

The Edge of Hawley

**Volume XXIX, Number 1
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1846 Meetinghouse
Home of
The Sons and Daughters of Hawley

Reaching the Editorial Staff

Editor: Lark Thwing - 339-0124 or kthwingjr@gmail.com

Editorial staff: Lark Thwing, Beth Thwing, Melanie Poudrier

Contributors: Cyndie Stetson

Address: *The Edge of Hawley*, PO Box 206, Hawley, MA
01339

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SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF HAWLEY

Calendar of Events

- Beautify Our Town Roads—4/15-30/2009
- Plant Sale, etc.—5/23/09—Stetson's--9am-12noon
- Tag Sale—6/20-21/2009—The Hawley Grove
- Artisans & Garden Tour—7/11/2009—Lunch at Poudriers
- Hawley Day/Annual Meeting--Sunday 8/9/09—Meetinghouse
- Nature Dinner—9/20/09--Stump Sprouts
- No-Bake Bake Sale—9/2009
- S&D hosts Hampshire County Riding Club—9/27/09
- Pudding Contest—10/31/09—Charlemont Federated Church
- Apple Fest—11/2009—Alice's Parker's home
- Hobby Horse Bazaar—Saturday—12/5/09--Hawlemont School
- Illumination Party—Sunday—12/13/09—Meetinghouse-4-5pm

Mark your calendars now so you don't miss these fun-filled events.

Correspondence

Our Thanks for Donations to the *Edge*

From the President:

Past S&D Presidents' Memorial Plaques

In the first row of pews, in the center section we have memorial plaques for presidents who have passed on. Already installed are plaques for ___ and ___. We will be adding plaques for Joe Ward president from ---, Kirby Thwing, president from --, Charlotte Thwing president from --, Harrison Parker, president from --. We will fill in the blanks as we find the information. Please call Lark Thwing at 339-0124 with names of past presidents who are now deceased.

Plant Sale

By Cyndie Stetson

Although there is still a lot of cold and snow and winter to go through, we have set a date for the 2nd annual plant sale, which will be held at the home of Cyndie Stetson, 108 West Hawley Rd. The sale will take place on Saturday, May 23 from 9 am until noon. Please begin thinking of those perennials that you would like to sort out from your gardens and give to the sale for someone else's garden. We will have herbs, annuals, and perennials. Please let Cyndie know (339-4231) if you will have plants to donate for the sale. All plants are very reasonable in price and there is always quite a variety. The sale will be held rain or shine and we will have coffee, donuts, and breakfast buns available for a donation.

Hawley's 2009 Artisan's and Garden Tour

By Cyndie Stetson

Save the Date!!! This years Sons and Daughters of Hawley Artisan's and Garden Tour will take place on Saturday, July 11, 2009 from 10 am until 4 pm. This year, we will have a fabulous tour with at least five new places. If you've never been on the tour, this is the year that it's a must! The Poudriers have again graciously offered their home and garden for the luncheon, which will be from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm.

Suggested donation for the tour is \$10 and suggested donation for the scrumptious luncheon which includes beverage, entree and dessert is only \$12. Inflation may have hit everything else, but our prices have stayed the same!! For tickets/brochure/map or more information, call co-chairs Cyndie Stetson at 339-4231 or Margaret Eggert at 339-4441. Please tell all your family and friends. What a wonderful way to spend a beautiful summer day in the country and have one of the best lunches you could possibly have.

Hawley Day, August 9, 2009

By Cyndie Stetson

Can you sing, dance, tell a joke, do a magic trick, play an instrument, read a poem or act? Then, we want YOU!! For our

entertainment for Hawley Day 2009, we have decided to present a talent show of anyone from our Sons and Daughters family who would like to participate. At the board's last meeting, we recruited at least five different segments for a program. We know there is a lot of talent out there, so let Cyndie (339-4231) know if you would like to get in on the FUN! She will be setting up and arranging the talent selections for the afternoon. Don't be shy, we know you can be a participant, and we know that Hawley and our members of the Sons and Daughters can rise to the occasion. Hope to hear from you soon.

The Hawley Grove

The board agreed at the last meeting to seek advice from Margaret Fitzpatrick and Tanya Bryant of Forget Road, Hawley about how we should outfit the Grove kitchen. Margaret and Tanya have been in the restaurant and catering business for years. We want the kitchen to be set up for public use such as potlucks and catered events. We need a small commercial-type kitchen that meets health department standards for public use. The kitchen space will be insulated, multi-purpose and capable of being heated for three-season use. We will hold board meetings there in the fall and spring.

Hobby Horse Bazaar

By Cyndie Stetson

Our Hobby Horse Bazaar table at the Hawlemont Regional Elementary school annual PTO fundraiser was a huge success again this past holiday season. Thanks to all of you who made items for the table and who purchased items from the table, we netted \$436.53! In these tough economic times, this was truly a wonderful response to the gift items we provide to the community. We are already thinking of new items to make for the 2009, and hope you will be one of those people who will contribute to crafting some ideas during the next many months. Please let Cyndie know at 339-4231 what you would like to craft.

