
GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY Newsletter

Volume 29 Issue 3

Groton, Vermont 05046

Summer 2016

FAMILY BURIAL GROUNDS



Old Village cemetery Vault

2016 OFFICERS

President	Deborah Jurist
Vice President	Brent Smith
Secretary	Erik Volk
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Web Site Editor	Erik Volk
Newsletter Editor	J. Willard Benzie

Burial grounds in Groton were privately owned in the early years and burial lots were purchased from the owners by the families in need. Waldo Glover describes the four cemeteries in Groton used by multiple families: Groton-Peacham in Lot #1, with burials from about 1784 to 1901; Darling in Lot #21 from about 1800 to 1889; West Groton just west of the William Scott Monument, on the north side of highway 302, from about 1828 to 1917; and the Village cemetery in Lot #17 from 1839 to the present. Dale Brown wrote a detailed report on the Village Cemetery in the 2009 fall Newsletter.

The Groton-Peacham cemetery is believed to be the site of the first burial in Groton, Zelpha (Smith) Abbott in 1784, who died only 6 days after giving birth to the first child born in Groton, Sarah Abbott (1784-1839).

The Darling cemetery has the burial plot of Sally (Morse)

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Hill (1787-1864) which is erroneously inscribed “The first born in Groton, Vt”. Mr. Glover points this out in the History of Groton, and the claim is also written on a memorial stained glass window in the Methodist Church.

The West Groton cemetery has the remains of some of William Scott’s family. William Scott, the sleeping sentinel pardoned by President Abraham Lincoln, is buried in a National Cemetery in Virginia, near where he was killed in action.

Some families preferred burying their loved ones on the home place. Mr. Glover cites 7 such home burial grounds in Groton: Batchelder, Frost, Gray, Heath, McLachlin, Renfrew and Whitcher. The Renfrew burial ground was in the northwest corner of the south field on the farm where the family settled on their arrival from Scotland. When the farm was sold by Alexander Renfrew in 1860, the remains of those buried there were removed to the village cemetery and the burial plot became part of Charles Hooper’s field with no trace of it now evident.

The Batchelder family plot (#3 on the map page 8) is located near the old Chelsea-Danville County Road about half a mile south of the old Ricker’s Mill site. The graves here are marked with plain fieldstones and with one exception are unknown. Jeremiah Batchelder (1740-1818), a Revolutionary War Soldier, is buried here and each recurring Memorial Day a small American flag is nailed to a tree which grows over—or near—his grave.

The William Frost (1762—before 1830), family burial ground (#7 on map) is in Lot #14 a few rods west of the Great Road and near the old Upper Mill Road (also part of the old Gloucester County Road). It is nearly a mile north of highway 302 on the Great Road. It is surrounded by a stone wall and is bordered on the north side by George Ricker’s north field. William Frost, his two wives, some children, and at least one grandchild are buried here.

The Dominicus Gray (1761—1832) burial ground (#6 on map) is almost a mile and quarter north on the Great Road from highway 302, near the Gray four-corners. It is surrounded by a stone wall on three sides, except for a gateway, and it opens on its south side into George Ricker's field. Dominicus, his wife, Sarah (Plummer), his son, Andrew, and two or three unidentified persons are buried here. A marble monument marks the graves of Dominicus and Sarah. A freestone slab to the memory of their son, Andrew, was broken by a falling tree and has since disappeared.

The Jacob G. Heath (1797—before 1850) burial ground (#2 on map) is on the old Chelsea-Danville County Road near the Plummer Five-Corners at the junction with the Goodfellow Road.. Jacob and some of his family are buried here.

The Peter McLaughlin (1774-1852) burial ground (#4 on map) is north on the Peacham Road about one and a half miles from highway 302 in Groton village and then west on old Town Road #4 about half a mile to the old family homestead. The buildings burned years ago. The cemetery is less than a quarter of a mile north from the old building site. The burial ground was never surrounded by a stone wall, but members of the family maintained a wooden fence around it through the 1880's. The forest has now reclaimed it as seen in the picture on page 9. There are about a dozen stones still visible but almost impossible to read, except for Peter's and his wife's, Isobel.

