
GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY Newsletter

Volume 29 Issue 1

Groton, Vermont 05046

Winter 2016

7th GROTON SCHOOL REUNION June 25, 2016



Groton School, Groton, VT, in 1957. Photo by Katherine Harbison

Village School 1957

2015 OFFICERS

President	Richard Brooks
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Newsletter Editor J. Willard Benzie

The first all class reunion for Groton High School was part of Groton's celebration of the Vermont Bicentennial 1791—1991. The State theme was HOMECOMING and the Groton Historical Society held a reunion for all classes on July 6, 1991 at Blue Mountain Union School cafeteria with a chicken barbeque prepared by the Groton Fire Department. The Society had recently restored the Peter Paul House purchased in 1989, and held an open house featuring High School yearbooks among their displays of Groton memorabilia.

More than 400 people came and it was such a success that another reunion was planned in five years. The oldest class at the 1991 reunion was represented by Rufus Hosmer who graduated in 1924.

In 1996, 390 tickets were sold for the second all-class reunion and the oldest class was 1926 represented by Raymond Page and Donald Miller.

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Requests for continuing the reunions on a regular schedule resulted in changing the years to 2000, 2005, etc. for easier planning by alumni and the society.

On June 24, 2000 there were 270 in attendance and the oldest class was 1924 again, represented by Raymond Page.

The fourth reunion was held June 24, 2005 with more than 200 alumni and guests attending.

The fifth reunion was held June 26, 2010 with about 100 former students and 50 guests attending. The oldest class was 1935 represented by Dale Brown and Dr. H. Gordon Page.

Classmates were concerned that 5 years was too long between reunions, so the all-classes reunion committee petitioned the Historical Society to have the sixth one on June 29, 2013.

Since attendance had dropped below 200, it could now be held in the Groton Community Building. There were 120 alumni and 48 guests attending. Pictures were taken and a “yearbook” of the 2013 reunion was printed and mailed to those ordering a copy. The oldest class was 1935 again represented by Dr. H. Gordon Page.

The seventh All-Class reunion is planned for this year and the committee is already working on the plans. Contact your classmates to see if they are going and to be sure they know about the All-Class Reunion!

Here is your invitation from Ann Winter, who is chairing the Committee again in 2016.

January 1, 2016

Dear Groton High School Graduate:

It is a new year, slowly filling up with ideas of things to do, friends to see, places to go, and included in those ideas and friends is the GHS All-Class Reunion this coming summer!

Saturday, June 25, 2016
Groton Community Building
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
\$15.00 per person
Luncheon Buffet

The Community Building will be open for your arrival and check-in about 11:15. As in the past, the tables will be set up by Class Year so you can find where to sit. Also, as in the past, there will be passing of the microphone to each class for some comments, so as you are getting reacquainted, please decide who might be the “spokes person” for your class.

While you are there, there will be a table set up by the Groton Historical Society in the event anyone who does not currently belong to the Society, can do so if you wish. They put out a newsletter four times a year with historical information about the town, current information and opportunities. Please keep this in mind and stop by their table. It is a nice way to keep in touch with the town.

Hope to hear from you and that you will be able to attend. We ask you to invite family and friends to join you too. The more, the merrier!

Isn't it a wonderful thing that we're all different? Each of us has strengths and skills to share, and when we link our individual strengths together, we're invincible. Cant imagine US without **YOU! HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE ALL SCHOOL REUNION!**

A Reservation form is on the last page of this newsletter. **THIS IS THE ONLY NOTICE YOU WILL RECEIVE**, so please complete it and return it as soon as possible, but not later than June 15, 2016.

Ann M. Winter, 1958
29 LePage Road
Barre, VT 05641-9066
1-802-476-8581

Lois W. Boemig, 1963
Peter Lyon, 1963
Butch Gandin, 1963
Jan Lyon, 1964
Sylvia Beck, 1968
Doreen B. “Kay” Cary, 1961

GROTON HIGH SCHOOL

The first Groton High School was in 1869, the year the last village school building was first used, but it only lasted a few years and then Groton students had to get secondary education in Peacham, Newbury, or Montpelier until 1897 when the town voted to add a third room to the village school for advanced instruction. This High School was also short lived, and after the 1909 class graduated only the first two years of High School were offered and students had to go elsewhere for their final two years. In 1915 when state regulations required a second teacher, the High School was closed completely and the town paid tuition for students to attend other schools.

