
GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

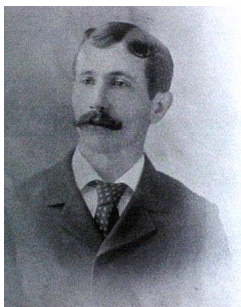
Newsletter

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GROTON PIONEERS



Charles John Bailey 1867-1941, a M&WR RR Station Agent at Groton for about 30 years, was a grandson of Israel's third cousin, Joshua Bailey.

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Part six: ISRAEL BAILEY

This is the sixth in a series on the early pioneers in Groton. Jesse Heath, Aaron Hosmer, James Abbott, Edmund Morse and John Darling's families were in earlier newsletters.

Israel Bailey came to Groton sometime after May 6, 1788, when the proprietors voted to allow James Abbott, Edmund Morse, Jacob Jenness, Archibald McLaughlin, and Jonathan James to hold the lots on which they had already settled, and before 1791 when the first U. S. census of Groton was completed. Apparently he acquired lot #3

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MEETING SCHEDULE

(second Tuesday)

April through November
10 AM at the Peter Paul House,
1203 Scott Hwy.

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from Jacob Jenness, who is not listed in the 1790 census. (see copy of census on back page) Israel's family at the time of the census consisted of one free white male 16 years old or more and 3 females.

Israel was born August 11, 1765 in Peacham, VT, the son of Moses and Elizabeth (Merrill) Bailey. He married Miriam Sawyer. Ryan Wood researching the Bailey family speculated that she had married a Batchelder before she married Israel. Although the census records for Groton lists the family in five censuses from 1790 to 1830, very little information about the family was found in the GHS family records. Their only child listed in the records is Israel born in Groton December 20, 1800.

Israel Bailey in Groton censuses.

<u>Year</u>	<u>males</u>	<u>females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1790	1	3	4
1800	2	4	6
1810	7	3	10
1820	3	2	5
1830	2	1	3

Israel's brother, Jesse (1770-1836), was one of the 19 proprietors who purchased lots in the Groton-Peacham burial ground from Ephraim Wesson on June 28,

1811 (Mr. Glover's Groton p. 240). However, no record of him being buried there was found and he is not listed in the census records of Groton.

Rev. James Bailey (1750-1828), a fourth cousin of Israel's father, Moses Bailey (1740-?), was the Baptist Minister in Groton for many years.

Benjamin Bailey (1760-1834) another fourth cousin of Israel's father, is listed in the 1800 and 1810 censuses of Groton.

Benjamin's son, Smith Bailey, and his family are in the 1810 census and Rev. James Bailey's son, Flavel Bailey, and his family are in the 1830 and 1840 censuses. And Flavel's son, Percival (1812-1893) and his family are in the 1840-1880 censuses and also in the Business Directory of Groton published by Hamilton Childs in 1888. (Note: the 1890 census of Groton was destroyed in a fire.)

Israel is the sixth generation from the immigrant ancestor John (1590-1651), son of Thomas and Jane or Elizabeth Bailey. John was

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FUNNY MONEY or “AN EYE FOR AN EYE”

William I. Miller, Professor of Law at the University of Michigan

We think of money as having the shape and look of a dollar bill, or of metal coins. But not all money looks like money. Take the Biblical formula that gets such bad press: an eye for an eye.

This is not a principle of punishment; it merely states a price; it is a principle of compensation and equivalence. An eye, it says, will cost you an eye. The first eye in the formula measures the value of the eye that got gouged out, no differently than if you said \$100,000 for an eye. To measure the value of eyes in units of eyes hammers home the point of how important it is, shall we say, to get even, that is, to get the price right. Yet it is one thing to use eyes to measure value, and quite another – horror of horrors - to use them to fulfill the other common money function: providing a means of payment. Are you really ready to fork over your eye?

Before societies had ready coinage – coinage did not appear

until the sixth century BC and then it was chronically in short supply well into the 19th century – people had to use considerable ingenuity to figure out both how to measure value and then how to determine what actually to pay over that would reflect that value. The price might be stated in shillings or shekels, but did you pay in sheep, cows, grain, silver, or humans? Humans, in fact, provided a frequent means of payment. A Hittite law (1600 BC) states: “If anyone kills a man or a woman in a quarrel, he shall bring him for burial and shall give four persons, male or female respectively.”

