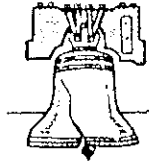


The Groton Historical Society



NEWSLETTER

GROTON, VERMONT

SPRING 1993



HAVE YOU SEEN THE INSIDE OF THE HISTORICAL HOUSE LATELY?

You are in for a big surprise! Much work has been done these past few months, and the House is fast becoming a "Show Place"



HATS OFF TO...

.....Bing & Deane Page and Josephine French for their many hours of hard work. It seems that every time you drive by the place their cars are there and they are inside working away!

Richard Brooks discovered an antique sofa with matching chairs. Bing and Deane re-upholstered the set and it is now in place in the living room/parlor of the House. That room is now completely furnished, and looks beautiful.



Welcome, Visitors!

The Society is so proud of it's House that we are inviting everyone to an "Open House" on Sunday afternoons from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM from June 13th through August 29th.

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In Sympathy

We express our sympathy to the family and friends of Rufus Hosmer.

Rufus was very much interested in the Groton Historical Society and the progress of the restoration of the Historical House.

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

The Lumbering Industry

We have observed that of all Groton industries, except farming, the manufacture of lumber and wood products was of the greatest importance, and that peak production had been reached and its decline begun prior to the turn of the century. The closing of the mills would have meant the collapse of the lumber industry in Groton were it not for the extensive operations of a new mill on Lake Groton. About 1910 the company of Miller & Ayer acquired large timber lands which would feed readily into the lake. The owners then built a new mill and boarding-houses on the site of the former plant of Baldwin & Hazen, reconstructed the old spur railroad leading from Groton Pond station to the mill, and acquired a postoffice. Rob Miller then bought out Mr. Ayer in 1915 and continued as sole owner until 1925. For several years the timber from this large area was manufactured into various types of lumber. Later the property was sold to the State of Vermont to become a large part of the Groton State Forest.

The bobbin factory of Hall & McCrillis below the iron bridge at the west end of the village operated successfully until destroyed by fire in 1909. The bobbin factory of John W. French, situated on Hall Meadow, proved successful and was carried on by Douglas French after his father's death.

Another company which produced wood products was the Groton Novelty Works. It gave employment to many men in town

but business gradually fell off, the factory closed, and shortly afterwards, on July 3, 1926, the building and the old gristmill nearby were destroyed by fire.

In 1947 several citizens of Groton formed Haldane of Groton, Inc. to manufacture boxes for the silverware industry. Before the building was completed the company ran out of funds and was sold to Richard W. Luce of Westport, Connecticut, who completed the construction and changed the name to Luce Manufacturing Company (later Luce Reflexite Co.). The company which once employed twenty-eight made pepper and salt shakers with the "Blue Magic" top, designed to keep moisture from reaching the contents of the container. Mr. Luce also bought the Lee Blanchard store, installed wood-working equipment, and made card tables and other small furniture. After Mr. Luce's death the factory was turned back to Haldane of Groton, Inc. on December 1, 1958.

Since that time the building has been used by Groton Glass, Inc.; the Egg Marketing Division of the Eastern States Farmers Exchange; and the Vermont Tables and Handicrafts, Inc.-Tomlinson Brothers Company.

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"Magellan braved the seas that roll,
 Commander Perry found the Pole,
 Leander swam the Hellespont,
 But I have tramped across Vermont
 And known far more about rough weather
 Than those three worthies put together."

from Windham Thaw
 Arthur Guiterman