
GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Volume 25 Issue 2

Groton, Vermont 05046

Spring 2012

WAR of 1812 BICENTENNIAL

Reported on History.com web site

MEETING SCHEDULE

10 am the second Tuesday
of May through October
at the Peter Paul House
1203 Scott Highway
Groton, VT 05046

2012 OFFICERS

President Richard Brooks
Vice President Deane Page
Secretary Josephine French
Treasurer Joan Haskell (resigned)

APPOINTED STAFF

Web Site Editor Donald Smith
Newsletter Editor J. Willard Benzie

CONTENTS

	Page
War of 1812 Bicentennial....1	
Civil War by S. N. Eastman...4	
War of 112 Veterans.....5	
GHS House by Dale Brown...6	
U. S. Census Released.....7	
Pictures8	
GHS News14	

Two hundred years ago on June 18, 1812 the United States declared war on England which some referred to as the second revolution.

Twenty-nine years after the end of the American Revolution, conflict with Great Britain flared up again. The War of 1812 broke out for a variety of reasons, including Britain's seizure of American ships, impressment of American sailors into the British navy and restriction of trade between the United States and France. In June 1812 James Madison became the first U.S. president to ask Congress to declare war. Fought in three theaters, the conflict ended with the Treaty of Ghent in 1815. In one of its most memorable episodes, as British troops entered the capital to burn the White House and other government buildings, first lady

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Dolley Madison refused to evacuate the White House until a portrait of George Washington was rescued. The lyrics of “The Star-Spangled Banner,” is another important legacy of the War of 1812. They were penned by the amateur poet Francis Scott Key after he watched American forces withstand the British siege of Fort McHenry.

The tensions that caused the War of 1812 arose from the French revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars (1792–1815). During this nearly constant conflict between France and Britain, American interests were injured by each of the two countries trying to block the United States from trading with the other.

Under terms of the 1794 treaty, American maritime commerce was given trading privileges in England and the British East Indies, Britain agreed to evacuate forts still held in the Northwest Territory by June 1, 1796, and the Mississippi River was declared freely open to both countries. Although the treaty was ratified by both countries, it was highly unpopular in the United States and was one of the rallying points used by the pro-French Republicans, led by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, in gaining power from the pro-British Federalists, led by George Washington and John Adams.

Events on the U.S. northwestern frontier caused additional friction. Indian fears over American encroachment coincidentally became more noticeable as Anglo-American tensions grew. Shawnee brothers Tecumseh and Tenskwatawa (The Prophet) attracted followers arising from this discontent and attempted to form an Indian confederation to counteract American expansion. Although Maj. Gen. Isaac Brock, the British commander of Upper Canada (modern Ontario), had orders to avoid worsening American frontier problems, American settlers blamed the British for heightened tensions with Indians in the Northwest Territory. As war loomed, Brock sought to augment his meager regular and Canadian militia forces with Indian allies, which was enough to confirm the worst fears of American settlers. Brock's efforts were aided in the fall of 1811, when Indiana territorial governor William Henry Harrison

fought the Battle of Tippecanoe and destroyed the Indian settlement at Prophet's Town (near modern Battle Ground, IN). Harrison's foray convinced most Indians in the Northwest Territory that their only hope of stemming further encroachments by American settlers lay with the British. American settlers, in turn, believed that Britain's removal from Canada would end their Indian problems. Meanwhile, Canadians suspected that American expansionists were using Indian unrest as an excuse for a war of conquest.

Immediately after the war started, Russia offered to mediate. London refused, but early British efforts for an armistice revealed a willingness to negotiate so that Britain could turn its full attention to Napoleon. Talks began at Ghent (modern Belgium) in August 1814, but, with France defeated, the British stalled while waiting for news of a decisive victory in America. Most Britons were angry that the United States had become an unwitting ally of Napoleon, but even that sentiment was half-hearted among a people who had been at war in Europe for more than 20 years. And after their defeats at Plattsburgh and Baltimore, and upon the advice of the Duke of Wellington, commander of the British army at the Battle of Waterloo, the British government moved to make peace. Americans abandoned demands about ending impressment (the end of the European war meant its cessation anyway), and the British dropped attempts to change the Canadian boundary and establish an Indian barrier state in the Northwest. The commissioners signed a treaty on Dec. 24, 1814. Based on the status quo antebellum (the situation before the war), the Treaty of Ghent did not resolve the issues that had caused the war, but at that point Britain was too weary to win it, and the U.S. government deemed not losing it a tolerable substitute for victory. Nevertheless, many Americans became convinced that they had won the contest.

