

---

---

# GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Newsletter

---

Volume 25 Issue 1

Groton, Vermont 05046

Winter 2012

---

## CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL

### 150 years ago in the Civil War 1861—1865

#### MEETING SCHEDULE

10 AM the second Tuesday  
of May through October  
at the Peter Paul House  
1203 Scott Highway  
Groton, VT 05046

#### 2012 OFFICERS

President Richard Brooks  
Vice President Deane Page  
Secretary Josephine French  
Treasurer Joan Haskell (resigned)

#### APPOINTED STAFF

Web Site Editor Donald Smith  
Newsletter Editor J. Willard Benzie

#### CONTENTS

	Page
Civil War veterans.....	1
Civil War by S. N. Eastman...	4
This Month in History.....	5
GHS House by Dale Brown...	6
Pictures .....	8
GHS News .....	14

---

The story of William Scott the SLEEPING SENTINAL has overshadowed the service of 78 other Civil War Veterans who were from Groton or became Groton citizens and 15 of them also died while in the service.

Mr. Glover's Groton provides the following list of those who responded to President Lincoln's call for soldiers to help save the Union. An asterisk and bold print denotes those who died in the service.

Annis, Wm H. N.  
**Brock, Charles H.\***  
**Brock, Edward A.\***  
Burbank, Andrew S.  
**Burbank, Charles H.\***  
Burnham, Charles L.  
Carpenter, Andrew J.  
Carpenter, Lafayette  
Carrick, Frank F.  
Carter, Allen H.  
Darling, Aaron

*(Continued on page 2)*

---

*(Continued from page 1)*

Darling, Marshall J.

Demmon, Henry B.

Eastman, Seth N.

Emery, Asa S.

Emery, Charles G.

Emery, Obed

Emery, Timothy Jr.

Frost, Isaiah

**Goodwin, Reuben\***

**Greene, Edmund\***

Harrington, Henry

Heath, Augustus M.

Hood, Horace

Jones, Charles F.

**Kidder, Aaron\***

Lund, Rufus C.

Martin, John P.

Melville, Thad S. W.

Morrison, Silas B.

Orr, William G. S.

Page, George G.

**Page, Morris C.\***

Philbrick, George W.

Rhodes, Josiah R.

Ricker, Josiah D.

**Scott, George\***

Scott, Joseph W.

Stebbins, George W.

Usher, Nathan D.

Vance, Willis H.

Weed, Timothy B.

**Whitehill, George W.\***

Whitehill, John D.

Wilson, John

Darling, Walter S.

**Dow, Charles D.\***

Eggleston, Harley A.

Emery, Charles

Emery, Jeremiah

Emery, Simon Jr.

Fressenden, Peter

**Goodwin, Isaac M.\***

Goss, Michael

Hannon, Michael

Hayes, William

Hood, Albert

Hosmer, Benjamin H.

Judd, William

Lamphere, Charles E.

**Lund, Sylvanus\***

Matthew, Francis

Miller, David 2nd

Noyes, Amos H.

**Page, Alvah G.\***

Page, Leverett H.

Page, Moses Jr.

Pillsbury, George W.

**Ricker, Everett D.\***

**Scott, Daniel W.\***

Scott, John W.

**Scott, William\***

Taisey, Robert

Vance, Martin V. B.

Vance, Morris C.

Welch, Ira L.

Whitehill, Haynes W.

Whitehill, Walter

Wormwood, Daniel

One of the soldiers, Seth N. Eastman, wrote about his experiences in the Civil War for his grandchildren. And his last surviving granddaughter, the late Bernadine Eastman (1921-2010), graciously gave permission for the Historical Society to published it as: THE CIVIL WAR (As recollected by an Ordinary Soldier) by Seth N. Eastman, M. D. Excerpts from his story are on page 4 of this newsletter.

### **January in the Civil War**

In the Civil War, Kentucky was a neutral border state of great importance. With Indiana and Ohio to the north, and Tennessee and the strategically important Cumberland Gap to the south, any battles fought in Kentucky were critical to either side. Abraham Lincoln is attributed to saying, "I hope to have God on my side, but I must have Kentucky."

