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Groton Meeting House Essay Contest- 2021

19 April 2021

### The Matriarch of Groton

From the outside

White clapboards, gleaming in the sun

A steeple, reaching up to the sky

Today, a symbol of peace and serenity

Open to all who walk through her doors

Bold lines define the structure

Like brushstrokes of a masterpiece

Simple shapes, assembled into an historical landmark

Embodying the artists that built it

A unique story told over hundreds of years

Picturesque, atop a hill

A beacon of hope for a small town in the woods

Lightening, fire, religious unrest

Strength over adversity

Weathering the storm and withstanding it all

A structure, built and rebuilt four times over

A place to conduct business: religious, social and civic

Changes in the building to mirror changes in the town

Additions, embellishments, a bell

But always the focal point of the community

On the inside, ghosts of the past

Within its walls, the history of a small town

A courthouse, resplendent with sounds of the gavel

A meeting house, townspeople passionate, debating

A church, heads bowed, silent in prayer

Raised up in glory, like a queen on her litter

Turned to face the setting sun

A memorial to Minutemen assembled on the common

A church in a modern-day setting

Bridging the gap between past and present

Through eyes unseen, a silent observer

Witness to the evolution of a town

War, peace, destruction, regrowth

Stories of survival

A township united as it moved forward

Watching as growing pains accompany change

Farming, industry, a railroad

Academia, a new government, changes to infrastructure

Always a loyal presence

An enduring symbol of strength and success

Over time, ushering out the old and welcoming in the new

A town flourishing in ways unforeseen by its founders

Evolution, progress, modernization  
Periods of harmony and times of discord  
A patchwork of history woven over the years

Unwavering in turbulent times  
Bringing the town together to forge a path forward  
An outlook different than that of the past  
Including, uniting, embracing  
Opening the town to welcome all those who enter

Spanning the lifetimes of thousands  
Old, young, those we remember in our hearts and those yet unborn  
Facing the future but never forgetting the past  
Watching the sun set on a colony  
Welcoming the sun rise on a modern-day town

Today she sits, noble and inviting  
The classic New England church on a hill  
Seen by all who pass through the town  
But more than just a church or a former meetinghouse  
A gateway to the past against the backdrop of a modern world

The matriarch of Groton  
Watching but not speaking  
An historian of past, present and future  
An unbreakable bond to ancestors who came before us  
A link to generations who will come after us

She wears her centuries of service with distinction

Majestic, dynamic and relevant

Continuing to stand guard over her town

A cherished symbol of Groton's past

The enduring symbol of Groton's future

## Works Cited

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