



NORTH SMITHFIELD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VI ISSUE V OCTOBER 2025

North Smithfield Heritage Association
APPLE CRISP FESTIVAL
& YARD SALE **Awesome
APPLE
CRISP**

Saturday, October 11 • 10 AM – 2 PM

Rain Date: Sunday, October 12

Clean, usable donations are being accepted.
Call Christine at 401-741-8755 for delivery arrangements.

**ENJOY APPLE CRISP, FIND TREASURES,
AND SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE!**



**190 School Street
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All Proceeds to Benefit NSHA

HERITAGE HALL RENTAL

Host unforgettable events in our stylish, flexible Heritage Hall—perfect for showers, parties, and meetings. Heritage Hall has two great options, both mobility friendly and fully stocked kitchens! The Upper Hall seats 69 and the Lower Hall seats 62.



Jeanne
401-447-1801

www.nsheritageassn.org
nsha@nsheritageassn.com

Contact Us

Thank You



We thank Amy Bergeron, who donated a Maxwell Mayes “Slatersville” print. It was commissioned in 1995 by the North Smithfield 125th Anniversary Committee.



We thank Dan Keene for donating these artifacts from the Primrose Grange.

The team appreciates the opportunity to scan any photos or yearbooks from local schools that you may keep at home. Our oldest school newsletter dates back to the Kendall Dean School in 1946.

Your family photos and old letters contain much of our local heritage! Please help us to preserve that heritage by allowing us to scan them to keep in our archives.

Important! Too many wonderful photos get thrown away because younger generations don't know who is in them or where the pictures were taken. Images of ancestors are then lost forever. Please write the names on the back of your photos of all the people photographed and the location if possible. Use a pencil as ink may damage photos.

Please contact us at nsha@nsheritageassn.com or call [401-376-2927](tel:401-376-2927)

The NSHA Archives are located at the Memorial Town Building, 1 Main Street, Slatersville. Open every Monday through Wednesday from 10 am until 12 pm. The Archive Team continues to work tirelessly to manage our extensive archive collection. We welcome help from anyone with an interest.

Fifty Years Ago

From the April 1975 issue of the NSHA Newsletter

The North Smithfield Bicentennial Committee recently adopted as its emblem for the town's upcoming celebrations an official logo, designed by Harris Hien, who was also the creator of the NSHA logo and the panorama found on the back of the (*original, 1975*) newsletter. Serving on the committee were Walter and Irene Nebiker and Gilbert Moore.

The circular design is divided into two parts, just as the town is divided geographically by Woonsocket Hill. The lower half is an abstract outline of the hill, surmounted by its fire tower. Above is the north star, a symbol from the town's shield, representing North Smithfield, while the anchor represents the state of Rhode Island. The colors, green, gold, and white with black lettering, also have their significance. Green and gold were chosen because they are the colors of North Smithfield High School. The main divisions of the circle are green and white, green suggesting the town's agricultural heritage while the other segment, of white, denotes the cotton goods which were so important in its economic development. No further symbolism was intended, but other interpretations have been put forward. For example: green and the anchor are symbolic of hope and gold of high esteem. The tower looks out over the past which we revere and over the future in hope that our country will continue to grow in the future in the principles in which it was founded.



This pin or charm with the Bicentennial Emblem was donated to NSHA by Adele Gelinas Esau in September of 2021.

NS Historic Cemeteries

Work has continued at NS 22, the Richard Mowry lot because of the wonderfully warm weather.



Richard Mowry, for who this cemetery is named, was born in 1748 and died in 1825. His wife, Hannah Arnold, 1756-1790, is also buried here. Because of the poor condition of the stone, metal rails were used in addition to epoxy to preserve this gravestone.



We thank Ed Walker for his help with this tricky repair of Whipple Mowry's gravestone. Multiple steps were involved in getting this stone upright again. Whipple B Mowry, 1806-1868, was the grandson of Richard and Hannah.



We thank Janet Robidoux for bring us a yummy Fall treat to start the work day- apple cider donuts!

Janet Robidoux, Gayle O'Donnell and Lynne Pelletier

Veterans Memorial Museum

**One of the Largest
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*Visit the Museum & our Library
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**78 Earle St., Woonsocket, RI
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**www.VeteransMemorialMuseumRI.org
\$5.00 Entrance Fee
Free Entry for Veterans & Children**



Veterans Memorial Program

Nominate a deceased local veteran to honor at the Memorial Town Building. The VFW and the NSHA will conduct a brief flag-raising ceremony in honor of the veteran as well as publish a brief biography of the honoree's military service in the NSHA newsletter. Family or friends may contact the NSHA to nominate a veteran. nsha@nsheritageassn.com

Monthly Board Meeting

The Board of Directors will meet at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, November 11th at Heritage Hall, 101 Green Street. Members are welcome to attend in person or via Zoom. See the meeting email for instructions to join via Zoom.

