
GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

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Groton, Vermont 05046

Summer 2009

GROTON FAMILIES

IN 1860 CENSUS



Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860 and Erastus Fairbanks was Governor of Vermont

CONTENTS

	Page
Groton Families in 1860.....	1
GHS Web page	3
Page Chain Co. of Groton....	5
Pictures	8
Seth Eastman's CIVIL WAR	12
GHS News	14

2009 OFFICERS

President	Richard Brooks
Vice President	Deane Page
Secretary	Josephine French
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The 1860 census of Groton enumerated 158 families living in town with 939 people. This was a change of 14 fewer families and 61 more people than a decade earlier. But 529 people (56%) were listed for the first time in 1860 and 468 of those here in 1850 (53%) were gone by 1860, so only 410 people had been living in Groton 10 years or more. These families also had 177 children less than 10 years old.

People were moving in and out of Groton at a rate greater than 50 percent. The fertile farmland and virgin

(Continued on page 2)

MEETING SCHEDULE

The second Tuesday of
May through October
10 AM at the Peter Paul House,
1203 Scott Hwy.

(Continued from page 1)

forests of the west were attracting farmers and loggers and the nations growing population needed more farm produce and lumber than the rocky soils and second growth forests of New England could supply.

Heads of families in 1860 living in Groton 10 years or more and number of people in the family.

Percival Bailey	8	Simon Emery	9
John Baldwin	5	Timothy Emery	11
William Brown	3	Moses Frost	5
John Buchanan	4	Otis Glover	11
Moses Burnham	2	Abner Goodwin	7
Silas Burnham	2	Robert F. Goodwin	4
John Carrick	6	Thomas Goodwin	9
Eliphalet Carpenter	7	Isaac N. Hall	8
*Stephen Chase	2	Jacob Hatch	2
Almon L. Clark	6	John Hatch	5
Orange G. Clark	5	B. Frank Heath	3
William F. Clark	6	James M. Heath	6
Daniel Coffrin	7	Josiah Heath	5
John Corruth	3	Robert Heath	6
M. Wesson Crown	5	John Hooper	3
Ira Darling	5	Polly Hooper	1
Jonathan R. Darling	6	Samuel R. Hooper	4
Moses Darling	2	William Leithead	9
Samuel Darling Jr.	3	Jonathan Lund	3
William Darling	8	McLane Marshall	3
William Dorr	6	*Baldwin Martin	4
Hugh Dunn	4	William McLaughlin	5
James Dunn	4	John Miller	10
		Abraham Morrison	7
		Charles Morrison	5
		Francis Morrison	11
		John Morrison	6
		Timothy Morrison	5
		William Morrison	9
		Jacob Orr	9
		James Orr	5
		William Orr	3
		Benjamin Page	9
		Enoch Page	3
		John Page	6

(Continued from page 3)

Azro J. Bailey 8
 SIL of Otis Glover
 *John Brown 8
 may be Vint Brown
 David A. Burbank 6
 A. Jack Carpenter 6
 son of Eliphalet
 Calvin Clark 4
 son of Samuel
 Newton H. Clark 7
 son of Samuel
 Samuel B. Clough 5
 James Corruth 6
 son of John
 Edwin Darling 4
 son of Ira
 Isaac N. Darling 4
 son of Nathan
 Nathan Darling 10
 son of Samuel
 Peter H. Darling 6
 son of Moses
 Walter S. Darling 2
 son of John
 Smith Dodge 2
 SIL of John Rhodes
 Gilman Emery 7
 (parentage unknown)
 J. P. Flanders 7
 Aaron Frost 8
 son of Isaiah
 H. M. Gates 6
 John Harvey 10
 Clark Hatch 7
 son of John

