

**GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MAY 6, 2015**

LOCATION: Georgia Municipal Building

PRESENT: Kim Asch, Ed Brehaut, Laurie Broe, Olive Gilmond, David Juare, Dee McGrath, Ginger Phelps, Sara Vester, Don Vickers

ABSENT: Cindy Ploof, Edmund Wilcox

Don Vickers called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A motion to approve the minutes of the **October 20, 2014** meeting was made by Laurie; seconded by Ginger; *motion carried and approved.*

Cindy will not be in attendance until after June as the family has some concerns to clear up in Florida, first. Also, Edmund has had a stroke and is now in rehab at Fanny Allen. It was suggested that we visit him, call him, and/or send cards wishing him to get well and that we miss him.

Dee noted the passing of two past life members of the GHS (Marion Bates and Danielle Jackson) and has sent Sympathy cards to their families. She also sent an additional one to the Richard Palmer family due to Dick's great contributions to Georgia's history and was among the founders of the Georgia Fire Department, along with a contribution of \$100 to the GFD in his name.

Dee received a call from Betty Vallee regarding a request to photograph one of our Post Cards in our collection – A photo of the Bob Newton Farm – to give to her son for his birthday. Dee told her about the postcard album we have in the Georgia Library Historical Section. But also told her that if she couldn't use that, she could take a photo of the original but she would need the assistance of Laurie or Dee as the postcards are locked up in the vault and cannot be removed from the building.

While speaking to Betty, she mentioned that she and Rod have written and published a book called, "A Closer Look at Nature" and it is research on the plants and flowers of Georgia. There are over 467 pictures. They have had 200 copies printed and they are placing them at the Town Hall and giving them away free to Georgia residents only (one per family). Anyone can purchase a book at the Phoenix Book Store located in Essex Junction or Burlington.

Town Meeting – March 3rd – Olive and Dee set up a table there with three "Families of Georgia" books, "Military History" book, "Photos of Georgia" book, "Guide to Civil War History" by the VHS, and a "1982 Annual History of Georgia" book for display. Also, displayed were a Baby Hat and hand sewn spring coat worn by Doris Ladd and a formal shirt worn by her grandfather. We sold one "Families of Georgia" book. And last year's newsletters were all taken by folks who came to the table. Two membership forms were requested and taken. The most proud moment for the GHS was when we made a special announcement regarding Colin's distinctive award from the VHS – the "Individual Lifetime Achievement Award".

CORRESPONDENCE: Dee displayed several correspondences; among them was a flier advertising a book for sale on buildings designed by Architect, Guernsey, and which were constructed in many towns throughout Vermont. One such structure is located in own town in Georgia, in the Plains. Don

will bring in a copy of the book that he already has for all to see. A form was included in the flier for folks to order one of these books if they so choose to do so.

✓Dee said that she will be out of the state visiting family from Sunday, May 10th to Saturday, May 23rd.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Laurie stated that the balance of the GHS Checking Account as of Mar. 31, 2015 is \$1,944.27. The balance in the Vermont Federal Credit Union as of Mar. 15, 2015 is \$29,766.89. She will be getting a new computer and will have a 2004 Quick Books Program in place for her accounting records. Don has offered to help her train for her use of the program.

OCTOBER (2014) PROGRAM REVIEW: Sara reported that turnout for the “*CAROL ANN JONES CONCERT*” was exceptionally well attended. All thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful entertainment that Carol Ann provided.

JUNE (2015) PROGRAM PLAN: Sara stated that she was not able to schedule a Wednesday night for the June program and so the program provided by speaker, Newell Decker, “**The Railroad Coming Through Georgia**”, will take place on *Tuesday*, June 16th, at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided by Kim, Laurie, Olive and Dee.

FUTURE PROGRAM PLANS: Sara handed out a tentative plan and schedule for the up-and-coming season.

