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# GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Newsletter

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Volume 23 Issue 2

Groton, Vermont 05046

Spring 2010

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# 1890 GROTON CENSUS - RECORDS DESTROYED BY FIRE

## MEETING SCHEDULE

10 AM the second Tuesday  
in May through October  
at the Peter Paul House,  
1203 Scott Hwy.  
Groton, VT 05046

The 1890 Groton census records were lost in a 1920's fire that destroyed almost all 1890 U. S. Census records. As a substitute the Business Directory of Groton published in 1888 by Hamilton Childs is listed below.

Annis Gardner G, farmer 70 acres, wild land 19.  
Annis Richard, farmer 75, wild land 60.  
Annis Sylvanus, farmer with G. G.  
Annis William F., farmer with G. G.  
Bailey Jesse P., (Groton Pond) asst. postmaster,  
Bailey John B., farmer with Percival.  
Bailey Myron C., resident with Simeon Fifield.  
Bailey Percival, 350 sugar trees, farmer 100.  
Baldwin John, 400 sugar trees, farmer 50.  
Bancroft Henry R., ticket agent M & W. R. R. R.  
Bingham Hazen, carpenter.  
Blanchard Lyman, sawyer, h and 4 acres.  
Brown Albert H., 300 sugar trees, farmer 125.  
Brown David, farmer.  
Brown Olive, widow of John.  
Brown William, farmer 70.  
Burnham George H., clerk for Hall & Cochran.  
Burton James, farmer.  
Caldwell John, 300 sugar trees, farmer 70.  
CARPENTER ANDREW J., manuf., h and lot.  
Carpenter George W., foreman for T. B. Hall.  
Carpenter Hannah, widow of Eliphalet.  
Carter Allen H., 400 sugar trees, farmer 60.  
Carter Jozette, widow of Luther,  
Chamberlain Sophronia, widow of Franklin,  
Clark Albert S., coal burner, contractor  
Clark Arvilla, widow of Benjamin F.,  
Clark Austin, tanner, lives with his mother.  
Clark Benjamin F., harness and boot maker  
CLARK HORACE C., carriage maker  
Clark Lois, widow of William, farm 34.

## ELECTED OFFICERS

2010

President Richard Brooks  
Vice President Deane Page  
Secretary Josephine French  
Treasurer Joan Haskell

## APPOINTED POSITIONS

Web Site Editor Donald Smith  
Newsletter Editor J. Willard Benzie

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**1888 Groton Business Directory**

