
GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Volume 27 Issue 2

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Spring 2014

MAY DAY for Historical Societies



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“MAY DAY” is the international distress call when a disaster occurs. The Vermont Historical Society is urging all local Historical Societies to review their disaster plans during the month of May. Disasters that may threaten GHS collections of historical memorabilia and records, include both natural and manmade disasters, such as fires, floods, cold, heat, moisture, sun, windstorms, and vandalism.

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Every year Heritage Preservation encourages libraries, museums, archives, historical societies, and preservation organizations to set aside May 1 to participate in MAY DAY. This year, make sure your institution is prepared!

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The Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) is partnering with the Vermont Historical Records Advisory Board to present a series of workshops and follow-up consultations around the state to help prepare for emergencies. NEDCC will present five one-day Vermont Prepares workshops designed to help participants create an emergency plan for their institution, give them the tools to develop an effective plan, and implement the plan efficiently when needed. Heritage Preservation is collecting examples of the simple preparedness steps that cultural organizations are undertaking this spring. It's easy to take part in MAYDAY. Last year's participants held fire safety sessions, inventoried emergency supply kits, and created and updated disaster plans. Any cultural institution submitting a brief description of its 2014 MAYDAY plans or accomplishments by May 31, 2014, will be entered in a drawing for disaster supplies donated by Gaylord Brothers.

From April 1 through May 31, Heritage Preservation will offer its award-winning Field Guide to Emergency Response and Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel at special MAYDAY prices. And their ERS: Emergency Response and Salvage app remains free of charge for Apple, Android, and BlackBerry devices.

In addition, David Carmicheal will host a free, hour-long webinar, The Supercharged Management System: Applying the Incident Command System in Cultural Repositories, on the Connecting to Collections Online Community on Thursday, April 17 at 1:00 pm. (Eastern). He will also offer his book, Implementing the Incident Command System at the Institutional Level, at discounted rates in honor of MAYDAY. Be sure to check out Heritage Preservation's Facebook page for weekly disaster preparedness tips throughout the month of May.

For Vermont Historical Societies, if you do experience water

damage to your collections during this spring thaw, please contact Vermont Historical Society Curator Jackie Calder at jackie.calder@state.vt.us or (802) 479-8514.

The American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) has a 24-hour disaster response line: (202) 661-8068. There are three AIC-CERT (Conservation Emergency Response Team) members here in Vermont ready to assist you!

Remaining Workshop Locations and Dates

May 8 - Vermont History Center, Barre

May 16 - Town Hall, Shelburne

June 30 - Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury

Registration is \$25 per person -- Registration is open:

<http://www.nedcc.org/preservation-training/vermont-program>

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 seven excerpts about his experiences in the Civil War were in previous newsletters and covered his enlistment at St. Johnsbury, basic training at Montpelier, deployment to Washington, D. C., involvement in the battle at Lee's Mills, their advance on Richmond, time as a POW, parole back to the Union Army, reuniting with his old company, death of his closest friend, the infamous "Mud March" attempting to capture the rebel capital of Richmond, and the battle with Stonewall Jackson.

In this action, my bayonet was struck by a ball, and was bent so it was useless. My canteen strap was cut by a ball, and a ball went through my knapsack and ruined the only extra shirt and socks that I had. As Hooker was in full retreat, our officers thought the best thing they could do was to put the river between us and the enemy, so the prisoners were hurried across. Captain L. M. Tubbs of the 6th Vermont Volunteers took charge of all the prisoners and hurried them towards the rear. He did this without proper authority, and had to resign and leave the army. He was not popular and his enemies used this excuse to get rid of him. Captain Luther Ainsworth was killed in the engagement, and there were men who claimed they saw Captain Tubbs shoot him in the back. I never believed this, although they were mad at each other about a poker game. Anyway we never saw Captain Tubbs again.