Election Day Bake Sale

By Cyndie Stetson

On November 4, 2008, the Sons and Daughters of Hawley conducted a Bake Sale at the Town Office during election hours. The net profit for the sale was \$255 which we felt was excellent. At our most recent board meeting, we decided to have a bake sale during the Governor's election and the Presidential election in future years. We thank everyone who made goodies for the sale and those who purchased the baked items. Let it be said that we have some of the greatest cooks in Hawley!

S&D Multi-Town Tag Sale Slated for June 20 & 21, 2009

By Beth Thwing

We are assuming we will have a certificate of occupancy as soon as the building inspector can enter the building in spring. It's now January. Sun-warmed May will be here before you know it. So***Save your Stuff! ***Save Your Stuff! ***Save your stuff! ***Ask acquaintances, friends and relatives to do the same. Bring it all to the Grove in early May. Save the June 20 & 21 dates. Folks will unearth treasures never seen before. This tag sale is calling YOU!

With the economy in the tank, tag-sale season will be robust. Enthusiastic folks will prowl tag sales in search of great bargains at fantastic prices. Our tag sales have a reputation of being super organized with bountiful supply, great variety, and terrific quality in what we sell. Folks win when they come to us. The Sons and Daughters win at the sale's close.

As in the past, all goods must be clean and in decent condition. Small electrical appliances, lamps etc. must work. We can't accept large appliances.-- (Disposal, if they don't sell, can be an issue.) And this year, something new: No clothing. It's very labor intensive to set up and price. Way too much work for a very few sales. Floor space is better used for other stock. The Salvation Army in Greenfield specializes in clothing and is

better able to display it than we. People go there expressly in search of clothing.

Whee!! Multi-Town Tag Sale, here we come!

Save Your stuff!

I'll be looking for you in the spring!

Rediscovering Hawley's Old Town Common

By Ray Gotta

The last issue of the *Edge* covered the “work-in-progress” public session that was required as part of our initial grant from the Mass Humanities. The final report to them was approved as expected, and all grant monies were received by mid December.

This past fall we have had UMASS anthropologists and landscape consultants visit the area and offer advice and ideas. The anthropologists did help us in determining how to work the site so we would not damage any artifacts that may be there. However, they saw no benefit in working the site at this time.

A company called Sustainable Design Associates (SDA) has proposed a plan to create a base map and a site design plan including removal of some trees, making walkways and a parking area. We have just received a \$5,000 grant from the Highland Communities Initiative (The Trustees of Reservations) to pay for this plan as well as for other consulting cost including legal, forestry, ecology and archeology. This planning work will be started in February.

We have just submitted an application for a \$10,000 Project Grant from Mass Humanities. This grant will provide funds for all the signage we need: a kiosk and seven signs--one at each site and cellar hole on the pathway/walkway included in our original plan. Also, it will provide funds for additional consultants, a graphic designer, and printed brochures for the walking tours. We hope for approval of this grant in April.

The labor to remove trees, make walking paths, and create a parking area will be done with Sons & Daughters volunteers and by anyone else who is willing to help. Contact Lark at 413-339-0124 or Ray at 413-782-7248 if you can help in any way.

Most labor will be done this spring thru the fall. Signage will be erected and final site work will be done in the spring and summer of 2010. Dedication will be at the Annual Meeting of the Sons and Daughters in August 2010.

If you have not done so yet, you should read John Sears' essay on "Rediscovering Hawley's Old Town Common" began in the last issue of the *Edge* and continued in this issue. It gives a great insight into how our Town of Hawley was started and how it evolved to where we are today. Great reading.



Time for dinner at this year's nature Dinner where Ray Poudrier gave us a tour of the African wild.

THE BYGONE YEARS OF HAWLEY

Rediscovering Hawley's Old Town Common

By John F. Sears

Continued from the last issue

The area around the meetinghouse lot quickly became a center of economic and social, as well as religious and civic activity. The meetinghouse in most New England towns stood at an important crossroads. Tavern keepers soon realized that placing their establishments as close as possible to this community center would increase business. The taverns (a common word for inns at the time) displaced “nooning” houses as places for worshippers to eat and warm up in the middle of the day, and accommodated stagecoach passengers, drivers, freight haulers, and others passing through or doing business in town. They also sometimes housed meetings to conduct town business, provided a site for winter court sessions when the meetinghouse became too cold in the winter, and refreshed militiamen during training.

How was Hawley's town common created?

Hawley was originally known as Plantation No. 7 and was one of ten townships or plantations sold by the Massachusetts General Court in 1762. When selling tracts of land for settlement, the Massachusetts General Court specified that the proprietors build a suitable meetinghouse and settle “a learned Orthodox minister” in the town. It further stipulated that each town “lay out three houselots . . . each of which to draw a sixty-third part of said town in all future divisions, one to be for the first settled minister, one for the ministry and one for the school” How, when and how strictly a town adhered to the provisions laid down by the Court varied a good deal, partly because the original buyers were usually speculators who frequently divided the land and sold it to other speculators or proprietors. The proprietors did not usually settle on the land

themselves but induced others to do so. Eventually, however, the towns fulfilled the intent of the provisions laid down by the General Court, though in different ways. Hawley followed this pattern. Moses Parsons, the original buyer, divided the property into sixty-three shares or “rights” then sold these shares to a group of proprietors. According to Harrison Parker, the proprietors set aside one lot for support of the minister and one for the school. Apparently the proprietors or the town later sold these lots, presumably to finance the ministry and schools.

