
GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

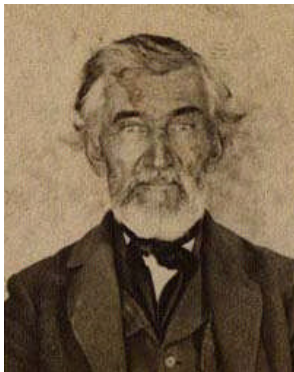
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Winter 2007

GROTON'S PIONEERS



Dr. John Brock Darling (1822-1905), Robards' grandson and John's great grandson was a Physician in Groton .

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Part Five: The Darling Family

This is the fifth in a series on the early pioneers in Groton. Articles on Jesse Heath, Aaron Hosmer, James Abbott and Edmund Morse were in previous issues of the Newsletter.

John Darling and his two married children, **Robards** and **Sally** [Mrs. Timothy Townshend] brought their families from Plaistow, NH to Groton in 1787, the same year that Col. Ira Allen was chosen by the proprietors to survey and layout 100 acre lots for sale to new settlers, even though Groton's Town Charter was not signed by Governor Thomas Chittenden until two years later on 20 October 1789.

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MEETING SCHEDULE

(second Tuesday)

March through November
10 AM at the Peter Paul House,
1203 Scott Hwy.

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John Darling was born 29 January 1744 in Kingston, NH, the third of John and Hannah (Morse) Darling's ten children. He married Phoebe Robards 24 December 1764 in Hampstead, NH. Phoebe was born 15 June 1748 in Hampstead, the oldest of 5 children born to Daniel and Meribah (Davis) Robards. John and Phoebe settled on lot number 22, Robards and his wife Judith (Gile) on lot 23, and Timothy Townshend and his wife Sally (Darling) on lot 21. These three families totaled 47 percent of the people (21 of 45) enumerated in the first U. S. population census of Groton in 1790.

Descendants of John and Phoebe listed in the Groton Historical Society family records total 5,050 (on 11/25/06) and require 315 pages to print a register of the family. Although they were not the first settlers in Groton, they were almost half of those listed in the 1790 census and their descendants probably account for a large share of Groton's population today.

John Darling was listed in the 1790 census as head of a family of eleven; 4 males 16 or more years of age, 2 under 16, and 5 females. The 4 males 16 and older are believed to be John, himself, age 46, and sons Jonathan 22, Josiah 18, and Samuel 16. The two males under 16 were Moses age 13 and Stephen 4, and the 5 females were Phoebe age 42 and daughters Meribah 12, Dorothy 10,

Phoebe 6 and Hannah one. John died in 1830 and is buried in the Darling cemetery in Groton along with his wife, Phoebe, and several of their children and grandchildren.

Children of John and Phoebe (Robards) Darling

Robards was born October 15, 1765 in Hampstead, NH and came to Groton, VT with his wife, Judith (Gile), and their daughter, Deliverance, in 1787 when his parents and sister, Sally (Mrs. Timothy Townshend) came with their families. Robards was listed as head of a family of 7 in the 1790 census; 2 males 16 years or more, one under 16, and 4 females. Robards was 25 at the time and his son, John, was 2; his wife, Judith was 21 and their daughters were Deliverance age 5, Judith 3, and Hannah a newborn in 1791 the year when the Groton census was completed. The other male 16 years of age or older living with the family is unknown, he may have been a hired man or relative. [Perhaps Ezekiel Gile who is listed in the 1820 census of Groton, age 45+, so he would have been 15+ in 1790]

Robards was elected surveyor of lumber at the first Town Meeting on March 20, 1797 held at his father's home. The next several town meetings were held at Robards

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TECHNOLOGY AND FAMILY LIFE IN THE 1900's

During the twentieth century, the average American household was greatly influenced by what might be called the "industrial revolution in the home." The wood or coal burning stove was replaced with a gas or electric range; an electric washing machine replaced the metal washboard; a gas or electric dryer replaced the clothesline; the vacuum cleaner replaced the broom; the refrigerator replaced the ice box and root cellar; electric water pumps replaced the hand pump, the bucket and the well; and indoor plumbing replaced the outhouse. Hot and cold running water became reality at the turn of a spigot. Chopping wood, shoveling out ashes, hauling in water, and beating rugs with a broom were fast becoming jobs of the past. But it didn't stop there; new 'labor-saving' machines became available at a rapid rate in the 1930's after the development of smaller and cheaper electric motors and the widespread distribution of electricity by the rural electrification act (REA). Toasters, mixers, blenders, cookers, coffee makers, can openers, and microwaves are a minute example of the multitude of appliances that became available to assist the homemaker. Machines to do the housework replaced much of the hired domestic help in the home, but the homemaker spent about the same amount of time on housework.