Genealogy

Would you like help to conduct research on your family tree?

Lynne Pelletier has extensive experience and access to several databases. Please contact nsha@nsheritageassn.com to coordinate an appointment.



Ghosts and Paranormal Activity



Kara Pressia, a local spiritual medium continues to help with spiritual research. Have you hear of about or seen paranormal activity in North Smithfield? We would like to document it. Anyone interested in joining the Paranormal Research Team please contact us at nsha@nsheritageassn.com.



From award-winning film maker, Christian de Rezendes:

“To subscribe to the NEW Slatersville: America's First Mill Village - ONLY Youtube channel, this is where you go!! Our Breaking Branches channel has over 2,200 subscribers, but we are now moving all our Slatersville followers to a channel dedicated solely to the series and its outreach. So I invite you to join us here to keep up with our Q&A panel videos, press links and more

Thank you. “

<https://www.youtube.com/@SlatersvilleAFMV/videos>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sh0mGoAJ6LU>

Research Team

The NSHA Research Team recently investigates stone features on Black Plain Hill in the vicinity of Old Oxford Road.

One property owner showed them a chamber and some indigenous soapstone artifacts that he found nearby.



The Research Team continues to locate and document local colonial, indigenous and other historical stone features.

Ron Lapierre is the RI Coordinator for the New England Antiquities Research Assn. (NEARA)

The Research Team generally meets at 6:00 pm at Heritage Hall on the second Friday of each month.
Please contact NSHA or just show up if you'd like to participate!

Preservation and Restoration

Please contact Charlie Dubois at 401-741-8022 if you can help with routine maintenance!



Memorial Town Building (1 Main Street)

The stage at the Memorial Town Building is now complete! We thank volunteer members Jon Peirce, Larry Smith and Charlie Dubois for many hours of effort to transform the final section on the second floor into a showpiece!



Max and his helper installed new windows at the Memorial Town Building recently. The building is gradually regaining its original appearance. The UV glass feature will protect our irreplaceable artifacts as well as provide much better energy efficiency.

Preservation and Restoration



Heritage Hall (101 Green Street)

The exterior of Heritage Hall has been given a fresh new coat of paint but the painters discovered some rotten trim boards and some hidden beehives while working. The bees have been removed and the trim boards will be replaced soon.



Forestdale School (190 School Street)



Join us for an apple crisp festival and yard sale on Saturday, October 11, 2025 from 10 am until 2 pm.

Come enjoy some delicious warm apple crisp while you browse for treasure and support a great cause!

All proceeds benefit the NSHA

Raindate: Sunday, October 12th

Events & Activities



It was a long but fruitful day at the Great Pumpkin Festival on Saturday, September 20th.

The NSHA had 3 booths representing our merchandise, the research team, our archives and the cemetery team. We enlisted a new member and some volunteers, sold some merchandise and made some new friends!



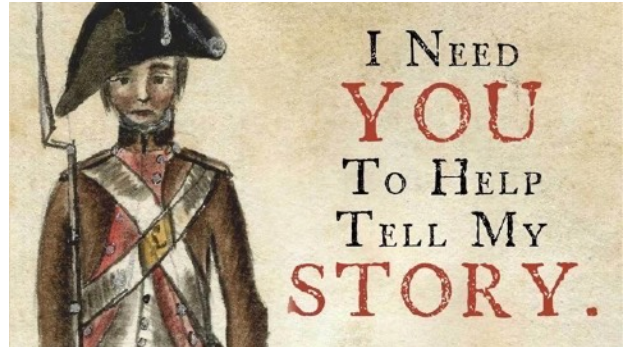
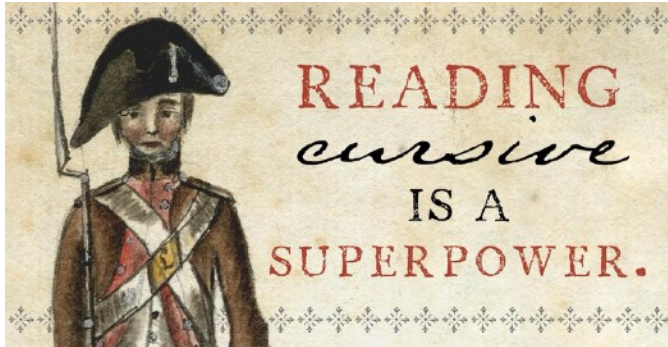
NSHA members enjoyed wonderful weather and great fellowship at our Annual Potluck BBQ on Saturday, September 27th. We thank everyone whose contributions and participation made this another successful event.



