



Pawlett Historical Society
P.O. Box 113
Pawlet, Vermont 05761

Visit us at pawlethistoricalsociety.org/
and
Facebook Pawlett Historical Society

Pages from the
**PAWLET
SCRAPBOOK**



Pawlett Historical Society

September 2023

A message from the President...

OFFICERS

Rose Smith
President

Judy Coolidge
Treasurer

John Malcolm
Secretary

Martha Schoenemann
Historian

Sarah Rath
Curator

TRUSTEES

Susan Hosley
Theresa Jones
Ken Major

Barry Meinerth
Matthew Proft
Jack Rath

Rhonda Schlangen
Stephen Williams
Suzanne Wright

**NEWSLETTER
PRODUCTION**

Rhonda Schlangen (editor)
Susan Hosley
Judy Coolidge
Theresa Jones

If you were able to attend our 50th Anniversary celebration in July, we hope you enjoyed the exhibits and entertainment. If not, we hope this newsletter gives you a snapshot of the event.

I would like to thank the many volunteers who helped to make the celebration a huge success: Eileen Travell allowed Judy Coolidge and Susan Hosley to choose the wonderful farm photos from the Neil Rappaport collection that we displayed. Eileen and her husband, Andrew Kromelow were also most generous of their time setting up.

Thank you to the many community members who permitted us to display their farm photos. Seeing so many people gathered to view and visit was such a treat. People who donated money and time are listed on page 7. Thank you to those who allowed us to use their photographs for the *Agricultural Pictorial Scrapbook*. *The personal pictures made a huge difference in including as many farms as possible.*

Thank you to the PHS members and their families who made the event happen. The 50th Anniversary Committee members Susan Hosley, Theresa Jones, Sarah Rath, Rhonda Schlangen, Steve Williams, Suzanne Wright, and I spent a year planning the event. A big thank you to Judy Coolidge, co-chair of the 50th Anniversary Committee, who orchestrated the event's moving parts. We couldn't have done it without her leadership and organization! Thank you to the Pawlett Historical Society board members who helped run the event. The teamwork was spectacular.

Thank you to Sarah Rath, Sarah Ludlum, and Suzanne Wright for their tireless efforts to assemble and display our spectacular textiles—A special shout out to Sarah Ludlum for her many talents in organizing and detailing the exhibit descriptions. I had been told by a long-standing board member that our textile collection was very strong, and this exhibit proved that. Thank you to Martha Schoenemann for pitching during set-up. Thank you to Rhonda Schlangen and Steve Williams for arranging the "Many Meanings of Maple" speaker and Lewis' maple sugar wagon. Thank you to Judy Coolidge and Theresa Jones for the wonderful advertising and promotion.

Special thanks to photographer Karen Huerta, who volunteered her time and talent. She and PHS member Susan Hosley documented the day and took the photos included in this newsletter. Thank you to Lisa Moore and Stephanie Browe for donating the homemade maple cookies – we had many rave reviews.

Thank you to the Pawlet Selectboard and Pawlet Library Board for their support and permission to use the Town Hall and Library. Thank you to Constable Dave Ricard for managing traffic and keeping everyone safe.

With gratitude,

Rose Smith, President

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, September 13: PHS Monthly Board Meeting

Saturday, September 16:
Cemetery clean-up by PHS and community volunteers

Wednesday, October 11: PHS Annual Meeting



PHS members (Right to Left)
Susan Hosley, Theresa Jones, Sue Wright, Steve Williams, Rose Smith, Judy Coolidge, Rhonda Schlangen, Sarah Rath. Not present: Ken Major, John Malcolm, Barry Meinerth, Matt Proft, Jack Rath, Martha Schoenemann.

A Community Celebration of 50 Years of the Pawlett Historical Society

Rhonda Schlangen

On a sunny day in late July, the Pawlett Historical Society welcomed community members and visitors to a party celebrating fifty years of conserving and sharing Pawlet history. Throughout the afternoon, the Pawlet Village Center buzzed with activities. Magician Blaine Goad entertained children of all ages in the library while local artist Gretchen Hammell painted faces outside on the Green. Our theme was honoring Pawlet's agricultural heritage. Two photographic displays in the library brought forth stories of our past and present farms and farm families. Eileen Travell and Andrew Kromelow joined PHS members to organize an exhibition of late Pawlet photographer Neil Rappaport's effort to document Pawlet's farms. Judy Coolidge pulled together a display of aerial photos of Pawlet's farms, with photos loaned from area farm families. Over in the upstairs of the Town Hall, the newly-lighted and air-conditioned space was filled with textiles from as early as the 1850s, including hand-woven textiles, quilts, formal and work wear, children's clothing and other artifacts from the PHS archives. Guest Speaker Michael Lange from the VT Humanities