Live bodies secured and confirmed agreements. Hostages were exchanged, or women could be married off to the other side (marriage was often a kind of hostage taking). And if you could not pay a debt

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GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY WEB PAGE

Easy access from <http://www.grotonvt.com>

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married twice, first to Elizabeth (1584-?), daughter of John and Agnes (Northend) Emery and then to Eleanor (1587-1651), daughter of John and Ann (Longley) Knight, who was the mother of John. Both wives died in England and John came to America with his two sons, James (1612-1677) from his first wife and John (1613-1691) from his second wife and the ancestor of Israel.

The Bailey family name was spelled Bayley by many of the earlier members and some branches continued with that spelling for many generations.

The family has 601 descendants in the GHS family records. There are another 33 families spelled Bailey with 122 descendants and 4 spelled Bayley with 26 descendants that have not been connected to Israel's family tree.

General Jacob Bayley (1726-1815) of Bayley-Hazen fame was a first cousin of Israel's grandfather, Moses Bailey (1716-1778).

In June 1776 General Jacob Bayley began work on the 'Bayley-Hazen' military road

from Newbury, VT to St. Johns Canada with sixty men with teams cutting trees and constructing a road wide enough to permit passage of carts. On Feb. 26, 1777, General Bayley wrote the Provisional Congress the following: *"I had in pay 60 men from the 1st of July to the 10th of September at ten dollars per month, and supplied them, which were the only soldiers in this quarter. During this time I was desired by committees of this and Neighboring states to do this service (they were men I had hired to make the road to Canada). I must desire you to consider my case, and grant me relief by paying me the roll offered you by my clerk, Mr. William Wallace - as I can not do justice to the American cause without. The militia are now on their march from this County. I am obliged to advance Marching Money, and I am, Gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant, Jacob Bayley."*

Work on the road was discontinued just over the Cabot line, on report of the capture of St. Johns and that troops were

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you might have to hand yourself over to work it off, a debt-slave. Your body might be the only money you had. But parts of bodies? Could you pay off a debt by handing over an eye, a tooth, a hand?

A Norwegian merchant ship puts into harbor in Iceland around 1200 AD. Our source picks up the story at the point where a humble Icelander named Skaering gets his hand chopped by the merchants. Skaering runs to his powerful kinsman Gudmund and asks for help. Gudmund, with a group of men, rides to the Norwegian ship and demands that they compensate Skaering at a price he, Gudmund, shall name. The Norwegians agree to let Gudmund judge. Gudmund then hits them with a stiff sum, almost as much as they would have expected to pay had they taken Skaering's life. They balk at paying, arguing that the hand of an undistinguished guy like Skaering should not carry such a high value; Gudmund, they say, was gouging them, not adhering to accepted norms of reasonableness. Gudmund says: OK, forget it. I will myself pay

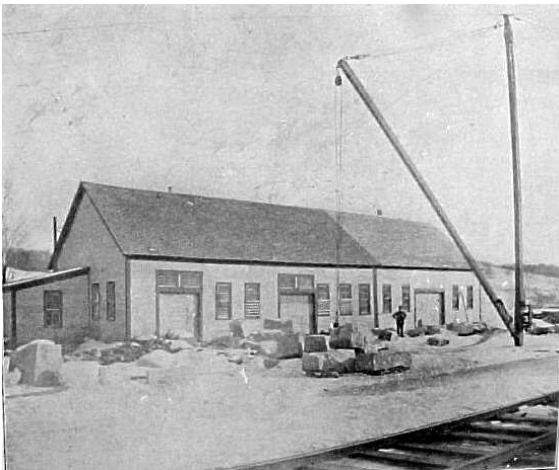
Skaering the exact amount I adjudged you to pay "but I shall choose one man from amongst you who seems to me of equivalent standing with Skaering and chop off his hand. You can then compensate that man's hand as miserably as you wish." The Norwegians pay up.

Note two things. One: Skaering gets nicely compensated for his hand. The eye-for-an-eye principle puts the victim in a much better bargaining position than our law does. That principle magically passes your title to your eye to me the moment you gouge out mine. And now you will have to pay me to keep it in your head. You are thus made to feel fully my loss because your eye is able to work as money, as a means of payment for the one you cost me. You now fully understand that I would never give up my eye, or Skaering his hand, for the lowball price our tort law would put on it after it had been gouged out. Thus is the lesson of sympathy learned in the Viking north, no, not in our new age, "I feel your pain" kind of way, in which absolutely no pain is feared or felt.

