



GREENSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NUMBER 55
Spring 2021

NEWSLETTER

GHS Calendar Summer 2021

Exhibits

*Highland Cattle:
Proud Heritage
and
The Hill Family Legacy*

Museum Hours July and August

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

Saturday, July 3, 3-5
Exhibit Opening Reception
GHS Museum

Wednesday, July 21, 10 AM
Dedication of
Hinman Road sign
and walk

Saturday, July 31, 2-4
Ice Cream Social
GHS lawn
&

GHS Annual Book Sale
10-4
Lyles Garage

Monday, Aug 9, 7PM
GHS Annual Meeting
and Program

*Timothy Hinman:
Rogue or Hero?*
Fellowship Hall

All Summer
Self-guided
History Explorer Walks

Summer Exhibit Cinnamon Raisin and the Highland Cattle Greensboro Prize Winners

This summer's exhibit will focus on the history of Highland Cattle in Greensboro. This heritage breed has been a part of our town for over fifty years. The herd of Shat Acres Highland Cattle in Greensboro began with one Highland cow purchased for \$50 by Carroll Shatney in 1967. Carroll and his wife Leona were dairy farmers, raising Ayrshire cows when Carroll fell in love with the docile, long haired, long horned Highland breed. He began taking his growing herd to County Fairs and as far as Danbury, Connecticut. People flocked to see the unique and majestic Highlands, and he introduced this rare breed to many thousands of Fair visitors in the Eastern United States.

In 2001, when Carroll was 90 years old, he asked his son Ray to take over the farm and preserve the quality Highland genetics Carroll had worked so hard to develop. Ray moved into his parents' home in Greensboro Bend and began supporting them and working with their herd, purchasing the farm in 2004. Ray lived on the farm until his father's death at age 98 ½. When he began taking care of the herd, it had grown to around 40 animals, and Ray and his wife Janet Steward have built the herd to 150, one of the largest Highland folds in the United States. It is also the oldest registered Highland herd and the oldest closed herd in the United States. (No cow has been brought into the herd in over 40 years). Ray inherited his father's "farmer gene" for relating to and taming Highland cattle and is designated by many as "the Cow Whisperer"!



Shatneys with prize winners

Ray and Janet show their Highlands throughout the United States and have won Grand Championship at many shows with many different animals. They have won Grand Champion at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado five times. Three of those Grand Championships belong to Shat Acres "Cinnamon Raisin", the most winning Highland cow ever in the United States. Ray and Janet also sell their Highland and Highland Cross beef locally as Greenfield Highland Beef. We hope you will enjoy seeing some of the artifacts, trophies, and photos from this award-winning herd, as well as learning more about other kinds of cattle in Greensboro in the 2021 exhibit.

Be sure to check out our amazing website: www.greensborohistoricalsociety.org for videos of programs, research tools, photos, events and much more. And follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Presidents' Corner



Since joining the Greensboro Historical Society shortly after I moved to Greensboro in 1979, I have often been an officer. I have enjoyed the work very much but it is time for new people to take over the reins. I have also been very lucky to share the responsibilities with Nancy Hill.

I will continue to archive documents with our archivist, Leslie Rowell, which allows me to read the fascinating history of the town and preserve it for the future. Thank you to all the people who have done the work of the organization over all these years. It has been a rewarding experience working with you to keep the Greensboro Historical Society relevant and an important organization in town.

Co-President
Willie Smith

Much of the recent history of Greensboro has been my own history since I grew up in Greensboro Bend. In 1976, when I chaired the local arm of the national Bicentennial Committee, we organized the Greensboro Historical Society, and I have been working happily with it for nearly a half century. Early on we published the first issues of the *Hazen Road Dispatch* and in 1990, the "History of Greensboro, The First Two Hundred Years."



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Road Dispatch and in 1990, the "History of Greensboro, The First Two Hundred Years."

After my husband Lewis died, we moved the family artifacts he had saved over the years into the new barn to form the permanent "Hill Exhibit". I have been gratified over the years with the great support Greensboro year-round and summer visitors have provided the society, and am honored to join and work with the very special group of GHS workers, most recently as co-president with the amazing Willie Smith..

Though I plan to continue to work with the society, it is now time to let others continue the satisfying work and fun of leading it into the next decades.