The Battle of Mill Springs, January 19, 1862, was small and casualties comparatively few, yet it was the first Union win to give the North a strategic advantage in Kentucky. The weather was miserable and mistakes were many. The location, at the gateway to the south, was a major incursion in the Confederate line, and gave Union forces easy entry into Tennessee and the rest of the South.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Vermont Historical Society is celebrating 150 years since the Civil War for the next 3 years in cooperation with the Vermont Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing . Local Historical Societies are encouraged to promote local connections related to the Civil War.

Excerpts from

## **THE CIVIL WAR**

(As Recollected by an Ordinary Soldier)

By

Seth N. Eastman M.D. (1843-1913)

*By the time Seth Eastman finished writing down all he could remember about his own experiences in the Civil War, it was 1909. His attitude had changed considerably from what it had been at seventeen, when he first left home, without permission, to share in what he imagined would be the exciting life of a soldier. However, he well remembered the way he had felt as a boy. He enlisted in Co. B. 6th VT Reg. at the outbreak of the Civil War and was wounded in the leg at the Battle of Savage Station on 29 June 1862, but later served in many battles including Spotsylvania and the Wilderness before being mustered out. He studied medicine with Drs. George K. Bayley and G. H. Plumley and graduated from Eclectic School of Medicine in Philadelphia and from Dartmouth Medical College and settled in Groton in 1869 where he practiced medicine more than 40 years. He married Evalona Darling, daughter of Judge J. R. and Sarah (Taisey) Darling, in 1875 and they had two boys, Cyrus (1877-1900) and Bernard (1880-1921).*

I suppose I was born August 4, 1843 in the town of Topsham, Vermont on a farm near what is called Galusha Hill. There is nothing strange or unusual about this as there were at that time many families of boys and girls all around us and at that time, large families were a general rule all over New England. I had nine brothers and sisters, some of them were older and some of them were younger, all of whom are dead now with one exception (March 30, 1907).

I had to work as soon as I was able on the farm and I remember without pleasure the long days that I drove oxen to plow and hoe the corn and potatoes, while the other boys went fishing and to the circus. We hardly ever had a holiday or went fishing ex-

*(Continued on page 10)*

---

## **THIS MONTH IN HISTORY**

**(copied from Fold 3 newsletter January 2012)**

### **The Battle of Cowpens**

Nine months before the victory at Yorktown successfully ended what we now call the Revolutionary War, a critical turning point in the southern campaign occurred at the Battle of Cowpens in South Carolina. On January 17, 1781, General Daniel Morgan and his Continental forces met the British forces of Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton. Strategic advantages were incorrectly assessed by Tarleton, orders were misunderstood among his troops, and the firepower of Morgan's militia, coupled with a rewarding attack by Colonel William Washington's cavalry, brought the Continental troops to victory. Within an hour of the battle's start, chaos had ensued and Tarleton retreated.

As Tarleton fled, he was chased by Colonel Washington, a second cousin of George Washington. Once Washington and his men caught up to Tarleton, hand-to-hand combat ensued. Washington's bugler, an African American who remains unidentified, fired a pistol, essentially saving Washington's life. At that point, Tarleton and his men fled to notify Cornwall of the defeat.

In the Papers of the Continental Congress, there is a letter written by General Morgan telling of his battle trophy the captured standard of one of the defeated regiments. Morgan recounts that General Green asked him "to lay at the feet of congress the standard of the 7th British Reg't. which fell into my hands in the action of the 17th Jany."

According to The Battle of Cowpens website, maintained by the National Park Service, the term cowpens is "endemic to South Carolina, referring to open-range stock grazing operations of the colonial period." It was such a pasture where General Morgan encamped his troops on January 16, with forage for their horses. This field, known locally as "The Cowpens" was the site of the next day's conflict and thus, a historic battle was named.

## **GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOUSE**

**By N. Dale Brown (1918-2011)**

Although the Groton Historical Society House may not be the oldest framed house in the village, it has had an unusual history. It all began when Daniel Munroe purchased the lower half of Lot 15 in the 1790's and built his sawmill on the north side of the Wells River. He built his home at the foot of Munroe (now Minard) Hill. In 1799 Mr. Monroe sold the mill, the land and possibly his home to James Henderson. For the next 20 years, land transactions within the village, referred to as part of Lot 15, when actually the village was in Lot 14.

Lot 15 was allotted to Joseph Faye in the Groton Charter. It lies south of the village, with its southern boundary in line with the Clyde Morrison residence, a half mile from the Wells River.

