
GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

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Fall 2021

MAYFLOWER COMPACT



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In 1620 the Pilgrims drafted the Mayflower Compact and 41 settlers signed it before establishing the first permanent English settlement in North America. It was the basis for the body politics governing Plimouth—Patuxent Plantation and had provisions similar to those in the Magna Carter signed by King John in 1215, around 400 years earlier. Limiting the power of government and preserving individual freedoms has been the hallmark of our civilization for more than 800 years.

King John was forced by his Barons to sign the Magna Carter. He met the rebel leaders at Runnymede, a water-meadow on the south bank of the River Thames, on 10 June 1215. Runnymede was a traditional place for assemblies, located on neutral ground between the royal fortress of Windsor Castle and the rebel base at Staines, and offered both sides security where they were unlikely to find themselves facing a military disadvantage.

Here they presented King John with their demands for reform, the 'Articles of the Barons'. Over the next ten days these demands became a charter with the proposed peace agreement; and a few years later, this agreement was renamed Magna Carta,

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meaning "Great Charter". On 19 June, the rebels renewed their oaths of loyalty to King John and copies of the charter were formally issued.

Although, the charter "wasted no time on political theory", it went beyond simply addressing individual baronial complaints, and formed a wider proposal for political reform. It promised the protection of church rights, protection from illegal imprisonment, access to swift justice, and, most importantly, limitations on taxation and other feudal payments to the Crown, with certain forms of feudal taxation requiring baronial consent. It focused on the rights of free men—in particular, the barons; however, the rights of serfs were included in three of the articles.

At the historical museum in Runnymede it states copies of the Magna Carta were carried by some of the Pilgrims and influenced the drafting of the Mayflower Compact.

The Pilgrims had originally hoped to reach America in early October using two ships, but delays and complications meant they could use only one, the Mayflower. Their intended destination had been the Colony of Virginia, with the journey financed by the Company of Merchant Adventurers of London. Storms forced them to anchor at the hook of Cape Cod in Massachusetts, and it was unwise to continue with provisions running short. This inspired some of the non-Puritan passengers (whom the Puritans referred to as 'Strangers') to proclaim that they "would use their own liberty; for none had power to command them" since they would not be settling in the agreed-upon Virginia territory. To prevent this, the Pilgrims determined to establish their own government, while still affirming their allegiance to the Crown of England. Thus, the Mayflower Compact was based simultaneously upon a majoritarian model and the settlers' allegiance to the king. It was in essence a social contract in which the settlers agreed to follow the community's rules and regulations for the sake of order and survival.

The Pilgrims had lived for some years in Leiden, a city in the Dutch Republic. Historian Nathaniel Philbrick stated, "Just as a spiritual covenant had marked the beginning of their congregation in Leiden, a civil covenant would provide the basis for a secular government in America."

THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith. Having undertaken for the Glory of God,

and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the first Colony in the northern Parts of Virginia; Do by these Presents, solemnly and mutually, in the Presence of God and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil Body Politick, for our better Ordering and Preservation, and Furtherance of the Ends aforesaid: And by Virtue hereof do enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions, and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general Good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due Submission and Obedience. IN WITNESS whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at Cape-Cod the eleventh of November, in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France, and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth, Anno Domini; 1620.

Mr. John Carver	John Turner
William Bradford	Francis Eaton
Mr. Edward Winslow	James Chilton
Mr. William Brewster	John Crackstone
Mr. Isaac Allerton	John Billington
Capt. Myles Standish	Moses Fletcher
John Alden	John Goodman
Mr. Samuel Fuller	Degory Priest
Mr. Christopher Martin	Thomas Williams
Mr. William Mullins	Gilbert Winslow
Mr. William White	Edmund Margeson
Mr. Richard Warren	Peter Browne
John Howland	Richard Britteridge
Mr. Stephen Hopkins	George Soule
Edward Tilley	Richard Clarke
John Tilley	Richard Gardiner
Francis Cooke	John Allerton
Thomas Rogers	Thomas English
Thomas Tinker	Edward Doty
John Rigsdale	Edward Leister
Edward Fuller	

Many of the principles in the Magna Carta and the Mayflower Compact are reaffirmed in the United States Constitution.

