

## We Need Your Help!

We are asking you to help us in one or all of the following ways.

**Please write to the Mayor expressing your support for our plan.** In order to convince the City to transfer ownership to us, we need to show the City we have the support of the community. Mayor Keith Hedrick, Municipal Building, 295 Meridian Street, Groton, CT 06340 or email [hedrickk@cityofgroton-ct.gov](mailto:hedrickk@cityofgroton-ct.gov)

**Promote the idea.** Spread the word about our plan and encourage others to support the idea.

**Become a member of the Friends of the Anna Warner Bailey House.** The membership fee is \$50. Note: 25 hours of volunteer time (pre-approved) can be used to cover the membership fee. Write to Friends of the Anna Warner Bailey House, P.O. Box 907, East Lyme, CT 06333 and ask for a membership application.

**Make a tax-deductible donation to the effort to preserve the house.** Checks should be made out to the Anna Warner Bailey Chapter of the DAR (with a Memo Note of the Friends of the AWBH.) It can be sent to the above address.

### Volunteer your time

We are looking for people to help us with fundraising, grant writing, mailings, and events. Again, volunteer hours can be used to cover the membership fee.

**Check out the Anna Warner Bailey blog.** Written by Lisa Saunders, author of numerous local non-fiction books, at [annawarnerbailey.blogspot.com](http://annawarnerbailey.blogspot.com)

**Contact us for further information.** Email: [awbfriends@gmail.com](mailto:awbfriends@gmail.com)

Find more information about Anna Warner Bailey at the the Anna Warner Bailey Chapter of the DAR website: [annawarnerbaileydar.org](http://annawarnerbaileydar.org)

## HELP US SAVE THE

## ANNA WARNER BAILEY HOUSE!



*Anna Warner Bailey House*

### Why is the Anna Warner Bailey House Worth Saving?

This house was once the home of a heroine of the Revolution and The War of 1812. At the tender age of 16, she fearlessly tended to the wounded at the Battle of Groton Heights in 1781. Later in 1813, she attained national fame and recognition for being an inspiration to the soldiers in their defense of Fort Griswold. She was paid visits from President James Monroe, Lafayette and President Andrew Jackson and then Vice-President Martin Van Buren in recognition of her patriotism. In 1833 President Andrew Jackson presented her with a cast iron fence that surrounded the house.



*Anna Warner Bailey (1758-1851)*

Anna and her husband, Captain Elijah Bailey, a survivor of the Battle of Groton Heights, moved into the house around 1800 and opened a tavern. In 1818, President Thomas Jefferson appointed Captain Elijah Bailey as the town's first postmaster and the house became the first post office for Groton.

The Anna Warner Bailey House is on the National Register and, as such, cannot be torn down. It is an important building within the Groton Bank National Register Historic District and of the Thames River Heritage Park, located within easy walking distance of its new water taxi service to Fort Trumbull and New London City Pier where riders can walk to the other historic buildings, such as the Shaw Mansion and the U.S. Customs House.

It is located at 108 Thames Street at the corner with Broad Street.

### **What Is Its Current Status?**

It is currently owned by the City of Groton. The Anna Warner Bailey Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) has spearheaded the formation of the Friends of the Anna Warner Bailey House (FAWBH) under the umbrella of the non-profit 501(c)(3) DAR chapter. Officers of the Friends of the Anna Warner Bailey House are: President, Susan Archer, Vice President, Donna Brewer, Secretary, Jane Clukay and Treasurer, Sharon Jackson.

The committee is currently developing a proposal to the City to assume ownership and seek private and grant money to restore the house, ideally, as a Visitor Center for the Historic Groton Bank with its Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park, Fort Griswold Museum, Fort Griswold Monument, the Avery-Copp House, the Ebenezer Avery House and the Bill Memorial Library and the Submarine Veterans Memorial.

### **What Will Be Its Future?**

The Mother Bailey House could serve as a historic resource to showcase the history of Groton. Key periods in the history of the community, encompassing early colonial settlement, the Revolutionary War through the War of 1812, and beyond into the 19th and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries can be interpreted from time to time.

Focus could be on the years that the first occupants lived and worked in the house, emphasizing Mother Bailey and her story, but could also include eighteenth century medicine. At the height of her fame, Anna Warner Bailey, known as “Mother Bailey”, lent her name to the manufacture of a patent medicine called *Mother Bailey's Quieting Syrup*.

Other themes related to the house could emphasize its use as tavern and inn, and early postal service.

The center would be able to highlight and promote the other historic sites in the Groton Bank. Visitors interested in historic tourism are often drawn to areas with multiple sites, as it enables them to explore several places within a small geographic area – and most of these sites are free to the public.

The Anna Warner Bailey House could be established as an architectural study museum focusing on historic building techniques and materials, rather than furnishing a house to interpret a specific time period. This type of museum exposes construction elements, so that visitor can see into walls, under stairs, and behind chimneys. Features of post and beam construction, evidence of the use of traditional hand tools, historic forms of insulation, brickwork and plastering could be exposed to enable people to understand how a house was constructed from the inside out. These structural techniques, including historic alterations and repairs, are usually concealed in a finished house.

Groton has an opportunity to provide a unique historic preservation resource to be open to our community and to visitors from outside our region.

Various cultural and historic groups could maintain exhibits or displays inside the house

Kiosks could offer information to visitors regarding all the things to see and do in Groton.

Non-profit groups such as the Friends of Fort Griswold and Groton Bank Historical Association, neither of which have physical spaces of their own, could use the Anna Warner Bailey House for meetings, lectures and on-going exhibits. These groups would also serve as excellent resources to provide volunteers for staffing the museum.