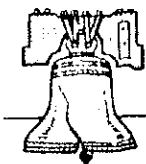


The Groton Historical Society



NEWSLETTER

GROTON, VERMONT

WINTER 1990/1991

NO. 10



DOUGLAS J. FRENCH

March 2, 1929 - February 1, 1991

Doug French will always be remembered by the Groton Historical Society as one of the leaders in the movement to purchase and renovate the old house on Main Street, which will soon become the headquarters of the Society. Through his hard work and leadership that project will soon become a reality and the dream will come true.

Doug's family has requested that memorial contributions may be made to the Groton Historical Society, in care of Raymond Page, Treasurer, P.O. Box 24, Groton, Vt. 05046.

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CELEBRATE!

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

At twelve noon on March 4, 1991 the Vermont Bicentennial Commission is planning to have bells rung in every

village and town across the State. They hope to have church bells, school bells, cow bells, dinner bells, ringing everywhere for two minutes.

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The Groton Historical Society is planning to have a big Birthday Cake at Town Meeting Day to celebrate the State's 200th Birthday. Stay for a few minutes after Town Meeting and enjoy a piece of birthday cake!

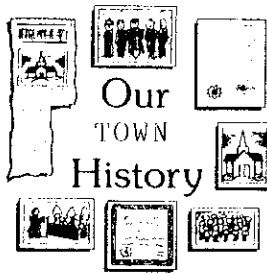
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ooooooooooooooooo Plans for the Groton School reunion, as a part of the Bicentennial celebration are taking shape.

COMING SOON!

The date of the barbecue is Saturday, July 13th. In connection with that reunion, we hope to have "The House" in good enough shape to hold an "Open House". We would like to furnish at least one room with various historical items and pictures. If you have anything that you would like to DONATE or LEND, to be put on display, please call Alice Goodine. 584-3314; or Norma Hosmer, 584-3601.

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GROTON AS A SUMMER RESORT

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

"Previous to the closing years of the nineteenth century Groton was virtually unknown as a summer resort. No one outside the town had yet built a summer residence in Groton or remodelled an abandoned homestead for this purpose. The first summer resident was David N. Richardson, editor of the Davenport (Iowa) Democrat, who purchased the eminence overlooking Groton Village from the north and named it Mount Medad, for Medad Welch, a former owner. He built a commodious Dutch Colonial house for a summer residence. Soon thereafter Alexander Dunnert of St. Johnsbury, purchased the Lake House at the foot of Ricker Pond, which had been built in 1860 by McLane Marshall.

In 1910 Theodore N. Vail, President of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, purchased Seyon Pond and remodeled the old boardinghouse used for the mill workers. The property then changed hands several times, and was purchased in 1955 by Arland F. Robitzer who catered to a selected clientele through the fishing and hunting seasons.

Prior to the middle 1890's no one seemed to have thought of Lake Groton as a place for a permanent camp or summer home. In 1897 Dr. Isaac N. Eastman built the first summer camp near the head of the Lake. The following year Sewell C. Carpenter and Almon James built a camp jointly, and since then the number has swelled to approximately a hundred permanent camps or summer homes.

The area known as Groton State Forest was first purchased around 1925 by the State, and consists of some twenty-five thousand acres of forest lands in the towns of Groton, Peacham, and Marshfield, of which the largest portion is Groton. The development of the area was begun during June 1933, by the 146th Company of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Roads and trails were built, picnic and camping areas provided, and thousands of people now come each year to enjoy the beauty and quiet of this park.

In 1967 the state purchased the lake and land around Seyon Pond from Mr. Robitzer, as well as the lodge. This was originally known as Darling's Pond with the sawmill owned and operated by Jonathan Darling. It was sold to S. T. Griffith about 1898, then bought by Theodore M. Vail and called Vail's Pond. Next it was purchased by Mr. Peckett of Sugar Hill New Hampshire, and then by Harry K. Noyes of Boston, who changed the name to Seyon (Noyes spelled backwards). The property was later purchased by Arland Robitzer of Pennsylvania. The Seyon Trout Ranch has been taking guests for a number of seasons." (until purchased by the State of Vermont.)

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If you have any ideas for additional celebrations and events that we in Groton can participate in during this Bicentennial Year, please contact the Society; or better yet, come to the Society Meetings which are held at 9:00 AM on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at the Library.

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