After World War I the town voted to reinstate the High School, which had been closed after graduating 24 students between 1903 and 1909. In September 1919, Mr. J. Stewart Garvin home from the Army, came to Groton at the request of Superintendent Leonard Smith and started the last Groton High School.

Classes were held in the upstairs hall of the old building. The High School rooms at the back of the building were added later, in 1921. They included two classrooms and a laboratory downstairs and a study hall upstairs. The study hall was also used for practicing basketball. Benches were taken in when it was needed for a class room.

The first class included three girls and nine boys: Alice Dunn, Hazel Johnson, Dorothy Miller, Crawford Adams, Edward Bailey, Edwin Carter, Ross Clark, Cyrus Eastman, Uric Legare, Donald Morrison, Lorimer Puffer, and Milton Ricker. .

Mr. Garvin, the only teacher, taught English, Latin, Algebra, and General Science. The second year Miss Shields, the eighth

grade teacher, helped and Mr. Carl Samuelson was added to the faculty the third year.

In spite of the small student body, Mr. Garvin was able to organize teams in basketball and baseball. The varsity team played Cabot, McIndoes, Wells River, Newbury, and Bath.

The first graduation was in 1923 and the last one in 1967. High school students were then tuitioned to other schools until Blue Mountain Union School (BMU) was opened in the fall of 1970 for classes in Kindergarten through twelfth grade. Primary and Elementary classes (K—8th grade) continued in the village school until the fall of 1970 when all Groton students attended BMU.

Less than two years after the last classes left the village school, the building was burned by the Groton Fire Department in April 1972 at a “fire school” with ten different fire departments participating. Fires were set in various rooms and the fire trainees took turns in putting them out. This training helped develop a comprehensive fire plan for Groton and the surrounding towns. Later that summer a new firehouse was built on the site of the old village school.

The final blaze was set by Groton Fire Chief, Harold Puffer, who said, “I went into the home economics room alone and started the fire that put the Groton School up in smoke. Walking out of the building that one last time, I thought of the 12 years passing through those doors. It was a tearful departure from the old building I will never forget.”

Between 1923 and 1967 more than 500 students graduated from Groton High School with an average class size of about 12.

GROTON RURAL SCHOOLS

The Groton Charter in 1789 ordered one lot to be set aside for an English school (common school) within the town, which was in accordance with the Vermont Constitution that stated: *A school or schools shall be established in each town, by the Legislature, for the convenient instruction of youth, with such salaries to the Masters, paid by each town, making proper use of school lands in each town, thereby to enable them to instruct youth at low prices.*

Nathaniel Knight the first town clerk, was also the first schoolmaster in town. According to General Albert H. Hill's history of Groton he taught school for ten consecutive winters from 1795 to 1805 using a room in James Abbott's house located in the NE corner of Groton on lot number one.

At the 1801 town meeting three school districts were created with the first two along the Great Road and the third included the rest of the town, but this was soon divided into a fourth district a few years later. Districts were continually being changed by combining or dividing them as the population of school age children changed. In 1828 the districts were numbered replacing the earlier names resulting in 12 numbered districts, but they did not all exist at the same time.

<u>Dist.</u>	<u>early name</u>	<u>dates</u>	<u>latest name</u>
1	center or Townhouse	1801—1908	Morrison school
2	Southwest	1801—	Carter school
3	Northwest	1803—1932	Plummer school
4	Northeast	1801—	Welch school
5	Southeast	1813—1970	Village school
6	Village (with 5)	1840—1867	
7	Westville	1830—1948	Westville school
8	East Topsham Road	1833—1875	
9	Carter (with 2)	1833—1890	
10	Hatch	1846—1939	South school
11	Groton Pond	1875—1886	
12		1876—1878	

In 1892 Vermont General Assembly abolished all school districts except for consolidated school districts making the town one school district and the schoolhouses became town property. Although given new names the schools were often still referred to by their old numbers: Morrison No. 1; Carter No. 2; Plummer No. 3; Welch No. 4; Westville No. 7 and South No. 10.

