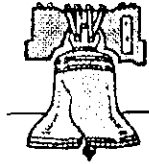


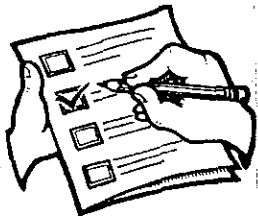
The Groton Historical Society



NEWSLETTER

GROTON, VERMONT

FALL 1992



•VOTE•

The Annual Meeting of The Groton Historical Society was held on Tuesday, July 13, 1992.

The following officers were elected:

President: Alice Goodine
 Vice President: Norma Hosmer
 Secretary: Evelyn Ricker
 Treasurer: Josephine French
 Co-Signer: Dale Brown

Board of Directors:

Consists of the 4 elected officers plus:

Willard Benzie
 (Term expires 1993)
 Deane Page
 (Term expires 1994)
 Richard Brooks
 (Term Expires 1995)

Board of Trustees:

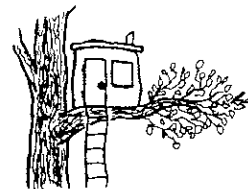
Willard Benzie
 (Term expires 1993)
 Deane Page
 (Term expires 1994)

Norma Hosmer
 (Term expires 1995)
 Walter Main
 (Term Expires 1996)

Richard Brooks
 (Term expires 1997)

Contact person for Historical House:
 Dale Brown

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CLUB MEETING

We invite all interested persons to join the Society. Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:00 AM at the Historic House.

Dues are \$2.00 per year. Contact Alice Goodine at 584-3314, or Norma Hosmer at 584-3601 for more information.

Notice to current members: Your 1993 Dues will be due January 1st!

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A BIG THANKS

Our Historic House was open to visitors on several evenings and Sunday afternoons during July and August, and all day on Fall Foliage Day, Oct. 3rd. The house was furnished with period furniture and equipment loaned for the occasion by Richard Brooks, Janet Puffer, Norma Hosmer, Alice Goodine, Dorothy Main and others.

Also, a display of World War II memorabilia, consisting of items loaned by many veterans in the area, was set up to commemorate the 50th anniversary of World War II.

The kitchen, with it's old black wood stove, hand pump (which really pumped water) on the kitchen sink, and old hand cranked wall telephone was a big hit; as well as the old fashioned bedroom, the pump organ in the living room, and the dining room table set with dishes dating back to 1904 and the silver tea set.

Alice, Norma and Helen in their old fashioned dresses and Richard in his derby added a nice touch to the event.

About 350 people signed the guest book, attended to by Ruth Putnam.

All our guests enjoyed the the open house and many cameras and video recorders were seen in use during the day.

Many thanks to all who worked so hard to get things ready. It was a great "team effort", and it paid off in satisfaction for everyone involved.

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.....to Andrea Blair, who designed our Groton Historical Society letterheads, and also designed and produced a nice brochure depicting many of the interesting things in and around Groton.

Andrea is the granddaughter of Josephine French, and volunteered her services during the summer.

The brochures and stationery were donated to the Society by the French Family, in memory of Doug French.

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Much has been done to our Historic House, and much remains to be done.

The two upstairs rooms, the basement rooms, and landscaping are on the agenda. Volunteers will surely be needed as things progress. Contact the Trustees if you have time and talent to offer.

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PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

On August 1, 1992 Alice Goodine gave a lecture on the History of Groton Pond, at the State Park Nature Center.

This event was Video=taped and anyone who would like to view it may borrow the tape from Bing Page.



GROTON CEMETERIES

(Excerpts from "Mr. Glover's Groton")

As in many other New England towns there were families in Groton who preferred burial on the home acres rather than in public cemeteries, but so far as is known there were only seven: Whitcher, Frost, Gray, Renfrew, McLachlin, Heath and Batchelder.

The Village Cemetery may be said to have been consecrated when the body of Captain Jesse Heath, long a leading citizen of Groton was buried in the western or old part in 1838. This cemetery is located on Lot 16, a long narrow tract extending from a few rods west of the residence of Gerald Morse to the Ryegate line, with the river as approximate southern boundry. In 1806 Captain Ephraim Gary deeded to Obediah Low one-fourth of this lot which included all the land embraced in the present limits of the cemetery. The farm buildings stood in the east end of the cemetery. In 1837 the entire tract was sold to Samuel Clark and about 1870 the house was sold to Clark Hatch and moved. The eastern or "new part" of the present cemetery was then cut up into burial lots and sold as needed. The fact that the entire plot was always private rather than town property precluded an over-all plan which would have provided regular paths and drive-ways, a fact which in retrospect seems regrettable.

In the early years slate or freestone was used for headstones, and the graves of Captain Heath and a few others were marked with this material, but the custom of using marble for this purpose

was about to begin. All headstones of the earlier material were in time removed and marble or granite memorials substituted. The first monument was of marble, erected by Samuel G. Clark to the memory of his son Morris, and stands on the southern edge of the old section.

Although the Village Cemetery is not municipal property the Town has maintained fences on the side next to the highway for many years; first, a succession of wooden fences and finally an iron fence which was removed in the summer of 1953. A substantial gateway of granite provided for in the will of Herman L. Gilman, for many years the village miller, was erected at the entrance of the southern, or "new part" of the cemetery.

In 1888, through private subscriptions water was piped into the cemetery from a location about a fourth of a mile away on the Clark Hatch Brook. Two fountains were erected and several faucets installed in convenient locations in the yard. In 1893 the receiving tomb on the north side of the highway was erected by the Town. In the winter months this was considered a great convenience, but it has seldom been used in recent years.

In 1869 the Town voted to instruct the Selectmen to secure a hearse and procure a suitable person to use the same with team, on occasion. For some years the question of the operation of the hearse, including the compensation of the driver "per funeral" came up at every regular meeting, and was sometimes bid off. The highest compensation for a driver was \$1.25 to Samuel Darling in 1874 and the lowest was eighty-five cents to John Hatch in 1879. The general figure was one dollar a trip. As for coffins, they were made to order and to measure by a local carpenter. Deacon Josiah Paul in the north part of town did much work of this kind in the early days. Later Peter M. Paul, a fine cabinet maker, made coffins in his village shop.