



GREENSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NUMBER 57
Spring 2022

NEWSLETTER

GHS Calendar Summer 2022

Exhibits

*50 Years of Land
Conservation in
Greensboro*

And

The Hill Family Legacy

Museum Hours

July and August

Tues, Wed, Thurs

10:30 to 2:30

Sat. 10-12

Sunday, July 3, 3-5

Exhibit Opening Reception
GHS Museum

Saturday, July 30, 2-4

Ice Cream Social

GHS lawn

&

GHS Annual Book Sale

10-4

Lyles Garage

Monday, Aug 8 7 PM

GHS Annual Meeting

and Program

Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, Aug. 16 ,10 AM

Special History Walk

All welcome

Highlighting Water

Meet at Library

All Summer

Self-guided

History Explorer Walks

Summer Exhibit


50 Years of Land Conservation in Greensboro

The first conservation of land in Greensboro occurred in November 1971, when Philip Gray Sr. donated Barr Hill to The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Twenty years later the Greensboro Land Trust (GLT) was founded. (Two of the founders, Willie Smith and Nancy Hill, were co-presidents of the GHS last year.) Through efforts of GLT, TNC, and the Vermont Land Trust, 48 parcels in Greensboro are now conserved.


The GHS is commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Barr Hill Preserve and the 30th anniversary of the GLT with a summer exhibit that will display 21 of the town's conserved properties. An opening reception will take place at the GHS on Sunday, July 3rd.

The exhibit will include a Kids' Corner and an illuminated storyboard. Artwork of conserved parcels by both well-known and unknown Greensboro artists will be displayed. Small canvases are available at the library in advance of the opening for anyone wishing to paint some aspect of a conserved parcel for the exhibit.

GHS' journal, the *Hazen Road Dispatch*, available at the GHS or Willey's, features an opening article on land conservation in Greensboro.



Highland Lodge




Highland Lodge and cabins with conserved woodland and wetland in foreground (Porter Brook feeding into Caspian Lake).

1608 Craftsbury Road
- 76 acres -

The Smith-Boyd family bought the Lodge in 1954. David Smith and his wife Wilhelmina took it over in 1979, and ran it until their retirement in 2016. Before selling the Lodge, they conserved 76 acres on the lake side of Craftsbury Road with the VT Land Trust (VLT).

This parcel contains important watershed and wetlands, including a long stretch of Porter Brook. It also contains the Porter Brook Nature Trail (PBNT), an approximately one-mile path through ecologically diverse woods and wetlands.

Conservators:
David & Willie Smith



Owners of the Highland Lodge in the 1920s considered a subdivision of the lakeside property that would have created 50 house lots, many less than 0.2 acre in size.

Imagine the corresponding septic network.

Greensboroites are thankful that David and Willie Smith chose the opposite course.

A portion of one panel from the exhibit showing the owners and describing features of the land

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

This is it - everything you always wanted to know about resources available at GHS building for review, research or browsing



- * Genealogy Files
- * Hazen Road Dispatch
- * Maps of Greensboro
- * GHS Newsletters
- * Photo Albums
- * VHS Journals
- * Lyles Newsletters
- * Greensboro Authors' Files
- * Articles, newspaper clippings, flyers
- * Greensboro Census Data

- * Photo Files
- * Memorial Garden Albums
- * Greensboro Cemetery Inventory
- * GHS Annual Exhibit Albums
- * Lakeview Union School Monographs
- * Dairy Farming by Lakeview students
- * Greensboro Town Reports
- * Greensboro High School Yearbooks
- * Retreat to Vermont-An Architectural History of a Vermont Summer Community
- * Memoirs and Histories
- * Aaron Hill Ledger
- * Hemenway's Historical Gazeteer
- * Child's County Gazeteer
- * Philip Gray Poetry

Wow, all this and a museum and website too.
Website: www.greensborohistoricalsociety.org

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 by Paypal on our website greensborohistoricalsociety.org.

Thank you for your generous support.

Special History Walk

Kids and adults are invited to a group walk of the Greensboro Historical Society's History walk in downtown Greensboro on **Tuesday August 16th at 10am**. Meet at the Greensboro Free Library (GFL) and end at the Greensboro Historical Society (GHS).

This year we have a special tie-in with the GFL's summer reading program "Oceans of Possibilities" highlighting water. Find special signs recognizing interesting Greensboro water facts. There is also an architectural "seek and find" component to the walk. We will end the event with a tour of the GHS exhibits and a fun snack. All are welcome to this free event..

Hazen Road Dispatch 2022

This year's Hazen Road Dispatch is so jampacked with compelling articles that my problem has been to trim authors' work without doing harm to any writer's efforts. I'm sorry that I have not been able to use all the photos that have been provided.