The Foxwell Whitcher (1757-1842) family burial ground (#10 on map) is on the northern slope of Whitcher Mountain and surrounded by a stonewall except for a gateway. The forest has also reclaimed this burial ground and only a few stones are still visible propped up against the trees. Foxwell Whitcher and several members of his family are buried here.

Other families may also have had home burials in the early years, but records of them are not found in the Groton Historical Society files.

1816 THE YEAR WITHOUT SUMMER

If you think the recent weather has been strange lately, listen to this tale of a year without a summer. In 1815 a volcanic eruption caused the following year's weather patterns to be drastically different. People across the world experienced unusual weather and increased hardships, but they did not associate the volcano with the conditions at the time. Many people thought large sun spots that appeared in the spring reduced the number of light rays and caused global cooling. This strange phenomenon deeply affected New England and the Appalachian Mountains in the U. S., but hit the whole world, causing unusual rain events and weather that could not be explained, and altering the course of human history.

The eruption of Mount Tambora in Indonesia (then known as the Dutch East Indies) in April of 1815 was determined late in the twentieth century to be the cause of "the year without a summer". The initial stages of eruption were reported to have sounded like an army attack with guns and cannons. As flames shot up from the top, hot pumice and volcanic rock were forced into the air. The geological event caused tons of ash and sulphur-dioxide into the air over the course of five days, enough to cover a 100 mile radius with a foot of ash! This event and the resulting cloud, some scientists claim, is the cause of the weather extremes and global cooling the following year. Many experts do believe that this is the only reasonable explanation for the year without a summer, though there is not total agreement on the matter. This volcano is still active today, though volcanic activity is closely monitored to ensure minimal losses if the pressure does build up again.

Folks began to notice that the usual signs of spring weren't there in 1816. First-hand accounts tell us that the weather was so cold that birds dropped from the sky mid-flight (presumably from exposure or starvation). The ground was frost-covered in May in some regions, but that was the least of the problems to come since snows in June and July were a huge problem for Appalachian and New England farmers. The spring and summer months were dotted with slightly warmer periods that did not last, giving false hope to some. Crops could not grow and yields were reduced by 90% in some places. The prices of produce soared dramatically as goods became increasingly hard to come by. The "Poverty

Year,” as it is also known, relates to the fact that increased prices and decreased crops meant the poor were even poorer this year. Today it is also referred to as the “Little Ice Age.” In some parts of Europe decreased crops and poor food production dragged on until 1817 and 1818, showing the far-reaching effects of the volcanic spread.

Around the world, the weather patterns of many areas were flipped backwards. In China, the monsoon season hit so hard that flooding was unavoidable. In India, the monsoons did not arrive as expected, causing drought and water shortages at first, and then flooding during the dry season. These weather changes in India caused the already-present cholera bacteria to mutate into a new strain as an adaptation to the changing water supply. Humans in those areas had no immunity to this new strain and the disease became rampant. Worldwide increases in cholera cases occurred after this devastating event and cholera is still pandemic in many parts of Africa and Asia today due to the high degree of adaptability of the bacteria.

Other changes that came about because of this year without a summer include Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* which was written in the gloomy months of the frigid summer of 1816. Hardship in China caused family farms to seek more durable and profitable crops and opium was a prime choice that continued for decades and gave rise to the “Golden Triangle” of opium production.

Many farmers in New England headed west, hoping that the summers would be warmer out there, and perhaps changing the direction of our nation. Unlike the rest of the world, the Arctic actually warmed up during this time, melting ice barriers and allowing for historic expeditions and the search for the Northwest Passage, the majority of which however, ended in tragedy.

This one volcanic eruption impacted the world for centuries due to how the weather changed crops and bacteria. The extreme conditions led to food shortages and economic hardships, and encouraged westward migration.

