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# GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Newsletter

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Volume 21 Issue 2

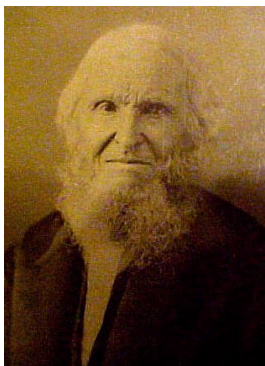
Groton, Vermont 05046

Spring 2008

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# GROTON FAMILIES

## IN 1810



Medad Darling 1794-1878 married the widow Hidden in 1814

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By 1810 the pioneers and early settlers in Groton had the town organized and functioning with regular town-meetings to decide what the most urgent needs were and how they could be met with the knowledge, skills and abilities of its citizens. One third of the 37 families living here in 1800 had left and an additional unknown number came and went between the 1800 and 1810 censuses. But 48 new families were listed in the 1810 census making a total of 73 families living in Groton. Over half of the new families were children or relatives of those who came earlier: **Jacob Abbott**, nephew of James; **Smith Bailey**, son of Benjamin; **Moses** and

*(Continued on page 2)*

### 2008 OFFICERS

President	Richard Brooks
Vice President	Deane Page
Secretary	Diane Kreis
Treasurer	Joan Haskell
Web Site Editor	Vacant
Newsletter Editor	J. Willard Benzie

### MEETING SCHEDULE

(second Tuesday)  
April through October  
10 AM at the Peter Paul House,  
1203 Scott Hwy.  
**April meeting may be cancelled  
due to snow conditions**

*(Continued from page 1)*

**Stephen Darling**, sons of John; **Caleb Emery**, son of John; **Abram Frost**, son of William; **Daniel** and **John Heath**, sons of Jesse; **Lachlen** and **Peter McLachlin**, sons of Archibald; **Hosea Welch**, son of Jonathan; **Stephen Welch**, son of Edmund; **Bethuel Fuller**, son-in-law of John Darling; **William Hodgden** and **David Jenkins**, sons-in-law of Robards Darling; **Obadiah Low**, uncle of Ephraim Gary; **Henry Lowe**, cousin of Ephraim; **Isobel (Straw) Page** sister-in-law of Jesse Heath, and her sons **Enoch Page Jr.** and **Moses Page**; **Josiah Paul**, brother-in-law of Ephraim Gary; **Stephen Roberts**, stepson-in-law of Dominicus Gray; **William Stanley**, son-in-law of Jesse Heath; **Ephraim Weston (Wesson)**, brother-in-law of Edmund Morse; **Reuben Whitcher**, son-in-law of Dominicus Gray; **Betsey Morrison**, widow of Bradbury; and **Dolly Remick**, widow of John.

The other new families in 1810 were: **Asa Annis**, **Rachel Bennett** (widow of Tilton who died before the census) and her son **Timothy Bennett**, **Arthur Bragden**, **Andrew Carter**, **Moses Emerson**, **Ebenezer Fisk**, **Edmund Fisk**, **Daniel Floyd**, **Michael Floyd**, **Jeremiah Hidden**, **John R. Hogin**, **Ithama Littlefield**, **Simeon Mallory**, **James Nelson**, **Oliver Parker**, **James Renfrew**, and son **James Renfrew 2<sup>nd</sup>**, **Oliver Rhodes**, **Stephen Rowllins**, and **David Vance**.

The population of Groton had almost doubled from 248 in 1800 to 449 in the 1810 census. Apparently it was getting too crowded for some folks as 41 % of the families in the 1810 census were not listed in the 1820 census (30 of 73), but three of them reappeared in 1830: **Timothy Bennett**, **Moses Emerson** and **Caleb Emery**. **Asa Annis** moved to Bath, NH and then Littleton; **Benjamin Bailey** returned to Peacham about 1815; **Smith Bailey** went to Monroe, OH where he died in 1837; **Rachel Bennett** went to Oxford, ME where she died in 1825; **John Darling** was probably living with one of his children as he died at Groton in 1830; **Stephen Darling** died in 1819 and his widow, Nancy (Fisk) Darling, was head of the household in 1820; **Abram Frost** apparently went back to ME where he died in 1836; **Bethuel Fuller** moved his family to Albany, VT about 1814; **Jesse Heath** was living in Ryegate in 1820 when he applied for a military pension; **Jeremiah Hidden** died in 1813; **Jonathan James** moved his family to Troy, VT before 1820; **Obadiah Low** went to serve in the War of 1812 and never came back; **Lachlen McLachlin** went to TX; **James Nelson** went to Canada; **Isabel Page** was apparently living with one of her children as she died at Groton in 1838; **James Renfrew** died in 1819; **Stephen Roberts** drowned in the

