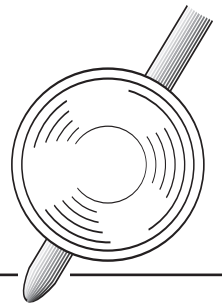


the *PENDULUM*

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

Spring 2008

Volume XXVI Number 1



“9,000 Years on the Back Nine: The Archaeology of the Pound Ridge Golf Club.”

The Annual Meeting of the Pound Ridge Historical Society took place at the Pound Ridge Town House on Sunday, April 29th at 2:00 p.m. Ebie Wood, chairman of the Nominating Committee presented the following slate which was accepted by acclamation: President, Richard Major; Corresponding Secretary, Murray Levy; and Trustees: Ebie Wood, Melissa Verdier, Vince Manna, Mary Anne Condon, Ruth Mendes.

Ernest A. Wiegand, Professor of Archaeology, Norwalk Community College, presented “9,000 Years on the Back

Nine: The Archaeology of the Pound Ridge Golf Club.” Prior to the transformation of the Pound Ridge Golf Club from a 9-hole to a world-class 18-hole course, a series of archaeological studies were conducted to determine if any prehistoric sites were located within the “back nine,” an area characterized by rough topography, extensive rock outcrops, streams and wetlands. The studies were conducted over a 5- to 6-year period.

9,000 years ago, the 2-mile thick Wisconsin 3 glacier covered this area. While humans were found in the area — hunting, fishing, etc. — the population dropped as the glacier retreated, replaced by pine forests. By 5,000 BC, modern deciduous growth encouraged population growth in the late Archaic period (4,000-1,200 BC). Agriculture developed in 800 to 900 AD. Some fired pottery from this period has been found. In the late 1500s and early 1600s, after first contact with early settlers, the Indians were pushed out of the area by conflict and disease, although some did turn up on a 19th century census.

The western area of the site includes the headwaters of the Rippowam River and is characterized by wetlands and rocky knolls. In Stage 1 of the studies, several hundred stone points were found. Stage 2 was to identify their importance. Stone points of varying design were found dating from 6,000-7,000 BC. At Site 2, evidence indicated constant usage from 2,500-1,800 BC. Most points were for spears, not arrows and dated as recently as the 16th-17th centuries. Pottery was seldom found since the layer of soil covering the rock is too shallow to provide much protection. Over the years, as the ground at the sites was repeatedly walked upon, existing sherds would be broken up repeatedly. Some finer pottery sherds (1,000 BC-1 AD) were found, however.

The “Rock Shelter” site provided an overhang for cooking even in the rain, as well as protection from winter weather. It is probably the oldest “house” in Pound Ridge! Thousands of years of artifacts were found in its compressed soil floor. Other findings indicating more recent usage by early settlers included clay tobacco pipes, gun flints and lead used for making bird shot. The Rock Shelter is one of only two Native American sites in Westchester County.

Pound Ridge Historical Society • Annual Report for 2007

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 when received to enhance “search” procedures at some later date, either for Society exhibit purposes or for people performing genealogical research. The number of items archived as of December 31, 2007 is 1,560.

The Pound Ridge Museum was open from March to December on Saturdays and Sundays 2-4 PM, with a group of some 50 volunteer docents assisting in this endeavor. Approximately 70 guests visited our museum during the year.

The annual meeting held in April presented guest speaker Syl Gleissner of Danbury, CT. The title of his presentation was “A Forage Affair” which related to an original 1780 document testifying that a Jabez Clark of Poundridge provided forage (corn and hay) for Col. Elisha Sheldon’s troops.

There were two fundraising events for the Society. *An Afternoon with Rogers and Hart* was presented in March to benefit the Nancy Wasserman Memorial Fund. The Society’s 33rd Annual Antiques Show was held in November at the Fox Lane High School. Approximately 1,200 people attended with 40 volunteers. The antiques show received

(Cont’d on page 2)

PHOTO ROSEMARIE RIZZO-TOLK



Richard Major, guest speaker Ernest A. Wiegand, PRHS members Tom & Athena Rizzo, on whose property earlier archaeological studies were conducted.

2. Pound Ridge Historical Society · Annual Report for 2007 (Cont'd from page 1)

financial support from our local business establishments through advertisements in the antiques show booklet, along with patron support by Society members.

Membership category during the year totaled 197. This number has remained rather constant over the past 5 years and the Society appreciates this financial support.

Josina vander Maas of Pound Ridge provided the Society's newsletter with a fictional story based on names listed in records of the old Presbyterian Church. There were two installments, one in the spring of this year and one in our November issue.

The exhibit of the Marshall Family of Pound Ridge, which opened in July of 2006, was carried over into 2007.

The Society continues to sell reprints of *God's Country* by Jay Harris, as well as *Pound Ridge Past* published by Bonni Brodnick in 2006.

I personally wish to thank all those persons who have so generously donated their time and financial support to our organization. Support from the Town of Pound Ridge through the Society's use of the museum building and an archival room in the basement of Conant Hall cannot go unmentioned.

