

The Groton Historical Society

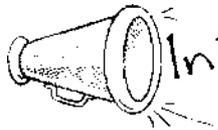


NEWSLETTER

GROTON, VERMONT

Summer 1988

No. 1



Introducing!!

The Groton
Historical Society
Newsletter:

We hope to publish
four times a year: Spring - Summer -
Fall - Winter.

Our purpose is to keep our Townspeople
informed as to what the Society is do-
ing, and to invite others to become
members.

If you are the
least bit inter-
ested in things
historical, local
or statewide, you
belong over here:



This is the
easiest to join group you ever heard
of: just call Alice Goodine
at 584-3314 and you're in:

GENEALOGY

The Society has several file cabinets
full of letters and notes tracing old
family histories back through the years.
These records are in the process of
being sorted and cross-checked for
future publication.

If you have information to add, or would
like to look something up please contact
us.



The Town of Groton will soon have
a new park....complete with picnic
tables, basketball court, ice
skating rink. band stand, and more!

At the last Town Meeting the Histor-
ical Society was given the honor of
naming the park. We ran a contest,
offering as a prize a copy of "Mr.
Glover's Groton - the Chronicle of
Groton, Vermont from 1789 to 1978".

The name selected was "VETERANS
MEMORIAL PARK" suggested by Mr.
Robert Gruber.

We are in the process of having a
granite name marker engraved and
we hope to have a formal dedication
in the Fall.

In the Groton Historical Society
Room downstairs in the Groton Public
Library is a display of historical
items: hooks, pictures, etc. If you
would like to donate or loan items
for this collection (particularly
during Fall Foliage Week) please
contact Alice Goodine.

VERMONT STATEHOOD
BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

On June 4, 1986 the General Assembly of the State of Vermont enacted legislation creating the Bicentennial Commission "to plan and execute a program to commemorate properly the 200th anniversary of the founding of the State of Vermont..."

The Commission is committed to organizing and coordinating the celebration of Vermont's Statehood Bicentennial by illuminating Vermont's history and the meaning of Statehood. The Commission hopes to produce programs and activities which will have lasting and meaningful results.

1991 is closer than we think:
Anyone who thinks 1991 is far in the future should think again: Now is the time to start planning for our community festivities in 1991.

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The Vermont/Kentucky Compromise.
By William Doyle

in 1787 Alexander Hamilton realized it was important that a northern free state be admitted to offset two southern slave states, Kentucky and Tennessee, which would soon join the union. To Nathaniel Chipman, he wrote, "one of the first subjects of deliberation with the new Congress will be the independence of Kentucky, for which the southern states will be anxious. The northern will be glad to send a counterpoise in Vermont."

Of the first thirteen original states seven were northern and six southern. The one state northern edge was maintained when Vermont was admitted in 1791 and Kentucky in 1792.

New York and Vermont agreed to negotiate the differences between conflicting land claims. In the summer of 1789, as a result of negotiations, Vermont agreed to pay New York \$30,000

compensation, while New York gave up her Vermont land claims. Vermont's next step in the process of admission to the Union was to ratify the new United States Constitution. In January 1791 a convention authorized by the Vermont General Assembly met in Bennington to consider ratification. One of the delegates to the Convention, Vt. Supreme Court Judge Nathaniel Chipman said Vermont was too small in relation to a new powerful union to remain independent.

"Whenever our interests clash with those of the union, it requires very little political sagacity to foretell that every sacrifice must be made on our part...United we become great, from the reflected greatness of the empire with which we unite."

The United States Constitution was ratified 105 to 4, by Vermont. The adoption was favorably received throughout the nation. In Albany, New York, the event was celebrated by a parade and a fourteen-gun salute.

By Act of Congress, on March 4, 1791, Vermont was admitted to the Union as the fourteenth state, the first state to join the union.

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The Bicentennial Commission is urging all local communities to develop their own bicentennial plans and activities over the next three years. The Commission will be actively publicizing events and can help promote our community's events.

All interested people are invited to come up with suggestions and ideas for Groton's part in this state-wide celebration.

It will only be a success if you all become involved.