
GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

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REVIEW OF GROTON, VERMONT IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

This is the seventh in a planned series of articles on Groton in the twentieth century. The seventh decade - the sixties' - from 1960 through 1969 is written by Josephine French. Main sources are the Town Reports, High School yearbooks, Mr. Glover's Groton and personal memories.

TWENTIETH CENTURY

Groton

The Seventh Decade

1960 - 1969

By Josephine French

The 1960's were certainly a time of change in the town of Groton.

Times were scary. Local Civil Defense Chairman, Philip T. White, reminded us in the 1961 Groton Town Report, that "Atomic warfare is a possibility and personal survival is as important to National security as is military strength. There are no facilities for any type of group shelter here, so the

(Continued on page 2)

NOTICES

The Society wishes to thank all who donated artifacts for display at the Peter Paul House.

The Society voted to publish Family Genealogy Records collected by Waldo F. Glover and updated by the members. See page 9 for progress report.

OFFICERS

President	Richard Brooks
Vice President	Norma Hosmer
Secretary	Diane Kreis
Treasurer	Joan Haskell
Web Site Ediror	James Dresser

MEETING SCHEDULE

(second Tuesday)

March through November
10 AM at the

Peter Paul House, 253 Scott Hwy.

(Continued from page 1)

burden of survival falls to each household." Families were encouraged to build fall-out shelters and stock them with water and canned food.

Groton High School boys won the State Basketball Championship for Class S schools in 1961-62.

Fifty seven of Groton's youth served in the Viet Nam War between 1964 and 1975 (see page 11).

There were 130 births, 119 deaths, and 79 marriages reported in the town's vital statistics during the decade.

There was a poll tax in Groton during the 60's.

Total postage spent on mailing Town Reports in 1960 was \$3.25.

Property taxes, due Oct. 10th, were entitled to a 2% discount if paid on or before Aug. 10th.

In 1963, second class licenses for alcoholic beverages became available in Groton, by a vote of 66 yes to 56 no.

Groton School

The village school went on as usual - for a few more years. The boy's basketball team earned the Class S Championship in 1961-62, under Coach Edward Sanderson. Manager was Raymond Hood, Co-captains, Bruce Darling and Rodney Jordan. Other players were Richard Beck, Richard Daniels, Jr., Gaylord Gandin, Dean Hatch, Peter Lyon, Colin Morrison, Terry Reilly, George Rock and James White.

In 1963, senior James White, son of Hazen and Irma White, was a National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist, one of only 4 in the state of Vermont.

Superintendent of Schools from 1960 to 65 was Ernest Lyon; in 1966 Charles Lawrence; and 1967 through 69 Llewellyn Roberts.

Annual cost per Pupil went from \$207.89 in 1964 to \$462.00 in 1969 for elementary classes, and from \$471.68 to \$698.33 for High School classes. Things were changing and decisions must be made.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

In the school year 1963-4, Superintendent Lyon reported on a study showing how Groton could participate in the construction and operation of a 4 district school - Groton, Ryegate, Newbury, and Wells River. The school would include grades 9-12, at a cost much less than the cost of the major improvements needed in the Groton School.

The State Board of Education approved a Revised Minimum Standard for public high schools, effective July 1, 1964. To meet these new standards, Groton High School would have to build additional class rooms and hire additional teachers.

The voters of Groton, Ryegate, and Wells River approved the formation of a Union School District on Nov. 3, 1964 and the State Board of Education approved it on Dec. 10, 1964.

There was no "middle ground" in the debate about upgrading the Groton School to meet State standards vs. joining Ryegate and Wells River in a Union School. The town was definitely divided.

Constable George H. Ricker noted

at one point, according to the 1967 Town Report, that several ballots cast at Town Meeting were on colored paper. He reported that such a procedure is illegal with severe penalties. He cautioned that every voter should feel free to vote their conscience "and forever after all of us friends".

These were tough years in our town.

Principals of Groton High School during the 60's were always TEACHING Principals. They were Edward Sanderson, Paul Waaramaa, and Merle Fitzgerald. High School teachers during the final years were: Lee Farwell, Loren Mills, Dorothy Main, Robert Morey, Charles Hayes, Ruth McKirahan, Anita Landa. Barry Smith, Lee Dawley, Stoney Hinkle, Jacqueline Cote, Michael McCaffrey, Peter Reininger, Linda Waterman. Grammar School teachers were: Doris Simpson, Helen Benzie, Adelaide Lyon, Thelma Donald, Keziah Welch, Dorothy Magoon, Dorothy Main, Jean Webster, Glenn Hutton, Raymond Amnott, Brenda

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Amnott, Nancy King, Sandra Wilcox, Sheila Sparks, William Anderson, Madison Boemig, Christopher Wellman, and Barbara Davidson.

