



Pownal Gateway

Pownal Historical Society, Inc.

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Upcoming Meetings

Nov. 4, 2 p.m.

New Pownal Novel
Pownal Library

November 15, , 7 p.m.

Old Vermont Churches
Bennington Library

December

Annual Holiday Party
(date and time to
be announced)

The Dutch Brick House (a.k.a. The Tavern)

by Fran Lampman

The Dutch were the first settlers of Pownal, moving over from Hoosick, the Pownal intervales inviting them. You see, they were mainly farmers and inn keepers.

I do not know who built the Brick House, known as The Tavern or Tavern Stand. It is Dutch architecture and had a 2nd chimney on the north gable. The Dutch Homes were built of bark, then logs and 'some of the more pretentious used brick.' The Dutch kept their language and customs. I heard tell that my Great Grandfather had a newspaper sent to him from Holland.

This home predates the massacre in the streets of Boston, the hanging of the lantern by a silversmith in the North Church. These bricks and mortar stood firmly when the bridge at Concord was being witness to "the shot heard round the world." You read dates like 1700-1728 for the first Dutch Settlers.



Lampman home viewed from the Pownal Center Cemetery

And now more particulars of the Tavern: Spanning the ceilings, from the front to the rear of the tavern, are solid hand hewn chestnut timbers cut from primeval forests that stood untouched until four centuries ago. Reams could be written about the men who breached these forests with an ax and adz to craft these timbers.

(Continued on p. 4.)

Robert Peckam Remembers Boyhood in North Pownal

On September 16, 2007, Robert Peckham, responding to the probing and humorous questions of Margaret Lillie, led Historical Society members and friends in recounting his memories of being a young man in North Pownal. He remembered growing up in the hotel that is now a private home, swimming in the Tubs north of the current Post Office, and anecdotes about his relatives.

After marrying, he moved to Alaska, working and living on a military base there. He also read from a genealogy of his family that dates back to the 16th Century in England and that follows his family to Connecticut and then to Pownal.

He remembered a poem about the hotel, and Charlotte Comar has located that poem for us:

GLENWOOD HOTEL
Mrs. A.C. Peckham
Proprietress,
North Pownal, VT

Mr. & Mrs. Wm. A. Stead, 119 West 71st Street, NY, NY
Virginia & Hazel Stead

“An Appreciation”

When the tired city dweller in his house of stone and steel,
Ponders o'er the city's bustle, then starts in to think and feel,
Of the twelve month's hurry, worry and the steady daily grind,
How he longs and hopes and wishes to soon leave all toil behind.

Then time comes for a vacation and a rest far, far away,
Where the cares are all forgotten, where the days are long and gay.
Where his wife and “little” kiddies can enjoy the wild and free,
And can rest in fields contented just as real as it should be.

And if one should start to wonder where a place like this should be,
Where the hills are green with verdure far, high up above the Sea,
Where the songbird loves to linger and to chirp his ceaseless tune.

Where the air is soft and balmy and the days end all too soon.

Then it must be answered truly and of course, most glad to say, It's the dear old State of Vermont down the
Old New England way,

In the little town – North Pownal set among high hill serene,
Stands the far famed Glenwood Cottage good enough for King and Queen.
Where the dear old Mrs. Peckham makes her guest her lasting friends,



Upcoming Meetings

November 3: Library Book Sale

At the Solomon Wright Public Library. Funds used to support the Library.

November 4: Pownal Author Speaks

On Sunday, November 4, at 2 p.m. in the Solomon Wright Public Library in Pownal, local author and Pownal Historical Society member Ray Rodrigues will talk about and read from his novel, *Memoir of a Green Mountain Boy*, in an open meeting for community members.

The novel begins in 1774 and takes the main character, a young boy from Pownal, through the first three years of the American Revolution. “I tried to put myself in the place of a young man living in Pownal during those key years, watching his neighbors and friends turning against one another as each took sides both for and against the Revolution.” The main character, Erastus, hears the mythic tales of Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys and, fueled with youthful enthusiasm and patriotic pride, joins them for adventure after adventure. His often naïve view puts him in both funny and sad situations.

At the beginning of his presentation, Rodrigues will portray the main character 50 years after the events in the story. He will be available to sign books after the presentation. For more information, go to: <http://www.green-mountain-boy.com>.

November 8-11: Eastern States Archaeology Meeting

In Burlington. For more information, go to: <http://vtarchaeology.org/cms/ESAFhome>

November 15: Atkinson Talks about Early Vermont Churches

On Thursday, November 15 at 7 p.m. in the Bennington Museum, Historical Society Board member Ted Atkinson will present an illustrated talk about early churches, “Early churches in Vermont and Beyond.” The talk is sponsored by the Bennington Historical Society and, like our programs, is free and open to the public. Ted will discuss churches in Thetford Hills, Strafford, Rupert, Rockingham, Bennington and “Rocky Hill” in Amesbury, Mass. His talk will be accompanied by slides and represents knowledge gained through a thirty-year hobby.



Lampman House (cont'd from p. 1)

Casual digging in the area unearths arrow heads and shards of pottery. It is not difficult to imagine a lively community gathering place at this historic door yard.