Connecticut River August 11, 1813; and **William Taisey** died in 1813. What ever happened to **Jeremiah Batchelder, Andrew Carter, Edmund Fisk, Michael Floyd, John R. Hogin, Ithama Littlefield, Oliver Parker, Dolly Remick, and Stephen Rowllins** could not be found in the GHS family records; they did not appear in later censuses or in the cemetery listings of Groton.

Even though families were leaving Groton, more were coming and the population continued to increase in each successive census of the nineteenth century reaching 1,059 in 1900. In 1810 there were 46 new families living in Groton plus those of the widows Betsey Morrison and Dolly Remick.

**Jacob Abbott** was born in 1781 and married Nancy Weston, daughter of Ephraim Weston and they raised a family of 9 children in Groton.

**Asa Annis** born in 1786 was living with another male about the same age in the 1810 census of Groton, possibly a brother? Asa married Philena Bidwell in 1811 and moved to Bath, NH and then to Littleton about 1820.

**Smith Bailey** was born in

Peacham May 1, 1786 and married Elizabeth Horton in 1808 at West Haven, VT. The family moved to Monroe, OH and raised a family of 11 children: Elizabeth; Nelson; Benjamin; Samuel; Lucetha; John; Charlotte; James; Harriet; Sarah; and Henrietha.

**Rachel Bennett**, born before 1765 and the widow of Tilton, had 4 children: Dolly m. Moses Page; Sally m. Josiah Heath a first cousin of Jesse Heath; Betsey m. Joseph Heath, a brother of Josiah; and Timothy.

**Timothy Bennett**, son of Rachel and Tilton, was born in ME about 1783. His wife's name was Betsey and there were 9 members of the family in 1830 including: Cutting, who married Sarah Jane Whitehill; Mary; and probably Benjamin; Caroline; James; and two others, or perhaps a hired man and a hired girl. The family later moved to WI.

**Arthur Bragden** [not in GHS family records] [b. 1754 in ME, d. 23 Sep 1833 in ME; married first Jane Marr and had a boy and girl then married second Eleanor Preble and had 6 children. The family left Groton before the 1830

*(Continued on page 4)*

## GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY WEB PAGE

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

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census.] no further information (nfi)

**Andrew Carter** [not in GHS family records] [he was under 45 and his wife was 45+ with 4 boys and 4 girls in 1810 census] nfi

**Moses Darling** was born in 1777 at Hampstead, NH and died in 1866 at Groton. He married first Betsy Thompson in 1802 and they had 7 children: Betsey m. Josiah Paul; Harriet died young; William m. Dorcas Richardson; Moses m. Lucinda Morse; Ebenezer m. Lucy Eleves and moved to CA; Olive m. Benjamin Emerson; and Charity m. Silas Lund. Moses m. 2nd in 1823 Abigail Prey and they had 6 children: Harriet m. Hosea Welch Jr.; Peter m. 3 times; Daniel went to FL; John went to WI; Thomas; and Stephen.

**Stephen Darling** was born in 1786 at Plaistow, NH and died in 1819 at Groton. He married Nancy Fisk in 1807 and they had 6 children: John; Atlanta m. William Lyle; Joanna m. Benjamin Franklin Heath; Samuel m. Narcissa Heath; Rufus; and Nancy who married first William Dodd and second Charles Collins.

**Moses Emerson** was born between 1765 and 1770 and the family had 3 children in the 1810 census - one boy, Moses born in 1803 in ME, and 2 girls. They were not in the 1820 census but he was listed as head of a family of 9 in

1830 census – 5 boys and 2 girls.

**Caleb Emery** was born in 1788 at Shapleigh, ME and died in WI. He married Margaret Powers and had 2 children: John P. m. Hulda Darling; and Margrete (Sarah) m. Chester Darling.

**Ebenezer Fisk** was born in Newbury, VT about 1783 and died in Groton in 1858. He married Susan (Swannie) Scales in 1806 and they had one boy in the 1810 census. Their daughter, Margaret born in 1814 married Jeremiah Chase in Groton.

