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# GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY Newsletter

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Volume 30 Issue 1

Groton, Vermont 05046

Winter 2017

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## ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO



1917 Recruiting Poster

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Here are some highlights of 1917 that you may or may not remember hearing about.

Einstein applied his theory of relativity to the structure and evolution of the universe as a whole in 1917.

Jan 10 Suffragists from across the country picketed the White House, supporting the "Anthony amendment" to give women the right to vote.

Jan 10 William "Buffalo Bill" Cody died in Denver, CO.

Feb 3 U. S. terminates diplomatic contact with Germany.

Feb 5 American troops commanded by General John Pershing leave Mexico and diplomatic relations with U. S. are renewed one month later.

Feb 26 President Wilson asked Congress to establish a state of Armed Neutrality.

Feb 28 AP reports Mexico & Japan will allie with Germany if US enters WW I

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Mar 2 Jones Act: created Puerto Rico as a U. S. territory and granted them citizenship

Mar 3 US Congress passes first excess profits tax on corporations

Mar 5 President Woodrow Wilson inaugurated for a second term.

Mar 7 First jazz record released on a 78 by Original Dixieland Jazz Band for the Victor Talking Machine Company ("Dixie Jazz Band One Step," one side "Livery Stable Blues" other)

Mar 22 USA is the first nation to recognize the new government of Russia.

Mar 26 Ice Hockey: Seattle Metropolitans (PCHA) beat Montreal Canadiens (NHA), 3 games to 1 - Seattle is first US team to win the Stanley Cup.

Mar 28 Jews are expelled from Tel Aviv & Jaffa by Turkish authorities, but allowed to return on May 20.

Mar 31 U. S. purchases Danish West Indies for \$25 million and renames them Virgin Islands.

Apr 2 Jeannette Rankin (Rep-R-Mont) begins her term as first woman member of US House of Reps.

Apr 3 U. S. Congress declares war on Germany—WW I.

May 29 future President John Kennedy is born in MA.

Apr 3 Lenin arrives in Petrograd from exile in Switzerland.

Apr 11 Babe Ruth beats NY Yanks, pitching 3-hit 10-3 win for Red Sox.

Apr 16 Lenin issues his radical "April Theses" calling for Soviets to take power during Russian Revolution.

May 7 Red Sox Babe Ruth beats Washington Senator Walter Johnson, 1-0.

May 18 US Congress passes Selective Service Act, authorizing the federal government to raise a national army for the American entry into World War I through compulsory enlistment

Jun 7 Lions Clubs International (now the largest service organization in the world) is founded by Melvin Jones and a number of other Chicago businessmen.

Jun 12 Secret Service extends protection of president to his family.

Jun 26 First US Expeditionary Force commanded by General John J. Pershing arrives in France - WW I

Jul 1 257cm-mirror for Mount Wilson Observatory in California is installed.

Jul 17 Royal Proclamation by King George V changes name of British Royal family from German Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to Windsor

Jul 20 Pact of Corfu signed: Serbs, Croats & Slovenes forming Yugoslavia

Jul 21 Russian Revolution: Socialist Alexander Kerensky becomes Russian Prime Minister

Jul 26 J. Edgar Hoover hired in US Department of Justice

Aug 5 The entire US National Guard is taken into national service, subject to presidential rather than state control

Aug 19 Sunday benefit baseball game at Polo Grounds results in John McGraw & Christy Mathewson arrested for violating Blue laws

Aug 31 In China, Sun Yat-sen and his supporters' take charge, parliament establishes a military government and elects Sun Yat-sen as commander-in-Chief

Sep 15 Russia proclaimed a republic by Alexander Kerensky's Provisional government

Oct 8 Leon Trotsky named chairman of the Petrograd Soviet as Bolsheviks gain control

Oct 15 Dutch dancer Mata Hari is executed by firing squad as a spy for Germany at Vincennes near Paris, France.

Oct 21 1st Americans see action on front lines of WW I: at Sommervillier under French command

Oct 27 20,000 women march for suffrage in New York .

Oct 30 British government gives final approval to Balfour Declaration proclaiming support for a Jewish state in Palestine.

