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# GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Newsletter

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# PILGRIMS MASSIVE DEBT



Reconstructed Pilgrims village at Plimouth Colony Museum.

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**Editor's Note:** *Today's threat of runaway inflation has many people concerned about going in debt, but the fear seems insignificant compared to what the pilgrims faced in 1620-21. Economics played a vital role in the pilgrims' journey overseas and their first years in New Plymouth. Many were farmers living in "deep privation" and crossing the ocean was a way to escape poverty. About 70 investors, known as merchant "adventurers," pooled together capital to fund the passage, expecting a return on their investment. But the first winter nearly half the colonists died, and it was not good for business.*

A successful relationship with the partners in England was at the heart of the welfare of the infant colony. Even though some of the London businessmen sympathized with the religious aims of the Pilgrims, they expected the investment of their capital to yield a return and rather quickly. Promotion of colonial ventures was new and risky. Thomas Weston and later leaders of the merchant adventurers had not learned from the bitter experience of the large,

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incorporated Virginia Company that a long time must elapse before profit could be expected from a colonial undertaking. They failed to calculate that even if the colonists engaged promptly in trading furs or catching fish, their initial task must be to build permanent dwellings and to feed themselves and the women and children.

But investors knew that ships had set forth annually by merchants and fished along the New England coast for several years, erecting fishing stages and sometimes trading for furs. They required only a modest outlay by the investors and their accounts increased at the end of each voyage. But it was much more costly to support a permanent settlement until it was self-sustaining. When wealthy backers of Virginia and Bermuda complained about delayed profits, the small group of capitalists financing the Pilgrims certainly could not afford to invest funds for supplies year after year without receiving goods in return. They apparently underestimated the extent of their task and neglected the necessary provision for the Plymouth colony.

Urgency of sending returns to these investors concerned the Pilgrims from the start. When the *Mayflower* sailed home in 1621 without a profitable lading, Weston wrote a sharp criticism to the Governor. He had been informed about how the high death rate and short supplies had weakened the colony during the first dreadful winter, yet he charged the settlers with greater “weakness of judgment than weakness of hands. A quarter of the time you spend in discoursing, arguing, and consulting would have done much more. The life of the business depends upon the lading of this ship, which if you do to any good purpose, that I may be freed from the great sums I have disbursed for the former and must do for the latter (the *Fortune*), I promise you I will never quit the business.”

Robert Cushman, the business agent in England, brought this rebuke from the partners in November 1621. He came in the *Fortune* to inspect the colony briefly and to persuade the colonists to agree to the conditions the adventurers had insisted on. He returned at once to report his findings. Cushman, George Morton, William Bradford, and Edward Winslow compiled a little tract to encourage the investors about the colony’s progress. Although a bit rosy in coloring, it relates what Cushman found.

New Plymouth was situated on a good harbor with plenty of fish and woods close at hand. The settlers had built a fort at the top of the hill and common storehouses containing the first harvest, the colony’s precious arsenal and supplies from England. In the small, sturdy, farmhouses with roofs of thatch, scattered along the street running up the

hill, lived the survivors of the first winter's illness and privation. Their Indian friends, Squanto, and Samoset had helped conciliate the neighboring Indians and begin trade with them.

Yet an undercurrent of discontent and friction disturbed the settlers. The system of sharing equally in all the arduous labor and what it produced was one source of unrest. Upon the unloading of 35 newcomers sent in the *Fortune* without proper clothing or "so much as a biscuit-cake or any other victuals, the most stouthearted had a right to murmur at the addition of extra consumers before another crop could be harvested.

A gap persisted between the Leyden immigrants and religious exiles, who had ventured their persons and savings, and the London contingent, some hirelings of the company. Bradford himself wrote Weston about being "yoked with some ill-conditioned people who will never do good.

Since these strains threatened the successful execution of the conditions with the London backers, which he had just persuaded the Pilgrims to sign, Cushman preached a sermon the Sunday before he left on the text, "Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth" (I Corinthians 10:24). Urging his hearers not to labor for self-love or self-profit, he said: "Let there be no prodigal person to come forth and say, give me the portion of lands and good that appertaineth to me, and let me shift for myself." No one must think of gathering riches for himself until "our loving friends, who helped us hither, and now again supplied us," were paid off.

