

# Points of Interest



## ■ Benn Conger Inn

206 West Cortland St. This 1920s Sears & Roebuck house was built in the Colonial Revival style by local entrepreneur, banker, and state senator Benn Conger. Today, a restaurant and inn operate in the building.

## ■ Indian Village

NYS Route 38 north of the Peruville Road intersection marks what was once the boundary between the Cayuga and Onondaga nations. Further on is a marker for Indian hunting grounds.

## ■ Main Street High School

177 Main St. The former high school was built 1920-21 with its stately Doric columns in a Classical Revival style. After a new high school was completed in 1954, the former high school became an elementary school until 1962 when the current Elm Street Elementary school opened. The building was then used for Smith-Corona offices until 1968 when it became the original location of Tompkins Cortland Community College. The building ceased being used for educational purposes in 1975, and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. Today, the building is the Schoolhouse Gardens with apartments serving seniors and disabled residents.

## ■ Goodyear Memorial Library

112 Main St., The library is a bequest of Dr. Miles D. Goodyear to create a memorial to his mother, Elizabeth. It was designed by Ithaca architect William Henry Miller and built in 1916-17.



## Census

Groton's population grew in the early 19th century and then declined slightly until expanding again toward the end of the 1800s and into the 20th century.

Town of Groton	Tompkins County
1840: 3,618	32,296
1920: 4,122	35,285
1960: 4,469	66,097
2010: 5,950	101,624

# Residents of Note

**Charles W. Sanders (1805-1889)** Author of a successful series of school readers. His first primer was published in 1840, and the "Pictorial Primer" appeared in 1846. A NYS historic sign at Sobers Road in Peruville marks where he wrote his books. Gravesite: Cortland Rural Cemetery.

**Sylvester Pennoyer (1831-1902)** The Groton native attended Harvard Law School and moved to Oregon at age 25. A populist Democrat, he served two terms from 1886 to 1895 as the eighth Governor of Oregon. Gravesite: River View Cemetery, Portland, Ore.

**Welthea Marsh (1841-1909)** When her banker-husband died in 1895, she was elected president of the First National Bank of Groton in 1896 and served until 1901. She was one of the first women bank presidents in the U.S. She was also involved with Groton community activities such as Groton's Congregational Church and the Political Equality Club, a forerunner of the League of Women Voters. Gravesite: Groton Rural Cemetery.

**Benn Conger (1856-1922)** President of the Standard Typewriter Company that was renamed Corona Typewriter Company in 1914 and after his death in 1926 became the Smith Corona Company. He was also president of the former Groton Mechanics Bank. He served in the New York State Assembly 1900-1901, the New York State Senate in 1909, until resigning in 1910. Gravesite: Groton Rural Cemetery, Clark Street Extension.

## Cemeteries

**Groton Rural** - Clark Street

**McLean** - Cemetery Lane. Also called McLean Rural Cemetery, Old McLean Cemetery.

**McLean Catholic** - Gulf Hill Road. Also called St. Patrick's Cemetery and Roman Catholic Cemetery.

**Peruville** - Old Peruville Road

**St. Anthony's Catholic** - Clark Street, across the road from Groton Rural Cemetery.

**West Groton Rural** - Durfee Road, West Groton. Also called Cobb Street Cemetery.

There are several inactive small cemeteries and family plots in the town. For details on Groton and other county cemeteries: contact Town Historian Rosemarie Tucker; Town of Groton, PO Box 36, Groton, NY 13073, roseingrotonny@gmail.com or www.nytopkmi.org/tcem.htm

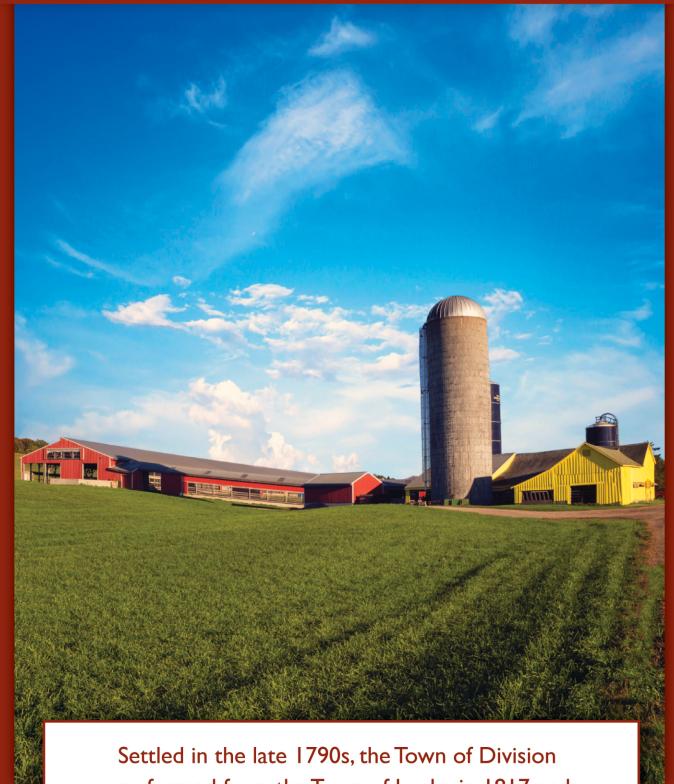
## For more local history:

- [www.tompkinscountyny.gov/historian](http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/historian)
- [www.thehistorycenter.net](http://www.thehistorycenter.net)

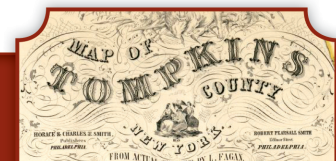
Text: Rosemarie Tucker, Town of Groton Historian. Design/production: Allison Kaiser. Cover photo: Adam Baker. Editing: Bruce Estes, Carol Kammen. The Tompkins County Bicentennial Commission sponsored city and town history brochures to commemorate the county's 200th anniversary in 2017.



# Town of Groton



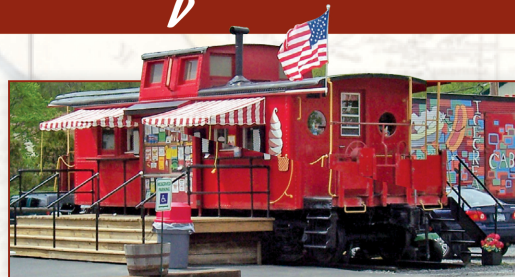
Settled in the late 1790s, the Town of Division was formed from the Town of Locke in 1817 and became part of Tompkins County. In 1818 community residents petitioned to have the name changed to Groton. The Town of Groton encompasses 50 square miles in northeastern Tompkins County. Agriculture has played a major role in the town's development. The Village of Groton was incorporated in June 1860. Groton was a 19th-century industrial center, and famous for manufacturing machinery, iron truss bridges, and carriages. The Crandall Typewriter Company moved to Groton in 1876 and its successors included Smith-Corona, which finally closed in the 1980s. The wealth generated from manufacturing produced a rich architectural legacy in both the town and village.



# Groton Points of Interest

## Shadowlawn

419 Spring St. Began as a farmhouse built c.1869. The house was completely remodeled after 1912 by poultry farm millionaire Harrison Blanchard, with the addition of the two-story portico featuring Ionic columns and matching covered entrance on the side.



## Old Railroad Depot and Ice Cream Caboose

When entering the village from the south, visitors will see an ice cream emporium housed in a caboose from the former Lehigh Valley Railroad. Beyond the caboose is the old Groton Railroad Depot, built in 1884-85.

## Stagecoach Tavern / Robinson House

5 School Street, McLean. It was built in 1824 and originally had 33 rooms.



## Groton Academy.

This excellent and well established Institution of Learning will enter upon its **Thirty-Second Academic Year**, on Monday the 24th day of August next, under the charge of its present Principal,  
**PROF. M. M. BALDWIN, M. A.,**  
Aided by a full Board of competent and successful Instructors.  
Mr. BALDWIN has now presided over the Institution for seven years—a period longer than that of any other of its Principals, and he is so well known that those employers very liberally with that of any other seven years of its existence. The School is certainly very prosperous, and will, no doubt, increase in popularity and numbers for years to come.  
Its location is very fine, being situated on the line of the Southern Central Railroad, now in process of construction, in the beautiful, thriving and healthy village of Groton, remote from the distracting, debasing and vulgar influences of large villages and cities. No leisure for the sake of time-testing figures in the village or vicinity, has this year been granted.

## 1834

The Groton Academy was established.

**1795** Ephraim Spaulding and Michael Grummon cleared six acres of land and built two cabins where the school house apartments currently stand at 117 Main Street.

**1805** The East Congregational Log Church was built on what is currently the corner of Route 222 and Salt Road.

**1860** The Village of Groton was incorporated on June 11. It was once called Groton Hollow.



## 1887

Groton Bridge and Manufacturing Company began operations in the village.



## 1926

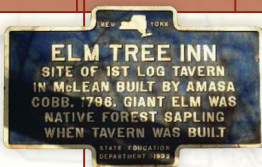
Corona Typewriter Company merged with L.C. Smith & Corona Typewriters Inc. to form Smith-Corona, the largest typewriter manufacturer in the U.S.



**Baltimore Orioles** nest during the summer in Groton. Photo by David K. Disher/Cornell Lab of Ornithology

**1955** Groton High School building on Peru Rd. with grades 5-12 completed.

**1962** Groton Elementary School opened on Elm Street.



## 1798

The first tavern was built in McLean near the site of the Elm Tree Inn.

## 1824

The hamlet of Moscow was renamed McLean after Postmaster General Judge McLean.

## 1839

The first newspaper, *The Groton Balance*, was published.



## 1858

A new school was built at the Main Street site and used until the building became the home of Crandall Typewriter Company in 1887.

**1909** Standard Typewriter Co. moved its operations to Groton. The firm renamed Corona Typewriter Company in 1914.

**1921** Groton High School completed construction.



## 1934

Groton Old Home Days began and continues as an annual event each August in the village.

**1983** Smith Corona closed its Groton plant. About 775 full-time and 100 part-time employees lost their jobs. At its peak, 4,200 people worked at Smith Corona operations in Groton and Cortland County.