**Edmund Fisk** [not in GHS family records] [he and his wife were 26-45 years old and had 2 boys and one girl less than 10 years old in the 1810 census] nfi

**Daniel Floyd** was born in 1775 in NH. He was married and had one boy and 2 girls in the 1810 census.

**Michael Floyd** [not in GHS family records] [both he and his wife were 45+ years old and had no children in 1810 census] nfi

**Abram Frost** was born in 1753 at Berwick, ME and died in 1836 at Lisbon, ME.

**Bethuel Fuller** married Meribah Darling and had 4 children: Samuel; Mary; James and Ira. The family moved to Albany, VT and may have had more children.

**Daniel Heath** was born in 1793 in Ryegate and died in 1863

*(Continued on page 6)*

Excerpts from

## GROTON GENERAL HISTORY

by Hosea N. Welch (1860-1941)

In beginning the general history of the town, I wish to call attention to an article in the Vermont Quarterly Gazetteer No. 111, page 261, written by the Rev. Thomas Goodwillie of Barnet in 1862 in which he says: In a large map of the British Province of New Hampshire made by Blanchard and Langdon, and inscribed to the British Secretary of War and one of his Majesties Privy Council Oct. 21, 1761, the whole of Vermont is laid down as a part of that province. At that time none of the towns in this County were chartered, but many of the towns which were surveyed and chartered in 1762 and 1763 were laid down on this map with pen and ink. (Only three towns in this County are so laid down, Barnet, Ryegate and Peacham; the latter town being located west of Ryegate, which shows that Groton, which was chartered by Vermont, was surveyed long before Vermont became a State) In a large map of New York constructed by order of Gen. Tryon, Governor of that province Jan. 1, 1779, from surveys previously made, the whole of Vermont is laid down as a part of New York. Within the present limits of Caledonia County, the towns of Barnet, Ryegate, Peacham and Groton are laid down nearly according to New Hampshire survey. Most

of the other parts of the county are surveyed into townships, which in number, form and location are altogether different from the other towns now in this county. It appears by this that Peacham was first laid off west of Ryegate by the New Hampshire survey and then it was laid off North of Groton by the New York survey and it almost appears that Groton was surveyed and perhaps chartered by the New York Governor.

If it was so, the Revolutionary War interfered with it and the parties who owned it never made the matter public. Quoting again from the same book, page 266: In 1760 Samuel Stevens was employed by a land company to explore this part of the county. He, with a few others began at the mouth of White River and proceeded up the Connecticut River till they came to the head branches of the Onion River – thence down the Onion River to Lake Champlain, then up the Lamoille River to the western part of the county, through which they passed to the Connecticut River. The lands in this location, first called the New Hampshire Grants, were organized March 16, 1770 into Gloucester County with Newbury the shire town by the New York authorities.

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in Groton. He married first Mary P. Hodgdon and had 14 children: Narcissa; Benjamin; William; Emily; Chester; Orange; Mary; Daniel Jr.; Elizabeth; Silas; Stephen; Phebe; Anna; and Emily. He married second Caroline Hosmer .

**John Heath** was born in 1782 at Groton and died in 1869 at East Liberty, OH. He married Hannah Darling in 1804 and had 9 children: Belinda m. Neddy Welch; Jesse III m. Hannah Allen (a niece of Ethan) then Rachel Skelton and third Ellen Austin; Olive; John m. Hester Davis then Margaret Marshall; Jonathan was m. 3 times—Mary Randall, Shady Rea and Pricilla James; Phebe m. Ira Greene; Albert m. Elizabeth Bryant; Daniel m. Catherine Austin; and Jason married Lucinda (?).

**Jeremiah Hidden** was the Groton Town Clerk at the time of his death in 1813. He also served in the town militia and owned and operated a carding mill in town. He married Elizabeth Hamblet in 1808 and they had one daughter (perhaps Julia Ann Hidden who was buried in the Groton/ Peacham cemetery) His widow married Medad Darling in 1814.

**William Hodgden** was born in 1771 and died in 1856 at Groton. He married Olive and had five children: Stephen; Mary P. m. Daniel Heath; Olive; Chastina; and Mary A. He married second Ruth Darling widow of James Taisey.

**John R. Hogin** [not in GHS family records] [he and his wife were

45+ years old in 1810 with one male 26-45, one less than 10, and one female 16-26 in the family] nfi

**David Jenkins** married Deliverance Darling and they had 4 children: David m. Mary Jones; Judith m. Aaron Darling then Lyman Page; Drucilla m. Nathan Darling; and Almira m. Percival Bailey.

**Lachlen McLachlin** was born in 1784 and listed in the 1810 census as head of a household with 3 males and one female all between 16 and 26 years old. He later went to TX.

**Peter McLachlin** was born in Scotland in 1774 and died in 1852 at Groton. He married Isabelle Nelson in 1808 and had 7 children: Christian m. James Heath; Jane m. Moses Plummer; Mary m. James McLure; Nancy m. John Stewart; William m. Janet Whitehill then Elizabeth Smith; and Isabel. He was very active in town affairs and served as Representative in 1813-17.

**Ithama Littlefield** [not in GHS family records] [he and his wife were 26-45 in 1810 and had one son and 3 daughters less than 10 and one female 45+ in the family] nfi

**Obadiah Low** a Revolutionary War soldier born in 1760 came to Groton from Sanford, ME and settled where the village cemetery is located. He was a soldier in the War of 1812 and

never came back. He married Sally Hobbs and had a family of 8 children: Henry, m. Sally James in 1807 (possibly the daughter of Jonathan James); Ivory, settled in ME; Hosea, m. first Mary Abbie James daughter of Jonathan James and second Sally Darling widow of Joseph Morrison; Asa, settled in Bradford; Ira, twin to Asa; Ephraim m. first Emily Hall and second Susanna Darling; Mary m. Dr. Kelly; and Abigail, m. Dr. Faustus.

**Henry Lowe**, son of Obadiah and Sally, was born at Sanford, ME in 1783 and came to Groton with his parents. He married Sally James in 1807 at Groton and lived in the north part of town for about 20 years. He went west in 1826 with a horse and wagon taking his wife and two of their 10 children. In the 1820 census he was head of a family of twelve.

**Simeon Mallory** [not in GHS family records] [b. 1788 in MA, d. 26 Apr 1861, m. but his wife's name is unknown. The family left Groton after the 1820 census.] nfi

**James Nelson** was born August 20, 1786 in Ryegate and died in 1864 in Canada where he and his wife raised their family. In the 1810 Groton census they had one boy and one girl less than 10 years of age.

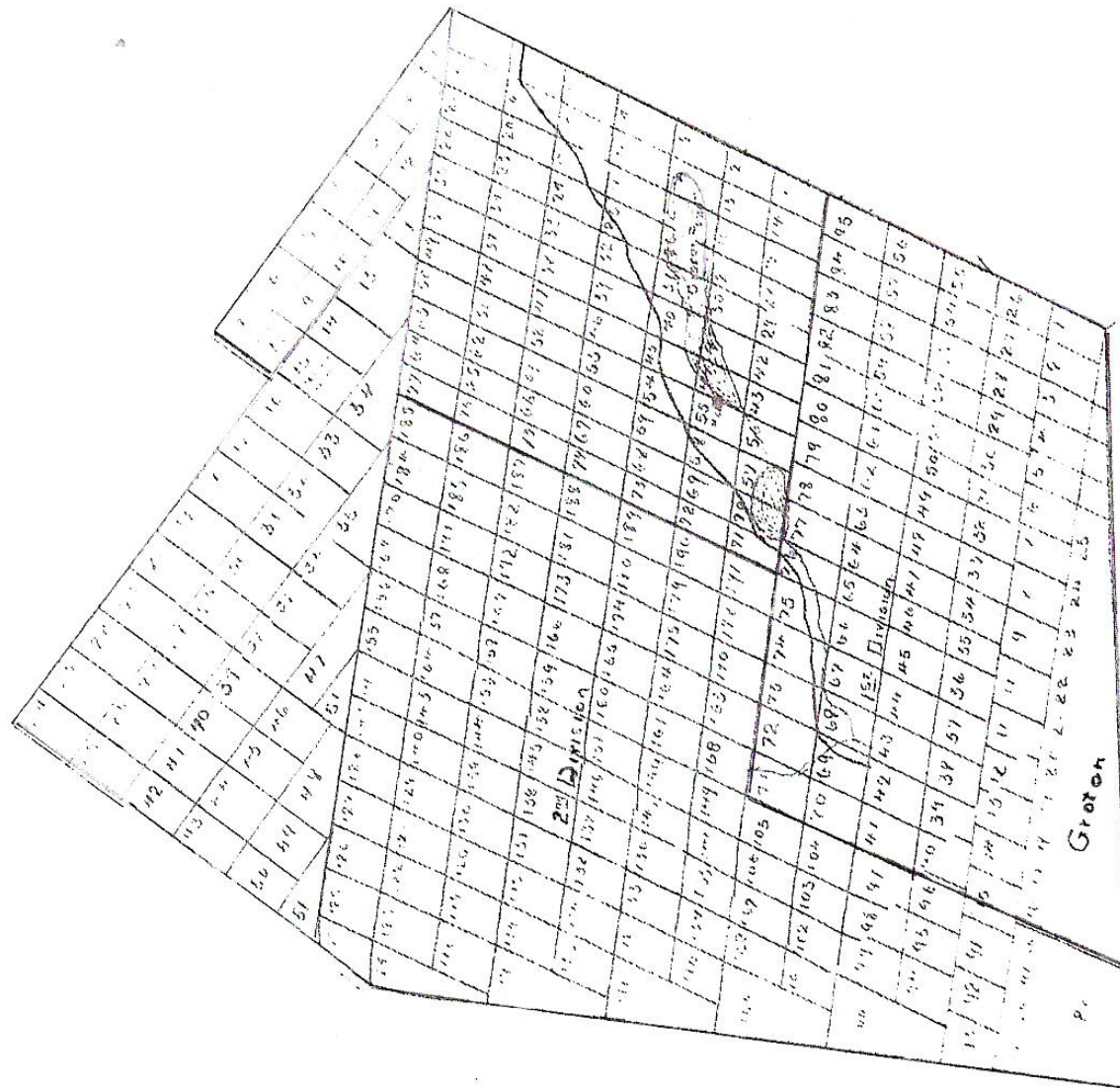
**Isobel Page**, widow of Enoch Sr., was born in 1757 and died May 9, 1838 in Groton. She came to Groton with her husband

