



# GREENSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER

## *Comment from a friend in October*

*"So impressed with what creativity the GHS has shown by providing safe and innovative activities during COVID."  
(You can read here about several of our recent activities that were referred to.)*

## **Self-Guided History Walks in Greensboro and Greensboro Bend Villages**

This past summer the Greensboro Free Library and Historical Society worked together to develop two self-guided history explorer walks: one for each of our villages. Around eleven buildings were selected in each village and signs made providing pictures and information on the history of the building or site. Each walk had a map to help participants locate the sites, along with a few questions to be answered during the walk. Anyone who answered the questions was eligible to receive a copy of the book, [The History of Greensboro: the first two hundred years.](#)



Kolby, Kaleb, Kendrick Kroeger examine the sign in Greensboro Bend that describes the old train station

Both walks were popular and the library, as well as GHS received positive feedback. One adult participant (Brad Irwin) shared, "I took the tour a couple of days and hopefully passed the quiz. What a great idea by the GHS. Thanks for creating the tour for everyone to enjoy." And, a child participant (Piper, age 11) said, "The Greensboro History Walk was super fun. I learned a lot of things that I did not know about the history of Greensboro. My favorite part was learning about the hotel that used to be across from Willey's. I had no idea there was ever a building there. It was really interesting, especially for history lovers like me."

You may have noticed people congregating around some of the signs over the summer or fall. The walks made "history" more accessible both to those not usually interested in history, as well as to buffs who had their memories jogged and got them talking about the history of Greensboro and its buildings. Children living in the Bend were excited to be included and to learn more about the history of their village. Interestingly when the remains of the Pope store building that burned this summer were removed, the demolition crew saved the sign for the walk and it is now stored with the others.

It's hard to estimate the number of children and adults who did part of or completed one of the walks. At least 50 of the map/questionnaires for each of the walks were distributed through the library, Smith's Store, the GHS and the web, and ten questionnaires, including several completed by children, were turned in at the library for a copy of *History of Greensboro*. If you participated and your interest was piqued or you missed the walks this year, plans are underway to build on the success of our first year and to modify and improve the Greensboro History Explorer Walks for next summer!

## President's Corner



In the midst of this isolating pandemic I've found a few good things about being a compulsive saver, otherwise known as a "pack rat". I've just had the treat of leafing through issues of this prize-winning newsletter since Tom and Barbara Woodward began it in the mid-1990s.

They were followed by editors Betsy Getsinger-Donlon, Judy Dales, and our amazing current editor, Jenny Stoner, who has been carrying it on since Fall, 2012.

The newsletter articles tell the story of the busy and productive life of our society for the past 25 years. Throughout these years we have enjoyed ice cream socials, book sales, and meetings with interesting speakers. We've also created intriguing exhibits, a website filled with recordings, videos, and biographical data, and collected innumerable archives of our predecessors in Greensboro.

Among our proudest accomplishments are the publications we have offered, beginning with *The Greensboro History* in 1990. On my bookshelf, and in our bookstore at the GHS Headquarters, are issues of our annual journal, "*The Hazen Road Dispatch*" (back issues for only \$3 each). Many creative writers have written historical articles there for 44 years since its beginning at the Nation's Bicentennial by Daniel Metraux who was then living at the Hazen Road Schoolhouse. It started as a newsletter and quickly morphed into its current form. Some of the "gem" articles were gathered in the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition by our current gifted editor, Gail Sangree. Its index, faithfully compiled for all those years by Pat Haslam, and now by Wendy Parrish, is available on the website, courtesy of Kyle Gray.

Some of the out-of-print favorite GHS booklets over the years were reprinted this summer for the bookstore in "cheap" form, only \$3 each: "*Early Memories of Caspian Lake*" by S. Whitney Landon, "*North Shore Summers*" by Peter D. Watson, and

"*The History of Greensboro*" by Rev. James Stone written in 1854. This summer, too, John Stone II presented us with copies of his book, "*The Princeton Connection: A Century of Princetonians in Greensboro, Vermont*" which we now have available again. Copies of "*Moments in a Life, Reflections on an Era including Memories of Greensboro during 90 Years*" by Constance Votey and Lewis Hill's "*Yankee Summer*". Are there, too. If you like your history in poetry, you'll find colorful Greensboro characters in Philip Gray's books: "*Greensboro Remembers*", "*More Greensboro Memories*" and "*Lake Village, Vermont.*" And no local bookshelf should be without "*An Architectural Walking Tour of Greensboro, Vermont: The Village*".

