



GREENSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER

GHS Hosts Fall Gathering of Local Societies



On the morning of October 10th, Hardwick Electric decided to turn off Greensboro's power supply for routine work. At exactly the same time, representatives of historical societies from the Northeast Kingdom and beyond were to gather in Fellowship Hall for their annual meeting. Fortunately, Lakeview School had a generator, and opened its doors to GHS members who brewed two large carafes of coffee there and transported them to the Hall just in time to serve them with coffee cakes to the participants who arrived at 9:30 a.m. from Newport, Glover, Derby, Brownington, East Charleston, West Charleston, Hardwick, Peacham and Waterford.

Eileen Corcoran, Outreach Coordinator of the Vermont Historical Society (VHS), was the keynote speaker. Fortunately the power was restored in time for her to use a microphone. She shared the work of VHS, describing its programs, museums, exhibits and role in helping local societies, and she answered

questions. Then someone from each local society, in a 5 minute segment, shared interesting projects and experiences of their own group. Erika Karp described Greensboro's recent activities, for example, and Peggy Day, Director of the Old Stone House in Brownington spoke of their activities. One interesting observation made was that artifact donations have increased as a result of the younger generation having little interest in antiques!

Several GHS members had made delicious desserts to supplement the bag lunches folks had brought. After lunch, June Bascom and Michael Hoffman curators of the China Hands exhibit, addressed the group with an overview of the exhibit, and they accompanied the attendees to the GHS Building to view the exhibit and answer questions.

New Gifts to GHS

Chester Willey was born in Greensboro in 1920 and lived in the family farm now owned by Mark and Mary McGrath on Road 8. After he graduated from Greensboro High School, he and his two brothers were drafted to serve in WW II. His daughter, Betty Willey Rogers, donated a book she has compiled of his war experiences, with fascinating photos, letters, and news articles. She and her family visited GHS in August and also donated the traverse the Willey family used for winter sledding fun in the 1920s — a 7 foot long sled with runners.

Collins Family Memorabilia

If you have seen the Hardwick Area Phone Book 2017 1/2, you may have noted the cover photo of the L. S. Collins Store in Greensboro Bend taken at the turn of the last century. Pat Collins, the great-granddaughter of Lothrop S. Collins, visited GHS with her mother and sisters in October and donated a butter churn, afghan, round top steamer trunk, and photos from the Collins Farm — now Jasper Hill, owned by Lothrop's son who was Pat's grandfather, Carroll Collins. (They sold the farm in the 1940s since the hurricane of '38 wiped out their maple trees, and sugaring was a large part of their income.) Lothrop's grandson, Harold Collins, was once the postmaster in Greensboro Bend.



Family of Chester Willey with donation

President's Corner



You live in a town where every citizen is prized. The Greensboro Historical Society collects and tells your stories. When you are cleaning out your attic think of the GHS like Susan Earle did when she found the Smalley and Martin Ledgers.

Is that object specific to Greensboro? Does it tell a local story? The stories written about Greensboro by people who have lived here are so interesting. Read the article about the Willey WWII albums.

What is your story? Do you have Greensboro pictures? Do you have your family's genealogy? Small town historical societies provide a service to its citizens that urban citizens can only dream of. Who is important? Everyone who has lived in Greensboro. They get remembered. Think of the GHS, even for today's events. We collect flyers and programs and newspaper clippings. They will be the history of tomorrow.

greensborohistoricalsociety.org

An Amazing Website

Kyle Gray webmaster

Tom Anastasio founder of the new edition

Gina Jenkins developer

Besides listing our hours, officers, calendar of events, Greensboro history highlights, and latest news, it has the following items:

- ◆ Greensboro family data – type in your name and see what happens
- ◆ Greensboro high school history and yearbooks
- ◆ Greensboro cemetery survey
- ◆ Audio and video archives of people you know
- ◆ Minutes of GHS meetings
- ◆ List of GHS resources
- ◆ Vermont landscape change project link
- ◆ Other Greensboro websites links
- ◆ Orleans historical society link
- ◆ GHS newsletter archive
- ◆ Hazen Road Dispatch table of contents

And...How to become a member. Sign up now

Greensboro's Butter Tub Factory

Susan Earle of Center Road has been organizing her attic and found two ledgers from the Smalley and Martin butter tub factory of Greensboro which she donated to the Greensboro Historical Society. One runs from 1882 – 1886 and the other from 1883 – 1889. On a typical page, HS Tolman, in 1882 bought butter tubs, sugar tubs, bails, and nails and reduced the balance by trading pumpkins and “rent on Sawyer place”. *The History of Greensboro* says that Smalley also produced leather products, and on many pages of the ledgers hides are traded for wooden butter tubs. Susan's great grandfather, George Nelson was married to Smalley's daughter Lillian.

