



GREENSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NUMBER 59
Spring 2023

NEWSLETTER

GHS Calendar Summer 2023

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
Fri. 2:30-5:30
Sat. 10-12

From July 16-Aug. 12
Sunday 11-1

Sunday, July 2, 3-5

Exhibit Opening Reception
GHS Museum

Saturday, July 29

Ice Cream Social
2-4
GHS lawn

&

GHS Annual Book Sale
10-2
Janet Long's Garage

Monday, July 24, 7 PM

GHS Annual Meeting
Geology Rocks!
Fellowship Hall

Summer Exhibit

50 Years of Land Conservation in Greensboro revisited

The GHS exhibit for the 2023 summer season revisits the history and value of land conservation in Greensboro over the past 50 years. This exhibit showcases the work of landowners, conservation organizations and supporters.

"50 Years of Land Conservation in Greensboro" features 21 panels of photos and information about the conserved properties.

This summer, we've added a showcase of products that represent the working lands amongst the conserved properties — timber, milk, cheese, grain for local bakers, haying, sugaring, organic herbs and vegetables are all continually made on local properties that have been conserved.



We've also added notes about the value of land conservation, including clean waterways, carbon storage, public recreation, tourism, nature education, viewsheds, animal corridors, wetland habitats, greenspaces in town and working lands that continue to produce local food and wood for the timber industry.

A monitor in the exhibit space will show the 2022 Summer presentation "History of Land Conservation in Vermont" by Bob Klein and Darby Bradley. Bob Klein was the first director of The Nature Conservancy, Vermont (starting in 1977) and Darby Bradley started the first land trust in Vermont, the Ottauquechee Land Trust, which eventually became the Vermont Land Trust.

Opening Reception July 2, 3-5 PM

You are invited to the opening reception for this summer's exhibit on Sunday afternoon, July 2. Come for tasty refreshments, conversation and a chance to speak with conservators featured in the exhibit.

President's Corner

Nothing like a good road sign!

Go to the southernmost tip of Greensboro, Tolman Corners, where the ball park is. There you will find two signs: Bayley Hazen Military Road and Hinman Settler Road. The signs designate the two historic roads which embrace Greensboro.



The Bayley Hazen Military Road, built around 1776-1779 during the Revolutionary War as a supply route, was planned to be a route to invade Canada. Col. Bayley asked General George Washington for the funds to build a road. This road goes on one side of Greensboro.

On the other side is the Hinman Settler Road. This was built from 1791-1793 by Timothy Hinman to link Greensboro with other areas of northern Vermont and was used as a stagecoach route to Canada. Greensboro was a wilderness area at this time and roads provided essential connection to other towns.

For more information on early life in Greensboro you can consult our very own local history book. Among the fascinating facts included are the cause of the blockhouse scout murders and why the Hinman kids played with Indians. This book was created in honor of the county's Bicentennial by a most distinguished group of authors and it remains available for all of us.

*The History of Greensboro :
The First Two Hundred Years*
by

Peter D. Watson, Nancy Hill, Rhoda Mettraux, Wilhelmina Smith, Sally Fisher, Dorothy Ling, Lewis Hill, Patricia Haslam, and Gail Sangree

Foreword By Wallace Stegner.
Edited by Susan Bartlett Weber

A hearty thank you to all who saved our history. Copies of the history are available at the GHS museum.

BJ Gray

Hazen Road Dispatch 2023

This year's *Hazen Road Dispatch* features several new voices as well as those of some old-timers.

Ross Connolly, for example, has a review of Eric Pope's book *Granite Kingdom*. Sandy Gebbie and Mike Metcalf have contributed some wonderful memories about the Gebbie ski tow and the "I Married Greensboro Club." Two of our regular contributors, Clay Simpson and Dan Metrau, have pieces about Herbert Turrell, founder of the Greensboro Association, and about early Craftsbury's horrible roads.

Tim Breen has written about the founding of Greensboro. Gail Sangree writes about Cyrus Homer, Timothy Hinman's slave, and contrasts him with Paul Mingo, an African-American who settled in Greensboro before 1810. There's lots more, so be on the lookout for the 2023 edition to appear at Willey's sometime in June. And, if any of these pieces spur you to write something historical of your own, we would be delighted to consider your submission

Ice Cream Social July 29, 2-4 PM



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!

Greensboro's "Nugget" of History

The GHS joined other local historical societies and museums around the state in a Vermont Historical Society project to collect a "nugget" of history from each municipality in Vermont. We contributed photographs and a write-up about the former railroad depot in Greensboro Bend. Our entry highlighted the comings and goings of the depot around the turn of the 20th century, when people and a vast array of goods traveled in and out of town several times per day on the trains that connected Greensboro to the wider world. You can view all of the entries—from Andover's Finnish roots to Worcester's mink farm—through the interactive map on the Vermont Historical Society website at <https://vermonthistory.org/history-in-the-252>.