Clark Manly, postmaster, fancy goods, dealer in firearms, h and lot.  
CLARK WALLACE N., carpenter and builder, h Main  
Clough Alexander B., laborer, Main.  
Clough George W., pastor Baptist church, first h west of Baptist church.  
COFFRIN ALBERT W., jeweler and dealer in hats, groceries, watches, etc., Coffin's block.  
Coffrin Daniel, Jr., farmer 75, wood land 100.  
Coffrin Morris D. farmer, leases of Daniel W. 50.  
Cole A. laborer 1  
Corruth George, h and lot, farm 21.  
Corruth Gilmore, farmer 75.  
Corruth James R., farmer 16.  
Crown Calvin C., 400 sugar trees, farmer 90, wood land 50.  
Crown Frank, farmer with C. C.  
Crown Orrin M., farm laborer.  
Daily Albert L., farmer, leases of J. R. Darling 85  
Daniels Andrew, laborer.  
Daniels Nathaniel, laborer.  
DARLING DANIEL R., manuf. of lumber, h and lot.  
Darling Elmer E., resident with Jonathan R.  
Darling Isaac N. H., 260 sugar trees, farmer 70, wood land 150, other land 125.  
Darling John H., farmer 30.  
Darling John T., resident with Jonathan L.  
DARLING JONATHAN R., town clerk 700 sugar trees, 2,000 acres, 1,500 other land, farmer 100.  
Darling Robert N., resident with Jonathan R.  
Darling Samuel, 600 sugar trees, farm 100.  
Darling W. Brock, student at Montpelier.  
Davis Henry E., sawyer.  
Dean Silas, Baptist preacher.  
DENNIS HIRAM, sawyer, h and lot 7 acres, served in Co. F, 5th N. H. Vols.  
Donahue Jeremiah, farm laborer.  
Dow William, retired blacksmith, farmer 50.  
Downs Franklin P., painter and paper hanger.  
DUNN JOHN K., 600 sugar trees, 2 Jersey and 10 grade cows, farmer 285.  
EASTMAN SETH N., M. D., physician and surgeon, 2nd house west of Methodist church.  
Emery Elbridge, farmer 25.  
Emery Jeremiah, 700 sugar trees, farmer 100.  
Emery Simon, 300 sugar trees, farmer 50, soldier in 3d Vt. Regt.  
Emery Timothy, 1,000 sugar trees, farmer 70.  
Emery Timothy, Jr., h and lot, 200 acres wild land, soldier in 3d Vt. Regt.  
Evans Charles, laborer.  
Evans John H., farmer 50.  
Farnsworth Charles H. Rev., pastor M. E. church, lives in parsonage.  
Fifield Simeon D., 1,000 sugar trees, farmer 100.  
Foster Ansel, with Charles.  
Foster Charles, farmer 25.  
FRIZZELL CHARLES H., harness maker, h and lot, soldier in 5th N. H. Regt.  
Frost Aaron, 2,000 sugar trees, farmer 80.  
Frost Bradley M., cooper, farmer 40, soldier in Co. G. 104th Ill. Regt.  
Frost Elijah, farmer.  
Frost Isaiah, farmer 50.  
Gay William, (Groton Pond) employee of Baldwin & Hazen.  
GILMAN HEMAN L., prop. grist-mill,

Glover Fred W., carpenter, h and lot.  
GLOVER HENRY C., deputy sheriff, constable, justice of the peace, farmer, with his father, 80  
Glover Otis, 400 sugar trees, farmer, with Henry C., 80.  
Goodwin Abner, 500 sugar trees, farmer 110, wood land 60.  
Goodwin George W., farmer 85.  
Goodwin Samuel D., carpenter and joiner, farmer 175.  
Goodwin Thomas, shingle maker, farmer 50.  
GOODWIN WILLIAM E., carpenter, contractor and builder, millwright, owns farm 30.  
Greenleaf John, laborer.  
HALL ISAAC N. Hon., agent Vt. Mutual Life Insurance Co., 500 sugar trees, farmer 100.  
HALL THOMAS B. (Hall & Cochran) and (I. N. Hall & Son) prop. lumber- mill.  
HARVEY JOHN C., manuf. of bobbins.  
Hatch Abbie, widow of Joseph.  
Hatch Clark, farmer 5.  
HATCH GEORGE B., M. D., physician, saw-mill at Lanesboro, 900 acres wild land, farmer 5.  
Hatch John F., 1,000 sugar trees, lumberman and farmer 200.  
Hatch Oscar C., 500 sugar trees, farmer 100.  
Hayes William H., carpenter.  
Heath Albro, laborer  
Heath Augustus M., justice of the peace, surveyor, dealer in wood, lumber and bark, farmer 7.  
Heath Benjamin F., carpenter and farmer 20.  
Heath C. Frank, 10, farmer.  
Heath Frank P., laborer.  
Heath Hazen C., farm laborer.  
HEATH JAMES M., 5 grade Jersey cows, 1,000 sugar trees, farmer 225.  
Heath Josiah P., laborer.  
HEATH ROBERT T., 2,000 sugar trees, farmer 200.  
Heath Robert T. Jr., farmer, with Robert T.  
Hood Horace, farmer 10.  
Hood Levi, farmer 30.  
Hooper Isabell, widow of Jacob, 300 sugar trees, farmer 130.  
Hooper John, 1,000 sugar trees, farmer 200, wild land 160.  
Hooper Richard S., farm laborer.  
Hooper SAMUEL R., retired farmer, h and lot.  
HOOPER STEPHEN W., 100 acres wood land, with Richard S.  
Howard James A., laborer.  
HUTTON HENRY, 600 sugar trees, farmer 120.  
Keenan Edward F., resident with C. C. Renfrew.  
Keenan William, retired farmer.  
Kidder James, farmer, with T. J.  
Kidder Thomas J., farmer 100.  
King Samuel, log turner for A. H. Ricker.  
Kittridge Edwin, farm laborer.  
Kittridge Frank A., sawyer.  
Kittridge Lucina, widow of Zephaniah, h and lot.  
Knox George H., stationary engineer.  
Lafame Louis, (Groton Pond) emp. of Baldwin & Hazen.  
Larro Frederick, h Main.  
Lowell Ebenezer A., farmer 50.  
Lund Rufus C., resident.  
McCrea Neil, sawyer, 2,600 sugar trees, farmer 100.  
McLaughlin William J., Jr., 1,000 sugar trees, farmer 200, wild land 25, leases of William.  
Melville George, farmer 15.  
MERRITT CALEB, (Groton Pond) chief cook for Baldwin & Hazen. (Removed to St. Johnsbury.)  
Miller David, carpenter.