It took Hawley thirty years to start fulfilling the General Court’s requirement that it build a meetinghouse and settle a minister. On May 7, 1792, at the second town meeting after Hawley’s incorporation as a town, the principal subject of discussion was that the “town had to have a church building for a meeting house.” But the town reached no decision about where to locate the building. In 1793, when the town of Hawley hired Jonathan Grout as the town’s first settled minister, it voted him 150 pounds in addition to his salary to induce him to settle. For 135 pounds, Grout then bought 120 acres of land south of where the roads now known as Forget and East Hawley roads met and not far from the barn which the town was temporarily using as a meetinghouse. Once the town did that, it was natural that the town would want to situate the meetinghouse nearby. Nevertheless, it took the town four more years to agree on a location. Such controversies about where to place a meetinghouse were frequent in other towns as well, including Rowe and Cummington. In Cummington there was so much dissatisfaction with the location originally chosen that the town abandoned the partially completed building and built a new one at another site.

While the town of Hawley remained undecided about the site of its meetinghouse, the congregation met in the barn on property adjacent to Grout’s farm. Finally, in 1797, the town voted to locate the meetinghouse just south of the barn and partially on Grout’s property. Although the town erected the meetinghouse in 1797, it did not yet formerly own the property on which it

stood. In April 1798 in a deed transferring a tract of land to William Sanford, Artemas Loomis recognized the conveyance to the town of about half of the land that would form the town common. His deed grants all of his land (Lot 163 of the old Proprietor's Lots) to Sanford except for "the land the meetinghouse stands on and so much more around it (to the west) as I have agreed on with the Committee of the Town for their convenience, not to exceed one acre, and also the barn standing on the premises." The barn would have been the structure in which the congregation had been meeting. A year later, in March, 1799 Asa Blood sold one half acre to the town for eight dollars forming the northeast corner of the common. Finally, in 1808 the Rev. Grout transferred half an acre of his property, "in consideration of one penny and for the love and goodwill I bear unto the inhabitants of the Town of Hawley," to formally complete the formation of what by 1799 was already the town common. In the end, three landowners, including Grout, gave or sold portions of land to the town for the purpose of creating a town common on which the meetinghouse already stood. This fact suggests that for these citizens of Hawley, the communal effort of building the meetinghouse was more urgent and important than completing the legal transactions necessary to create the common and establish the town's ownership of the land under the meetinghouse.

Was the formation of Hawley's town common typical of Massachusetts towns?

A survey of the histories of a number of hill town towns in Franklin County did not yield a definitive answer to the question of whether the formation of Hawley's town common by sale or contributions of land to the town was typical of Massachusetts towns. Ashfield never had a town common, although it very recently created one. Fannie Kendrick notes in the *History of Buckland* that Buckland had a common "well-situated for the display of parades and trainings" by the militia, but makes no other mention of the common. Lois Patrie, who wrote a history of Colrain, refers to its common but says nothing about its origin, location, or early history. The Village

of Cumington created a common at the center of town in 1838-39 by purchasing a knoll on which the liberty pole stood from Harvery Tirrell and then leveling the land. A Congregational meetinghouse was built on the site. Horse sheds were erected across the way where the Community House was later built and a store (or “ordinary”) stood across from the common. Percy Whiting Brown’s *History of Rowe* makes no mention of a common.

Of the hill town histories surveyed, the history of Heath provides the best comparison to that of Hawley. In 1785 Heath separated from Charlemont to become a new town and in 1788 the town purchased an acre of land from Benjamin Maxwell on which to build a meetinghouse. This land became the town common, and the town built the meetinghouse near the east end of the property. When the town later erected a town house, it sited the building on the far southeast corner of the meetinghouse lot, leaving the rest of the common available for a militia drill field and other purposes. The town cut and sold the hay on the common until sometime in the twentieth century. The store, inn, and blacksmith shop that stood near Heath’s town common, made it typical of many New England town commons and very much like Hawley’s.

Locating Hawley’s Town Common

One reason for the location of Hawley’s meetinghouse and town common was that four roads converged at that site. The road entering from the east (now Forget Road) was an extension of the first county road in Hawley begun in 1771, and it connected the common to Buckland to the east. This road ran past the northern edge of the common and then branched in two. One fork, Potash Road, ran west down to Middle Road, where it connected with Pudding Hollow Road. Traveling west on Pudding Hollow Road and then over Forge Hill Road, the traveler arrived at the settlement of West Hawley. The other branch ran southwest past the home of Abraham Parker and on to King Corner, an important mill site in the southern part of West Hawley. A third road passed south through the swamp

(the Hawley bog) to Hunt Road, and a fourth road--probably only a track in the early nineteenth century—ran southeast through Rev. Grout's farm to the main north-south road (now East Hawley Road). This road, which ran from Plainfield through Hawley to Charlemont, followed the route of the current Grout Road a little to the east of the common. Although the meetinghouse and town common stood on the eastern edge of Hawley, and were therefore quite distant from the western part of town, they occupied a strategic crossroads with access both to the outside world and to the various districts of Hawley to the south and west.

What buildings surrounded the common?

The only structures on the Hawley town common itself were the meetinghouse, probably one or more privies, and later, the horse and carriage sheds that provided shelter for the worshippers' animals and conveyances while they attended services.

The erection of the meetinghouse in 1797 and the creation of the town common led almost immediately to the construction of several taverns close by. When William Sanford acquired land adjacent to the meetinghouse a year after its erection, he did so with the purpose of building a tavern. His establishment, which also included a store, grew into a substantial enterprise and Sanford became quite wealthy. After his death in 1831, however, his children experienced financial difficulties. In 1843, his son William Sanford, Jr., lost the property in a lawsuit, and by 1858, the inn no longer appeared on Hawley maps.

In 1802, Colonel Edmund Longley, a prominent leader during Hawley's early years, who lived just south of the common, bought the site opposite the meetinghouse and erected a competing inn, tavern, and store. Several members of the Longley family, including Thomas Longley, Joshua Longley, William F. Longley, and Calvin Longley, ran this tavern and store from 1802 to 1848. This tavern also housed Hawley's first

post office, and the Longleys who resided in the tavern and store served as postmasters from 1817 to 1858. About 1848, Calvin Longley, the last Longley to run the establishment at the common, built a new inn, store, and post office at a site opposite the current meetinghouse where the Hawley Grove building now stands. The old Longley tavern became a home.

A third tavern, owned by Ebenezer Pomeroy, Jr. and located on Forget Road, a little east of the town common, operated from 1798 to 1804.

The house in the vicinity of the common that drew the most interesting occupants over the years was Asher Loomis's home, a one-story house built in 1797 and located on the western side of the common behind the meetinghouse. Asher Loomis lived in it from 1800 to 1817 and ran a shop there (what he sold is unknown). He may have established the blacksmith shop that by 1819 stood on the south side of the common on Rev. Grout's land (the site of this shop may now be under East Hawley Road). Later, from 1824 until 1835, Dr. Charles Knowlton, one of the two physicians practicing in town at the time, lived in the house. Knowlton was a purported materialist and atheist and the author of *Fruits of Philosophy*, one of the first books published in America on family planning. In 1834 or 1835, Knowlton participated in probably the most dramatic event in Hawley's history: a debate in the meetinghouse between himself and the Rev. Tyler Thatcher, Hawley's second minister from 1834 to 1843, about Knowlton's controversial views. Finally, in 1837, a pious widow named Martha S. Taylor, who lived at an inconvenient distance in West Hawley, moved into the house in order to be close to her place of worship. In *Cottage Piety*, her son Rufus Taylor described his mother's house as follows:

At a little distance from that end [of the meetinghouse], separated from it by a narrow carriageway was a neat little cottage, with out-buildings, garden, and orchard. It was so near the church that, when the windows were open, the occupant might hear the preacher without

leaving the house.

Hawley's first two doctors lived a little east of the town common in a house on Forget Road. Dr. Daniel Fobes lived there from 1796 until his death in 1809 and Dr. Moses Smith (the religiously orthodox competitor of Dr. Knowlton) occupied it until his death in 1849.

The most important house in the vicinity belonged to Abraham Parker, one of the wealthiest and most influential people in town. It lay several hundred yards southeast of the common along the road to King Corner. Town meetings and church services were held there from 1792 until 1793, just after the town's incorporation and before any public meeting place became available. A reporter who viewed the ruins of the house in 1910 wrote:

The house was back several hundred yards from the road, in the middle of a sweeping hedge of high trees that swing around the spot in a huge amphitheater. The brick in the chimney is all hand made, and the base of the chimney is 12 feet square, and in the old days had three fireplaces on the first floor and two on the second floor, reaching up to the top of the house in mammoth massiveness. Near the house are the remains of an old raceway, evidence of the presence, years ago, of an old grist mill. From the top of the hill near this spot may be seen both Greylock and Mt. Tom as the elevation is about 2200 feet.

Four generations of Parkers lived in the house from 1775 until its sale in 1891. The date of its abandonment remains unknown.

What did the buildings on and around Hawley's town common look like?

Since no one has found any drawings, engravings, or photographs of any of the buildings--even of those that survived into the late nineteenth century--we don't know a

great deal about what these buildings looked like. From contemporary accounts, we know that the meetinghouse was almost square, 40 by 50 feet, like a large barn with added windows. It had no belfry or steeple. A large central door led to a two-story “porch” or entrance hall, probably like the current meetinghouse, but with additional doors at the north and south end. At a meeting on August 20, 1811, the town voted to paint the meetinghouse orange, a hue that turned a “dingy yellow” by the 1830s. It was not painted white until around 1840, a time when white was becoming the standard color for New England churches. The Rev. Rufus Taylor remembered the meetinghouse as follows:

The building itself, for the place and time in which it was erected, was large and high, having as memory serves the writer, more than forty windows, with square pews, and seats upon hinges.

