



NORTH SMITHFIELD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume III Issue 4 ~ May 2022

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Anniversary Parade - May 7, 2022



The parade was a resounding success! Although it was windy and cold, the weather remained dry. Spectators lined the two-mile route along Victory Highway, Green Street and North Main Street. Five divisions took part, which included trucks and motorcycles, marching units, bands and floats. See the NSHA Facebook page to watch the WOON live video recording. Thank you to all who participated in this wonderful town event! *See more pictures on page 2...*





Parade Photos





Time Capsule

The North Smithfield 150th anniversary time capsule

We placed newspaper clippings for the 150th Parade into the time capsule. A suitable container will be found for all of the items and then it will be stored in our archives at the Memorial Town Building.



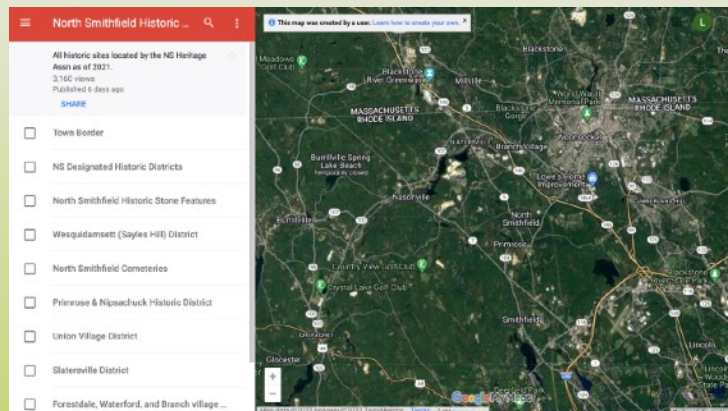
Sesquicentennial History Book

Author John Hill, a retired reporter for *The Providence Journal*, continues his research for the new history book.



Education

We'd like to thank NS middle school students and Junior National Honor Society members Robert Harvey and Sam Lane for their diligent work on the NSHA Google Maps History Tours project. Visit the NSHA website to view the map.



Research

Native American and Post-Colonial Stone Features Research Team

The team meets at 4:00 pm every Friday at the Memorial Town Building and via Zoom. The next meeting is scheduled for May 20th.



Annual Meeting

The 2022 Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner took place recently at Heritage Hall. Members elected officers and listened to a wonderful presentation by Alicia Leher, Executive Director of the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council. She spoke about the council and its plans to construct bike paths and greenways along local rivers.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers and board members who will serve for the next year:

President- Richard Keene

Vice President- Peter Hainley

Treasurer- Doug Osier

Assistant Treasurer- Deb Keene

Recording Secretary- Rachel Pecoraro

Corresponding Secretary- Jody Lamoureux

At-large Board Member- Ruth Pacheco

At-large Board Member- Bob Mowry Jr.

Subsequently, the Board of Directors approved the following committee chairpersons:

Archives- Al Menard

Arts& Culture- Ann Lilley

Budget- Beth Faricy

Cemetery- Dennis Chamberland

Development- Fred Grant

Education- Jeanne Marion

Genealogy- Lynne Pelletier

Governance- Sarah McConnell

Grants- Beth Faricy

Housekeeping- Christine Dubois

Information Technology- Fred Grant

Maintenance- Charles Dubois

Membership- Martha Shean

Merchandise- Kim Leahy

Preservation&Restoration-Jeff Harris

Programs- Freya Hainley

Property Rental- Jeanne Marion

Research- Larry Smith

Sunshine- Louise Vanhowe

Development

Annual Appeal 2022: The 2022 Annual Appeal has kicked off. We encourage the community to support NSHA preservation and conservation efforts by making a tax-deductible donation today.



From the Archives

Doctor Anna Inman

by Al Menard



Anna Inman was born in an old farm house a little west of the village of Slatersville in 1813. She would pass away in this very same house some 74 years later. Yet she had quite a remarkable life. Her passion for learning along with her dedication to her fellow man would lead her to become not only a successful woman but also an unwitting pioneer for women's rights.

Greatly influenced by her Quaker background, she was an early advocate for the abolition of slavery and the pursuit of peace. She was dedicated to her community, and to the promotion of education for all. At age 12 she began teaching pupils in her home, and later taught in both public and private schools in Smithfield, Burrillville, Woonsocket and Providence.

A strong minded woman in her own right and encouraged by her Quaker friends, Anna decided to pursue a career as a doctor. This decision was quite remarkable. Women did not become doctors in the early 1800's. Was she inspired by Elizabeth Blackwell who had just become the first woman doctor in American in 1848? Anna was certainly aware of the many obstacles women had to overcome to get the education and proper training needed to become physicians. There were plenty of medical colleges available for men but none allowed women to attend.

After a long search, Anna discovered the New England Female Medical College in nearby Boston. This was the first school to train woman in the field of medicine. It opened in 1848 and graduated 34 women between 1848 and 1860. It would merge with Boston University to become the Boston University School of Medicine in 1874. As a graduate there, Anna received the degree of Doctress of Medicine in 1857. This term was not appreciated by woman and other medical institutions and was soon dropped in favor of Doctor of Medicine. At last, she was able to call herself, Doctor Anna Inman! Nevertheless it would take many years for women doctors to be recognized and to receive equal treatment.