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(Continued from page 3)

**1888 Groton Business Directory**

Millis Wesley J., 300 sugar trees, farmer 55.  
Minard Fremont S., blacksmith, horse shoeing, etc., farmer 17.  
Minard Selden H., retired blacksmith, with his son Fremont S.  
Morison Abraham, 250 sugar trees, farmer 75.  
MORRISON AUSTIN N., (J. W. & A. N.) 250 sugar trees, farmer 70  
Morrison Benjamin F., 400 sugar trees, farmer 120  
Morrison Francis, preacher.  
MORRISON JACKSON W., (J. W. & A. N.) 250 sugar trees, farmer 70  
Morrison Orrin, farmer 90.  
Morrison Sarah, widow of Timothy, 650 sugar trees, farmer 50.  
MORRISON SILAS B., blacksmith, served in Co. D, 15th Vt. Vols.  
Morrison Timothy, 400 sugar trees, farmer 100.  
Morrison William, stone mason, h and 5 acres.  
Olney George, harnessmaker, h and lot.  
ORR CHESTER, farmer 50, soldier 1st Vt. Cavalry.  
Orr James, retired farmer 130.  
Orr John, 300 sugar trees, farmer, leases of William McLaughlin 137.  
Orr Robert H., 300 sugar trees, 9 cows, farmer 200, with William S. 80.  
Orr Ruth B., widow of William, h and lot.  
Orr William S., 8 grade Jersey cows, farmer, leases of James Orr 130, and with R. H. 80.  
Orr Washington, carpenter.  
PAGE ALBERT, 500 sugar trees, farmer 100.  
Page Alexander, farmer 160.  
PAGE BENJAMIN, 700 sugar trees, farmer 100.  
PAGE FRANK M., attorney at law, lister, tax collector, farmer 7, Main, h do.  
PAGE FRANK W., mechanic and farmer 10.  
PAGE GEORGE G., farmer 10, soldier in 3d Vt. Regt.  
Page Leverett H., prop. Lake House, woodland 125, served in Co. C, 3d Vt. Vols.  
PAGE MOSES, Jr., shingle maker, 2,000 sugar trees, farmer 150, soldier in 3d Vt. Vols.  
Page Samuel E., laborer.  
Page Stephen, laborer.  
Parker Fred E., farmer 34.  
Parks Robert, employee of A. S. Clark.  
Pierce Charles N., farm laborer, h and lot.  
Pillsbury George H., resident, Coffrin's Block.  
PLUMMER EBENEZER, farmer 42.  
PLUMMER MOSES, 7 grade Jersey cows, 500 sugar trees, farmer 100, district clerk  
PLUMMER ROBERT S., butcher, dealer in Cumberland phosphate, farmer 170.  
PLUMMER SAMUEL, 12 grade Jersey cows, 12 other cattle, 1,800 sugar trees, farmer 270.  
Plummer William, farmer 35.  
Poraber Sevar, (Groton Pond) employee Baldwin & Hazen.  
Powers Nathan P., h and lot, pasture land 24.  
Provost John Baptist, woodchopper, h and 2 acres.  
RAND GEORGE P., runs circular saw-mill for I. M. Ricker.  
RANDALL JONATHAN W., carpenter, 250 sugar trees, farmer 130, with Sidney G.  
Randall Mary J., r 39, widow of Samuel, lives with Bradley Frost.  
Randall Sidney G., farmer with Jonathan W., 130.  
Remington Oliver H., farmer.  
Renfrew Archibald P., lister, retired merchant, farmer 5, and with Samuel P. Welch, 250.  
Renfrew Carlyle C., farmer 100, in Topsham 30.  
RICKER AMAZIAH H., manuf. of lumber of all kinds, farmer 100, wild land 900.  
Ricker Benjamin M., dealer in lumber and bark, 500 sugar trees, farmer 150, wild land 850.