Lot 14 allotted to Leonard Robinson, but sold to Alex Gilbert in 1788 for taxes, was actually the land that made up the early village of Groton. It extended from the Groton Cemetery, west to the Topsham Road Bridge and from the south side of the railroad tracks, at the Depot, north to include Mt. Medad.

For this reason, some people had to purchase their land twice for clear title. Before James Henderson sold his sawmill to Moses Burnham, he repurchased the land, he occupied, from Medad Welch, using his same fence as the boundary lines.

It is assumed Deacon Joshua Paul, of the Baptist Society, owned the Historical House land in the late 1820's, because he donated this land to his son, Peter Paul in September 1831, using his son's furniture shop as a reference point to establish boundaries.

Peter Paul was born in 1811 and followed his father's trade as a furniture builder, including clocks, looms and coffins. Later he was listed as a jeweler. He married Maria Meader from Newbury, although she was born in Peacham. Peter built his home, The Historical Society House, in 1840, next to his furniture shop; the shop was later remodeled into a general store by Hosea Welch II. Except for the kitchen and minor alterations, the House, built by this furniture craftsman, remains in its original state.

In 1849, an event rocked the Northeast Kingdom, when Peter

Paul's home became the guest house for Christopher Meadows, his wife and daughter. Meadows, a Britisher, was an engraver and thief. And in collaboration with William Warburton (Bristol Bill) organized a counterfeiting ring. [*Read the story of Bristol Bill in the Summer 2011 newsletter, vol. 24-3*]

Peter Paul died in May 1861 and his estate, consisted of the house and land. It was bequeathed to his widow, Maria, in January 1862. She remarried in March 1865 to George Mason, born in Scotland. He died seven years later of a kidney disease at the age of 72.

Maria's third marriage was to Currier Sanborn of NH in Feb. 1883. Maria spent her life on the homestead, even though she and her husband sold their home to Charles Bap in May 1883 with the right of occupancy as long as they lived. Currier died of epilepsy and Maria passed away in 1892.

Between 1883—1890, information on deed transfers is hazy. Town records show that Mrs. Sanborn owed back taxes and the house and land were sold to B. L. Clark and H. B. Hall. It is assumed that Charles Bap may have failed to pay the back taxes and lost his ownership of the property. In 1890 Benjamin Heath, (Maria's son-in-law) purchased this land and house and deeded his estate to Nellie (Heath) Hadlock, his daughter and Peter Paul's grand daughter.

Helen Paul, Peter's daughter, married Walter Taisey first and they had a son, Peter Paul Taisey born in 1858. Six months after his birth, Walter died at the age of 26. Helen married second Benjamin Franklin Heath and they had Nellie and 7 more children. Benjamin built and operated a blacksmith shop next to the Peter Paul Home. The Blacksmith shop was later sold to Sheldon Minard, who lived on Minard hill. In 1900 the shop became the home of George Millis.

Nellie Heath, born in 1861, married John Hadlock in 1878 and they had 2 children; Ray and Minnie prior to their divorce. Nellie moved in with her grandmother, Maria Sanborn, and lived there after her grandmother's death in 1892 until her own death in 1927.

In 1936 Norman Achilles and his wife Helen purchased the house and land, so for almost a century, the house was owned by four generations of the Paul family.

[more about the House in the next newsletter]

## Groton Buildings of the Past



Groton Stonesheds



Clark House





Smith's Store



Groton Hotel

*(Continued from page 4)*

cept on rainy days. When we did get a holiday it was such a rare thing that we were nearly wild with delight and did not know how to behave, and almost always got into some kind of a scrape and consequently got a name of being bad boys and were almost sure to get a thrashing when we got home, as it was fashionable at that time to flog a boy for any little thing that could be found against him, in the belief that this was the way to make good and great men out of bad boys. In time we became accustomed to the birch rod and the strap and did not mind the lickings much if the club was not bigger than a hoe handle. Generally we broke up most of the district schools and had many a fight with teachers, sometimes victorious and at other time being badly beaten. In this way we grew to men's stature with very little learning and very few accomplishments as a gentleman.