and their 10 children in 1801 and settled on the west half of lot number 17 in the first division. Enoch Sr. died in 1805. John, Benjamin, Leverett and Samuel were living with their mother in the 1810 census. Alice m. Abel Wright, Mary m. William Flanders, Isabel m. Chandler Hoyt, and Sarah m. Joseph Wormwood in 1803 and they came to Groton after the 1810 census.

**Moses Page**, son of Enoch and Isobel, was born July 20, 1776 in Haverhill, MA and married Dolly Bennett in 1798 at New Chester, NH. They settled in West Groton where they purchased the northern half of lot number 37 in the 1<sup>st</sup> division and raised a family of eleven children: Mary m. Noah Emery; Moses died age one; Enoch moved to ME; Tilton unmarried; Dolly m. Nehemiah Welch; Alice m. Daniel Welch; Moses m. Hannah Seavey; Rachel, m. first Reuben Goodwin, second Benjamin Randall and third George Corruith; Isabel m. Stephen Welch; Ethelinda m. Ira Darling; and Celinda m. Lebbeus Welch.

**Enoch Page Jr.**, son of Enoch and Isobel, was born May 10, 1781 in Haverhill, MA and married Betsey Welch in 1806 at Groton. They settled in West Groton on the south half of lot number 37 in the 1<sup>st</sup> division and raised a family of 15 children: Lyman m. Ruby Welch then Judith

**PLOT OF LUMBER LOTS in GROTON**  
**donated to GHS by the Raymond Ricker family**  
 (image reduced from original plot)



Plot of  
Lumber Lots

The first sawmill in Groton was built on this site in 1791 by Edmund Morse. He sold the mill and property to Moses Noyes before 1797 and Moses' widow, Susanna, deeded it to Silas Lund in 1804. It remained in the Lund family, except for short periods of time, until 1839, with Silas and his sons, Jonathan, Moses and Ephraim holding the title successively. Then several different owners, including Walter Buchanan, Ira Darling, and Andrew Whitehill, operated the mill for a few years each until 1856 when the Ricker family began its tenure of operation for more than 100 years through four generations: Joseph, Amaziah, Harry and Raymond Ricker.

*Mister Glover's Groton*



*(Continued from page 7)*

Jenkins; Lewis m. Margaret Whitehill then Abigail Nelson; Irene died as an infant; Irene m. Samuel Darling; Jonathan m. first Polly Cunningham, second Olive Randall and third Celia Sanborn; Enoch III, m. Judith Lathrop; Martha m. Israel Slye; Betsey m. Samuel Darling; Solomon; Mary m. John Whitehill then Ebenezer Plummer; Abel died as an infant; Ruth m. Lincoln Lewis; Dolly m. John Baldwin; John m. Rachel Goodwin; and Parris.

