
GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Volume 26 Issue 3

Groton, Vermont 05046

Summer 2013

GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**GROTON HIGH
SCHOOL
ALL-CLASS REUNION
June 29, 2013
11:00 am to 5:00 pm
Groton Community
Building**

2013 OFFICERS

President Richard Brooks
Vice President Deane Page
Secretary Josephine French
Treasurer Alissa Smith

Web Site Editor Donald L. Smith
Newsletter Editor J. Willard Benzie

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At the 1941 Town Meeting the citizens of Groton recognized VT's Sesquicentennial and planned to celebrate the 150 years of statehood at a gathering on May 30th. Waldo F. Glover presented the keynote address in the Methodist Church entitled "Beginnings of Groton".

This celebration inspired the town to appoint a history committee for securing the services of Mr. Glover as historian to write a town history. Although the proposal was discussed at each succeeding town meeting, little progress was made until after World War II. At the 1946 town meeting Nellie Jeffrey reported Mr. Glover consented to write the town history and had already collected and classified a considerable amount of material.

Nellie Jeffrey, secretary,

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and Myrtie Hosmer, treasurer, of the Groton History Commission reported at the 1950 town meeting, steady progress on the history by Mr. Glover, who was devoting more time to the project since his retirement in 1949. He continued working on the history of the town and collecting family records up to his death on February 28, 1976. Other members of the History Commission during its existence included Charles Lord, Burton Brown, Helene White, Martha Dimick, Carroll Ricker, Rita McAllister, Irma White, John French, Stephen Welch, Alice Goodine and George Ricker. Although the Groton History was not completed, George Ricker planned to publish what had been written up to 1900 with some additional material up to the 1950's, but he died on September 3, 1976, before doing so. In April 1977 the Groton Historical Society, which had succeeded the History Commission, appointed a book committee of James Comley, Ida Dennis, Lucien Emerson, Norma Hosmer, Raymond Page, Joan Palmer, Janet Puffer, Irma White, and chaired by Alice Goodine to bring the history up to date and publish it, which they did in 1978 as *Mr. Glover's Groton*. The book [now out of print] has been digitized by George Hall and the Society is now reviewing the options of reprinting it or posting it on the GHS web page and publishing a revised edition of the Groton History, updating the 20th century information and adding the family records.

The family records assembled from the works of earlier historians, General Albert Harleigh Hill, Hosea N. Welch, and others, were brought up to date by Mr. Glover. Through family interviews, personal contacts, and extensive research he compiled numerous files on families of Groton. These files presented too big a problem for the book committee to include in the 1978 publication of *Mr. Glover's Groton*, and were thus left to be published later. Members of the Historical Society maintained the handwritten records as information became available to them. Especially noteworthy were the efforts of Alice Goodine and Norma Hosmer. Gwendolyn Hagen was hired in the 1980's to sort

and type copies of the handwritten family records for GHS. The family records were entered into a genealogy computer program, by Willard Benzie in the 1990's for ease in searching and retrieving records for interested family members. As family information became more accessible, errors and omissions became evident and many additions and corrections were submitted to the Society. The computer files also allowed cross referencing which uncovered differences in information about persons listed in more than one family. When found efforts were made to correct differences or if unable to they were noted in the records. As family information was provided by many different individuals and from many different sources, there is much inconsistency in the amount and kind of records entered for each person. Pictures are also stored in the computer program whenever available and linked to the individual family record.

The Historical Society held their meetings in the Groton Town Library until 1989 when the Peter Paul House was purchased with money donated by many interested citizens in a fund raising campaign spearheaded by Douglas French, Harold Puffer and Dale Brown. Society members and volunteers contributed many hours restoring the 1840 home into a vintage showcase to display the historical records and items relating to Groton history. Ross McLeod started a newsletter in 1988 with one to four issues each year through 1995. There were no newsletters in 1996 and Diane Kreis put one out in 1997. There were none in 1998 and Willard Benzie restarted them in 1999 and they have continued to the present. Jim Dresser established a web site for GHS in 2003 and it has been maintained since 2008 by Don Smith .

Monthly meetings are held May through October on the second Tuesday at 6:00 pm in the Peter Paul House on Main Street. The public is invited to attend; membership dues are \$10 annually for individuals and \$15 for families. Lifetime membership is \$100.