Of particular interest is Clive Gray's history of land conservation in Greensboro, Jess Nichols' research about his great uncle Frederick Pleasants who established the Pleasants Fund, and Lynn Stegner's memories of her father-in-law, including an unpublished fragment written by Wallace Stegner himself.

Gail Sangree

GHS Collaborates with Area Historical Societies

The history of Greensboro is closely connected with that of our neighboring towns, Glover and Hardwick. We continually share newsletters and have been fortunate to receive from Hardwick a treasure trove of past articles and photos for our archives from the Hardwick Gazette, clipped and notated for us by the members of that society.

Earlier this spring Hardwick also shared with us two newly published volumes of its compiled journals and Glover gave us their wonderful books on topics such as Runaway Pond and former settlements such as Slab City/South Glover and Andersonville which includes part of Greensboro. In return, we have provided each society with many of our own publications. We plan to continue the tradition of sharing in coming years.

Our Self-Guided History Explorer Walks Return for 2022

Our self-guided history explorer walks, popular in 2020 and expanded in 2021, continue this year with added interpretive signs and a new way to learn about the sites. We invite this summer's explorers to complete the architectural scavenger hunt outlined in the new brochure that accompanies the walks. The hunt is complete when all the unique architectural elements shown in the brochure are spotted on one of the buildings featured on the walk. Those whose interest has been piqued can learn much more in the GHS publication, *Architectural Walking Guide to Greensboro Village*, which contains interesting information about many of the buildings in the tour and is for sale at the GHS bookshop.

As in prior years, we will collaborate with the Greensboro Free Library to help spread the word about the walks and encourage children to participate. The GFL's summer reading theme is water, so we will be adding several new water-themed signs to the walks, including one at the Miller's Thumb describing the old water-powered mill and one at Caspian Lake beach to explain the history of the beach.



The photo highlights both the sign and an architectural element



Jennifer Hill and her daughters Vittoria and Isabel Albertini, visiting from Italy, enjoy the walk

In Greensboro Bend, we're happy to announce that intrepid explorers have pinpointed the original site of the coal sheds. It is a bit off the beaten path, but a new sign will point people in the right direction down the Rail Trail.

By mid-June, the signs will be posted in both villages, and the brochures will be available at the GFL, Smith's Store, and the GHS porch bulletin board. Participants who complete the scavenger hunt can pick up a free copy of the *History of Greensboro* or the *Architectural Walking Guide to Greensboro Village* at the GFL. Anyone completing the walk in Greensboro Bend is invited to stop in at Smith's for a free creamee. In addition, the names of participants completing both walks can be entered in a raffle (stop by the GFL to submit your tickets), and three lucky winners will each receive a \$25 gift certificate to Wilson Farm.

GHS Winter Program 2022 Greensboro Cemeteries: "Windows on the Past"

After a two year hiatus GHS's winter program returned this spring with a well-attended meeting about our cemeteries. Over 40 participants listened as Jenny Stoner opened the program with a map showing the town's seven cemeteries: Block House Burial Ground, from 1781, with two graves; Greensboro Village Cemetery, first used in 1790, with 2000 graves; Baker Cemetery (Barr Hill), first used in 1790, with 60-plus graves; Mitchell-McLaren Cemetery, from 1820, with 109 graves; Lincoln-Noyes Cemetery, first used in 1820, with 210 graves; White Cemetery (private), from 1843, with six graves; and Saint Michael Cemetery, first used in 1907, with 100 graves.

Gina Jenkins followed with a historical slideshow of the cemeteries and shared several original epitaphs, such as, "We are now confined within these borders, remaining here for further orders", "She hath done what she could" and "So fades the lovely blooming flower". Jenkins shared that when she updated Greensboro's cemetery census, she found several clusters of deaths indicating illness or an epidemic.



Cemetery Commissioner Patsy Mercier with map of town cemeteries

Jenkins was followed by Patsy Mercier and MacNeil of the Greensboro Cemetery Commission who spoke of maintaining the appearance and accessibility of the town's cemeteries and their plans to expand the Greensboro Village Cemetery up the hill. Joan Alexander of Glover, concluded the event, speaking on behalf of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association (VOCA) which encourages the restoration and preservation of neglected and abandoned Vermont cemeteries.



Opening Reception July 3, 3-5 PM

Martha Niemi serves punch to Elaine Cole and David Smith at last year's opening. Be sure to come Sunday afternoon, July 3 to enjoy this year's exhibit.

Annual Book Sale *** July 30, 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? And then come and choose some winter reading.