Excepting the aged and the infirm, the people stood, during the public prayers, all through that region. As some suppose, they were called the “standing order” on that account. To enable them to stand the more conveniently, when they arose they turned the seats up against the sides of the pews, upon the tops of which the worshippers were accustomed to lean.

The clatter when the seats were let down at the close of the prayer, must be heard to be understood.

As approached from the north and northwest, this house stood upon an eminence, while to the south, for a considerable distance, extended a table-land. . . .

The lofty pulpit of that meeting-house, with its model window, according to the custom of the day, was in the west end of the building.

According to P.F. Cooley, a former resident of Hawley writing about 1886, the Sanford Tavern, just north of the meetinghouse, was

a large pretentious building of two stories, and a long ell

running out to the west. It had never been adorned with paint, but the elaborate carvings and exterior ornaments gave evidence that it had once been a place in which the owner felt not a little pride William Sanford . . . kept a tavern in the upright part, and in the ell was a general country store.

A sketch of the town common found in Harrison Parker's papers—probably executed by him and based on the deeds, historical accounts, and other information he had gathered—provides an imaginative re-creation of the way the common may have looked. The drawing shows wooden fences lining the roads as they pass through the common. These fences probably served to prevent the livestock permitted to graze on the common from wandering. In front of the meetinghouse, a low wall, which still exists, allowed ladies in their Sunday dresses to step easily out of their carriages onto the ground.

Until the 1840s most town commons were not well maintained, unlike the town greens of today, and Hawley's was probably no exception. The lawnmower was not yet invented and there may not have been much grass to mow in any case. Travelers in the early nineteenth century often lamented the state of town commons, which were crisscrossed with dirt roads and sometimes covered with weeds, rubbish, and stones and trampled on by sheep and hogs. So, Hawley's town common may well have been unsightly. A spirit of beautification gradually developed in New England cities and towns during the nineteenth century, but we do not know whether it touched Hawley's old town common before it began its decline.

How did the Hawley town common and the buildings on and around it serve the community?

The main purpose of a New England town common was to provide a site for the meetinghouse. As the name implies, a meetinghouse was not just a church. It functioned as both the religious and secular center of the community, where the members of the community gathered to conduct town business

as well as to worship. In Massachusetts, the Congregational minister remained an employee of the town until the adoption of the Eleventh Amendment to the state constitution in 1833 separated church and state. Town business included hiring the minister and levying taxes for his support. We know that the Hawley church was a very active one. Frequent religious revivals took place between 1794 and 1832, bringing new members into the congregation. But there were also Hawley citizens who supported the controversial Dr. Knowlton in his debate at the meetinghouse with the Rev. Tyler Thatcher.

The Hawley town common served at least one other purpose in addition to being the site of the meetinghouse, and judging from the history of other New England town commons, probably more. We know that the ancient practice of grazing livestock on common land persisted in Hawley because, beginning in 1803, the town meeting voted that only yearling cattle could graze on the town common. The common may also have served as a site for militia training, although no documentation confirming this has yet come to light. Town commons frequently provided centrally located public spaces for this purpose, with the added attraction of at least one convenient tavern nearby. In colonial times and during the early republic, all able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 60 were required to do military service and appear at training days every three months. In most towns these trainings took place on the town common. The men drank heavily at the nearby tavern and played games, such as wrestling and cudgel, as well as trained. These gatherings also ensured that notices and proclamations received wide distribution. Militia training declined with the establishment of a standing army and navy after the War of 1812, but persisted in Hawley and other towns for some time after that.

We know that Hawley had an active militia company and also furnished military leadership to larger bodies of militia. In 1813 Lt. Col Thomas Longley commanded a regiment that paraded in Buckland. The *Franklin Herald* reported that “the troops

made a display brilliant beyond example in the militia. The Hawley Company of Infantry, in particular, deserves notices for its truly martial appearance and improved state in dress and discipline.” To improve in discipline the Hawley militia company must have trained somewhere. It is possible that the militia trained on the Longley family’s farm a little south of the town common, but it is more likely that they trained on the common itself, probably between the meetinghouse and the Longley Tavern.

The town of Hawley may also have maintained a pound on or near the common for holding stray cattle, although no documentation to prove this has surfaced to date. The town of Heath purchased land for this purpose, and Cummington voted in 1794 to build a pound near its meetinghouse. The town of Cummington specified that the pound be “30 feet square—13 posts 6 X 8 and 6 rails high, said rails to be 6 inches wide and 2 inches thick.” In 1785 Rowe voted to construct a pound near its meetinghouse, and in 1794 it voted to build a pound 38 feet square and 7 feet high from the top of the sills. In 1822 it voted to use Solomon Read’s barnyard as the pound, and in 1835 the town constructed a stone pound with a wooden gate on the West road. This pound’s stonework was restored in 1957 and a replica of the wooden gate built. Pounds were important for protecting crops. Before the invention of barbed wire, especially in the early years of settlement before farmers completed their stone walls, animals frequently strayed off their owner’s land. The town’s field driver would round them up and put them in the pound until the owner claimed them. The town’s pound keeper fed and watered the stock while they were in the pound. If Hawley had a pound, and it is likely that it did, it was probably on or near the common and similar in construction to the ones in Cummington and Rowe.