RICKER CHARLES A., lumber dealer, 200 acres wild land, h and lot.  
Ricker Edwin D., foreman for A. H.  
Ricker Fred D., blacksmith.  
RICKER GEORGE, 700 sugar trees, farmer 125, other land 180.  
Ricker Horace C., blacksmith and machinist with J. D.  
RICKER ISAAC M., lumber manuf., farmer 15, 1,000 acres of wild land.  
Ricker Joseph, Jr., 800 sugar trees, farmer 100, wild land 140.  
Ricker Josiah D., blacksmith, and machinist, h and 3 acres, served in Co. D, 15th Vt. Vols.  
Ricker Orson, 1,000 sugar trees, farmer 300, other land 300.  
Rindeau George, laborer.  
Rindeau Lyman, tanner.  
Roberts John, retired farmer, aged 83 years, oldest man in town, h and lot.  
Roberts Lucy, widow of Daniel, farm 27.  
Rugg Elbridge B., laborer.  
Sanborn Currier, retired farmer.  
Scott George, harnessmaker for B. F. Clark, h Main.  
SMITH FRANK P., shoemaker, h and lot.  
Sployd Cornelius, farm laborer, h and lot.  
Stowell Lavina S., widow of Leander.  
Tabor Hiram, farm 80.  
TAISEY WILLIAM, 1,000 sugar trees, 150 apple trees, 12 cows, farmer 200.  
Thurston Ora, mechanic, h and lot.  
Thurston Peter, resident.  
Thurston Stephen, laborer.  
Vance David H., farmer 110.  
Vance George H., 1,000 sugar trees, farmer 300.  
Vance Joseph E., section hand M. & W. R. R. R.  
Vance Morris C., 14 Jersey cows, 3,000 sugar trees, farmer 198, served in 3d Vt. Regt., Co. C.  
WELCH AARON, prop. of Railroad House, Main.  
Welch Alexander G., foreman for Hugh Gibson in tannery, h Main.  
Welch Alvin, farmer 15.  
Welch Ara, farm with John M. 50.  
Welch Carlos, manuf. of lumber with Joseph T., 1,000 sugar trees, farmer 130, wild land 120.  
Welch Cyrus H., farm laborer, h and lot.  
Welch Elbridge M., owns h and store.  
WELCH HOSEA, 1,300 sugar trees, 8 cows, farmer 123, and with Warren and Loran 310, h and lot.  
Welch Hosea, 2d, restaurant, 1,000 sugar trees, farm 30.  
Welch James A., 1,000 sugar trees, 11 grade Jersey and Devon cows, farm 196.  
Welch James M., farmer 50, wild land 100.  
Welch John H., breeder of Morgan horses, 1,500 sugar trees, farmer 210.  
WELCH JOHN M., 6 grade Jersey cows, 800 sugar trees, farmer 50, and with his father, Ara, 50.  
Welch Joseph T., manuf. of lumber with Carlos, farmer 100.  
Welch Lebbeus, 1,000 sugar trees, farmer 100.  
Welch Leverett H., sawyer, h and lot.  
Welch Loran G., (H. Welch & Sons) carpenter, blacksmith, and sawyer.  
Welch Martha, widow of Jonathan, 2,000 sugar trees, farm 125.  
Welch William Merrill, 400 sugar trees, farmer 60.  
Welch Peter, 1,200 sugar trees, farmer 20, other lands 140, with Carlos 50.  
WELCH SAMUEL P., selectman, general merchant, woodland 150 acres, with A. P. Renfrew 250.  
Welch Stephen, farmer 80.  
Welch Timothy, 400 sugar trees, farmer 100.  
WELCH WARREN M., (H. Welch & Sons) saw-mill, 50 acres wild land with Loran G.  
Welch William M., Jr., 800 sugar trees, farmer 60