At this time the Civil War broke out and found me ripe for almost anything that promised excitement and adventure. I wanted to be a soldier, to hear drums and see a battle. In fact, anything seemed better to me than life on a farm in a back district with work from twelve to sixteen hours a day, summer and winter. I had heard of the battle of Bull Run and other stirring news from the war and I was determined to get in on it.

I enlisted sometime in June of 1861 and was sent to St. Johnsbury, Vermont where the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment was then encamped on the Caledonia Fair Grounds. I was put in Co. K of this regiment along with a chum of mine by the name of Henry Heath, also of Topsham, Vermont. We did not know a single man in the company and the Captain was very harsh and unreasonable with us, so in a few days we became very homesick and decided to run away. We climbed over the wall of the fairground on the side toward the railroad track and ran by the guards, down the hill to the track which we knew led towards home. No pursuit was made and we got home about eleven o'clock that night, having covered the distance, about thirty miles, in eight hours, as we left St. Johnsbury about 3 p.m. I was somewhat worried after I got home for fear of being arrested as a deserter, and kept well hidden for a number of weeks, but as no

one came to arrest me I came out of hiding and went to work. Still more men were called for and I could not give up the idea of becoming a soldier, and going to the front. I again thought of enlisting. This idea of becoming a soldier was uppermost in my mind all through the summer of 1861.

I heard that men were wanted, as the 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment was being raised, and on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of August of 1861, I enlisted in it at TOSHIMA, Vermont under a man by the name of L. H. Tubbs, who was recruiting for a company called the Bradford Guards at Bradford, Vermont to serve three years or until the end of the war.

Nobody at this time had the least idea that the war would last six months, in fact, we were all afraid that the war would close before we could get to the front. I had a friend about my own age who was just as keen for military honor as I was by the name of Albert Batchelder. He enlisted with me at the same time that I did. He had seen a great deal more of the world and had been to school and was fairly well educated, while I was as ignorant as a boar. I could read and write and that was about all. He was a great help to me and was always very kind and good to me and kept me from getting into many difficulties by his superior knowledge of men and the ways of the world.

We agreed, when we enlisted, to meet a squad of men from West Topsham who were going to the same company and had been enlisted by the same man. We were to meet them the next morning at East Corinth and go with them to Bradford to join the Company.

The only person in the world I cared for at this time was my Mother, and as I wanted to let her know where I was going, I went home and told her and to say goodbye. As I was finally leaving, she told me to wait a moment and went into the house and brought out and gave me two half dollars. This was the first whole dollar I ever had of my own, and I felt a capitalist and it made me feel very good that someone cared for me. I went back to the village and stayed all night with my brother Allen F. Eastman. He had a team and the next morning hitched up and took us (Albert had stayed all night with

*(Continued from page 11)*

me) to East Corinth where we met the West Topsham squad of about sixteen men in two double teams. We got in with them and went to Bradford where we joined the rest of the Company. This Company was made up of two other squads of men besides ours. One of these squads was from Williamstown, Vermont and the other from Norwich, Vermont, all of whom were very boisterous and very fond of whiskey.

We were quartered in the old Trotter house (since burned). There was plenty of whiskey and some of the boys got merry and kept so all the time, and fights were not an unusual occurrence. I had seen many fights before but none as savage as those I saw here, and these, combined with many other things, caused me to become very homesick. During the time we were here, there was not much sleep for the boys were very noisy and our only beds were the floor, and we had no blankets at all and even though the days were very hot, the nights were cold. We stayed here for as much as five days, and here the Company was organized by electing officers. The squad from Norwich had the most men, so elected a Captain from their own ranks, Alonzo B. Hutchinson, a former student of the Norwich Military Academy. He was a pupil of Colonel Ransom, who was killed in Mexico in 1846. L. H. Tubbs was elected First Lieutenant as he had recruited the Company. Bernard C. Fabyan was elected Second Lieutenant. He was the owner of Trotter House and had influence as a hotel keeper. He was also a very intelligent man and knew how to handle whiskey when the occasion demanded. On such an election of course, such a green country boy as I could be only a private and I was more than contented to be such. In fact, if offered an office I would have turned it down as I was too bashful and inexperienced.