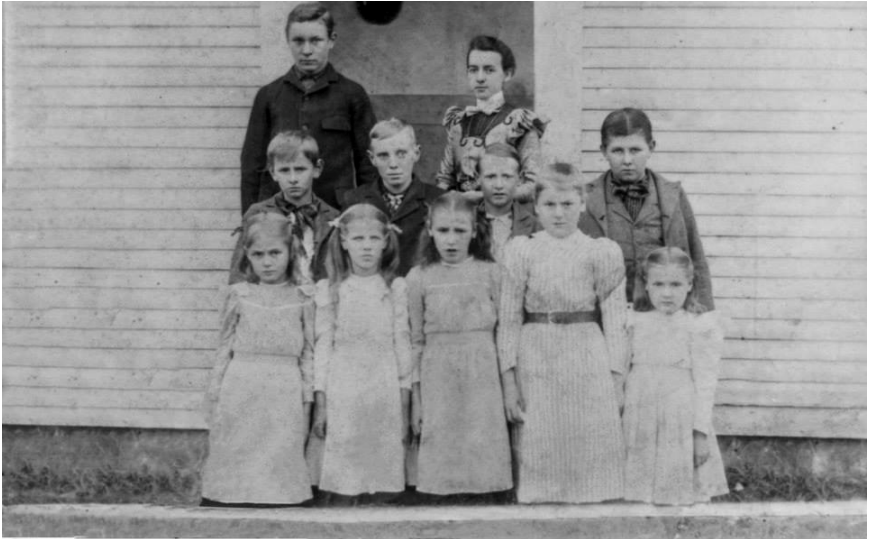
The six Groton rural schools in the twentieth century all closed between 1908 and 1948 with the Morrison school the first to close in 1908 and the Westville school the last one in 1948. Helen Benzie was the last teacher at Westville and she reminisced about her first teaching experience in 1926 which was also in the Westville school 22 years earlier when she was Miss Helen Peck.

Starting in 1949 all students were transported to the Village school until it was closed in 1970 and Blue Mountain Union School opened in the fall of 1970. Towns of Groton, Ryegate, and the Village of Wells River in the town of Newbury joined to form the consolidated Blue Mountain Union School District Number 21.

Blue Mountain Union School District includes the whole Wells River Valley from its headwaters in Groton through Ryegate to its entrance into the Connecticut River in the village of Wells River.

The era of the one room rural schoolhouse, made famous as the little red schoolhouse in Whittier's "Schoolhouse by the Road", came to an end in Groton when the last rural school in West Groton (Westville) was closed in 1948. It was a time when all eight grades were together in one room with one teacher. Where the three "R's" were taught—Reading, wRiting, and aRithmetic. Social events in the one-room school houses included, box suppers, dances, and other gatherings of the neighborhood community.

SOME GROTON RURAL SCHOOLS



Morrison School - 1908

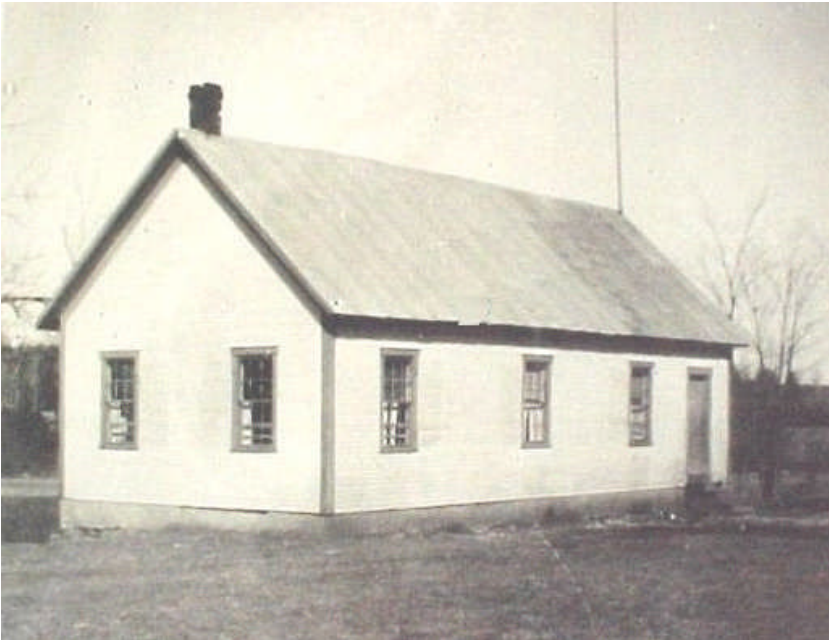
Morrison School



South schoolhouse on Powder Spring Road



Welch School



Westville schoolhouse

FAMILY NAMES IN GROTON CENSUSES 1790—1940

The first time family names appeared in the census records are summarized below: (names—years listed alphabetically)

Can you find your family name or any of your ancestors listed?

ABBOTT	1790	BERGESON	1900	BURTON	1887
ACHILLES	1940	BERNAD	1900	BUTLER	1900
ADAMS	1860	BIGELOW	1880	BUTSON	1900
ALDRICH	1900	BINGHAM	1887	BUTTERFIELD	1880
ALEXANDER	1800	BIRNIE	1930	BUZZI	1920
ALSTON	1870	BISSELL	1860	CALDWELL	1887
AMARA	1910	BIXBY	1940	CAMPBELL	1930
ANDERSON	1900	BLANCHARD	1880	CARBEE	1900
ANDREALETTI	1920	BLISS	1870	CARI	1910
ANDREWS	1880	BLODGETT	1900	CARIO	1910
ANNIS	1810	BOARDMAN	1940	CARPENTER	1850
ANTONIO	1900	BOLTON	1900	CARRICK	1850
AORS	1900	BONDEAU	1880	CARTER	1810
ASHFORD	1900	BONE	1910	CASH	1850
BACON	1910	BOOMHOWER	1910	CASSADY	1880
BADGER	1910	BOOTH	1900	CECCATO	1910
BAGONISI	1900	BORCIN	1900	CECCHINI	1910
BAILEY	1790	BORIGHT	1940	CERUTTI	1920
BAIN	1920	BOUTWELL	1880	CHALMERS	1900
BALCH	1940	BOWEN	1910	CHAMBERLIN	1860
BALDWIN	1850	BOWLEY	1880	CHAPIN	1880
BANCROFT	1887	BRAGDEN	1810	CHASE	1820
BANK	1900	BRICKETT	1840	CHEECHI	1910
BARARINI	1900	BRIDGES	1930	CHURCH	1910
BARNETT	1870	BRIGGS	1900	CLARK	1830
BARTLETT	1930	BRIGNOLA	1920	CLAY	1900
BASS	1880	BRINK	1910	CLEVELAND	1920
BATCHELDER	1800	BROCK	1910	CLOUGH	1860
BAUER	1940	BROWN	1830	COATES	1870
BEAN	1850	BUCHANAN	1840	COCHRAN	1900
BECK	1930	BUCKHAM	1900	COFFRIN	1820
BECKLEY	1910	BULLARD	1940	COLBY	1860
BEEDE	1940	BULLOCK	1920	COLDIN	1900
BELLAMY	1830	BURKE	1910	COLE	1887
BENNETT	1810	BURNETT	1910	COLLINS	1920
BENZIE	1900	BURNHAM	1830	COMITTE	1900

