

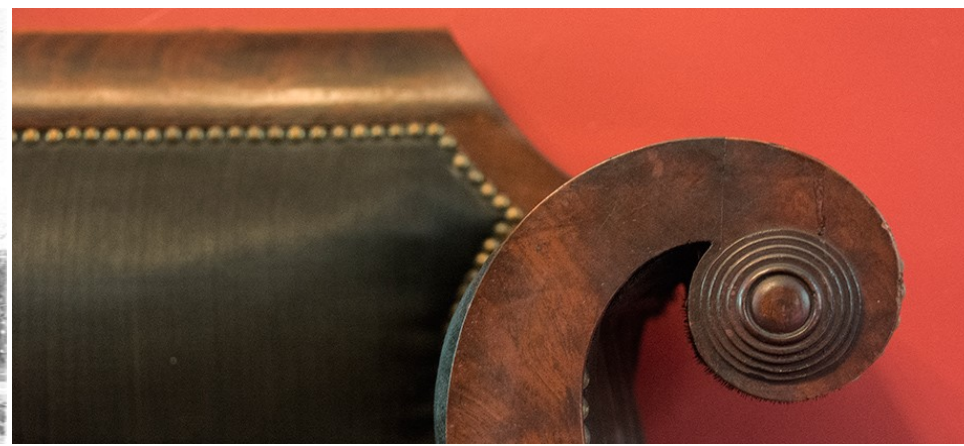
# On the Map

Groton's oldest non-profit  
On the National Register  
Anchor of Main Street

# Your place in Groton's History



Oldest known map of New England, by John Foster, 1677



Sense of Place

Groton History Center | Gov. George S. Boutwell House | Groton, MA  
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## Framing Our Story

For over 125 years, the Groton Historical Society, also known as the Groton History Center (GHC), has collected, preserved, and interpreted artifacts, documents, photographs, and stories relating to the history of Groton and those who helped shape the town.

Our home, the Governor George S. Boutwell House, has been fully restored, inside and out, and since 2005 has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The building houses our extensive collection of unique and historic Groton treasures.

We use our collections to tell stories of Groton's past through exhibits and programs that richly illustrate aspects of local and regional history, the well known *and* the underrepresented.

Guided by a professionally trained Executive Director, the GHC has a successful track record of grants awarded and collaborations with other organizations that allow us all to make connections and reach a broader audience.

As we head into the next 125 years and beyond we have this solid foundation of tradition to build on, and we hope you will help us reach higher.

## Our Vision

The truth is that historical organizations are often stereotyped as being dark, musty, uninviting, and stagnant. The Groton History Center continues to think bigger and brighter. The last five years have arguably been our most exciting, vibrant, and successful. We hosted two well-attended wine tasting fundraisers, sponsored a dynamic community conversation by Steve Kornacki, rescued and restored wall murals by early American itinerant painter J.D. Poor, and brought together 25 local gifted artists for our collaborative *Sense of Place* book and exhibit.

Groton is growing and we want to grow *with* it. We have stepped outside that old stereotype, making history relevant by connecting the past and present, inspiring people to think differently about the stories of our town, exploring how Groton fits in with the larger cultural narrative, and demonstrating our value as a true resource in the community.

Our mission remains *to preserve and share the history of Groton*—including history in the making—with people of all ages and abilities, and we know we can continue to do that more effectively. Creative innovative programming, digital storytelling, and rethinking our use of the Boutwell House are just a few of the ways we're looking up and out.

## Our Goal

Our goal is to secure our place in Groton's growing community.

We're witnessing a sea change in our town. Groton's continuing tradition of offering world-class cultural and educational institutions is bringing more people and businesses to the area. In order to meet this new growth we need to thrive in tandem and offer wider support and resources to our increasing audience. We believe that the best way to invest in the future of Groton's history is to significantly increase our endowment.

## Your Opportunity for Giving

Since 1894 the Groton Historical Society/Groton History Center has benefited from the generosity of friends and members who share our vision. An endowment gift—whether one time, recurring, transferring securities, or a bequest—provides a lasting tribute to your generosity and commitment to our legacy: *your place in Groton's history*.

### Educational & Exhibit Endowment

Endowment support for education includes exhibit expansion, interactive digital learning tools, curriculum development, and student program implementation. The educational experience is the cornerstone of museum success. Unique exhibits and innovative programming are the key ways that we reach out to our audience with stories that engage, enlighten, and even challenge what we know about our history.

### Boutwell House Preservation Endowment

Endowment support for preservation includes significant building improvements, landscape enhancement, and climate controlled archival storage. The 1851 **Boutwell House** is at the heart of historic Groton and is a treasure in itself: its interior carefully restored to a comfortable 19th century home. The **historic landscape** has gone through a transformation with period-appropriate plantings by the Groton Garden Club and a public wildflower garden made possible by the generosity of the Groton Business Association. The GHC **collections** include furniture, documents, photographs, artifacts, and ephemera from all periods of Groton's past with historical significance that spans beyond the town's borders.

### Museum Endowment

Endowment support for the museum includes staffing, insurance, general maintenance, and utilities. Much of the GHC's operating budget comes from giving such as memberships and annual appeal. While this has consistently allowed us to remain steady at our current operations, it does not allow the expansion we envision. Additional gifts to this endowment would allow us to use a larger portion of investment income and provide a reliable source of income for those expenses not covered by annual gifts.



GROTON HISTORY CENTER  
*Framing our story*

The Groton History Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and its endowment is with the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts