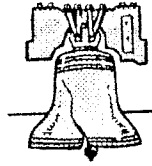


The Groton Historical Society



NEWSLETTER

GROTON, VERMONT

WINTER 1989

NO. 3

 Here's
What's
Happening!

The Groton Historical Society is "thinking big", as we and the State of Vermont prepare for our Bicentennial year in 1991!

We are studying the feasibility of buying and restoring an old home in town, which would house a museum for the display of our historical items and records; a meeting place; and possibly an apartment to be rented out.

The Moulton house, on Main Street, will be up for sale this year, and that is the place that the Society is discussing.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?.....
It certainly is a big project, and we need to hear from our fellow townspeople before we can go very far with it.

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The Groton Historical Society now meets on a regular basis...the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at 9:00 AM in it's room, downstairs in the Library. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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On January 10, 1791 the Bennington Convention ratified the United States Constitution by a vote of 105 to 4!

TRIBUTE TO ETHAN ALLEN

Sunday, February 12, 1989, marks the 200th anniversary of the death of Ethan Allen. Allen, who did not live to see Vermont become a state, was an important figure in Vermont and Colonial American history, and he deserves attention. A series of programs has been planned to commemorate the man & the myth.

The keystone of this tribute will be a book discussion of Allen's "Narrative of Captivity", which he wrote while a prisoner during the Revolutionary War. Fifty libraries around the state will be participating. The project involves loaning participants a copy of the book to read in advance of a lecture by a humanities scholar. A discussion will follow on Allen, his book, and his times. The State-wide read-in is being planned for the winter/spring of 1989.

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On March 4, 1791 Congress voted to admit the State of Vermont into the Union as the 14th State.

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GROTON AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

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

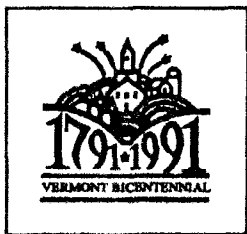
In 1900 Groton was a bustling little town of 1,009 people, a picture-book town with kerosene street lights and an old plank sidewalk, which was not taken up until 1904. The dirt roads were dusty in summer and kept open in winter by huge snow rollers.

There were three large general stores, a hotel, two boarding-houses, a meat market, hardware store, two harness shops, a drug store, jeweler, two barbers, two painters, three skilled blacksmiths, two firms of drovers, one local sawmill, one gristmill, one carriage repair shop, one milliner, one photographer, one undertaker, and three granite sheds where five firms operated. No less than one hundred men were employed at good wages in the granite sheds. Also eighty Groton farmers cultivated as many Groton farms, turning out dairy products which were shipped to market weekly from the local depot.

Groton depot was the largest shipping point between Montpelier and Wells River. For years it was the great trade center of a considerable farming population outside the town limits, and an extensive distributing point for lumbering operations.

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The Official Logo of the Bicentennial celebration.....



You will be seeing this in many places and on many products during the next two years.



The Vermont Statehood Bicentennial Commission has adopted the theme of "homecoming" for the bicentennial, and it is this theme that underlies many of the programs, ideas and plans of the commission and its diverse body of constituents.

It may seem paradoxical that Vermonters who are already here would be called home or that visitors to Vermont who make their homes elsewhere would be called home to Vermont. It is, of course, a higher plane of homecoming that we envision.

We would like to see many Vermonters return to their natal communities; become acquainted with friends and neighbors of their childhood; meet, learn from and inform their local historical societies. We would like to see the kind of large family reunions in 1991, that were so prevalent during the depression, when people came from all over to be together and to celebrate the family. We would like to see school alumni, regular visitors to our state, second home owners, skiers, who have never seen the Green Mountains... only in white...come and join us in our celebration!

Join with us...help us celebrate,
Come Home in 1991!

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