Nov 1 First US soldiers are killed in WW I combat

Nov 3 First class US mail increased to 3 cents per ounce

Nov 6 New York State adopts a constitutional amendment giving women the right to vote in state elections

Nov 8 People's Commissars gives authority to Lenin, Trotsky & Stalin during Revolution

Nov 10 New Bolshevik government under Lenin suspends freedom of press (temporary) during Revolution

Nov 16 British occupy Tel Aviv and Jaffa

Nov 20 First successful use of tank in battle (Britain breaks through German lines) at Battle of Cambria WWI

Nov 26 NHL forms with Montreal Canadiens, Montreal Maroons, Toronto Arenas, Ottawa Senators & Quebec Bulldogs; National Hockey Association disbands

Nov 26 The new government of Russia offers an armistice to Germany and Austria-Hungary

Dec 1 Boys Town founded by Father Edward Flanagan west of Omaha, Nebraska

Dec 6 Taking advantage of the temporary relaxation of authority in Russia, Finland declares itself a republic, following the move by Ukraine on 20 November

Dec 7 The USA's 42nd 'rainbow' Division arrives in France (with Colonel Douglass MacArthur among its ranks)

Dec 11 German-occupied Lithuania proclaims independence from Russia

Dec 15 An armistice is reached between the new Russian Bolshevik government and the Central Powers in WW I.

Dec 18 The 18th Amendment prohibiting alcohol, is approved by Congress and sent to the states for ratification

Dec 19 1st NHL game played on artificial ice (Toronto)

Dec 26 US Federal government took over operation of American railroads for duration of WW I

World War I dominated the news in 1917 and for most of the next year. Groton sent 38 of its citizens into the conflict. Three were slightly wounded, one severely wounded, and only one Groton soldier was killed in action during the war. Wendell Lord was killed on 8 November 1918, three days before the Armistice was signed on the 11th hour of the 11th day, of the 11th month in 1918. Armistice Day was celebrated for many years until the name was changed to Veterans Day as it is known today.

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**REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE  
GROTON TOWN HISTORY**

Continued progress on the writing of the Groton Town History has been made during the year of 1950. Historian Waldo F. Glover reports the virtual completion of the manuscript which covers the first section of the volume. This relates to the colonial period and provides an admirable background for the story which follows.

Material describing economic, educational, military, religious and other customs and beliefs of pioneer days has been prepared. More is solicited.

The geneological records of a number of Groton families have been turned in to Mr. Glover who is anxious to receive others at an early date. While the historian is spending much of his time on the work the date of its completion and publication will depend largely on the prompt cooperation of the townspeople. This is your project, citizens of Groton. This town has a wealth of historical, legendary and industrial material which should add much to the history of Groton and also to that of the state, so please get into those old chests, boxes and files in your attics and see what you can find to add to what has already been collected.

The town is fortunate in having a historian who has the keen personal interest in the work of a native son and whose ability has brought him the appointment as a member of the board of curators of the Vermont Historical Society as well as membership in two of its committees.

**He will** do his part, let's do ours.

Nellie T. Jeffrey, Secretary

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# VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## **Program Planning: A Dash of Data Vermont Historical Society 2017**

VHS has been conducting surveys recently of both cultural organizations (like local historical societies) and the general public to gather data related to the future of our programming. In fact, you may have filled out one or both of the surveys yourself. We had an even better than expected response to our survey (over 700 responses to the public survey, 83 from history organizations) and want to share a few of the things the survey is telling us.

### **Local history is important, but more help is needed**

When asked what historical topic they are interested in, almost 68% listed “local history of my town or county.” It was by far the top interest (over 20% more than next selection.) When asked what history related events or places they like to visit, history museums and historic houses were the top answers. What’s more, almost half (48%) said they have attended an event at their local historical society, and 36% have visited their local historical society’s museum/building.

But history organizations aren’t seeing that interest directly. 80% indicated they have 200 members or less, 55% had less than 100. 73% are all-volunteer and 61% listed “getting enough people to help” as their biggest challenge. Money is tight too, with about 50% having budgets under \$5,000.

### **People want to learn.**

The top answer (52%) for the activity their family does for fun was “reading or other knowledge-based activities.” 65% also indicated they go to events because the topic interests them and when giving suggestions for VHS programming, a wide ranging number of these historical topics were offered. People also expressed the need to make history relevant to both current events and current generations.

## **Collaboration and partnerships are valued**

When asked for programming suggestions, a number of respondents had ideas focused around partnerships: community-wide events, local expos, partnerships with schools, partnerships with other agencies, etc. It is clear that working together is the way to go.

We'll continue to look at all the data & suggestions that come in from these surveys to help guide our future programming. But, be on the look-out for some new activities already slated for 2017!

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We're starting off the new year with a bang- or really, a lot of banging, hammering, destruction and construction. Renovations at the History Museum are underway and it's amazing to see the changes already. We'll keep you updated on progress via our Facebook page, and invite you all to a grand reopening this spring.

## **Calendar**

Whether you're casually interested in Vermont history, keen to experience bygone eras, or passionate about telling stories about Vermont's past, the Vermont Historical Society has programs for you!

