

# The Groton Historical Society



## NEWSLETTER

GROTON, VERMONT

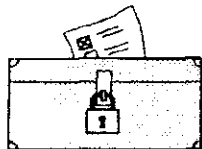
SPRING/SUMMER 1990

NO. 8



### MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Groton Historical Society was held on Tuesday, July 10th at 9:00 AM in the Senior Citizens' meal room at the Community Building.



### ELECTIONS

The first order of business was the election of officers for the coming year.

They are as follows:

President	Alice Goodine
Vice President	Norma Hosmer
Secretary	Evelyn Ricker
Treasurer	Raymond Page
Co-Signer	Dale Brown
Trustees	Norma Hosmer
	Peggy Smith
	Willard Benzie
	Deane Page
	Walter Main

Contact Person for  
Historical House

Dale Brown

A new set of By-Laws was read, discussed, and approved. Copies of these should be available for members soon.

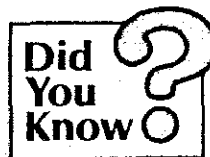
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## SIGN UP!

All interested persons are invited to join the Society. Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:00 AM, in the Library.

Dues are \$2.00 per year. Call Alice Goodine: 584-3314; or Norma Hosmer: 584-3601 for more information.

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The Town of Groton celebrated it's own bicentennial last year.

Through the efforts of the Groton Historical Society and Raymond Page we now have signs at each end of town on Route 302 proclaiming: "GROTON, VERMONT - CHARTERED 1789."

## INDIANS IN GROTON?

There is no certain proof that I know of that Indian warriors, bent on mischief, ever visited this town since it's settlement, although some suspicions are of that effect.

In one of the old Vermont histories was a story about Aaron Hosmer. He was a hunter and would often follow his game a long ways into the forest. On one of these occasions he was chased by several St. Francis Indians, who had come down from Canada on purpose to kill or capture him. Hearing a slight noise, he discovered the Indians and saw by their tactics that they were trying to gain his rear. This he knew was no friendly motive, and he retreated as fast as convenient and not excite sispicion. But the Indians saw his movements and followed rapidly after him. When Hosmer saw this he let out a little faster, which soon became a race for life. Taking the shortest cource for the nearest settlement, over hills and down through valleys they rushed with all possible speed, mile after mile sped away behind them till at last, nearly exhausted he reached an opening where some one had begun a clearing. Catching up a stone as he entered the clearing he placed it in his hat and running up to a log pile, stuck his hat in an opening in the end of the pile, then scuffing the ground a little with his foot he changed his course a little and made for the woods again. He had hardly got under cover of the timber when he saw the Indians coming at full speed; seeing the tracks around the log pile they halted and soon saw the hat, thinking Hosmer was hid in the pile of logs they gave a wild yell of success and swinging their tomahawks over their heads and manouvering in all shapes and forms they surrounded the log pile.

But Hosmer stopped to see no more, but pulled rapidly for the settlement

which he soon reached, and gave the alarm. The Indians were too weak to attack however and soon returned to Canada.

The hat was afterwards found full of holes and the stone showed marks of several blows from their tomahawks.

Indian wars and massacres had gone by with before the town of Groton was settled, but many of its first settlers were familiar with all the horrors of those bygone days; and nearly every family had lost some friend or relative in the Colonial Wars.

(This story, along with many others was copied from "Groton General History"...including the spelling, by H. N. Welch.)

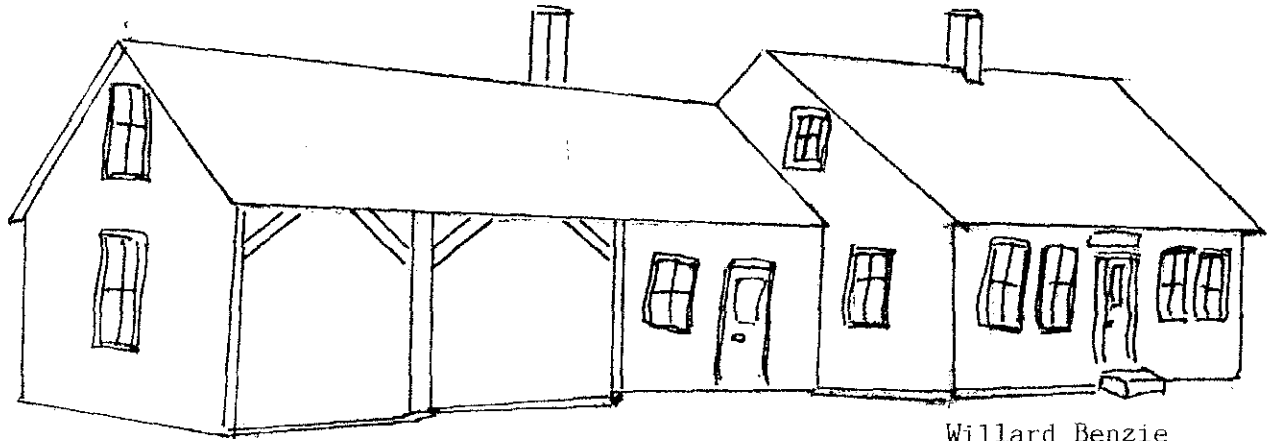
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## VERMONT BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE LICENSE PLATES

This is your celebration. It belongs to all Vermonters. Your purchase of a commemorative license plate will help support local and statewide bicentennial activities as well as symbolize the spirit and pride that this state was built upon 200 years ago.

Make honoring the proud heritage of our state's past a memorable gift today and a collector's item for generations to come.

This commemorative plate may be displayed on the front of your vehicle through 1995. They cost \$15.00 each and are being sold by the Groton Historical Society.



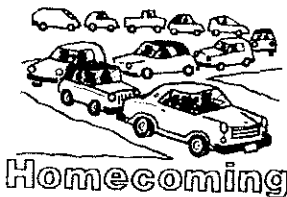
Willard Benzie

ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RENOVATED GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOUSE

With all the excavating being done and the mounds of dirt and boulders surrounding The House a person passing by might expect the whole building to fall right into the hole and be lost forever! Actually extensive renovations are being made.....new foundations, damaged by time and weather, are being poured; an extension on the garage that was put up in the 1930's has been removed, restoring it to it's original size.

Bernside Farquharson is doing the present work, with the help of volunteer workers. After the foundation and roof are back in shape, plans are to paint the whole structure. At that time we will be looking for many more volunteers. Dale Brown is the contact man and he will be happy to sign you up for duty.

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After 1909 there was no High School graduating class in Groton until 1923. From 1923 until 1967, 532 students graduated from GROTON HIGH SCHOOL. Blue Mountain School did not open until the fall of 1970, so the high school students in Groton were tuitioned to other area schools in 1968, 1969 & 1970.

The committee welcomes any suggestions for celebrating this "ALL-CLASS REUNION OF GROTON HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI". Please contact Janet Puffer with your suggestions. Volunteers are also welcome!

The Vermont Statehood Bicentennial Commission has adopted the theme of "Homecoming" for the Bicentennial celebration.

The Groton Historical Society is planning to incorporate that theme in our celebration in 1991 with an "ALL-CLASS GROTON HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI REUNION"

A committee has assembled a list of the graduates and will be asking a member of each class to invite their classmates.

Twenty four students graduated from Groton High School between 1903 & 1909.

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