The July program, dated July 15th, will have speaker, Linda Radtke, and pianist, John Lincoln. The theme is “**Vermont History Brought to Life**” with songs found in a compilation of songs from a collection of Vermont Historical Society’s sheet music. Ms. Radtke will be sending out a contract form (e-mailed to Dee) to be signed by Sara as this program is sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council. The booking fee for the program is \$75 and the mileage fee (from Barre to Georgia) is \$63.03.

The August program brought a great amount of discussion on ideas regarding a **tour** provided by the GHS of the early schools in Georgia; perhaps even houses; historic sites, etc. Don has asked the Board to come up with a definite plan and for each to research the site he or she wishes to cover on the tour – much like we did the cemeteries of Georgia. More planning is to take place at the June meeting. Also, a final date must be secured at this time – most likely on a Saturday as done on previous tours. Sara suggested Aug. 15th or Aug. 29th.

It was decided that the September program should be a tour of the **Gordons Mill**. But, as stated by Colin, we should come up with an additional inspiration to draw folks to attend; i.e., a BBQ. The date for this has yet to be established. *More planning needs to be done.* Ideas are welcome!

The October program, dated October 21st, will have Jason Smiley making a presentation on the “Eddy Family of Spirit Mediums”. It’s a one to two hour presentation – depending on the audience’s interest. This, too, is a Vermont Humanities Council-sponsored program and the booking fee is \$75.

BRICK SCHOOL MUSEUM:

Sara will have a clean-up assembly on Thurs., June 25th at 6:00 p.m. at the Brick School Museum.

Don has as yet been unable to get any help regarding the need for repairing the window casings on the School building. He is going to make still another attempt to meet with Mike McCarthy, the Georgia Town Administrator, explaining the antiquity and requirements for “specialized” repair work in order to maintain our standing with the National Register of Historic Places and the dire conditions of the structures.

Brick School Museum coverage will continue to take place on Saturdays – open three hours only – starting July 11th through September 26th. The coverage will be for (2) 1-1/2 hour stints each of the Saturdays for monitoring. Dee will make up a schedule and send it out to all to sign up. They, then, should be turned in to Don at the next meeting. Please sign up for as many Saturday hours as you can cover.

Kim said that she will announce the use and availability of museums for tours to the Georgia School during September when the children are in attendance and while the buildings are still open.

CEMETERIES: Ed said that the Waller Cemetery is in need of cleaning up of debris around the surrounding stone wall. Fencing needs to be addressed there and at Hyde Cemetery. Hyde also needs attention regarding the many trees to see how they fared through the winter; more importantly, check to see if any have come down. Much work will be required at these two sites, alone.

GORDON'S MILL: Colin – Nothing has happened over the winter but will need a cleaning crew before the September tour. Don will contact an agency for possible help.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING GARDENS: Laurie stated that Rose McDevitt has expressed an interest in taking over the gardens. Laurie will approach Ms. McDevitt to secure her help. Unfortunately, Mishie, our previous garden caretaker, is away in Florida and it is unknown when she'll return. It was hoped that she could advise Ms. McDevitt as to what is involved in the work.

COLLECTIONS/LIBRARY: Dee

- MUNICIPAL BUILDING –

Dee will have a clean-up assembly on Tues., June 30th at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Basement.

Dee purchased new bins for the storage of artifacts placed in the Municipal Building. Also, Dick McGrath and she placed any fabric artifacts they could find on the shelves in the Municipal Building into some of the newly purchased bins for safe storage against the mice.

Cindy sent the GHS two postcards – one with a photo of the *Stannard Monument* (October 12, 1909, Dedication invitation) and another with a **view looking towards Lake Champlain from the Monument**. Cindy had the insight to purchase these on e-Bay. They have been placed in the GHS Vault. Huge thanks, Cindy!

She has brought the GHS Municipal Building Computer up to date - including a new security system.

- LIBRARY –

Dee met with Olive and Ginger to place the “Property of GHS” stamp in more of the books and binders. It is believed that they've done most of them and are now ready to get to individual photos,

paintings, files and documents in drawers and shelves.

