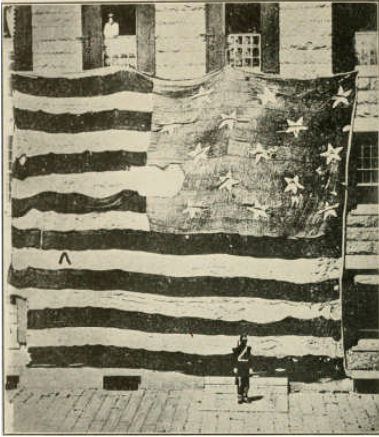

GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

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STAR SPANGLED BANNER 200 YEARS OLD

The Star-Spangled Banner Flag or the Great Garrison Flag was the garrison flag that flew over Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor during the naval portion of the Battle of Baltimore during the War of 1812. Seeing the flag during the battle inspired Francis Scott Key to write the poem "Defiance of Fort McHenry", which, retitled with the flag's name in the closing lines of the first stanza and set to the tune "To Anacreon in Heaven", later became the national anthem of the United States.

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In Baltimore's preparation for an expected attack on the city, Fort McHenry was made ready to defend the city's harbor. When Major George Armistead expressed desire for a very large flag to fly over the fort, General John S. Stricker and Commodore Joshua Barney placed an order with a prominent Baltimore flag-

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maker for two oversized Flags. The larger of the two would be the Great Garrison Flag, the largest battle flag ever flown at the time. The smaller one, would be the Storm Flag, to be more durable and less prone to fouling in inclement weather.

Available documentation clearly shows that this flag was sewn by local flag-maker Mary Young Pickersgill under a government commission in 1813 at a cost of \$405.90 (equivalent to \$4,960 in 2014). George Armistead, the commander of Fort McHenry, specified "a flag so large that the British would have no difficulty seeing it from a distance".

Mary Pickersgill stitched the flag from a combination of cotton and dyed English wool bunting, assisted by her daughter, two nieces, and an African American indentured servant. (Her elderly mother may also have helped.) The flag has fifteen horizontal red and white stripes, as well as fifteen white stars in the blue field. The two additional stars and stripes, approved by the United States Congress's Flag Act of 1794, represent **Vermont** and Kentucky's entrance into the Union. The stars are arranged in vertical rows, with five horizontal rows of stars, offset, each containing three stars. At the time, it was the practice to add stripes (in addition to stars) with the induction of a new state.

The flag originally measured 30 by 42 feet. Each of the fifteen stripes is 2 feet wide, and each of the stars measures about 2 feet in diameter. After the battle, the Armistead family occasionally gave away pieces of the flag as souvenirs and gifts; this cutting, along with deterioration from continued use, removed several feet of fabric from the flag's fly end, and it now measures 30 by 34 feet . The flag currently has only fourteen stars—the fifteenth star was similarly given as a gift, but its recipient and current whereabouts are unknown. (I wonder if it was the Vermont or Kentucky star that was given away?)

The Flag was flown over the fort when 5,000 British soldiers and a fleet of 19 ships attacked Baltimore on September 12, 1814. The bombardment turned to Fort McHenry on the evening of September 13, and continuous shelling occurred for 25 hours under heavy rain. When the British ships were unable to pass the fort and penetrate the harbor, the attack was ended, and on the morning of September 14, when the battered flag still flew above the ramparts, it was clear that Fort McHenry remained in American hands. This revelation was famously captured in poetry by Key, an American lawyer and amateur poet. Being held by the British on a truce ship in the Patapsco River, Key observed the battle from afar. When he saw the Garrison Flag still flying at dawn of the morning of the 14th, he composed a poem he originally titled Defiance of Ft. McHenry (though some accounts claim it was Defense of Fort McHenry). The poem would be put to the music of a common tune, retitled The Star-Spangled Banner, and a portion of it would later be adopted as the United States National Anthem. Since its arrival at the Smithsonian Museum, the flag has undergone multiple preservation efforts.