Annual Book Sale July 29, 10-2 at Janet Long's Garage

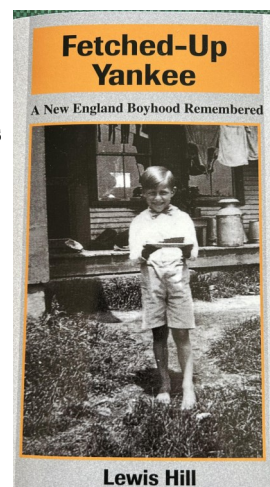
Now's the time to look through your books and choose some you have enjoyed that would be perfect to pass on. Books can be delivered to Janet Long's garage across the street from Willey's anytime. Volunteers are needed to sort and arrange books two weeks before. Can you help? And then come and choose some winter reading.



GHS Book Shop

Our bookshop is selling three new books: Local historian Timothy Breen's, *Will of the People*, a book about the Revolutionary War, will be available this summer. One reviewer commented, "Important and lucidly written. The American Revolution involved not simply the wisdom of a few great men but the passions, fears, and religiosity of ordinary people." A second book by Breen, *George Washington's Journey*, is also in stock. One reviewer noted, "An absorbing portrait...Breen's superb chronicle offers glimpses into Washington's love of his country and its people, and his willingness to meet them on their own terms to secure the unity of the new republic."

In addition, copies of Lewis Hill's memoir, *Fetched Up Yankee: A New England Boyhood Remembered*, describing his growing up in Greensboro in the 1930's, is again available. A reviewer noted, "Hill's sly sense of humor and his keen ear for the cadences of Yankee speech make this book shine. You will savor every chapter of his funny, fascinating and wonderfully warm-hearted memoir."



We continue to carry our publications; for example, the 40th anniversary issue of the *Hazen Road Dispatch* was recently reprinted. For a complete list of our publications, check the last page of the *Hazen Road Dispatch* or stop by the GHS museum this summer and check out the bookshop!

New Greensboro Bend history booklet on track for delivery this summer!

To coincide with the opening of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, the GHS is updating and expanding its original 1976 publication, *A History of the Greensboro Bend Railroad Station and the St. J. & L.C. Railroad*. We're on track to have more details on the early years, recent history and happenings with the depot and the rail line, and a veritable boxcar full of archival photos. Watch for it for sale at Willey's, Smith's, the GHS bookstore, and other spots around town this summer!



GHS Winter Program Skiing in Greensboro

Nearly 50 people were at the Greensboro Historical Society annual winter meeting at Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 4th to hear Sandy Gebbie and Wilhelmina Smith tell the history of skiing, both Nordic and Alpine, in Greensboro. Many of those present had learned to ski right at home, either at the Gebbie Ski Tow or the Highland Lodge trails.

Sandy described the Gebbie Farm Community Ski Tow in North Greensboro. In the 1970s they outfitted their farm tractor to power a rope tow on a hill near their home, and the lift was born. Their son Peter began to operate the tow and by the early 1980s he and his wife, Sandy, were in charge and the operation became well-known. Some winter days as many as 50 avid skiers were waiting in line for a turn to be pulled up the hill. A third generation is still enjoying this today.



Bottom of Gebbie ski tow

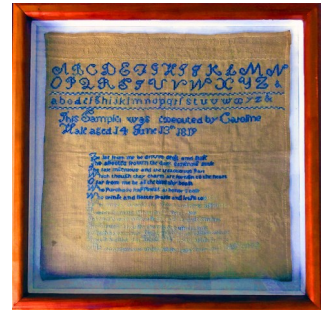
Sandy showed home movies of that first tow and clips of the Gebbie tow in a documentary about New England home tows by T-Bar Films. She also showed a WCAX-TV film featuring the Gebbie tow. The films brought back happy memories as the crowd reminisced.

Willie Smith then described the X-C (Nordic) skiing operation at Highland Lodge, which also began in the early 1970s. David Jr. and Jed Guerten from Johnson laid out trails around the Lodge and David asked many abutting landowners for permission to cut trails across their land. When David Jr. and Willie took over the operation in 1979, David Jr. and a crew of trail packers packed the trails each day with a heavy-duty snowmobile. For more about this program, go to the GHS website, www.greensborohistoricalsociety.org, where the recorded program is available.

Caroline Hale Sampler

GHS is fortunate to have a lovely sampler made by Caroline Hale (1805-1886) of Greensboro in 1819 at age 14. Sampler making was included as part of the school curriculum for girls, which is probably where Caroline made hers. She was the daughter of Ashbel and Patience Hale, who came to Greensboro in 1795 from Glastonbury, CT, and her father is well known to Greensboro historians.

Caroline married Dr. Edward Clark of Glover, with whom she had three children. She is buried at the Craftsbury Village Cemetery. The sampler is now included in a statewide initiative to locate and document schoolgirl samplers held in Vermont's public and private collections, to be seen soon at samplerarchive.org.



Running Challenge Featuring our Historic Cemeteries

The Craftsbury Outdoor Center's 5th Summer Running (or walking or biking) Challenge this year is focused on cemeteries. For 8-12 weeks in the summer months these challenges take participants on a weekly provided loop of 3-8 miles with a point system to encourage camaraderie, and community building, and to promote physical activity and well-being.