Co-President
Nancy Hill

Patricia L. Haslam (1930-2020)

The Greensboro Historical Society would not be what it is today without our friend Pat Haslam. Pat was a certified genealogist and used her many tireless skills to research our town, making available to us many, many details that would otherwise have been lost. Anyone who has read *The History of Greensboro – The First 200 Years* and found her compilation of 142 heads of families in town before 1850 in the appendix, will have a clue to her astounding research. She was invaluable to the success of the *Hazen Road Dispatch*, not only by writing wonderful articles, but by indexing every issue. She also indexed and made accessible Rev. James P. Stone's *History of Greensboro*, Greensboro Federal Census records 1790-1930, and the 1980 Greensboro Cemetery Inscriptions project, to name a few. Among her many interests were the blockhouses along the Bayley-Hazen Road and, with her niece, archaeologist Jill Baker, proved the actual location of the Greensboro Blockhouse, as documented in their book, *The Greensboro Blockhouse Project* (2017).



GHS is the fortunate recipient of Pat's Greensboro-related papers. They include her original research, documentation, and manuscript materials. Compiling an inventory of the collection required checking our current holdings of maps, town and church records, census and cemetery records, genealogies, published materials, and more to ensure accessibility to all information. In the process we discovered anew the breadth, depth, and incredible value of her contributions.

We miss her greatly, not just for the work she did in documenting Greensboro, but for her unflappable patience with us amateur historians, her friendship, and her warm and friendly personality. Thank you, Pat!

Membership Renewal Time

Your dues of \$20 to Greensboro Historical Society and all donations will help preserve Greensboro's unique past and give you a voice in our future.

An envelope is included for your use or you may give on our website by Paypal

GHS Featured in Montpelier Exhibit

The Greensboro Historical Society is one of only 14 societies and museums (out of 190) that are featured in the current exhibit "Lively & Local Historical Societies in Vermont" at the Vermont Historical Museum in Montpelier. Images and stories about the societies explore the work of these essential community organizations and highlight the many different ways local historical societies approach and fulfill their missions. The exhibit, which opened April 7, will be on display until July 31. The Vermont Historical Society invites everyone to visit their extensive museum near the Statehouse at 109 State Street in Montpelier. (For open times during the pandemic, see www.vermonthistory.org.)

Museum Opening Reception July 3, 3-5



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

History Explorer Walks Updated and Expanded for 2021

Back by popular demand for adults and children! The Self-Guided History Explorer Walks posted last summer in Greensboro Village and Greensboro Bend have been updated and expanded. In Greensboro Village the walk will now include new stops along Breezy Avenue as well as locations on East Street. In the Bend, the walk has been expanded to French Hill and Schoolhouse Hill. Maps and questionnaires can be picked up in Greensboro at the GHS building and Greensboro Free Library, and in the Bend at Smith's Store; or they can be downloaded from the GHS website.

Participants of either walk who complete the questionnaires can pick up a free copy of the *History of Greensboro* or of the *Architectural Walking Guide to Greensboro Village* at the library. T-shirts, while they last, are available for children completing the questions.

Hazen Road Dispatch

This year's *Hazen Road Dispatch* contains a mix of scholarly and folksy articles, ranging from Wiz Dow's comparison of the costs of local education in Hardwick's early days to today's controversy about regional schools versus more local ones, to Bea Hicock's reminiscences of feeding chipmunks on her porch for ninety years. We have a few new voices, some regular contributors, and an article by Joyce Slayton Mitchell, whom we haven't heard from in a while, about Bemis' 5 and 10 cent store in Hardwick. Nancy Hill found a piece written by Lewis Hill about Luther Eisenhart and paired it with an article by John Compton, grandson of Eisenhart. Clay Simpson and John Stone collaborated on an article about John's grandfather and Benjamin Sanford, a distributor of textbooks.

The Dispatch will be available by mid-June at the GHS, Willey's Store, Smith's Store, Craftsbury General Store and the Galaxy Book Store.

GHS Museum Bookshop

The GHS has an array of self-published books and booklets authored by past and present GHS members, as well as relevant books authored by others. A fascinating book, *The Greensboro Blockhouse Project*, authored by Pat Haslam and her niece, Dr. Jill Baker, about their archaeological dig near Cook's Hill on the west side of Caspian Lake, is now for sale.