A 2-inch by 5-inch snippet of the flag - white and red, with a seam down the middle - was sold at auction in Dallas, Texas on November 30, 2011, for \$38,837: the snippet was, presumably, cut from the famous flag as a souvenir in the mid-19th century. The framed remnant came with a faded, hand-written note attesting it was "A piece of the Flag which floated over Fort McHenry at the time of the bombardment when Key's (sic) composed the Song of the Star Spangled Banner, presented by Sam Beth Cohen."

The picture on page one is the Flag that flew over Fort McHenry in 1814, photographed in 1873 in the Boston Navy Yard by George Henry Preble (Wikipedia).

Excerpts from
THE CIVIL WAR
(As Recollected by an Ordinary Soldier)
By
Seth N. Eastman M.D. (1843-1913)

In observance of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War another excerpt from Dr. S. N. Eastman's story is given here. The first nine excerpts about his experiences were in previous newsletters and covered his enlistment at St. Johnsbury to the battle of Gettysburg, being detailed as a nurse, and deserting back to his company.

I must say that I wanted no more duty in a U. S. Hospital, was glad to escape and was never sorry for it, although I saw many dangerous places after this that I might have escaped, had I stayed in Baltimore. The help in all these army hospitals was all male, no female nurses at that time employed. They came the next year when the Christian Commission and the Red Cross societies took up the matter of nursing in the army hospitals.

I made many friends in my three months stay at the hospital, no one of which I ever saw or heard of after leaving the hospital. The only person I saw that I knew, or ever heard of before while in Baltimore, was A. J. Carpenter. I saw him one morning in the back yard and had a long talk with him. He belonged to the 15th Vermont Regiment, and had been sick and left behind. His regiment was mustered out and had gone to Vermont. He was sick and weak then and hardly able to walk. He had had bad luck about his sickness, and had been left alone without any care, and destitute. He was going home and did not, at that time, feel like serving in the army any more, as he said they had used him very bad in leaving him behind and making no provisions for his care, nor providing any way for him to get home, let him shift for himself when too sick to sit up or walk.

My work at the hospital at Baltimore, Maryland having closed, as I did not wish to work there any longer, and had longed to be with my comrades at the front once more, I left the hospital one morning along with several other men that were going to the front to join their respective regiments. We had to stop at a place called Patterson's Park. It was a convalescent camp and a place of distribution for the army, such as the men along with me, no two of them belonged to the same organization. Some were to be sent to New Orleans, and some belonged to the Navy. Others belonged to Sherman's Army in the southwest. We stayed a day or two at this place, and then went away as squads were made up to join the various armies. As I belonged to the Army of the Potomac, I was put into the squad or company going to that army, usually in command of an officer who had been sick and was returning to his command. On looking over the company I had joined, there was not one I had ever seen before. There were several going to the Vermont Brigade, but all were strangers to me. I fell in with these and went along. We marched all the way from Baltimore, Maryland to the camp of the Army of the Potomac, which was then encamped near Centerville, Virginia. When we got there, it was not difficult to find the 6th Corps, as by this time, it had a great name and anybody could direct us to it, and so we found them easy enough. This was about the 15th or 20th of October, 1863.

The Army was then engaged in the pursuit of General Lee's Army, since they had retreated from Gettysburg, and General Mead pretended he wanted another battle with him, but it always seemed to me his marching and counter marching in that country between Washington and Richmond was as much to prevent a battle, as it was to fight a battle. He kept us on the move every day after I joined, sometimes advancing, and as often retreating as he said, to cover Washington, and no great fight ever took place, only many

(Continued from page 5) **civil war**

small skirmishes. In one of them, a few days after I joined my regiment, a man that I knew, belonging to the 3rd Regiment by the name of Hosmer Jones, was killed. I knew him by the name of "Odd Jones". The fighting was by small detachments of cavalry and small parties on the skirmish line. There was more or less of this every day for as much as six weeks, and the weather was getting colder every day. As the month of November wore on, we began to think about winter quarters, and at last we arrived at a place called Brandy Station. Our brigade camped on the farm of John Miner Botts, a very nice farm well watered and timbered. We went into a grove of red oak where the trees were much larger, some of them two feet in diameter. It was an ideal place for a camp, and we were given to understand it was for the winter, yet no order to that effect was ever given. We had learned long before this how to make a camp and how to make it comfortable. This we proceeded to do without any official sanction or orders.