The automobile replaced not only the horse and buggy, but eventually much of the public transportation, and home deliveries. Until Henry Ford introduced the Model T in 1908,

automobiles were mainly for the rich. As more women started driving, more businessmen stopped delivery service. The iceman doesn't cometh anymore and neither does the milkman, the bakery truck, the butcher, the grocer, the knife sharpener, the drycleaner, the junk dealer, the seamstress, or the doctor. By the end of the century, newspapers and pizzas may have been the only things you could get delivered to your home. The era of door to door salesmen gradually faded into history. But Mother was able to drive to all these places, plus provide transportation for her family to their activities. Now she was also a chauffeur and spent more time behind the wheel and shopping than she did by the stove. Some people rationalized that all the modern conveniences, like microwaves, frozen foods, washer and dryer, paper diapers, etc. left the housewife with so much time on her hands she had to look for outside work, but nothing could be further from the truth. Most adult women are in the work force because they need the money. American housewives in 1960, 1970, and 1980 spent about the same number of hours at their work (cooking, cleaning, shopping and chauffeuring) as their grandmothers and mothers had in 1910, 1920, and 1930. The difference was they now had bigger, cleaner and healthier homes with a higher standard of living for their family.

New medicines made it

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dwelling on lot 23, which was more central for the citizens to attend.

Robards and Judith (Gile) Darling raised a family of 13 children in Groton: Deliverance married first Caleb Parker and they had a daughter, Lydia. She married 2nd David Jenkins and they had 4 children; Judith married first William Taisey and they had 3 children. She married 2nd Norris Marshall and they had 3 children, including McLane Marshall who was involved in the infamous 'Bristol Bill' counterfeiting scheme in Groton; John married Janette Brock and they had 10 children, including John Brock Darling one of the first physicians in Groton and Jonathan Robards Darling a judge and businessman who built the dam which impounded Darling pond (now Seyon) for his lumber business, the store for his mercantile business [the recently renovated Groton General], and a stoneshed for the granite business; Hannah married John Whitehill and they had 7 children; Medad married Elizabeth Hamblet and they had 6 children. His sawmill, gristmill, carding mill and fulling mill on the Wells river helped determine the location of Groton village; Daniel was married 3 times, first to Mary Taisey and they had 4 children, 2nd to Elizabeth Bigelow and they had 3 children, and 3rd to Almira Bagley; Ruth married first James Taisey and they had 6 children and 2nd Deacon William Hodgden; Sally married first Joseph Morrison and they had 10 children and 2nd Hosea Lowe; Phoebe

married Samuel Clark as his 2nd wife and they had 3 children; Rhoda was married 3 times, first to Robert Taisey Jr. and they had one son, 2nd John Jennison and 3rd Hiram Carter; Susanna was married twice to Ephriam Low and David Jones; Nathan was married twice to Sarah Hooper and they had 8 children, 2nd to Eliza Darrah and they had 2 children; and Lucinda married Annual (Israil?) Vennor and they had a son, Mariah.

Jonathan born 20 Dec 1767 married Hannah Abbott born in Dec. 1773 at Andover, MA or Pembroke, NH and came to Barnet in 1783 with her parents, Job and Phebe (Farnum) Abbott. Jonathan and Hannah had no children.

Sally was born in Hampstead, NH on 14 June 1770. She married Timothy Townshend and they came to Groton in 1787 and are listed in the 1790 census as head of a family of 3 ; one male 16 years of age or older and 2 females. The family is not listed in the 1800 census, so Timothy may have died before then or possibly the family had moved. His widow, Sally (Darling) Townshend, married 2nd Joshua Jennison in Peacham early in the 1800's and three children are listed with them – Sally, John (b. January 1, 1808), and Lucinda. Perhaps the oldest girl was born

to Timothy and Sally and adopted by Joshua, this would account for the two females listed in the 1790 census of Groton for the Timothy Townshend household.

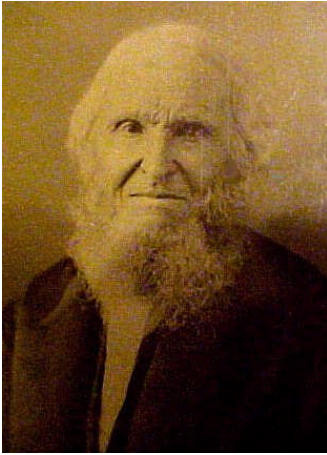
Josiah born 14 June 1772 married Susanna Abbott born in Dec 1778, sister to Hannah. Josiah and Susanna had no children. Susanna had two more husbands after Josiah, Mr. Laird and Anthony Perry.