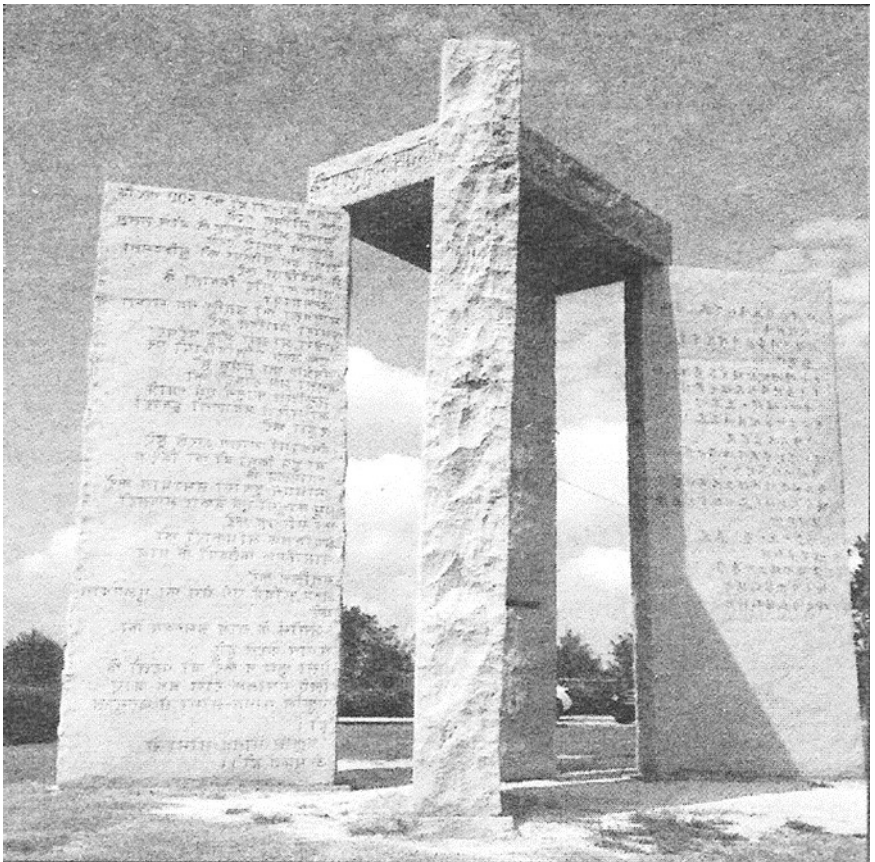
Leaders of the colony knew their responsibilities to the adventurers. Cushman's ship was freighted with good clapboard and two hogshead of beaver and otter, a return cargo they judged worth £500. Bad luck assailed them, however, in the first of a series of disasters. A French privateer seized the vessel on its way home and pillaged the returns they had collected with so much effort.

It is hard to understand why the Pilgrims were forced to endure such bitter hardship, at times - virtual starvation, for a period of about two years after the *Fortune's* visit. They were continually disappointed at the failure to receive replenishment of their scanty provisions, yet they had to share with newcomers whose arrival they did not expect. Cause of these harsh circumstances was not so much in the colony as among the partners in England.

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# GEORGIA GUIDESTONES MONUMENT

Although the guidestones monument was erected 22 March 1980 and ownership of the land and monument transferred to Elbert Co., GA, little else is known about its origin and sponsors. Mr. R. C. Christian (a pseudonym) approached the Elberton Granite Finishing Co. in June 1979 on behalf of "a small group of loyal Americans" and commissioned the structure. He explained the stones would be used as a compass, calendar, and clock, and should be capable of "withstanding catastrophic events".



The monument is about 750 feet above sea level, 9 miles north of Elberton, GA. One slab stands in the center, with four arranged around it.

A capstone lies on top of the five slabs, which are astronomically aligned. An additional stone tablet, which is set in the ground a little west of the structure, provides some notes on the history and purpose of the guidestones. Sometimes the monument has been referred to as an "American Stonehenge". It is 19 feet 3 inches tall, made from six granite slabs weighing 237,746 pounds.

