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PELHAM'S
225th ANNIVERSARY
and
HISTORICAL DAY

Saturday, August 24, 1968

10:00 A. M. - RAIN or SHINE

TOWN HALL COMPLEX

Route 202 and Amherst Road

PELHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Sponsored By

PELHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PELHAM TOWN HALL COMPLEX—
—Massachusetts Historical Landmark

A Word Of Welcome

As president of the Pelham Historical Society, I extend to you a cordial invitation to join us in observing the Town's 225th Birthday Celebration and Third Historical Day.

We hope you will enjoy our program.

Lt. Col. William J. Foerster

Highlights Of The Day

1. Town Hall - Oldest Meeting House in United States in continuous use since 1743
2. Museum - Formerly First Congregational Church in Pelham, built in 1839
3. Tours - Old Cemeteries, Rocking Stone, Monk's Cave, Quabbin Reservoir
4. Exhibits - Pageantry
5. Luncheon - Old Fashioned Baked Beans, Ham, Pie and Coffee
6. Country Store
7. Band Concert - Westover Air Force Band
8. Drill by the Colonials of Fort Devens
9. Melha Temple Highlanders
10. Square Dance Exhibition - College Town Twirlers
11. Supper - Barbecued Chicken, Potato Salad, Tossed Salad, Corn on the Cob, Potato Chips, Pickles, Olives, Rolls, Ice Cream, Coffee or Punch
12. Square Dancing for All

Refreshments available during the day

Luncheon and supper reservations requested - Luncheon \$1.50—Supper \$2.00
Anniversary Brochures on sale, Price \$1.50 per copy

225th Anniversary Medallions - Bronze \$2.00 each—Silver \$8.50 each

Pelham Historical Society

OFFICERS FOR 1968 - 1969

President	Lt. Col. William J. Foerster
1st Vice President	Kenneth M. Thornton
2nd Vice President	Walter H. Witham
Treasurer	Roy G. Hawley
Secretary	Mrs. John S. Cary

TRUSTEES

Alonzo D. Nutter, Chairman
Charles W. Cole
Paul C. French
Pearl P. Keyes, Jr.
Auburn K. Weaver

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month.

Program

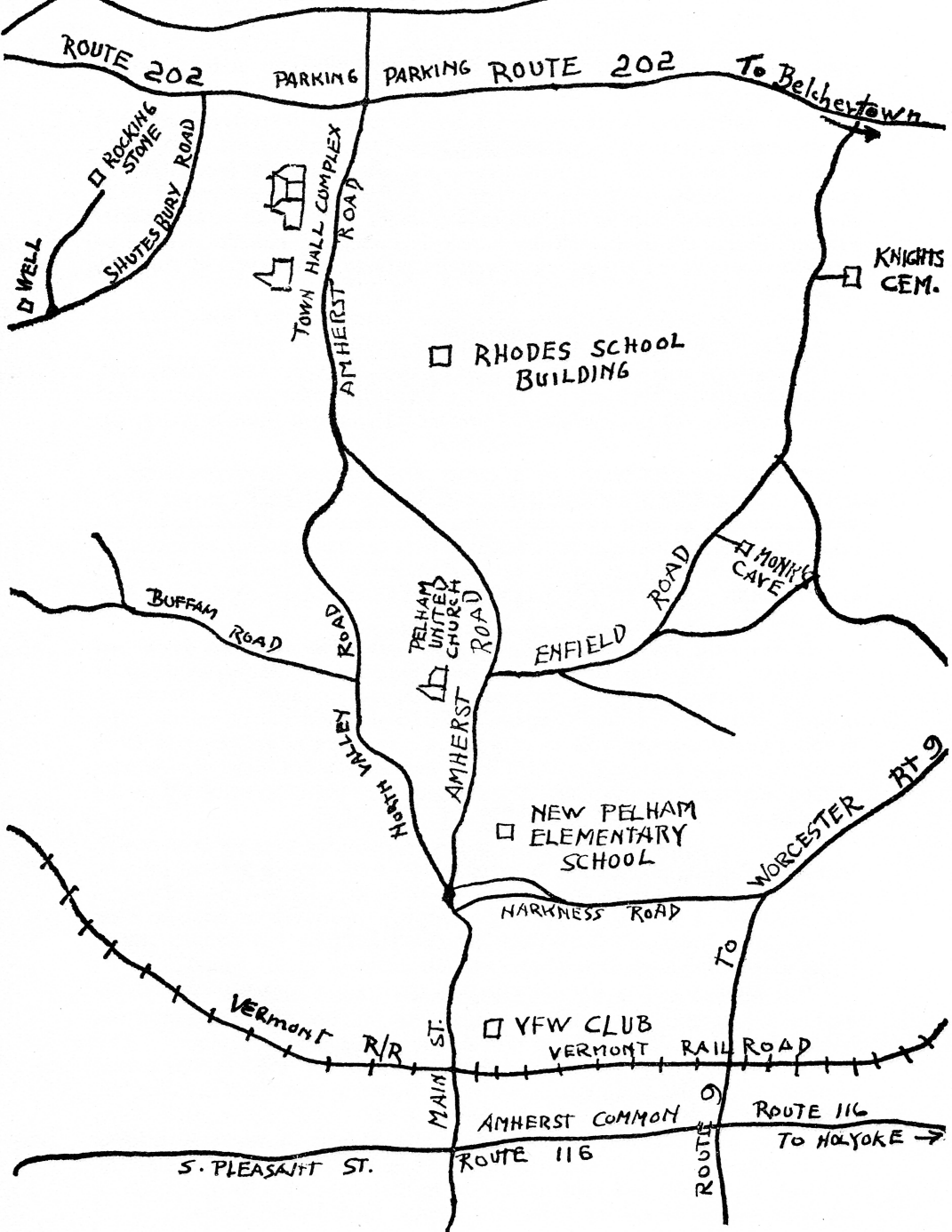
SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 1968

PELHAM TOWN HALL COMPLEX, PELHAM, MASS.