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R - L: Lee Blanchard's store, Groton Hotel, Weeds Hotel (later Hansen, then Goodine's Variety store and now the site of Merchant's Bank and the Post Office), E. D. Ricker and Son IGA store.



Left – one of three stonesheds manufacturing granite monuments in Groton in the early 1900's. Right—The I. M. Ricker monument that was manufactured in the M. T. Benzie Co., stoneshed.



1894 Westville, VT (West Groton) Postmark, right Groton Postmark. Note it was rec'd in Groton the same day it was mailed from Westville without going to White River for sorting.



Spring is the time for tapping the maples and boiling the sap to make Vermont's famous maple syrup and maple sugar. The tin buckets that replaced the wooden buckets are being replaced with plastic tubing to gather the sap and they too are disappearing into history.

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coming to destroy the settlement, and no further work on the road was done for two years. [History of Ryegate p. 71]

In May 1779, in anticipation of another invasion of Canada, General Moses Hazen (1733-1803) was ordered to move his military stores to Peacham to complete the road that Bayley had begun. General Hazen encamped for some time on the site that later became Lowell village, and he called it "The Camp at the End of the Road", although its actual terminus is some miles further. Work on the road was discontinued by the end of August [History of Ryegate p. 72].

The Bayley-Hazen Road, although never used for a military invasion of Canada, was important in the settlement of the northern part of the state, as it was the first road, and for many years the only one, in what became Lamoille and Orleans counties. It became part of the first stage road between Boston and Montreal, and much of it is still in use.

Reverend James Bailey was an early missionary to Groton from his home in Peacham. He became the Groton Baptist minister soon after he was ordained in 1798 serving until

1824 when he transferred to Sheffield, VT where he died in 1828. He served in the Revolutionary War and was captured by the Indians, along with two brothers, and taken to Canada but later released.

His father, James Bailey (1722-1808), served in the French and Indian War, was taken prisoner and confined 19 months in Denan Castle, France. Settled in Haverhill, NH before 1770, but seems to have lived in Newbury where he was a member of the First Congregational Church; removed to Peacham in 1777 where he was an early settler. He was one of twelve organizers of the Peacham Congregational Church. He was the first town clerk, first representative to the General Assembly, and held other offices in Peacham.

Reverend James Bailey's son, Flavel (1775-1847), lived in Peacham until the early 1820's then in Groton the rest of his life. Farmed lot no. 40, located up the Red Brook from the Hosea Welch mill site. He was especially noted as a schoolmaster whose services were sought for schools difficult to discipline, not only in Groton

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but also in neighboring towns. In 1829 he served on Groton's board of school supervisors, and was re-elected two times.

Flavel is listed in the 1840 census with a family of three females, one 20-30 [Emily?], one 30-40 [Mary?], and one 60-70, presumably his wife Mary P. Chamberlain. Flavel's son, Percival Bailey (1812-1898), and his family of 3 girls and 4 boys are enumerated in the 1840-1880 censuses. His wife Almira Jenkins (1817-1882) was the daughter of David and Dorothy (Darling) Jenkins, and granddaughter of Pioneer John Darling. Percival served the town as a selectman and lister.

Benjamin Bailey came to Groton from Peacham in 1795 and returned there 20 years later. He served in the Revolutionary War and was taken prisoner. Elected to first board of Listers in Groton in 1797, and was re-elected three times; also served as Constable, tax collector, moderator and other offices for the town of Groton.

Benjamin's son, Smith Bailey, married Elizabeth Harton from West Haven, VT and moved his family to Ohio sometime after the 1810 census. He died at

Monroe, OH in 1837.

Charles Johnson Bailey (1788-?), fifth cousin of Israel was enumerated in the Groton census of 1840 age 50-60 years of age with a family of 2 males 15-20 years, one female under 5, one 10-15, and one 40-50. The names of his children are not included in the GHS family records. His wife Sophia Wilson died in 1833, so perhaps he married again, or had a housekeeper living with the family..

Charles John Bailey (1867-1941), grandson of Israel's third cousin Joshua Bailey (1782-1862) (a grandson of General Jacob Bayley), married Mary Eva Adams in 1892. He was the Station Agent for the Montpelier & Wells River Railroad at Groton for about 30 years. His father, Charles R. Bailey (1827-1873) married Marilla McLure and was killed working on the M&WR Railroad. Charles J. Bailey started work in 1895 at the newly built Groton Railroad Station, which replaced the one that had burned in the summer of 1894.