GHS Donates 70+ History Books to Greensboro Bend Residents

At their April meeting, GHS members voted to give copies of *The History of Greensboro*, *The First Two Hundred Years* to residents of the Bend, many of whom are new to the area, to help them understand the fascinating history of their village. In April, a team from the BRI (Bend Revitalization Initiative) handed out more than 70 books, along with information about the rail trail which will be coming to Greensboro Bend when the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail is completed in 2022. The BRI recently received a Municipal Planning Grant from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Work is already underway on the rail trail, and the planners from Dubois and King started this May.

Lyles Newsletter 1958-1975

For two decades the Greensboro community, both year-round and summer, had the pleasure of getting the latest scoop on local events and people from the semi-annual Lyles Newsletters, published and mailed by Everett Lyles. Initiated to support his real estate business, while continuing real estate listings, they grew into a fascinating account of local life. It never promised to be all encompassing but included a wide range of both personal and community events..



Everett & Helen Lyles

Most issues included sections entitled: Town Meeting, Local Items, News of Summer Residents, who's at what college, honors received by local and summer folks, Marriages, Births and Deaths as well as real estate news and opportunities. It noted officers of various local organizations and sometime how local people voted in state or national elections.

Some important local events that were noted over the years included:

- 1958 Town meeting voted 24 for, 42 against allowing sale of liquor
- 1961 A vote to allow beer and wine sales was 68 for, 42 against
- 1969 The vote to allow spirits was 74 for and against 38.
- 1961 The laundromat opened in Hardwick
- 1961 The new Post Office opened
- 1964 Gertrude Corwin purchased the old mill to become the Miller's Thumb
- 1966 A town committee proposed zoning – defeated by one vote
- 1966 Passenger rail service in Vermont was discontinued
- 1967 St Michael's Catholic church was built
- 1967 The state set all appraisals at 50% of market price
- 1968 Greensboro voted to join Hazen Union school district – school opened in 1969
- 1969 Cole's Pond Casino collapsed in high winds
- 1969 An addition to the nursing home (current library) was complete
- 1970 Fellowship Hall was completed
- 1970 The Selectmen were authorized to enact interim zoning – 1972 zoning voted in
- 1971 Phil Gray gave 256 acres of Barr Hill to the Nature Conservancy
- 1972 Wallace Stegner received the Pulitzer Prize with \$1000. (award now \$15,000)
- 1972 Two wells for the town reservoir were drilled
- 1972 The Old High School became Greensboro Town Hall
- 1973 Greensboro Green purchased from the Drown farm;
 - 1975 the purchase completed with additional land
- 1974 In preparation for national Bicentennial Greensboro Historical society was started
- 1974 Lewis Hill received national recognition of his 30 years as leader of 4-H club
- 1974 Plans for the new nursing home were approved
- 1974 Selectboard decides to meet monthly and be open to public
- 1975 Opening of Lauredon apartments
- 1975 Final edition of the newsletter



Grist Mill that Gertrude Corwin transformed into Miller's Thumb

In addition to making note of all these public events, the newsletter told who was traveling where, whom they were visiting and sometimes what they did. The newsletter provided a community snap shot .

Annual Book Sale *** July 31, 10-4 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?

Elizabeth Hardy Bishop, 1926 - 2020

Lib was born, along with her twin sister, Trudi, on



May 7, 1926, in Upper Darby, PA, but Greensboro was always her spiritual home, every summer from the year of her birth until the age of 93. Her grandfather was among the group that began the summer colony on Randolph Road, and she and her sister seemed to be ever-present in July and August. Many young women remember her tennis classes at the Moun-

tain View Country Club (her husband George taught the boys), where she would later serve on the Board of Directors. Lib also worked as a faithful docent for the historical society, as well as a loyal member of the Ladies' Walking Group. Because she was the last of her generation, her passing marks the end of an era for the Hardy family. A memorial celebration will be held on July 10, 2021 in Greensboro. For information, please email to libbishop571926@gmail.com. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Greensboro Historical Society and/or the Greensboro Free Library.