Excerpts from
THE CIVIL WAR
(As Recollected by an Ordinary Soldier)
By
Seth N. Eastman M.D. (1843-1913)

In observance of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War another excerpt from Dr. S. N. Eastman's story is given here. The first five excerpts about his experiences in the Civil War were in previous newsletters and covered his enlistment at St. Johnsbury, basic training at Montpelier, deployment to Washington, D. C., involvement in the battle at Lee's Mills, their advance on Richmond, his capture by the rebel forces, his treatment as a POW and parole back to the Union Army.

At last I had gotten home (with the Union Army), and I was very happy as I was again among friends. They helped me clean up, cut my hair, and made me feel as comfortable as any of them. In turn, I was able to give them many pointers on how to camp and how to make themselves comfortable, that I had learned from experience. I also showed them how to cook their rations, of which they had plenty. We all stayed here several days, and then they were sent to join their regiment, which was encamped at Hagarstown, Maryland, about 60 or 70 miles away. I went along with them and was soon with my old comrades again, who I had not seen since the last of June, the time I was wounded. After I had been with my company about a week, my Captain got word from Annapolis that one of his men had deserted, and they gave my name and asked that I be reported as a deserter. He sent word that I had already joined my regiment and to drop the desertion proceedings, which they did. I was very glad to get back to my old company again, and it almost felt like home. Our regiment was then doing duty in the city of Hagarstown as policemen. The city was under martial law, it being

strongly in sympathy with the rebels. The populace was very much against us, but they had to use us well and accepted our presence with as good grace as was possible. Some of the women were saucy, but it was really pleasing to us to hear them scold. On the whole we had a pretty good time in Hagarstown. We stayed there as much as two months. The Battle of Antietam was only a few miles south of this place, and Sharpsburg and South Mountain were nearby places. This part of the country showed the ravages of the war very plainly at this time, fences and barns and many other things ruined.

The Army of the Potomac had a change of commanders at about this time, October 1862, and our stay at this town came to a sudden end as the Army started in again to capture the rebel capital and put down the rebellion. This time the change was to the celebrated General Burnside, and the plan was to advance to Richmond by way of Fredericksburg, so we started with the rest of the army in that direction. The weather was cool, the nights especially cold, as, by the time we started, November had come. The health of the army was good and we could march 15 or 20 miles a day with ease.

About the 1st of December, something happened to me that I have not gotten over yet. I am not able, at this time, to give exact dates, but about this time, my friend and lifelong chum, the fellow who had enlisted with me and had been with me every day that I was with the regiment, and dearer to me than any male friend I ever had, was taken sick and had to go to the rear to the hospital. I was left alone and was very dejected and forlorn. This man was Albert Batchelder. After he was gone, I had no tent mate and did not have one for a long time, as all the men were coupled up, two to each tent. I did not know but what he was well, until one morning, we had to get up and get our breakfast before daylight, and so we were

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all ready to start on that days march and were standing around the campfire, We were standing side-by-side as usual, when he suddenly fell forward into the fire, and I do not think he was burned at all. He was unconscious and I could see he was very sick, so I hurried after the surgeon and told him what happened. He came and said he was a very sick man and must ride in the ambulance. This surgeon was Dr. C. M. Chandler of Montpelier, Vermont. He came with me and we put Albert in the ambulance and I put in his knapsack and haversack, canteen equipment, and his musket, then left him and hurried to my place in the ranks, falling in just as they started to march. This was the last time I ever saw him. I did not, at that time, think he was seriously ill, and expected him back in a few days. I heard from him once and he said he was much better and would be back soon. So, more than a week after this, word was sent that he was dead about December 23, 1862. I felt terribly about losing my chum. It was hard to get another, as the men were all paired off on account of sleeping two to a tent. I had good luck, however, after about a month, to get another tent mate, although my good luck was poor luck for someone else, as I had to wait until a man was killed in order to get his tent mate for me. This chum's name was George Lamphere and he lived in Norwich, Vermont. He has been dead a long time now, but he lived to be discharged at the end of the war, but I never saw him after the time I was discharged and left for home after my enlistment was over. His time did not expire until a year after mine did. He died in 1867 or 1868. I bid him good-bye on the battlefield of Cedar Creek. This battle was fought just two days after I left the Army. I was just 20 miles away at Winchester, Virginia, when this battle was fought. I could hear the cannons and knew that a great battle was in progress. I had no wish to be in it as I had seen enough of such scenes in the three years at the

front, and wanted to see my relatives and friends and the state of Vermont again, before I did any more fighting.

I ought to say a little more about this chum of mine, Albert Batchelder. He was just my age, but had seen more of the world, had been to school, and in every way was ahead of, and if his life had been spared, would have won an outstanding place among the soldiers of Vermont. He loved his country, was a thorough patriot, and had been mentioned for promotion. He was no shirk at work, and was brave to a fault. He was always happy at the prospect of a fight, and never discouraged. He took the deprivations and hardships of army life with the greatest fortitude. He always knew what the rebels planned next and knew the plans of our own generals. He had a way of interviewing the staff and they all knew him and had the greatest confidence in him. He was a very remarkable, nice, young man and, when he died, I think I am safe in saying I don't think he had an enemy in the whole Union Army. I never knew one thing I could say against him if I wanted to, and his death was never forgotten by any man in our company. While the whole company felt very bad, no one felt quite as badly as I, because we were inseparable friends and his memory to me will ever be fresh. There is not one thing to mar this pleasant memory. I have seen him many times in my dreams, and my feeling toward him is always the same. After I came home, his mother always seemed mad at me because I was not dead and she never spoke a decent word to me or about me as long as she lived. I do not understand her feeling for me because we were always friends and I know he must have told her how close we were in his letters.

Post Offices in Groton moved frequently When Postmasters were Political appointees



1905-1911 When Ralph Sherry was the Postmaster



1885-89, 1893-1905 & 1912-25 it was in the Coffrin Block with PM's Manly Clark, Sewell Carpenter, H. R. Page & Geo. Clark



1929-1954 in new P.O. Geo Millis had built with him & Geo Clark Postmasters (Greta and Barbara French in photo)



1955- present in new Post Office Carroll Ricker had built with Postmasters Robert Brown, Raymond Page, Deane Page & Tom Page (Back row is Pearline Eastman, Joanna Aldrich, Robert Brown Front row: James Benzie, Gordon Perkins, and Walter Main 1955)

Flag Day, June 14

The Second Continental Congress determined the design of the American flag on Saturday, June 14, 1777. In the Papers of the Continental Congress the resolution reads:

“Resolved that the flag of the thirteen united states be 13 stripes alternate red and white, that the union be 13 stars white in a blue field representing a new constellation.”

Thus was born the famous Stars and Stripes, a flag design that evolved over time as more states joined the Union. There are now 50 stars where there were once 13, and the nation has witnessed 236 years of a unique history. Much of that history is documented in the records of Historical Societies throughout the country.

Flag Day is now recognized on June 14, the "birthday" of the Stars and Stripes, as a result of the efforts of a Wisconsin teacher, Bernard John Cigrand. The National Flag Day Foundation explains on its website:

“In Waubeka, Wisconsin, in 1885, Bernard John Cigrand a nineteen-year-old school teacher in a one-room school placed a 10 inch 38-star flag in an inkwell and had his students write essays on what the flag meant to them. He called June 14th the flag's birthday. Stony Hill School is now a historical site. From that day on Bernard J. Cigrand dedicated himself to inspire not only his students but also all Americans in the real meaning and majesty of our flag.”

As a result of Cigrand's efforts, Flag Day was officially proclaimed by President Wilson in 1916 to be celebrated on the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777. It was President Truman, however, who signed an Act of Congress on August 3, 1949, establishing June 14 as Flag Day in the United States.

FAMILIES IN 1800 GROTON CENSUS

Only one of the eight families living in Groton at the time of the first census in 1790 was missing in the 1800 census. Timothy Townshend, son-in-law of John Darling, apparently died as his widow, Sally, married Josiah Jennison in Peacham about 1804. The 30 new families in 1800 included another of John Darling's sons, Samuel, who married Catherine Welch, daughter of Edmund Welch, in 1795 and Benjamin Bailey, fourth cousin once removed of Israel Bailey, who came to Groton in 1795 from Peacham with his family. Both families were included with the Bailey and Darling families in the 1790 census. Three other families in the 1800 census had multiple members settle in Groton, Charles Emery and his sons, John and Timothy; William Taisey and his son Robert; and brothers Edmund and Jonathan Welch. There were also at least 4 families who came and left during the decade between the two censuses; Samuel Bacon, Samuel Fellows, Joshua Merrill, and Benjamin Smith. Thus there are 24 new family names in the 1800 census of Groton.

ALEXANDER, Abraham with one male age 16-26, one female under 10, one 10-16, and one 26-45 in the family. Only one daughter, Lydia, is listed in the family records. There are 18 names in the GHS records of the Alexander family.

BATCHELDER, Jeremiah with one male 26-45, two females under 10 and one 16-26 in the family. There are 218 names in the GHS records of the Batchelder family.

EMERY, Charles and his sons, John and Timothy are the 3 Emery families in the census. However, Charles daughters, Martha married Jonathan Welch; Betsey married Bradbury Morrison; Mary married James Hooper; and Meribah married Noah Morrison (both died in 1801) and all but Meribah are in the 1800 census. There are 9,040 names in the GHS records of the Emery family.

FROST, William with 1 male under 10 and one 26-45; 4 females under 10 and one 26-45. There are 883 names in the GHS records of the Frost family.

GARY, Ephraim with one male under 10, one 26-45, and one female 26-45 in the family. There are 1,248 names in the GHS

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records of the Gary family.

GRAY, Dominicus with one male under 10, one 16-26, one 26-45 and one over 45 years of age; three females under 10, one 10-16, and one over 45. There are 762 names in the GHS records of the Gray family.

HATCH, Jacob with 5 males under 10, one 26-45, one female 10-16 and one 26-45. There are 667 names in the GHS records of the Hatch family.

HEATH, Jesse with three males under 10, three 10-16, one 16-26, one over 45, two females under 10, one 16-26, and one 26-45. There are 6,982 names in the GHS records of the Heath family.

HILL, John with two daughters under 10 and both John and Sally were 26-45. There are 254 names in the GHS records of the Hill family.

HOOPER, James with one male 26-45, three females under 10 and one 26-45. There are 577 names in the GHS records of the Hooper family.

KNIGHT, Nathaniel had two males under 10, one 26-45, two females under 10, and one 26-45. There are 1,409 names in the GHS records of the Knight family.

LUND, Silas had 5 people in 1801, two males under 10, one 10-16, one 26-45, and one female 26-45. There are 522 names in the GHS records of the Lund family.

MACOMBER, Jonathan with 2 males under 10, one 10-16, and one over 45; three females under 10, one 10-16, one 16-26, and one 26-45 years of age. There are 16 names in the GHS records of the Macomber family.

MANCHESTER, Enoch with one male under 10, one 10-16, one 16-26, and one female 16-26. The family moved to St. Lawrence Co., NY in 1838. There are 95 names in the GHS records of the Manchester family.

MARTIN, Truman with one male 10-16, one 26-45, three females under 10, and one 26-45. GHS has no record of the Martin family.

MORRISON, Bradbury with two males under 10, one 26-45, two females under 10, one 10-16, and one 26-45. There are 9,811

names in the GHS records of the Morrison family.

MUNRO, Daniel with three males under 10, one 26-45, two females under 10, and one 26-45. GHS has no record of the Munro family.

NOYES, Susanna wife or widow of Moses Noyes. 1800 census of Groton, VT lists 'Susanna' Noyes head of family with 3 males under 10 and 1 female under 10, one female 10-16, one 16-26, and one 26-45. There are 1,506 names in the GHS records of the Noyes family.

PHELPS, John with one free white female 26-45, and seven other free people in the family. Albert Harleigh Hill, Groton historian reported he was of African descent. GHS has no record of the Phelps family.

POLLARD, Edward with three males under 10, one 26-45, one female under 10 and one 26-45. The family moved to Bath, NH before the 1810 census. There are 87 names in the GHS records of the Pollard family.

REMICK, John with two males under 10, one 10-16, one 26-45, and one female 26-45. There are 18 names in the GHS records of the Remick family.

THURSTON, Kuke (believed to be Ezekiel) with two males 16-26, and one female 16-26. There are 592 names in the GHS records of the Thurston family.

TAISEY, William settled in Groton with his wife and two sons in 1797; His oldest son, Robert is listed with two males under 10, one 10-16, one 26-45, two females under 10, and one 26-45. There are 1,505 names in the GHS records of the Taisey family.