Council spoke about the cultural and social significance of maple sugaring, illustrated with sugarmaking artifacts loaned by Mrs. Bill Clark. Throughout the day, fueled by maple sweets from the Lewis Family Sugar Truck, neighbors met neighbors and celebrated what it means to be a part of our small community tucked in our little corner of the Green Mountains. Late in the day, people spread out on the Green, enjoying picnic fare from the Pawlet Fire Department and celebratory cupcakes from Flour Girl Bakery in Rupert. And as the sun's glow dipped below the western horizon, the fifth-generation Vermont fiddler, Patrick Ross, serenaded the gathering with melodies resonating from his Northeast Kingdom-Quebec heritage, a fusion of Celtic traditions and contemporary interpretations. The music, at once ancient and completely new, served as a poignant reminder of the ever-evolving tapestry of our community. It underscored the perpetual renewal and strength that emerge as new threads are interwoven with the old to make our community what it is today.

Concert by Vermont Fiddler Patrick Ross



Left: Facepainting artwork by Gretchen Hammell

Right: Magician, Blaine Goad entertaining kids of all ages



Thank you to individuals and businesses who supported the PHS 50th Anniversary Celebration

- Baierlein Landscaping
- Gary and Mandy Baierlein
- Mike and Janet Baierlein Beecher
- Eileen and Frank Bellavia
- Berkshire Bank
- Robert and Linda Carrell
- Ed and Sally Cleveland
- Judy and Bud Coolidge
- Olivia Coolidge
- Virginia M. Daring
- Grandpa's Stuff Maple Cream
- Platt Herrick
- Susan and Terry Hosley
- R Hulett Trucking
- James Jennings
- Bill and Theresa Jones
- Larson Farm & Creamery
- Laughing Child Farm, LLC
- Stephen Leach
- Priscilla Hubbard Leonard
- Tom and Felicity South Littlepage
- J.R. Loomis, Inc.
- Mach's Market
- Ken Major and Amy Murphy
- John Malcolm
- Barry and Marcia Meinerth
- Newmont Slate Company
- Matthew and Joy Proft
- Jack and Sarah Rath
- Rhonda Schlangen and Jacob Park
- Bob and Martha Schoenemann
- Madrona and Bowdhi Schoenemann
- Spruce and Mary Schoenemann
- Mary Haskins Sheldon
- Rose Smith
- Jennifer Sullivan
- Eileen Travell and Andrew Kromelow
- Tree Song Vermont
- Leila Elorfi Walsh
- Charlene and Chuck Webster
- Steve Williams

Donations to support the event were also made in memory of the following people:

- Charles and Joyce Baker
- Jordan T. Smith
- Nate and Brenda Smith
- Sam and Carolyn Young

The PHS wishes to thank all of the many individuals who contributed to the event in big and small ways. They are too numerous to thank.

Thank you to all who attended, your support made the planning and execution of this event so worthwhile.

VNA & HOSPICE
of the Southwest Region
Serving Bennington and Rutland Counties

Our family caring for your family, since 1946

Local staff. Award-winning services. Trusted community partner.

800-244-0568

Visit us at www.vermontvisitingnurses.org

Cemetery Clean-up

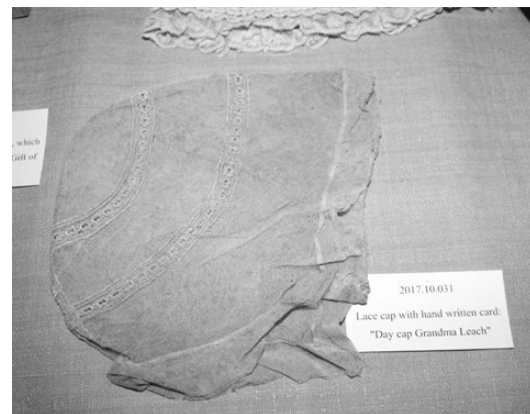
Saturday, September 16, 2023
9:00 AM to Noon
Cemetery Hill, Pawlet, VT

Cleaning supplies provided, please join us.



Keeping Cool and Staying Warm: Fashions from Pawlet's Past

Sarah Rath



The textile exhibit was an enormous undertaking, but our goal of sharing the PHS collection with the public kept us on track. All exhibited items were part of our collection except for two outfits loaned to us for the occasion. Many were handmade and had been kept safe for generations in Pawlet homes. The outfits and other textiles – quilts, blankets, and other linens – represented fashion from the mid-1850s to the 1940s.