But more, walk the 50 feet to the front of the house and you walk forward a century or more to the addition built or added on in 1846 or 47. The grand list was missing for 1846, but the 1847 grand list shows the addition and value change from \$412.00 to \$800.00. Here on the doors of the rooms are the impressions that mark the places where numbers denoted the rental spaces of THE UNION HOUSE

Deeds refer to the house as the TAVERN HOUSE, where wayfarers called for food and ale, and later with the addition it became a hotel with a final title THE UNION HOUSE. A side tidbit: because of the plank post and beam construction and brick, you can hang a picture at your choosing on the walls of the brick or clapboard house. (To be continued in the next newsletter.)

Genealogies Available in Library

by Charles Clark

The following Pownal genealogies are now at the library in hardcopy: Angell, Barber, Bushnell, Card, Dimmock, Dunham, Dunnning, Hosford, Hungerford, Jewett, Ladd, Larabee, Munson, Oviatt, Scranton, Seeley, Sherman, Stanton, Stannard, and Whipple. The majority of the information is taken from printed genealogies updated with local information through the first Pownal generation.

Presently they can be photocopied. Soon a computer database of all Pownal genealogies will be available.

Additions, corrections, and new family additions are not only welcome but necessary to complete this project. Each family has a folder where additional information can be left for inclusion. Ask our librarian for assistance.

Bartels House Update

We'd like to thank Select Board Member Steve Kauppi and Peter Hopkins for having climbed up on the roof of the Bartels house and installed protective tarps to keep the rain from damaging the house further. The Select Board is in the process of deciding which consulting firm will assess the Town's need for a new town hall and whether the Bartels House can be renovated either as a way of providing space for the town hall or for some other purpose.



Archaeological Excavations

On September 27, archaeologist Corey McQuinn of Hartgen Associates described his work with other archaeologists surveying and digging along the Hoosick River from North Pownal to Pownal. The work was part of the contractual work required by the State whenever planned construction will disturb large areas of the land. In this case, the work preceded the excavations of the new sewer lines. Hartgen Associates is one of the private archaeological consulting firms that contracts with Vermont, New York, and other states to conduct required research prior to State and community construction projects.

McQuinn explained the three major phases of work that archaeologists do on such projects. The first consists of research into the history and previous archaeological work in the area. In this case, Hartgen's work was somewhat simplified by earlier work here by the University of Massachusetts. The second phase involves digging test pits to determine whether evidence of earlier occupations exists across the area being studied and whether further excavations are warranted. The third phase is the detailed, extensive excavation of areas that need to be preserved and that may contain valuable information that would be lost with the construction. In the case of this project, it ended with the second phase and with the laboratory analyses that followed.

McQuinn divided the findings into historical and "pre-contact" periods. The archaeologists found numerous instances of early historic pottery dating back to the mid-1700's. This pottery was mostly British in origin since our region had become part of Britain many years earlier. The archaeologists did not find any artifacts that were Dutch in origin, since any Dutch inhabitants at that time were living in British territory. The location of the current library was once the location of an early store. At the site of the store, archaeologists found a snuff box, a token from the Robinson and Jones button company, and part of a trap. Nearby, the Mooar-Wright-DeVoet property also produced evidence of early occupation.

Native American artifacts were scattered up and down the river valley, most often on the higher terraces along the river. The material used for many of the artifacts came from other locations, indicating an ongoing trade and/or movement of the people up and down the river, out toward the Hudson, and south into Connecticut. Remains of roasted hickory nuts indicated those were a major food source, and remains of cattails pointed toward their use in basketry.

McQuinn indicated that some of the most interesting finds were musket flints made of native chert. European settlers tended to use English or French flint for their musket flints, but these finds indicated that the native Americans were improvising with materials at hand.

His presentation was co-sponsored by the Historical Society and the Vermont Archaeological Society, with the generous support of Librarian Linda Hall.



A “Thank You” to the Library

Have you ever noticed that, whenever our Historical Society has an event, Linda Hall, the Librarian at the Solomon Wright Public Library, has set up a special display in support of that event? At the recent archaeology talk, she set out a table with books on Vermont archaeology, made a special display of Native American artifacts in addition to the Sweeney collection in the back room, and provided the screen for the presenter. We’ve seen her efforts in previous talks with such special displays as postcards from Pownal, books about women pioneers, and books about Vermont in the Civil War. Beyond support for our Society, the Library sponsors a book club, holds musical events, promotes the food bank, and provides wireless internet access.

We are indeed fortunate to have Linda and the Library in our community. One way we can say thanks is to go to the Library’s book sale on November 3rd. And if you can’t do that, thank Linda or Library Board Chair Ruth Botzow, or the volunteers who keep the library running and serve us so willingly.

New Members

The Pownal Historical Society welcomes the following new members:

Pastor Lise M. Boulerville, Pownal, VT


Ann Bugbee, Bennington, VT (returning member)

Jane Radocchia, Bennington, VT

Sydney & Rosamond Smithers, Pownal, VT

E-mail addresses

Do you have an e-mail address? The Historical Society board would like to know so that we can notify members with e-mail in case of last minute information that cannot go out through the newsletter or the local newspapers. Please send your e-mail addresses to: Ken Held -- heldkw@comcast.net and Charlotte Comar -- charcomar@comcast.net

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| Officers Ken Held, President Fran Lampman, Vice President Charlotte Comar, Treasurer Wendy Hopkins, Secretary Board Members Ted Atkinson, Programs Dot Banks Charles Clark Joyce Held Margaret Lillie Jeanne Overstreet, membership Raymond Rodrigues, Newsletter Website: www.pownal.org E-mail: pownal@comcast.net | Pownal Historical Society, inc. P.O. Box 313 Pownal, VT 05261  | Our Goals <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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