William H. Hayes 3
 SIL of Moses Page
 Augustus Heath 5
 SIL of Eben Paul
 *Daniel Heath 2
 James Heath 2
 son of Jesse
 Jacob H. Hooper 3
 son of Samuel
 Aaron Hosmer 6
 son of Josiah
 Otis Hosmer 7
 son of Josiah
 Samuel James 6
 Charles Jones 3
 son of Sara
 *Thomas Kidder 2
 Josiah Marsh 5
 *D. McKay 10
 David Miller 5
 son of John
 William Miller 10
 son of John
 Selden Minard 6
 SIL of Isaiah Frost
 Orrin Morrison 6
 son of Abraham
 Timothy Morrison 4
 son of Abraham
 *John Morse 4
 maybe John F. Morse
 Eliza Noyes 4
 widow of Amos
 James Page 9
 (son of John?)
 Leverett H. Page 5

(Continued on page 10)

PAGE TIRE CHAIN COMPANY of GROTON

by Dale Brown

In the winter of 1928-29 the Square Front Garage was one of the gathering places for the town menfolks and kids. They would crowd around the furnace, made from three oil drums stacked over each other, and keep warm by burning used crank case oil. Besides smoking, sharing stories, keeping up with the news and who got caught; there was a big demand for soft drinks and candy bars.

When Sewell Page, the owner, would clean-up the next morning, cigarette butts and paper were no problem. However, the bottle caps would not sweep, resulting in hand pick-up and language abuse.

It was during this morning chore that the idea of the bottle cap principal aroused Sewell's inventive mind. It possibly could be used on tire chains, cutting into hard snow and ice for better traction. At that time, only the weed chain was available and it was acceptable in soft snow, but on an icy hill the chains acted more as sled runners.

Obsessed with the idea of manufacturing this new tire chain, a patent search quickly revealed that a tire chain using a similar approach was patented by Fredrick Lee of Danbury, CT. After purchasing Lee's rights for 800 dollars to avoid infringement, Page applied for and was granted a patent on the non-skid tire chain in Canada. This was during October, 1929 and he received the final papers in July, 1930.

In the meantime, a stock company was formed to provide capital for this venture. Some of the original stock holders included Sewell Page, his father Frank Page, his brother Burns Page, Robert (Bobby) Brown, Orange Frost and Carroll Ricker. Since capital was in short supply during the depression, some of the 14 or 15 workers at the plant received part of their pay in common stock. William (Bill) Foley, Fred and Johnny White were some who became stockholders during this period. William (Willy) Welch was treasurer of the company

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

and it is assumed that Sewell Page was president.

To speed production the initial Page Chain was manufactured in Springfield, MA and transported to Groton for distribution. On one trip, a major portion of the cargo was sold during transit to stalled motorists along U. S. Route 5 Highway.

While chains were being made in Springfield, a large addition was being built on the back of the Square Front Garage. Punch presses, stamping machines, wire-straightener, heat-treat ovens, paint conveyors and other equipment were being installed as they arrived. Raw materials were stored in racks on the northwest side of the plant. The machine shop was in the northeast corner of the building, consisting of a shaper, drill press, lathe, cutoff saw and work bench where Bill Foley machined the punch and stamping dies for the cross chain. Forming dies made the connecting links from the wire that had been rolled through the straightener. After the cross chain was assembled and heat-treated in the electric oven, it was quenched for increased strength and wear. Overhead conveyors then dipped the cross links

in the famous red paint before being assembled to the side chains. If one of those heat-treated links broke, the driver of the vehicle had to stop and remove it or be prepared to buy a new fender in the near future.

The chains were bagged in draw string white sacks with the Page label. They were shipped all over the North Country, more in Canada than the USA. It was common for Fire engines and other Emergency vehicles to be equipped with these chains and of course the locals had them.

The by-products of manufacturing the chain were in demand also. The four inch wide scrap metal strips were used to make incinerators by spot-welding sections together and providing hinges for covers or collapsing the units together for storage. They appeared in every local back yard, on road sides and parks. In the White Mountains, they were in use years after the company was out of business. Another use for the scrap metal was horse stall partitions and cribs; installed by a town farmer to prevent the

(Continued on page 7)

horses from gnawing the wood. The center slug of the chain was pure scrap. However, the five gallon pails of these discs provided a challenge for the town weight lifters.

