

## Drake's Place Eatery and Market Changes Hands

Press release

Drake's Place Eatery and Market was recently sold to a young family from Grafton. Reopening in mid-August as Drake's Place and Wilbur's Country Store,



Wilbur's  
Country  
Store

Mark and Carole will be serving up breakfast and lunch with homemade pastries and hot coffee and stocking their already established Wilbur's Country Store with convenient items you'd need "in a pinch."

Previous owners Nate and Shelby are thrilled to be sending off their "baby" in such good hands as Mark and Carole's vision of supporting local farmers, businesses, and community is priority.

Stay tuned for the reopening date on their Facebook page at [DrakesPlaceNH](https://www.facebook.com/DrakesPlaceNH), and please stop in to introduce yourself! Nate and Shelby will miss the kind folks of Andover and wish everyone health and happiness!



## Old Time Fair from page 1

speakers from the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire (BHTNH), followed by the unveiling of the official BHTNH historic marker for Richard Potter. The whole Fair runs from 9 AM to 2 PM next to the Old Potter Place train station at 105 Depot Street in Andover.

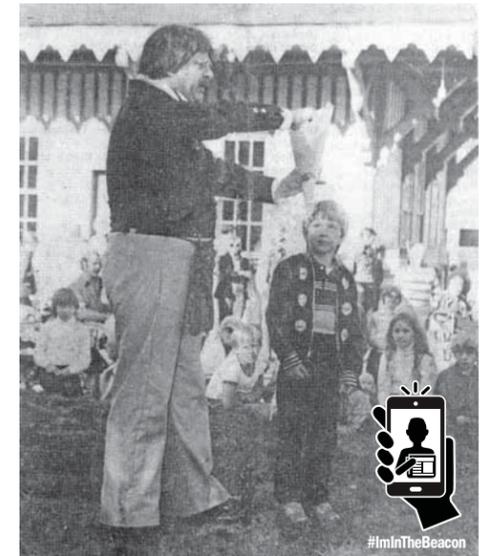
40th Anniversary of the Andover Historical Society

"Is there a future for our past?" Howard Sargent, one of the early members of the Andover Historical Society, asked this question back in 1982 at their first general meeting. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Andover Historical Society, and to answer his question: Yes!

Cheryl Swensen's article in the July issue of the *Beacon* talks about the fascinating series of events leading up to the creation of the Andover Historical Society in 1982, and she recounts many

Potter Place) like I did, then you may have come across the Andover Historical Society during your time at Andover Elementary/Middle School. I remember visiting the old Potter Place Train Station with my class in fourth grade.

We looked down the old railroad



#ImInTheBeacon

1983 gala festivities included a concert by the Hopkinton Band and a performance by magician Robert Olson, whose performance was based on Richard Potter's magic shows. Many local children (pictured here) enjoyed the show including Seth Currier, who will be running the sound board this year on August 7. Pictured here is Robert Olson and Seth Currier.

Caption: Lindsey Schust



In 1983, Elinor and Charles Taylor (pictured here) gave the newly formed Andover Historical Society a home base of operations. The couple generously donated the old Potter Place Railroad Station and the land beside it, which used to be the homestead of Richard Potter (1815-1835). The Andover Historical Society hosted a gala event on October 9, 1983 to honor the Taylors and celebrate a new chapter in Andover's history. Over 450 people attended.

Caption Lindsey Schust. Photo: Garry Rayno, *The Argus Champion*, October 12, 1983.

of the milestones reached over the following 40 years.

We hope that down the road there will be articles on the Old Time Fair 2022, since it marks another milestone, the installation of the official Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire historic marker for Richard Potter. Andover will now be a part of the network of BHTNH historic markers and the second in the Lakes Region, after Warner, to join the trail. People visiting New Hampshire will now have another reason to visit the Andover Historical Society and the historic area of Potter Place.

### Magical Legacy of Richard Potter

If you grew up in Andover (or

track and listened as the AHS volunteers described the olden days. We heard the amazing story of Richard Potter, the famous magician who performed across the entire country. We walked over to Richard and Sally Potters' headstones and learned that the magician and his wife were buried there. I remember wondering, "Who was this magic man?"

In 2018, the magician's story came to light again when Andover scholar John Hodgson published his book *Richard Potter: America's First Black Celebrity*. Hodgson first heard about Potter in the 1970s while visiting his wife's family. He was so fascinated with the story that he spent 25 years researching the mystery of Potter's life and career. With the publication of his book, Potter's name began to circulate and draw people's attention to Potter Place.

### Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire

This year, on behalf of the Andover Historical Society, John Hodgson applied to the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire to create an official historic marker for Richard Potter.

The BHTNH is a non-profit organization based in Portsmouth which works to promote awareness and appreciation of African American history and culture in New Hampshire to build more inclusive communities today.

The BHTNH hosts education and public programs across the state. They See Old Time Fair on page 7

Ragged Mountain

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