



GREENSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER

Decades in Time 1978-1998

In December 2017 Ray Small, the editor of the Hardwick Gazette, offered pictures from the Gazette archives to the Hardwick Historical Society. The team of Lorraine Hussey and Wiz Dow leafed through the old Gazettes and wrote the captions of each picture on the back. There were hundreds. Then they gave the Greensboro pictures with captions to the Greensboro Historical Society who saw the opportunity for making a summer exhibit.

By arranging the pictures by subject, i.e. sports, businesses, schools, organizations etc. on display walls, the years from 1978 – 1998 in Greensboro were illustrated. It was the era of the old-timers: Dorothy Ling, Madeline Gebbie, John and Vivian Allen, Donald and Laura Drown, Arlton and Marjorie Lapierre, Bernie and Lora Atherton and many more who loved to share their stories of Greensboro.. The newcomers listened to them and found a town with a rich history. Circus Smirkus was founded, Jeannie Eisner was sworn in as postmistress, Erika Karp and Kelly Robb taught at the Caspian Area Center. Alexandria Paige Holbrook, Wesley Adams Withers, and Zoe Fleer were in the “I Am One” column. Carrie Casavant was “outstanding teacher”. Esther Williams came to her daughter’s wedding to Thomas Woodward, “Bread, Beans, and Banter” was the “women’s” column. Ernest and Beatrice White celebrated their 40th anniversary, Mary Merrill demonstrated weaving at the annual art and hobby show, Bridget Collier published “Maverick Trail”. Frank Oatman helped design the Barr Hill Nature Trail, Rosie Oates was a sheep farmer, David Allen grew and sold vegetables at Hazendale farm, Gebbie farm held its annual sugar on snow party. MacNeil and Alice Perron opened their trailside bakery, Bien Fait. Tim Nisbet became town moderator.



Lorraine Hussey, who captioned photos, and Vanessa Fournier, who took most of the photos at the exhibit

Posters (many of them from the Highland Lodge bulletin board archives), trophies (Gerard Fontaine won a trophy in a singing competition), Donna Lee Brown’s wedding dress, and an old routed Barr Hill ski trail sign illustrated the photo displays. Visitors browsed for hours finding their friends and relatives.



GHS Winter Meeting 2 PM on Sunday, March 10 at Fellowship Hall

Join us on March 10 when Steve Perkins, Executive Director of the Vermont Historical Society, will share some very interesting items from deep in the archives of the VHS. He has traveled the state visiting other historical societies and wowed audiences with his selection of interesting and unique items. Please note, this is the second Sunday, not our normal first Sunday in March meeting date.

Steve Perkins telling the story of an historic basket

President's Corner



Lately I've been thinking about what drives me to spend so much of my time involved with the history of Greensboro while gardens lie unweeded, friends don't get their emails answered, and my office remains cluttered with undone projects. It certainly isn't the high salary, the meetings, or the paperwork. It isn't

even the fun ice cream social or the amazing fall book sale.

My passion for history exists because history is fun for me. During October this year I was in London and loved being where so many centuries of history abound—in the museums, galleries, churches, and streets. From viewing the Renaissance Paintings in the National Gallery to a walk beside the Thames and the London replica of the Globe Theatre, I was surrounded with history.

But "all history is local" and I am happy, too, to walk around Caspian Lake and Greensboro's Globe Theatre, over the railroad track bed in Greensboro Bend and up Barr Hill, enjoying our town's relatively short history and changing landscape. I like Greensboro's people, its hills, and its history, albeit a much shorter one than London's. I enjoy remembering friends who are no longer with us, and hearing reminiscences of people today. It is fascinating to pour over old town maps to see where the schools used to be and how the location of roads has changed. I get a kick out of seeing the artifacts in the Hill exhibit to remind me that I don't need to scrub our clothes with a wooden washboard each Monday morning.

Since I'm a compulsive chronicler by nature, a habit inherited from my Dad, if you were to ask me what I was doing on any specific date in the past 60+ years, I could probably tell you by looking at my diaries. (Not that anyone would ever want to know!) I take photos, for the same reason—to record what is happening in my life. Not surprisingly, I enjoy doing the same for our town.

I like being part of the GHS organization with a great group of people who are working to chronicle

our local history through publications, an amazing website, exhibits, and acquisitions of past treasures. These folks ensure that in the future people will be able to locate their ancestors and perhaps see their photos, read their diaries, and even hear them speak in an audio or video. Granted, we do not have a Westminster Abbey or a London Bridge, but we, have our own special niche in the world's history.

Whatever the reason for your involvement with history, I hope it gives you the pleasure it gives me. And thank you for your support of our historical society.