Events & Activities

In collaboration with the National Park Service, the NSHA will conduct two Revolutionary War pension file transcription events on Wednesdays at 6 pm at Heritage Hall, located at 101 Green Street in Slatersville. These events will take place on November 5 and December 3.

The public is cordially invited to contribute to the transcription of these handwritten records. Comprehensive instructions and guidance will be provided during the events. If possible, please bring a laptop.



Conservation

Heritage Walking Tours

Please join us for the following upcoming walking tours!

October 18- Reservoir Three Tour. View the great wall, the ruins of Obed Paine Farm and a 19th century quarry. Meet at 10 am at NS High School parking lot.

November 8-Wunnashowatuckquet Conservation Area. View Harkness Hill and the Blackstone River. Meet at 10 am at the NS Fire Station 675 St. Paul St.

December 13- Forte Wildlife Refuge. See the remains of an 18th century homestead and native ceremonial stone features. Meet at 10 am at the Refuge parking lot, 1453 Providence Pike, North Smithfield



In September, we enjoyed a walking tour through the town's newest acquisition, the Nipsachuck Conservation Area, formerly owned by the Gold family on Mattity Road. Dr. Lucien Benoit, who has lived here for 80 years in the neighborhood, spoke to the group about its history. Over 100 woodland acres include a former railroad bed, trails, wildlife, ruins of a massive 19th-century piggery and a historic cemetery.

September Mystery Photo Solved!!



Thanks to Richard Potenza's excellent memory we now have the identification of these individuals and the event!

The occasion was a retirement celebration in honor of fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Lillian Bellevue on Sunday, June 4, 1961. From left to right, Mr Thomas Mundy presenting roses, Mr. John Asmussen presenting a family of toy skunks, Mrs. Lillian Bellevue, and Mr Carl Christiansen presenting traditional red apples to the teacher.

I was able to locate the original newspaper article for this event in *The Woonsocket Call* archives. Though the article is impossible to read here, it tells the story of a dedicated and cherished teacher who touched the lives of many students with her patience, charm and wisdom.

It also explains the reason why Mr. Asmussen presented Mrs. Bellevue with a family of skunks. They were given as a reminder of a real skunk that he once let loose in school!!

North Smithfield Tribute

2 Generations Of Pupils Honor Mrs. Bellevue



45 RED ROSES AND 'SKUNKS' TO TEACHER

... Mrs. Lillian C. Bellevue, retiring Kendall-Dean teacher, received unusual tokens of tribute at testimonial last night in Halliwell School hall, North Smithfield. From left, Thomas E. Mundy presents his former teacher with a red rose for each teaching year; John E. Asmussen gives her toy skunks, a reminder of the real things he turned loose in classroom in a bygone day, and at right, Carl W. Christiansen, master of ceremonies, presents the traditional red apple to teacher.

By VIRGINIA W. BRYDEN
NORTH SMITHFIELD — Mrs. Lillian C. Bellevue, Grade 5 teacher in Kendall-Dean School, retiring this month after 45 years of teaching, 45 of them in this town, was presented gifts ranging from an apple to a portable television set at a dinner attended by about 225 people in the Halliwell Memorial School auditorium last night. Two generations of pupils paid tribute during the program, which was managed by Carl W. Christiansen and broadcast over WWOX.

Christiansen called the program a "Book of Memories" and called upon former pupils to reminisce and upon associates to comment. Robert A. Potenza, superintendent of schools, who came to this town in 1948 as superintendent, described Mrs. Bellevue as "having the patience of Job, the charm of Cleopatra and the wisdom of Solomon." He said "that she carried the key that unlocked the hearts and minds of children."

Fred B. West, principal of Kendall-Dean School, and chairman of the dinner committee, related a 15-year-old secret about an amusing episode and read messages from Armand D. DuRocher, chairman of the School Committee, Gov. Ned, Sen. Howard J. Luckins, Cong. John E. Fogarty, Abraham Ribicoff, secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, and from the office of President Kennedy.

Helin 2-Year Student
George T. Helin, who became a student in Grade 5 the first year Mrs. Bellevue taught, joked about staying two years in her grade and emphasized that it was because he had skipped an earlier grade and branched a ruler at his former teacher. Helin spoke of her class control and respect given her by pupils and then reminisced about the horse-drawn school bus and the trolley cars.