Ten guidelines or principles are engraved on the monument in eight different languages, one on each face of the four large upright stones. Clockwise from due north, languages are: English, Spanish, Swahili, Hindi, Hebrew, Arabic, Traditional Chinese, and Russian. The ten guidelines are:

1. Maintain humanity under 500,000,000 in perpetual balance with nature.
2. Guide reproduction wisely—improving fitness and diversity.
3. Unite humanity with a living new language.
4. Rule passion—faith—tradition—and all things with tempered reason.
5. Protect people and nations with fair laws and just courts.
6. Let all nations rule internally resolving external disputes in a world court.
7. Avoid petty laws and useless officials.
8. Balance personal rights with social duties.
9. Prize truth—beauty—love—seeking harmony with the infinite.
10. Be not a cancer on the Earth—Leave room for nature.

Explanatory tablet reads "Let these be guidestones to an Age of Reason" and is translated in four ancient languages, one on each edge of the square, Babylonian (in cuneiform script), Classical Greek, Sanskrit and Ancient Egyptian (in hieroglyphs).

The four outer stones are oriented to mark the limits of the 18.6 year lunar declination cycle. The center column features a hole drilled at an angle from one side to the other, through which can be seen the North Star. The same pillar has a slot carved through it which is aligned with the Sun's solstices and equinoxes. A small aperture in the capstone allows the sun to pass through at noon each day, shining a beam on the center stone indicating the day of the year.

Anonymity of sponsors and guidelines for controlling population, eugenics, and internationalism has lead to controversy and conspiracy theories. One interpretation is they describe the basic concepts required to rebuild a devastated civilization. The guidestones were built in 1979 at the height of the Cold War, and are a message for possible survivors of a nuclear World War III. The first guideline to keep population below 500 million was probably made assuming war had already reduced humanity below this number

Another interpretation published by the Wisconsin Christian News

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in Volume 22, Issue 6 states the message and intent is clearly anti-GOD and appears to be part of the globalists plans for a “Great Reset” of a New World Order. Messages on the guidestones have been called, “The Ten Commandants of the Antichrist.”

Many believe the Georgia Guidestones were a project of the Club of Rome founded in 1968, one of several organizations founded or funded by David Rockefeller, youngest son of John D. Rockefeller, supporting the cause of a global government. Club of Rome has four stated main goals: World Government, Human Depopulation, Environmentalism, at the expense of humanity, and a One World Religion.

Another Globalist organization World Economic Forum’s, website, states, “There is an urgent need for global stakeholders to cooperate in simultaneously managing the direct consequences of COVID 19 crisis. To improve the state of the world, the World Economic Forum is starting the Great Reset Initiative.” The Forum was also a sponsor of Event 201 in October 2019, planning for the pandemic.

Event 201 was hosted by Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security in partnership with the World Economic Forum and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. People from business, government and public health simulated coordinating a policy response to a theoretical pandemic. The simulation was based on a coronavirus, but the organizers may not have known about the one that causes Covid-19. The first cases of Covid-19 were publicly identified in December 2019, although media reports of unpublished data suggest some cases may have been in November.

Coronaviruses are a broad category of viruses which cause different respiratory illnesses. One is the common cold, and the category also has SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome, of which there were outbreaks in 2002 and 2004), and MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome) in addition to Covid-19.

Organizers said: “The players’ responses to the scenario illuminated the need for cooperation of industry, national governments, international institutions, and civil society, to avoid the catastrophic consequences that could arise from a large-scale pandemic.”

Event 201 was not covered by the U. S. media, but it was covered in the UK by the Telegraph, the only major outlet to report on it at the time.

Mystery of the Georgia Guidestones is enhanced by secrecy and coincidences of power struggles to control people which may or may not have any connection to the monument.