Fall Meeting with Neighboring Historical Societies

At the fall meeting of Orleans County and neighboring historical societies, The Old Stone House Museum in Brownington hosted a presentation and discussion on how local historical societies handle genealogical questions. Sandra McKenney of the Newport Historical Society gave tips on the readily available resources: voter checklists, tax records, store records, church records, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, military records, etc. The Greensboro Historical Society has many of these records available and anyone can get help with research there. Greensboro also has a people data base on-line on the society website: greensborohistoricalociety.org with scanned Gazette articles.



This postcard was mailed from Greensboro in 1922 to Mrs. Allen, 341 E. 38th St., NYC, NY
Do you have any idea where the picture was taken? If so, send a note to secretary@greensborohistoricalociety.org

GHS Receives Award

At the 65th Annual Meeting of the League of Local Historical Societies & Museums, Saturday, October 27, 2018 in Woodstock, BJ Gray accepted an achievement award for the Greensboro Historical Society's website. The team of Tom Anastasio, Gina Jenkins and Kyle Gray created the website, greensborohistoricalsociety.org, which is one of our greatest assets. The biographical data component is the heart of the site, making it a living, working document, accessible for research.



BJ Gray accepts GHS award on behalf of Kyle, Tom and Gina

The team designed the website and keeps it updated. Tom Anastasio designed a unique computer program with UNV-Lyndon students to catalogue articles, photos, family information, flyers etc, so that Greensboro people and subjects can be easily researched. A tab called "biographical collection" allows anyone with an interest in Greensboro to enter his/her name and search the archives. All subjects in the vertical files and our photograph collection will be on it in the future. Gina Jenkins and Kyle Gray have refined the input methods and tested the program extensively in the past year.

Besides this biographical data, the website includes the society events calendar, many audio and video archives (public programs and interviews with residents), the tables of contents of the GHS annual publication, the "Hazen Road Dispatch" (a colored index is being assembled), scanned Greensboro High School history and yearbooks, a list of resources at GHS, the cemetery index, the GHS semi-annual newsletter, and links to Town and commercial websites, as well as to Orleans County Historical Society, Vermont Historical Society and Vermont Landscape Change Project.

GHS Building Update — Dec. 2018

Last April the boiler in our furnace ruptured causing a near-disaster in our archives. Thanks to the quick action of several GHS members it was averted. Help from Rod Kerr of Northeastern Mechanical and a crew from Paul Davis in Hardwick our archives were saved. \$17,648 later, we have a new propane-fired furnace installed by Fred's Heating in a room constructed by Paul Davis located where our bookstore once stood.

To further help the heating situation for our volunteers who work in the basement archives throughout the winter, we also installed a Renai heater there which warms the room much more rapidly than the furnace. Previously the furnace heated the room so slowly that the workers were about to leave when it finally became warm enough!

Many thanks to those of you who helped to defray the cost with contributions in the spring. Donations to help with this unexpected expense are still most welcome.

Greensboro's Archivist

Leslie Rowell, professional archivist, has been working with Willie Smith to organize and update the archives so they have become a model for what a small-town historical society can achieve. She shines at large projects like archiving the Hill Exhibit, the Hurst donations, and the Merrill photos, archiving and storing the larger items, making a procedural manual, tidying up the collections, and tracking the environmental data in the archive room. As a trained archivist, she is constantly working on making the archives more retrievable and accessible - the hallmark of a good collection. Greensboro documents, artifacts, cloth, art, clothing, pamphlets, books, carriages, sleds etc. are all catalogued and stored and used for museum exhibitions and research.



Leslie at work

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Halloween at GHS

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New Insights on Vermont's Indigenous Peoples

For the GHS summer program Bobby Farlice-Rubio gave a fascinating presentation on indigenous peoples of New England, providing a new way to look at the earliest residents and history. He opened with a recording of an Abenaki welcome song and an account of the legend of how the land of Vermont came to be formed.



Jacques Cartier's journals as a boy.

Mr. Farlice-Rubio brought a table full of artifacts with him as well as photos and books that he found to be particularly relevant to the discussion. A riveting speaker, he kept his audience engaged and at times on the edge of their seats during his talk, in spite of the evening's stifling heat and humidity.

Mr. Rubio has worked at the Fairbanks Museum in St. Johnsbury since 2003 where he teaches classes in astronomy, natural sciences, history and culture.

Special thanks to Clive Gray for his service of over a decade as treasurer of GHS., a period that included our fund raising for the exhibit hall and archives addition. He has now handed the responsibilities to Lise Armstrong.

As he took us on a trip through history, it was particularly interesting to learn about the timeline of European exploration to the new world. We learned that two native Americans could speak English at the "first" Thanksgiving and that Samuel de Champlain had read

GHS Newsletter

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