Further Reading: William K. Klingaman and Nicholas P. Klingaman, the year without summer:1816 and the volcano that darkened the world and changed history (NY: St. Martin’s Press 2013)

VERMONT STATE VEGETABLE

MONTPELIER, VT. 5/24/2016

The Gilfeather turnip is now officially the Vermont state vegetable. Vermont is the 14th state to have a state vegetable.

House Bill 65 passed the VT house and Senate on April 29, 2016. Governor Peter Shumlin signed the bill on May 24, 2016. The bill takes effect on July 1, 2016.

In the early 1900s, farmer John Gilfeather, either by some happy accident or with great patience, horticultural talent and deep secrecy, grew a variety of one unusual turnip that had a particularly sweet flavor when harvested after the first hardy frost of autumn.

Scientifically speaking, there are many who declare that Gilfeather's tuber is really a rutabaga, but turnips and rutabagas are most certainly close cousins. There are others who claim it is neither one, but that it's a tuber in a botanical class of its own. You'd need the complete turnip genome to argue any of that intelligently, and the circumstances of how farmer Gilfeather came to "discover" this vegetable are, so far, lost to posterity. It could have been a backyard mongrel that, by some fluke of Mother Nature, hybridized itself, or it could have been a European import whose origins only he knew. Swedish? Finnish? Irish? In any event, old John Gilfeather never did say.

One thing for certain is that there is no shortage of stories, or perhaps it's all just tall tales, that tell how farmer Gilfeather took special precautions to prevent anyone else from growing his turnip. He had so much success when he took cart loads of his delicious turnips to market every fall that he wanted to retain the exclusive rights to it. To do so, he carefully cut off the leafy tops of each turnip, one by one, as well as trimming away the roots and root hairs, so that it could not be propagated by anyone who bought it. The only way to grow his turnips was from seed, and he kept all the seeds.

Vermont's Local Banquet magazine writer Tatiana Schreiber says, "I believe the tenaciousness of farmers and seed-savers who kept these varieties alive all these years says something important: These seeds were saved because they are good vegetables, well adapted to our climate, and resilient to the vagaries of cold, wet springs, unexpected summer droughts, or early fall frosts. They were

also saved because of their unique qualities—such as the sweet, mild taste of the Gilfeather even when it grows as big as a well-fed woodchuck."

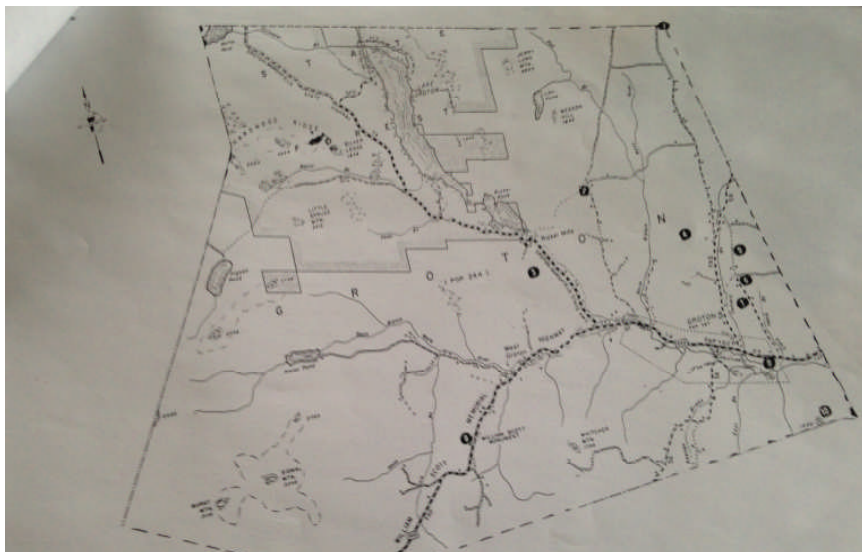
Farmer John Gilfeather died in 1944 (and there are still folks around town who remember meeting him, and one local resident says she remembers when the bachelor farmer was courting her aunt). The Gilfeather Farm, located – where else? – on Gilfeather Road in Wardsboro, still exists, and the current owners, honoring tradition, always grow a big patch of knobby Gilfeather turnips from seed. It's an easy crop to cultivate and matures in about 85 days. One gardener said, "They practically grow themselves."