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## REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR

80 Years ago on December 7, 1941

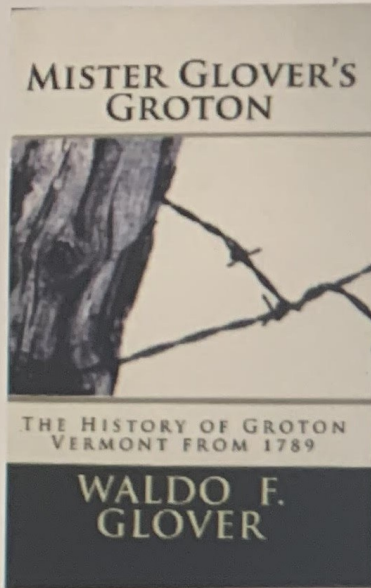
Those who said they would never forget are few in numbers now. So here is part of a report on Japan's infamous sneak attack by A. A. Kampa, vice commander of American Legion in Hawaii at the time.

My wife and I were awakened about 7:30 by a far away rumble of gunfire. We paid little attention to this other than thinking, "How strange for the Navy to hold target practice at this hour on Sunday morning." I thought to myself, Lahaina Roads is a hundred miles, too far to even hear the largest salvo—and the channel between Oahu and Molokai is no place for target practice. The rumble became a roar with frequent sharp explosions from rapid fire cannons. I said to my wife, 'Maud this is not maneuvers.' I sprang out of bed and turned on the radio. The announcer kept shouting in a nervous, breathless voice, "Pearl Harbor is being bombed. This is war, no fooling—this is not maneuvers—it is the real McCoy."

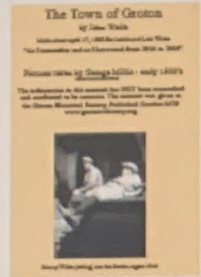
After describing the response of everyone to this horrific attack, helping the injured get treatment, and others find shelter, he concludes his report.

Just as the people of Hawaii have been shocked and sorely tried by these heavy days and weeks, so too we hope you who are back there in the brighter side of the U. S. will be shocked out of all complacency and false security. We have now entered a new era of life. We need to be shocked out of our lethargic way. From now on we must roll up our sleeves and stand together—to work and fight for the complete annihilation of this hellish totalitarianism and for a better world. The masses of America must be awakened now. The 200,000 civilians and thousands of our forces who watched the scene I have tried to describe—yea, the thousands of dead who fought off the attackers or died without a chance under the most hellish circumstances ever afflicted on American soil—all, I am certain, raise up their voices and cry out to you—"Wake Up America!"

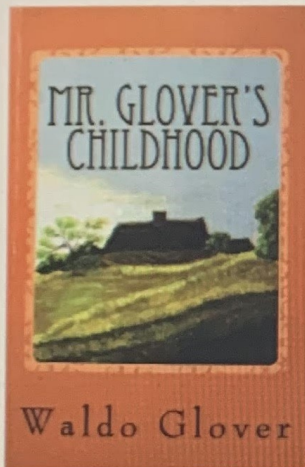
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Mr. Glover's Groton - 468 pages



