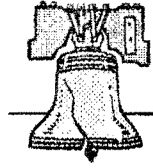


# The Groton Historical Society



## NEWSLETTER

GROTON, VERMONT

FALL 1988

No. 2



### "VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK"

The Groton Historical Society was pleased to have had a part in the naming of our new Town Park.

On Fall Foliage Day - Oct. 1st Dale Brown, a member of the Society gave a dedication speech and announced that the engraved granite monument was a gift from Mr. Clyde Davidson of South Ryegate.

The new Bandstand was also put to use, as the Blue Mountain Band gave a fine performance there after the parade.

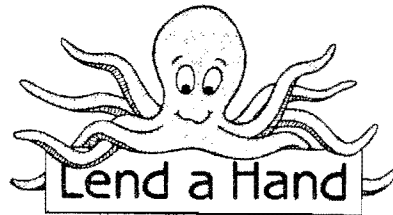
It's a beautiful park, and makes a nice addition to our "down-town" area!

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The Historical Society, under the direction of Alice Goodine, had a display set up in their room at the Groton Public Library. Throughout

the day many Towns-people and Tourists stopped by to look at the old photos, books, documents and other items of interest.

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There are so many things that we, as a Historical Society, can do! Especially now, as we prepare to commemorate the State of Vermont's 200th Anniversary of Statehood.

Won't you join us and help make things happen here in Groton?

Call Alice Goodine at 584-3314 for more information.

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The Vermont Bicentennial Commission was created on June 4, 1986 - to plan and execute a program to properly commemorate the 200th anniversary of

(over)

the founding of the State of Vermont.

The Commission is urging all local communities to develop their own bi-centennial plans and activities over the next three years. The Commission will be actively publicizing events and can help promote our community's events.

Anyone who thinks 1991 is far in the future should think again! Now is the time to start planning for our Groton festivities.

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VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Martin VanBuren was President, Silas Jenison was Governor, and Vermont had been a state for only 47 years when in 1838 the Vermont Legislature chartered the Vermont Historical Society. Its Charge: "to preserve, protect and display Vermont's past for the future."

You may join the V.H.S. We have applications on hand. The cost is:

- \$25 - Regular membership
- \$15 - Senior Citizens and Students

Members receive the quarterly journal - "Vermont History", the bi-monthly "Vermont History News" free admission to the Kent Museum, and discount admission to other Vt. museums, and 10% discount on books sold at the Museums and Bookshop.

The Vermont Museum is in the Pavilion Building in Montpelier.  
Monday-Friday - 9am to 4:30pm  
Saturday - 9:30am to 4pm

The VHS Library is a valuable resource for anyone doing research in Vermont History.

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EXCERPTS FROM "MR. GLOVER'S GROTON"

The first train comes to Groton

"Thursday, August 21, 1873 was a great day in Groton, when the people there realized the long expected joy of welcoming the first train of cars into their village. The track-laying on the Montpelier and Wells River Railroad was completed to the depot of that village in the forenoon, and a few minutes before 12 o'clock the old Passumpsic railroad engine: "Orange", Martin Hamlet, engineer, and G.E. Whipple, fireman, whistled up to the depot, drawing a train of one passenger and eleven stake cars, containing over 1,000 people. Over 1,200 people from Groton, Ryegate, Barnet, Topsham, and Peacham had collected to welcome the arrival. Cannon, the village bells and the 'Hurrah' of the multitudes gave ample evidence that hearts were full and joy complete.

The people of Groton, who had expected 600 or 700 people for the big occasion, had provided, in the new depot, ample provisions for that number. The depot was packed with hungry people determined to compliment the Groton ladies by putting their excellent dinner 'where it would do the most good'. In an hours time, baked beans, beef, breadstuff and pastry was rapidly consumed. It was not noticed that any one went away hungry, and certainly no one did if the good people of Groton could have prevented it.

At half past three the order was given to return. The cars were soon packed more densely than on the up trip, as several hundred Groton people were proffered a ride to Wells River and back."

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