
GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Volume 13 Issue 2

Groton, Vermont 05046

Summer 2000

ALL CLASS REUNION A BIG SUCCESS

Former students of Groton High School, met for a reunion on June 24th. Festivities began at 10 AM with a Band Concert by McLure's Alumni Band at the Groton



Bandstand.

The Peter Paul House at 253 Scott Hwy, home of the Groton Historical Society, was open for visitors and the Groton Community Building at 314 Scott Hwy was also open for classmates to meet and visit.



A chicken barbecue was served to more than 270 people at Blue



Mountain Union School by the Groton Volunteer Fire Department.

Visiting with classmates and teachers resumed at the Community Building after eating. Music was provided by Danny Gandin's band.

Highlights from Minutes of recent Meetings

May

There were 6 members present.

A motion to pay \$30 dues to the State Historical Society passed.

Dale Brown reported that fixing the back stairs in the garage is not possible and suggested using the room over the garage for storage. Motion to accept Dale's recommendation passed.

Dale read his writings from his interviews with Russell Page about his experiences in World War II. Russell grew up in the Square Front Garage and manufactured Page Chains.

Deane Page was contacted by Delores Ham from Sheffield for information to use in a book she is writing on the towns in Caledonia County.

Deane also reported that all Groton residents are to meet in front of the Community Building on Saturday June 3rd at 10 AM to pose for a Town Picture that will be hung in the new Caledonia County Courthouse.

June

There were 9 members present.

Richard Brooks announced that the Vermont Historical Society has purchased the Spaulding Graded School in Barre for their use.

Diane Kreis and Richard Brooks volunteered to be guides for the open house during the all class reunion on June 24th.

Volunteers to host the open houses on Sunday afternoons in July and August are; Bing Page, Deane Page,

Betty Dudley, Richard Brooks, Ruth Putnam, Josephine French, Diane Kreis, Karl and Norma Kepler.

Richard Brooks reported that he has investigated purchasing sun blocking shades for 13 windows in the Peter Paul House. The shades are needed to protect pictures, documents and other items sensitive to damage from bright sunlight.

The Town picture was taken in June and the town will get a copy. Plans are to have a copy made to display at the Groton Historical Society.

July

There were 7 members present.

Josephine French gave the Treasurer's Report showing a balance on hand on June 30, 2000 of \$25,556.98, including \$4,026.18 in the checking account. Some additional bills from the all-class reunion are expected.

Richard Brooks reported that the cost of sun blocking shades in the Hunter Douglas Shade Catalogue are \$72 a window. Other window coverings or ways to protect items in the house from sun damage will be investigated. Election of Officers resulted in a motion to reelect the 1999 slate of officers, which was seconded and passed unamiously:

President Richard Brooks
Vice Pres Norma Hosmer
Secretary Diane Kreis

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Family Histories in Demand

Groton connections are being sought by family members from many parts of the country. At the present time the Groton Historical Society has a record of 31,515 names in their files. The names include both ancestors and descendants of people who live or once lived in Groton. The list of people and their family connections are being added to whenever information is received at the Historical Society.

The current directory of Groton residents that is being assembled by the Historical Society has many names that are not included in the present list of Groton families. Many families now living in Groton are reluctant to submit their family histories because they consider themselves newcomers. Everyone is encouraged to submit their family records, so the history of Groton will be as complete as we can make it.

Anyone who wants a copy of their ancestors or a copy of the descendants of an earlier ancestor that is in our records, can obtain one at a cost of \$2 plus 25 cents a page. The entire database is also available on a CD ROM at a cost of \$10.

Since the database is being added to and continues to expand, CD's are not produced until ordered so they will be as up to date as possible.

An effort is being made to add pictures of the people in our database. Some pictures are already included, mostly of my family. Occasionally people are not pleased with the pictures of themselves that we have available. You are encouraged to submit your favorite photo of yourself so you will be pleased with the picture recorded with your name in the family records at the Groton Historical Society. Pictures of some of the early Groton citizens are hard to find. There are some at the Peter Paul House in need of identification. If you find any pictures of your ancestors at the House, please identify them for the Groton Historical Society.

The Family History Records are never complete. We are continuously adding to them and finding family ties between people already in the database.

GROTON ALL-CLASS REUNION ON JUNE 24, 2000



Lyle Edwards, Melvin Benzie and Leslie Edwards



Bing Page and Josephine French



listening to McLure's Alumni Band concert



Barbara Mitchell, Betty Webster and Charles Frost



Thelma Belyea, Janet & Harold Puffer, Huck Taylor



Listening to McLure's Alumni Band concert



Danny Gandin



visiting at the Groton Community Building



The good old school days were revisited at the Community Building next door to the site of the Groton Village School. Even remembering the prom (some of the younger ones danced) and some even remembered the playground.



Highlights continued from p. 2

Treasurer Josephine French

Correspondence was read from Mr. Clark regarding Pvt. William Scott's I.D. Tags that he found near the battle field in Virginia, where William Scott was killed. Although he is an avid collector of Civil War artifacts, he is willing to part with his find to the Groton Historical Society. Secretary Diane Kreis answered his letter explaining that our Society does collect historical artifacts related to Groton families, but almost everything is donated. Further investigation revealed that the government did not issue I.D. Tags to Civil War soldiers, but sometimes local vendors sold them outside Army Camps. The Society is awaiting a reply from Mr. Clark.

Other correspondence about family histories included inquiries from Henry Low in Lubbock, Texas, who wanted information on the Low family names in our files. He sent a \$50 donation to the Society. H o p e Tillman from Woburn, MA wanted information on the Taisey names.

Thanks were extended to Josephine French for donations of pictures, 1959 Fall Foliage pins, and many other articles during this past month. Other donations included a scrap book of Groton Memorabilia collected by the Puffer brothers; Gordon, Eugene and Harold. The scrapbook was really enjoyed by visitors during the open house on June 24th.

The Groton Directory was not completed in time for the all-class reunion, but is expected to be ready in time for Fall Foliage day Oct. 7th.

WANTED

NEW MEMBERS

Annual dues are only \$5.00 and there is no joining fee. Come to the next meeting and help preserve the history of old Groton for the next generation. Anyone not able to attend meetings can send their dues to the Groton Historical Society, P.O. Box 89, Groton, VT 05046.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

There are 47 members on the roles this year. This is a significant increase from recent years. Although total membership is up, many are supporting members only and are not able to participate in meetings and other activities of the Society.

Thirty six of the 47 members live in Groton. About a third of them are active and do participate in most meetings and other activities.



This sign greets visitors entering Groton on US 302 from the east



Groton Historical Society

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