Unaware of the treaty, British forces under Edward Pakenham assaulted New Orleans on Jan. 8, 1815, and were soundly defeated by Andrew Jackson's ragtag army, an event that contributed to the notion of a U.S. triumph. The unanimous ratification by the U.S. Senate of the Treaty of Ghent and the celebrations that followed obscured the fact that the United States had achieved none of its objectives.

Excerpts from
THE CIVIL WAR
(As Recollected by an Ordinary Soldier)
By
Seth N. Eastman M.D. (1843-1913)

In recognition of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War another excerpt from Dr. S. N. Eastman's story is given here. The first excerpt about his experiences in the Civil War was in the last newsletter and covered his enlistment at St. Johnsbury and basic training at Montpelier.

My folks did not feel just right about my going to the war, so they made a plan to get me out. My brother came to Montpelier and said he came to get me out because I was a minor and could not go without my parents' consent. I refused to go, though, and told him that if he took me home I would run away and enlist again, so he concluded to go home and leave me alone, but said he wanted me to go to a picture gallery and have my picture taken as he did not expect to see me again as I was going to a cruel war and be exposed to all kinds of danger. In this way he tried to discourage me, but it had no effect. I must see the front and the war. We got our uniforms in a week or so after being there and that added to our confidence as soldiers. The uniform consisted of pants of sky blue and a flannel blouse of the same color, overcoats made with a cape the same color as the pants, and also shoes, stockings, under shirt and drawers, and high black felt hats turned up and fastened with a brass eagle. We also were issued knapsacks, haversacks and canteens, also rifles in the same way as the regular army. The rifles were made by the Enfield people and bore his name. They had stocks as white as basswood, and the locks on them were so weak that not one in twenty would go, but this defect was remedied by

(Continued on page 10)

War of 1812 Veterans

From Mister Glover's Groton

Andrew Carter	John Carter	Joseph Carter
Russell Carter	Samuel Carter	Timothy Carter
Moses Chase	Stephen Daniels	Ebenezer Fisk
John Frost	Moses Frost	Nehemiah Frost
James Heath	John Heath	Moses Heath
Moulton Heath	Thomas Heath	Obediah Low
Andrew McClary	Benjamin Page	John Page
Leverett Page	James Taisey	John Taisey
John Whitcher	Joseph Whitcher	

In spite of the fact that the war of 1812 was unpopular in Vermont, Groton had 26 veterans of the war listed by General A. H. Hill (1817-1897) an early Groton historian.

Waldo Glover (1879-1976) writes in the history of Groton "As is well known the war of 1812 was unpopular in Vermont for political reasons yet because of the nearness to Canada there was no hesitation in defensive preparations when the danger of invasion came. That Groton was in the enthusiastic forefront is evident from a news item in the North Star of Danville for June 6, 1812.

We have heard that the respective quotas of St. Johnsbury, Lyndon, Wheelock, Cabot, Groton, and Topsham volunteered their services. In several of the towns the order was so great that it was with difficulty determined who should not be received.

With the enthusiasm for enlistment ... it may be presumed that several Groton men may have volunteered their services but were never regularly enrolled. Samuel Plummer ... got as far as Danville but was excused or rejected, the quota having been filled. Samuel Glover Sr. ... walking ... to Burlington and arriving just at the end of the fighting at Plattsburg and on the lake. The danger of invasion having been dispelled, he was refused enlistment. Eliphalet Carpenter who came to town after the war is credited with six weeks' service."

GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOUSE

By N. Dale Brown (1918-2011)

Dale's history of the Peter Paul House from the division and sale of lots 14 and 15 in Groton in the 1790's and the building of the house in 1840 and transfers of the property through four generations of the Paul family to 1936 was in the previous newsletter.

In February 1936 Norman and Helen (Hatch) Achilles purchased the property and converted the east part of the building into a garage. Part of the kitchen and shed were extended toward the street, neon lights were added and Tydol-Veedol gasoline pumps were installed in the front yard. The area, once the storage place for Lyle Heath's (Peter Paul's grandson) paint supplies, became an auto repair shop and a Studebaker dealership for the next five years.

In 1941 the house, business and property were sold to Harry M. Day, but with the sudden death of Mr. Day in 1942, the estate was bequeathed to his four children, located in the states of Washington, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Ohio. Nelson Hooper in Youngstown, OH, husband of Frances (Day) Hooper, purchased the inheritance from the other children and gained title of the entire estate. After Nelson died, Frances deeded the property to Robert and Irma (Welch) Jones in Oct. 1955. Eleven years later, Robert Jones, the surviving tenant, deeded the premises to Carol Ricker in Sep. 1966 and the next month, the property was conveyed to Julius and Cynthia (Gayle) Tueckhardt.

In Aug. 1967 the property was purchased by Rynold Moulton for an antique shop. He resided here for 22 years, spending many of his winters in Florida, and in Oct. 1988 the estate was conveyed by quit claim to include his daughter and son-in-law, Grace and Roland Greenwood. On September 7, 1989, the House became the property of the Groton Historical Society.

Over the next several years great effort was spent in restoring the House, as near as possible, to its original condition. It is now the meeting place for the Society and a repository for its many collections of historical records, photographs, and artifacts.

1940 U. S. CENSUS RELEASED

Census records are confidential for 72 years by law

People living in Groton and recorded in the 1790 to 1930 censuses have been transcribed and are available at the Groton Historical Society Peter Paul House, 1203 Scott Highway (Main Street) and on the Society's web page, with the exception of the 1890 census which was destroyed by fire. The 1888 Groton Business Directory from Child's Gazetteer of Caledonia and Essex Counties is given as a substitute for the destroyed 1890 census.

On April 2, 2012, users will be able to search, browse, and download the 1940 census schedules, free of charge, from their own computers or from the public computers at National Archives locations nationwide through the new 1940 census website: **www.1940census.archives.gov**.

While the original intent of the census was to determine how many representatives each state was entitled to send to the U.S. Congress, it is also a key research tool for sociologists, demographers, historians, political scientists and genealogists. Many of the questions on the 1940 census are the standard ones: name, age, gender, and race, education, and place of birth. But the 1940 census also asks many new questions, some reflecting concerns of the Great Depression. The instructions ask whether the person worked for the CCC, WPA, or NYA the week of March 24–30, 1940; and income for the 12 months ending December 31, 1939. The 1940 census also has a supplemental schedule for two names on each page asking the place of birth of the person's father and mother; the person's usual occupation; and for all women who are or have been married, has she been married more than once and age at first marriage.

For the release of the 1940 census online, the National Archives has digitized the entire census, creating more than 3.8 million digital images of census schedules, maps, and enumeration district descriptions. Groton Enumeration District in Caledonia Co. is 3-10.

Groton Buildings of the Past



Groton Power House #12



Groton Power House #13



Westville Methodist Church



Groton Village School

(Continued from page 4)

taking up the mainspring. After the rifles had been distributed came the drills in the manual of arms until we got that down fine. We stood in ranks and shifted the musket from one place to the other until we became very tired but very proficient in the manual of arms. Everything and every man was numbered according to his height. My number was 36. My chum, Albert Batchelder, was a trifle taller than I was and was numbered 34. We both stood in the rear rank, however, and therefore stood side by side and were always together as long as he lived. (I shall mention the circumstances of his death later.)

