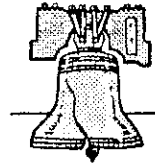


The Groton Historical Society



NEWSLETTER

GROTON, VERMONT

SUMMER 1989

No. 5



The Groton Historical Society invites everyone to a special meeting on Tues. July 11th at 7:00 PM, in the Senior Citizen's lunch room.

We are making plans for the celebration of Groton's Bicentennial - 1789 - 1989; and the State of Vermont Bicentennial in 1991!

Everyone in town is urged to take part in these celebrations. Come to the meeting and express your ideas!

One very important item on our agenda is a discussion of the purchase of a building in town, to be the home of our Society.



A few months ago Vermont observed the 200th anniversary of the death of Ethan Allen, one of our state's early heroes.

In tribute to Ethan Allen Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream of Waterbury created a special ice cream flavor. After much discussion the flavor of choice was "ETHAN ALMOND".

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THE ADMINISTRATION
OF JUSTICE.

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Excerpts from "Mr.
Glover's Groton"

man for uttering a profane oath, two Groton men for breaking the peace by striking fellow townsmen, and a Peacham man for striking and kicking a Groton man. In each case the fine was twenty five cents, except that of the Peacham man who traveled on the Sabbath Day; his fine was fifty cents.

It is likely that Justice Knight tried civil as well as criminal cases but if so he left no record."

"At a special Town Meeting on Oct. 9, 1797, only a few months after the organization of the town, the voters were warned: "To see if the town think best to nominate a person for a justice of the peace." Nathaniel Knight, then Town Clerk, made no record of the disposition of this article in the warning, but that he himself was nominated Groton's first justice is evident from the entry in his own notebook. Since it is the record of the first justice court ever held in Groton, it is preserved here verbatim:

State of Vermont)

Caledonia County)

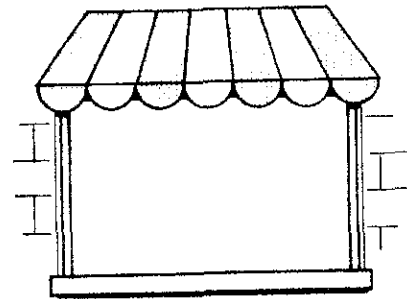
Be it remembered that on the 25th day of June 1798 J____ E____ of Groton in sd County was convicted and made confession before me, Nathl Knight, one of the Justices of the Peace for said county, of uttering a profane oath and was ordered to pay a fine of one Dollar therefor, which he did pay.

A true record, Nathl Knight
Just. Peace

It will be recalled that the warning for the special Town Meeting of July 4, 1798 contained an article to see if the Town would "appoint a place to build stocks." We assume, however that the stocks were not built.

Be that as it may, it is observed that never again after that first case did Knight impose a fine as high as one dollar. Of the ten other cases he records in his personal notebook, which were tried during his period as Justice in Groton, he fined a Barnet man for uttering a profane curse, a Peacham man for traveling on the Sabbath Day, a Ryegate man for uttering a profane oath, three Groton men for uttering profane curses, a Peacham

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Congratulations to the Teen Club of the Modern Woodsmen for being the first organization in town to begin Groton's Bicentennial celebration. They have put together an attractive and interesting historical display in the window of the Groton General Store.

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On July 2, 1989 the newly organized Groton Town Band gave it's first Concert in the Band Stand in the Veterans Memorial Park.

Under the direction of Rev. Mark Demers the Band performed for about 30 minutes, before an appreciative audience.

It was a very appropriate event, as we begin our Bicentennial celebration! We look forward to many more.