



GREENSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER

Highland Cattle Come to GHS

This summer's exhibit featured Highland cattle, a fascinating breed of beef cows bred and raised in Greensboro for more than 50 years. One Highland cow purchased in 1967 by Carroll Shatney for his Shat Acres farm in North Greensboro was the beginning of the now 150-head herd, the oldest registered Highland herd--and one of the largest--in the United States. The herd, currently owned by Ray Shatney and Janet Steward, has included Grand Championship-winning cattle and yields highly-celebrated Greenfield beef products. Our summer exhibit shared the history, achievements, success, and community involvement of these carefully managed cattle. As one newspaper headline in the exhibit read, Greensboro is "*Steep Hills, Narrow Roads and Prize-Winning Cattle.*" We are proud to have Highland cattle as part of Greensboro's history.

With the generous help of Mr. Shatney and Ms. Steward, we developed a fascinating exhibit about these unique cattle. The GHS building was bedecked with ribbons won by the Highland cattle (now pastured in both Greensboro and Plainfield), plaques and prizes filled the shelves, and displays included newspaper articles, family photographs, a Highland cattle hide, an informative video, and more. Headlines such as "*2021 AHCA Roll of Excellence Heifer of the Year: Shat Acres Raisin Brandy*" and "*Farmer Spotlight: Shat Acres Highland Cattle and Greenfield Highland Beef*," as well as "*Highland Beef Big Hit at the Big E*" and "*Shat Acres Cow and Calf Named Grand Champions*" all demonstrate the variety and interest of the exhibit and the award-winning quality of the cattle.



Mother and calf pose



Display of some of the awards won by Shat Acres

During our annual book sale and ice cream social, lucky visitors had a chance to meet and pet two Highland calves. Despite a generally slower stream of people this year due to COVID-19, multiple school field trips came to the GHS summer exhibit and visitors' names filled up our guestbook!

GHS would like to say a big thank you to Ray Shatney and Janet Steward for their help with this exhibit, as well as for sharing the real and fascinating lives behind the photos and awards.

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

President's Corner



As the new president of the Greensboro Historical Society I would like to set a major goal of including our youth. Both sets of my grandparents gently introduced me to our past. This nudge became a lifelong path of discovery. In high school I was a docent and re-cataloged the collection of The Huguenot Historical Society in New Paltz, New York. After living in Tunisia I was fortunate to become a docent in

The Africa Hall of The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. The crown jewel of my journey through the past is now with the Greensboro Historical Society.

This Summer we included activities for our youth in the Highland Cattle: Proud Heritage exhibit with the interactive electronic "name the cattle breed" game, a video, stuffed Highland cattle toys and tours for the Lakeview Elementary School. There was an activity sheet and coloring page. Janet Steward and Ray Shatney put this exhibit together and have endeared the Highland "coos" to us forever. The Hill Exhibit, in our rear barn, is always a favorite with in-depth information on and artifacts of a Greensboro founding family.

The annual ice cream social featured two live Highland cattle which could be combed. It was a kid-friendly activity. The annual book sales featured a section of children's books and an historical section.

Willie Smith and Nancy Hill, retiring co-presidents, are to be commended for their excellent leadership the past 10 years. We thank them for the Hinman Settler Road sign, Highland cattle exhibit, freshly-painted museum exterior, HEPA certified air filtering system and much, much more.

In your spare time have fun coloring this Highland cow.

BJ Gray, President

Looking for a Special Gift?

The famous *History of Greensboro: The First Two Hundred Years*: \$15. or \$20 mail order.

The current *Hazen Road Dispatch*, 2021 edition: \$8 or \$11 mail order.

A new addition to our publications for Civil War buffs: hardcover edition of *The Memorial Record of the Soldiers who enlisted from Greensboro, Vermont* by E.E. Rollins, 1868: \$10 \$13 mail order.

For mail orders (handling and postage) please send a check with notation for which publication to GHS at PO Box 151, Greensboro, VT 05841.

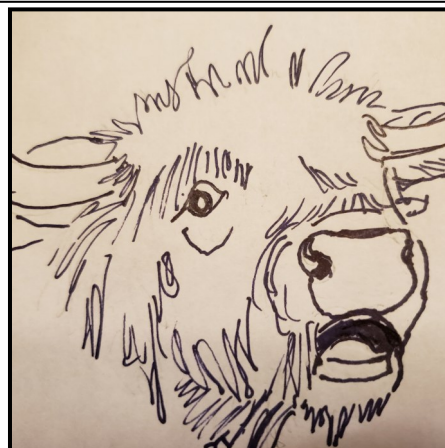
Website & Facebook

Check out our growing website: www.greensborohistoricalsociety.org for videos of presentations, research tools, photos, events, past newsletters and much more.