Richard Major, April 27, 2008

President



Thanks for your support of our 33rd Annual Antiques Show November 24th- 25th

The show was a great success because of over 1,200 visitors, dedicated volunteers and the support of our local businesses and patrons who advertised in our Show booklet. Under the direction of Show Chair Joyce Butterfield, and Show Manager Martin Greenstein, Fox Lane High School was the site of another fabulous show. We look forward to seeing you all at next year's show in November 2008.

Thanks again for your help and support!



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GOD'S COUNTRY can be yours!

If you missed the first reprint of Jay Harris Hess' definitive history of Pound Ridge, *God's Country*, the second printing of the book is available for only \$70 each. The hardbound book, complete with dust cover, is a full-sized facsimile reproduction of the original.

You may pick up a copy at the Museum on Saturday or Sunday from 2-4 p.m.

Or, you can order the book via email or directly from the Society by mail. There is a nominal charge of \$8 for mailing. Please make checks payable to the *Pound Ridge Historical Society*.

POUND RIDGE PAST: Remembrances of our Townfolk

Pound Ridge Past: Remembrances of Our Townsfolk, by Bonni Brodnick, with photographs by Fran Collin and graphic design by Gina Federico, is a collection of more than 30 first-person interviews with the town's elders. The recollections in this nonprofit project span from the 1920s to the 1970s, and reveal what life was like in the 20th century.

Copies are available at the Museum. Or request from: Pound Ridge Past, 217 Salem Road, Pound Ridge, NY 10576. For more information, call 763-3218.

PHOTO RICHARD MENDES



Memorial Day Parade 2008 Monday, May 26th *Pound Ridge School to Burial Hill*

Joyce Butterfield and Melissa Verdier lead our group with our banner. Behind the banner were: Joan and Dick Major with 3-year-old grandson Ricky, Vincent Manna with 3-year-old son Zachary, and Lee Nicholson with son Scott.

The ceremonies were held in the Pound Ridge Cemetery on Burial Hill, followed by refreshments and live band music in the Town Park.

PRES Predicts 2008 Presidential Outcome!

The Fourth Grade New York State curriculum includes a unit on government, and the Pound Ridge Historical Society Outreach Program is sponsoring an Improv Program provided by Arts Horizons, out of New Jersey, that will entertain and delight the 81 fourth graders on June 20th.

Earlier in the week, students will hear a talk from our own town supervisor, Gary Warshauer, who is delighted to give the students a look at how our town government works. A mock election at PRES will involve the boys and girls the firsthand experience of voting for their preferred candidate, courtesy of a voting machine provided by the town.

Students decided to hold their own Presidential election with candidates Senators Barack Obama and John McCain as their mock pre-election preferences.

Melissa Verdier, PRHS chair for the Outreach Program, hopes to continue the partnership in the future. Plans for a fall program with the third grade are in the works as well.

Signs of the Times



Greeting passersby to the Museum is a new sign with Colonial Blue lettering on an Oyster White background. Newly installed this spring, the sign provides a mount for changing notices of shows currently on exhibit at the Museum.

CHILDREN OF POUND RIDGE 1850-1950

Memorabilia of Childhood in our Town

Pictures, toys and other artifacts from our extensive archives and personal collections explore the intriguing world of children growing up in Pound Ridge.

This delightful exhibit at the Museum will take visitors on a nostalgic and wonderful trip into their own pasts. For kids of all ages.

Curator: Ebie Wood The Museum is open Saturday & Sunday, 2-4 pm



Marjorie Edith
Do you know her family name?



Pictured at the Dantown School with these schoolchildren are their teacher and, on the chair, their mascot identified succinctly as "the dog."
Photo taken 1896

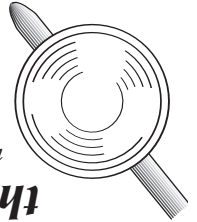


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At the Museum
CHILDREN OF POUND RIDGE
1850-1950
Memorabilia of childhood in our Town
Museum hours: Saturday & Sunday
from 2-4 p.m. (See page 3)

www.PRHSMuseum.org
PRHSMuseum@earthlink.net
Editor • Ruth de Sola Mendes

The Pound Ridge Historical Society
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Pound Ridge, NY 10576-0051



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the Pendulum

Be Connected!

Make a connection with the past *and* present history of YOUR town.

JOIN FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS, already members of the Pound Ridge Historical Society, and explore the variety and uniqueness that are Pound Ridge. We have a variety of activities and programs, all aimed at keeping you in touch with Pound Ridge and its fascinating roots.

Join us and call us at 764-4333.

Please send your membership dues check payable to ***The Pound Ridge Historical Society*** to:

Membership Chairperson
Pound Ridge Historical Society,
P.O. Box 51, Pound Ridge, NY 10576.

Thank you!

For membership year January 1 through December 31, 2008

Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr. _____

Mailing Address _____

Town _____ State/Zip _____ Phone () _____

- Individual (thru 62) \$20 Individual (over 62) \$15 Family \$35* Patron \$50
- Sponsor \$100 Sustaining (Individual) \$250 Life (Individual) \$500 Business \$40

** Youth Membership is included for children up to 18.*