Every town common in New England not only had a meetinghouse on it, but at least one tavern across the street or close by. So it was not unusual that Hawley supported two, and for a brief time, three taverns in the vicinity of the town

common. In New England, the word “tavern” at this time was synonymous with “inn” or “hotel” and meant a place for travelers to stay as well as a place that served liquor. Taverns were identified by their tall signs, easily seen from a distance by a rider on horseback or a driver on the seat of a stagecoach or wagon. Signs similar to those depicted in the engravings of Massachusetts towns in John Warner Barber’s *Historical Collections* probably stood outside the taverns across from Hawley’s town common.

Taverns were in many respects just large homes. The innkeeper and his family usually lived in the building, the husband serving as manager and barkeeper, the wife as cook. The boys tended the stable and the girls served as waiters and made beds. Taverns, and the stores often associated with them, played a central role in New England community life in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Town meetings would sometimes move to one of the taverns, particularly in the winter months when the meetinghouse went unheated. “Voted to adjourn to Mr. Sanford’s bar-room forthwith,” reads an entry in the Hawley Town Records for a Special Town Meeting on October 30, 1815. When the meeting resumed in Sanford’s tavern, the town voted on the construction and repair of several bridges. Taverns also functioned as courthouses. William Sanford, who apparently had some legal training and acquired the title “Esquire” from the governor, tried lawsuits in his “commodious hall.”

The taverns in New England towns served as the primary venues for male socializing outside the home. Scholars believe that the consumption of alcoholic beverages in the United States reached its highest peak in history between 1790 and 1830. Men often drank far more than they do today. This too accounts for the initial success of the Sanford and Longley taverns. According to William Giles Atkins, Hawley’s townspeople considered Sanford’s inn the best place to buy New England rum. Some communities overlooked the legal prohibition against serving alcohol on the Sabbath, and men

would flock to the taverns during the mid-day break in the services. This may not have been true in a conservative religious community such as Hawley, but heavy drinking probably went on at other times during the week. The effects of excessive drinking during this period led, in the 1820s, to the temperance movement, which began to achieve some success in the 1830s and 1840s. Historian Jack Larkin writes that “A substantial number of country innkeepers gave up the serving of liquor, either acting out of growing personal conviction or responding to community pressure.” This was the case in Hawley, where in 1831, a religious revival drew many new members to the East Hawley church. Many of the new members vowed not to drink alcohol and, apparently as a result, neither the Sanford nor the Longley tavern sought to renew its liquor license in 1831. Neither tavern served liquor after that date, and that may have been one reason why the Sanford Tavern began to experience financial difficulties and finally closed. Noah Joy, who opened a tavern on South Road in 1830, did renew his liquor license in 1831 but in 1832 the Hawley selectman would not send his license application to the Franklin County commissioners. He managed to renew his license anyway by applying directly to the county commissioners and continued to do so each year for the next ten years. After that the commissioners licensed the Joy Tavern to serve wine and beer only. From 1831 until 1857 the Joy Tavern was the only legal source in Hawley for alcoholic beverages of any kind.

We know from an article published on January 3, 1843 in the *Greenfield Gazette & Courier* that there was a time when “every one used ardent spirit” and that the temperance movement affected at least one of Hawley’s prominent citizens. In paying tribute to Edmund Longley (1746-1842), the founder of one of Hawley’s taverns, the article throws a poignant light on the momentous change in the drinking habits of Hawley’s residents after 1831: “He was very regular and temperate in his habits. In former days when every one used ardent spirit, he used it moderately, for those times. When the temperance reformation commenced, however, his mind was open to

conviction, and he signed the pledge, though he was then more than four score years old.”

New England taverns also functioned as stagecoach stops and centers of communication. Roads greatly improved after 1790, better horse-drawn vehicles became available, and stage coach lines expanded just as Hawley entered its most intense period of growth. The Sanford and Longley taverns were not on a major stagecoach route, but apparently enough traffic came through town to sustain both of them in the early years of the nineteenth century. Stagecoaches brought news of the outside world in the form of mail, newspapers, and broadsides, and their passengers and drivers also carried and disseminated stories and information.

Editor’s note: All footnotes and endnotes will be shown in the final installment of this article.



Time for a “warm me up” during the Illumination party.
Come join us next year.

COMMUNITY AND TOWN BUSINESS

Hawley Votes to Fund the Tech Schools' Students

On Tuesday, November 12, 2008, the citizens of Hawley voted unanimously to fund the additional dollars needed to meet our tech school expenses. On November 20, 2008 the Proposition 2 ½ over-ride to fund these additional educational expenses was defeated two to one. The town later voted to move \$45,000 from the Stabilization Fund to meet these expenses.