I will try to describe this camp as well as I am able, from memory, after forty-five years. I was then past 20 years old and, in my prime, had come to maturity in the army, and was every inch a soldier of that date. I could eat and sleep and do as much marching as any other man that ever served his country from Vermont. But several things happened to me in this camp that I shall try to relate as this narrative goes on, some of which came very near ending my career, but as luck would have it, I got out of everything all right and I am telling the story forty-five years after.

The army arrived at Brandy Station, Virginia about the middle of November, 1863 and, as it was expected we were to remain at this place for the winter, we built little huts to live in. For my part, I was lucky enough to get some boards out of the barn at the John Minor Botts place, and with this material and a few nails and bricks obtained

at the same place, we made a little hut about eight feet long by six feet wide, with a very good fireplace in one side, and a bunk to sleep on across one end of the little hut. All the other men did about the same, building their little huts of almost anything they could find in buildings on the place. Some used the clapboards, others the doors, and thus every scrap of the John Miner Botts buildings—houses, barn and Negro quarters—were used by the army to construct what they supposed to be their home for the next three months, or during the winter of 1863 and 1864, which was now fast coming on, the weather being cold. We banked our little houses up with dirt to the eaves, using our shelter tents for the roofs. In this way we made ourselves comfortable and had a good warm place to sleep. Two of us always slept in the same bunk. The beds were simply made of boards with our overcoats spread on them, and the knapsack for a pillow and two wool blankets for a covering. We always slept with our clothes on, and many did not so much as take their shoes off. I never could sleep with my shoes on. This was my third winter in the army and it was the most pleasant camp I had during my term of service. The army did not encamp in any regular order by having streets laid out in straight lines, as they sometimes do, but regiments camped along the slopes of the hills in the most favorable place for drainage and not very near together. We had plenty of firewood, but it began to grow worse in about six weeks, so the stumps of trees and all the roots were dug up for fuel. The whole Army of the Potomac were encamped at this place and it kept the one line of railroad very busy, night and day. To bring supplies for so large an army, there must have been 200,000 men within a radius of a few miles, and large numbers of horses, as there were fifty field batteries in this camp and more than 25,000 cavalymen, and all had to eat every day and had to get their supplies from Washington, D. C. over a

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SOME PLACES TO GET GAS IN THE OLD DAYS



George Dimick's Gulf Station



George Carpenter's Shell Station was where Bandstand is now



William Cassidy's Mobil Station at the Square Front Garage



Lorimer Puffer's Esso Station at their Restaurant and Store

single line of railroad which had to keep busy night and day. The trains on this road were not over half a mile apart. There had to be a double track put in for the entries to return to Washington, or we never would have had our food that winter.

After being in this camp and getting well settled down to camp life, we were ordered out for a winter campaign. This occurred in the last days of November and the first of December, and is called in History, "The Affairs of Mine Run." It amounted to nothing, but was a terrible task for the Army as the weather was very cold. The movement lasted about a week. We came back to our camp at Brandy Station and found all as we had left it. We had taken the roofs of our houses with us. These we quickly put back on again and we made some improvements in the hut, and we were soon comfortable again. This was the first of December 1863.

There is one incident that ought to be told that happened on this raid to Mine Run. After we had been out a night or two, the weather moderated and the sky was darkened with clouds. We lay down without putting up any shelter as usual on a rapid march such as we were on now, and all went to sleep. Being very tired, we slept sound. I don't know how it was with others, but I did not wake up until morning. When I did wake up, I could not get up as there seemed to be something holding me down. I could not imagine what it was, and felt somewhat alarmed at such an unusual circumstance, but after squirming around awhile, and kicking and waking up my partner, we succeeded in lifting the things so we could see out. We found there had been a snow-storm during the night and at least a foot of damp snow had fallen and covered up the whole army and everything else.

NEW GROTON FAMILIES IN 1850 CENSUS

The number of families living in Groton in 1850 was 172, with nearly half (80) new families. Sixty of the new families were children or other relatives of earlier Groton families. Earlier newsletters listed family names that first appeared in the 1790 to 1840 census records and they are summarized here.