Johnny White's Groton Memoir 1904 - 1955 23 pages



Mr. Glover's Childhood - 168 pages



Seth Eastman's Civil War Journal 133 pages



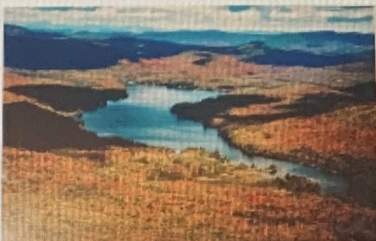
All puzzles are 12" x 18" - 345 pieces



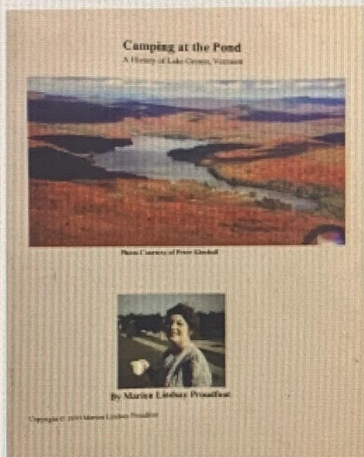
Village Jigsaw Puzzle



Landmarks Jigsaw Puzzle



Lake Groton Jigsaw Puzzle



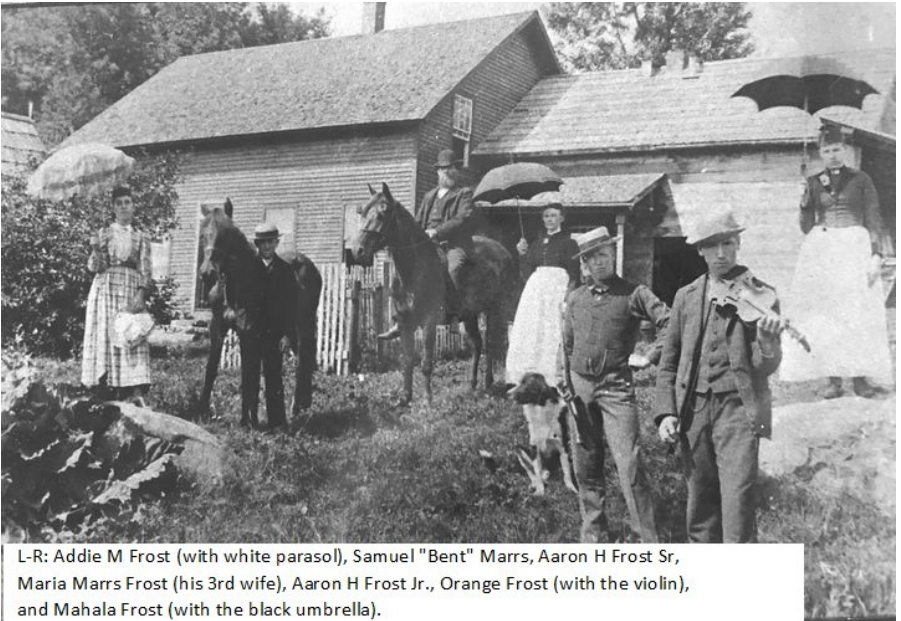
Camping at the Pond  
48 pages

## Groton Historical Society Fall 2021

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L-R: Addie M Frost (with white parasol), Samuel "Bent" Marrs, Aaron H Frost Sr, Maria Marrs Frost (his 3rd wife), Aaron H Frost Jr., Orange Frost (with the violin), and Mahala Frost (with the black umbrella).

Photo taken between 1883 and 1888 (see page 11), from Carol (Welch) Shields.



*The Male Quartet & Kendall*

Male quartet and Kendall Carpenter at Methodist Church. Left to right: Lester Freer (1897-1937), Henry Goodine (1903-1973), Ralph Foster (1892-1953), Kendall Carpenter (1916-1967) and Lee Blanchard (1880-1953). Photo taken early 1930's and submitted by Allen Goodine.

Caption for top photo on page 10,

L R: Addie Melissa Frost (1874-1888), Samuel Adelbert “Bert” Marris (1870-1951, son of Maria and her first husband), Aaron H. Frost (1829-1912), Maria (Sullivan) Marris Frost (abt 1839-aft 1905, Aaron’s third wife married 1883), Aaron H. Frost Jr. (1868-1946, married Louisa Doris Carter 1894), Orange C. Frost (1872-1936, married Martha “Mattie” Orr 1899), and Mahala Frost (1864-1950, married Orin Crown in 1896 and Wentworth Morton in 1935).



Sears Kit-House of Warren and Corrine (Benzie) Carpenter on Railroad Street built around 1920 and later home of James and Helen (Peck) Benzie. See story about Bungalow in a Box on page 12.

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## **BUNGALOW IN A BOX**

### **KIT HOUSES IN EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY**

Devin Coleman, from Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, discussed the history of kit houses, in a virtual presentation last November for Historic New England. Mail-order homes and building plans helped shape the concept of middle-class housing, and sales catalogs from Sears, Roebuck & Co., Montgomery Ward, and others brought single-family housing standards and design to the nation. Devin Coleman used Burlington, VT, as a case study, but I believe there are at least three or four homes in Groton village and maybe more, purchased in kit form in the 1920's and built by local carpenters.