**Oliver Parker** [not in GHS family records] [the family had 2 boys over 10 and 3 girls under 10 in the 1810 census and parents were 45+ years old. The family was not listed in later censuses.] nfi

**Josiah Paul** was born in England in 1767 and died in Groton in 1842 and is buried in the Groton/Peacham cemetery. He married Hulda Gary and they raised 10 children: Hulda m. Forrest Welch; Betsey m. Moses Plummer; James died age 18; Josiah m. Betsey Darling; Mehitable m. Jesse Heath; Joanna m. Hugh Dunn; Ebenezer m. Asenath Hooper; Maria m. William Taisey; Olive m. Timothy Morrison; and Peter m. Sally Meader. In 1840 Peter built the house that is now home of the Historical Society.

**James Renfrew** was born in 1758 at Paisley, Scotland and came to Groton in 1804 where he purchased the eastern half of lot no.

22 in the 1<sup>st</sup> division and also some adjoining land in Ryegate from John Orr. He married Margaret Smith in 1788 and they raised a family of 7 children: James m. Jean Nelson; John m. Anna Bailey then Jean Craig; Margaret m. Archibald Park; William m. Jean Esden; Andrew m. Elizabeth Nelson; Robert m. Lois Roberts; and Matthew m. Sally Roberts.

**James Renfrew 2<sup>nd</sup>** was born in 1784 at Paisley, Scotland. He married Jean Nelson and they raised 9 children: James m. Sarah Waldron; Eliza m. George Whitcher; George m. Eliza Noyes; Margaret unmarried; William died as infant; William unmarried; Jane m. John Hazeltine then Jeremiah Boynton; Robert m. Vilinda Collier; and Alexander m. Sarah Gove. Alexander was born in Newbury where the family had moved in 1825.

**Oliver Rhodes** was born in 1765 in NH and died in 1852 at Groton where he is buried in the west Groton cemetery. He married Martha Pratt and they raised 7 children: Sally m. Charles Morrison; Mary m. William Taisey and then Jonathan Darling; John m. Betsey Baldwin; Lucy; Josiah m. Mary Brown; Martha m. Samuel Clark and then Calvin Clark; and Charlotte m. John Roberts.

**Stephen Roberts** was born in 1775 in ME where he married Lydia Ricker in 1800 and raised a family of six children: Daniel m.

Lucy Frost; John m. Charlotte Rhodes; Lois m. Robert Renfrew; Thomas; Sally m. Matthew Renfrew; and Lydia m. David Boynton. Stephen was referred to as captain and he drowned in the Connecticut River on August 11, 1813.

**Stephen Rowlins** [not in GHS family records] [b. 28 Mar 1750 in MA, d. 1842 in ME; he married Hannah Stanley.] nfi

**William Stanley** married Susanna Heath in 1806 in Groton and they had 2 boys and 2 girls in the 1810 census. Their daughter, Betsey, born in 1815 married James Heath in 1840.

**David Vance** was born in 1788 in MA and came to Groton in 1803 with his mother. He married Alice Perkins and they raised 12 children: David m. Louisa Tabor; William m. Sabra Welch and then Mary Ricker; Aaron m. Lucinda Tucker; Betsey m. Marvin Whitcher; Abigail m. McLane Marshall; Daniel m. Angeline Clark; Jane m. Joseph Crosby; Stephen m. Susan Hall; Hannah m. George Hatch; Nathan m. Maria Benjamin; George m. Janet Jenkins; and Olive m. Sayer Leet and then Jothan Holland.

**Hosea Welch** was born in 1787 and died in 1880. He married Polly Gray and had 10 children: Ara m. Mary Whitehill; Mary m. Phil Taylor; Sarah never married; Eliza m. Lewis French; Lydia m. Peter Whitehill; Laura m. Harvey Hitchcock; Hosea Jr. m. Harriet Darling; Andrew m. Margarette (?);

John m. Abby Dunn then Elizabeth Smith; and Ira m. Mary Taylor. Hosea married second Ms. Graham.

**Stephen Welch** was born in 1780 and died in 1853. He married Sarah Young and had 6 children: Daniel m. Alice Page; Ruby m. Lyman Page; Ed; Stephen m. Isobel Page then Caroline Bennett; Hannah; and Lebbeus m. Celinda Page then Margaret Corruth.