Editors note: These tech school expenses are projected to last for at least 3-4 years. The Stabilization Fund will not last that long. Something else will have to happen.

None of the current selectmen or the finance committee members can remember when the town last asked for an over-ride.

According to *Town of Hawley Bicentennial Program Book 1792-1992*, available on our Shippable Sale Items page, Hawley voted and passed six Proposition 2 ½ overrides in the 1970s and 1980s to fund the fire dept and fire house, the new town hall, and a lot of other administration organizational projects, a record no other town in the Commonwealth could match.

Living in the Woods and Getting Things Done

By Aja Mathews, SCA AmeriCorps Member

Our orange hats were not the only things that defined us as a unique corps at the AmeriCorps Kick-off that was held in Boston in early November. In the quick blurb that Matt Tozer read to the thirty or so other corps serving Massachusetts communities, we could proudly boast that we were 16 people, doing service, and living in the woods. While the fact that we all live together in a homey dorm-style bunkhouse probably plays a secondary role when it comes to what we are actually "getting done for America," it was undoubtedly the topic that the other corps in Boston seemed the most interested in. A popular question that was targeted at my orange hatted

comrades was, "So, what's the living situation out in the woods?" Struggling to put into words all of my sentiments about our residence, I would clear my throat and try to articulate what the infamous "Bunkhouse" is and the crazy antics that occur therein.

The Bunkhouse is essentially a big cabin with two main rooms and bunk beds. It is not merely the place that corps members go to get sleep after a long day of teaching, but is also a place of refuge where guitars are often strummed and epic games of chess end in triumphant howls and tears of defeat. While the comfy chairs of our living space can be perfect for nestling down into and writing in one's journal, the fact that there are 15 of us (and we are not even at full capacity yet!) can sometimes take a toll. Cabin fever creeps its way into the psyches of some Bunkhouse dwellers and a restless insanity infects the body. When this occurs, it is never hard to cure, because chances are someone will be willing to drive you to do laundry, or to Shelburne Falls to walk the lovely Bridge of Flowers. And upon returning, your temporary mental affliction will be cured! Paradoxically enough, you will find yourself happy to walk into the Bunkhouse, and see your bunkmate snoozing in his/her nook, and you will lie in your bed (hopefully fully adorned with decorations from home, and tree identification posters) and be able to appreciate where, and with whom you are living. So that when 6:30 AM rolls around the next morning, and you awake to a symphony of different alarm clocks, part of you is happy to be among such great (and groggy!) company, living out in the woods, and getting things done.

Editor's note-our thanks to Jonah Keane, director, and his crew for sharing with us. I had a number of people tell me how informative the last piece about SCA staff in Hawley was for them. I also had a number ask me who/what SCA was. Go to their website for more info about them. www.thesca.org.

Taken directly from the SCA website

About SCA

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is a nonprofit organization that offers conservation internships and summer trail crew opportunities to more than 3,800 people each year. SCA members complete projects in every conservation discipline - from archeology to zoology - and everything in between.

SCA is focused on developing conservation and community leaders while getting important work done on the land. Founded in 1957 to restore and protect America's public lands and preserve them for future generations, SCA remains committed to this goal today.

SCA's mission is to build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of our environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land.



For more about the SCA, go to www.thesca.org

**ACADEMIC RECOGNITIONS
and Other School News**

Mohawk Trail Regional School

Third Quarter Honor Roll

Class of 2012 High Honors Honors

Class of 2013 High Honors Honors

Franklin County Technical School

Freshman honors –William Scott

MARRIAGES

BIRTHS

*I need a volunteer to send me information on
schools, marriages and births.*

*Editor's note-if we missed anyone, please let me know
kthwingjr@gmail.com or 413-339-0124 or mail to
S&D, PO Box 206, Hawley, MA 01339*



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The Pudding Hollow Cookbook pays tribute to local foods and cooks. It features folk art by the late Judith Russell, who created Hawley's bicentennial painting. The Merry Lion Press and author Tinky Weisblat also organize Hawley's Annual Pudding Hollow Pudding Contest.

Jody & Ed Cothey

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The *Edge* now reaches more that 300 readers, four times a year, with information designed to keep our community informed and close knit. If you would like to help sponsor *The Edge of Hawley* and promote the vitality of private enterprise in our community, contact Alice Parker or Cyndie Stetson for details.

Please support our sponsors in whatever way you can.

OBITUARIES

James M. Fortune 1917 - 2008

EAST LEE James M. Fortune, 91, of Cape St., in East Lee, died Monday at the Laurel Lake Center in Lee. He was born in Boston on May 5, 1917, and was 1935 graduate of Charlemont High School. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. from 1942 until being discharged in 1946 with the rank of Sgt. In 1950 he re-enlisted in the Air Force Reserve retiring in 1970 with the rank of Staff Sergeant. He moved to Lee in 1950 and worked as a machinist at the General Electric in Pittsfield, retiring in 1981.

