



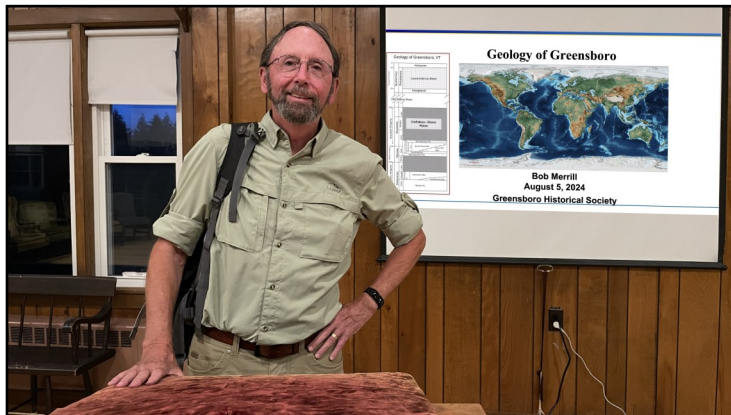
GREENSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NUMBER 62
Fall 2024

NEWSLETTER

Geology Rocks! with Dr. Robert Merrill Annual Meeting

At our Annual Meeting on August 5, Dr. Robert Merrill entertained and informed the crowd gathered in Fellowship Hall, moving through millions of years of geological history to explain how Greensboro and Caspian Lake came to be the scenic areas we now know and love.



During a video simulation of tectonic movement, audience members tracked a small red dot representing Greensboro as continents-in-the-making moved and swirled across the globe. It took 550 million years for the land that became Greensboro to move from the waters off the southern coast of the landmass known as Laurentia to its final resting place here in our corner of the current North American continent.

A point that caught the audience's attention was that the fault line known as Cameron's Line runs along the Taconic Mountains and cuts through Greensboro. It was created during a continental collision about 450 million years ago, and it accounts for the different types of rocks and soils in the Caspian Lake area unlike those farther west near Lake Eligo.

We also learned that during the last glaciation (75,000 to 12,000 years ago), Greensboro was covered in glacial ice more than 1 mile thick. The audience was particularly interested to learn some examples of formations left behind by this glacial activity. Paddock Hill, with its steep back and smooth front results from a glacier moving south. Long Pond and Caspian Lake are both glaciated valleys, while Rocking Rock is an example of a glacial erratic. The glaciers also left the unsorted sediment known as till throughout Greensboro, much to the chagrin of generations of farmers and gardeners who must pick from their soil the stones heaved to the surface with each spring thaw. While much of the presentation covered events that are long past, we were reminded that the earth is perpetually changing: the 2023 Flood created debris flows with enormous volumes of rock and gravel, becoming the main erosive event of our time.

After the main presentation, the audience peppered Dr. Morrill with questions and comments, covering glacial moraines, kames, the nature of clay, details on Cameron's Line, and more. The evening wrapped up with more rock talk as well as refreshments and socializing.

Thank you to everyone who attended. A video of the presentation are available on the GHS website.

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

President's Corner A Look at Our Year



BJ Gray

GHS had a busy year! Our summer exhibit, "Rails to Trails" documented the history of the St. Johnsbury & Lamoille County Railroad, the line's role in creating a thriving village in the Bend and the railroad's ultimate demise and conversion of the track into the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT). In connection with our exhibit we coordinated with representatives of the Bend Revitalization

Project to jointly promote activities including The Bend Train History Walking Tour, as well as signage for the community mural depicting the history of the railroad in the Bend.

We held our annual book sale and ice cream social and hosted two well attended programs. At our winter meeting in March we featured Shawn Messier of Coles Pond Sledders and Dennis Pudvah from Hardwick SnoFlake Ridge Runners who discussed the history of local snowmobiling and their role in maintaining the LVRT. At our August Annual Meeting Robert Merrill discussed the geology of Greensboro.

Our archivist and volunteers support students in their research for Vermont History Day. We worked with Lakeview Elementary School students to create art work on colorful tote bags. The 48th edition of the *Hazen Road Dispatch* was a great success featuring articles on Jasper Hill Farm, Bayley Hazen Road, Northern Rivers Land Trust and our own Krissie Ohlogge.

We are proud to announce that GHS was the recipient of the Award of Excellence from the League of Historical Societies and Museums for our 2022-23 exhibit on land conservation in Greensboro.

