



Pownal Gateway

Pownal Historical Society, Inc.

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Upcoming meetings

**August 20, 7 p.m., Pownal
Library: Genealogies**

**September 16, 2 p.m.,
Pownal Library: Memo-
ries of Pownal Past**



Pownal Center Tour a Success

Our historical tour of Pownal Center on Sunday, July 15, was, by all accounts, a real contribution to Pownal. Approximately 65 people, including presenters, gathered in the Pownal Center Community Church to begin listening to members discussing how each particular building in Pownal Center contributed its history to the area.

Ted Atkinson began by discussing Baptists in Massachusetts and the community of Pownal. Former town clerk Rachel Mason recounted anecdotes from her experience as town clerk. Ray Shields summarized his research findings when investigating the history of his home between the town office and the cemetery (see his history on page 4).

Charlie Clark told stories of some of the current inhabitants of the Pownal Center cemetery. Ray Rodrigues summarized a typical school day at School Number 8, the current Senior Citizen Center. Ms. William Churchill provided the history of the Churchill home on the southwest end of Pownal Center's old area. Jane Chamay and Carla Lund told the story of the old Myers' store, past and present. Joyce Held read Fran Lampman's history of her home, which dates back to the Dutch arrival in Pownal and may include the oldest structure in Pownal Center. Wendy and Peter Hopkins noted some odd features in their home's history, dating back to the 1790's.

Before the tour ended, Eve Pearce described the Benoni Thompson home (“the Bartels property”) and summarized efforts to preserve the building for posterity. Finally, participants entered the Church carriage barn, where Charlotte Comar discussed its history and where Historical Society members provided refreshments for everyone. Carl Villanueva took all the pictures of the event that you see here.

Perhaps most exciting and worthwhile were the anecdotes that many residents told of Pownal Center and life earlier in the 20th Century. Several indicated their interest in joining the Society. We look forward to welcoming new members and their contributions to preserving the history of Pownal. And if they simply want to learn more about the community they live in, welcome them to the event.

Upcoming Meetings

Monday, August 20th, 7 p.m. Charles Clark will discuss his research into Connecticut genealogies of families that may have ties to Pownal.

Sunday, September 16, 2 p.m. (tentative) “Memories of Pownal Past,” led by one of our Pownal friends and neighbors.



News from Pownal Past

Events and Gossip from September 1892

We thank Mary Louise and Warren Mason for the following contribution:

Misfortunes never come singly; so says Zara P. Haley, having lost another horse this week. A subscription is being taken to procure him a horse.

Twenty persons attended the picnic at Broad Brook on the top of Green Mountain for dinner, and stopped at Perch Pond for supper.

A clam bake is now in discussion but the grove has not yet been decided upon.

A clam bake and dance at Barber's Pond were the program for the 16th.

Blackberries are being brought around now, and they are luscious.

The entertainment at Rev. J. M. Bacheldor's was among the pleasant features of the week. The music and refreshments were excellent.

The fresh air children returned to their homes in New York, Friday.

Chas. Barber was nominated for Senator for the South Shire at the convention holden at Arlington last Tuesday.

George F. Montgomery has the best vegetable garden in town and his farm is one of the best.

Some of our young people took a trip to the snow-hole last Monday.

Saratoga seems to be the chief resort for our people.



The History of Our House

by Ray Shields

Ed. Note: The Pownal Historical Society would like to invite others to submit the history of their homes to this newsletter. Ray Shields' account below indicates the questions that historical searches often turn up, as well as information that is certain. It is a model of how we often have to make inferences from other facts in order to piece together a more complete story. He made this excellent presentation at the historical tour of Pownal Center. The Shields' home is the house between the Town Office and the Pownal Center cemetery. Please submit your house's history to: Raymond_rodrigues@msn.com

The following is a brief research done on the house and property, 465 Center Street, Pownal, Vermont.

This information was gleamed from several sources:

Pownal Historical Society Webpage,
Joseph Parks' book, *Pownal, Vermont—200 Hundred Years and More*,
The writings of earlier Pownal's historian T.E. Brownell,
Castleton Historical Society Webpage, and research of our deeds at the town hall.

I have taken into account that all the facts and items put forth are subject to closer historical scrutiny.

A map of 1850, shows the houses of Foot and Montgomery that were permitted through overselling of the Town Plot. This map is available on page 56 of Mr. Parks' book.

It is interesting to note that the Montgomery house is shown behind the Union Church, while in the map from the Pownal Historical Society, of 1856, the Montgomery house has moved between our home and the church. This might be the first mobile home in Pownal. The locations of these homes, both ours and Montgomery's, occurred because the selectmen sold sections of the original town plot from 120 acres down to 8. This occurred between 1782 and the early 19th century.

It is also interesting to note that G. Foot owned our home at this time along with another property north on center Street. In researching this name Foot or Foote with e added, Pownal's cemeteries do not contain a Foote. I did find a Foot that was married in Pownal in 1816 and backtracked this person. This led me to the Castleton area.

I expanded search, did turn up a Foote, in Castleton, Vermont. This family came into Vermont from the Connecticut area, Colchester, with George Foote being one of the Green Mountain Boys with Ethan Allen at Fort Ti in 1775. His family settled in the Castleton area. I believe the owner of our property in the late 1820s through the late 1840s was a Foote. George's brother Emphrain's son was one Asa Foote, born in 1785. Asa was married in Pownal, in 1816, the year without a summer, to a Williamston girl named Aurilla Prince. He was 31. Among their children, they had a at

I hope this is been informative and helpful and that this tour is a success and that the Center Street area does indeed become a historical designation.



Pownal Place Names

*Ken and Joyce Held worked with elementary students from Pownal Elementary School to produce a new book on **Pownal Place Names**. Copies of the book are for sale for \$10.00. Request copies from either Ken or Joyce, 802-823-5536.*

Membership

Is your membership due for renewal? Do you have any friends and neighbors who would be interested in joining the Pownal Historical Society? If so, call Jean Overstreet at 802-442-6983.

Genealogy

Are you interested in connecting your genealogy of your family in Pownal with those of other former residents of Pownal? If so, call Charles Clark at 802-442-5823.

Historical Society Committees

Would you like to serve on one of our committees to help our Historical Society accomplish a variety of tasks? Perhaps the group that prepares our exhibit for the Tunbridge History Fair every summer. Perhaps our Program Committee. Perhaps you have an idea for a project we haven't even thought of. If so, call Ken Held at 802-823-5536.

Create the Pownal Center Historic District

If you would like to be one of those who works to create this historic district or one who would like to help save the Bartels Property, call Eve Pearce at 802-823-5580.

Articles for the Newsletter

Ray Rodrigues would like to receive all types of articles related to the history of Pownal--anecdotes of relatives, histories of houses, stories you have learned about Pownal, and so on. If you would like to submit something to this newsletter, call Ray at 802-823-0198.

The 250th Anniversary Celebration of Pownal's Founding Grant

The Pownal Historical Society is looking for all sorts of ways to celebrate the Grant that created Pownal in 1760. If you have an idea for something that could occur anytime during the year 2010, let any one of our board members know. It is not too early to begin planning now.




Dinner for Volunteers Appreciated

We would like to thank the Rev. Jerry Frey and his church members of the for sponsoring and hosting an outdoor dinner for those who have volunteered their services to Pownal. Each organization present was introduced and provided an opportunity to summarize their efforts and thank those who contributed. For many of us, realizing how many people contribute their time to Pownal was a very pleasant surprise. Historical Society member Ruth Botzow received the first annual recognition as Pownal volunteer of the year for her “often behind-the-scenes” volunteer work in many areas. We hope that this event will be continued in future years, for it indicates how good the hearts and sometimes pocketbooks of Pownal residents are.

August 12, North Bennington: “Larry Powers Day”--celebrate the history of the old General Store and Market with the North Bennington Historical Society and Museum Sunday, August 12, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., outside and in front of the Powers Market. Music and food.

August 15, Springfield, VT: Exhibit by artist Colette Lucas, August 15-September 28. Opening reception Thursday August 23, 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-2415.

August 16, Bristol, VT: Victor Rolando, former PHS member and industrial archaeologist, will speak on Iron Mining. For more information, call 802-453-3439 or e-mail lscoffin@gmavt.net.

<p>Officers</p> <p>Ken Held, President Fran Lampman, Vice President Charlotte Comar, Treasurer Wendy Hopkins, Secretary</p> <p>Board Members</p> <p>Ted Atkinson, Programs Dot Banks Charles Clark Joyce Held Margaret Lillie Jeanne Overstreet, membership Raymond Rodrgues, Newsletter</p> <p>Website: www.pownal.org E-mail: pownal@comcast.net</p>	<p>Pownal Historical Society, inc. P.O. Box 313 Pownal, VT 05261</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Our Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise public awareness of Pownal's history: its founding fathers and its early inhabitants. • Stimulate our children's interest in the history of Pownal. • Gather and preserve historical data and artifacts. • Share with other communities data relevant to their history.
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