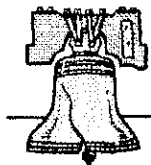


The Groton Historical Society

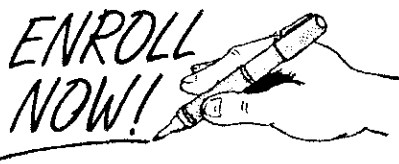
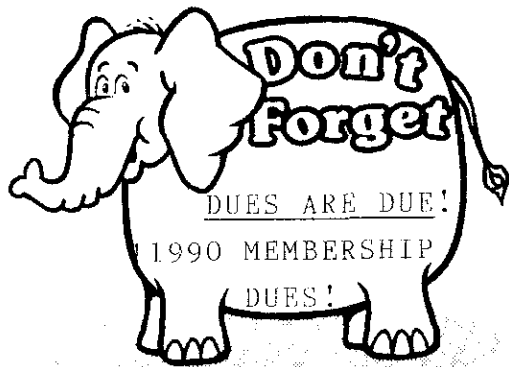


NEWSLETTER

GROTON, VERMONT

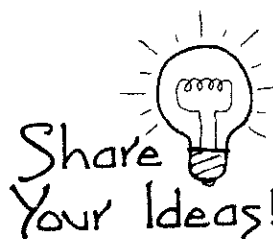
WINTER 1989/90

NO. 7



We invite all interested persons to join the Society. Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at 9:00 AM in the Library; with an occasional special meeting called during the month. Dues are \$2.00 per year. Call Alice Goodine: 584-3314; or Norma Hosmer: 584-3601 for more information.

and refurbishing. We will get a report from them in the Spring, at which time we will be looking for volunteers to begin the work.



Members who attended the February meeting received copies of our proposed "Articles of Association, and By-Laws". These are to be looked over and voted on at a future meeting. If you would like a copy, please contact Norma Hosmer. All suggestions from members are welcome.



Children across Vt. will start the Bicentennial year early through the Dept. of Libraries' 1990 state-wide summer reading program: "Celebrate Vermont!"

In March, all public libraries in the state will receive a manual with suggestions & tips on running a summer program. With the manual will be an order form for book-marks, posters, stickers & certificates. This material will be free to all Vermont Public Libraries, thanks to a bequest from the Elva Sophronia Smith Fund, left to the state for children's library services.



UP-DATE ON "THE HOUSE"

The Trustees have been meeting to prepare a plan for the repairing



Congratulations and Best Wishes to Deane Page, one of our Society members, who retired as Groton Postmaster on Dec. 29, 1989, after 30½ years service.

* * *

George Clark served as Postmaster from 1935-1948; and Robert Brown from 1948-1956. On January 1, 1955 the Post Office moved into a new building built by Carroll Ricker on land once occupied by the old Welch Hotel. Raymond Page served as Acting Postmaster from 1956-1959; and Deane Page served from June 26, 1959 to December 29, 1989.

* * * * *

Early mail service in Groton was a "hit-or-miss" proposition, as we see from "Mr. Glover's Groton". Letters for Groton came to either Newbury, Peacham, Danville or Ryegate Corner, where they remained unclaimed for weeks, sometimes, until someone who was coming to Groton brought them along. Postmasters advertised in the local newspapers for letters being held.

By 1808 records show that a "Post-rider proceeded from Peacham through Groton to Topsham. Records also show that Moses Wesson was a carrier, riding horseback and carrying letters in the top of his hat. Postage was charged by the mile, paid by the one who received the letter. A 10¢ charge indicated that the distance the mail had come was at least thirty miles. 25¢ was charged for mail coming from a distance of over four hundred miles.

Around 1834 records also show that Jonathan Jenness operated a mail service between West Topsham and Wells River, by way of Groton.

The Groton Post Office has been moved many times since it was first established, often in a room in a private home or in a section of a store, but George Millis, who was postmaster from 1922-1935 erected a building around 1926 (after the Coffrin Block burned) to serve as a post office. This building later served as a pool room, a restaurant, the printing shop of C. C. Lord and the Groton Times, and the Groton Town Clerk's Office. The building still stands and is now an antique store.

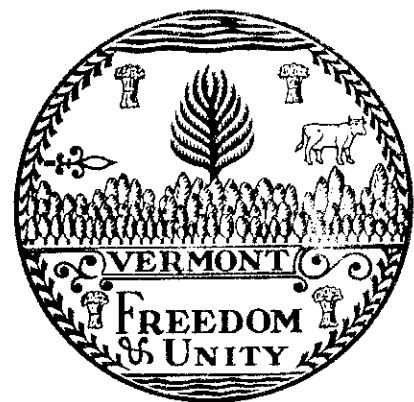


This Vermont Bicentennial Logo is being licensed by the Vermont Statehood Bicentennial Commission to various commercial establishments throughout the state.

A new licensee in our area is the Green Mountain Monogram of Wells River. They will be reproducing the bicentennial logo on white ball-caps, white mugs, and on white T-Shirts with contrasting ribbed trim on the neck and sleeve.

Many items bearing this logo will soon be available...from key chains, leather goods, pewterware and more.

* * * * *



VERMONT'S GREAT SEAL

Designed by IRA ALLEN in 1778