

**No. R-215. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the town of Pawlet.**

(H.C.R.165)

Offered by: Representative Malcolm of Pawlet

Whereas, on August 26, 1761, New Hampshire Royal Governor Benning Wentworth granted to Jonathan Willard and other proprietors a charter for the town of Pawlet that encompassed an area not to be greater than six miles square, “Begining the North West Corner of Rupert from thence runing due North Six Miles Thence due East Six Miles thence Due South Six Miles to the North East Corner of Rupert . . .”, and

Whereas, Jonathan Willard visited the site in either 1761 or 1762 and cleared some land but he remained only briefly, and

Whereas, although the first known meeting of the proprietors occurred in 1764, the first settler, Dr. Simon Burton, arrived in 1768, and he became Pawlet’s first town clerk in 1769, and

Whereas, Pawlet’s citizens fought bravely during the Revolutionary War, and

Whereas, the first religious congregation organized in Pawlet was the Congregational Church founded in 1781, and

Whereas, due to the fertility of the land in the Mettowee River Valley, agricultural pursuits were central to Pawlet’s early economy as was the production of potash and maple sugar, and

Whereas, several mills operated in Pawlet during the 19th century by deriving water power from either the Flower Brook or the Mettowee River, and

Whereas, the opening in 1851 of the Rutland and Washington Railroad through West Pawlet spurred the opening of slate quarries and the arrival of a sizeable community of Welsh and other immigrants with mining backgrounds, and

Whereas, musically speaking, in 1855, Pawlet's Joshua Stoddard was granted a patent for a steam calliope, and

Whereas, during the Civil War, Pawlet native Marcellus Jones fired the first shot at the Battle of Gettysburg, and

Whereas, while Pawlet's brave men were defending the union at great risk to their own lives, the Consider Bardwell farm in West Pawlet opened Vermont's first cheese factory in 1864, and

Whereas, in 1881, construction commenced on Pawlet's town hall, which has served the citizenry well for over century, and

Whereas, to celebrate the 250th anniversary of its charter, Pawlet is planning a festive day of celebratory events on August 26, 2011 at which a parade, a barbecue, a street dance, a ghost walk, fireworks, and the appearance of Daniel Webster, no less, are planned, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorate the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the town of Pawlet, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Pawlet town clerk and the Pawlet Historical Society.