Police Chief Joseph J. Freitas, who was in her class in 1954, credited Mrs. Bellevue for his sterling

toward law and order. John E. Asmussen presented a family of toy skunks as a reminder of the real one he let loose in school.

The Rev. Robert A. Allaire, who with his twin, Richard, were in her class, likened her to the Biblical "good and faithful servant." Thomas E. Mundy, who was a pupil 30 years ago, presented a box of 45 long-stemmed red roses "in behalf of the thousands of pupils." He said about the garter snake he took to school.

Other speakers were John Crook, who lived next to the Slaterville School when it was on School Street, Mrs. Eleanor Crook Gaudin, who was a playmate of Mrs. Bellevue's son, Richard; Frederick O. Kluckars, who spoke of the boys who played hockey, romances and the teacher's pet; Mrs. Barbara Christiansen Warrington, who read two poems, "Just a Boy" and "Trees"; David Jarrold, who was a Rhodes Scholar and is now in the English Department at Antioch High School, who commented that he colored more birds than Audubon; Mrs. Patricia Helen Lyford, who reminisced about the Yuletide choir that Mrs. Bellevue directed; Jeffrey Robertshaw, who regretted that Mrs. Bellevue was unable to make a singer out of Armand D. DuRocher, Mrs. William Joseph Freitas Jr., who was in Mrs. Bellevue's class just 33 years after his father was and mentioned that she had taught his five aunts, uncles, sisters and himself.

A Pack Of Cards
Christiansen conducted the program in an informal manner and presented four packs of playing cards in connection with her playing regularly with Mrs. James H. Crook, Mrs. Edward W. Cross and Miss Mary Maroney.

The table decorations were done by Mrs. Audrey Blake, are supervisor for the schools, who kept them all her copies of miniature plates or other designs in school motif. Thomas E. Mundy supplied a head table centerpiece of red Mrs. Bellevue for his sterling

side of the stage was a basket of gladioli and chrysanthemums to flank the garlanded table.

Miss Grace Urrio, music supervisor, led singing of "School Days" with Mrs. Grace Miller, Teacher of Grade 1, at the piano. The Rev. Thomas I. Myrick, pastor of St. John's Church, gave the invocation and the Rev. William J. Llewellyn-Phillips, pastor of the Slaterville Congregational Church, gave the benediction.

Assisting West on the committee were Eugene Weard, Paul F. Joyce, Thomas E. Mundy, Ralph B. Anderson, Mrs. Joseph B. North Jr., Chief Freitas, Mrs. Audrey Blake, Daniel J. Andrews, Miss Urrio, Mrs. Alfred E. King, Mrs. Grace Miller, Miss Dorothy G. Randall, Mrs. Robert A. Potenza, Mrs. Estelle M. Tobin, Miss Marion W. Smith, Miss Catherine F. Cramer, Mrs. Lena Brannocmer, Miss Mary K. Hourigan and Gerard A. Breton.

Also, Mrs. Alice A. Stevenson, Mrs. Ruth H. Goff, Mrs. C. Marie Fallett, Miss Rosalie C. Sharkey, Mrs. Louise Corrigan, Mrs. Carston J. Aldrich, Mrs. Gilbert T. Robertshaw, L. Philip Le-mieux, Mrs. E. L. Tremblay, Mrs. Armand D. DuRocher, Mrs. William E. Stone, Mr. and Mrs. Albert J. Vanasse, Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Bellevue, Deputy Police Chief William L. Cates, D. Emmett McGinn, Harry A. O'Neill and Mrs. Henry R. Lee.

Also, Mrs. Edwin R. Hahn, Mrs. Herbert N. Cheek, Mrs. Rheaanne Macabed, Mrs. Harold A. Maynard Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cahill, Mr. and Mrs. J. Harold Moore, Mrs. John E. Asmussen, Mrs. George H. Smith, Mrs. Rowland W. Hoyle, Mrs. George Johnson, Mrs. William J. Twomey Jr., Mrs. Irene Martel, Mrs. Florence Blazewski and Mrs. Raymond L. Pezquin.

REVERBY, New South Wales — A firm announces moves to expand the production of cork and plastic from products in Australia.

Page 6 of The Woonsocket Call And Evening Reporter, published in Woonsocket, Rhode Island on Monday, June 5th, 1961

October Mystery Photo

This month's mystery photograph is from a collection shared by Gayle O'Donnell. The photograph lacks any written information on its back, making its location uncertain. Could it be situated in North Smithfield? Additionally, we would appreciate information about the photograph's owner and the time period during which it was captured.