Learn more about Timothy Hinman and the Hinman Settler Road from our summer presentation by Peggy Day Gibson and Gail Sangree.

And follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

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



To send inquiries or contact us, email us at collections@greensborohistoricalsociety.org

Dedication of the Official Hinman Settler Road Sign

On July 21, over fifty people gathered at Tolman Corner to dedicate an historic site marker commemorating the starting point of the Hinman Settler Road, which linked Greensboro to the Bayley-Hazen Road and points north to Derby. Timothy Hinman (1761-1850) carved the road into the wilderness between 1792 and 1793 to help open up northern areas for broader settlement. The road eventually became part of the stagecoach road between Boston and Quebec. The new sign complements a similar sign in Derby honoring Hinman's founding of that town.

The dedication event featured talks by Laura Trieschmann, state historic preservation officer, and



Gail Sangree, an authority on Timothy Hinman. Attendees included two descendants of Timothy Hinman, Conrad Bellavance and Paulette Brochu-Colburn, who praised the effort. Additionally, the group enjoyed a performance by the Northeast Kingdom Sacred Harp Singers, who shared songs written in that era.

For additional information, visit the GHS for a map of the Hinman Settler Road or purchase a copy of this year's *Hazen Road Dispatch*, available for sale locally at the GHS, Willey's, Smith's Store and the Galaxy Book Store.

Laura Trieschmann, state historic preservation officer, speaks at the sign dedication

“Timothy Hinman: Hero or Rogue?” GHS Annual Meeting

Around fifty members and guests of the GHS met on August 9 in Fellowship Hall to learn more about the life and accomplishments of Timothy Hinman, a remarkable historical figure who spearheaded the construction of a wilderness road leading from Greensboro to Derby in the early 1790s.

Peggy Gibson, retired director of the Orleans County Historical Society, spoke first of Hinman's many accomplishments, including learning surveying in the Revolutionary Army after being recruited at the age of fifteen, leading the construction of the Hinman Settler Road, founding the town of Derby, and serving as both a county judge and a state legislator. Gibson then presented many more details about the Hinman Settler Road, both historical and present-day.

Gail Sangree, who has done extensive research on Timothy Hinman, then spoke on other aspects of his life. Highlights of this in-depth talk included learning of the difficulties Hinman experienced trying to keep his own expenses separate from those of his new town and hearing the story about how he got into financial trouble after borrowing the then-enormous sum of \$11,000 from the Vermont State Bank. As a result, he spent several years in jail before again being elected to town office.

Hinman died in 1850, and his tombstone described him as a “faithful, honest, just and good man.” It was then up to the audience to decide if he was a rogue or a hero. When hands were raised, approximately 50% voted for rogue and 50% for hero! Perhaps that is the best one can hope for in a life well-lived.

From the Archives



We recently received some tintypes created at the Barton Fair around the start of the 20th century. This image, dated September 9, 1903, features two Greensboro couples decked out for the fair. The names on the back of the paperboard frame are John Wilson, Lucy Thompson, Pardon Allen, and Beth Cook. We are lucky to have names, a date, and a place to start our research. We learned that John (1882-1961) and Lucy (1882-1968) married in 1907, and Pardon (1879-1960) and Beth (1886-1975) married in 1908.

Was this photograph likely to have been a major undertaking for these folks? Probably not. Tintypes were invented in 1853 (between daguerreotypes and rolled film in the timeline of photography). They were popular in their heyday as the first technology to bring photographs within reach of the masses. Traveling tintype photographers were popular at fairs, and Civil War soldiers mailed tintypes home from the field. Oddly enough, the images are typically produced on a sheet of iron, not tin. The process results in an image reversed from the original pose. If you like the look, tintypes

are making a comeback, with trendy artists using the old technique and a TinType app that will give digital photos a turn-of-the-(last)-century look.

A Tribute to Willie Smith and Nancy Hill

GHS was extraordinarily fortunate to have the shared leadership of longtime members Nancy Hill and Willie Smith as co-presidents from 2012 to 2021. Under their leadership the Society has greatly enriched the town with the full operation of our new museum, many diverse programs and exhibits, a greatly increased digital presence and some new programs. We now have a professional archivist, Leslie Rowell, working to digitize our holdings and a video expert, Kyle Gray, recording our activities and making them accessible on the web. Here is a partial list of accomplishments under their co-presidency:

- ◆ Opening of the Hill exhibit in our new museum, followed by numerous updates
- ◆ Regular visits of schoolchildren to Hill and other annual exhibits
- ◆ Updating our website by Kyle Gray to include genealogy, videos of programs, audio interviews with “old timers,” inventory of cemeteries, Greensboro High School yearbooks and much more
- ◆ Development of a Facebook presence
- ◆ Displays at three different Vermont History Expos in Tunbridge
- ◆ Supporting the archeological dig of the Greensboro blockhouse
- ◆ Developing the History Explorer Walks with the library
- ◆ Publication of the 40th anniversary edition of the *Hazen Road Dispatch*
- ◆ Annual exhibits prepared with and highlighting various aspects of the community including:
 - ◇ Greensboro Health Care
 - ◇ Old China Hands
 - ◇ Water and Mills
 - ◇ Old Time Toys
 - ◇ Lawns
- ◆ A wide variety of programs including:
 - ◇ Slavery in Vermont
 - ◇ The Knitting Ladies who had the law changed
 - ◇ Teachers in Space with Mike Metcalf
 - ◇ 100th Anniversary of Greensboro Volunteer Fire Department
 - ◇ Car talk – our local garages
 - ◇ Conversation with former Selectboard members

All this has been accomplished under their joint leadership with Willie’s faithful work in the archives, Nancy overseeing the building and both connecting us to the county and state historical societies. Thank you Nancy and Willie!!!

Vive Volunteers

Organizations like the GHS have always relied on volunteers to do the jobs required to make everything work. Each person shares according to his or her own abilities, whether it is scooping ice cream, setting up an exhibit, selling books or writing articles. This past year we have been particularly fortunate to have not only faithful docents who keep the museum exhibits open throughout the summer, but also the invaluable help of new volunteers: Renée, Leo and Amelia Circosta.

The Circostas improved the History Explorer Walks by formatting and editing new signs, putting them in the ground, and designing a questionnaire to go along with the walk. They helped with the Highland Cattle Exhibit in many ways, and Leo even constructed a cow identification light-board to entertain kids and adults. They made flyers and created a map for the Hinman Settler Road in Greensboro; they sorted books for the sale and then helped manage it. They digitized the text of the booklet "A History of the Greensboro Bend Railroad Station and the St J. and L.C. Railroad," and are working with archivist Leslie Rowell to learn archiving tasks and techniques. Amelia has recently joined the Board of Trustees.

Our new volunteers join a bevy of long-term volunteers of all ages. Some of our docents, who staff the exhibit whenever it is open and are always ready to answer questions, have been helping GHS for years. One such long-term volunteer is 100 year old Marion Babbie, shown here with Paula Harmon and Lise Armstrong.

If you'd enjoy being part of a group of like-minded history buffs in any capacity, please let us know.



Summer 2021

The summer brought a great variety of activities for the young and not so young

The July book sale, paired with the ice cream social, was so successful that it was repeated in August. Here patrons are busy choosing winter reading.



Several groups of school children visited the exhibit where activities included the cow identification game

Thank you for your support

This is a wonderful time to become a new member or continue your support to help preserve Greensboro's unique heritage. An envelope is enclosed for your contribution.

Greensboro Historical Society
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www.greensborohistoricalsociety.org



Zoryan Ivakhiv –Gray unveiling
the sign for Hinman Settler Road

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Our Cemeteries, A Window on the Past

Did you know that there are four official town cemeteries in Greensboro (plus the one at St. Michael's church)? Unlike those in major



Lincoln Noyes Cemetery

cities, none has a mausoleum or chapel or offers a crypt for coffins. Our cemeteries are simple, where family members can rest in a quiet place and visitors have a beautiful view when they want to visit their loved ones. Who maintains our cemeteries? What does it take to keep the grass mowed and gravestones tidy? Where can you find the tombstones for some of our town's earliest settlers? What can you learn

about widespread illnesses at various times? Who are some of the distinguished citizens who now reside permanently in Greensboro?

Come to the GHS meeting on **Sunday, March 6 at 2 PM** in **Fellowship Hall** to get your questions answered. You'll also find out how to clean gravestones, learn of the DAR project for stone cleaning and hear about the Vermont Old Cemetery Association. Gina Jenkins, researcher of Greensboro cemeteries, will join us, along with Pat Mercier and other members of the Greensboro Cemetery Committee.

GHS Newsletter

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