The 6th Vermont Volunteers was mustered into the U. S. Service the 15th day of October 1861 and started the next day for Washington, where they needed us very badly as the enemy, or rather the rebels, were in sight of the city and were drawing their lines closer every day. We marched to Montpelier Jct. in a fine misty rain, just enough to make the roads very muddy. The distance from our camp was about 2 1/2 miles. All the inhabitants of the place were out to see us off. There were many husbands and wives and sweethearts and lovers to take their leave and, in many cases, their last look at their loved ones. I felt thankful to think that all my friends were at home and not there to make me feel sad. I had one friend, however, who followed me to the train and bid me a very affectionate farewell, and who asked all my officers to be good to me as I was a nice little boy and did not know what I had gotten into. This was my uncle, Archibald Mills, who had been drinking some and, though the officers and men made considerable fun of both him and myself, he did it out of sincere good will toward me and I have no doubt that it helped me. Anyway, he showed some regard for me by seeing me off to the front.

Our regiment was loaded onto two long trains and we immediately started for Washington. We were on the trains all day and all night and arrived in Hartford, Connecticut the next morning where the steamboat, Elm City, was waiting to receive us and then transport us to New York. The great monster of a boat took on the whole regiment and baggage, and was not half full, and steamed down Long Island Sound with all ease and landed at the foot of Twenty-first Street, and marched through the city with the best form that we could, with all the files dressed and martial music to keep step to.

Soldiers were not so common at this time as they were a year later, and the streets were lined on both sides to see us and make remarks as to our military discipline. I was very much impressed by the sights that I saw here and I was especially impressed by the size of the steamboat, Elm City. We marched through the city to the Jersey ferry, where another surprise awaited me as to the size of the ferry boat. The whole regiment went on board and it was not full. It was almost dark when we arrived at Jersey City, New Jersey, and I might say that I began to wish that I could go home. We were put on board the cars of the Canadian and Amboy Road, and started toward Philadelphia. They knew that we were coming and of the condition that we were in, and they had a most beautiful supper all prepared and awaiting us, to which we did ample justice and stored away much bread and cheese in our haversacks for future use. None of us ever forgot that supper and the need of it that we were in. We laid around on the benches in the room where we ate supper, till morning, when we boarded trains to continue our trip to Washington, D. C. We crossed a river at Have de Grasse by the whole train running on the deck of a ferry boat and going out to sea and coming back and landing on the other side of the river, and on we went to our destination.

(Continued from page 11)

Just before we got to Baltimore, Maryland, the trains were stopped and the regiment ordered out and put into line and two rounds of ball cartridges were given to each man, with orders to put one in the gun and put the other in our pockets for quick use, but no caps were allowed to be put on the gun as the gun could be capped very quickly in case of necessity. Rumor had it that we would be attacked by a mob when passing through Baltimore, and this was the precaution that our officers thought was necessary on that occasion. But all was quiet in Baltimore when the 6th Regiment passed through that place, and it was well for them that they were quiet, as they had a bad name and we had courage.

We arrived in Washington, D. C. sometime in the night and went to some barracks called the Soldiers' Rest. The building stood about where the U. S. Treasury Building now stands in Washington, D. C. We stayed there a day or two. There were New York troops in the same building and while there, I saw two men fight and one stabbed the other with a desk knife and killed him instantly, and I was near enough so that I saw the whole affair and saw the blood spurt out of the wound. You may imagine my feeling at seeing this. Never had I seen such a thing before and it made me feel sick, but I got over such feelings to a certain extent before my experience as a soldier terminated.

April 2, 1907: After all these slow flowing years that have passed since I saw the above related incident, I remember it with a vividness that makes it seem but yesterday. We marched around Washington and camped at several places before they made up their minds what to do with us, and after a week or so, we were sent to join the other Vermont Regiment, then camped out towards Manassas Jct., about 14 miles from Washington. If you wish to know anything about our baggage, our knapsacks looked like a mule pack because we always carried a

couple of extra pairs of shoes, and some had pillows, bibles, hymnbooks, and all sorts of stuff that we did not need, but we lugged it all out to our first camp and all the time we stayed there, about 5 months. This was Camp Griffin, or the first Camp of the 1st Vermont Brigade, comprised of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Regiments of Vermont. I was very tired when I got there and the tents, when put up, were of the Silsby pattern, circular and calculated to hold fourteen men each.