2020 U. S. CENSUS UPDATE

Were you counted in the 2020 census completed last fall listing people living in every household on April 1, 2020? The law requires that every person living in the United States and the five U.S. territories be counted every 10 years

The decennial census is an extraordinary fact finding endeavor. It seeks to determine, as of April 1 of the survey year, where each resident of the country lives, as well as the gender, age, race and ethnicity of them. Invitations to respond to the survey were sent to most households in March 2020, followed by multiple reminders to complete it. After the self response period, about half a million Census Bureau employees, called enumerators or census takers, were sent to households that did not respond, to collect the information. For households they could not reach, information was obtained from neighbors, local government offices, or postal carriers.

The census is a key element in the American representative system of government. Results of the 2020 decennial census have significant impact. Census data is available to everyone. The Census Bureau, in the U. S. Department of Commerce, is charged with executing and interpreting the census results, which effect many programs administered by the Federal, State, and Local governments. The 2020 census faced immense challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic; last minute controversial interventions and court challenges; and new privacy concerns. Persistence of the pandemic complicated enumerators' efforts to collect data in person from households unresponsive to the on-line census requests.

It was the 24th census in U.S. history which started in 1790 and it was the first time households could respond online. Census records are confidential and cannot be released to the public for 70 years. The 1950 census is the most recent one that has been released.

Although individual census records are confidential, much data is available to everyone. Number of people living in each state, is used to reallocate 435 Representatives among the 50 states. Each state is entitled to one and the remaining 385 are divided proportionally to each state's population. Census numbers are also used to redraw boundaries for Congressional, legislative, and local government districts in each state. Other uses of the census data include distribution of funds appropriated for specific projects.

Results released so far, show Vermont population increased 17,336 since 2010 to 643,077 but it is still 49th state in total population. Groton population decreased from 1,020 ten years ago to 956 in 2020

Profile of the April 1, 2020 Groton population of 956 was identified

by the Census Bureau as 94% white and 6% two or more races. It was comprised of 791 adults including 230 seniors, with 52% males and 48% females. Marriage rate in Groton was listed as 47%. Most (81%) were living in homes the family owned and 19% were renting. Everyone in Groton were citizens, with 99% being native born and 47% born in Groton. English was the language spoken by 98% and 2% could speak two or more languages. Unemployment was only 3% and 63% were gainfully employed.

Educational levels in Groton showed 9% did not complete High School, 41% graduated from High School, 17% attended College, 10% earned an Associate Degree, 11% earned a Bachelors Degree, and 10% earned a Graduate Degree.

Interestingly the poverty level was highest with those who attended College (11%), those with a Bachelors Degree (10%), High School Diploma (8%), and those with less than 9th grade education, poverty level was zero. Everyone listed in poverty were employed females at 11%. No males or unemployed females were listed in the poverty level.

Income for Groton Residents was summarized by the median (half below and half above) and the Mean (average) for Households and also divided by Families and non-Families::

	Median	Mean
Households	\$53,077	\$63,455
Families	\$71,250	\$79,682
Non Families	\$26,786	\$33,623

Seventy five military veterans were living in Groton, 71 males and 4 females, and 25% of the veterans were disabled. Veterans of Vietnam War were the largest group 66%, followed by Korean War 18%, World War II 9%, and the Second Gulf War 7%.

Population of the United States on April 1, 2020 was determined to be 331,449,281. It increased by 22,703,743, or 7.4%, since the 2010 census of 308,745,538. California was the most populous state with 39,538,223 and Wyoming had the least with 576,851. Texas gained the most people, 3,999,944 for a total of 29,145,505, and Utah was the fastest growing state at 18.4% to 3,271,616. The next decennial census will be in 2030. How will Vermont change? Will it continue to grow and will Groton turn around and increase again?

FALL FOLIAGE FESTIVAL REBOOTED

Fall Foliage celebrations last year were cancelled in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, as were many social gatherings, in an effort to slow the spread of the virus. The leaves, however, did not adhere to the change in rules and displayed their vivid colors of red, orange, scarlet and yellow with all their various hues just as they always did.

This year the event in Groton is back on schedule with most of the usual activities on Saturday October 2, 2021. It is a good time to look back at the history of the Fall Foliage Festival in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont and also of Groton's Chicken Pie Supper, now a mainstay of the Festival. History of the Groton Chicken Pie Supper by Diane Kreis posted on the town's webpage (grotonvt.com) is recapped here.