January 14—Screening and Community Conversation:

*Vermont Speaks for Itself*

February 8&9—Histories for Homeschoolers:

*Vermont Industries & Letters and Diaries*

February 11—1970's FUN: *Movies & Crafts*

February 15—Farmers Night with Barre City Rock Chorus

The Vermont Historical Society Museum preserves the past for use by present and future generations. It collects artifacts dating from the pre-contact period to the present for interpretation and research. Using these artifacts, items from the Society's library, and materials loaned by individuals and insti-

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# PHOTOS OF A HUNDRED YEARS AGO



First Class Postage increased to three cents per ounce.

78 Records were introduced



Dam and Feed Mill on Wells River by Mill Road, D. A. Smith



One of 6 Rural Schools in Groton in 1917, Olga Caruso teacher



Groton Turning Works by Iron Bridge on Powder Spring Road, D. A. Smith

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tutions, it presents an exhibition on the first floor of the Pavilion Building in Montpelier. For those who are unable to visit the museum or those who want to explore Vermont history from the comfort of their homes, we have created a series of online exhibits.

### **Freedom & Unity: One Ideal, Many Stories**

Our signature exhibit explores three themes: Who are Vermonters? What is wise use of the land? How do we foster a democratic society?

### **Baseball in Vermont**

This exhibit shows the history of the game as it evolved over time and tells the stories of the teams at the local, college, and professional level and of the fans and the communities that supported them.

### **Before the Golden Dome**

This exhibition takes a look at the buildings that stood next to and in front of the State House in the period before the dome was gilded, 1859-1907.

### **Faces of Vermont**

Featuring works from the late 18th to the mid-20th centuries, the exhibit includes oil paintings, silhouettes, early photographs, a marble bust and more.

### **Harold G. Rugg Collection**

Harold Rugg was a Vermonter, scholar and world traveler. When he died in 1957, he bequeathed his extensive and significant collection of Vermontiana to the Vermont Historical Society.

### **Signs of the Times**

Dating from the early 1800s to the 1990s, these signs convey a multitude of messages.

### **Patterns of History**

An online sampling of the vast collection of quilts at the Vermont Historical Society.

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## HOW TO IDENTIFY AGE OF OLD PHOTOS

Here is a guide to help you figure out the date of old photos.

### **Daguerrotypes: 1839-1860**

The first photographic process was developed by Louis-Jaques-Mandé Daguerre in 1839. The process was most popular from 1842-1856, but declined in later years. The process involved polishing a sheet of silver-plated copper, treating it with fumes, and exposing it in a camera to fix the image on the metal -- resulting in an image that appears to be fixed on a mirror. If you have a photo that is cased, has a mirror-like quality where the image changes based on the angle, and the back of it looks like it has some copper and silver elements, you have a Daguerrotype, which means likely 1845-1860. There are ways to date the images inside this range, but that is not covered here.

### **Ambrotypes: 1854-1865**

Ambrotypes are similar to Daguerrotypes in that they were often preserved in similar cases, but the difference comes down to the process used and how it looks. While Daguerrotypes were on sheets of copper/silver, Ambrotypes were produced on an actual mirror that was coated with a silver iodized sulfate solution. This means the image will be much crisper and appear the same from all angles. Many photographers also treated the images with some hand-tinting.

### **Tintypes: 1860-1875**

While Daguerrotypes and Ambrotypes were generally expensive processes that could only be done in a studio, the advent of tintypes brought photography to the masses. Don't let the name fool you: tintypes are actually based on a thin iron-sheet that holds a crisp, black-and-white or chocolate-toned image. While tintypes were invented in 1855, they became widely used to document Civil War battles, encampments, and soldiers, and then later mobile studios appeared at fairs, carnivals, and with traveling photographers. The process was used through the end of the 19th century.

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ry, but most of the tintypes out there date from 1865-1875. Most tintypes found today are loose or in paper sleeves vs. Ambrotypes or Daguerrotypes that were always cased. If you want to verify that you have a tintype, there is a sure-fire method: place a magnet near the back of the photo. If it sticks, you've got a tintype!

### **Cartes de Visite: 1863-1877**

Cartes de Visite (or CDVs) were the first types of photos that had a true negative, which meant people could obtain multiple copies of a single photo. As such, they were often used as calling cards or promotional cards often traded among friends. The subjects are usually portraits of prominent individuals, actors or actresses, or patriotic images. If you are trying to identify your own family photos, you'll likely find few CDVs, but you never know what you'll find. CDVs are very easy to identify for two reasons: 1) The actual photo is a thin sheet of paper glued to a stiff card stock and 2) they are always a specific size (right around 2 3/8" x 4 1/4").