Now, about that seed Local folks grew Gilfeathers, but evidently none of them ever thought it worth the trouble to try to make history with it. That part of the story is pretty well known. In the early 1980s, Mary Lou and Bill Schmidt of Dummerston, Vermont – another small town just a few miles south of Wardsboro – recognized the unique traits and possible value of the Gilfeather turnip, and they trademarked the name and certified it as an heirloom botanical through the Vermont and U.S. departments of agriculture. For a time, they were the only source of seeds. Now, seeds can be purchased locally at the Wardsboro Public Library in the Friends' Information Kiosk in the Library lobby, at Dutton's Farm stands in Newfane, Brattleboro and Manchester, or (online) from the Fedco Seed Company. (Look for it on their rutabaga list.) The Gilfeather Turnip has a place of honor in the "Slow Food USA" Ark of Taste, too.

It's hardly a secret that if plump Gilfeather turnip plants are wintered over in vermin-proof, cold storage with a lot of firm roots attached, they can be replanted in the garden the following spring and will eventually produce seeds for your own use. (It's the unauthorized re-selling of seeds that will land you in hot water.) The Gilfeather turnip does not develop a woody texture as some oversized root vegetables might, and when cooked, either steamed or roasted, it's sweet and creamy, provided it's harvested post-frost. Food blogger and famed NYC chef Rozanne Gold writes, "This turnip attracts attention because it does not behave like a turnip, nor look like a turnip. It looks like a big knob of celery root (celeriac), whose mouth feel is more similar to a rutabaga, but with

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GROTON CEMETERIES AND FAMILY PLOTS



Location of Groton Cemeteries and family burial plots

GROTON Caledonia County		Burials		No.Graves	Remarks
	First	Last	Used?		
1 Town Line, Groton-Peacham	1804	1889	No	50-100	Good-several broken stones
2 Heath	1845	1845	No	2	Excellent- maintained by nearby resident
3 Batchelder	?	?	No	3	Abandoned-Jeremiah Batchelder was Rev. War veteran, only inscribed stone
4 Lumsden-McLaughlin	1831	1852	No	8	Abandoned-in woods
5 Unknown	1808	1888	No	50-100	Fair-many field stone markers, many stones need repairs
6 Gray Family	1832	1856	No	6	Fair-mostly field stones
7 Frost Family	1810	1848	No	6	Poor-hard to spot, ask locally
8 West Groton	1839	1937	No	30-100	Poor-many badly broken, leaning and pulverized markers; appears to be very poor marble
9 Groton Village	1827		Yes	Thousands	Excellent-this cemetery has a new section at a lower level slightly behind and to the east of the old area and separated by a strip of woods.
10 Whitchee Family	?	?	No	2*	Abandoned-In VOCA files there is a map showing location of this cemetery.

Location:

- East side of Town Road #4 on Groton-Peacham town line.
- Close to south side of dead end road (TR #8) approximately 125 yds. from intersection.
- Go 1.5 miles up TR #6 (mostly like a wood road) then 600 yards in woods. Can also be reached from a woods road off TR #65 near Groton State Forest. Either way a local guide is probably necessary.
- From U.S. #302 go 1.3 miles on TR #4, turn left on old TR #12 ? go to end in a field, follow field edge to northwest corner, go 150 yards along stone wall to right, turn left up a hill and go another 125 to 150 yards, crossing a stone wall to the top of a knoll and the cemetery. A local guide is probably necessary.
- East side of TR #13 close to road and 1.5 miles from U.S. #302
- East side of TR #13 close to road and 1.7 miles from U.S. #302, at road jct.
- West side of TR #13 in a clump of trees 100 feet from road and .9 miles from U.S. #302
- Northwest side of U.S.#302 near William Scott memorial
- South side of U.S. #302 east of Groton village
- Southeast corner of town, in woods, reach from dead-end road in southwest corner of Rygate

Prepared by: Arthur Hyde, Bradford, Vt. May, 1988

Description of Groton cemeteries and family burial plots



McLaughlin cemetery



Whitcher cemetery

(Continued from page 7)

notes of horseradish and sugar."