We were very fortunate to have folks willing to loan us mannequins and dress forms. A special thank you to the Southern Vermont Art Center for their loan of numerous dress forms, enabling us to exhibit most of our collection.

Volunteer Sarah Ludlum led our committee with her spreadsheet skills and knowledge of history and fashion. The logistics of choosing the pieces, transporting, setting up, and returning them to their original boxes were challenging, but it all worked out. We were surprised that almost every outfit was mainly smaller (in the waist) than our dress forms, even those that were adjustable. We had to get creative to not have any wardrobe malfunctions! We also decided we were glad the corset went out of fashion long ago. Many thanks to Sarah Ludlum, Suzanne Wright, Judy Coolidge, and Martha Schoenemann for all their hard work and attention to detail!



Featured Speaker: The Many Meanings of Maple

Rhonda Schlangen

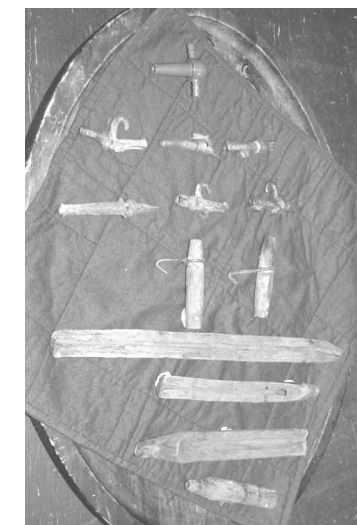
During his talk, author of *The Meaning of Maple* and Champlain College professor Michael Lange explored the multifaceted significance of the Vermont maple tradition. He highlighted its cultural and social importance, exploring its various meanings. He discussed how maple sugaring is not only a longstanding agricultural practice dating back to the Abenaki and other indigenous communities who populated Vermont, but also a symbol of community bonding and resilience. Lange emphasized the deep-rooted connections between people, nature, and tradition, drawing attention to how maple sugaring reflects the intertwining threads of heritage, innovation, and a sense of belonging. Sugaring is a lens through which we can examine broader themes such as heritage preservation, the intersection of past and present, the relationship between humans and nature, and the ways in which communities adapt to changes while still valuing their traditions.



Michael Lange, speaking in the Pawlett Town Hall. The painted curtain at rear includes advertisements from local businesses during the first part of the



Advertisement for Vermont maple syrup product published in Life Magazine, March 10, 1941, courtesy of West Schlangen



Farm Photo Exhibit Judy Coolidge

To celebrate the theme of the PHS 50th anniversary, we organized a two-part photography exhibit in the Pawlett Library. The first part of the exhibit featured photos of local farm families photographed by Neil Rappaport, who lived in Pawlett for thirty years and commemorated the families who operated our local farms until he died in 1998. The second part featured photos loaned by local farmers showcasing their sugarmaking and dairy operations, including many aerial images. I spent months working with local farmers and photographers to borrow photos for the exhibit, and putting together the photography exhibit was one of my greatest pleasures.

Seeing the reaction of the many people who attended the show was even more rewarding. People milled around the rooms at the library, viewing the photos one by one. For many, it was an opportunity to reminisce or to recall the day Neil Rappaport came to take their picture, a wonderful trip down memory lane. I heard, "Wow, I wouldn't have recognized him," or "I forgot he worked on that farm." Especially fun was seeing people who were children during the 1980s and early 1990s showing photos of themselves to their family and friends.



For some of our older farmers no longer in the business, the exhibit provided an excellent opportunity to catch up with one another. A few of the photos that stood out to me were: the little girl in the photo helping her Dad fix a piece of machinery, now grown, who has instilled in her own children the appreciation of animals and farming; the young boy who, at eight years old looked as though he were a farmer already, and who now is one of the biggest employers (farm and trucking) in the Town of Pawlett; and the baby in his mother's arms who is grown and now managing the farm that has been in his family for generations. We are ever grateful to Neil and Susanne Rappaport for the gift of photos they left Pawlett, to the farm families who proudly provided aerial and land photos and great conversation, and to the men and women who, in 2023, are still dedicated to making a living on the farm.



Rich Hulett, holding the portrait Neil Rappaport took of him as a boy on his family's farm

More Farm Photos



Commemorative Farm Tour Booklet

To honor the occasion, PHS president Rose Smith created an Agricultural Pictorial Scrapbook of Pawlett's farms past and present. The booklet can be used as a reference when driving the roads around Pawlett, with a map marking the location of the farms whose photos are included in the booklet. Copies of the booklet will be available in the Pawlett Town Hall and Pawlett Library. If you'd like to receive a copy, please email your request and mailing address to rhondaschlangen@gmail.com