**Ephraim Weston** was born about 1765 and married Judith Morse, sister of Edmund Morse, and they had 4 children: Stephen; Nancy m. Jacob Abbott; Thomas m. Martha Hill; and Sally who m. William Ritchie.

**Reuben Whitcher** was born about 1783 at Berwick, ME and died in 1873 at Groton. He married Patience Gray and they had 13 children: George m. Eliza Renfrew; Clarissa m. Samuel Boothby; Orange; Marvin m. Betsey Vance; Elizabeth m. James Renfrew; Nelson m. Harriet Eastman; Andrew m. Elizabeth Renfrew; Dominicus; Chester m. Mary Perkins; Ruth; Jane m. Abraham Whitehill; John m. Finette Roberts; and Emeline m. Joseph Noyes.

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#### NOTE

Please send corrections and additions to the GHS or e-mail to [jwbenzie@uslink.net](mailto:jwbenzie@uslink.net) - Thank you.

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*(Continued from page 5)*

In 1779 it was organized into Cumberland County in the shire of Newbury by the Vermont authorities. In 1781 it was organized as Orange County with Newbury the shire town. November 5, 1792 Caledonia County was incorporated from Orange County but was not fully organized till November 8, 1796 when Danville was made the county seat. In 1856 St. Johnsbury was made the county seat and still holds that distinction.

The word Groton is of English origin and the name was transplanted in New England by some of its early settlers that came from Groton, England. Just how it came to be applied to this locality is uncertain. Some reasons have been given by some writers but their proof is lacking. The most possible reason is that Gov. Chittenden gave it that name in honor of Thomas Butterfield, the first grantee of the town whose grandfather was taken prisoner by the Indians at Groton, Mass. and held a captive by them for some time, perhaps at Coos or perhaps taken across this township to Canada.

The township in its primitive state was covered with a heavy growth of hard and soft wood lumber. Bordering along the river and some of the brooks and around the ponds was a heavy growth of pine, three, four and five feet in diameter, judging from the stumps that are still visible. This forest was inhabited

with wild animals, such as bears, panther, wolf, wildcat, porcupine, sable, beaver, mink, otter, skunk, muskrat, woodchuck, weasel, squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, fox, deer and moose. The undergrowth, cliffs and tree tops was the home of wild fowl, such as blue jay, blackbird, bluebird, bobolink, chickadee, crossbill, crow, cuckoo, eagle, hang nest hawk, humming bird, kingbird, Phebe, pigeon, robins, partridge, snipe, snowbird, sparrow, swallow, oriole, owl, woodpecker, whippoorwill, martin, yellow hammer, crane, loon and ducks. The brooks, rivers and ponds were well filled with pickerel, trout and suckers.

This locality was formerly a part of the hunting grounds of the Pequot Indians and later of the St. Francis Indians. At one time the French considered it a part of Canada.

The surface of this township is generally uneven, some sections of it are well adapted to agricultural pursuits, having comparatively smooth fertile fields to cultivate, with hill pastures, sugar groves and woodlots; while other sections are very rough and is only used for lumbering purposes and some of these sections have yielded two or three crops of lumber since the first settlement of the town. There are some ledges of limestone mixed with magnetic iron but most of the ledges are granite and located

in the lumber sections.

Knox mountain is the highest point of land and is located in the west part of town...it was used by the Indians for a land mark in one of their routes from the Connecticut River to Lake Champlain. In the early settlement of Vermont it was used by the settlers for the same purpose. This mountain is a good weather prophet and when it is capped it is a pretty sure sign of rain. A government storm signal, a big brass ball, was in use on the mountain summit for a long time. A log house with a big stone chimney once stood on the north side of the mountain, by whom or when it was built, is unknown. It was used by people who were repairing the Gove road and was near where Mr. Perkins was killed while digging out an unexploded charge of powder. It was repaired and used by Steven Welch and Moses Page when they were camped on the mountain making shingles, but has since gone to decay.

There are four natural ponds in town with an area of 1,297 acres. Lake Groton is the largest. (Wells River Pond name was changed to Lake Groton by the legislature in 1908) It lays in the North part of town near the Peacham line, and is surrounded by wild timber land and rough mountainous scenery. The highest point on the east side is Jerry Lund hill and on the north, Big Deer head. The lake is fed by five brooks,

cold brook, head brook, kettle pond or meadow brook, beaver dam brook, and spruce hill brook. It is the headwaters of Wells River which drains it and runs south through Lunds Pond, turns south east at the upper end of the Divol Flats, receives the south branch at the lower end of the flats and the north branch at the upper end of the village. It passes through the southwest corner of Ryegate and empties into the Connecticut River in the northeast corner of Newbury. The current of the river is swift and furnishes several mill privileges on its way through town.