It was the Friends of the Wardsboro Library, though, who made the Gilfeather world-famous when they began an annual event that celebrates Gilfeather to raise money for the town's small public library. (There's a turnip festival out on Cape Cod, too, but it's important to note that it's for an entirely different turnip.) In Maine, the town of WALDOBORO has an unusual turnip, too, and they call it the Greenneck Turnip. It looks suspiciously similar.

Celebrating Our Delicious Roots The annual Gilfeather Turnip Festival takes place every year in late October at the Wardsboro Town Hall in a big tent on the lawn next door. (The proceeds of the event benefit the Friends of the Wardsboro Library.) The highlight of the day is definitely the turnip contest. Anyone can enter.

Each year, there is a celebrity judge for the Turnip Contest. Turnip contest entries are accepted when the festival opens at 10AM, and it is free to enter the contest. The winners in each category are awarded nice ribbons and gain the great personal honor of having grown a Gilfeather that would have made old Gilfeather himself quite proud. A word to turnip-fans: Each year, the giant outdoor turnip cart at the festival is stocked with several hundred pounds of newly harvested, locally grown, mostly organic Gilfeather turnips, and every year, the entire crop sells out in a matter of hours. Like candy, only turnips.

Wardsboro, Vermont, is located on Route 100, just north of Mount Snow Resort. Route 100 and the village can also be reached via Route 30, heading northwest from Brattleboro, about 35 minutes, or southeast from Manchester, about 35 minutes. Town Hall, the site of the festival, is on Main Street, just north of the Wardsboro Country Store. The festival takes place rain or shine; admission and parking is free. Accommodations are available in nearby Jamaica and Dover

SUMMARY OF MEETING MINUTES

June 7, 2016, 6:05 pm

Present: Deborah Jurist, Phyllis Burke, Judy Chandler, Harry Chandler, Alissa Smith, Brent Smith, Joan Haskell

Old Business

Deborah reported lawn has been mowed twice, she planted flowers in front of the Peter Paul House and in the barrels. Diane Farquharson of the Red Kettle is monitoring and maintaining the flowers in the barrels.

Alissa gave the Treasurer's Report:

\$1,688.88 income from book sales, memberships and donations.

\$1,720.27 expenses for utilities, cleaning services, insurance, VT

Historical Society dues, newsletter printing, repairs, book printing and furnace cleaning

\$1,921.51 Bank account balance

\$9,934.53 Certificate balance

The Treasurer's Report were approved pending audit.

New Business/Reports

Deborah gave Alissa checks for recent book sales and Erik will order 12 more copies for sale at the school reunion.

Robert Somaini reported a needed correction on page 286 of Mr. Glover's Groton which incorrectly lists Josiah Keenan's Mill on Milligan Pond as a homestead on Groton Pond. The mill was the home of Lovell Frost in the 1890s. Erik will keep track of any corrections we are notified about for the next reprinting

Alissa reported that Swenson Insurance asked us to complete a new form for the Bond Insurance with information about the new officers.

New Officer Elections for 2016

Deborah Jurist President. Brent Smith Vice President.

Erik Volk Secretary. Alissa Smith Treasurer.

Alissa reported that Deane Page would not be able to audit the books this year so Richard Brooks will be asked to audit them.

Phyllis presented an album she arranged of photos and postcards from Alice Goodine and Norma Hosmer. Harry Chandler is arranging another album of postcards.