As soon as possible the artillery and trains crossed the river and the men crossed soon after. It took all night to get them all over. It was in this affair that Stonewall Jackson lost his life. It was said that his own men shot him while he was looking for a road for his men to march on so he could destroy our bridge. Anyway,

he was killed by pickets that fired at everything that moved in the dark. I was on the picket line that night, and fired many times into the darkness at what I thought might be men creeping up to attack us. We kept a vigilant picket line all night, as we contacted the line towards the bridge. Once in the night the rebels fired a shell that broke our pontoon bridge in two when it was covered with men, some of which had a very hard time getting out. The bridge was repaired shortly, however, and with vigorous fighting by our tail guards, we got safely across. It was just daybreak as I crossed the bridge, as I was one of the last ones across, being on one of the flanks. We lost much baggage, most of our artillery, and all of our wounded. We heard of the accident to Stonewall Jackson before we crossed the river, from an escaped prisoner. I am ashamed now, but at that time we all hoped that he would die as he was too keen a general to have working against you.

We were all very tired that night, and fell asleep every time we sat down, but we always heard the officers orders to fall back and kept our places in line. The night birds, such as the nightingale and the whippoorwill, sang their doleful songs over our heads in the trees, which made us very sad and homesick. As we marched away from the river bank, our bands played "Carry Me Back to Ole' Virginia." As soon as we were out of danger, we laid down and slept, too tired to think of eating. Those of us who escaped felt very lucky to be alive, as we left many of our comrades dead on the other side of the river.

After the above described campaign, the whole army marched back to a camp near Falmouth, Virginia, and encamped in a pine grove where the sod was sandy and the water pure. Here we rested as much as six weeks. Duty was light and we had a good time. We were not required to drill or do anything but recuperate. Here we built a bakery and made bread that tasted very good to us, at least it was better than the hardtack we were used to. The stones used to build the oven were grave stones from a nearby cemetery. The bread was baked in big squares and cut up so every man had a piece every day. At this time we were paid off and as there was no other way to spend money, we played poker and some of the boys

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became very wealthy. I never had much luck at the game, so I didn't play as much as some of the others.

We had a new recruit in my company by the name of Nelson A. Gohasky. He was about 40 years old and we young chaps called him old Hasky, and picked on him and played all kinds of mean jokes on him that we could think of just for fun and sport. Some of the tricks were putting cartridges in his fire when he was cooking, at times, spit in his meat when he was frying it. Then again, we put tobacco cuds in his coffee. He was a big, good natured man and he did not deserve any such treatment, and I am ashamed now to think that I did not know any better, but I was not alone in the matter. There was another boy of about my age by the name of John McCloud, just as keen for mischief as I was, so things went along until one morning, as I opened his tent and began making fun of him, when he jumped up and grabbed a club and hit me on the head, hard enough to scrape the hair off one side of my head, knock me down and make me unconscious for a short time. The same day he got hold of John McCloud and gave him a terrible beating. No one blamed him, but we were very mad and decided we would get even. So we waited until he was separated from the rest, as he had to go way off from the others to cook his meals, as others in the company bothered him too, and then approached him with clubs in our hands and told him what we were going to do. He tried to argue the case with us, but we were pretty mad and his arguments did him no good. Then he suddenly screamed at the top of his voice, "Murder!" some of the other soldiers from another part of the army were swimming close by and they came as fast as they could, all naked, so we decided the best thing we could do was to beat a very hasty retreat, which we did. I have been glad many times since that things turned out the way they did, as we were very young and foolish, and we might have done him serious harm.

Nothing of much interest happened at this camp except that having been in such dangerous places, many of the boys had lost their muskets and decided to make up the deficiency by stealing from each other. We found several of our muskets in Company G, and made them give them up. This led to strained feelings and at one time, it

looked like there might be trouble between my company and Company G, but it soon passed off and all was serene again.