The Fall Foliage Festival began in Danville in 1955 in an effort to capture some of the tourist dollars flowing through the area. It was so successful that activities expanded to other nearby towns and villages. Groton Fall Foliage Festival started in 1956, following Danville's lead and capturing some of the tourist dollars for themselves, by joining the Northeast Kingdom's Fall Foliage Festival. Organizers of the Festival assigned a different theme for each town and Groton was given "Lumberjacks" and thus the Lumberjack Breakfast was born. Breakfast has been held at the Groton Methodist Church ever since.

The parade and local events have grown since that first year with numerous vendors selling their wares and a variety of musical talents gracing the bandstand across from the former Groton General Store. The BMU Band provides music for the parade and others entertain visitors throughout the day at the Bandstand. The Evening Hymn Sing at 8:00 p.m. has been a long standing tradition, rotating between the Baptist and Methodist Churches. The first Saturday in October has been our day and come rain, snow, or shine, leaves on the trees or off—we go for it.

The annual Chicken Pie Supper became the cornerstone of the Groton Fall Foliage Festival with servings at 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, and 7:30 by reservation only. It began in 1954 when the local men's club decided to raise money for the school hot lunch program. Many questioned the success of an all man run dinner. Those naysayers were proven wrong, but the men were not too prideful to accept the help of womenfolk the following year. As the years went by the profits from the Chicken Pie Supper were used to fund numerous improvements at the Groton School. Funds are now used to fund annual swimming lessons at Boulder Beach on Lake Groton, library programs at the Groton Free Public Library, and provide college scholarships to Groton's graduating seniors.

The Chicken Pie Supper is truly a town event. Rarely is any family able to escape the determined efforts of the coordinators of the supper. If

you are not making apple or pumpkin pies, then you are likely making chicken pie or waiting on tables, or dishing up side dishes, or even doing the dishes downstairs. Once you have committed to volunteering in some way for this event the only way to escape is to leave town and that is not always a guarantee, especially if a relative is a coordinator!

At the meal you will partake of 832 pounds of chicken, 300 pounds of potato, 400 pounds of squash, and 52 gallons of gravy. This Chicken Pie Supper has been written up in Family Circle and Yankee Magazines.

Other nearby towns having festivals this year include Walden on September 30, Cabot October 1, and Peacham October 7. Groton's Fall Foliage Festival this year may be a little different from the past. Festival Day Starts with a Lumberjack Breakfast Buffet in the Methodist Church 8:00 – 10:00 am, the Library has a book sale 9 am to 3 pm, and Peter Paul Historical House is open during the day. Great Pumpkin weigh in 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Upper Valley Grill. Parade is 1:30 pm led by Blue Mountain School Band. And 65th year of our World Famous Chicken Pie Supper with servings at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30.



Two hundred diners at one of four seating's for Groton's Chicken Pie Supper on Fall Foliage Day the first Saturday in October a few years ago