Groton High School Reunion

Erik reported the Society will have a booth at the reunion to sell books and record memories of Groton High School Alumni. He suggested that old yearbooks be available for perusal. Alissa had a box of the 2003 All Class Reunion yearbook and suggested we give these out free of charge.

Brent suggested the Historical Society consider recognizing alumni of Blue Mountain Union School.

Alissa reported the membership list needs to be centrally managed. It is difficult to coordinate the Treasurer's, Secretary's, and Newsletter mail-

ing lists. Erik will follow up with Willard and set up a centralized list and provide a link to all concerned. Alissa will provide her membership spreadsheet as a starting point.

Sleeping Sentinel Concert

The concert is scheduled for Saturday, September 3 at 5:30 PM.

Deborah reported Mark Simakaski is willing to do a cider press demonstration in conjunction with the concert.

A Press Release schedule will start in June. Erik will draft the press release and ask Janet Page of the Recreation Committee to help disperse it to local media.

Erik plans to have a Sleeping Sentinel trivia game at the event.

Deborah is buying flower bulbs to sell at the concert. Any left over can be sold at Fall Foliage or planted at the House.

Deborah will draft a sign for the Sleeping Sentinel concert.

Deborah is interested in an Apple Pie fundraiser but needs a freezer to store them. Judy said Groton Methodist Church has room in their freezer and will check to see if it is available.

Deborah has been unsuccessful getting Bobby Farlice-Rubio to give an update on the digital conversion of the film "Through Our Neighbors' Eyes." Deborah will email info to Brent and he will follow up.

Judy announced the Vermont History Expo at Turnbridge World Fairgrounds on June 18 & 19.

Due to July 4 holiday and conflicts with officers, the next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 6 at 6:00 pm.

July 6, 2016 6:05 pm

Present: Erik Volk, Deborah Jurist, Phyllis Burke, Brent Smith, Diane Kreis, Mike Blair
Absent: Alissa Smith

Old Business

Deborah investigated converting the video "Through Our Neighbors Eyes" from VHS to DVD with the Photo Factory in Littleton. Conversion is \$30 and copies are \$11. Erik reported Janet Page said her husband Tom is converting the video. Erik will check on Tom's conversion before Deb has it converted.

William Scott Memorial – Mike Blair has helped maintain the grounds around the memorial and someone was putting geraniums at the memorial for several years. She believed he was related to her, but it is a different William Scott. Diane had the memorial cleaned a year ago and she contacted the Department of Highways and was told only trash pickup was allowed.

Civil War Memorabilia – Mike is a collector of Civil War memorabilia but has sold much of his collection. However, he still has a number of items we may be interested in, including rosters with William Scott's name and Seth Eastman's name, both in period frames. He also has copies of enlistment papers for 10 Groton soldiers and some old photos of area residents. Plans to include this in the historical

book display at the Library raised concerns about the safety of the historical items. Deb Jurist proposed the items be available for display and perusal at the Banjo Dan concert with Mike monitoring the display table.

Banjo Dan Concert – The Fire Department will host a chicken barbecue in front of the fire station. Discussed closing the street by the parking area to allow more seating for a large crowd. Also discussed notifying people to bring their own chairs and availability of food. Some press releases have been issued, but Erik will check with Janet about adding the information in future releases. Deb will create posters and Erik will assist if needed. Deborah said pies will be sold by the slice as a money maker and volunteer pie makers are needed. The pies can be made in advance and stored in the freezer at the church. About 10 pies are needed. It was decided \$3 a slice would be a good price.

Groton School Reunion – Erik and Deborah reported the reunion was a success and 16 interviews were conducted. We sold 8 books and got 10 new members including a lifetime member. A raffle was held and 50% designated for the Historical Society. Deborah will follow up with Ann Winters.

New Business

House Restoration Interviews- Deborah would like to conduct interviews with those involved in the house restoration and display photos of those individuals in the house. A preliminary list of names was discussed which included Josephine French, Harold Puffer (Janet Puffer), Deane Page, Diane Kreis, Willard Benzie, Herbie Hatch and Paul Tinkham. Diane said some interviews were conducted but she is not sure where the tapes are.