I continue to buy books and read articles that explain how I must get rid of extraneous books and clutter around me but, as a "Greensborophile" I can't seem to stop collecting our publications. They make me happy.

### Website & Facebook

Find us online at our website [www.greensborohistoricalsociety.org](http://www.greensborohistoricalsociety.org). In the coming weeks, GHS will be digitizing and sharing much more Greensboro historical content to the website.

If you or your family have items of potential interest relating to the way things were in Greensboro (copies of documents, old photos, new photos of older items, articles, etc...), consider reaching out to us.

If there is something that you'd like to see more about on our website, please let us know: Suggestions are more than welcome!

You can find the Facebook page by typing @GHSVT into the search bar of your web browser.

## New Hinman Road Official State Sign

We've all seen the tall green aluminum Historic Site Markers with a gold state seal on roadsides in Vermont where they commemorate Vermont's people, events, and places of significance. At last Greensboro will have one of its own! It is now at the foundry and will be ready in the spring to place at the ballfield parking lot at Tolman Corner to commemorate the road built through the wilderness from Greensboro to Derby, Vermont in 1792 by Timothy Hinman.

The Hinman Road is a part of Greensboro's early history which had great importance in the settlement of towns north of us. It was built by Timothy Hinman, a colorful settler in hopes of developing lucrative trade with England. Greensboro Historical Society decided that this landmark needed recognition and has been working for several years to be able to have an official marker of the road. We had several hoops to jump through before the sign was finally approved in September by the Advisory Council of the State of Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. First, the zoning rules in Greensboro made it necessary for a variance from the DRB. It was approved, and permission was kindly given by the ballfield property owners, Elizabeth Bishop and Peter Osterhout for placement on the corner of their property. The application required a text for the sign which did not exceed 765 characters. This was composed with help from Gail Sangree who wrote a definitive article about Timothy Hinman published in Vermont History Magazine (Summer/Fall, 2002). The GHS Committee had requested that a map of the road be placed on the sign and the State Advisory Council approved it, but the foundry believed it was too difficult. The State will put it on their website so that when anyone researches the marker, the map pops up. We are grateful to Laura Trieschmann, State Historic Preservation Officer, who facilitated the approval process.



Current sign across from  
Town Hall

The approved text:

### ***Hinman Settler Road***



Sample official State Preservation  
sign like we will have

*Hinman Settler Road begins here at Greensboro's Four Corners, passes through Glover, Barton Brownington and ends at the Quebec border in Derby. The road was named after Timothy Hinman, born 1761 in Woodbury, CT. Hinman, one of many Revolutionary War veterans who migrated north, arrived in the small settlement of Greensboro on the Bayley-Hazen Road in 1792. He applied roadbuilding and surveying skills learned in the army and, with a small crew, began cutting a trail north through the wilderness toward Canada. Hinman successfully established the town of Derby, but his hopes for facilitating trade with Britain were diminished due to President Jefferson's trade embargo that began in 1807. Yet, the road north initiated settlement along it.*

No date has yet been set for the placement of the sign but the community will be invited. Stay tuned for the celebration and, hopefully, a walk along the Greensboro portion of the road.



## Baker Hill Walk

On Sunday, October 25, 2020, The Greensboro Historical Society led a history walk up the Hinman Road starting at TH 8 past Baker Hill and on towards Barr Hill. In Greensboro, the Hinman Road begins at the ball field where it leaves the Revolutionary War Bayley-Hazen Road. It proceeds up towards Barr Hill but turns right partly up and goes down to TH 8 again and through Skunk Hollow on its way to Derby. The group used the 1878 Beers map of Greensboro as a guide. It has the names of the residents living along the road at that time. The group compared this with what is there today.



At the beginning at the intersection with Town Hwy 8 there is cellar hole of a farm on the right. C.C. Coomer on the map. In the 1920's the owner of the Highland Lodge, Wesley Campbell, moved the barn across the street from the Lodge there. It was in the view of the newly established summer inn. The Campbells then lived at that TH 8 corner. Lois Campbell was a school friend of Janet Long in the 1940's. A spark from a nearby fire made with green wood burned down the barn.