Lunds Pond derived its name from their early settlement at the foot of the pond, but it is often referred to by different names. Sometimes it is called Little Pond, sometimes a distinction is made by referring to the Lower Pond and sometimes it is called Ricker Pond.

Rickers Pond is a beautiful sheet of water circular in form and half a mile in diameter, with a peninsular on the east side called Toomalek point. It is on this point according to tradition that Molly Muxa-Wuxal and Toomalek were laid to rest amid the beautiful scenes of their happy hunting days.

The Pequot Indian trail

*(Continued on page 14)*

*(Continued from page 13)*

passed within a few rods of the foot of the Pond, and this was one of their camping places in their passage across the state. It was pleasant to rest in the shade of the big pines with plenty of cool spring water flowing from the foot of the hill to quench their thirst, and the gradual slope of the ground made a natural landing on the pond.

In 1860 McLane Marshall erected a two story building on this location which was called the Lake House. In 1862 a sail boat built by John Carrick on Harvey's Lake in west Barnet was brought here and operated by him for a pleasure boat. It was 30 feet long and 10 feet wide and capable of carrying 60 persons. It was called the Lady of the Lake. The Hotel is now owned by Hon. Alexander Dunnett which he has greatly improved and occupies as a summer residence.

The first sawmill and gristmill in town was built by Edmond Morse in 1791 on the river a few rods beyond the pond. For a number of years they were the only mills in town. Settlers patronizing the mills had to come here over the old Indian trail which was now called the Old County road, having been laid out by Gloucester County in 1774. They were also patronized by some of the early settlers of Peacham and Topsham, who came here over the Chelsea-Danville County Road, which was laid out in 1797. This mill privi-

lege has been developed into a large lumbering plant, now owned and operated by Harry M. Ricker.

Levis Pond is located in the hollow of the hill east of Lunds Pond, and received its name from Levi Wilson who once lived in that locality.

Kettle Pond lays in the northwest corner of the town and received its name in this way: Aaron Hosmer while out on a hunting trip was crossing the pond on a log, losing his balance, he dropped his camp kettle in an effort to save himself. Afterwards it was called Kettle Pond. Campers and fishermen at the present time often refer to it as long pond, a name often applied to Lake Groton.

An artificial trout pond is located on the south branch in the west part of the town, near the summit of the ridges, on the north side of Knox Mountain. The dam is made of cement and split granite wall, with paths and bridges and cozy nooks around the east end. A United States Fish Hatchery is located on the upper end and small trout hatched here are shipped to all parts of the world. It is often called Darlings pond in reference of Jonathan R. Darling who made the pond for lumbering purposes. The present owner is Theodore N. Vail of Lyndonville, who added the stone and cement dam and other improvements to the property.

*[to be continued]*

## GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

The family records collected by Waldo Glover and added to over the years by family members and members of the historical society now include 40,634 names. Corrections and additions continue to help improve the accuracy and completeness of the records.

Recently Gayle Strom inquired about her ancestors Silas Lund and Charity Darling. Closer examination of our records showed Silas 59 years older than Charity who was listed as his second wife. Perhaps Charity married Silas Lund's son, Silas, or the dates of their births may be wrong. Gayle is checking our record of Silas Lund's descendants with her family records and hopefully any errors can be corrected and maybe some additional family members can be added.

George Haberson attended fourth grade at Groton in 1956-57 when his father was teaching and coaching at Groton High School. He is writing a book about his family homesteading in Alaska and wants to include the time they spent in Groton. Our records show George Haberson and Katherine Bartholomay had a baby daughter, Rebecca, born October 17, 1956, but no additional information is in our records about this family. We are hoping to hear more about the family from George.

Charles Pollard read the last newsletter on the GHS web page and sent information from CA about his ancestor Edward Pollard who was the first cordwainer (shoemaker and harness maker) in Groton. Charles also became a member of GHS.

Christie Murray Hersey sent a more complete record of the Murray family with a number of tombstone inscriptions from graves in Canada and a listing of the descendants from the immigrant family of John "Gobha" Murray and Mary MacKenzie.

Little by little the missing family members are being added and more and more families are being connected through the new found family members.



Groton village Dam in 1965  
now

"That's just water over the dam"

Groton Historical Society Newsletter

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