the PENDULUM

The Newsletter of the Pound Ridge Historical Society
& the Pound Ridge Museum

Summer 2010 Volume XVVIII Number 1

PRHS Annual Meeting & Bus Tour, April 25, 2010

Our Pound Ridge Town House, formerly owned and then donated to the town by the Slade family, was an apt location for the PRHS 2010 Annual Meeting which was held on Sunday, April 25th. It was a great kickoff to our first program for the year; an adult one-hour bus tour highlighting history, homes, and a little touch of humor of Pound Ridge past. An almost sell-out crowd traveled in a very comfortable bus while town historian Vince Manna delivered an exciting narration of our town's history. The tour focused on the Trinity Pass/Barnegat/Fancher area with much information on the contributions made to Pound Ridge by inventor, investor, and designer Hiram Halle. A stop at Selleck's Chapel was on the route, where participants joined our past PRHS president and founder Dick Major in the Chapel to have their questions answered about this quaint building and cemetery.

We hope to interest more of our residents to take part in this adventure. If you would like to learn more about your town, please join us and call the museum for more information.

At the business meeting which preceded the bus tour, Nominating Committee Chair Ebie Wood, presented its slate for consideration. The following were unanimously elected to office: President, Joyce Butterfield, Corresponding Secretary, Ruth Mendes, Trustees: Larry Brotmann, Nancy Finne, Gordon Kahn, Frank Kearns, Richard Major, Mark Rosenbaum, Josina van der Maas.

THE BENDERS: An Extraordinary Pound Ridge Family, 1928-2010

Our current exhibit at the Pound Ridge Museum in the Hamlet, celebrates the Bender family of Pound Ridge – Robert ("Bob"), Helen ("Hebe") and their daughter Beverly. The Benders came to Pound Ridge in 1928 and from then on left an indelible mark on our community. Bob, a nationally noted newsman, famous for his travels with President Woodrow Wilson, was a founding member of our fire department. Hebe, after her husband's death, began the development of Bender Way and the reconstruction and renovation of antique homes. Beverly is a well-respected artist and sculptor and a number of her pieces will be on display in the Museum. Fortunately, the Benders kept a wonderful record of their lives and Pound Ridge activities – allowing us a fascinating glimpse of earlier times in our town. This exhibit will run through December. The Pound Ridge Museum is open Saturdays and Sundays, from 2 to 4 p.m. 764-4333

A Pound Ridge Summer ca.1910

Edward Paulding Thiell, Jr., of Ohio, came across an album of photos from his grandparents picturing their stay in their Pound Ridge summer home in 1910. Their vacation photos with a unique view into Pound Ridge and summer fun with their families were published in our last issue.

A technical glitch during the printing resulted in some "thumbprint-sized" photos which are republished here at the correct size.

Appropriately for us, the photo of the children at the spring demonstrates how to cool off before air-conditioning. Also, note the "green" transportation à la 1910.

Again, our thanks to Ned Paulding for sharing this memoir of a hundred years ago.

Hazel Paulding driving Mrs. Adams' horse, Fannie.

Doey Morell and Grace Paulding draw water from the spring.

Pound Ridge Historical Society · Annual Report for 2009

The Pound Ridge Historical Society continues to document all gifts received by the society on its computer. Any names associated with these gifts are recorded at that time to enhance "search" procedure at some later date, either for the Society exhibit purposes or for those people performing genealogical research. The number of items archived as of December 3l, 2009 is l,633. Eastwood LLC donated 22 boxes of artifacts unearthed from the site of the present day Pound Ridge Golf Club.

The Pound Ridge Museum was open from March to December on Saturdays and Sundays, 2–4 p.m., with a group of some 50 volunteer docents assisting in this endeavor. Approximately 100 guests visited our museum during the year.

The annual meeting held in April presented guest speaker Harlan Jessup, editor of the quarterly publication of the Connecticut Ancestry Association. His talk related to the "oblong" running along the New York State and Connecticut/Massachusetts border.

- The Society's annual antiques show, our only fund raiser, was canceled in November due to the inability to attract a sufficient number of dealers for the show.
- Membership receipts during the year totaled $7,110 compared to $7,255 in 2008. These yearly amounts are about 30% lower than previous years.
- A mini exhibit was assembled by Ebie Wood highlighting the Slauson family of Pound Ridge.
- Two $1,000 scholarships were awarded to Pound Ridge students who excelled in the study of history. Melissa Verdier, with the help of narrator Ebie Wood, offered a bus trip for 3rd grade students of the Pound Ridge Elementary School. This trip covered the area of Trinity Pass, Barnegat Road, Westchester Avenue and Fancher Road. Each student was given a booklet highlighting the details of this tour, accompanied by photographs from the Society's archives. The tour concluded with a visit to our museum.
- Richard Major and Vince Manna assembled a book of photographs and history of old Pound Ridge from Society archives. The publisher was Arcadia Publishing of South Carolina. A book signing was held at the local library in early November attended by some 50 people. Cost of this book is $22.