COMSTOCK	1870	DURKEE	1940	GARDNER	1910
CONSTANT	1910	DUSSOUTH	1880	GARVIN	1940
CONVERSE	1930	EASTMAN	1870	GARY	1800
CORAVATTI	1920	EDWARDS	1930	GATES	1840
CORLISS	1870	EGETEL	1900	GAY	1887
CORRUTH	1840	EGGLESTON	1860	GELIO	1910
CORY	1880	ELMER	1900	GIARDIN	1940
COSTELLO	1900	ELY	1910	GIBSON	1880
COWAN	1910	EMERSON	1810	GILBERT	1850
COWLES	1900	EMERY	1800	GILCHRIST	1860
CRAIG	1850	EVANS	1887	GILE	1820
CROMAN	1880	FARMER	1930	GILMAN	1887
CROSS	1850	FARNSWORTH	1887	GIOVANELL	1900
CROUSE	1910	FARRINGTON	1910	GLOVER	1820
CROWN	1860	FELLOWS	1900	GOODINE	1900
CULVER	1840	FIFIELD	1880	GOODNOW	1900
CUNNINGHAM	1820	FISK	1810	GOODWIN	1820
CUTTS	1900	FITZGERALD	1930	GOGLANT	1920
CUTTUL	1900	FLANDERS	1860	GRAHAM	1860
DAILEY	1887	FLEET	1940	GRANT	1840
DANA	1910	FLOYD	1810	GRAY	1800
DANIELS	1870	FOLEY	1940	GREEN	1830
DARBY	1900	FORD	1900	GREENLEAF	1887
DARLING	1790	FORDER	1900	HADLEY	1840
DAVIDSON	1900	FOREST	1870	HADLOCK	1920
DAVIS	1887	FORHAN	1920	HALL	1830
DEAN	1880	FORTIER	1870	HANCHETT	1900
DENNIS	1887	FOSTER	1850	HANSCOM	1900
DICKSON	1880	FOWLER	1900	HANSON	1850
DIGBY	1900	FOX	1880	HARRIS	1870
DIMICK	1930	FRANCIS	1910	HART	1900
DIONNE	1930	FRANKLIN	1840	HARVEY	1860
DIVOL	1840	FRASER	1900	HASKELL	1920
DODGE	1830	FRECHETT	1900	HASTINGS	1920
DOE	1910	FREEMAN	1900	HATCH	1800
DOMENIES	1910	FREER	1920	HATT	1920
DONAHUE	1887	FRENCH	1900	HAY	1930
DONALD	1900	FRIZZELL	1870	HAYES	1860
DONALDSON	1870	FROST	1800	HAYNES	1940
DORR	1860	FULLER	1810	HAYWARD	1900
DOW	1840	FULTON	1930	HEATH	1800
DOWNS	1820	FURWELL	1840	HELIE	1910
DUGAD	1920	GALVIN	1930	HEMAOZAPA	1930
DUNN	1840	GAMBELL	1900	HENDERSON	1920
DUNNETT	1900	GANDIN	1930	HENDRY	1900