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# **WORLD WAR II STORIES—PART TWO**

## **Gene Dennis' Memoirs of the 43rd Division**

*By Dale Brown*

It was early in the morning of March 14, 1941; one of the coldest I can remember. The convoy of Company M left Montpelier, headed for Camp Blanding Florida. The trucks were mostly Chevrolet or Dodge with one and a half ton capacity and no creature comforts. Seated in the back end of a vehicle with the temperature way below zero, no heater and only a canvas between you and the outside elements, it was deathly cold. Feet were frozen and frost bite was frequent. Some trying to feel more comfortable took off their shoes and wrapped their feet in anything that could be found for warmth. To make matters worse, three trucks broke down and had to be towed to an armory in Trenton, NJ before repairs could be made. The breakdown slowed the convoy speed to 30 mph, making a long day. As I recall, we had to use wrapping paper for gaskets in reassembling the rear end axles.

We were in a warmer climate now and other than a few flat tires, I believe the rest of the trip to Camp Blanding was uneventful. At Blanding the men were dispatched to different training centers. Tom Eastman and I were shipped to Fort McPherson in Georgia for instruction at the Quartermaster Transport Center. After several months of training we returned to Camp Blanding.

Sports and Calisthenics were part of the ritual at Camp and I was playing Volley Ball when I heard the news of Pearl Harbor. A running 90 day wonder, that delivered the message, had his canvas leg puttees reversed and fell down the steps as the lacing hooks caught on each other and his legs locked.

From Blanding the 172nd was moved to Camp Shellby in Mississippi. My brother Bob was there but I never saw him. From there we were dispersed on maneuvers to Louisiana, North and South Carolina. At the time, Camp Shellby was the proving ground for the Jeep. Competitors were the American Bantam, Willys Knight and Overland. After standard specifications were established, all the companies built this famous vehicle.

Before being shipped out, the 172nd was stationed at Fort Ord

near San Francisco. While there I decided that a 38 revolver might come in handy if we were attacked in fox holes. Ammunition was no problem because the Navy was issued this weapon and shells were available by the bushel.

We had boarded the Calvin Coolidge, possibly two weeks before and this morning I was drinking tea in the tea room on the after deck when a double thump jarred the boat. We were near the shore and expected the orders to disembark at any time. My equipment had been packed the night before and stacked on the bunk with the BAR that morning. With all the shouting and the yelling of orders that the boat was going down by the stern, I jumped from about 20 feet into the water and swam for shore. I encountered an oil slick from smashed fuel tanks, located in the bow, and became covered with sludge that was almost impossible to remove after reaching the beach. The fact that we had been taught to swim with a 70 pound full pack in training may have helped this situation.

Ken Eastman was more fortunate. After studying the situation, he waited until the last moment, climbed down a rope net onto a life boat, just prior to the stern departing for the deep. He made it to shore without getting wet.

All supplies for the 172nd went down with the ship and fortunately the Island was not occupied by the enemy. It took several months before the outfit was resupplied and ready for transfer to Guadalcanal. Parts and supplies came crated. I recall General Motors vehicles came in three sections and sometimes with parts missing. A shipment of trailers had no wheels and other articles were ruined by corrosion from salt water.

Keeping clothes and uniforms clean, when possible, became a chore that Buster Smith detested. He would borrow anyone's belongings to delay having to do his own laundry. He really chewed out Mutt Taisey because he wasn't large enough to accommodate his needs.