1790 - Abbott, Bailey, Darling, Hosmer, James, Morse, Townshend

1800—Alexander, Batchelder, Emery, Frost, Gary, Gray, Hatch, Heath, Hill, Hooper, Knight, Lund, Macomber, Manchester, Martin, Morrison, Munro, Noyes, Phelps*, Pollard, Remick, Taisey, Thurston, Welch

1810—Annis, Bennett, Bragden*, Carter, Emerson, Fisk, Floyd*, Fuller, Hidden, Hodsdon, Hogen*, Jenkins, Littlefield*, Low, Mallo-ry*, McLaughlin, Nelson, Page, Parker, Paul, Renfrew, Rhodes, Roberts, Rowlin*, Stanley, Vance, Weston, Whitcher

1820—Chase, Coffrin, Cunningham, Downs, Gile, Glover, Goodwin, Higgins, Huggins*, Lyle, Marshall, McClary, Plummer, Richardson, Ricker, Sargent, Welton, Wilmot, Wilson, Wormwood

1830—Bellamy*, Brown, Burnham, Clark, Dodge, Green, Hall, Kimball, Lathrup*, Lewis*, Randall, Rodger*, Silver, Vennor

1840—Brickett*, Buchanan, Corruth, Culver, Divoll, Dow, Dunn, Franklin*, Furwell*, Gates, Grant, Hadley, Jones, Joy, Moulton, Orr, Patterson, Peck, Philbrick, Scott, Weld, Wheeler, Whitehill, Wood

1850—Baldwin, Bean, Carpenter, Carrick, Cash, Craig, Cross, Foster, Gilbert, Hanson*, Hodgman*, Hubbard*, Johnston, Leithead, Marting*, McGen*, Miller, Pane*, Seaver, Stewart,

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New Groton Families in 1850 Census

John Baldwin age 24, his wife Dolly Page age 20 and their daughter Jane age 1. Dolly died in 1875 and John married second Maria Plummer. John and Maria are the parents of Lizzie Baldwin (who married George Millis) and Ebenezer. Baldwin family has 37 names in GHS records.

David Bean age 22, his wife Rose Ann Marshall age 22 and their two sons Lounda age 5 and Norace age 3. Not yet connected with other Bean families in GHS records.

Elphalet Carpenter age 53, his second wife Hannah Glover age 40, and 7 of their 12 children: Jane age 16, Loman 15, Alfred 12, Victoria 10, Caroline 6, Taylor 4, and Scott 1. Carpenter family has 670 names in GHS records.

John Carrick age 34, his wife Lydia Clark age 23, and their children Elvira age 3 and Alonzo 7 months. Carrick family has 14 names in GHS records.

Daniel Cash age 42, his wife Mary Taylor age 45, and their son William age 2. This is all of Cash family in GHS records.

William Cross Jr. age 40 and his father **William** age 72. Not yet connected with other Cross families in GHS records

James Craig age 72, his wife Margaret Nesmith age 64, and three of their 11 children: Betsey 28, Lucinda 26 and James 22. The elder James came from Scotland to Ryegate with his parents; removed to Groton about 1821 and then to Illinois about 1852 with their son James, where he died. Craig family has 757 names in GHS records.

Ansel Foster age 39, his wife Dolly Emery age 38, and their children: James 6, Ansel Jr. 4, Jane 2 and David 1. Not yet connected with other Foster families in GHS records.

Ariel Gilbert age 53, his wife Charlott Hamilton age 54, and three of their six children: Eliza 20, Charles 18 and Calista 14. Ariel died in 1854 at Peacham. Not yet connected with other Gilbert families in GHS records.

Caleb Hanson age 85, Ruth age 47, Alden 33, and Ruth A. 22. Not yet connected with other Hanson families in the GHS records.

Josiah Hodgman age 49, his wife Louisa age 49, and their children; Nelson 17, Hamon 16, Caroline 13, Jane 10, and Albeson 7;

plus Judith age 84, probably his mother. This is all of Hodgman family in GHS records.

William Hubbard age 38, his wife Jane Miller 37, and their son William 5; plus Robert age 25 (perhaps his brother?). Not yet connected with other Hubbard families in GHS records.