The house on Railroad Street that I grew up in was purchased from Sears, Roebuck & Co. about 1920 by Warren and Corrine (Benzie) Carpenter and constructed by George Clark, a local carpenter, on about an acre of land adjacent to Orange Morrison's dwelling. Corrine's brother, James J. Benzie, advanced them money and became owner when they defaulted on the mortgage. He rented the house to Lester and Linnie (Johnson) Freer for a few years until he married Helen Peck in 1927 and it became our family home. (see page 11)

Charles J. and Eva (Adams) Bailey purchased a house from Sears about the same time and built it on Park Street opposite the Hatch Block (now Welch Apartments). He was Station Agent for M&WR RR and gave up his apartment in the Railroad Station to section foreman, John Hatch, when they moved into their house. Guy and Lillian (Simpson) Darling lived here later.

Grover C. and Emma (Jones) Smith also purchased a kit=house from Sears and built it at the junction of Mill Street and Main Street (now U. S. 302) opposite the present Town Clerk's office. Wesley and Pearl (Phelps) Morrison lived here later.

Edmond D. and Phoebe (Harvey) Ricker's house was built about the same time and may also be a kit-house. It is on Main Street opposite the Library and now owned by Wanda (Hamlett) Peters.

Sears catalog and kit houses sold primarily to customers in East Coast and Midwest states, but some are found in most States and Canada. More than 70,000 were sold in North America between 1908 and 1940 by Sears, offering the latest technology available. Central heating, indoor plumbing, and electricity were all new developments in kit-houses for "Modern Homes." Shipped via railroad boxcars, kits had most materials needed. Houses were assembled by the homeowner, relatives, friends, and neighbors, like traditional barn-raising of farming families, or by local carpenters. Pre-cut lumber reduced construction up to 40%. "Balloon style" framing systems did not require skilled carpenters. Frames were built faster with only one carpenter. Standard sizes (2"x4" and 2"x8") were used for framing and only nails used for connections. Previously heavier timbers and pegs were used. The structures were very light and basic so home buyers could assemble them independently

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## GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

President's Report by Deborah Jurist

The Peter Paul House was alive with energy on Fall Foliage Day. Folks came from some distance to see Willard Benzie and Reg Welch our genealogy experts.

The doors were wide open and the wood stove was pumping out heat. The weather was miserable but the parade went on and Dave Spencer presented his "Lake Life" talk. This was recorded and will soon be on the GHS website.

The website has been updated a bit and now has ordering forms for books etc. and more accurate info. There will be more improvements coming. We are now blessed with a few new members who have website management experience.

[www.grotonvthistory.org](http://www.grotonvthistory.org)

We are happy to announce FREE shipping for one item for all current GHS members.

Contact us via email. You can use the attached form and bring your membership up to date and order books and puzzles using a credit card or a check.

Look for your membership status in the body of the email we send, or notes on the printed copy.

Happy Holidays to all. Here's to a healthy, hopeful and happy New Year from all of us in Groton to all of you!

Warm Regards,  
Deborah Jurist

*(Continued on page 14)*

(Continued from page 13)

## Minutes and Notes of November 9, 2021 Meeting

Notes are in *Italic*, and actions taken are in **Bold**.

