



GREENSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER

Summer of the Flood

When GHS planned our summer program to accompany the annual meeting, we were very pleased to be able to offer the topic: *The Geology of Greensboro* with Dr. Benjamin DeJong, the Vermont State Geologist. However, the flood of July 10 which created so much devastation statewide changed a great deal. Our scheduled guest speaker and everyone else with expertise in the field of geology became involved in recovery efforts and was not available.

So members of GHS, ever resilient, decided that history in the making should be our focus and we lined up experts on current history: the flood of 2023. Less than 3 weeks after the event we had a stimulating program that provided context, perspective and information about this year's flood and its impact.



Craftsbury Road and North Shore
intersection

Bob Merrill, a geologist who grew up in Greensboro spoke first explaining the geological conditions that contributed to the flooding.

Clay Simpson spoke on the flood of 1927, pointing out similarities and differences. 1927 was more serious with 84 deaths. There was also a conflict with Hardwick Electric Co. about regulating the water level.

Stew Arnold talked about the impact of the 2023 flooding on the lake and roads, showing a power point of many photos.. (Thanks to Kyle Gray for assembling the photos into a fine presentation.) Stew also made comparisons with the flood of 1973 and Irene in 2011.

Karl Stein, Town Health Officer told of the preparation

that was done to be ready for emergency responses, starting on Sunday (before the big storm on Monday evening). Hardwick Rescue Squad organized crews and all the local towns had first responders ready to help. He and representatives of other towns continue to report regularly to a statewide network. The National Reserve corps is made up of emergency service volunteers,

Dave Brochu, Fire Chief, spoke of the planning and coordinating with the town hall and other fire departments in the area to ensure that all areas could be reached if there were emergencies. There were no urgent problems in Greensboro.



Stew Arnold, Dave Brochu, Kaarl Stein,
Clay Simpson, and Bob Merrill

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

President's Corner



BJ Gray

The GHS Mascot

The mission of The Greensboro Historical Society is to preserve the history of our town by: - Providing opportunities for people to interact with our past and - Nurturing an appreciation of our history that provides insight into the present.

There are many ways to approach history. A beloved mascot like Eliot, pictured here, inspires us in the ways of a dog.

For instance, Eliot's bark

might say to follow your nose to the GHS ice cream social where ice cream and conversation about local events is held every year on our museum front lawn.

Eliot is a greeter/docent at the GHS Museum which this year featured, 50 Years of Land Conservation In Greensboro. Preserved properties are presented where values are preserved, products are produced and open land provides room to chase our dreams.

Eliot loves stuffed animals and there are plenty at the Kid's Corner which show children the wildlife on preserved properties. The Kid's Corner also featured a light up board of animals. Right up Eliot's alley.

Eliot favors old favorite toys. We can find old favorites at the GHS book sale at Janet Long's Book Emporium where donated books help fund us.

Barking is a way of drawing attention and is a security thing. The GHS has a security system for safety of documents and artifacts.

Eliot possesses patience, intelligence and gentleness, all excellent characteristics for docents at The Hill Exhibit where a single farming families' lifestyle is presented.

Eliot can be the leader of the pack for new ideas on how to present history. GHS will have a new wall mounted display feature to preserve our latest exhibit for viewing.

His chasing after moving objects is like our research: always on the move and digging to find new and old information.

Be alert to possibilities which will make a difference in our futures by studying and preserving the past. At GHS our history is being well cared for and Eliot as mascot sets examples in many ways.

Looking for Christmas Gifts?

Two of the historical society's award-winning publications, this year's *Hazen Road Dispatch* and *40 Years of the Hazen Road Dispatch* 1975-2015 are available at Willey's and also through the mail with a check for \$11 for the HRD and \$31 for *40 Years of the Hazen Road Dispatch* to the GHS, PO Box 151, Greensboro 05841.

Gail Sangree, Editor par excellence



Special thanks to Gail Sangree who has just completed 22 years as distinguished editor of the *Hazen Road Dispatch*. Keep your eyes open for a fascinating interview with her that will be

available in the spring.

Website & Facebook

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

And follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

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

The Joys of Snowmobiling and Ice Fishing

The annual winter meeting of the Greensboro Historical Society in March will focus on “Winter Recreation in Greensboro, Part II.” Last year explored local “Skiing”; this year we will uncover the history of local snowmobiling and ice fishing.

Most local snowmobilers belong to the Coles Pond Sledders, a club based in Walden. In October, 2022, the club celebrated their 50th Anniversary and the currently the club has approximately 120 members. They are part of the VAST network which grooms 52 miles of local trails throughout the winter. Shawn Messier of Walden, one of their groomers, will tell about the history of the club, and we can expect a lively and interesting discussion, with tales of a half-century of snowmobiling.

If you’ve ever wondered about what goes on in those little shacks that cover the ice on Caspian on cold winter days and nights, this will be the time to find out. Fishing through the ice of Greensboro’s waters — Caspian, Eligo, and Long Pond — has been going on for generations. In recent years the Fire Department has even sponsored a competitive Fishing Derby on Caspian. How, when, and why fishermen (and women) bore holes through the ice to catch fish will be explained by long-time Caspian fisherman John Moffatt and others who will share tales, show equipment, and answer our questions.



Ice Fishing Derby on Caspian

All are invited to the meeting, on **Sunday, March 3 at 2 o’clock in Fellowship Hall** (U.C.C. Church). Please come and share your own stories of snowmobiling and ice fishing. Refreshments

Grange Historian Visits GHS

Officially organized in 1907 the Grange was the center of Greensboro social life until after World War II. Membership and officers included both men and women (the first fraternal organization to have women officers) with activities for all. The regular educational topics that focused on agriculture were supplemented by music, dances, games crafts and other social events. The membership peak was 131 members in 1916 and the group continued to meet for over a century.

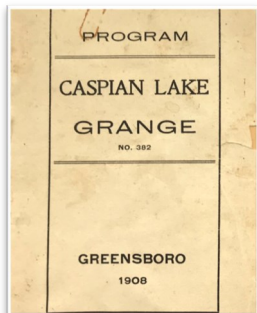
In 2022 GHS received records of the Caspian Lake Grange #382 that were retrieved from the former Grange building in Greensboro. Record books, programs, and membership directories for the Hazen Road Pomona #15, 1905-1987, also document activities of the nearby subordinate Grange chapters: Caledonia #9 (East Hardwick), Craftsbury #269, Hardwick #323, Danville #325, Bell #345 (South Walden), Cabot #392, Wolcott #397, Maple Valley #450 (Albany), and Greensboro Valley #454 (Greensboro Bend).



Nancy Hill with Errol Briggs receiving the 1907 Charter for Caspian Lake Grange

An abundance of state and national Grange items in the collection, with limited room to store them, spurred a recent visit by Errol Briggs, Historian and past Master of the Vermont State Grange. He was pleased to find these materials in good order and expressed special appreciation to the Town of Greensboro and to GHS for their work in caring for and preserving this collection.

Greensboro Historical Society
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One of our historic grange programs

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Railroad Exhibit



Lamoille Valley excursion train

In 1872, following some strong persuasion by leading citizens of Greensboro, the railroad came to Greensboro, bringing with it major economic benefits. Sparsely populated Greensboro Bend became a busy business center, farmers in the whole area were granted rapid access to major markets for butter, milk and many other products, and vacationers from New York and beyond had easier access to the beauties of Caspian Lake. For our exhibit the summer 2024 GHS will have an exhibit on the railroad that transformed the community.

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.

GHS Newsletter

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