

# NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor  
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## THE ROCK



How many remember this rock? It was opposite the east end of Center Street, to the left of the road to the Red Barn. Many children over the years climbed on it ( including yours truly).

The rock marked the center of the village, It isn't known (yet) when it was actually placed there. See the picture of the Van Arnam Hotel better known at the Winney Hotel.

A few years ago this stone was mysteriously removed from this spot where it had been for over 100 years. The historian found a picture of it in her archives and checked to see if it was still there. Sadly she found it missing and started the search for why it was moved and where did it go. Terry Warner went on a search for it but was unsuccessful. Rumor has it that it was tossed over an embankment nearby...let's hope we find it.



## MUSEUM NEWS

Officially Open for the Summer season, with guides; Linda and Skip Thompson on Saturday's and Gloria Fulmer on Wednesdays. Gail will be available for tours , individual openings, and substituting.

Approximately 30 NCS second graders toured the museum in June. They were especially interested in the history of the way this school was conducted when it was in operation. The dunce cap is always a popular item and this year many of the children were fascinated with the old typewriter.

Temporarily another rock has replaced the original. It was placed within a few feet of where the original rock



The Rock

A rock was located on Terry Warners Seven Hills Road Farm. Larry Cramer and Terry placed the rock close to the location of the original rock . Donna Breda graciously allowed it to be put on her property which is very close to where the rock originally stood.

## THIS ROCK MARKS THE CENTER OF THE VILLAGE OF NORTHVILLE

It replaces a rock that was here for many years. The original rock was mysteriously removed several years ago.



Carl Sedon, Donna Breda's son in law, helping to settle the rock in place.

### WANTED

If you have seen this rock. Please let the historian know.

## FORMER HEATH BLOCK

We have a Historic Business Tour In Northville, but unfortunately this building is not amongst the tour since it burned in 1933. It was located where our fire department is today.



The Orlando F. Heath brick block was built in 1883. Mr. Heath was an undertaker and had a Furniture and Carpet Business in half of the first floor. Part of the second floor was living quarters and the third floor was storage for furniture and caskets. There was a large elevator in the rear of the building. Fred B. Hay followed Heath in the same business there. He is the man wearing the derby in the picture.

Bowman and Allen had a grocery store in the other half of the first floor. Hiram Allen and his small son, Harold (Hypie) can be seen at the store entrance.

Wm. A. Foote had a steam heating business in the basement. A Newsroom was at the right and a Marble and Granite Works was in the rear.

The U. S. Post Office was in the narrow 2 story building at the far left. Note the Fire Bell in the upper left corner on top of the next building. (Cole Block)

After the fire destroyed the building, the fourth of July "Doins" was celebrated on the vacant lot. The Northville Fire Department built on the site in 1958.



Fred B. Hay



REMEMBERING ORRA J. BROWNELL  
1898- 1991  
Born in Hope Falls, NY

Son of Seymour and Janice Brownell,  
husband of Emma Ryan Brownell

Orra was small in stature but not in character. He worked many years in the Ford Garage on Third Street, owned and run by George A Van Arnam and his brother Bob. George wrote the following about Orra.

Orra was working at the garage and had been for two years when my Dad died, October 25, 1925. We started in on November 1, to do the best we could. I had been away at Dean Prep School and my mother wanted to sell the business and have me go back to school. Going back to school somehow never appealed to me.

Orra and I worked together for over forty years. It was Hello in the morning and Goodnight when he left. He knew what needed to be done and he did it. He only knew one way to do a job, the very best he could. He never hesitated to say, "I don't know", never tried to blunder thru, always willing to share any responsibility.

You could measure him at 5' 4" with a yard stick, but for honesty, integrity and loyalty, the proper way to measure any man, you couldn't do it with a 10 foot pole.

I never knew a better man!

Vivien Beirlein

Died June 15, 2016

The NNHS has lost one of our charter members. She spent many hours as one of the guides in the School-House museum. She loved the history of Northville/Northampton. She was a faithful member from the very beginnings of the Society. Thanks Vivien, for supporting and being an active member.



Looking east from High Rock before the dam was built.. Bill Foote Sr. in the foreground.