
GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

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Spring 2015

McLure's Student Band



Camping with the Student Band

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Last year marked the end of an era—McLure's Alumni Band put their instruments away for the last time after continuing their performances for twenty years after their leader, C. George McLure passed away in 1994.

George started teaching students in 1931 first at Woodsville and then at Groton, where he formed McLure's Student Marching Band playing for strawberry socials, reunions, band concerts, and the Groton Fair in 1932.

For the next 40+ years, the Band with ever-changing students played about fifty concerts and had 100 appearances annually, with marching drills, parades, fairs, and special events. Memorial Day and Independence Day were often celebrated at multiple nearby towns each year.

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Band performances were interrupted from 1942-1945 when George served in the Army during World War II. On his return performances resumed in 1946, including his school bands, plus some new ones formed in surrounding schools: Monroe, NH; Peacham, East Corinth, Danville, and Wells River, VT; Dow Academy in Lincoln, Bethlehem, Lisbon, Littleton, and Woodsville, NH; and Essex Junction and Hardwick, VT. Many music students in the school bands also played in McLure's Student Band, often camping at night and cooking their own meals.

McLure's Student Band was well-known throughout New England for their marching drills and band concerts. They played concerts in many towns, and several fairs in all New England states, participated in their Music Festivals and performed at the New York Worlds Fair. After the war they played at the Eastern States Exposition, at Washington, DC Cherry Blossom Festival, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada Band Festival, and went to New Orleans for Mardi Gras, among many other engagements.

George retired from the school bands after 1970 and was engaged in other businesses for awhile, but he returned in 1989 to organize McLure's Alumni Band with his former students and played in parades and concerts like Monroe Lilac Festival, 4th of July parade in Woodsville and Wells River, Groton Fall Foliage Day, and many other special events. George died in 1994 and the members of his Alumni Band carried on for the next twenty years under the direction of Edie Emery.

Vermont Historical Society has an exhibit of McLure's Student Band memorabilia with lots of pictures for those wanting to learn more history of C. George McLure and his many bands.



“TILL WE MEET AGAIN”

Remembering William Scott

By Josephine French

Mike Blair, Vietnam War veteran and lover of American History and his wife Sally, my daughter, live on Fuller Hill Rd. in West Groton. They've been driving down Fuller Hill to Groton village for about 40 years, going past the William Scott Memorial each time.

William Scott voluntarily stood sentry duty for his sick buddy and the next night was assigned duty himself. He was found asleep at his post, tried by court martial, and sentenced to be shot. President Abraham Lincoln interceded and gave him a pardon, but he was killed in action soon after and became known as The Sleeping Sentinel.

Mike enjoyed caring for the grounds at his Memorial. He mowed in summer, and asked the road crew for help when soil was needed. On Memorial Day he remembered William Scott with flowers.

One Memorial Day Sally bought 2 tubs of flowers and placed one at each side of the stone as an early birthday gift for Mike. She was happy she brought Mike down early that day, because the next day, both pots were gone. At least Mike had seen them. A good lesson learned. After this they planted directly in the soil.

Quite a few years ago, Mike and Sally noticed colorful flowers blooming on the lot on Memorial Day and they had not planted them. Ever since, each Memorial Day, beautiful flowers appeared. They wondered: who could have done this; the Historical Society, maybe Diane Kreis for the DAR, or maybe a class at the local school? He asked the Town Clerk, Linda Nunn, the road commissioner Brent Smith, neighbors - no one knew. Being a history buff Mike was curious each year to know who and why.

After several years - FINALLY - Sally came by when there were 4 people at the stone. A lady with a trowel was planting her yearly remembrance of William Scott and his contribution to the Civil War. Sally stopped to talk with them and learned they were honoring family, long since deceased. Their family name is Scott.

This year is no different—flowers bloom at the William Scott Memorial— placed there by his family.

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 (1863-1865) another excerpt from Dr. S. N. Eastman's story is told here. Past newsletters had excerpts about his enlistment at St. Johnsbury, the battle of Gettysburg, being detailed as a nurse, and up to the Battle of the Wilderness.

The Battle of the Wilderness began the 5th of May 1864 and lasted three days. The first that we knew a movement of the Army was about to occur, we were ordered to draw six days rations and an extra amount of cartridges in our pockets. Three days rations were to be packed in our haversacks and three days rations in our knapsacks, and each man had to take twenty cartridges in his pockets. We all knew these kinds of orders meant business, but there was no backing out or saying we felt discouraged. We were now under command of General U. S. Grant, and everybody had the utmost confidence in him, as he had a reputation second to none as a fighting man, and all believed our labor would amount to something. We broke camp at Brandy Station at two o'clock in the morning on May 3rd, 1864 to go somewhere. Not one of us in the ranks had the slightest idea where we were going or what we were going to do. We knew only that to obey orders was what was expected of us.

So we started in the twilight of that early morning with gloomy forebodings as to what the next few days would mean to us. We marched all day, crossed a small river on a pontoon bridge, and camped for the night without seeing or hearing of any danger. The

next day was about the same, we marched all day and lay down to sleep at night without putting up any tents, as the weather was warm and no rain. We were very tired, having an extra load of rations to lug. The next day, May 5th, we moved forward and at about 10 a. m. the Army halted, all but the Vermont Brigade. We were rushed along past more than 60,000 men to the place in the line of battle where it was expected that General Lee would try to break Grant's Army in two pieces, and then he could overpower it in detail, as that was his plan, to whip and drive back one-half at a time. He thought he could do this without any trouble. The main Rebel attack was at the cross roads. This is where the 5th Regiment from Vermont was posted. We got to our positions about noon.

The men from Vermont were considered the very steadiest troops in the whole Army and, therefore, were sent to the place where there was the worst danger. Had our Vermont men broke and run away, General Grant's Army would have been cut in two and destroyed or captured, as the Army was in such a position that a retreat would have been annihilation, and as it was, it was only a draw game. Now, I am not trying to write a history of the Battle of the Wilderness. I knew nothing of the position or the movements of the various corps and divisions of the Army. I am only trying to write of the few objects that drew my attention, as I was then a Private in the ranks. I was, after that, promoted to Corporal, which was only one step above Private. As we took our position in the line of battle at the crossroads, we, without any orders to do so, collected all the logs and rotten wood and fences lying around loose, and piled them in our front. We might need them in case we were attacked, and the work we did on these came in very handy later in the day, as we were driven back to this first position, and I

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

have no doubt but the little low breastwork saved many lives. We were such trained veterans that we always entrenched in some way without orders every time we made a halt, if we were in the neighborhood of the enemy. Sometimes we had orders to entrench, but not this time.

After eating a few hardtack and drinking from the ever present canteen, we got sharp quick orders to fall in. This was done without any repetition of the order, as we knew the silence of the last half hour meant a terrible racket. Orders came to load our muskets, then it was "Forward" in the line of battle. We soon came to the skirmish line with soldiers all lying close to the ground, and as we stepped over them, they said to us, "You will catch hell, boys, as the greybacks are in force not 10 rods in front." We had heard no firing anywhere on the line up until this time, and it must have been at least 5 miles long. After taking about ten steps from the skirmish line, the battle opened in earnest. Volleys of musketry broke out of the thickets and underbrush in our faces. We replied to the best of our ability and that was not slow. The rifles balls came in showers and cut the underbrush down to about as high as a soldier's belt, this showing how the enemy was trained to fire in battle. In a short time, the air became thick and sulphurous and reduced the light down to twilight, but we fought on. Many of my comrades began to look like colored men from biting cartridges and powder smoke, but we fought on, hour after hour. Our cartridges began to get scarce, although we had sixty apiece when we began, and we took cartridges from those killed, and fought on.

Our ranks began to get thin and the enemy came nearer. Things began to look desperate, and at last we fell back to our first position and behind the breastwork mentioned before. This was a great help to us and we made a stand, but the Rebs came up and continued the battle. We were a little better off than before and stood

them off, and they could not drive us another inch. We got word that help or reinforcements were near at hand.

Hancock's Corps were coming to our relief and we were encouraged to hold out and fight on. We were almost out of ammunition, and in a few minutes would be entirely out, but Hancock's men came and formed a line in our rear, and as it was almost dark from powder smoke, and their men began to fall, they supposed they were on the front line so they opened fire in our rear, by which some of our men fell. We were between two very hot fires for a short time. Our muskets became so hot from constant firing that you could not put a hand on the barrel and had to hold the musket by the strap. They were so foul the ball would stick and could not be rammed down, so we had to fire just the same. I never could see any trouble with the musket if it was fired with the ball halfway down, it would go just the same, but kicked like a mule. My shoulder became very tender by the constant recoil of the musket, but we fought on just the same.

After retiring behind the line of men that came to relieve us, we had time to wipe out our muskets and brush up a little, but not for long, as we were needed to fill a gap in the line, and we again went into the thickest of the battle about a quarter mile to the left. The fight was not quite as fierce and we fought in the line until it was dark, about 8 p.m. We fought this first day at least eight hours, and were tired and as sorry a lot of fellows as were ever known. Most of my friends lay dead or wounded, scattered in the field somewhere, as we had moved about considerably during the afternoon. It was dark and I tried to find some of them. I would get to the place as I could remember it, but never succeeded in finding any, and never knew what became of them, or who buried them. I knew what a battle was, but I had never seen a real fight until I was in the first day's Battle of the Wilderness.

McLure's Student Band Groton, Vermont



1932 McLure's Student Band



1938 New Uniforms for the Band



1940 - NEW YORK WORLDS FAIR

1940 New York Worlds Fair



1950 Back after time-out for World War II

NEW FAMILY NAMES IN 1870 CENSUS

Earlier newsletters listed family names that first appeared in the 1790 to 1860 census records and the names are listed here. (* indicates only census information of family in GHS 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, *Rowlins, Stanley, Vance, Weston, Whitcher

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

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

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

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

1860—Adams, *Bissell, Burbank, Chamberlin, Clough, *Colby, Crown, Dorr, Eggleston, Flanders, Gilchrist, Graham, Harvey, Hayes, Hood, Hoyt, Jackson, Kidder, Lamphere, Madge, Marsh, McKay, Melvin, Minard, Parker, Pierce, Prior, Stebbins, Waterman.

New Family Names in 1870 Groton Census
(* indicates only census information in GHS Records)

***Barnett, William** (age 31) carriage maker; Lydia (27); and Alice (7)

Bliss, Ezra O. (1821-1881) son of Jacob Bliss and Abigail Post, married, 1854, Lucy M. Rhodes (1831-1889) daughter of John Rhodes and Betsey Baldwin, and three girls: Edna, 20, Mary 15, and Laura 3.

***Coates, Nathan O.** (age 31) Farmer; Mary (27) keeping house; Ella (7); Mary (5); Abby (3); and Laura (1).

Corliss, Andrew (1839—?) son of Leander Corliss, married 1862, Agnes Batchelder (1837-1921) daughter of Nathaniel Batchelder and Jean Nelson.

Daniels, Andrew (1825-1888) son of Stephen Daniels and Mary Brown, married 1860 Roxanna Emery, daughter of Timothy Emery and Matilda Goodwin, and four of their children: Nathaniel (7), May (4), Hiram (2), and Drusilla six weeks.

***Forrest, Hanson F.** (age 36) Clergyman; Lizzie (33) keeping house; Virginia (4); and Edith (8 months).

Hopkins, John T. (1799—?) son of Stephen Hopkins and Nancy Turner; married 1826, Matilda Hall (1804-1885); son, Edward W. (age 28) Farmer; a Charles Hopkins (age 28) works in sawmill and lived with Amaziah Ricker.

Judkins, Frank Cyrus (1843—?) son of Moses Judkins (1817—?) and Sarah L. _____ (1817—?) married 1867 Angeline F. Morrison (1849—?) daughter of Francis Morrison (1822—1894) and Catherine Welch (1824—1887).

Keenan, Edward F. (1820-1890) son of Daniel Keenan and Margaret McCowen, married Harriet N. Bond, and their children: Lewis (14) and Susan (12).

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Kittredge, Zephaniah (1821-1889) son of Asa Kittredge and Susanna Scott, married about 1844 Lucina Millis (1823-1889) daughter of H. Jacob Millis and Lydia Heath, children: Celestia (27); Edward (14); and Frank (11). Lydia Frost (37) was also living with the family.

Mason, George (1802-1872) son of George Mason and Isobel Neilson, married 2nd 1865 Sally Meader (1813-1892) daughter of Stephen Meader and Mary Bailey, and widow of Peter Paul.

Millis, Wesley J. (1835-1907) son of H. Jacob Millis and Lydia Heath, married 1865 Phebe Goodwin (1843-1885) daughter of Thomas Goodwin and Elizabeth Whitehill, and boys: George (4), Andrew (0) and nephew George A. (15).

***Moors, William** (age 36) Teamster; Alvina (32) keeping house; Josephine (13) at school; Lilla (11) at school; Hettie (8); and Clarence (6).

Morrill, William H. (1817—1892) son of Ebenezer Morrill and Jennet McLane; married 1850 Nancy Clark (1835—?) daughter of Moses Clark and Anna Kincaid, with sons Ezra (9); and Willie (2).

Smith, Franklin P. (1833-1905) Shoemaker, married 1870, Almira Minard (1847-1915), daughter of Selden Minard and Olive Frost.

Stowell, Leander (James) (1810—1875) married Lovina Hatch (1819—1894) daughter of Jacob Hatch and Sally Morrison, and Cora B. Page (8) born in Illinois was living with them.

Thornton, Jared D. (1843—1915) married (1) 1865 Lucy D. Wadley Colby (1836—1888), married (2) 1888 Mary Mills, daughter of Calvin Mills and Mary Forsythe, later moved to MA.

***Wallace, William** (1806-1872) b. NH, d. Groton, VT; Olive _____ (1822—?) b. VT; Flora (9) born in VT.

Warden, George O. (1838—?) son of Harvey Warden and Mary Bachop, married Mary R. McLaren (1843—?); children George F. (3), Clara E. (1), and Sarah J. 3 months.

Wrinkle, Thomas (1821—1870) Clergyman; married Betsey Hall (1819—1902); daughters Jennie S.(1845—1936), Rosa (1847—1927), and Laura E. (1854—1884). Thomas was born in Ireland and the others in MA or NH. All three girls are buried in Groton, VT.

Other New Family names in 1870 Groton Census

Other new family names were individuals living with earlier Groton families, and included mill workers, farmhands, housekeepers, teachers, physicians, etc. They are listed here with their age, place of birth, and their landlord or employer.

- ***Alston, Austin** (age 21) b. VT, w/ Amaziah Ricker
- ***Comstock, Charles** (14) b. VT w/ Orange G. Clark
- Donaldson, Abbie** (22) b. VT w/ Thomas B. Hall
- Eastman, Seth N.** (26) b. VT , physician, w/ John Buchanan
- ***Fortier, Horace** (20) b. Canada, w/ Amaziah Ricker
- ***Frizzell, Charles H.** (25) b. VT w/ Aaron Welch
- ***Harris, Sewell B.** (19) b. NH, w/ Amaziah Ricker
- ***Hoage, Henry** (9) b. VT w/ Jonathan Welch
- ***Hortiair, Casamen** (19) b. Canada w/ George Scott
- ***Kellogg, Orman** (19) b. VT, w/ Amaziah Ricker
- Lumsden, Margaret** (25) b. VT w/ John Buchanan
- McCrillis, Charles I.** (10) b. VT w/ Samuel Darling
- ***Porter, George F.** (18) b. MA , music teacher w/ Ezra O. Bliss
- ***Sanderson, Margaret** (48) b. Canada w/ Thomas Wormwood
- Webster, William P.** (15) b. VT, w/ John Hooper

Thanks to GHS members, Reginald Welch and Stuart Goodwin, a number of the new families in the 1860 census of Groton listed in the last newsletter with asterisks, have now been identified and connected with their extended families.

GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

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

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

Your membership status is shown with your mailing address (**Life** or **last year** dues were paid) please let GHS know if there is an error in our records of your status. Those getting only e-mail copies of the newsletter will be notified when their memberships are about to expire.

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

The first meeting of 2015 is scheduled for 6 pm on Tuesday May 12 at the Peter Paul House, located on the south side of main street, highway 302 (William Scott Memorial Highway), near the junction with Minard Hill, the road to Peacham.

Job Opportunity **Historic Sites Section Chief** **VT Division of Historic Preservation**

Provides overall leadership and supervision for successful operations of Sites in all matters related to the restoration, maintenance, planning/strategy, marketing, budgetary, interpretation, visitor services, and collection management of the 80+ state-owned historic sites, 13 of which are open to the public. To view the full job specification for this position, please visit the State of Vermont Careers page.

Moses Robinson may be the most important founding father you've never heard of! Superior Court judge Robert A. Mello, author of *Moses Robinson and the Founding of Vermont* (a recent VHS publication) discussed Robinson and his rightful place as one of the significant figures in the founding of Vermont and the development of its state institutions at an event sponsored by the Dorset and Manchester Historical Societies on May 13th.

Williamstown Historical Society Museum, had three well-known local authors and a Vermont documentary filmmaker come together for a program highlighting the complex spaghetti bowl of rails that once blanketed the area, and hear anecdotes from the quarries heyday. People who worked in the quarries and with the railroads joined the discussion and shared their recollections on May 5th.

Message from Eileen Corcoran Vermont Historical Society Coordinator

Its time to get out on the road to visit the great history organizations we have in this state. I'm planning Regional Meetings around Vermont this spring and summer to meet constituents, provide an opportunity to chat, and learn more about what VHS can do to help you. If you're interested in hosting an upcoming meeting please contact me. I'd encourage you to participate in the May Day initiative to do one thing for emergency preparedness at your organization. Update a plan, hold a drill, read an article, create a phone tree, etc. Can't do something in May? Aim to complete it as soon as possible. At VHS we are planning on updating our Pocket Response Plan in May to ensure we can get in touch with the right people when a problem arises.

Your historic building is not only the first line of defense for any collections held within, it is often the largest and most complicated item in your collection. Proper care of your building will provide the foundations for the proper care of your documents, photographs, scrapbooks, and other collections with lasting value.

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