- 7:00 A. M. Pre-ceremonies for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
Raising of Flags - Firing Cannon
Hikes to Rocking Stone and Monk's Cave
Refreshments
- 10:00 A. M. VFW Memorial Services - Address by John A. Dargin, Jr.
Judge Advocate, Mass. Dept. VFW
- 10:30 A. M. Recognition of Special Pelham Citizens
- 10:45 A. M. Unveiling of Building Fund Plaque
- 11:00 A. M. Dedication of Museum
- 11:15 A. M. Greeting of Guests
- 11:30 A. M. Pelham's 225th Anniversary - A Congressional Report by Mr.
Silvio O. Conte, Member of Congress
- 11:45 A. M. Visit Exhibits - Country Store—Tours
- 12:00 Noon
to Luncheon - In Old Meeting House
- 1:00 P. M.
- 1:10 P. M. Start of March to Town Hall from Rhodes School Building
- 1:25 P. M. Greetings from the Town of Pelham
- 1:35 P. M. Greetings from Governor John A. Volpe by Senator John D.
Barrus of Goshen, representing the Governor
- 2:00 P. M. Address by Dr. Richard W. Hale, Jr., Acting Chairman of the
Massachusetts Historical Commission
- 2:30 P. M. Melha Temple Highlanders, William Kavaney, Chief
- 3:00 P. M. Band Concert by Westover 590th Air Force Band, Commander
CWO William D. Berky
- 4:00: P. M. Drill by 14th Continental Army Company (Fort Devens
Colonials), Commanded by 1st Sgt. Fred Pruden
- 4:30 P. M. Exhibition of Square Dancing by College Town Twirlers,
Charles Mollison, Caller
- 5:00 P. M. Visit Exhibits - Country Store—Tours
- 6:00 P. M.
to Supper - In New Highway Department Building
- 7:30 P. M.
- 8:00 P. M.
to Square Dancing for All
- 11:30 P. M.

MAP OF PELHAM

QUABBIN RESERVOIR



The Pelham Town Hall Complex, consisting of the Meeting House, Church and Cemetery, is still the center of attraction in Pelham. The architecture of the buildings is devoid of ornamentation and is uncompromisingly plain, such as the lives of the Scotch Presbyterian settlers who erected the buildings. There is still the staunch and venerable solidity about the buildings that details the spartan and frugal characters of the early inhabitants of Pelham.

Today this complex still stands in all its splendor of simplicity as the oldest meeting house still in continual use by the inhabitants of the Town of Pelham after two hundred and twenty-five years.

The construction is unique for its straight forward frugal application of the necessary fundamental engineering design, from the hand-cut nails to the mortise and tennon joint construction, to the unusual cantilever wings and hung center balcony of the church unit, to the ladies' and gentlemen's staircases to the second floor of the old meeting house. The design of the original balcony seats in the meeting house is sharply contrasted with the design one hundred years later of the more elaborate but still spartan design of the pews in the church building.

Behind the buildings are the gravestones, crumbling but being restored, of the old burying ground with their typical quaint inscriptions.

The parade ground in front of the Complex, high on West Pelham Hill, still stands in mute evidence of the place where the local inhabitants drilled before marching off to Lexington to become part of that famous group, the "Minute Men."

Pelham was first settled by a group of Scotchmen from the north of Ireland who wished to settle in New England where they could govern themselves according to their own economical characteristics. Therefore, Pelham came into existence through the hunger of men for land of their own and for a community wherein all would be kindred souls, worshipping God in the same manner. It was Pelham that gave them the freedom and happiness they were seeking.

It was while Pelham was still young and struggling when the Revolution was fought. After that struggle had been won, it endured the hardship of well nigh worthless currency, tremendous debt and injustices that culminated in Shays' Rebellion. It was Captain Daniel Shays, a resident of Pelham, who in this forceful manner tried to convince the government of the need for a strong and stable government which could not be provided under the Articles of Confederation. It was Capt. Shays' action that led to drawing up of the Constitution.

No group of people settling in a new country by the urge for land ownership and self-government could hope to realize their purpose without schools. As early as 1744 the town voted that a school be kept for two months yearly. The residents of Pelham always strove through the years to improve their way of life. Industries, farms and quarries have gone but Pelham still is trying to make its mark in the history of our country.

The original bell in the old Congregation Church building (now to be used as a museum) still is tolled even though the size of the township has been reduced by half in order to provide the great Quabbin Reservoir. This church building stands four square to the elements and even though racked by four separate lightning hits before safety lightning rods were installed, the initial construction was so dynamic that it is still sound and in good order. The native oak, chestnut, walnut and pine stand true to what the original settlers strived to create. This complex in all its beautiful simplicity is worthy of loving restoration and guaranteed care in the future as a living symbol of the basic tenants of spartan living that created these United States.

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