In 1964, Thelma Donald retired from teaching first and second grades. She had taught every child in Groton to read for more than 30 years.

The number of High School students during the 60's ranged from 65 to 70, and the number of elementary students were between 110 and 120 each year.

Groton High School closed in June 1967 and Groton students were tuitioned to surrounding high schools for three years, until Blue Mountain Union School opened in the fall of 1970. Grammer school students continued at the village school until the new Union school at Blue Mountain opened. Tuition charges for high school students were: Woodsville, NH \$525; Newbury, VT \$550; Bradford Academy \$650; Danville, VT \$700; St. Johnsbury Academy and Trade School \$725; and Spaulding High School in Barre, VT \$750.

Town Officers during the 1960's were: Moderator George Ricker and Town Clerk Ida Dennis. Addie Ricker served as Town Treasurer until her death in 1964. Addie Rouhan Ricker worked both locally and on the state level for betterment of schools for 50 years. After her death Ida Dennis served as Town Treasurer as well as Town Clerk.

Selectmen serving in the 60's were Bert Bailey, Gerald Morse, Orlo Goodwin, Douglas French, Tony Gandin, Andrew Smith, and Raymond Page. Listers were George Welch, Earl Welch, Herman Clark, P.T. White, Fred Braman, Guy Haskell, Harley Evans, Burnell Vinton, Gerald Morse, Carroll Eastman, Harold Dolson, Robert Wilson, and Bruce Whitehill. Auditors were Emma Graham, Dorothy Main, Raymond Page, Gordon McLam, Marjorie Robitzer, James Benzie, Betty Eastman, Loren Mills, Edwin Burke, David Paye, Harold Dolson, Burnell Vinton, Dolly Gandin, Richard Marceau, Mildred Hart, and Ross McLeod. School Directors were Addie Ricker, Nellie White, Darius

TOWN OFFICERS

(Continued on page5)

(Continued from page 4)

James, Robert Wilcox, Madeline Dana, Vern Frost, Jr., Allen Gandin, Laura page, and Lawrence Daniels. Union School Directors were first elected in 1966. Those who served during the '60's were: Marilyn Sanville, Arland Robitzer, Pearl Ricker, Hollis Jordan, Gerald Darling, Gerald Morse, Herman Clark, Allen Gandin, Kenneth Eastman, and Robert Gruber. Library Trustees were Nellie Jeffrey, Adelaide Lyon, Alice Goodine, Violet Ruitter, Theresa Vance, Doris Goodwin, Joyce Frost, Shirley Darling, and Esther Darling. During the 1960's the selectmen served as "Overseer of the Poor", Road Commissioner was Cliff Darling, Tax Collector and First Constable was George Ricker.

BUSINESS

The Groton Community Club was active during the 1960's. They sponsored the hot lunch program at the local school. Fanny Dennis, Pearl Morrison, Mary Eastman, Vesta Haskell and Gertrude Ashford were hot lunch workers. The financial need of the hot lunch program was the beginning of

what evolved into Fall Foliage Day in Groton. A few young fathers took on the burden of raising money for hot lunches in 1955 by sponsoring a chicken-pie-supper. This successful dinner grew into an annual event, held each year on the first Saturday in October. Although there is no longer a need to raise funds for hot lunches, the Community Club continues the tradition and sponsors many programs for the youth of Groton. Fall Foliage Day in Groton is a time to visit with old friends and welcome back those who return to their 'home town' for the day. It is an enjoyable time for all.

Puffer's Restaurant started in the mid fifties continued it's growing business and opened a Motel across the highway in 1960 to accomadate the travelling public. Brown's Meat Market closed in 1962 after Mr. Brown's death, and was opened a few years later as Hill's Store. White's Store operated by P. T. White was open all decade. Blanchard's Store was the home of Hod James' Farm Machine Exchange for a number of years, until he moved the business to

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 5)

SOME GROTON SCENES IN THE SIXTIES 1960 - 1969



Puffer's Motel

Opened for business in 1960 and operated all decade across from the Restaurant.



The Atlantic Service Station

opened in the late 50's and operated all decade by several different parties.



1962 State Basketball Champions - Class S

Standing: Richard Daniels, Dean Hatch, Coach Edward Sanderson, Richard Beck, Colin Morrison.

Kneeling: Gaylord Gandin, Captain Bruce Darling, Co-Captain Rodney Jordan, Peter Lyon, missing is George Rock.



Brown's Meat Market

Closed after Burt Brown's death in 1962, and reopened later in the decade as Hill's Store.



Ida Dennis

Served as Town Clerk from 1957 to 1993.



1967 Senior Class

The last class to graduate from Groton High School

Standing: Brenda Page, Glenn White, Stanley Davidson, Stuart Goodwin, David Daniels, Paula Lakin.

Sitting: Diana Hood, Ruth Eastman, Sherry Dana, Zoa Darling, Carrieele Cilley, Deborah Hamlett, Doreene Smith.

South Ryegate. Vermont Tree Forms, manufacturers of Tunbridge Tables, then occupied the store until it burned in February 1967. Vermont Tree Forms then moved to the factory building west of the village, where they built a log house to merchandise their wares. The factory, originally built by Haldane, was used by Luce Manufacturing Co. in the 50's to make "Blue Magic" cannisters and salt and pepper shakers. It was then used for several years by Eastern States Farmer's Exchange, changed to Egg Products Division of Agway Inc. in 1965. Several other short-lived enterprises including Groton Glass Inc., used the factory before Vermont Tree Forms moved in.

Dimick's Garage, originally built by Ulric Legare in the late 30's, was operated many years by George Dimick until his death in 1968. Other auto service stations in Groton included the Atlantic Service Station across from White's store operated by Richard Daniels 1959-63, Les Avery in 1964-5, Paul Tinkham in 1966, and Del Hamlett in 1967. Hart's Garage in West Groton operated most of the decade.

Groton Bobbin Co. owned by Douglas French operated most

of the decade, but was closed when a number of the mills in Massachusetts moved their operations to the southern states.

Other local businesses that advertised in the High School Yearbooks in the 1960's included Morse Poultry Farm; Frost Appliance Co.; Eastman's Used Furniture; Elmer C. Frost Contractor; Hosmer Brother's Memorials; Leslie Page roofer & plumber; Lillian's Beauty Shop; Henry's Diner and Variety Store; Ricker's Insurance Co.; Village Lumber Co.; Rock Haven Farm, Andy and Peggy Smith, Registered Holsteins; Puffer's Dairy; Robert Gruber, NH - VT Breeding Association; The Lighthouse, Christian literature, Norma and Rufus Hosmer; and Smith's Grocery Store.

Baptist Ministers during the 60's were Rev. Guy Kinney 1957; Rev. Dean Baker 1965; Rev. James Sparks 1968; and Rev. Donald Macomber in 1969. The Methodist Ministers were Rev. Hervey Brown 1959; Rev. Calvin J. Seiferth 1963; Rev. Marian S. Bigelow 1965; and Rev. Richard Marceau in 1967.

FAMILY RECORDS UPDATE

Work is continuing on transcribing the Groton census records. The 1930, 1920, 1910 and 1900 enumerations have been completed and are posted on the Groton Historical Society web page along with the 1790, 1800 and 1810 census indexes. The 1890 records were destroyed in a fire and are not available. As a substitute, the business directory of Groton published in 1888 by Hamilton Childs in the Caledonia and Essex Counties Gazateer is also posted on the web site. The 1880 census is currently being

transcribed.

Printed copies of the census enumerations that have been transcribed are available at the Groton Historical Society for viewing. Printouts of the genealogy records for families listed in the 1790 and 1800 censuses are also available.

Families not currently in the GHS files, or not linked to other branches of their family are encouraged to submit their genealogy records to the Society to help make the Groton Family Records as complete as

VISIT THE GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY WEB SITE

<http://homepages.together.net/~jdresser/GrotonHistSoc.html>



Above: Puffer's Motel opened in 1960.

Right: The former Blanchard's Store burned in February 1967 when the building was used by Vermont Tree Forms, manufacturers of Tunbridge Tables. Earlier it was the home of the Farm Machine Exchange.



GROTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

(*Denotes deceased)

1960

Annette Beaulieu, Lucille Clark, Priscilla Clark, Kathleen Moulton, Barbara Orr, Marcia Ricker, Arlyn Robitzer, Betty Sayers, Robert Wernecke.

1961

Victoria Beamis, Doreen Kay Beck, Mirla Graham, Dorothy Hatch, Jon Main, Sylvia McAllister, Sharon Morrison, Norma Murray, Kathleen Page, Alton Ricker, Beatrice Smith, Louis Smith, William Vance, Gunther Wernecke.

1962

John Clark, Keith Daniels, Leroy Graham, Raymond Hood, Ralph Orr, Cheryl Pierce, Ernest Wilson.

1963

Bruce Darling, Ina Darling, Sharon Frost, Gaylord Gandin, Archie Glidden, Gary Goodwin, Dean Hatch, Rodney Jordan, Peter Lyon, Susan Main, Roy Records, Doris Ricker, Terrence Reilly, Joyce Rixford, Linda Sayers, Lois White.

1964

Bernard Achilles, Shirley Beamis, Richard Beck, Richard Daniels Jr., Kenneth Darling, Allen Goodine, *James Gruber, Janice Hart, *Gretta Heath, Lyndol Lyon, Colin Morrison, Laurel Murray, Donald Page, George Rock, Pamela Smith, Sherry Vance, Clarence Welch,

Donald Wernecke, James White.

1965

Roy Achilles, Russell Crown, Mary Daniels, Donna Darling, *Gary Darling, Elaine Downing, Mary Eastman, Patricia Lakin, Myrtie Legare, Jean Lyon, *John Morgan, Margaret Morgan, Howard Page, Gordon Peterson, Allen Phelps, Eugene Records, Harvey Ricker, Thelma Ricker, *Stanley Williams.

1966

Steven Austin, Wayne Blodgett, Alan (Joe) Dennis, Kenneth Eastman, *Barry Heath, Gary Mason, Marguerite Morey, Wayne Records, Joan Ricker, Arland Robitzer Jr., Barbara Smith.

1967

Carrilee Cilley, Sherry Dana, David Daniels, David Darling, Zoa Darling, Stanley Davidson, Ruth Eastman, Stuart Goodwin, Deborah Hamlett, Diana Hood, Paula Lakin, Brenca Page, Doreene Smith, Glenn White.

1968 -1970

Students were tutioned to other schools until Blue Mountain Union School opened in 1970.

MILITARY VETERANS DURING VIET NAM WAR

5 Aug 1964 - 7 May 1975

Achilles, Bernard Nash	SP4	Army	Records, Wayne Clifford	SGT	AF
Aldrich, Paul Theron	SP4	Army	Ricker, Lawrence Rupert	SP4	Army
Austin, Steven Lewis	SP4	Army	Rielly, Terrance Paul	SSG	Army
Batchelder, Ernest Randa		Army	Rock, George Butler	SGT	USMC
Batchelder, Eston Harold	PFC	Army	Scott, Donald Arthu	TSGT	AF
Beauliew, George Andre	SP4	Army	Smith, Lewis Earl	ETN2	Navy
Beck, Richard Angus	EM2	Navy	Snow, Raymond George	BMC	Navy
Blodgett, Wayne Edward	SGT	AF	Turner, Patrick Richard	PVT	Army
Bryan, David Michael	PVT	Army	Vance, Richard Allen	SP4	Army
Covey, Burton Carroll	SP4	Army	Webster, Daniel James	SN	Navy
Crown, Stanley Wendell	A2c	AF	Welch, Michael Ellis	AMN	AF
Darling, Harold Francis	MAJ	Army	Wernecke, Gunther Bernd	PFC	Army
Darling, Kenneth Wilbur	SP4	Army	Wernecke, Robert Joachim	CPT	Army
Eastman, Dean George	SP4	Army	Williams, Larry Loren	PFC	Army
Emerson, David Paul	SP5	Army	Williams, Lester Roy	PVT	Army
Emerson, George James	SP5	Army	Williams, Stanley Haven	SP5	Army
Emerson, Kendall Allen	SP4	Army	Wright, Craig Lloyd	SR	Navy
Emerson, Philip Roy	SP4	Army			
Emerson, Royce Martin	SP5	Army			
Emerson, Russell Dean	SP4	Army			
Faris, Douglas Charles	SRSRG	Navy			
Fenoff, David Wayne	CPL	USMC			
Gauthier, Robert John	PFC	USMC			
Hart, Neil Richard	STG2	Navy			
Hart, Richard Arlen	PFC	Army			
Hatch, Donald Larry	RMC	Navy			
Heath, Barry Zane	SP5	Army			
Hill, Nathan Dawson	PVT	Army			
Hood, Raymond Edwin	PFC	Army			
Kinerson, Philip Reginald	ETN2	Navy			
Lakin, James Edward	PVT	Army			
Lewis, David Bryan	PVT	Army			
Marcotte, Chris Robert	ETR3	Navy			
Meehan, Robert Cheste	TSGT	AF			
Micklon, Francis Bert	SSG	Army			
Morgan, John Emerson	PVT	Army			
Morrison, Colin Wesley	AB	AF			
Morse, Harry Phillip	TSGT	AF			
Records, Eugene Raymond	SP5	Army			
Records, Jr., Roy Estes	SP4	Army			

Note: The VT legislature extended the dates of the Viet Nam War from 1 July 1958 to 15 May 1975 which increased the number of veterans in VT by 5,000. The additional number from Groton is not available to the editor. The above names are from the 1986 "Roster of Vermonters who served in the Vietnam War 5 Aug. 1964 - 7 May 1975" prepared under the direction of Donald E. Edwards, Adjutant General, Camp Johnson, Winooski, VT.





Home of the Groton Historical Society built in 1840
Open for visitors 2 - 4 pm Sundays in July and August and all day on the
first Saturday in October for Fall Foliage Day in Groton, Vermont.

Groton Historical Society Newsletter
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