The next stop was the Baker Hill cemetery on the left. Graves from the original settlers, the Shepards, the Bakers, and others were there. The GHS has lists of all the stones in the cemeteries in town. Further up the hill is the site (and cellar hole) of the Baker House. The Baker farm comprised 275 acres from the Craftsbury Road over the hill where we stood to the Baker Hill Road (TH 8). The two-story farm house had four fireplaces and Dutch ovens in the kitchen and basement summer kitchen. The Lee Lumsdens bought the farm in 1945. The Michauds live there now and the Lawrence Lumsdens overlook the land from a house on Baker Hill Road.

Shortly after the Baker homestead, the Hinman road veers to the right and goes down to TH 8 and up through Skunk Hollow to Shadow Lake Road. There remnants continue to Derby. The Glover Historical Society has marked the road.

The Barr Hill road continues on. On the right is the Perham farmhouse (J.J. Haines 1878). Then a landing where the District 5 School House was. Every district with enough students had a school house. After its use as a schoolhouse it was moved down the hill and became a chicken coop at the Rutledge (Haines) farm. When BJ Gray looked at it in the early 2000's to possibly make it an art studio it was quite hen pecked.

The group continued up the road past a barn and a house on the right (Jackson 1878) near a stone fence. After the fence came the large cellar hole on the left where the eponymous Barrs lived.

The fence, apple trees and lovenge in the cellar hole all point to the site of an established farm. The well is about 100 yards away through a tree row. It had been filled with rocks to make it less dangerous for the present-day cows that graze there. Did a wooden pump log like we display at the historical society run between the well and the house? There is a picture of the Barrs in front of a house in the *History of Greensboro*. Is it the same house? Exploring the past always raises fascinating questions.

## History in the Making

Greensboro's comprehensive response to the challenges of COVID shows a community working together. From the careful planning of the newly established Emergency Response Committee to initiatives of diverse individuals and groups, all worked together to discern effective ways forward in the unknown circumstances.

During the early planning stages the Emergency Committee met daily, utilizing Zoom. They established lists of those likely to need help and of volunteers who offered to help; set up a help phone number and volunteers to staff it, sent out community letters with updates, developed information packs for seasonal residents which volunteers distributed to all seasonal residences. As new information became available it was posted on the town website.

To ensure that food was available for all, Willey's Store set up safe shopping protocols with curbside pickup and volunteer deliveries. The church established a voucher program and a mini food bank.

When there was a shortage of masks, many locals learned how to make them and provided them free. Masks were provided for the nursing home, Craftsbury Community Care Center and the Rescue Squad.

Town Health officers summarized and distributed the latest information, helped set up protocols for recycling and answered questions.

## Fire at Pope's Store in the Bend

On May 15, 2020 an important part of Greensboro Bend history went up in smoke when one of its landmarks, a large building on Main Street south of the railroad station, burned. The Pope Hardware Store was built by tinsmith James Pope in the early 1890s, next door to the Davis General Store. Pope's wife Laura had a millinery shop in the back (see *The History of Greensboro*, p.57-58). Most recently it had become an apartment building but was unoccupied at the time of the fire.

### Support GHS with your Membership

This is a wonderful 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. Your dues of \$20 give you a voice in shaping programs and exhibits, as well as providing essential support.



The May 15 fire of Pope's Store in Greensboro Bend from a distance

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Examining a gravestone on  
Baker Hill walk

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### Publication of *Greensboro History*- 1990

30 years ago, on August 29, 1990, contributors to the newly published *Greensboro History* held a celebration party on the Highland Lodge Beach. Willie Smith holds the first copy, hot off the press. A great deal has happened in the past 30 years and GHS hopes that someone will be interested in bringing the written history up-to-date.



L. to R.: John Cannon, Gail Sangree, Rhoda Metraux, Sally Fisher, Susan Weber (Editor), Dorothy Ling, Lewis Hill, Wilhelmina Smith, Nancy Hill .  
(Missing: Pat Haslam, Peter Watson, and Wallace Stegner, who wrote the foreword)

#### GHS Newsletter

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