- Attendance: Deborah Jurist, Brent Smith, Dave Spencer, Mike Gaiss, Sarah Spira.
1. Holiday Sales Do we want a buying opportunity as FFD sales were not good?  
 Open house. *Ask Susan if the date works for her, and ask Jodi about a Library event to go along with an Open House Sat. Dec 4th.*  
*Ask Carrie about cement mixer Brent said he would help deliver stuff and Sarah said she would help also*  
*Send Mike the updated order form*  
*Brent will come to help out at the PPH*  
**Cheryl Le Tourneau (member) has offered to help.**  
**Jodi will do a program on Dec 4th. Perhaps Santa?**  
**The Irish cement mixer is not planned, (it's on western side of VT Dec 4th)**  
**Announcements in FB and sandwich sign.**  
**Order forms attached**
  2. Mail in orders in Winter newsletter? How to manage if undertaken. Probably some will want items regardless of what we decide. How to manage this.  
 Julie Paton has told Phyllis she wants a Pond Booklet  
 We have had 3 inquiries already (11/14)  
**Thanks go to Lise Shallberg. Individuals are contacting her, because her contact info is on the website or they know her. She is giving them my phone number, and in one case took CC info and shipping address. This order was for Mr. Glover's Groton which has been sent out. Hoping to work some details out with Sarah on Thursday Nov 18th**
  3. Focus for 2022 possibilities we have talked about:
    - A Civil, WWI and WWII wars incorporating our uniform collection.  
*Metal detector, reenactment can we connect to a group that does the civil war?*
    - B Histories of houses in Groton  
*Have a program on how to research the history of your old house .*  
*How to document and share the history? Sarah offered to write up how to use property sales documents, and how to do a title search for the newsletter.*  
*Reach out to other societies*  
*Look at grandlist to find houses within certain dates?*  
*Also would this help us figure out who to reach out to? 911 addresses*  
*A cemetery walk "haunted"*  
*Historical walking tour and use signs like the Peacham H. S.*  
*This will bring outside activities in line with COVID precautions*  
*Stone house: See if we could have a tour*  
*Look into other "Taisey Brothers" houses*  
*How does genealogy interconnect with the house histories?*  
*Data base from Willard as a 2022 goal*  
*Combine War uniforms and old house history searches?*  
*Update signage for artifacts/donations in the house*  
*Plan a sale of things we want to get rid of next year? Perhaps have Steenburgh's look at what we might be willing to part with? Then we can avoid a sale, but still clean things out.*  
*2022 identify items to go, set parameters, picture descriptions*  
*Have symposium approach to the season i.e. public programs.*
  4. Website > Discuss and make decisions about Terry Miller
    - A. Review notes

- B. Discuss website goals
- 1 Prepare the table for 2022 newsletters
  - 2 Put pictures of textiles on website
  - 3 Fix pictures
  - 4 Update info
  - 5 Post video of Groton Pond talk
  - 6 Remove old info
  - 7 Add info about books etc.
  - 8 Change contact info to email?
  - 9 Change settings so email receives only wordpress and wordfence.
  - 10 Should we change from GoDaddy to another provider?
  - 11 Should we pay about \$100 for an SSL certificate?
  - 12 Are we happy with the "layout?"
  - 13 *Put a link on website to FB*
  - 14 *How to slow progress of an organization and keep people on website*
  - 15 *Genealogy data base*
  - 16 *template refresh and make it look brand new*
  - 17 *google analytics*
- Mike and Sarah will clean up health aspects of the site*  
*Tell Terry we will look at the site and get back together with her*  
**Terry understands the slow way of organizations. She manages the Peacham Historical Society website and explained they have a theme each year, and she updates the website with a new template based on it. .**
5. Membership letter and mailing before Thanksgiving with newsletter  
**Willard is at hunting camp until mid November. I will send announcement of the Open House for the newsletter. Once the order form and picture sheet are finalized we can print them and include in the Winter Newsletter mailing. We can also announce the Open House in an email to members. We should also include membership reminders?**
6. Accept telephone? From Betty Bouley Webster? *Phyllis told me where the phone was but I couldn't find it.* Carrie Mable Dexter is her daughter in TN, Janet will get address for me to send a thank you note  
 Also review the clothing we have been given.  
 1) The first is a child's wool flannel petticoat donated on 8/28/21 by Kirk and Ellen Farquharson, who visited the PPH open house. They are lake people, and live in N. Wilbraham MA during the winter. The petticoat was from the home of John and Ruth Walker, Kirk's grandmother's sister and husband. The home/farm had been the Rich Tavern (built 1805) and is in North Montpelier. So, even though the petticoat is interesting in itself, it is not from Groton, and neither are Farquasons. Perhaps pass on to the VHS?  
 2) One of 2 items left in a bag on the PPH doorstep, around Oct. 12, with no info. enclosed. White cotton woman's bodice with ecru embroidery, c. 1890s. At first I thought it wasn't original, but now I think maybe it is. Someone like Theresa Greene would know  
 3) Also in unidentified bag: white cotton woman's nightdress, small enough to be for a teen or small woman. Very nice. Very similar to the one we already have. these must date from the late 1800s, early 1900s. *We voted to accept*
7. Donation of Groton Pond Maps to Fire Dept and Town Assessor Office. **Deborah tried once to give the maps and ask about the game clock but the SB meeting was over attended for the size of the room and she couldn't attend. Will try again**

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