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HICKMAN	1940	KENNISON	1880	MARCAU	1930
HIDDEN	1810	KENSINGTON	1880	MARKEY	1930
HIGGINS	1820	KENT	1900	MARKHAM	1910
HILL	1800	KESSLER	1940	MARSH	1860
HINES	1910	KIDDER	1860	MARSHALL	1820
HITCHCOCK	1900	KIMBALL	1830	MARTIN	1800
HOAGE	1870	KING	1887	MARTING	1850
HODGMAN	1850	KITTREDGE	1870	MASON	1870
HODSDON	1810	KNIGHT	1800	MATHER	1900
HOGIN	1810	KNOX	1887	McALLISTER	1920
HOLMES	1880	KRETZMAN	1940	McCABE	1900
HOOD	1860	LABOUNTY	1940	McCLARY	1820
HOOPER	1800	LADD	1900	McCRILLIS	1870
HOPKINS	1870	LAFLAME	1887	McDONALD	1930
HORTIAIR	1870	LAMOTHE	1940	McGEN	1850
HOSMER	1790	LAMPHERE	1860	McGUDLIN	1900
HOUGHTON	1920	LANCTO	1940	McKAY	1860
HOWARD	1887	LANG	1930	McKELLOP	1900
HOYT	1860	LARROW	1880	McKEVE	1900
HUBBARD	1850	LATHRUP	1830	McLAM	1930
HUGGINS	1820	LAVOIS	1900	McLANE	1880
HULBRICK	1910	LEAVENWORTH	1910	McLAUGHLIN	1810
HUNT	1910	LEET	1930	McLEAN	1880
HUTCHINS	1920	LEGARE	1900	McLILLAN	1920
HUTCHINSON	1930	LEIGHTON	1900	McLOUD	1900
HUTTON	1887	LEITHEAD	1850	McMAN	1880
IDE	1920	LENTZ	1930	McNAMARA	1920
INGRAM	1930	LEWIS	1830	McNOWELL	1910
JACKSON	1860	LINDSAY	1920	McPHEARSON	1880
JAMES	1790	LITTLEFIELD	1810	McQUEEN	1920
JAMESON	1930	LONGMORE	1910	McRAE	1887
JENKINS	1810	LORD	1900	MEADER	1880
JENNISON	1910	LOVELL	1880	MELHS	1910
JOHNSON	1900	LOW	1810	MELVILLE	1887
JOHNSTON	1850	LOWELL	1887	MELVIN	1860
JONES	1840	LUMSDEN	1870	MERRITT	1887
JORDAN	1900	LUND	1800	MILLER	1850
JOY	1840	LYLE	1820	MILLIS	1870
JUDD	1910	MacINTOSH	1900	MINARD	1860
JUDKINS	1870	MacMILLEN	1940	MINOR	1930
JULIAN	1880	MACOMBER	1800	MOORS	1870
KEENAN	1870	MADGE	1860	MORGAN	1910
KEIV	1900	MAIN	1910	MORIEN	1930
KELLOGG	1870	MALLORY	1810	MORRILL	1870
KENDRICK	1910	MALONE	1900	MORRISON	1800
KENISTON	1900	MANCHESTER	1800	MORSE	1790
KENNEDY	1930	MANDIGO	1910	MORTON	1900
		MAPLE	1880	MOULTON	1840

MUNDY	1900	PRIOR	1860	SERATORE	1920
MUNRO	1800	PROABER	1887	SERUTON	1910
MURPHY	1900	PROVOST	1887	SHATNEY	1930
MYERS	1910	PUFFER	1920	SHAW	1900
NELSON	1810	PULLETT	1900	SHEPARD	1930
NESBITT	1920	PURCELL	1900	SHERBURN	1880
NEWELL	1940	PUTNAM	1930	SHERRY	1900
NICKERSON	1940	RABITOL	1920	SILVER	1830
NIXON	1900	RALSTON	1910	SINCLAIR	1910
NORBERG	1910	RAMSEY	1900	SIRDIS	1940
NOURSE	1880	RAND	1887	SMITH	1870
NOYES	1800	RANDALL	1830	SNOW	1910
OLNEY	1880	RAPAGS	1910	SOMERS	1900
OLSON	1930	RATTUZZI	1920	SPEARE	1900
O'NEIL	1900	RAYMOND	1900	SPLOYD	1887
ORDWAY	1900	REED	1900	ST. JOHN	1940
ORR	1840	REMICK	1800	STANLEY	1810
OSBURG	1900	REMINGTON	1887	STEBBINS	1860
PADFIELD	1880	RENFREW	1810	STEELE	1940
PAGE	1810	REPOCO	1910	STENQUIST	1940
PAIKO	1900	RESSLIER	1910	STEPHENS	1900
PALMER	1920	REZUIDES	1910	STEVENS	1880
PAMPULA	1920	RHODES	1810	STEVENSON	1910
PANE	1850	RICHARDSON	1820	STEWART	1850
PARIS	1920	RICKER	1820	STONE	1910
PARKER	1810	RINDEAU	1887	STOWELL	1870
PARKS	1887	RION	1880	STRONG	1930
PATCH	1910	ROBBINS	1900	STUART	1900
PATEROSE	1900	ROBERTS	1810	SYMES	1900
PATTERSON	1840	ROBINSON	1900	TABOR	1887
PAUL	1810	ROCK	1940	TAFT	1900
PECK	1840	RODGER	1830	TAISEY	1800
PERRY	1920	ROGERS	1900	TAPLIN	1920
PHELPS	1800	ROLLAZZI	1900	TARO	1900
PHILBRICK	1840	ROSS	1900	TATRO	1940
PHILLIPS	1940	ROWE	1900	TAYLOR	1900
PIERCE	1860	ROWLINS	1810	TELLIER	1900
PIFA	1880	RUGG	1887	TERRILL	1910
PILLSBURY	1887	RUSSELL	1900	THERMAN	1880
PISMUCK	1880	SANBORN	1887	THOMPSON	1930
PLUMMER	1820	SANDERS	1910	THORNTON	1870
POCHICO	1910	SANDERSON	1870	THURSTON	1800
POLLARD	1800	SARGENT	1820	TILLOTSON	1900
POMEROY	1930	SAYERS	1930	TINKHAM	1940
PORTER	1870	SCOTT	1840	TOMLINSON	1940
POWERS	1887	SEAVER	1850	TONELTS	1920
PREVO	1900	SECCHIARI	1920		