The Company prospered, even with the depression, and eventually an interested Connecticut company that was operated and financed through a Portsmouth, NH bank bought into the firm. It was here that the treasurer, Willy Welch, was accused of falsifying the financial records and a bank official was nearly choked to death.

It is not known if the methods of highway snow removal or the banking tactics of the new company merger was the cause, but the Page Chain Manufacturing Plant ceased operation just before Sewell Page passed away in August 1934.

This information was gathered from local sources and is presented to the Groton Historical Society because this business was a factor in helping the town of Groton in those critical depression years. The Page Chain Company is not mentioned in the

Groton history book, "Mister Glover's Groton" and Sewell Page's son, Russell, asked if I would present this write-up along with an actual "Page Chain"; the Patent Rights of the Company (both the one purchased from Connecticut and the one issued from Canada); Plus a material sample of the chain patent that Sewell had to purchase.

Dale Brown
Jan. 1994



Page chains were also used by many to navigate the back roads during 'mud season' in addition to their use all winter on ice and snow.

CIVIL WAR VETERANS



Ira Welch 1832—1919



Allen Carter 1846—1924



William Scott 1839—1862



Seth N. Eastman 1843—1913



Third Vermont Regiment in training at St. Johnsbury in April 1862



Timothy Emery 1845—1928



William Scott Memorial
Near his families home site in Groton

(Continued from page 4)

SIL of John Whitehill	
Otis Rhodes	4
son of John	
*Benjamin Stebbins	11
Peter Thurston	7
William Vance	4
brother of David	
Hosea Welch Jr.	7
son of Hosea	
John H. Welch	6
son of Hosea	
Peter Welch	2
son of Stephen	
Abraham Whitehill	4
son of Peter	
George W. Whitehill	7
son of John	
Daniel Wormwood	3
brother of John	

In 1860, Civil War unrest was prevalent throughout the country and several southern states had already seceded before President Lincoln took office in 1861. Vermont was admitted to the Union as a 'free state' 70 years earlier so Kentucky could join as a 'slave state' without changing the balance between free and slave states.

When President Lincoln called for troops to help save the Union, Groton responded with 79 volunteers, and 16 of them

(indicated with an asterisk) died in the service. Perhaps the most noted soldier was William Scott, the 'Sleeping Sentinel', who was pardoned by President Lincoln after he was sentenced to death for sleeping on duty. William volunteered to stand watch for a sick comrade after a full day of duty and a second consecutive night on watch when he was caught sleeping.

The following list of Groton's Civil War veterans is from Mr. Glover's Groton:

William H. N. Annis
 Charles H. Brock*
 Edward A. Brock*
 Andrew S. Burbank
 Charles H. Burbank*
 Charles L. Burnham
 Andrew J. Carpenter
 Lafayette Carpenter
 Frank F. Carrick
 Allen H. Carter
 Aaron Darling
 Marshall J. Darling
 Walter S. Darling
 Henry B. Demmon
 Charles D. Dow*
 Seth N. Eastman
 Harley A. Eggleston
 Asa S. Emery
 Charles Emery
 Charles G. Emery

Jeremiah Emery
Obed Emery
Simon Emery Jr.
Timothy Emery Jr.
Peter Fessenden
Isaiah Frost
Isaac M. Goodwin*
Reuben Goodwin*
Michael Goss
Edmund Greene*
Michael Hannon
Henry Harrington
William Hayes
Augustus M. Heath
Albert Hood
Horace Hood
Benjamin H. Hosmer
Charles F. Jones
William Judd
Aaron Kidder*
Charles E. Lamphere
Rufus C. Lund
Sylvanus Lund*
John P. Martin
Francis Matthew
Thad S. W. Melville
David Miller II
Silas B. Morrison
Amos H. Noyes
William G. S. Orr
Alvah G. Page*
George G. Page
Leverett H. Page
Morris C. Page*
Moses Page Jr.
George W. Philbrick
George W. Pillsbury