Draft of Grotons

	1 st dra.	2 ^d	3 ^d		1 st dra.	2 ^d	3 ^d
Allen Ethan	29	66	135	Lathrop Samuel	42	39	138
Allen Helen		74	139	Loewell Robert	31,44	72	117
Andrew Isaac	7	83	123	Lowell Nehemiah	16	18	156
Andrew Isaac Jun	57	16	139	Lowell Neh ² Jun	169	23	104
Andrew Rowell	70	81	151	McArthur Samuel	71	49	177
Abbot James	191	1		Mitchel Mabel	14	33	87
Arnold Son ^o	9	52	140	Paine Nath ^l S	28	19	157
Ashley Oliver	72	9	111	Payne John Sen.	168	42	110
Bobee David	51	25	182	Robinson Moses	12,17	50	144
Robert David Jun	35,36	11	80	Robinson Samuel	39	32	154
Bingham Sales	73	61	92	Robinson Leonard	136	14	101
Bingham Henry	11	54	163	Sibley John	15	27	108
Burhamson Asa	65	34	106	Sill John	125	65	134
Bradley Samuel	67		136	Smith Caleb	24	79	181
Butterfield Thomas	52	21	115	Spencer Gideon	25	86	120
Chittenden Thomas	61	53	172	Stanton Joshua	59	13	97
Chittenden Sarah	48	26	121	Standard Eleahem	68	63	145
Chittenden Noah	134	4	173	Sumner Oeng ^o	18	8	129
Child Jonathan	69	43	165	Strong John	5	77	160
Cornstock Sam ^l	170	55		Stewart John	6	68	137
Curtis Eben ^t	129	85	96	Tater Lyman	3	73	130
Dawey Paul	63,64	70	116	Taplin John	54	80	167
Douglas Nath ^l	26,41	10	102	Tolman Thomas	2,122	35	133
Douglas Asa	62	62	176	Tolman Thomas, Jun	20	44	131
Dyer William	37	78	149	Tolman Ebenezer	32	58	107
Elmore Samuel	43	46		Vanderburgh Abram	8	57	179
Fairbanks Joseph	38	22	124	Vanderburgh Louvius	23	58	143
Fiske Jonathan	56	48	119	Webb Joshua	187	64	164
Fiske David	58	69	112	Wallace Ebenezer	128	37	175 ¹⁵⁵
Fiske John, Jun	32	24	113	Whitlaw James	19	2	118
Fox Joseph	2,27	15,20	122	Wentworth Benjamin	40,45	47	130
Fox Benjamin	30	45	155	Williams John C	47	51	147
Fox Polly	126	41	162	Wright Peter	76	31	190
Fellers Ezra	183	59	99	Wray Benjamin	53	82	153
Galusha Elijah	171	17	174	College	46	91	34
Haskell Joseph	13	5	90	Gram. School	75	76	114
Hathaway Shadrach	44	71	94	Savoy School	4	28	109
Hunt Jonathan	77	30	174	Support of Gospel	66	75	146
Hutchinson Phebeah	60	12	150	First Minister	1	67	166
Hosford Aaron	55	84	152				
Hyle Isaaciah	10	6	98				
Jewett Thomas	74	29	105				
Johnson Robert	178	36	132				
Johnson John, Jun	33	36	95				
King Elijah	49,70	7	103				
Kitchenerben Son ^o	185	38	140				

Map of Groton Property Lots before a portion of Harris Gore was annexed in 1890, showing lot numbers drawn for the proprietors in the first, second and third drafts. (1-71)

GROTON,

South 67° East, 6 miles.

Peacham

Harris-Gore

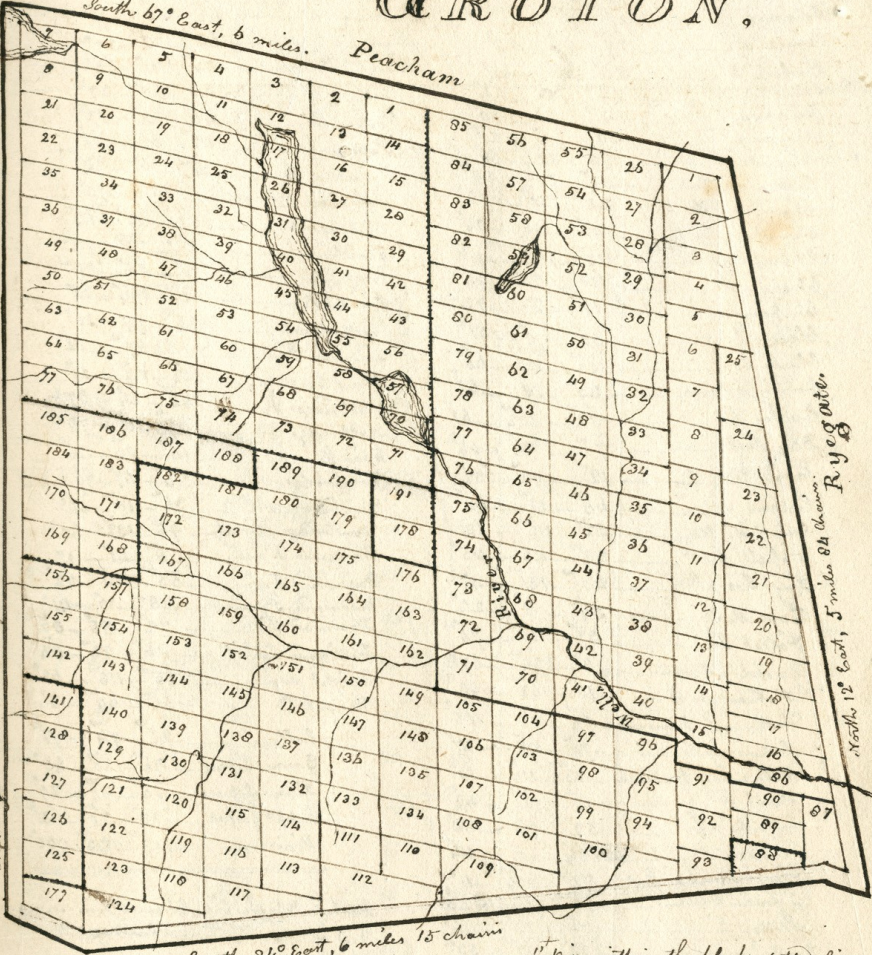
North 9° East, 7 miles 92 chains.