At the turn of the 20th century, Groton was booming with lumber mills, granite sheds, turning works and farming, all

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That leads us to the second point. Suppose there are 30 Norwegians, so any one of them only stands a one in 30 chance of losing his hand. No one is willing to take that one-in-30 gamble. That means that the price Gudmund asked them to pay was at least $1/30^{\text{th}}$ less than any one of them valued their hand attached to their bodies. Life was cheap back then, you say? Wrong. Just the opposite.

Consider, though, a house at *Groton Pond**. It will cost you an arm and a leg, or a whole bunch of dead presidents. Look how closely linked our ideas of money are tied to the body and its parts. Rather unsettling, isn't it? Even our coins have severed heads on one side. And when God sealed a bargain with the Israelites he

demanded the males among them pay over a piece of flesh. Hebrew for "to make a covenant," by the way, is literally to cut a covenant. We still say "to cut a deal." And just what is being cut when we talk that way?

The signs at some highway construction sites say: "Kill a worker, \$7,500." Yes, I know that is in addition to the unlikely 15 years maximum in prison and any civil liability. But still, the price is an insult. Gudmund, tough and smart, was more dedicated than we are, it seems, to putting an honorable price on life and limb.

*Groton Pond is substituted for Ann Arbor used by the author in his essay.

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shipping much of their produce by rail. The mercantile business also depended on the rail service for much of their merchandise. The population had increased to more than 1,000 people and the trains offered passenger service with connections to the Boston

& Maine railroad in Woodsville, NH and the Central Vermont in Montpelier.

Pioneer Jonathan James who settled in Groton before 1788, will be in the next issue of the Groton Historical Society Newsletter.

GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATE

The first meeting of 2007 is scheduled for April 10th, the second Tuesday of the month at 10 AM in the Peter Paul House. Winter snow accumulations have resulted in cancellation of the March meetings the last few years.

The GHS family records now have 38,527 names. Thanks to Florence (Darling) Blodgett some new information about the Darling and Blodgett families have been added recently.

Every time new information is added to the family records from the obituaries in the paper, I wonder how much family information has been lost. Be sure and get your family information in the records before it is too late. Tombstones have only limited information, usually the date of death and sometimes the date of birth, or the age, and once in awhile the marriage date.

Dues have increased to \$10 annually this year, as many of you know. There are now 37 paid up members or 52% of

those still on the membership role. If the year 2007 does not appear on your mailing label our records show your dues are in arrear. Please notify the Secretary of any error. Eleven members who last paid dues in 2004 have been dropped from the mailing list. Recently deceased members are Dorothy Bean and Marion Page.

Patty Wiley, the Vermont Historical Society outreach manager for local historical societies provides information about current activities that may be of interest to members. Her e-mail is [**patty.wiley@state.us.vt**](mailto:patty.wiley@state.us.vt) to request getting on the mailing list. Or you can visit the web site at [**www.vermonthistory.org**](http://www.vermonthistory.org)

Dwight White's Ryegate History "The Down of the Thistle—20th Century Ryegate VT: A Sequel to the History of Ryegate, Vermont by Edward Miller and Frederic Wells" is available at the Town Clerk's Office in Ryegate Corner.

Errata: The article about the Darling family in the winter issue stated they came to Groton in 1787, but they actually came in 1789 after the lots had been surveyed by Ira Allen. This may not be the only mistake but it is the only one I've found so far. Ed.

First Class

Postage

Females _____

Males under 16 _____

Males 16+ _____

A handwritten census record from 1870 for Groton, Vermont. The table lists names in the first column and counts in subsequent columns. The names are: Groton, Abel James, Simeon Israel, Darling John, George W. Clark, James Josiah, Maria Edward, Josephine Dorothy, and Robert Darling. The counts are: 15, 9, 21, and 45. There are also some faint numbers in the first column: 1, 1, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 2.

	1								
Groton									
Abel James	1		1						6
Simeon Israel	1		3						4
Darling John	2	2	5						11
George W. Clark	2	1							3
James Josiah	1	1	4						6
Maria Edward	1	1	2						5
Joséphine Dorothy	1		1						3
Robert Darling	2	1	4						7
	15	9	21						45

Groton Historical Society

J. W. Benzie, Editor

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1790 U. S. Census record of Groton, Vermont