic will be applied for now. Lise volunteered to help with this project.

Nancy, Lynette and Lise will put the Christmas tree up in the window.

GHS Facebook page: Kyle updates Facebook. Lise will touch base with Kyle. Leslie could send photos to him to post.

Research: There was a discussion about research. Nancy said a confusing message was left on the GHS phone. Who is the designated go to person for research? Leslie mentioned that we have an inquiry folder. We also have audio files on line. It might be appropriate to have a short article about these files.

HRD: For now the Dispatch is all right for articles.

NEK Community Foundation Grant: We did NOT receive the NEK grant to help with research on farms and what they have become.

Winter Program: Linda Radtke will present a program titled "From Parlor to Polling Place." Her program is sponsored by the Vermont Council on the Humanities. This is a particularly timely subject since the 19th Amendment passed by Congress June 4, 1919 and ratified on August 18, 1920 guarantees all American women the right to vote.

We do not have a summer speaker yet. However, Nancy and Clive had an idea. They proposed an exhibit and talk by Janet and Ray Shatney of Greenfield Highland Beef. Nancy encouraged members to check out their website. Cattle in Greensboro.

Tom Clayton was mentioned as an excellent speaker.

Update on the Hineman Road sign: Nancy said that Wendy Parrish did work on the sign. The Greensboro zoning administrator was not in favor of the sign but the head of the DRB, Jane Woodruff, said that they make exceptions. Permission to place a sign must be obtained from the landowners.

Nancy also spoke of the Doolittle map of Greensboro. Tim Breen, local historian and author said that he found an early map of Greensboro at the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Our next meeting will be a pot-luck supper at Nancy and Clive's home. The date is December 10, 5:00pm. Please RSVP and you are welcome to bring anything or just your appetite.

Happy Holidays.

Meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 12:30 at the Greensboro Free Library.