North 12° East, 5 miles 84 chains. Ryegate

South 84° East, 6 miles 15 chains

Topsham.

- 1st Div within the black dotted lines.
- 2^d do. from 401 to 406; black lines
- 3^d do - the remainder.



LABOR DAY

(Based on History.com articles)

Labor Day, recognizing contributions of American workers, is a result of the labor movement and became a federal holiday in 1894. The weekend also symbolizes the end of summer for many Americans, and is celebrated with parties, parades and sports events. Labor Day originated during one of American labor's most dismal chapters in history.

During the Industrial Revolution, many laborers worked 12-hour days and seven-day weeks. Despite restrictions, children toiled in mills, factories, and mines across the country, with a fraction of adult wages. People of all ages, especially the unskilled poor and immigrants, often faced unsafe working conditions, with insufficient access to fresh air, sanitary facilities, and work breaks.

As manufacturing jobs increased, replacing agriculture as the major form of employment, labor unions became more prominent and vocal. They organized strikes and rallies, many turning violent, to protest poor conditions and force employers to renegotiate hours and pay.

Some protests were very violent, like the infamous Haymarket Riot of 1886, in which several Chicago policemen and workers were killed. But others gave rise to longstanding traditions: On September 5, 1882, 10,000 workers took unpaid time off to march in New York City from City Hall to Union Square, for the first Labor Day parade in U.S. history.

The idea of a "workingmen's holiday," celebrated the first Monday in September, spread to industrial centers across the country, and many states passed legislation recognizing it. Congress did not nationalize the holiday until 12 years later, when a watershed moment in U. S. labor history brought workers' rights to public attention. On May 11, 1894, employees of the Pullman Palace Car Company in Chicago went on strike to protest wage cuts and the firing of union representatives.

The American Railroad Union boycotted all Pullman railway cars, crippling railroad traffic nationwide. The federal government dispatched troops to Chicago to end the strike, unleashing a wave of riots with deaths of more than a dozen workers.

After World War I, the Bolshevik revolution in Russia inspired some in the labor movement with increasing violence, causing many Americans to fear a takeover by socialism or communism. Lenin became dictator of the first Marxist state in the world. He nationalized industry, distributed land, and in 1922 established the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). Lenin died, in 1924, and a struggle for succession followed with fellow revolutionary Joseph Stalin becoming leader of the Soviet Union, and a reluctant Ally in World War II.

NINEVEH AREA IN GROTON

By Willard Benzie

Recently I received an inquiry from Allen Goodine about the area in the south part of Groton old time locals referred to as “Nineveh” and many still call it that today.

The area in the southern part of Groton known as “Nineveh” is shown on many early maps, but I had no idea how it got that name. Searching for a possible connection with the Biblical city of Nineveh, I looked it up in the Encyclopedia Britannica and found archaeologists first located and mapped remains of the destroyed ancient capital city of the Assyrian empire, Nineveh, in 1820 and their report was published in 1854. During this period thousands of stone tablets and other artifacts were discovered and taken to England for further studies.

The town of Groton was being settled and mapped during this same period and I can imagine that someone trying to till the stony land there might think, this should be ‘Nineveh’ and get archaeologists to send all the stones to England, Just a wild thought, but the stone walls left by the early settlers is evidence that their back-breaking efforts to remove the stones so they could cultivate their crops, must have been foremost in their minds.