About the last week of June, 1863, this camp was broken up, as General Lee was making preparations to invade the North and was then moving his men in that direction. To divert his attention, we were again ordered to cross the river and take Fredericksburg, so we made the crossing same as before, on pontoon bridges. They did not make as much resistance as they did in May, and our men poured across in great numbers, and we had some sharp skirmishing, but no general battle. It was soon seen this was not going to divert Lee from invading the North, so the movement was abandoned and we were started the next day for the North to head off the movement, which was not stopped until the battle of Gettysburg. The weather on this march was very hot and we had to march 20 or 25 miles a day. After a few days of this, all of us were footsore and very tired and longed for the time to come when the war would be over and we could go home, but it seemed that this would never come. Our march was toward Washington, D. C. as it was expected that was the focal point of the invasion. It was very hard work, the weather was very hot, the roads dusty, and we had little or no rest, so great was the hurry to remove Washington from danger. We were not allowed to rest more than 30 minutes at a time, night or day.

A little incident happened on this march that I think is worth relating. As we sat on the road resting, one day, a large company of staff officers, bummers and paymasters rode by, having a good time drinking whiskey and laughing and joking. They stopped in a field near us and dismounted to get a drink of water from the spring to go with their whiskey. They were not watching very closely and I stole up behind them and stole a fat haversack and stepped back into my place in the ranks, and kept still, to see what would happen. Soon they were about to mount and start, and the officer that owned it (the haversack) noticed it was gone. He fairly tore up the ground looking for it, and swore he would kill the damned son-of-a-bitch who stole it, but he never found who stole it. The haversack was quite a prize, as it contained two quarts of good whiskey, towels, soap, spoons, knives, forks, a toothbrush, and a pack of cards. I never saw

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SPRINGTIME IS SUGARING TIME ?



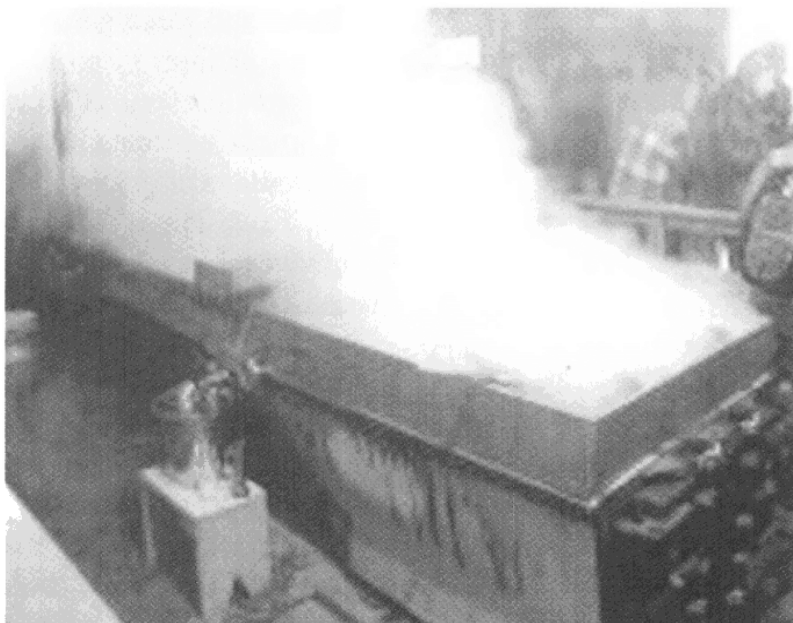
Frost Sugar House—Photo by Barb Frost



Testing for sweetness?—Photo by Bud Smith



Gathering sap at Burns Page sugar bush—Photo by Bud Smith



Boiling down the sap to Maple syrup and sugar

(Continued from page 7) **CIVIL WAR**

the man again who owned the property, so no trouble ever came of it. The march continued, however, and we caught up with the 3rd Vermont Brigade, many of whom we knew, and we had a very nice visit with them for a very short while at a place called Wolf Run Shoals. We camped near them a few hours. This was the only time we saw them while in the army. Another little incident of this movement is worth relating here.

