

# The Groton Historical Society

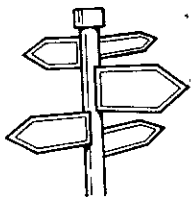


## NEWSLETTER

GROTON, VERMONT

SPRING 1992

NO. 14



In connection with it's new Zip Code program, the U.S. Postal Service has requested each city and town to name all it's streets and roads. The Groton Selectmen asked the Groton

Historical Society to handle this project. A committee was formed to name all of the roads in town and at Lake Groton and Ricker's Pond. The committee consisted of: Peggy Smith, Dale Brown, Norma Hosmer, Alice Goodine, Raymond Page, Deane Page, and the Postmaster, Tom Page, who provided instructions as to what the U.S.P.S. wanted. The Postmaster from East Randolph, Paul Dufresne, came to one of the meetings to help out.

The committee began this work in Jan. 1992 and held meetings regularly through April. Deane Page, with someone from the Postal Dept. measured the distance of all the roads, as requested by the U.S.P.S.

Peggy Smith has made an excellent record of all the names, as completed, and copies of this Road Project will be made. There are 84 roads in town and 19 at Lake Groton.

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**SPRING CLEAN-UP**

President Alice Goodine has appointed a committee consisting of Dale Brown, Deane Page, and Willard Benzie to take charge of the landscaping of the grounds around the Historic House this summer. The Modern Woodsmen Teen Club will plant a tree at the proper time.

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The Groton Historical Society was honored by having the Groton Town Meeting Report for 1992 dedicated to it. A picture of the House was on the cover of the Report and a group picture of some of the members was on the inside.

We thank the Town for this recognition!

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Groton Historical Society Sweatshirts are still on sale, in assorted colors, at \$15.00 each. See Josephine French about this.

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The Groton Historical Society meets at the Historic House on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at 9:00 A.M.

New members, with new ideas are always welcome. Dues are \$2.00 per year.

from the Peacham line to said Ryegate is 4 miles and 248 rods."

This road is mentioned in the early records as the "Great Road". For more than a century and a half it's northern part has remained unchanged in location. It is the road which starts at the Peacham line by the Groton-Peacham Burying Ground and leads south through Darling's Four Corners, past George Ricker's Farm and the Hill place. At this point it turned southeasterly and continued across the brook and over the hill, where it met the road Ryegate had constructed from Boltonville to the Groton line.

While this old road has been abandoned for over a century it's course can easily be followed nearly all the way to the Ryegate line.

The next main road to be constructed in town was a section of the County Road extending from the court House in Chelsea, Orange County, to the Court House in Danville, Caledonia County, authorized by the legislature on November 3, 1797. The survey of the section of this road through Groton was reported at Danville on May 3, 1798. The legislature, in October, 1798 voted a three cent tax on each acre of land in the township. People had the option of working out their tax in labor on the road or paying in money. Those who did neither had their land sold for taxes.

The County Road through Groton was constructed four rods wide - a rod wider than the Great Road - and it's length in town was over seven and one half miles. Coming up from Chelsea it entered Groton from Topsham a little northwest of the former Keenan's Pond.

**P.S.**

Present members: look at your membership card..... if it still says 1991, you owe this years dues!

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Andrea Blair, daughter of Mike and Sally Blair will be doing volunteer work for the Society this summer. Andrea is a graduate of Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA.

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SPEAKING OF ROADS.....

(Excerpts from "Mr. Glover's Groton")

By the time the Town was organized in 1797 there was a well defined road connecting the settlements from the Peacham line southward. It was the business of Silas Lund and Aaron Hosmer, Jr., the recently elected Highway Surveyors, in co-operation with the Board of Selectmen, to have this principle road of the Town surveyed and accepted. This was done on Dec. 16, 1797.

The records describe:"a road through Groton, three rods wide, begining at a stake marked "H" at the south side of the road now leading from Captain Wesson's house to Mr. James Abbott's; thence running to a maple tree on the west line of Ryegate, near Josiah Darling's house. The whole distance

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