Typical stonewall built with stones removed to clear the field for growing crops of hay, grains, and vegetables.

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Ancient Nineveh history in a nutshell

Nineveh, the oldest and largest city of the Assyrian Empire (2025-609 BCE), was located at the intersection of important north-south and east-west trade routes, and the Khawşar River, a tributary of Tigris, watered the fertile agricultural and pastoral lands.

The walled city of Nineveh, around 1,800 acres, had 15 gates. An elaborate system of 18 canals brought water from the hills for human consumption and watering the gardens, some believe were the famous hanging gardens, one of the seven wonders of the world, previously thought to have been in Babylon.

Early in the second millennium BCE, Babylon was the dominant power in Mesopotamia and the Middle East, but the Assyrian Empire soon replaced it. The dominant power shifted many times between the Assyrians and Babylonians until 626 BCE, when king, Nabopolassar, expelled the Assyrians from Babylonia and then invaded Assyria.

By then, others were eager to join the Babylonians. Their army included people of Susa, and the Scythians mounted nomads. The Medes, from northwestern Iran, came south and took the Assyrians' original home city of Assur in 614 BCE, then helped King Nabopolassar capture Nineveh.

Assyrian dominance in Mesopotamia ended when Nineveh fell to the Babylonia led attack. The city was sacked and the King was killed. Although successors clung to power for a while, they never regained dominance. And the destroyed city of Nineveh was lost until its ruins were rediscovered in 1820 by archaeologists.

The area was then ruled mostly by the Babylonians until 330 AD when the Eastern Roman Empire, referred to as Byzantine Empire with Constantinople (now Istanbul) as its capitol, ruled during the Christian era until 1453 when they were defeated by the Islamic Ottoman Empire, the dominant power of the Middle East for almost six centuries.

The Ottoman Empire joined forces with the Axis powers during World War I and were defeated by the Allies. Since then many groups have been fighting for dominance in the Middle East. After World War II, relocating the holocaust survivors to Israel, provided a new incentive to several Islamic groups attempting to evict them and rule the Middle East and perhaps the World.

GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

By
Deborah Jurist, President

Lake Life In Groton, and the Special Exhibition of bathing suits, on August 28th at the Peter Paul House, was a huge success!



About 150 people enjoyed the Bathing Suit exhibit curated by Phyllis Burke and made possible by Nan McHugo's generous loan of her Mother's bathing suits. Dave Spencer's fabulous history of Lake Groton was delivered 5 times throughout the day to visitors who shared their memories and learned new aspects of the lake's interesting past.

The Peter Paul House was cleaned from top to bottom preparing for this big day, new puzzles were designed and ordered, the great map of the Lake (6' x 3') was painstakingly assembled by Lise Shallberg. Deborah Jurist retyped the complete first edition of "Camping at the Pond" adding a Name Index, and many new photos collected from people who have had camps at the pond for generations. A special note of thanks goes out to Allen Goodine who furnished much context for the stories and excellent photos of

the early days.

The two early 20th c. bathing costumes donated to GHS by the Clark family, were painstakingly cleaned by Phyllis Burke for display.

Then the "show went on the road" and joined the Lake Groton Association for their annual meeting. We had another busy and successful event, this time making lots of new friendships and renewing old ones.



Other excellent news....Matt Nunn has almost finished painting and repairing the west and south sides of the Peter Paul House. He has re-

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placed window glass, and rotting trim boards, spending 3 weeks on this job in the middle of one of the busiest years for building contractors in Vermont. A huge thank you to Matt!

The Bathing Suit Exhibition and Lake History Talk will be offered once again on Fall Foliage Day, Oct 2nd at the Peter Paul House.

The puzzles, maps, books, and prints will all be available for sale. Stop by and visit—and bring your Christmas list!



Lisa Shallberg, Susan Pelkey-Smith, Tonya Palmer and Deborah Jurist selling books, maps, and puzzle's at the open house on August 28, 2021

Opposite page: Dave Spencer (top) presenting history of Groton Pond to a very attentive and interested group of visitors (bottom) at GHS Peter Paul open house on August 28, 2021.



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