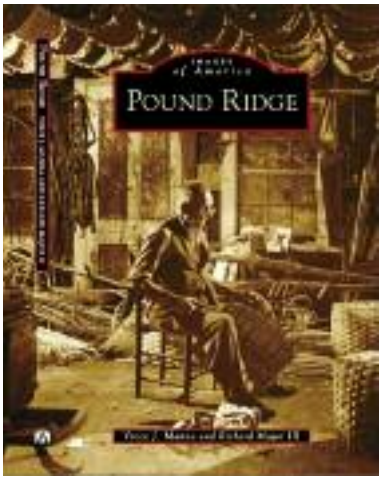
I personally wish to thank all the many members and trustees/officers of the Society who have assisted me as president over the past seven years.

R. L. Major

Richard Major, President
Pound Ridge Historical Society
April 25, 2010

Memorial Day, 2010

Making its debut in the Memorial Day parade this year is our new banner designed by Society Vice President Melissa Verdier (far right) marching with (from the left) trustee Mary Anne Condon and Society president Joyce Butterfield. Also marching were Vince Manna (Town Historian), son Zachary and Nancy Butterfield.



Images of America – Pound Ridge
by Vincent J. Manna and Richard Major III

Many hours by co-authors Vince Manna and Dick Major were spent in the archives of the Pound Ridge Historical Society reviewing some 800 photographs on file. Of these, approximately 200 photographs were selected with a few loaned to the Society for inclusion in the book. An early 20th-century map is displayed as a background for the various sections of the town: Long Ridge to High Ridge Roads; Poundridge Village (The Hamlet); Boutonville; Barnegat, East Woods, Fancher and Trinity Pass; Trinity Lake, and Scotts Corners along with an historical narrative.

The book may be purchased for $22 at Antiques & Interiors, Chubby's Hardware, Pound Ridge Library, Poundridge Nurseries and Scotts Corner Market. Or, order the book ($22 plus $5 for shipping). Call 764-4333 to have a copy shipped, or email the Pound Ridge Historical Soci-

PRESERVE THE PAST AND YOU WILL PROTECT THE FUTURE!

Before I lived in Pound Ridge, I used to drive to some of the antique shops in Scotts Corners from my home in Yorktown. While I drove to the Hamlet either along Pound Ridge Road or Stone Hill Road or from Route 35 in South Salem down Salem Road, I would marvel at the beautiful white fences and the stunning old homes in perfect condition. In the fall, the ancient trees turned brilliant colors enhancing the white fences and the elegant white country houses. I felt I was in New England not Westchester County. How did Pound Ridge manage to keep this heritage intact, I wondered. As an architect, I'm always interested in historic buildings and their pride of place. I had just purchased my first house, which was built in 1839. Antique homes became my passion. But I never thought I would be living in the wonderful town called Pound Ridge that I so admired. Now I feel privileged to be involved with maintaining the character that makes our town so special. We on the Landmarks Commission thought you would like to know some simple facts about the Commission and what it means to landmark a house. Landmark owners are very special people and their vision helps to make Pound Ridge so unique and beautiful. Why not join them?

What is the Pound Ridge Landmarks & Historic District Commission — and what are its goals?

The Commission is a town committee involved in identifying, recognizing, protecting and preserving local homes, landmarks, landmark sites and Town Historic districts within Pound Ridge, thereby preserving the Town's architectural history. In addition, the Commission acts as an advisory source to owners of older homes. We are a wealth of expertise including 2 architects, a builder, a developer and others with many skills and experience, many of whom live in Landmark houses.

When was the Commission formed?

Since its beginning in 1973, the Commission has designated 82 sites as landmarks including individual homes and cemeteries. It also designated the Hamlet of Pound Ridge a historic district. The Hamlet was later listed on the New York State Register of Historic Places as well as the National Register of Historic Places.

Solomon Lockwood House, in the Hamlet

Does my house have to be old to be designated a landmark?

Age is a very important criterion in determining eligibility for landmark designation, especially if it can be documented. Any changes which have been made to the original house will be viewed by the Commission in regard to their appropriateness. A building of outstanding architectural or aesthetic value, will also be considered by the Commission.

If my house is designated a landmark, can I make any changes to it?

The Commission is not concerned with the interior of the home, the exterior paint color and ordinary repair or maintenance not involving an exterior design change. A Certificate of Appropriateness, which is similar to a zoning variance, must be obtained from the Commission for any exterior alteration which is visible from a public road. However, the Commission is sensitive to owner's needs and will carefully consider any changes that do not alter the facade in a significant way.

Reverend William Patterson House, in the Hamlet

What are the advantages and disadvantages of owning a landmark house?

The advantages are both tangible and intangible. There is a sense of pride and satisfaction in owning a landmark house. Most buyers interested in old houses consider it an asset to have a landmark home that has been documented as such, or to be part of an historic district. Property owners in an historic district are assured that the character of the district will be preserved. There are no disadvantages to owning a landmark home, although there are some restrictions which serve to preserve the visible integrity of the house.

If I own a house in Pound Ridge and might want it designated as a landmark, what do I need to do?

Contact the chairman of the Landmarks & Historic District Commission to indicate your interest in having your home designated. An application, available online at the town website, www.townofpoundridge.com, must then be completed, with photographs of the house attached. The house will then be visited, discussed and evaluated by the Commission. The town historian will do extensive research on the house to determine its provenance and will recommend an appropriate name for the new landmark. There is no fee for the application, the site visit or research.

Carol A. Cioppa AIA LEED AP
Chairman, Pound Ridge Landmarks & Historic District Commission

Illustrations by Melissa Verdier, from *Historic Landmarks of Pound Ridge* published in 1996 by the Pound Ridge Historical Society.