After his retirement he worked as a Gardner at various homes in the area. He and his wife the former Dorothy F. Brucher whom he married Sept. 6, 1948, had wintered in Hope Sound, Fla., for the past 26 years. Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, Ron J. and Bill H. Fortune both of Lee, his daughter, Judith May Young of Elizabethville, Pa., and two grandchildren, Joanna and Rodney Young. He was a member of the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Pittsfield.

Services for James M Fortune were private, with burial in Fairmount Cemetery in Lee. There were no visiting hrs.

Friends may wish to make donations to Charlemont High School Scholarship Fund in care of the KELLY FUNERAL HOME 3 Main St. Lee, MA 01238.

Editors comment:

**HOORAY, BARACK OBAMA IS OUR NEW
PRESIDENT AND WE LOOK FOR A SEASON OF
CHANGE AS PROMISED**

LAND TRANSFERS

Michael Schofield and Tammy Schofield to Michael Schofield,
3-7 Plainfield Road, Just \$10.

Jennifer Deraway of Wakefield, RI, and Robert H. Deraway to
Robert H. Deraway, West Hawley Road, No consideration.

Robert H. Deraway and Jennifer A. Deraway to Robert H.
Deraway, 144 West Hawley Road, No consideration.

Robert H. Deraway to Donald Bonnette, 144 West Hawley
Road and West Hawley Road (190 acres), \$280,000.

Chester E. Chadwick by Deutsche Bank National Trust Co.,
trustee, by attorney, Wells Fargo Bank NA, attorney, to
Deutsche Bank National Trust Co., trustee, 112 East Hawley
Road, \$112,000.

Ice Storm 2008

Buckland Road as seen from end of Pond Road



Membership Form July 2008-June 2009
Sons & Daughters of Hawley, PO Box 206, Hawley, MA 01339

Annual Membership Dues:

Individual/Event	\$10	_____
Family	\$12	_____
Contributing	\$15	_____
Sustaining	\$25	_____
Life Member	\$200	_____

Honorary Free Membership is provided for all persons over the age of 70 years, who are related to Hawley by ancestry, birth, marriage, or residence.

I am in this category: _____

Life or Honorary Members

We would appreciate your additional contributions: _____

The *Edge of Hawley* would appreciate your direct support. _____

Gifts of Membership

Consider a gift membership for a family member. _____

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Address _____

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Memorial or Contributor's Plaque

Honor your family: _____ plaques @ \$55 each _____

On pew ____ in vestibule ____

Inscription: 29 characters/line, 2 lines only

Building Fund Donation

I wish to support the restoration of the Meetinghouse _____

I wish to support the renovation of the Hawley Grove _____

I wish to support the building fund in general _____

Enclosed is a check for Sons & Daughters in the total amount of: _____

The Sons and Daughters of Hawley

Shippable Sale Items

BOOKS

<i>Hawley Massachusetts; The First Fifty Years, 1770-1820</i> by Harrison Parker	\$35.00
<i>Hawley Bicentennial Cookbook, 1792-1992</i> by The Sons and Daughters of Hawley	\$5.00
<i>Cottage Piety Exemplified</i> , a biography of Martha S. Taylor of Hawley published anonymously by Rev. Rufus Taylor (3 rd son)	\$11.00
Home to Hawley Scrapbook ; a collection of works from various sources	\$7.50
<i>Tales of Hawley</i> , by Maida Riggs	\$5.00
<i>The 1989 Guide to Historical Sites in the Hawley State Forest</i> prepared by the Town of Hawley Historical Commission	\$7.50
<i>Pudding Hollow Cookbook</i> by Tinky "Dakota" Weisblat	\$30.00
<i>History of the Town of Hawley</i> by Williams Giles Atkins	\$9.00
<i>Town of Hawley Bicentennial Program Book 1792-1992</i> , a summary of 200 years in Hawley	\$7.00

HISTORICAL MONOGRAPHS by Harrison Parker

Hawley's Loss of Land to Plainfield in 1803	\$4.00
Fullerville	\$4.00
East Hawley and its Center	\$4.00
The Old Hawley Town Common and Poverty Square	\$3.00

USEFUL ITEMS:

4" Meetinghouse Tree Ornament by Marion Ives	@ \$10.00 each	_____ pcs	\$ _____
Coffee Mug	@ \$ 6.00 each	_____ pcs	\$ _____
Meetinghouse or Grove T-Shirts	@ \$ 12.00 each	_____ pcs	\$ _____
Meetinghouse or Grove Tote Bags	@ \$ 6.00 each	_____ pcs	\$ _____
S&D Event Calendar	\$18.00	Year 2009	\$ _____

HAWLEY FINE NOTE PAPERS:

Meetinghouse	10 @ \$6.50	_____ sets	\$ _____
Charcoal Kiln	6 @ \$5.00	_____ sets	\$ _____

Please add 10% to the total sale price to cover shipping costs

Enclosed is a check for Sons & Daughters in the total amount of: _____

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