Hamilton Child Gazetteer of 1883 – 1884 states that “Smalley & Camp, Martins butter tub factory located on the outlet of Caspian Lake, is furnished with machinery capable of turning out 200 tubs per day.” We still have many unanswered questions. How long did the factory operate? Where was it exactly on the Caspian Lake outlet? The 1880 census lists A.S. Smalley as a farmer. Did he farm while running the factory? An 1878 map shows an S. Smalley at the Wilson house. Is this a relative? And most intriguingly, are there any Smalley and Martin butter tubs left in Greensboro and how would they be recognized?

Gift of Greensboro Paintings



In June, Terri and Keith Kelley donated two oil paintings by Kenneth Condit - both nicely framed local landscapes. Condit, Dean of the Princeton University School of Engineering, enjoyed painting summers in Greensboro in the 1960s. He and his wife lived on Gebbie Rd. in what is now the Cannon house. The paintings, which can be viewed at the historical society, were donated in memory of Keith's parents, Royden and Grace Kelley who once lived on Breezy Avenue in Greensboro.

Old China Hands Exhibit

Over 500 people visited the *Old China Hands in Greensboro* exhibit at the Greensboro Historical Society this past summer. June Bascom and Michael Hoffman, with support from a grant from the Freeman Foundation, curated and designed the exhibit telling the experiences of four Greensboro families in China before WW II: Allman/Hamilton (Burnham), Corbett (Irwin), Hale (Bascom), and Freeman. Each family's history in China was displayed and stories told of how they came to Greensboro.

There were many components to the exhibit. Visitors could follow a time line of each of the families' lives in relation to key events in Chinese, US and Greensboro history. Maps showed where the families lived in China and in Shanghai. Viewers could watch home movies taken in China and were impressed by the many beautiful artifacts on display.



The Bascom family at China exhibit

In June, Scott Bascom lead a Chinese paper folding workshop at the Library with more than 20 children in attendance. Examples of Scott's work were on display in the exhibit.

When the Lakeview school classes came to see the exhibit, Willie Smith and BJ Gray developed a number of creative activities to engage them: coloring work sheets showing some artifacts from the exhibit and then hunting for the items. They practiced eating rice with chopsticks and had a great time carrying a life-size Chinese dragon puppet up and down the sidewalk to the delight of the Breezy Avenue dwellers.



Children showing the dragon the Hill exhibit

Comments left by visitors this summer included: *"Fascinating story"*, *"beautiful exhibit, interesting and informative"*, and *"interesting artifacts of the past - what does the future hold for us...more China connections?"*

WINTER MEETING

On Sunday, March 4th, at 2:00 pm, in Fellowship Hall the GHS annual winter meeting will feature "The Selectboard" A panel of selectpersons of the past will tell stories of their time on the board, the humorous stories, the difficult times. Come and find out how their wisdom has shaped the history of Greensboro.

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www.greensborohistoricalsociety.org



Ice Cream Social 2017

GHS Docents

If you visited the GHS Museum last summer, you probably met one or more of the volunteers on hand to introduce you to the "China Hands" exhibit and show you through the Hill Family barn. With the fine leadership and organization of Martha Niemi, these folks kept the building open and greeted more than 500 visitors...a record number for GHS.

At the GHS annual meeting in August, Martha presented a framed certificate of appreciation to docent Marion Babbie for her faithful service as a museum guide for many years. At age 97 she is still going strong and looking forward to working at next summer's exhibit.



Front: Marion Babbie & Clive Gray; Back Barbara Brooke, Martha Niemi, Willie Smith, Lise Armstrong, & BJ Gray

GHS Newsletter
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