As we crossed the river south of the city of Fredericksburg, we had a very sharp skirmish with the enemy who were left to defend the place. We had no protection from their fire, which was very annoying. Many of our men were killed as we fell flat on our bellies and began to entrench by throwing up the breastworks of sand and gravel. To do this we used our canteens and we soon had a bank of gravel between us and the rebels. Many of our boys were killed during this, however, and among them was a very good friend of mine, W. O. Potter, who got a ball through his head, killing him instantly. We never spoke and we left him in the little hole he had dug in the sand. He belonged to Company K and was as nice a young man as I ever knew and not more than twenty years old.

Soon after this came the order to retreat, as we could not hold our position against their ever increasing numbers, so we got up and ran to the rear as fast as we could run over open plain. I never ran any faster in my life, and the rebels were firing at us as fast as they could, and a number of boys fell on this retreat. One of them in Company G was William Meader, who got a ball in the shoulder as he ran, but he did not stop and got away all right. I never saw him again, but I heard he got well from his wound and was discharged as a result, later. About half-way across the field was a house that had been burned, but the chimney was still standing. We dodged behind this and it was a safe place to be in, and we stayed there for as much as twenty minutes, and fired back at the rebels who we could see plainly, coming after us. One of us fired from one side and the other from the other side. It was good protection and we stayed there until the rebels were within a few rods of us. Then we ran and joined the company who were still falling back. *****

FAMILIES IN 1830 GROTON CENSUS

When did your ancestor's family names first appear in the U. S. Census of Groton, Vermont? Earlier newsletters have reviewed the family names that first appeared in the 1790 to 1820 census records and they are summarized below. The family names in the 1830 census that have not appeared in earlier censuses are reviewed in this newsletter. (*) indicates families that are not yet in the GHS family records.

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, Hogin*, Jenkins, Littlefield*, Low, Mallory*, 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, and Vennor.

Thomas Bellamy is listed in the 1830 census of Groton with three in the family: one male under the age of 5 and one male and one female 20-30 years of age, assumed to be Thomas and his wife. No other information about this family is available in the GHS family records.

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Polly Brown, age 20-30, with a boy and a girl under the age of 5 years, believed to be Mary “Polly” Goodwin, age 30, wife of Samuel Brown, and her twins, Phebe and Almond age one. Her husband may have died or was not living with them in the 1830 Groton census.

Moses Burnham came to Groton in 1825 with his wife, Virtue Spencer Hall; two children, George and Thomas; his mother, Lydia Bradley Burnham; and his nephew and apprentice, Isaac Newton Hall. They built the meeting house for the Methodist Society in 1836.

Samuel Gilmore Clark married Phoebe Darling, daughter of Robards and Judith Gile Darling, and she died in 1827, so the female age 20-30 in the census was probably Martha Rhodes, age 25, who became his second wife. **Orange S. Clark** came to Groton from Swanton, VT about 1810 according to Waldo Glover’s notes, and married Betsey Frost in 1813 at Groton. He first lived where David Whitehill later lived and then purchased the Stanley Place on Minard hill. The two Clark families have not been connected in GHS family records.

Parker Dodge was born in Massachusetts in 1774, he married Mehitable Ricker, daughter of Joshua and Betsey (Drew) Ricker in 1805 at Newbury, VT. They are listed in the Groton 1830 census with a family of 7; one male 10-15, one 15-20, and one 50-60, one female 10-15, one 15-20, one 20-30, and one 50-60 years of age. The family moved to Ohio, no additional information about them is in the GHS family records.

Erastus Green married Laura Butterfield in 1827 at Topsham. They had two girls, Matilda born about 1828 and Laura born abt 1829 and died in 1839 in Topsham, VT. The family is in the Topsham, VT censuses 1840-1880.

Isaac Newton Hall came to Groton in 1825 as apprentice to his Uncle Moses Burnham. He married Elizabeth Taisey, daughter of William and Judith (Darling) Taisey in 1829 at Groton. Waldo Glover states he was a man of the highest integrity and for more than 60 years was identified with every movement tending to enhance the spiritual as

well as the material welfare of Groton. He died in 1893 while visiting the Columbia Exposition in Chicago.