### **Cabinet Cards: 1875-1900**

Cabinet Cards gained steam in the U.S. in the mid 1870's as photographers preferred this format that allowed them to print larger sized photos and also print their studio and location on the front (and back!) of the photo. Most of the Cabinet Cards out there date from 1880-1890, but they span the years before and after. They were typically sized 6 1/2" x 4 1/4", but versions from the 1890s were often quite a bit larger. So what if you want to know a more precise date for your cabinet card? Here are a few tips:

**Card Stock: Thickness and Edges**

1866–1880: square, lightweight mount

1880–1890: square, but with a much heavier card stock

1890s: heavier card stock, but with scalloped edges

**Card Color: Off-White, Alternating, or Yellow**

1866–1880: thin, light weight card stock in white, off white or light cream

1880–1890: different colors for the front and back of cards. You may find green/white, brown/yellow, etc.

1882–1888: a more durable matte-finish front, with a creamy-yellow, glossy back

Borders: Red, Gold, or Embossed

1866–1880: red or gold, either single and double lines

1884–1885: wide gold borders

1885–1892: gold edges, typically beveled

1889–1896: rounded corner, but a single line

1890s on: Embossed borders and/or lettering

Lettering: Small or Large and Ornate?

1866–1879: You'll find photographer name and address often printed in small lettering just below the image, and/or studio name printed on similar lettering on the back

1880s+: Large, ornate text for photographer name and address, often in cursive style. The studio name may cover the entire back of the card.

Late 1880s–90s: Gold text on black card stock

1890s on: embossed studio name or other embossed designs

Daguerrotype



Ambrotype



Tintype



Cartes de Visite



Cabinet Card



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## GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Visit GHS on the internet

Email: [grotonvthistory@gmail.com](mailto:grotonvthistory@gmail.com)

Web page: [grotonvthistory.org](http://grotonvthistory.org)

Facebook@[grotonvthistory](https://www.facebook.com/grotonvthistory)

Here is a summary of some 2016 activities from President, Deborah Jurist.

The 7th All-Classes Reunion of Groton High School was held in the Community Building on June 25th. The Society sponsored the event as in the past, featuring the reunion in the winter and spring newsletters and including a registration form for the attendees to return for the planning committee. Pictures of 121 of the 134 registered were taken and posted on the GHS website (see above for access). Members of the Society recorded several short interviews with attendees, sold copies of *Mr. Glover's Groton*, and registered several new members. Thanks to the Alumni Committee, chaired by Ann Winter, for a successful reunion, and donating the proceeds of their raffle to the Society (the winner also donated their share).

In July we committed to hosting Banjo Dan and his brother, Willy, for a concert in Veterans Park on September 3rd. Dan had written a collection of songs about William Scott, Groton's Sleeping Sentinel. The concert was underwritten by the Historical Society, the Recreation Committee, and the Library. About 220 people attended. The Fire Department barbecued chicken for sale and the Society sold pie by the slice. Members Mike and Sally Blair shared their extensive collection of Civil War memorabilia, including items documenting Groton soldiers.

Fall Foliage Day on October first and the Peter Paul House was abuzz with activity again this year. Erik Volk and Phil Coutu hosted a walking tour of downtown Groton. They created a map showing locations of buildings, many of which are no longer standing, and told stories about Groton businesses as they strolled through the town with about 25 people.

Maintenance work on the Peter Paul House and property included: cleaning up the pantry (office) which needed it very badly, shearing the cedar trees at the front door, cleaning the civil

war uniform, and planting spring bulbs!

Our old website host, <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~vtgenweb/> was crashing more frequently and the VTGenWeb project coordinator for the State and Caledonia County, Ann Mensch, asked the towns to find separate hosts and provide a link to the county sites. Don Smith asked to be relieved as website editor for GHS and Erik Volk assumed the duties setting up our new website (see web page address in the heading ).

Open House at the Peter Paul House on December 10 was well attended. Baked potatoes and pie by the slice were served and a New 2017 calendar, *Mr. Glover's Groton*, some other books, and DVD's were for sale.

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## GROTON FAMILIES

How many Groton families do you belong to? Many people have ancestral lines to several families with Groton connections. Groton was chartered in 1787 only a few years before Vermont became the first state to join the Union of the original 13 in 1791, just in time to be included in the first census of the United States. There were eight families living in Groton then: James Abbott, Israel Bailey, John Darling, Robards Darling, Aaron Hosmer, Jonathan James, Edmund Morse and Timothy Townsend. The GHS records of these families was combined and posted on the website, but individuals who were in several of the families had different identification numbers in each one which led to some confusion. Plans are to post the families who were in the 1790 census separately and then add the new families in each of the following censuses. If your line goes back to one of the families in the 1790 census you should be included in the records already posted. Please let us know of any omissions, and watch for postings of new families in the future.

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