Samuel born 18 July 1775, married on 24 April 1795 in Groton to Catherine Welch born 3 Dec 1778 in Wells, ME, eldest of Edmund, Jr. and Hannah (Annis) Welch's 10 children. Catherine died 21 Nov. 1854 in Groton and Samuel married 2nd Sarah "Sally" (Darling) Thurston, daughter of Peter and Rebecca (Burbank) Darling and widow of Ezekiel Thurston, in Groton on 29 June 1855. Samuel died in Groton on 10 April 1856. Samuel and Catherine had 13 children, all born in Groton. Their first child, Hannah, was born 3 March 1796 and died 7 March 1829, age 33. Jonathan was born 2 Nov. 1797. He married Mary Rhodes, b. 17 July 1795, daughter of Oliver and Martha (Pratt) Rhodes and divorcee of William Taisey, who had left her for parts unknown in 1817. Jonathan and Mary went west to Bangor, WI where he died in September 1863. They had 6 children: Chester, Marcia, Lucinda, Abner, Charlotte and Josiah. Elnathan was born 2 Nov. 1799 and died at age one. Ira was born 5 August 1801 and married

28 Oct. 1833 Ethelinda Page born 30 July 1814, daughter of Moses and Dolly (Bennett) Page. She died in 1880 and he died in 1886; they are both buried in the West Groton cemetery. They had 5 children: Edwin, Lidana, Irene, Elmira (died age 2 months), and Elmira C. Josiah was born 8 August 1803 and died 4 April 1825, age 21. Aaron was born 7 July 1805 and was married in 1826 to Judith Jenkins born 10 November 1808, daughter of David Jenkins and Deliverance Darling. Aaron and Judith had 4 girls; Lucinda, Elizabeth, Dilla and Jane. Aaron died 18 March 1839 and is buried in West Groton cemetery. Judith married 2nd Lyman Page and they had 4 children. Nathan was born 4 August 1807 and married Drucilla Jenkins, sister to Judith, on 16 November 1829. Nathan and Drucilla had 8 children: Isaac N. H., Julia, Alamander, Rosina, Aaron, Daniel, Marshall, and Lodema. Eunice was born 14 February 1810 and married in 1827 Rufus Goodwin, born 2 August 1802, son of Benjamin and Phoebe (Wilson) Goodwin. Rufus died in 1870 and Eunice died in 1871 and they are buried in West Groton cemetery. They had 6 children: Roxanna, Abner, William, Rachel, Samuel and Isaac. Hulda was born 11 January 1812 and married in Groton on 21 October 1836 to John P. Emery born 31 August 1815 son

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A FEW of John & Phoebe DARLING'S 5,000+ Descendants



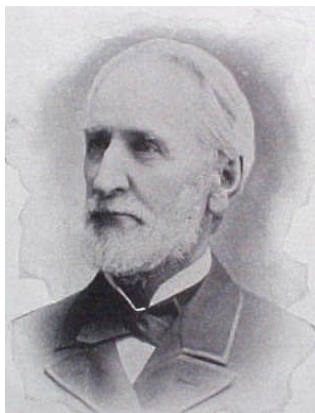
Medad Darling (1794-1878) son of Robards and grandson of John influenced location of Groton village by his sawmill, grist mill, carding mill and fulling mill on the Wells river.

Abigail (Hosmer) Welch (1797-1897) daughter of Aaron Jr. and Dorothy (Darling) Hosmer, was a granddaughter of John. She married Medad Welch Sr. in 1815 and was one of Groton's first centenarians.





Robert Nelson Darling (1859-1932) son of Jonathan R., great grandson of Robards, and g-g grandson of John. He ran the lumber business for his father.



Judge Jonathan Robards Darling (1823-1910) grandson of Robards and great grandson of John was an influential business man in Groton with his lumber, granite, and mercantile operations.



Dr. George Darling (1857-?) son of Dr. John B. and great grandson of Robards served his Groton patients from South Ryegate .



William Daniel Darling (1863-1936) son of Dr. John B., great grandson of Robards, and g-g grandson of John. worked in the granite industry in South Ryegate.

Opposite page: William Vance Darling (1867-1942) son of Isaac N. H., grandson of Nathan, great grandson of Samuel and great-great grandson of John, with his 2nd wife Evalona (Scott) and their family— back: Ralph, Leslie, Sam, Clyde; middle: Nora, William V., Evalona, Jeanie; front: Eva, Teddy, Agnes, Christina and Elsie. Missing is Newtie attending school at Cornell and William F. "Willie", a son by his first wife, Lillian Page.