Things that happened after landing at Espirito Santos are probably not in sequence. The fun or unusual things that happened are easy to remember but the island where they occurred could be hazy for thirteen beachheads were taken between Santos and the Philippines.

*(Continued on page 10)*

## SOME EARLY GROTON SCENES

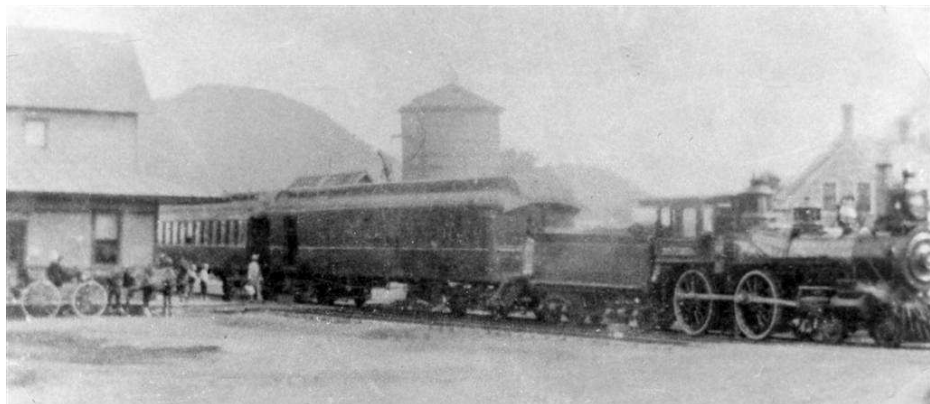


Cutting ice on Groton Pond.



The granite business was booming in 1890





The Montpelier and Wells River Railroad station in Groton village.



Waiting for the train at Rocky Point Station on Groton Pond.

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The periods when you were under fire was something one did not want to remember or talk about. They were shooting at us and we had to retaliate. For protection, digging fox holes was not easy. There was usually some sand on top but beneath was coral. With a rod one would try to punch a hole in the rock and with a pick try to break parts loose. But the G. I. (Government Issue) pick and shovel was almost useless. Even after the fox hole had been dug, the porosity of the coral would let water fill the hole. On one occasion, in the mad rush to get some breast works in front of me, my handle was shot off the shovel. Watches would be synchronized to hit the beach at 5:30 am and in veritably they would be waiting for us. You think of them as little people, but they can look VERY BIG.

There were times when liquor was not available and the thirst just had to be quenched. I did not care for the stuff, but it was a project that needed help. So with ingenuity, anything that might ferment and it was anything; was collected. A large tank; concealed in camp because the making of hooch was not allowed; served as the brewery. All went well until an unexpected camp inspection was called. At this time the mash was really cooking, making loud wheezing, bubbling noises. There was no hope of saving this project because the operation could be heard. The day was saved, however, when the inspection team arrived and Ken went into a coughing jag that wouldn't quit, and the gurgling went unnoticed.

The end results were superb. Buster passed out on the floor, possibly wishing he were dead and Tom tried to climb into his Jeep when it was still 15 feet away. All of the drinking utensils that were made of aluminum, if it was corroded or stained with coffee and food, shown like a mirror after contact had been made with the "hair-of-the-dog". Some thought that if the recipe could have been duplicated, it could be sold in the States as a good stain remover and make them rich.

At Espirito Santos an estate existed at one time near Surrender Bay. During evacuation, the owner had abandoned a good sized wooden boat and the troops made good use of it. From the boat you could row out and see this edible seafood down by the coral, but they wouldn't take the bait. The problem was solved when a TNT

explosive was lowered on a fish pole and line into the school of un-touchables and a wire led to the detonator in the boat. The explosion took care of the fish but the pressure also caved in the wooden sides of the boat ending this joy of adventure.

There was always time for pranks, like short sheeting the cots or wiring the latrines for a bout of electric shocks. Tom had worked for Green Mountain Power and was proficient in the wonders of electricity.

