



GREENSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NUMBER 51
Spring 2019

NEWSLETTER

GHS Calendar Summer 2019

Exhibits

*A Single Sacred
Community
and
The Hill Family Legacy*

July and August

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

Sunday, June 30, 3-5

Exhibit Opening Reception
GHS Museum

Sat. July 6 10-12

Independence Parade
Museum Open

Sun. July 28, 2 PM

Bayley-Hazen walk
Start at the Monument
On Lakeshore

Mon. Aug 5, 7:00 PM

GHS Annual Meeting and
Program
Fellowship Hall

*Vermont's Indigenous
Peoples Part II*

Sat. Aug 10, 2-4

Ice Cream Social
GHS lawn
&
10-4

& *GHS Annual Book Sale*
Lyles Garage

Summer Exhibit

A Single, Sacred Community, All Beings Confluence

This summer the GHS exhibit will highlight one of Greensboro's newer residents, the Green Mountain Monastery, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Entitled **A Single, Sacred Community, All Beings Confluence**, the exhibit will focus on this theme, the mission of the sisters and friends of Green Mountain Monastery and the Thomas Berry Sanctuary, located on Hillcrest Road.

The exhibit, as well as the mission of the sisters, invites the Greensboro community to dedicate itself to the flourishing and protection of Earth and its life systems. The exhibit is comprised of a series of long, narrow, sheer panels, each representing a Being from the community of life - an elephant, a river, rattlesnake, spider. The panels fill the whole area, installed so no single panel is seen by itself. They represent the human and natural worlds going into the future together.

As humans, the community is invited to walk among the Beings, in humility, a species among other species. The panels, swaying gently with the currents of air and light are designed to enable visitors to experience themselves as part of a vast, complex and interconnected whole as they move among them,

Green Mountain Monastery was co-founded by the late cultural historian, priest and geologist (student of earth's processes), Thomas Berry. His directive was to understand Earth as a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects. By communion of subjects, he pointed to the deep interiority and sentience of all beings.

Rather than a building, the Green Mountain Monastery is a community of life on 160 acres in North Greensboro. The exhibit will comprise photos and video of the land, books of Thomas Berry, the monastery's history in photos, and artwork of the sisters.



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

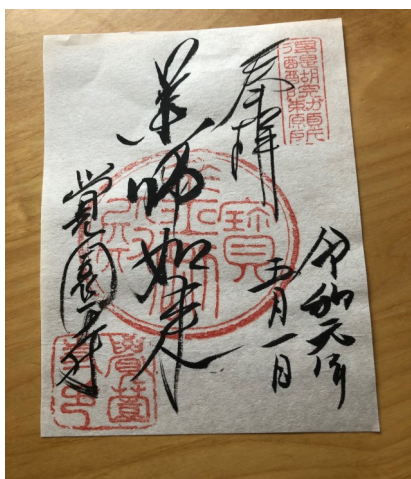
President's Corner



I am sitting on a futon at my son Alex's house in Kamakura watching the installation of the new emperor, Naruhito, of Japan on TV. His father, Akihito, has abdicated in his favor which is the first time in history there was succession with abdication, not the death of the emperor. With the new emperor comes a new era, the Reiwa era. On the first day of Reiwa I went to a nearby temple with my daughter-in-law Yukiyo, where we received a document beautifully calligraphied, marking the occasion. No one would argue that this is not history.

The everyday lives of the Japanese are just like the lives of the people in Greensboro. There are daily concerns and events. It is these things your local historical society records. It is the fabric of history. And if there is ever a royal succession in Greensboro, we will record that too.

Willie Smith
Co-President



Join Our Walk with History

Please mark your calendars for a Greensboro HS and Hardwick HS-sponsored historical walk along the Bayley Hazen Road on **Sunday afternoon, July 28 at 2pm**. We will begin at the Bliss-Sleeper Monument with remarks about the **blockhouse** dig by Pat Haslam and Jill Baker, and proceed south to the early cemetery on the dirt portion of the road, with speakers along the way. Park on the road near the LeBlanc's farm where you'll be shuttled to the start of this downhill walk. You may join the walk at any point if you lack time or energy for the whole thing.

Note: Volunteers are needed to provide shuttle service shortly before 2pm. Contact Nancy Hill to volunteer.

Building our Website



Kyle Gray, who builds and maintains our GHS website and video records meetings, uses a multitude of talents on our behalf. Here he is scanning an oversized map for the web/ He also assists in scanning photos and documents for our archives.

In Remembrance

Howard Holt Lyman	Helen Demars Renaud
Leopold Norbert Dufresne	James A. Johnston
Robert George Gilpin Jr.	Jane C. Greaves
Shirley V. Hall	Henry A. Galitzine King
Elizabeth Gaboriault	Martha Messier
Marjory Scofield Truesdell	Douglas M. Rowell
Richard John Hickey	Robert H. "Bob" Howard Jr.
Emily Atkinson Stabler	Frances Brown Yokana
Gary Pilbin	Marie Paule Dunbar
Glea Aileen Hathaway	Alan Lukens
Kreider	Gerard Ernest Messier
Ginette R. Demers	Linda Hope (Ortiz) Johnston
Roland W. Renaud	Ida S. Perron
Roger J. Lecours	Clarence E. Judkins, Jr.

Vermont's Indigenous Peoples, Part II

August 5, 7 PM



When Bobby Farlice-Rubio concluded his talk on Vermont's Indigenous Peoples last summer, the audience was thirst-

ing for more. His fascinating information on the lives of the first people in this area, their interactions with explorers and settlers and wonderful stories made everyone anxious to have him return. Come to **Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm on Monday, August 5** when a brief GHS Annual Meeting will be followed by another engaging talk on the earliest Vermonters.