A Big Thank You, Greensboro

Your historical society thrives only with the support of Greensboro citizens, both year-round and summer visitors. Each person who becomes a member and/or donates artifacts, time and resources is invaluable. Your recent votes on the town budget have allowed us to refinish the floor of the museum, paint the exterior of the building and provide heat, utilities, and other necessities. The Select Board and the DRB gave permission for the historic Hinman Road Sign to be erected at Tolman Corner and the Greensboro Road Crew to install it. Greensboro's philanthropic organizations, the Pleasants Fund and the Greensboro Association, have also given us funding for needed special projects. We are grateful.

Timothy Hinman: Rogue or Hero? Annual Meeting

At the GHS Annual meeting two experts will discuss Timothy Hinman. Peggy Day Gibson, the former director of the Old Stone House Museum and our own Gail Sangree, a Hinman researcher and author, will share insights into the man and his world.

Hinman, a man whose career included time spent in the military, roadbuilding and founding a town, was also known for smuggling, stealing and



land speculation. Were his problems due to his poor judgment or economic changes? What do the public records have to say about his efforts to create access for farmers and loggers to get their goods to the St Lawrence thus enabling trade with the British? Was he a rogue or a hero?

Please join us on **August 9th at 7pm in Fellowship Hall** for an interesting presentation, lively discussion, information about the Hinman Road history and current use, and of course, delicious refreshments .

In Remembrance

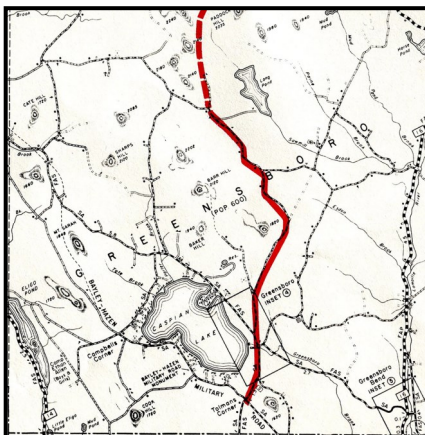
Ann B. (Averill) Broad	Jane Edith (Withers)
Evelyn M. Perry	Menard
David Kelly, Jr.	Una Lou H. Richard
Patricia Ann Haslam	son
Jane Gunther	Elizabeth "Lib" Hardy
Joseph Mack Wood	Bishop
Ann M. Sullivan	Mark David Lichten-
Susan Bucknam	stein
Robert F. Fisher	Richard L. Smith
Linda Marie Sayers	John A. Hill
Joanna W. Dawson	Muriel King
Delma King	Shirley Miller
Donald W. Hislop	Sharon Hill



Setting up History Walk

Hinman Settler Road Sign to be Dedicated this Summer Near the ballfield

A state historical sign commemorating Hinman Road and the man who built it will be installed this summer near the spot where the Hinman Road originated, adjacent to the ballfield at Tolman Corners. It will be dedicated at a public ceremony at **10 AM on July 21**. Timothy Hinman with his brother and others, built the second major road in Greensboro between 1791 and 1793. It linked the town and the Bayley-Hazen Road with other areas of northern



Map showing the Greensboro portion of Hinman road which goes north

Vermont and opened them up for settlement. The road went through the village towards Barr Hill, through the property formerly owned by Sherry Gray and then through the current McGrath property. It then crossed the Freeman property to Skunk Hollow and into Glover and points north, ending in Derby close to the Canadian border. For many years the Hinman Road served as the main throughfare and stagecoach route between Canada and settlements south in Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. When the pond in Glover "ran away" in 1810, opening a path through the valley for another road north, Hinman Road began to lose its importance.

GHS Newsletter

PO Box 151
Greensboro, VT 05841

Trustees

BJ Gray, Paula Harmon, Erika Karp, Janet Long, Martha Niemi, Mark Snyder

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Wilhelmina Smith, Co-President
Nancy Hill, Co-President
Alison Gardner, Secretary
Lise Armstrong Treasurer

Committee Chairpersons

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Building, Lise Armstrong
Membership, Alison Gardner
Website, Kyle Gray
Facebook, Kyle Gray & Lise Armstrong

Hazen Road Dispatch Editor,
Gail Sangree

Newsletter contributors

Jenny Stoner, Editor,
Alison Gardner, Nancy Hill,
Leslie Rowell,
Wilhelmina Smith, Janet Steward