On Guadalcanal, the Marines built the first camp and it had been taken over by the 112th cavalry. The 172nd was in turn brought in to relieve these units. With more troops, fresh water was in short supply. However, with the coral, wells could be dug in this rock formation that filtered out the salt in the sea water to make it acceptable for human use. Since digging in coral was almost impossible, the idea of using TNT seemed like a great idea. It worked, practically shaking the whole island. The well looked more like a crater and the clean-up damage may have been more work than the pick and shovel of digging.

With so many troops in Guadalcanal, latrines and straddle trenches became something one tried to avoid. Tom and I, seeing the need, vowed to bypass this area and build our own outhouse. Today it would be considered a little elaborate and expensive because the material available for this project was rosewood and teak.

At Guadalcanal, for a time, a ritual occurred every night between 7:30 and 8 with the arrival of "Washing Machine Charlie". He was named this because his plane sounded like the old Maytag washing machine engine. High in the dark sky he would make his run and drop one bomb that caused no casualties. One time, however, a lucky drop hit the garbage dump creating a fog that was almost impossible to live with. This along with fermenting coconuts made skunk seem like perfume. One night during his routine run, Charlie met his maker when search lights finally spotted the plane and provided the target for gunnery practice.

I was one of the group ordered to go with a landing craft cargo ship to Bouganville. More supplies were expected on that island with no place to store them. The mission of the convoy was to

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take supplies from the island to Rabaul making room available at Bouganville. The trip to the island in the craft with the three cylinder power plant was uneventful. But the return to Rabaul became a nightmare. Eight Japanese Zeros spotted the transport and surfing (coming in at wave level) started strafing the convoy. They came in so close, that I could see the face of one with the broad grin. With luck, using the BAR, he was sent to the briny deep. Incidentally none returned home.

Buster needed a Jeep and he craftily disposed of it for future use. Shortly afterward orders to ship out were received and there would be no leave until all equipment was accounted for. They were one Jeep short and no one knew a thing about it. After a while I told the Captain that if given three or four hours I could possibly find that missing piece of equipment. With that a hurried trip to the transport grave yard enough spare parts were found to drive a missing Jeep to the supply depot. Jeeps took a terrific beating in combat, especially in retreat when full throttle was necessary and impossible terrain was encountered. There was a lot of rear end and burned out clutch problems and tipping them over on their sides was the easiest way to make the repair. There was a complex of 260 vehicles in the 172nd to service and maintain.

When not in maintenance, we were in the front lines. At one time we were there for eighty days. One would most always get two meals a day, one of K or C rations and the other a hot meal. I recall the wonderful taste of split pea soup with chunks of ham in it. Following this engagement, we were scheduled for R and R.

It was a two thousand mile trip from Guadalcanal to Auckland New Zealand for rest and relaxation and what a friendly place. It was here at the USO where Ken found Molly and she became his wife after the war. We were there almost two months before returning to the war zone. Though I didn't care much for spirits, the barracks always had a case of real dark beer in quarts, setting on the floor and when that disappeared, another full case was in its place. Their USO's over extended themselves for I never saw so much concern for the U. S. troops. While there, I decided that some dentistry was in order and found a tooth medic. The tooth proved to be hooked around the jaw

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bone and I had visions of doom. The medic must have known his business for I can't recall the pain.

The Motor pool had a Captain from Springfield. He was new to command and never exposed to the effects of battle. When the outfit came under fire, the scared leader, shaking, and ready to up his cookies, told Ken he had to take over. Later, however, I had more faith and confidence in this officer than any I had encountered during the years of combat.

At the time of my discharge I was Tech. Sergeant. As for decorations, during the war effort, all my purple hearts were given to kids to play with and are long gone. To me they did not have much significance when one saw men purposely cause minor injury to earn the medal.

For souvenirs I have kept pieces of shrapnel removed from vital areas. The silver certificate dollar is still in my possession, that was carried whenever we were engaged in taking a beach head. A copy of National Geographic, related to the sinking of the Calvin Coolidge and several newspaper clippings associated with the 172nd, have been filed away in a folder. Ida still has letters sent to her while I was in the service. And I also have two Japanese flags, taken from two enemy soldiers who had no further use for them. One was not desecrated but the other I used for autographs and memoirs of those who had helped each other during that trying period.