If you can help, please let us know! Contact us at nsha@nsheritageassn.com



The NSHA often receives photos without any type of identification which is why we post them here. Please help us to identify them for our archives!

NSHA Merchandise



We offer a wide range of merchandise including calendars, books, maps, puzzles, ornaments, birdhouses and much more! Get 2025 calendars at a 50% discount!

Visit our Gift Shop at the Forestdale School from 1 pm- 4 pm every first and third Friday and from 9 am until 12 pm every first Saturday.

Also visit our online store at <https://www.nsheritageassn.org/shop>. We will deliver locally for free!



Development



COMMUNITY ANNUAL APPEAL

We rely on you to help preserve
North Smithfield's amazing heritage!

WAYS TO DONATE

- Scan QR codes for PayPal or Venmo
- Mail check payable to NSHA to P.O. Box 413, Slatersville, RI, 02876
- Drop off at the Memorial Town Building
- Call 401-447-6394 to arrange doorstep pickup



For any questions or inquiries please email:
nsha@nsheritageassn.com

or visit:

<https://www.nsheritageassn.org/>

The North Smithfield Heritage Association Fund (Endowment)

Estate planning? Need to make a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA?

Make a legacy donation to the NSHA to avoid paying higher taxes. The RI Foundation manages the endowment fund, helping it to grow every year.

Click on the link for more information:

<https://rifoundation.org/giving/funds?q=north+smithfield+heritage+&s=3>

You Can Help!!

Join: Membership costs just \$20 each year! ***No commitment required!***

Volunteer: Help with any of our ongoing activities and events. No need to make a steady commitment. We appreciate whatever time you can spend with us!

Donate: Our Annual Appeal runs all year long. We accept local artifacts. We appreciate whatever you give!

Share: Share this free newsletter with family and friends. Encourage them to subscribe. Only shared history can preserve our heritage!

Membership

We welcome new member: John Chellel

Our membership now stands at 222 including 42 life members and 6 students. Some members live as far away as NH, CA, WA and AR. Your dues help significantly to fund our local preservation activities!

We thank our wonderful members for their vital support! You can become a new member by filling out an application at :<https://www.nsheritageassn.org/membership>

Seniors over 75 and students pay no dues.

\$20 Annual Dues were due on January 1, 2025. Your dues help significantly to fund our local preservation activities. **33 members have not yet renewed their dues.** We value your support. Please renew today! Former members can renew their membership at any time.

We thank the members renewed their 2025 membership dues! **If you are not sure of your status, please contact us ASAP.**

See payment options below.

NSHA Payment Options

1. **PayPal Giving Fund:** search for nsha@nsheritageassn.com, select “Donation” and type the purpose for the payment on the memo line.
2. **Venmo:** Open the Venmo app and search for North Smithfield Heritage Assn@NorthSmithfieldHeritageAssn. Tap on Pay, enter the dollar amount to be paid, and fill in the field what’s it for (ie., dues, merchandise, donation etc). Tap on Pay and select your payment method you have established in the Venmo app.
3. **Give cash or check.** Make checks payable to “NSHA”. Note “Dues, Annual Appeal or Merchandise” on the memo line.
4. **Mail Checks** to NS Heritage Assn, P.O. Box 413, Slatersville, RI 02876.
5. We will also pick up payments and deliver purchases at your door if you live locally. Contact nsha@nsheritageassn.com or call [401-376-2927](tel:401-376-2927).



Instagram (nsha1970)

Please follow us!

<https://www.instagram.com/nsha1970/>

Followers: 332

Visit our **Facebook Page** to learn about our events and activities. Get acquainted with some of our members and supporters. Like and share with friends and family!

www.facebook.com/northsmithfieldheritage



Followers: 1,539

We thank Julie Tilley for making posts to all of our social media platforms, We continue to see steady follower growth!

Website: 312 site sessions in the last 30 days.
NSHA Newsletter Subscribers: 1,644

Visit our website! Read past newsletters, learn about our organization as well as our many ongoing historic preservation activities. <https://www.nsheritageassn.org/>

To join our mailing list, simply contact us at nsha@nsheritageassn.com **or** [401-376-2927](tel:401-376-2927)

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Mike & Terri Bartamoli, OWNERS

This newsletter is published by Lynne Pelletier. The editorial team includes Beth Faricy, Jody Lamoureux, Linda Rawlings, Al Menard, Beth Newberry and Rich Keene.

Please share this free newsletter with family and friends!!