Hezekiah Kimball was born 28 Jan 1798 in Hopkinton, NH and the family moved to Peacham. He married Abigail Elkins from Bath, NH and the family of 6 are listed in the 1830 Groton census. The family moved to New Hampshire and later to Wisconsin, where Hezekiah is listed in the 1870 census of Janesville with his second wife, Lurancy Eastman and his son Ralph.

Squire Lathrup is listed in the 1830 Groton census with a male and female 20-30 years old and two girls under 5 years. No other information is available about the family.

Henry Lewis is listed in the 1830 Groton census with 12 people in the family: seven males and five females. No other information is available about this family.

Samuel Randall and a female ages 60-70 with another female age 30-40 are listed in the 1830 Groton census. A Samuel Randall born in 1810 at Newbury, VT married Mary Jane Chase and he died in 1870. They are both buried in West Groton cemetery.

John Rodger and a female ages 30-40 with two girls under 5 and a boy and girl 10-15 years of age are in the 1830 census.

David Silver age 42 and his wife, Betsey Peterson age 39 with six boys, and three girls are listed in the 1830 census. She died in 1861 and he died in 1875, they are both buried in the village cemetery.

Annual Nuell Vennor born in 1802 married Lucinda Darling in 1828, daughter of Robards and Judith (Gile) Darling. She died in 1846 and he died in 1880, both are buried in the village cemetery.

GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

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

The Groton High School all-class reunion last year sparked some new interest in the Historical Society resulting in several new members. As of April 15th, membership stands at 20 life members, 25 more in good standing (paid-up through 2014), and 39 who are delinquent in their dues: 23 (2013) and 16 (2012). Delinquent members are dropped from the mailing list after two years, so those who last paid their dues for 2012 will be removed this year, unless dues are paid. The last year of paid up dues recorded by GHS is shown on the mailing label. For those getting the Newsletter by e-mail, you will be notified if you are delinquent with your dues. Please let GHS know if there is an error in our records.

In remembrance of the Civil War's commencement in April 1861, Fold3.com invites everyone to explore all records in its Civil War Collection for free April 14–30. Explore Civil War documents featuring everything from military records to personal accounts and historic writings. Soldier records include service records, pension index cards, “Widows’ Pension” files, Navy survivors certificates, Army registers, and much more. Other record types include photographs, original war maps, court investigations, slave records, and beyond. Items such as the Lincoln Assassination Papers, Sultana Disaster documents, letters to the Adjutant General and Commission Branch, and the 1860 census are also contained in the Civil War Collection. Confederate-specific records include Confederate service records, amnesty papers, casualty reports, and citizens files, as well as Confederate Navy subject files and Southern Claims Commission documents. Discover information on famous participants as well as your own Civil War ancestors through documents, photos, and images that capture the experiences and vital information of those involved in America’s deadliest conflict.

The New England Historic Genealogic Society now has indexed the Vermont vital records containing pre-1871 birth records filed at the state level. These records are currently held by the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration. Names of parents have also been indexed, when available. The records held in this collection refer to the statewide index of vital records maintained by the Vermont State Archives. Town clerks were required to send copies of vital records to the state beginning in 1857. The state government began creating a statewide index to these records in 1919. The original vital records are still held at the town level. It may be possible to obtain a copy of the original record by contacting the corresponding town clerk's office.

Regular monthly meetings of the Groton Historical Society are scheduled to resume this year the second Tuesday of May on the 13th at 10 am in the Peter Paul House on Main Street. Efforts should be made by all members, especially the local ones, to attend if possible and invite a friend to come and join the society. Collecting, organizing, and displaying items relating to the history of Groton needs the help of everyone to be successful.

Member Stuart Goodwin has been very helpful in collecting links to Groton families and obituaries of those with Groton connections for GHS family records. There are 69,631 names in the GHS records now, with more to add from The Goodwin family CD sent to the society by Stuart. The Welch family CD given to GHS by Reg Welch also has many more names to add to GHS family records. It is a slow process finding names that are not already in the Groton family records and finding missing information about those who are in the records. It is a project that has no ending, so all the help is greatly appreciated.

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