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*(Continued from page 5)* **1888 Groton Business Directory**

WELD MARTIN, justice of the peace, 500 sugar trees, farm 100, h and lot.

WHITCHER NELSON, 400 sugar trees, farm 50, wild land 250.

Whitehill Albert P., 300 sugar trees, farm 132.

Whitehill Dolly, h and lot.

Whitehill James, farmer with his son, Newton 110

Whitehill James, 300 sugar trees, farmer 100.

Whitehill Moses H., jobber in lumber, h and lot.

Whitehill Newton, with his father, James, farmer 110.

Whitehill William A., 800 sugar trees, farmer 200.

WILSON ISAAC, 800 sugar trees, farmer 140.

Worcester Fred, section hand M. & W. R. R. R.

WORMWOOD DANIEL, 250 sugar trees, farmer 100.

Wormwood Thomas, retired farmer, h and lot, aged 81.

Worthington Martha J., widow of Rev. Watson A.

Wrinkle Betsey, widow of Rev. Thomas, h and lot.

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## GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

**All Class Reunion of Groton Students** will be June 26, 2010 at Blue Mountain Union School in Wells River; check-in starts at 11:15 AM and a Luncheon of cold meat and cheese platter, three salads, pickles/olives, homemade P&H rolls/butter, carrot cake, coffee, tea, punch, and cold water will be served at noon for \$15. Please register with Ann M. Winter, 29 LePage Road, Barre, VT 05641-9066 before June 14, 2010. Send your name & class year, spouse's name & class year, address, and e-mail address along with your check for the luncheon. Blue Mountain Union School will be available until 5 PM for visiting with others. Special tables will be set up honoring those in classes of 1940, 1950, and 1960.

The Vermont Division of Forestry celebrated 100 years in 2009. The first sawmill in the state was built at Westminster in 1738 and the first one in Groton was built in 1790 by Edmund Morse at the present Ricker's Pond. Forests were cleared at a rapid pace making room for settlers until the mid to late 1800's, but they have been returning for the last century and a half and today they cover 75% of Vermont and even more of Groton. The forest industry is important in VT providing more than 6,000 jobs and almost \$1 billion in economic activity.

Groton Town Meeting was held March second at the Community Building. You can read the Town Report on [grotonvt.com](http://grotonvt.com) web site. The Historical Society report is on page 52. The Groton Town History "Mr. Glover's Groton" is being digitized by Dick Kreis for posting on the Historical Society web site (accessed from the town web site).

The Vermont Historical Society has posted a film on their web site about a 1947 VT town meeting that was produced by the U. S. Army to promote democracy in post-war occupied countries. You can view the film by going to [vermonthistory.org](http://vermonthistory.org) and click on library then on moving images collections in the drop down menu. The name of the film is "A town solves a problem".

The newsletter can be read on the GHS web site. Several members have requested the newsletter by e-mail saving the Society printing and mailing costs. If you would like to get your newsletter by e-mail send an e-mail to [jwbenzie@mchsi.com](mailto:jwbenzie@mchsi.com) with your request.

This year is a census year. Everyone should complete their census forms to provide as accurate a record as possible. Your descendants will be able to find you in the census records after 2082 when the records will be made available to the public. Imagine their disappointment if they are unable to locate where you lived in 2010 and other information about you—their favorite ancestor.

Do you just belong?

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?

**Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?**

Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the crowd?

**Or do you stay at home and crab both long and loud?**

Do you take an active part to help the organization along?

**Or are you satisfied to be the kind to “just belong?”**

Do you ever go to visit a member that is sick?

**Or leave projects for just a few and talk about the clique?**

## IN MEMORIAM

With Sincere Sympathy to the family and friends of member

**George Richard “Dick” Kreis 1935—2010**

Groton Historical Society Newsletter  
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