It was dark when we got there and I was so tired that I went into one of the tents and lay down without taking out my blankets and slept till morning. It was in November and the ground was almost frozen and I took a cold that almost laid me up. I was sick for a number of days, but got over it, without any serious results, in a few days. Many other boys were sick from that days march. We stayed at this camp for about five months, and drilled most of the time, and went on picket ground once in ten days. The picket line was out six or seven miles, and the mud was deep. Most of the winter we had to drill the brigade drill and the battalion drill, which is very much harder than the company drill and the squad drill, as there was so much farther to go in a wheel.

If in regiment drill, Co. B would have to go 1/2 mile if it was a right wheel, if it was a left wheel, Co. A would have a hard march of at least 1/2 mile, and a wheel of the whole brigade would be a hard march on a part of us, as it would be more than a mile.

Many of the boys were sick that winter. Measles, diphtheria, and typhoid fever raged violently all winter. Among us Vermont men, we that were well had what we called a good time until I was taken sick about the first of February 1862 with typhoid fever.

GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Visit GHS Web page at Historical Society on <http://www.grotonvt.com/>

Membership is payable in January for the Calendar Year
Annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families
Lifetime Membership dues are \$100

The last year your dues were paid is shown on your mailing label. Those who last paid for 2010 will be dropped from the mailing list at the end of this year if dues are not paid. Please let GHS know if there is an error. Those receiving their newsletter by e-mail will be notified when they are in their grace period. If you want to receive your newsletter by e-mail please send a request to jwbenzie@mchsi.com This will save GHS the cost of printing and mailing.

Zephaniah Kittredge enlisted in Co. K. Heavy Artillery during the Civil War. Came to Groton in 1865 and settled in the NW part of the township where he lived the rest of his life and was buried in the West Groton Cemetery. His great-great grandson, Clyde Perkins, of Concord, NH brought this to our attention. Although Waldo Glover had this information in the family records, his name was omitted from the list of Civil War Veterans in *Mr. Glover's Groton* and we regret missing him in the list of Civil War Veterans in the last newsletter.

Kent Haskell presented a review of the Groton Historical Society at the Town Meeting this year and generated considerable interest in the Society from those present. Some new members joined and several more prospective members are expected to join this summer.

GHS members live in 18 different states. Vermont has the most with 49, 33 in Groton and 16 from other Vermont towns. The other

New England states have 19 members, CT-5, MA-2, ME-1, and NH-11. Other states with two members each are IL, NC, NY, and SC. States with one member each are CA, CO, FL, KS, MI, MN, OH, PA, and WI. Two of the members spend winters in FL and one spends winters in MD.

As reported in the last newsletter, Terry Rielly is researching the Groton Hydroelectric Company that Ernest F. Clark and Robert A. Davidson started in 1904 when they built the first plant (called #12 by GMP). He now has information on the second power plant (#13) they built in 1916 further west on the Wells river in the Hall meadow, formerly known as the Thomas Taisey meadow. The flood of 1927 destroyed the east plant (#12) and damaged the west one (#13). The business was sold in 1928, eventually becoming part of Green Mountain Power Company who abandoned them both in 1944. See pictures of the two plants on page 8.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here is a small list of things I would like to bring up at the May 2012 Groton Historical Society meeting:

Recruit new members.

Try having an evening meeting.

Schedule programs that might be of interest to the society.

Perhaps plan a pot luck meal at the Historical Society house.

Have a yard sale this summer to raise money for the society.

If anyone else has any ideas please submit to me

Richard W. Brooks, 244 Welton Road, Groton, Vt. 05046

Email: richardrobertw@charter.net. Telephone: 802-584-3417

Groton Historical Society Newsletter
Editor jwbenzie@mchsi.com
P. O. Box 89
Groton, VT 05046-0089



GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY