



Pownal Gateway

Pownal Historical Society, Inc.

November 2008

Vol. 6 No.7

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Websites:

Historical Society:
www.pownal.org

Pownal Wiki:
pownal.pbwiki.com

Our First Pie Sale



At the third annual "Taste of Pownal," the Pownal Historical Society sold pies as a fund-raising activity. In the picture above, Sue Sweeney, Wendy Hopkins, Fran Lampman, and Charlotte Comar (l-r) greet friends and neighbors at the pie booth.

We especially want to thank those members and non-members who made and donated the pies: Anne Atkinson, Ruth Botzow, Elaine and Charlie Clark, Charlotte Comar, Jean Dickson, Joyce Held, Marietta Hibbard, Wendy Hopkins, Fran Lampman, Margaret Lillie and Janice Pratt, Mary Louise Mason, Dawn Rodrigues, Sue Sweeney, and Georgene Villanueva.

Charlotte Comar organized the pie sale and kept us all on task. Sue Sweeney secured a brand new banner for the Society. Those who stood behind the booth to collect cash, cut pieces of pie, and chat with the people who came by were: Charlotte Comar, Sue Sweeney, Fran Lampman, Wendy Hopkins, Joyce Held, Ann Atkinson, Dawn Rodrigues, and Ray Rodrigues. All in all, it was a successful venture, and we now have a number of new members as a result. Our Society wants to thank all the people in Pownal who contributed their time and food to the "Taste of Pownal," as well as those who came and enjoyed all the food and camaraderie.

[We apologize to no one for the calories consumed or the pounds gained.]

Donations to the Society

Over the course of the past year, a number of people have donated gifts of money or artifacts to the Pownal Historical Society. We'd like to recognize those people for their contributions: Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Smithers, Jim Gilbert, Sheafe Satterthwaite, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hibbard, Barbara Jackson, Ann and Ted Atkinson, Connie May, Jane Radocchia, Margaret Rudd, and Ray and Dawn Rodrigues

New Members

Please join us in welcoming our new members:

Lynne Cassano, Bennington

Evelyn and John Pieloch, Pittsfield, MA 01201

Janet and David Cook, Pownal

Mary Lee Sandholm, Williamstown MA 01267


Casey Mattison, Bennington

John V. Sero, Pownal

Leslie Morgenthal, Pownal

Join Our Planning for Pownal's 250th Anniversary

We're looking for ideas and volunteers for our programs, Tunbridge display, and anything else you would like to be part of. Email: raymond_rodrigues@msn.com

Officers	Pownal Historical Society, inc. P.O. Box 313 Pownal, VT 05261	Our Goals
Ken Held, President Fran Lampman, Vice President Charlotte Comar, Treasurer Wendy Hopkins, Secretary	 kk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise public awareness of Pownal's history: its founding fathers and its early inhabitants.
Board Members Ted Atkinson, Programs Charles Clark Joyce Held Margaret Lillie Jeanne Overstreet, Membership Raymond Rodrigues, Newsletter Sue Sweeney		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.
Website: www.pownal.org E-mail: pownal@comcast.net Wiki: http://pownal.pbwiki.com	Thomas Pownall	

News from Pownal Past

from Betty Brownell Taranto

Betty Brownell Taranto found these newspaper tidbits for Pownal in *The North Adams Daily Transcript* while researching Brownell families of Pownal and Otsego County New York:

Wednesday, July 31, 1895

North Pownal

Saturday's rain was just the thing needed for potatoes and meadows, as dry weather would be ruined for both. The early potato crop does not promise a large yield, while it is too early to estimate the late ones.

Mr. and Mrs. S.L. Smith, Thursday morning, took a pleasure ride to Pittsfield, visiting several days, with their son, Eugene L. Smith, of that city, returning Saturday.

Dr. Potter and wife have gone to the sea shore for a two weeks vacation.

Thursday afternoon, July 25, a junior Christian Endeavor was organized and will meet at the church every Thursday afternoon. Miss Cora Pratt as president, Miss Hattie Babson, treasurer and Mrs. Wilcox, secretary.

Mr. E.L. Arnold was voted a two weeks' vacation by his congregation, to be the last two weeks in August.

Eli Beasonette and Helen Laurette of this place were married at Hoosick Falls, N.Y. Saturday, July 27.

Mr. and Mrs. James B. Dean of Adams were in town visiting friends and relatives Saturday and Sunday, returning Monday home.

It is rumored that we are to have a new saw and grist mill, located where the Gains & McCumber mill burnt down several years ago.

Pownal

There were more developments in the recent attempt to set fire to the Bates Potter tenement yesterday. Officer Nash of Bennington arrested Clarence Rhodes, a young man of 18 years, on suspicion of being the guilty party. He was taken to Bennington in a closed carriage.

Nash also had a warrant to arrest Heland Pratt for burglary, but was unable to find the youth.

Charles K. Potter, Jr., has sold out his one-half interest in the crops on the Bates farm to Daniel Francis Bates and will return to his old vocation, that of telegraph operator on the Fitchburg railroad. Charles was heartily tired of farming.

C.K. Potter, Sr., will move a short distance down Church street from the Bard to the Ladd home.

A. G. Parker & Son are improving the looks of their store with a coat of paint.

Solomon Wright returned home yesterday from a business trip to New York.

Miss Richards of Woonsocket, R.I., and Miss Mary Hudson of Hudson, N.Y., who have been visiting Miss Lizzie Herman, returned home yesterday.

Miss Shaver formerly a teacher in our upper grade here is visiting Mrs. George Dunn.

Simmons of North Bennington is placing one of his new style furnaces in the home of the Hon. B.J. Gardner.

Can you identify the school or the people in these photos from Pownal?
They were recently purchased at an auction and donated to the Historical
Society. Email Raymond_Rodrigues@msn.com



History of Pownal Schools Available

Copies of the book that Ken and Joyce Held worked on with Pownal's Fourth
Grade students are available in the library for \$10.00

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Nov. 16: "Objects that Inspire Memories of Pownal Past"

Please join our members and friends at 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 16, in the Solomon Wright Public Library in Pownal as we share memories and thoughts about Pownal as inspired by various objects.

We invite folks to bring any objects that remind them of the past in any way: your grandmother's cookbook, a letter, your great uncle's wrench, a photo, something you found while working in your garden or remodeling your house---any and all objects qualify.

We'll go around the room and ask people who brought objects to talk about them, reminisce, speculate, or wonder as those objects help bring the past in Pownal to life. For more information, call 823-0198.

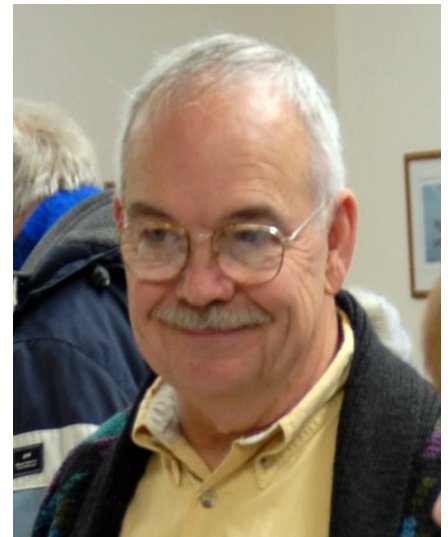
President's Message

by Ken Held

Greetings to all,

Before we know it, the holiday season will be upon us. This will be a year of change no matter who will be heading into office in January. Gone are the good old days when we weren't so worried about spending on holiday gifts. Now we are faced with having to make sure we have enough to pay the taxes and heat, let alone the other necessities of life like food and clothing. We are facing something that most of us have only heard about from our parents and grandparents. But as historians we must take comfort in knowing that our ancestors faced and survived some very hard times. We need to learn from them and bring back some of their old survival techniques. Giving home made gifts for Christmas instead of quickly forgotten store bought gifts will give us more time with our love ones and even cut back on traveling. We should all think of one family tradition that we've abandoned and do it this year. I am sure it will make us remember lots more about how our parents, grandparents and great grandparents had wonderful holiday seasons even though they were faced with hard times. Our children need to see that we come from strong stock that meets the challenges of time and survives. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Ken



Preserving the Past in Pownal Center

by Wendy Hopkins

Members of the Historical Society have been exploring the possibility of creating a State Historic District on the south end of Center St. in Pownal Center. Early town government was located here, as were a church and cemetery. Many of the homes date back to the 1700's and early 1800's. And with the development of 'new' US Route 7, Center Street became a dead end, helping to preserve the historic character of the neighborhood.

The first step in the application process to the State for listing on the Vermont Register of Historic Places was to determine the boundaries of the proposed district. This area is defined as including all properties which front onto Center from North Pownal Rd south. Next was to determine the interest of property owners. Fran Lampman and Wendy Hopkins met with each of the property owners to discuss the proposed district, answer questions, and gather history about their buildings. These conversations were informative and enjoyable, and once questions were answered, everyone was positive about the proposed historic district. Fran and Wendy also met with the Selectmen to bring them up-to-date on the project and answer their questions.

With recent approval from the Historical Society's Board of Directors, work is now progressing on writing the application, which will include descriptions and pictures of each of the properties. Before the application is submitted, there will be a gathering of all street owners, to share what we've learned and offer the opportunity for corrections and updates. Look forward to this meeting taking place sometime this winter.



The old hotel on Center St. in Pownal Center, currently Fran Lampman's house. Behind it, on the left, is part of Wendy and Peter Hopkins' house. These houses will soon be part of the Historic District.