WELCH, Edmund Jr. and Jonathan brothers. Edmund is listed with three males under 10, one 10-16, one 16-26, one 45+, one female under 10, one 10-16, one 16-26, and one 26-45. Jonathan has one male under 10, one 10-16, one 26-45, two females under 10, one 10-16, and one 26-45. There are 8,482 names in the GHS records of the Welch family.

Many people are in more than one family and some are in many families. Plans are to put these records on the GHS web site.

GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Visit GHS Web page at Historical Society on <http://www.grotonvt.com/>

Annual membership dues are payable for the calendar year
Annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families
Lifetime Membership dues are \$100

Membership status as of 5 June 2013:

Lifetime members	13
Dues Paid for 2014	8
Dues Paid for 2013	31
Dues Paid for 2012 (in grace period)	17
Dues Paid for 2011 (grace period ends this year)	8
Complementary (Ross McLeod, VHS, UVM)	3

Your status is shown with your mailing address, please let GHS know if there is an error in our records of your membership status.

All members who provide an email address will be sent a copy of the newsletter. If you want to opt out of getting a printed copy, please send a request to jwbenzie@mchsi.com This will save GHS the cost of printing and mailing. 15 members have opted out of printed copies.

Every institution with collections is faced with the challenges and rewards of collections care. While guidelines may change over time, there are some fundamental principles that do not. Light exposure causes many colors to fade. A very warm humid environment will encourage mold. Water damages paper. If a painting is struck from behind, the paint and ground layers will crack - even if this damage is not apparent until many years later. There are many resources to assist with collections care from online documents to mentors. Two good online resources are the Connecting to Collections website and the Northeast Document Conservation Center website.

Two printed resources that are both easy to read and full of good information are: *Conservation Concerns: A Guide for Collectors and Curators* and *Saving Stuff: How to Care for and Preserve Your Collectibles, Heirlooms, and Other Prized Possessions*. Both are published by the Smithsonian Institute.

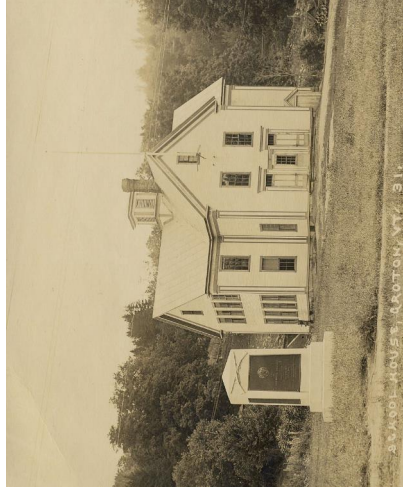
Conservation Concerns is written in an easy to digest format and covers a wide variety of materials - wood, textiles, ceramics, etc. Chapters include topics such as practical storage methods and warning signs of when you need to call in more experienced assistance.

Saving Stuff is geared towards the general public, but many of the ideas presented are easily translated to small historical societies, libraries or museums. Both books are inexpensive and still in print, so you should be able to find them through your local bookstore or online.

Don Smith has reposted the Historical Society web pages as there was a breakdown in some of the links at higher levels. The web site is now back up. Please notify Don if you have any trouble navigating the GHS web site.

The Groton Post Office has been moved many times since it was established in 1833. Eighteen men have served as postmaster—Horatio Heath, William Darling, John Buchanan, Park Renfrew, Hosea Welch 2nd, Jonathan Darling, Manly Clark, Isaac Hall, Sewell Carpenter, Ralph Sherry, H. Raymond Page, George Clark, George Millis, Robert Brown, Raymond J. Page, Deane Page, and Thomas Page. Some locations of the post office were: Samuel James Building, Low Store, Hosea Welch store, Coffrin Block, Hall & Cochran store, Aaron Welch Hall (IGA store), George Millis building, and Carroll Ricker Building. Until the civil service reform act was passed, postmasters were political appointees, thus the frequent changing of postmasters and post offices with each election, when parties changed. (based on 1955 town report)

Groton Historical Society Newsletter
Editor jwbenzie@mchsi.com
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File copy

Groton High School All-Class Reunion
will be June 29, 2013, at the Groton
Community Bldg. 11:00 am to 5:00 pm