Shoppers at last summer's book sale



DAR Sponsors Cemetery Stone Cleaning



GHS is partnering with the DAR on their summer cemetery project. Last fall the DAR chapter received a positive response when they approached the Greensboro Cemetery Commission offering to clean stones at the Village Cemetery, chosen because it is one of the oldest in town, with tombstones dating to the late 1700. Many of these are covered with debris, lichen and algae and are difficult to read. Prompted by our April program on cemeteries, the DAR asked GHS to provide lunch for the 25 volunteers who will help.

The local chapter of DAR is undertaking this task, implementing one of the missions of the Daughters of the American Revolution - historic preservation and education. In pursuing this goal, the St. John de Crevecoeur chapter has been working with the Vermont Old Cemetery Association (VOCA) for several decades to maintain cemeteries, some of them small and isolated, throughout the area served by the chapter - the three counties of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom.

For the cleaning, volunteers will wet the stones, apply D/2 Biological Solution and brush the stone to loosen or remove the lichen, etc. The project will last from **8 to 3 on Saturday, June 25th** with lunch provided by Greensboro Historical Society. Training will be available. Volunteers are encouraged to bring soft nylon vegetable brushes, plastic putty knives (*no metal brushes or scrapers*), and/or wooden paint stirring sticks to scrape stones. For more information or to volunteer contact Mary Metcalf at metcalfmary@hotmail.com.

As we explore the town's history, we'll get to see how much better the cemetery looks and we'll find out how much fun the effort is. We may wish to expand the effort next year!

GHS Annual Meeting

Please join us on **Monday, August 8th at 7pm in Fellowship Hall** for our Annual Meeting and an interesting presentation, lively discussion, and information about a topic yet to be decided. Currently there are several possibilities. Watch for publicity as the mystery is resolved and join GHS for fun, new insights and refreshments.

GHS Website

Among the treasures on the website www.greensborohistoricalsociety.org are videos of our presentations. The newest is the of our April program on *Greensboro Cemeteries: Windows on the Past*. Likewise, you can find a video of the GHS presentation, *Timothy Hinman: Hero or Rogue?* with GHS researcher Gail Sangree and former Old Stone House director Peggy Day Gibson. An overview of last year's exhibit *Highland Cattle: Proud Heritage* by Ray Shatney and Linda Steward shows the remarkable legacy of their work

GHS Museum Bookshop

The GHS has an array of books and booklets authored by past and present GHS members, as well as relevant books authored by others. Now for sale is a newly acquired hardcover book *Memorial Record of the Soldiers of Greensboro, Vermont* by E.E. Rollins a fascinating compendium of our Civil War soldiers written in 1868.

In Remembrance

Shirley R Miller	Elmer Redmond Sayers
Ian H. McGee	Tina J. Vecchio
The Reverend John Wills Hamilton	Evelyn (Evie) Gauthier
William Nicely	Laurette Denise Perron
Hazel Ward Burton Gray	Albert J. LaCasse
Jacqueline Hunt Lovett	Beverly Jean Young
Roger P. Allen	Judith Getty Treadwell
Harold G. Tolman	Robert Roger Slayton
Anne Sangree Parke	Alice Ann Bowers
	Margaret Hale Bascom

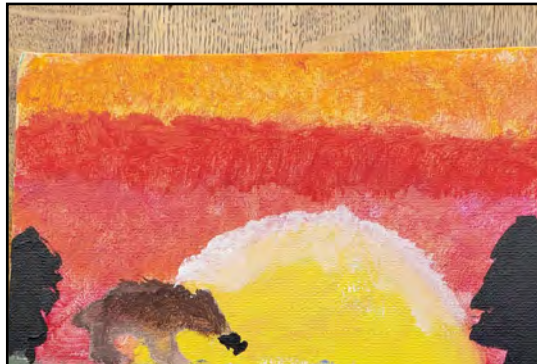


A Painting of Land Trust Land

Your Painting Requested

You are invited to take part in the summer exhibit at the GHS Museum: "50 Years of Land Conservation in Greensboro". Whether you consider yourself an artist or not, please join in the fun. Small canvases (8 ½ X 11) are available at the Greensboro Free Library for you to pick up and use to depict conserved properties such as Barr Hill, the Long Pond area, the Porter Brook Nature Trail or private lands (maps available). When completed and returned, your painting will become part of the exhibit. We would be pleased to show it at the opening on July 3, but paintings will be welcomed throughout the exhibit, until Labor Day.

Please paint whatever inspires you, whether scenes of the properties themselves or the indigenous animals, birds, plants and bugs. Use your imagination! Students from Lakeview Elementary School have already completed paintings and one example is here. Please see page 1 of this newsletter for more information on the exhibit.



Lakeview Elementary students accepted the challenge of paintings with inspiration of views of Land Trust properties. Amelia. painted this bear at sunset .

GHS Newsletter

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