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GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

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

You can follow GHS on [Facebook.com/grotonvthistory](https://www.facebook.com/grotonvthistory)

You can send us email at grotonvthistory@gmail.com

The Groton Historical Society has updated the out of print *Mr. Glover's Groton* and it is now available in paperback from the publisher at <https://www.createpace.com/5925298> and it can also be ordered in paperback or Kindle ebook at www.amazon.com.

Membership status as of 1/10/2016:

Life—30, paid up—22, renewal due—28, (2+ years behind)—9.
Those more than 2 years behind in dues will be removed from the mailing list at the end of this month.

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

All members who provide an email address will be sent a copy of the newsletter. If you want to receive only e-mail copies, please send a request to jwbenzie@mchsi.com This will save GHS the cost of printing and mailing.

Election of new officers for 2016 is scheduled for the May meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 6 pm.

(Continued from page 13)

TORY	1900	WEBBER	1900	WILLEY	1880
TOWLES	1920	WEBSTER	1870	WILLIAMS	1900
TOWNSHEND	1790	WEED	1900	WILMOT	1820
VANCE	1810	WELCH	1800	WILSON	1820
VEGNEAULT	1910	WELD	1840	WOOD	1840
VENNOR	1830	WELLS	1910	WOOL	1900
VENTURINI	1920	WELTON	1820	WORCESTER	1887
VINCENT	1910	WESTERLY	1900	WORMWOOD	1820
VOULETT	1880	WESTON	1810	WORTHINGTON	1887
WALBRIDGE	1920	WHEELER	1840	WRIGHT	1930
WALLACE	1870	WHITCHER	1810	WRINKLE	1870
WARDEN	1870	WHITE	1900	XENAKES	1940
WATERMAN	1860	WHITEHILL	1840	YOUNG	1940
		WILLARD	1880		

RESERVATION FORM

GROTON HIGH SCHOOL REUNION DATE: Saturday, June 25, 2016

**PLACE: Groton Community Building, Groton, Vermont
NEW UPSTAIRS BATHROOM; RAMP**

TIME: Noon. Please plan to stay and visit all afternoon until 5:00.

COST: \$15.00 PER PERSON. Cold Luncheon Buffet.

NAME: YEAR:

SPOUSE: YEAR:

GUESTS:

CURRENT ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

PHONE NO.:

===== **CUT HERE AND RETURN** =====

Please make your check payable to:

ANN M WINTER, 29 LePAGE RD, BARRE, VT 05641-9066

**THIS IS ONLY NOTICE YOU WILL RECEIVE.
DEADLINE IS JUNE 15, 2016. SEE YOU THERE!**

BANJO DAN TO RECORD "SLEEPING SENTINEL" SONGS OF VERMONT CD

Dan Lindner, aka "Banjo Dan," plans to record the fourth and final volume of Banjo Dan's Songs of Vermont. The new CD, titled The Sleeping Sentinel, will be financed through a Kickstarter campaign whereby music lovers are invited to make a pledge to underwrite the recording. Those interested in supporting the project can visit www.banjodan.com and click on the "Sleeping Sentinel" menu item at the top right. This campaign runs for the month of March only

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