To learn more visit our website at www.greensborohistoricalsociety.org

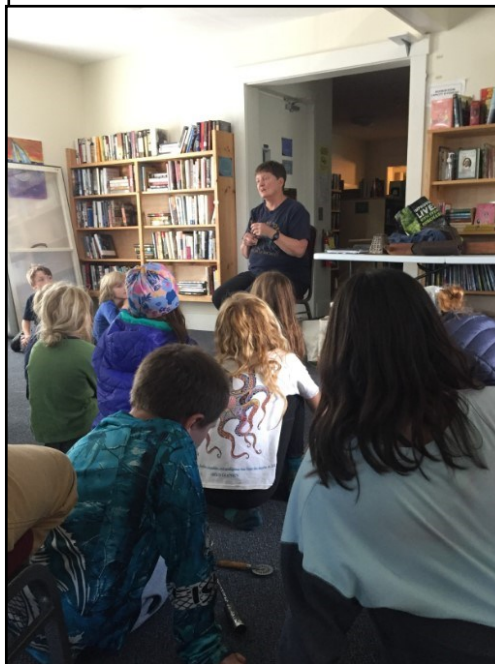
BJ Gray, President

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, March 2 at 2 PM in Fellowship Hall a treat is in store for you. The always fascinating winter program from the historical society will be presented. Several relevant programs are currently being considered as to which topic we will explore. A choice will be made early next year so stay alert to see what is selected. Plan to join us the Sunday before Town Meeting.

StoryKeepers

At the Greensboro Free Library's StoryKeepers program this November, Natalie Kinsey-Warnock discusses with Lakeview and homeschooled students how to use artifacts to help tell their family stories.



Natalie Kinsey-Warnock with students

Our archivist, Leslie Rowell, attended several of the sessions and explained to the students how to access information and artifacts in the GHS archives for their own research projects.

New Mural in the Bend: The Village the Railroad Built

A new mural depicting the history of the Bend and its connection with the railroad is the centerpiece of the newly developed trailhead at the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. Artist Tara Goreau was selected by the Bend Revitalization Initiative (BRI) to paint the mural.

Using input from village surveys and interviews, she composed a journey through time with chronological scenes, left to right, from pre-industrial transportation on the river to the introduction of the railroad and the subsequent development of the town through all four seasons. The mural is painted on four 4 X 8 panels with exterior latex that is primed and sealed.



She brought the panels to the community park one day last summer and invited all ages to use paint and brushes to fill in her design. Many children and adults had fun dabbing colors over her outlines. She then took the panels to her home to complete them. Meanwhile, the BRI set up pressure-treated posts and backing straps for installation of the panels and on Saturday morning, September 14, the mural was dedicated in a small ceremony.

A full description of the mural content can be found on the GHS website.

Help Needed!! Hazen Road Dispatch Needs an Editor

This year's issue of the Hazen Road Dispatch, Volume 48, is a gem—beginning with the colorful cover photo of Jasper Hill Cheese barn and continuing with multiple interesting historical articles relating to Greensboro, Craftsbury, and East Hardwick.

The HRD has now been published annually for 48 years, since Daniel Metraux first came up with the idea and wrote the first issues in 1975 and 1976. It began as part-newsletter during the National Bicentennial, and has continued to accumulate a treasure of local history

This year, after the retirement of long-time editor Gail Sangree, it was coedited by Stefanie Cravedi and Nancy Hill. They cannot continue and GHS needs to find someone who would enjoy working with history and authors. If you are that person, or you know who would be interested, please contact either Nancy (nancydhill@gmail.com) or Stefanie (stefanie.cravedi@gmail.com).

Rail to Trail Exhibit

The *Rail to Trail* exhibit, in its first of two years, showcased beginning, growth and decay of the train industry; as well as its transition to a popular recreational rail trail.

Train and history enthusiasts of all ages en-



Emmett McLean enjoys the toy train, a popular part of kids' corner

joyed the artifacts, maps, timelines, descriptions of the impacts on local industries, stories of industry hardships, train wrecks, and personal remembrances from local folks. The exhibit was well-attended and will be expanded for the Summer 2025.