Dee also went to the Georgia Library in April to check out possible water damage from the furnace that broke down (located in back of the Historical Section). Only a little water got onto one of our cardboard boxes with the hard-covered "Annual History of Georgia" books. The books, themselves, fared just fine. The rest of the artifacts placed on the floor seem to have survived the worst. Thanks to Sue, all of the pictures and boxes she saw on the floor were picked up and placed on top of the file cabinets. The hard-covered "Annual History of Georgia" books are now in the Municipal Building and out of the Library.

Sue stated that she has had to repeatedly hit the reset button on the furnace to get it to run. She said she was going to call the Town and advise them of the problem with the furnace. As of our current meeting, that has been addressed.

Dee advised that we reorganize the set up in the Historical section to better fit any possible flooding that might damage documents, books, pictures, etc.

Also, Dee has purchased a new laser printer and photocopier (heavy duty) to replace the broken one – cost was \$210.68 - including an additional cartridge at \$83.00 and a temporary sale of \$30 less with free shipping.

MEMBERSHIP: Ginger stated that GHS lost only one member on the renewal list for 2015 membership but that we have 80 current members including the lifetime group. She also announced that we have four new lifetime members. Ginger is in need of additional "Membership" cards and "Thank You" cards to be printed up. Dee will have that done.

And finally, we have two renewal members for the 2015-2016 year.

Dee added that Kim has reached the three-year mark in her membership on the GHS Board and is now considered a lifetime member.

GENEALOGY: Ginger stated that she has received three requests for genealogical research and that she was able to accommodate two of them.

Also, Ginger said that she got an e-mail message from Mary Jane Dee Brownmiller saying she and her sister were coming to Georgia in June. They want to see the old Dee homestead and learn other things about the early Georgian Dees. Apparently she had spoken to Colin's wife at one time, so Ginger forwarded the email onto him. Colin said that he was meeting with them around the first week in June.

NEWSLETTER: Dee stated that unfortunately she would not be able to continue the work of the GHS Newsletter but added that we now have a webpage of our very own (launched 2/1/2015). The web address is – **Georgiahistoricalsocietyvt.org**. The GHS owes Phil Ploof (with Cindy's help) a tremendous gratitude for making the offer to not only set up the page, but to maintain the site for us. We can contact him at anytime with news or information that we would like posted. Dee then explained the background and use for this. There will be an ongoing fee required to keep the site domain and registration. The cost of having the web page is \$70 annually and the annual registration fee for the domain name is approx. 11\$/yr. Also, she said that the Board should probably reimburse Phil for the initial fees he paid to start the site up. She will contact him regarding a Facebook Account that he mentioned opening up and find out when it is ready to use.

Phil has sent Dee the information regarding the domain and website maintenance records; i.e., the passwords, company name, program, You Tube account, etc. This has been filed in the Municipal upstairs vault, in the GHS bin as it is confidential information.

NEWS & VIEWS: Olive said she has completed the 2014 “News and Views” articles and is currently working on this year’s – 2015. She passed around the binders with the latest work she’s done for all to see. As always, she has done an excellent job.

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS FEATURE ON GEORGIA: Kim said that she would like to submit a story on Georgia’s “Hells Gate”. The history and trivia surrounding this illustrious title would be well worth exploiting to the general public. She believes it would surely generate some interest. And she believes there is numerous places to research this subject.

GHS BUILDING – Cost of having one; the needs, etc. Discussion was made regarding these factors. Nothing is currently planned.

OTHER:

- **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD** – A committee was set up (Dee, David, and Laurie) and they will decide on a candidate for the award. The winner will be announced at the first program of the season, June 16th.
- **ESSAY CONTEST** – Kim felt that the contest does not conjure enough interest to continue it. Other ideas will be needed to draw more interest – especially concerning the children and encouraging more exposure to Georgia’s historical past.
- **MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY** – Kim was unable to secure any help or interest in starting this up for this year – 2015. As a result, there will be no Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade this year.
- **SILLO PROJECT** – David and Colin - Tabled until further notice

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee McGrath

Dee McGrath, Secretary