Interstate Construction – Brent would like a project about area residents who worked on the interstate. He will contact Herbie Hatch for a possible interview.

WEB Site – Erik said he is working on the new WEB site and uploading the information from Don Smith. It will be a while before it is completed. The new WEB site can be viewed at www.grotonvthistory.org. Links from the Town Site, etc. will be updated.

Facebook Queries – Erik reported on two inquiries: one about procuring photos of Wayne Fraiser, a Baptist pastor, or his family. The other for information on waterways in our area. Brent said there are two books about the dams in the area and he believes copies were provided to the Library. Erik will follow up.

August 2, 2016

Present: Phyllis Burke, Janet Puffer, Diane Kreis, Judy Chandler, Harry Chandler, Anne Hatch, Peggy Burgin, Alissa Smith, Deb Jurist, Erik Volk, Phil Coutu, Brent Smith

WEB Site is being updated and edited by Erik

Money from the High School reunion raffle was received

Diane has transcripts of historical interviews her father recorded.

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Sleeping Sentinel Concert

Deborah thought it would be good to tell the story of the Sleeping Sentinel at the concert. It was suggested that Harry or Brent could tell the story. Deborah will check with Banjo Dan to make sure it is not part of his performance.

Anne will have a Library table, Erik will get historical books, and Anne will create the display at the library.

GHS will also have a table with books and other items for sale.

Brent thinks someone from the Civil War reenactment group may attend the concert. He will see representatives of the group and check with them.

Garbage containers will be needed near the food area and the booths.

Chicken, Pie, drinks, etc. will be served in the parking lot.

Roof Repair – Richard will look up quotes for the roof. A \$700 quote was received from Dave Sanville. and at least one other quote is needed.



IN MEMORIAM

Member M. Ross McLeod, 93 of Groton, VT, died July 1, 2016. He was born in Springhill, Nova Scotia and grew up in Medford MA.. During World War II he enlisted in the Army Air Corps (1942-1945) serving in the 40th Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron in the China India Burma Theater. When training at Fort Ethan Allen, he met Andy Smith of Groton, and they become lifelong friends. Ross married Evelyn Pynn in 1946 and Andy found them a home in Topsham where they spent summers in the 1950's. In 1966 Ross moved here as Account Executive for St. Johnsbury Trucking where he worked until 1985. Ross took an early retirement to spend more time with his wife Evelyn and daughter Joyce. Ross was very active in Boy Scouts, United Methodist Church, Senior Meals, Historical Society, and many other Groton community projects.

GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Visit GHS on the internet

Web page: grotonvthistory.org

Email: grotonvthistory@gmail.com

Facebook@grotonvthistory

The Groton High School All-Classes Reunion in June was very successful with 134 students and guests registered. Pictures were taken of 117 and pictures from 2013 of 4 others who were missed or didn't make it are posted on the Historical Society webpage (see address above). The eleven others who registered, missed getting their pictures taken or didn't make it to the reunion and no substitute picture was available.

The Sleeping Sentential Concert by Banjo Dan on September third was a huge success with more than 200 estimated attendance. The Fire Department barbequed chicken, Historical Society baked pies and sold Mr. Glover's Groton, Library had a history book display, and Mike Blair displayed Civil War memorabilia. The event was co-hosted with the Library and Recreation Commission.

Plans are well underway for Open House on Fall Foliage Day the first Saturday in October.

A summary of the June, July, and August meetings are in this newsletter for those unable to attend the meetings.

Membership status as of 2 August 2016:

Life members	51 (includes 11 families)
Paid for 2016+	69 (includes 10 families)
Paid through 2015	9 (includes 1 family)
Paid through 2014	1 (removal from mailing list in 2017)

Almost 70 percent of the members live in Vermont and the others live in 18 different states. .

Ross McLeod, who passed away in July, was an early member of the Historical Society and was the first editor of the Newsletter in 1988.

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