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of Caleb and Margaret (Powers) Emery. Hulda and John had 5 children: Catherine, William, John, George and Jane. Abner was born 8 May 1814 and died 9 January 1825 age ten. Susan was born 7 May 1817 and married Ezra Benfield on 28 December 1837. She and her baby died in 1854 and they are buried in the old Groton Village cemetery. Samuel was born 26 May 1819 and was married 4 times. First he married Irene Page daughter of Enoch, Jr. and Betsey (Welch) Page on 6 February 1840. She died in 1852 and he married her sister, Betsey. Samuel and Betsey had 3 children: Caira, Eva and an infant who was born and died in 1859. Betsey died in 1865 and Samuel married Phebe Hosmer, widow of Nathaniel Perkins and David Vance. On 29 August 1894 he married Elizabeth Wood. Samuel died on 19 October 1894. Stephen was born 14 December 1822 and married Mary Philbrick, daughter of Asa and Phoebe (Emery) Philbrick, on 28 November 1844. Stephen and Mary had one daughter, Lucinda, born in 1849. Mary was not listed with the family in the 1850 census so perhaps she died giving birth to Lucinda. Stephen married 2nd 14 November 1850 Sarah Welch, daughter of Daniel and Sarah (Page) Welch.

Moses was born 1 December 1777 and married Betsey Thompson on 10 July 1802. Moses and Betsey

had 7 children: Betsey married Josiah Paul and they had 3 children; Harriet died young; William married Dorcas Richardson and they had 3 or more children; Moses married Lucinda Morse, daughter of Edmund and Sarah (Wesson) Morse and they had one daughter; Ebenezer married Lucy Elves and they moved to CA; Olive married Benjamin Emerson and they had 8 children; and Charity married Silas Lund as his 2nd wife. Betsey died 23 November 1823 and is buried in the Darling cemetery in Groton. Moses married 2nd Abigail Pray in Groton and they had 6 children: Harriet married Hosea Welch Jr. and they had 8 children; Peter married Mary Hooper and had 6 children. Mary died in 1863 and Peter married 2nd Susanna Keenan who died in 1864. He married 3rd in 1877 Melinda (Thornton) Miller, widow of George Miller. Daniel lived in FL and was married 3 times to Emma Morris, Mary Cutler and Frances Richards; John married Elsie Crooker and lived in WI; Thomas married Mary Thomas; and Stephen lived in Boston and married first Emma Palmer and then Marcia Johnson.

Meribah was born in 1778 and married Bethuel Fuller. They had 4 children in Groton: Samuel, Mary, James and Ira. The family moved to Albany, VT where they may have had more children.

Dorothy was born in 1780 and married Aaron Hosmer Jr. in July 1793 at Groton. They had 11 children: Rufus died age 7; Abigail married Medad Welch Sr. and had 10 children; Phebe died age 3; Josiah married Lois Green and had 5 children; Susannah married David James; Caroline was married 4 times, 1st to Daniel Stanley and had 8 children, 2nd to William Humphrey, 3rd to Daniel Heath son of Jesse and Phebe (Straw) Heath, and 4th to David Jones; Judith married Simon Ricker and had one son; Phebe was married 3 times to Nathaniel Perkins, David Vance and Samuel Darling; Charlotte married John Morrison and had 4 children; Eliza married Andrew McFarland and had 3 children; and Hannah married William Morrison and had 11 children.

Phoebe was born 2 June 1784 and married Job Welton in Groton on 27 April 1802. They had 8 children: Phebe; Sally; Lucy married James Corruith; Betsey married Mr. Honors and she bequeathed the 'Honors House' to the Methodist Church; Josiah; Isaac married Elmina Slack and then Laura Peabody; Lucinda married Lucas Divoll; and Laban married Mary Lovejoy.

Stephen was born in 1786 at Plaistow, NH and married Nancy Fisk, a widow, in Kennebunk, ME about 1807. They had 6 children: John; Atlanta married William Lyle

Jr. and they had 15 children; Joanna married Benjamin Franklin Heath; Samuel married Narcissa Heath and they had a daughter; Rufus served in the Mexican War; and Nancy married William Dodd and then Charles Collins.