Each week's loop highlights 1-3 cemeteries with a small write-up about the cemetery, people buried there and a scavenger hunt question. This summer's 12 weeks will take participants through Greensboro as well as Craftsbury, Albany, Hardwick, Glover and Walden cemeteries. In Greensboro the exploration will be in the Lincoln-Noyes, Village, Baker, and Mitchell-McLaren cemeteries. GHS has provided some of the background information on our cemeteries. Check for more details at www.craftsbury.com/running/community/running-community

Civil War Exhibit with HHS and HCA A Little History for *Little Women*

In late December 2022, the GHS collaborated with the Hardwick Historical Society and the Vermont Historical Society to provide artifacts, documents, and descriptive captions for an exhibit of Civil War-era items at the Highland Center for the Arts. The exhibit complemented the HCA's live performances of *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott's classic story set in rural New England during the Civil War years. We were fortunate enough to find many period treasures in the Hill Exhibit. With a bit of extra research, we dated and described a wide range of artifacts including eye glasses, dental and medical equipment, Greensboro store ledgers, shot flasks, correspondence between a Vermont soldier on the front lines and his wife back home, a period backgammon board handcrafted by Ephraim Hill (Greensboro, 1833-1913), jaw harps and the exhibit centerpiece: The drum used by the uncle of Pardon Allen (Greensboro, 1879-1960) when he was a drummer boy during the War.



Civil War drum

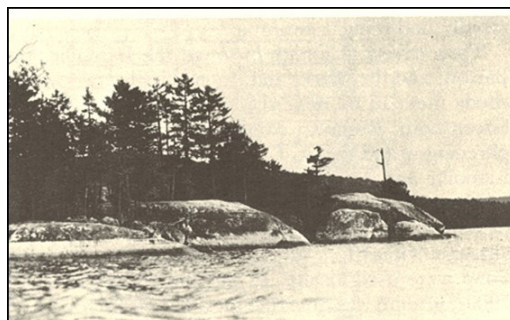
The HCA staff used their artistic flare and display cabinets, pedestals, and wall space to pull everything together into a self-guided exhibit in the extended lobby area. Feedback from the Highland Center and the community was extremely positive. GHS is grateful that we were able to share our treasures more broadly and to work with fellow history-lovers.

A Special Thank You Donors and Members

The GHS is fortunate to have a committed group of donors who support us year after year. In many families this support is a tradition as it has passed from one generation to the next through yearly donations and gifts "in memory of" and "in honor of." We welcome our newer resident donors as their numbers continue to grow. Nearly half of budget is made up of donations (and membership dues), so we truly couldn't do all what we do without you!

GHS Annual Meeting Geology Rocks!

On July 24 at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall the GHS Annual Meeting will precede an in-depth program on the very foundations of



Huckleberry Rocks, a granite outcrop, near the Mitchell camps on the North Shore of Caspian Lake.
Henry Merrill Collection

Greensboro. From kettle ponds to glacial erratics, Greensboro is rich with geological features that we tend to just take for granite. If you'd like to know your schist from your phyllite or recognize the signs of glacial activity when you see it, join us for a panel discussion featuring Vermont State Geologist Dr. Benjamin DeJong to learn more about the geology of Greensboro and Vermont. Bring your questions and curiosity—and interesting rocks to share. Watch for other geology-related activities during the summer, including possible walks, library programs, and more.

In Remembrance

Richard W. Landon
Gordon Griffith Stoner
Deborah Finnegan Ling
John Charles Stone II
Judy B. Dales
G. Anders Dales
Clark Maser

Robert Elwin Esdon
Dr. M.H. "Hu" Sangree
Richard J. (Dick) Sullivan Sr.
Richard J. Augeri
Frederick David DeMag Jr.
Stephanie Slack Herrick
Justin Robert Howard
Jonathan Fisher

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



One of our historic roads

GHS Celebrates Local Women

In March the society collaborated with our next-door neighbor, Willey's Store, to honor local women as part of Women's History Month, a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society and the too-often overlooked contributions of women to U.S. history.



Annie Bartel, graphic designer

A table near the front door of the store held a large photo display of 20 representative women (now deceased) who played an important role in overall Greensboro history, and a smaller set of photos showed four women in the Willey family who played a big part in the history of the store. The photos focused on a few well-known local women, most from the last part of the 20th century, and it was noted that the display would have been much larger had summer residents been included.

The women portrayed in the exhibit were Cleora Collier, Dorothy Ling, Carol Smith, Alice Hill, Beatrice White, Esther Kesselman, Helen Lyles, Minnie Speir, Harriette Wilson, Ida Perron, Rosie Oates, Dorothy Davis, Hazel Gile, Bronwyn Potter, Catherine Houle, Annie Bartel, Mary Merrill, Laura Drown, Madeline Gebbie, and Anne Harbison. The women of Willey's Store were Edla Locklin Willey, Hattie Willey, Gertrude Willey and Phyllis Willey Hurst.

GHS Newsletter

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