Josiah R. Rhodes
Everett D. Ricker*
Josiah D. Ricker
Daniel W. Scott*
George Scott*
John W. Scott
Joseph W. Scott
William Scott*
George W. Stebbins
Robert Taisey
Nathan D. Usher
Martin V. B. Vance
Willis H. Vance
Morris C. Vance
Timothy B. Weed
Ira L. Welch
George W. Whitehill*
Haynes W. Whitehill
John D. Whitehill
Walter Whitehill
John Wilson
Daniel Wormwood



Excerpt from
THE CIVIL WAR
(As Recollected by an Ordinary Soldier)
By Seth N. Eastman, M. D. in 1909

...We camped at a place called Newport News, on the York River. The weather was hot and we went in swimming and fished for oysters with our feet and got as many as we wanted. We ate them and liked them very much, as well as another shellfish called quahogs. They were not so good to eat, however.

We started from this place in a few days, towards Yorktown, and came to a full stop at a place called Lee's Mills. Here the rebels were posted in full force across our path. The artillery was brought up and there was a duel of artillery for several hours. Here I saw the first man killed. Some of the artillery men were killed by the fire of the enemy. The men were mangled and as they were carried by on the stretchers, we had our first glimpse of real war. Now my feelings can be better imagined than described, as I was a tender little boy not yet nineteen years old. I was ashamed to cry so did not, but could not help thinking of the peaceful home up in Vermont that was so far away.

We were here as much as three weeks during the time the ill-fated battle of Lee's Mills was fought. I did not get into any real action, yet the right wing of the 6th Vermont was engaged and lost many officers and men. I was in the left wing and was not actually engaged, yet the air was full of bullets where I stood. Not one of my company was hurt, just frightened, as never before or since. That night after the battle, we had to get our fallen comrades out of the water and pick up the dead by wading up to our armpits in water. The regiment lost in killed and wounded, 90 men. None of the company I was in were hurt. This happened on May 16, 1862. We were wet and hungry, our clothes were soaked when we lay down on the ground to sleep that night. I had by this time found out what it meant to go to war, being then in my nineteenth year. It took as much as three days to collect all the dead and bury them. I had to help and as many of the bodies were black

and swollen, it was a very unpleasant task and it made me feel very sick. After this we camped about 1/2 mile back of the site of the battle and worked a part of every day building forts and lugging poles for corduroy roads and building platforms to mount siege guns. Also, we expected to be attacked every night and the long roll would be sounded almost every night. At such times, Colonel Lord who had a voice like a bull and a face like a lion, would stand under the flap of his tent and shout "Battalion". Every man in the 6th Vermont could hear him and turn out and fall into line in short order, always under arms. We stayed at this camp as much as twenty days. Then it was discovered that the enemy had vanished and abandoned their entrenched line and so we abandoned ours and started in pursuit. I was left at camp on guard over the stores such as baled hay and hardtack, but did not stay but a day or two. Then I followed along after the army and joined them again near Williamsburg, Virginia. I think there were about a dozen men in this squad of guards, commanded by a sergeant. I don't remember his name or those of the men who were with me at this time, as it is

45 years ago, and a lot of water has run under the bridge since.

There were two men killed in the affair I have just mentioned, viz. James Batten and William Scott. I helped to lay them to rest and I remember how peaceful they looked as we wrapped them in their overcoats and blankets and dropped them into their shallow graves. It seems now as though I could go to the very spot and locate the graves if I should try. I am told by parties who have been to these old battlefields of 45 years ago, however, that the full face of nature has been changed and no particular object I remember remains.....



William Scott marker in the National Cemetery at Yorktown.

GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

The Peter Paul House has been cleaned and is ready for showing by appointment to interested visitors this summer and fall. Contact President Richard Brooks for an appointment at 802 584-3417. The House will be open all day October 3, 2009, Fall Foliage Day in Groton.

Groton Historical Society web page edited by Don Smith now has a virtual tour of the Peter Paul House. It was prepared by Chris Stokes, a senior student at BMU under the direction of Tracy Puffer. The site also has a nice collection of photos by Don, Dick Kreis, Alan Blakeman and others. See page 3 for instructions to find the GHS web page on the internet.

Diane Kreis resigned her positions of Secretary and Fall Foliage Day Chair due to her new duties as the Vermont State Regent for the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Congratulations Diane on your new venture and thanks for your past service of many years. The new secretary is Josephine French. Peter Lyons is the new Fall Foli-

age Day Chairman. Welcome to your new jobs, Josephine and Peter.

Family history records are being added to regularly by members and friends who submit information about new births, marriages, and deaths in their families to GHS. Is your family history record at GHS up to date? If you are not sure, send an e-mail to:

jwbenzie@mchsi.com

Ask for a copy of your family record and then submit any corrections and additions for the GHS records. If your family records are not in the GHS family record files, now is a good time to add them.

Paid up members now total 67, including 11 couples, and many have paid through 2010 and some through 2011. The last year of your paid dues is shown on your mailing address. Please let the secretary know if there is an error. Annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for couples.



PAID MEMBERSHIPS for 2009 and Beyond*

Chestine Beaton*	Elizabethtown, NY	J. Willard Benzie	Grand Rapids, MN
Melvin Benzie	Bradford, VT	Pat Bouley	Groton, VT
Richard Brooks	Groton, VT	Dale Brown*	Groton, VT
Sadie Bruleigh*	Groton, VT	Peggy Burgin	Groton, VT
Lorraine Carpenter	Fruita, CO	David & Joan Chase	Holderness, NH
Stanley Crown	Groton, VT	Betty Dudley*	Groton, VT
Elizabeth Durovich	Stowe, VT	Josephine French*	Groton, VT
Allen Gandin*	Groton, VT	Corliss B. Greene	Middleburgh, NY
George Hall*	So. Ryegate, VT	Kent & Joan Haskell	Groton, VT
Peter & Martha Haskell	Burlington, VT	Gayle D. Hatch	Woodsville, NH
Robert Herdman	Groton, VT	Clifton & Christie Hersey	Groton, VT
Don & Pat Hood	Ocala, FL	June Jorgensen	Naples, FL
Kelley Kreis	Crest Hill, IL	Richard & Diane Kreis	Groton, VT
Shannon Kreis	Shorewood, IL	Jean Foster Malnati	Wells River, VT
Barbara Mitchell*	Bloomfield Hills, MI	Robert Murphy	Barre, VT
Linda Nunn*	Groton, VT	Deane & Bing Page	Groton, VT
Stephen Perry*	Avon Park, OH	Eleanor Placey	South Newbury, VT
Charles E. Pollard	Monrovia, CA	Eugene Puffer	Monroe, NH
David & Maria Puffer	Mt. Pleasant, SC	Janet Puffer	Groton, VT
Matthew & Tracy Puffer	Groton, VT	Nathan & Merry Puffer	Groton, VT
Martha Rogers	Chaplin, CT	Harold Sanders	Littleton, NH
Hazel Sayers	Orford, NH	Theresa Shepard	Bradford, VT
Barry Smith	Whitinsville, MA	Don & Deb Smith	Colchester, CT
Dwight A. Smith	Kearsarge, NH	Grover Smith	Ormand Beach, FL
Kimberley Stenson	Charlotte, NC	Frances Tripp*	Groton, VT
Reginald Welch	Montpelier, VT	Margaret Wenzel	Janesville, WI
Beatrice Wehmeyer*	Portland, ME	Elizabeth Westerwelle*	Jacksonville, FL
Donna Wollschlager	Bristol, CT		

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