Birth of a Tradition Greensboro's Halloween Trail

In 2018 Judy Dales thought the Greensboro church could fill the void of little Halloween activity in the village in a way that would involve the community. She decided the church could meet this challenge by contacting owners of village houses unoccupied at Halloween asking that they allow people to sit on their porches and hand out candy. All porch sitters needed was a porch or driveway. Each would bring a chair, light, decorations and candy. After trick-or-treating, people were encouraged to stop in Fellowship Hall for grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup. The first two years there was also a photo booth and activities for the children provided by Wonder Arts. The annual "Halloween Trail" was born.

Then in 2020, with the COVID pandemic in full swing, porch sitters were told to wear COVID masks and have the candy on a table set at a safe distance (6 feet) from them. Hand sanitizer was also available at each stop on the trail. The children were asked to go one by one to get their candy so they wouldn't have close contact with each other. One creative porch sitter rigged up a slanted 6 foot drain spout through which they could slide candy to the children and still maintain a safe distance.

Trick-or-treating on the Halloween Trail was still followed by a drink and grilled cheese sandwiches but they were handed out in the parking lot of the church since everyone was safer from the COVID virus outside. The activities in the hall were discontinued to lessen the spread of the disease.

2024 finds the Halloween Trail still going strong and the grilled cheese sandwiches back in Fellowship Hall. Tables are once again set up so people can sit and talk. The threat of COVID has lessened, masks and safe distancing are no longer required, but the porches with their porch sitters and the grilled cheese sandwiches are still part of the fun of the Halloween Trail



Halloween Greeters Clive Gray & Nancy Hill with trick or treaters at GHS



Start of the Storywalk

Storywalk 2024

Our storywalk this summer featured *The Little Red Caboose*, a classic tale of a little caboose with a big heart. Through engaging illustrations and a simple storyline, visitors learned about the different types of train cars and the value of teamwork

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.

Historic Buildings Ready for a New Future



Greensboro Bend Methodist Church

The Methodist church in The Bend, one of the first buildings in that community, was erected in 1882 to serve the communities of West Wheelock, Stannard and Greensboro. In 1910 a large parsonage and barn were added to the property. For over a century it thrived.

In October of 1923 the Methodist Church held its first Annual Game Hunt and Supper. The supper was held annually until 1987, with the exception of the WWII years (because of ammunition and gas shortages). Hunters from Stannard and Greensboro Bend competed to see which group would get the highest number of points. Rabbits, partridge, raccoon, porcupine, squirrel and crow were tallied. The winning hunters ate the game pies cooked by the local women and the loser hunters waited on tables. Then it became an annual local church supper every October, known near and far away. It was so well known that one year as many as 350 people attended .

Times have changed and in the spring of 2024, the Methodist Church Organization decided to close the church and eventually put it up for sale. The Bend Revitalization Initiative (BRI) was recently awarded a Village Trust Initiative (VTI) grant for a project to create new life for the town's Methodist church and parsonage. The BRI plans to raise funds to acquire the former church building and parsonage property. The VTI has started working with The Bend community to identify needs that could be met through the reuse of the church and parsonage.

The Village Trust Initiative (VTI) is a village revitalization program made possible by a Congressionally Directed Spending award from former Senator Leahy and a partnership between Preservation Trust of Vermont, Vermont Council on Rural Development and Vermont Community Foundation.

The grant applied for in June 2024, includes funds to support renovation of the properties. BRI members and the VTI believe the 2 properties present an excellent opportunity for reuse to complement the existing assets: Smith's Grocery, 4 Seasons of Early Learning and the new trailhead of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT).

With the grant award in hand, the initial tasks include: negotiating a purchase price and sale agreement with the Methodist church, having a comprehensive appraisal of the properties with condition and environmental assessments and a legal review, beginning a community outreach and raising funds to purchase the parcel.

Anyone with ideas for the use of the church, please send them to Jane Johns (Jjohns21@comcast.net) or bendrevitalizationinitiative@gmail.com .

BRI is collecting all the ideas people can come up with – sometimes the craziest one turns out to be the best.

Greensboro Historical Society
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Greensboro Bend Depot

Rail to Trail Walk in Greensboro Bend

On August 10th, GHS hosted a walking history tour of the Greensboro Bend



train station, nearby structures and rail line. Steve Leach, a career employee (since high school!) of the St. Johnsbury and Lamoille County Rail, shared stories and insights from his experience working many positions within the company. Mark Snyder, owner of the train station, shared information about the station's rehabilitation, preservation and importance in the forming of Greensboro Village and The Bend.

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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