Jane Johnston age 70 and Mira 60 (perhaps her sister); and James age 26, a lawyer. Not yet connected with other Johnston families in GHS records.

William Leithead age 39, his wife Sophia Page age 35, and their sons James 4 and Calvin 9 months. Leithead family has 7 names in GHS records.

George Marting age 28, his wife Alice 27 and son George 2. This is all of Marting family in GHS records.

James McGen age 37, his wife Mary age 25, and their children Mary 5, William 3 and Jennet 1. This is all of McGen family in GHS records.

John Miller age 30, his wife Nancy Nelson 29, and four sons: Edwin 9, Edgar 7, Chester 4, and William 2. Miller family has 1463 names in the GHS records.

Ebenezer Pane age 46, his wife Asenath 40, and their children Charles 19, Mariah 12, Emily 9, Ann 7, and John 5. This is all of Pane family in GHS records.

William Seaver age 38, his wife Betsey I. Urie 35, and three of their children: William 14, Elizabeth 11, and Andrew 4. Seaver family has 5 names in the GHS records.

John Stuart age 23, wife Nancy McLaughlin age 24, and their daughter Jennett 1. Stuart family has 752 names in GHS records.

Anyone wanting an e-mail copy of their family records at GHS, can send a request to jwbenzie@mchsi.com Perhaps you will find additions or corrections for the Society records. If your family records are not at GHS, you are encouraged to submit them by e-mail to jwbenzie@mchsi.com or by postal service to Groton Historical Society, P. O. Box 89, Groton, VT 05046-0089.

GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Visit GHS Web page at Historical Society on <http://www.grotonvt.com/>

Annual membership dues are payable for the calendar year
Annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families
Lifetime Membership dues are \$100

Membership status as of 22 September 2014:

Lifetime members	28
Dues Paid for 2016	1
Dues Paid for 2015	7
Dues Paid for 2014	30
Dues Paid for 2013 (first year of grace period)	18
Dues Paid for 2012 (grace period ends this year)	7
Complementary (Ross McLeod, VHS, UVM)	3

Your status is shown with your mailing address, please let GHS know if there is an error in our records of your membership status. Those getting e-mail copies only will be notified when memberships are due.

All members who provide an email address will be sent a copy of the newsletter. If you want to opt out of getting a printed copy, please send a request to jwbenzie@mchsi.com This will save GHS the cost of printing and mailing. 17 members have opted out of printed copies.

The security system at the Historical House was inspected and evaluated by Timothy Surprenant from Tasco Security Systems of Lebanon, NH recently, and he recommended installation of additional motion detectors with an improved alarm system. The Society is currently pursuing these recommendations.

Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections (SCHC) helps cultural institutions meet the complex challenge of preserving large and diverse

holdings of humanities materials for future generations by supporting sustainable conservation measures that mitigate deterioration and prolong the useful life of collections.

As museums, libraries, archives, and other collecting institutions strive to be effective stewards of humanities collections, they must find ways to implement preventive conservation measures that are sustainable. This program, therefore, helps cultural repositories plan and implement preservation strategies that pragmatically balance effectiveness, cost, and environmental impact. Sustainable approaches to preservation can contribute to an institution's financial health, reduce its use of fossil fuels, and benefit its green initiatives, while ensuring that collections are well cared for and available for use in humanities programming, education, and research.

All applicants, whether applying for planning or implementation projects, are required to focus on sustainable preventive conservation strategies.

For more information about applying for a grant visit:
www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/sustaining-cultural-heritage-collections.

Archaeologist Gemma Hudgell from the Northeast Archaeology Research Center (NEARC) summarized the exciting results of their large-scale archaeological excavations along Route 78 in Swanton. The Missisquoi flood plain setting preserved a remarkable record of human occupation spanning nearly 7,000 years. The program was part of Vermont Archaeology Month

During the 150th Civil War anniversary commemoration, visitors to St. Albans included descendants and relatives of those actually involved in the October 19, 1864 raid and they all had the opportunity to witness elaborate re-enactments of the raid and meet some of the 80 Civil War era military and civilian re-enactors.

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