Hannah was born 14 June 1790 and married John B. Heath, son of Jesse and Phebe (Straw) Heath in Groton on 10 December 1804. They had 9 children: Belinda married Edmund "Neddy" Welch and they had 5 children; Jessie III married first Hannah Allen, a niece of Ethan Allen, and they had 5 children, 2nd Rachel Skelton and they had 2 girls, and 3rd Ellen Austin; Olive; John married Hester Davis and 2nd Margaret Marshall; Jonathan married first Mary Randall and they had one son, 2nd Shady Rea and they had 6 children, and 3rd Priscilla James; Phebe married Ira Green and notes in the family history file state they had a big family but no names were found; Albert married Elizabeth Bryant and they had 3 daughters; Daniel married Catherine Austin and they had 3 children; Jason married Lucinda (?) and they had 7 children.

JOHN DARLING'S ANCESTORS

John's grandfather, John Darling (1683-1753), married Mary Page in 1708. He was the son of Naomi Flanders (daughter of Stephen Flanders and Jane, a

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unlikely that an American child would succumb to diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, rickets, measles, mumps, tuberculosis, smallpox, cholera, malaria, or polio, which were once fatal or terribly disabling. Many ordinary childhood complaints that once took weeks or even months of full-time nursing attention: bronchitis; strep throat; scarlet fever; bacterial pneumonia; infections of the skin, or the eyes, or the ears, or the airways, became curable within a few days of taking antibiotics. In the days before vaccines, antibiotics, and vitamin supplements, a mother who was employed outside the home was a serious, sometimes life-endangering threat to the health of her family. This is part of the reason why life expectancy was always low and infant mortality high among the poorest segment of the population – those most dependent upon a mother’s wages. Before World War II, single women working in factories or as teachers, nurses, secretaries, etc. would leave their

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Sandusky Indian Princess) and Naomi acknowledged that he was illegitimate when summoned to court at Ipswich, MA in 1682, but the identity of his father is a mystery. Waldo Glover names Samuel as his father, but George Scott Darling has him George, a sea captain out of Salem, MA. Lawrence Heath in his book *“Our Family Legacy”* has him Jonathan, son of George and Katherine (Gridley) Darling; but the book *“Darlings of New England and*

jobs when they married to become full-time homemakers.

Household technologies, especially the medicines, played a major role in facilitating (as opposed to causing) what some call the most significant social revolution of the twentieth century – the “working” housewife. They work outside the home for eight (or more) hours, then return home to become chief cook and bottle washer for another five, leaving the cleaning and marketing for the weekend or their “days off.” Technology made it possible for married women to enter the work force by freeing them not just from the drudgery of housework, but also from the dreaded emotional equation of female employment with poverty and disease. It allowed her to sustain her family at a level of health and comfort enjoyed only by the very rich earlier in the century.

Condensed from “Less work for mother?” by Ruth S. Cowan, *Invention & Technology*, spring 1987, p. 57 – 63.

Beyond” compiled by Virginia Darling Otto and R. Evelyn Darling Olson from the works of Carlos Darling, Delia Darling Honey, and Henry Darling do not connect him to any of these, they list him as son of Naomi Flanders and an unknown Darling.

He is listed in the GHS family file as son of Jonathan and Naomi with the above explanation noted.

2007 Membership Application

Mail to:

GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**Groton, VT 05046-0089**

Name _____

Street/P.O. Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

e-mail: _____

Annual dues are \$10**GHS Update**

Twelve of the 74 members in good standing have paid their 2007 dues. Members who have not paid dues since 2004 have been dropped from the mailing list and those who last paid in 2005 (5 members) are on the last year of their grace period. The year on record for your most recent dues payment is shown on your mailing label and is highlighted in yellow if you are in the grace period and will be highlighted in red on your last mailing.

The GHS Family Records were updated recently by members of the Ashford, Eastman, and Lamberton families. We thank all those who have submitted family information and are especially grateful to Betty (Murray) Smallacombe, granddaughter of Roger and Sarah Eastman, for sending family pictures along with the family information. She also sent some pictures of the Keenan and Goodwin families. George Hall also provided some information and pictures of the Keenan and Dunn families. There are now 38,005 names listed in the GHS Family Records computer file.

Be sure and visit the GHS website, it is easily accessed from the Groton Town website at <http://www.grotonvt.com/>. The latest newsletter can be accessed directly from the Groton Town website or the GHS website itself.

Groton Historical Society Newsletter
J. W. Benzie, Editor
P. O. Box 89
Groton, VT 05046-0089

First Class
Postage



Groton Historical Society meeting house built in 1840 by Peter Paul
Used to display and store historical records and artifacts since 1989
Open to visitors the first Saturday in October—Fall Foliage Day in
Groton— and by appointment from May to October