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

Ice Cream Social & Book Sale

Saturday, August 10

Two popular summer events will now take place the same day: The **GHS Book Sale will run from 10-4** at Janet Long's garage across the street from Willey's and the **Ice Cream Social from 2-4** at the GHS Museum.

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's anytime.

And on August 10, plan to send a leisurely morning selecting your fall reading at the book sale, then a relaxing visit with friends while enjoying delicious ice cream at the GHS Museum.

Hazen Road Dispatch

This year's edition of the *Hazen Road Dispatch*, the 43rd year of our journal, features several well-researched articles and a number of memoirs of times past. Among this year's offerings, Wiz Dow looks at death records from Hardwick, Greensboro, and Craftsbury in relation to the flu epidemic of 1918. Paul Wood examines the history of the Hardwick and Woodbury Railroad. Neal Burnham writes about boyhood fishing expeditions and visits to the taxidermist in Glover.



Fishing in 1968—See HRD for story

Allen Davis remembers long-ago walks to Black's Point, and Willie Smith remembers Ishkabibble at the Lodge.

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 June 30, 3-5



Willie Smith and Martha Niemi welcome guests to an exhibit opening - Plan to come June 30 from 3-5 PM

Tom and Merrill Hurst: A Family at the Heart of the History of Greensboro

By H. Clay Simpson

Tom Hurst writes “I was born on November 25, 1952 and grew up in Greensboro, Vermont where many people have family farms or work in the woods but my family operates the Willey’s Store.” His mother’s maiden name was Willey. Tom’s earliest memories at the age of 5 are wearing a little apron made by his grandmother and working with his brother to help bag items for customers.

He was the top student in a class of nine at Greensboro’s School. Everyone was impressed when he won a statewide math contest. In his sophomore year, his school was consolidated with a distant school. His father decided to send him to boarding school at Kimball Union Academy in New Hampshire. He had an outstanding record and planned to go to Dartmouth. But he decided not to go to another all male school and enrolled at Bates College in Maine. Tom said this was one of his best decisions. At Bates he met his future wife, Merrill Bunce, the daughter of a doctor from Hartford, Connecticut.



Part of his Bates schooling was a semester in New York City. It was during a volunteer job in Harlem that he decided to change his major from math to psychology and devote his life to serving other people. He entered the Andover Theological Seminary in Newton, Massachusetts. He worked in several pastoral jobs at the United Church of Christ before becoming pastor of his own church in Melbourne, Florida. His friend Merrill Bunce, by coincidence, was also living in Melbourne. They married in 1983, and Emily was born on May 20, 1985 and a second daughter Whitney, two years later.

Tom and Merrill missed their families and the beauty of New England. An opportunity to return to Greensboro came in 1990 when Tom’s mother Phyllis said she and Ernie needed help at the store. They returned, and friends say that Willey’s Store became Tom’s new church. He always had a personal greeting for everyone and counsel for problems. Merrill taught kindergarten in the Hardwick School system for five years.



Parkinson’s disease forced Tom to turn over the family store initially to his brother Robert and ultimately to his nephew Rob. To keep mind and body functioning, Tom set out to walk around Caspian Lake every day without regard to weather conditions. He made thousands of photographs and picked up trash and trimmed apple trees. Finally, his health forced him to stop after completing 614 walks. In 2011 Tom Hurst received the Greensboro Award for “compassion and kindness.”

Tom and Merrill Hurst decided to move to the small community of Trumansburg, NY near Ithaca to be close to their daughter Emily and three granddaughters. On Friday, July 31, 2015 the community was invited to a party in the new firehouse. The Greensboro Association reported: “Love and sadness were in the air when the community threw a farewell party for the Hurst family. Merrill’s singing group sang and tears of love and appreciation flowed as the whole community recognized this family at the heart of the history of Greensboro for so many years.”

GHS Winter Meeting with Steve Perkins of VHS

By Barbara Brooke

What do an Ottoman era sword once owned by Lord Byron, an 1886 medal commemorating the first international hockey tournament ever held— in Burlington, and a Swedish/ Abenaki brown ash basket have in common? They are all artifacts with storied histories tied to Vermont. "Treasures in Our Attic" was the title of a fascinating presentation given by Steve Perkins, the Executive Director of the Vermont Historical Society on Sunday, March 10 at Fellowship Hall in Greensboro.



He brought a cache of unique artifacts to show the group assembled for the GHS winter meeting, including the actual document accepting Vermont into the Union of United States as the 14th state signed by Thomas Jefferson and preserved between sheets of gossamer silk. He showed the only extant complete set of Stamp Act metal stamps (think sealing wax variety) used mainly on probate documents, the afore mentioned sword, a hockey medallion, a billy club owned by a watchman who decorated it with wood burned illustrations of the 1936 strike at the Vermont Marble Company, a set of epaulettes once worn by the most decorated Naval admiral in history (yes, a Vermonter—Admiral Dewey) and the sturdy basket mentioned above, artfully woven by a male in the Washburn family in the Mt. Mansfield area.

Mr. Perkins explained the colorful history of each piece, from acquisition to how it played into world history and our Vermont state history. He urged everyone to visit the museum of the Vermont Historical Society in Montpelier and the VHS headquarters in Barre to explore similar unique objects.

New Item in GHS Bookstore

The Greensboro Nursing Home: A Brief History of the First 80 years (2019) by Nancy Hill tells of the local and summer residents who, in 1935, established the hospital which became our Greensboro Nursing Home, in the building now housing the Greensboro Library.

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.**

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GHS carriage decked
out for parade

Page 6

Mystery Photos

These two photos from our collection are supposed to be either in Greensboro or of Greensboro people. If you can identify either the people or place, please contact Willie Smith at oma@aokajiya.com



GHS Newsletter

PO Box 151
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