Never shall I forget that election and the wild scenes attending it. I had never seen such a thing before and, as I was a voter, I was pulled this way and that trying to get my vote for this or that man. I do not remember now for whom I voted, but I do remember, and always will, the wild scenes and struggles the various candidates and their friends made to get the votes for the various offices. I remember one

---

man, Daniel Moulton, who had been out in the First Vermont Regiment; he wanted to be Second Lieutenant, but failed to get the position and the disappointment nearly killed him. In fact, I believe it was the indirect cause of death because he died a few months later after his health had failed. There were a number of men in the group who had military experience; all eager for the offices, among them were Nelson Jewell, G. W. Flanders, Jason Bixby, Orrin Lapham, George Woods and Nelson Mena. All of them had three months experience with the First Regiment and all expected offices, and at least a few of them were bitterly disappointed when they failed to get elected. But soon all was quiet again and the Company started drilling and getting into military shape. In a day or so following the election of the Company, we went to Montpelier where we joined the rest of the Regiment which was encamped there. We went to Montpelier by way of White River Junction and it took all day to make the trip. We arrived in Montpelier after dark and went into the camp on Capitol Hill in the very spot where the Seminary now stands. This was my first ride on the cars and consequently I enjoyed the trip very much. Here on the hill, we pitched our tents and got straw to sleep on and even though this was all new to me, I slept very soundly as I was tired.

This camp at Montpelier was the most pleasant camp ground that we ever saw while in the U. S. service. We had good tents to sleep in and straw to sleep on, and the food also was much better than it was to become a little later. Four men were assigned to each tent and this is the place where we were taught to be soldiers. We drilled eight hours a day, and all being young boys, we learned easy and soon we became as well drilled as U. S. regulars. A Lieutenant from the regular army came and drilled the officers even harder than they drilled us. U. S. regulars, guard mounts, dress parade, and salutes of which we knew nothing, were taught us here.

[look for more excerpts in the next newsletter]

# GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Visit GHS Web page at Historical Society on <http://www.grotonvt.com/>

**Lifetime Membership dues are \$100**

**Annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families**

Lifetime members (3 singles & one double)	5
Annual members (50 singles & 13 doubles)	76
Individuals	50
paid 2012+	18
paid 2011	21
paid 2010*	11
Families	13
paid 2012+	2
paid 2011	9
paid 2010*	2

+ 4 members have also paid ahead for 1 or 2 years.

\* this year ends the Grace period for members who last paid dues for the year 2010. If dues are not paid by the end of this year their membership will lapse. (twelve members have elected to receive their newsletter by e-mail saving printing and mailing costs.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Annual dues are payable each calendar year. The last year your dues were paid is shown on your mailing label. Please let GHS know if there is an error. Those receiving their newsletter by e-mail will be notified when they are in their grace period. If you want to receive your newsletter by e-mail please send request to [jwbenzie@mchsi.com](mailto:jwbenzie@mchsi.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

George Hall is continuing the work of scanning *Mr. Glover's Groton* into PDF format. The goal is to have the Groton History available on the Historical Society's web page for people to read.

Work is also continuing on a FAMILY GROUP SHEET for the web page as a form you can type on with your computer to update your families whenever new additions arrive or when you discover more ancestors and relatives. After completing the form you can click on submit to send it to the Groton Historical Society family records file.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Vermont Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and the Vermont Dept. of Tourism and Marketing are promoting a four year program celebrating 150 years since the Civil War—2011 to 2015.

\*\*\*\*\*

Terry Rielly is researching the Groton Hydroelectric Company that Ernest F. Clark and Robert A. Davidson started in 1904 as a partnership when they built the power plant, a 75 kw unit, on the Wells river behind the Baptist Church. In 1909 they provided electric street lights in the village replacing the kerosene lamps. They incorporated the business in 1916 when they built a second power plant, a 275 kw unit, further west on the Wells river in the Hall meadow, formerly known as the Thomas Taisey meadow. The flood of 1927 destroyed the east plant and damaged the west one. The business was sold in 1928, eventually becoming part of Green Mountain Power Company and was abandoned in 1944. Look for a story about this in a future newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\*

Terry and several others started a group on Facebook called “I grew up in Groton” They are working to add more stories about Groton to contribute to a more complete history of the town. Look for the Group on Facebook contribute your stories about GROTON.

---

Groton Historical Society Newsletter  
Editor [jwbenzie@mchsi.com](mailto:jwbenzie@mchsi.com)  
P. O. Box 89  
Groton, VT 05046-0089



FILE COPY