Now that Anna had become a doctor she was ready to begin her practice. Society is slow to change and a female physician was difficult to accept for many nineteenth century citizens. Anna tried to get work in Providence hospitals but the state of Rhode Island would not allow her to practice there without previous experience. So she made her way to New York, to the newly opened New York Medical College for Woman. There she served as chair of the obstetrics department for two years. She then went to Europe where she furthered her studies and worked in hospitals in France and Germany.

Upon her return to the US, Anna lived with a sister at the old homestead in Smithfield. Her Quaker values still very strong, Anna would do charity work in places as far as Washington, DC where during the Civil War she reportedly did missionary work. Apparently her interests were broad in that it is noted in her obituary that Anna was also "a constant attendant on the meetings of Congress."



Doctor Anna Inman

In 1865 she returned to live in Providence, probably as a private physician. There she established a reputation for being kind to a fault. It is reported that some people would take advantage of her kindness. This did not bother her. When it did happen that someone took advantage of her she would simply say, “I am glad I am not in their place.”

She stayed in Providence until 1881 when she returned to the old homestead. In Providence she had suffered an accident with lasting painful effects which caused her to leave her practice. Also her invalid sister needed her help. So she spent her final years living quietly in Smithfield, but for the many visits from her former patients. It is said that they visited her until her health failed and they had to be turned away. Then on March 8, 1887 she died at the age of 74. She is buried in the company of Peleg Arnold and other early settlers of this area in the cemetery near the Friends Meeting House in Woonsocket.

In 1961, she was honored by the Society of Friends as a “Hero of Peace” during a Friends service on Memorial Day. The people who cleaned the cemetery for the celebration noted that there were lilies of the valley still growing at the site of her grave.

An amazing woman, Anna Inman was truly a “Pioneer for women’s equality” and one of the first female doctors in America!



Archives

Your memories contain our local heritage! Please loan your old family photos and documents to us to scan. We’ll return them promptly!

Email nsha@nsheritageassn.com, call
[401-651-6316](tel:401-651-6316)

or visit our website nsha@nsheritageassn.org





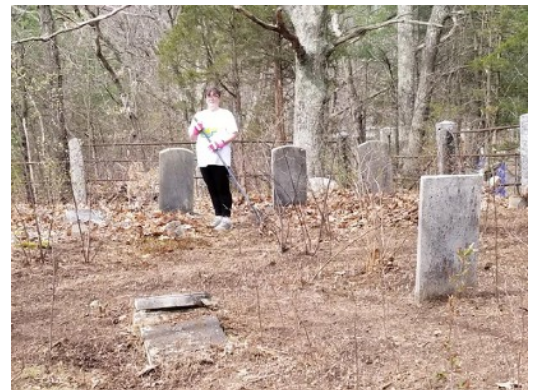
Historic

Save the Date

NSHA volunteers will conduct a historic guided tour of Union Cemetery at 9:00 am, Saturday, May 21st followed by a gravestone cleaning demonstration at 11:00 am in the Hotchkiss Cemetery.



The RI Historical Cemetery Commission and the RI Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission jointly agreed to designate April and May 2022 as Cemetery Awareness Months. Volunteers conducted spring cleanup in several historic cemeteries in town including the Quaker cemetery on Smithfield Road.





Historic Cemetery of the Month

The Jashub Wing Lot & The Blackmar Cemetery By Lynne Pelletier



The Jashub Wing Lot and the Blackmar Cemetery share the honor of May's cemetery of the month. These two small, family cemeteries are located side by side along Providence Pike and many people pass them by every day without even noticing that they are there. Both cemeteries are maintained by local volunteers.

The Blackmar cemetery, or NS 040, is roughly 25x50 feet and it is set up on a stone wall. It contains the graves of two individuals but there are no inscriptions on the fieldstone markers. It is thought that the graves belong to members of the Blackmar family. In 1795, Henry sold his "old house" to Jashub Wing which may explain why



there are two cemeteries on the property.

The Jashub Wing Lot is actually smaller at 35x40 feet, but it is enclosed by a stone wall. There are 12 headstones and all have inscriptions. The namesake of this cemetery is Jashub Wing who was born June 11, 1758 in Rochester, MA to parents Jabez Wing and his wife, Anna Wing. He was the only one of his siblings to remain in Smithfield and he was a farmer and a tanner by trade. Jashub also had three daughters with his first wife, Mary Smith. He died at age 56.

Jashub Wing's second wife, Lilles is also buried here. Lilles Harris was born April 7, 1766 in Smithfield to parents Abner Harris and Amy Colwell. Lilles died at age 90 on January 13, 1857. She was the mother of Jashub's two sons, Smith and Harris.

Smith Wing was Jashub's oldest son. He was born April 19, 1796 and died at age 31 on May 22, 1826. He was the husband of Anna Comstock White also buried here. Anna was born in 1802 and died at age 23-24 on May 21, 1826. She was the daughter of Col. Gideon White and Abigail Gifford. Smith and Anna married on September 19, 1824 and had no children.

Harris Wing was Jashub's younger son. He was born October 3, 1800. He married his wife Nancy on November 20, 1823 and they had at least 4 children. Harris died at age 53 on June 26, 1854. Nancy Bowers Spooner Wing was born July 22, 1799 in Providence to parents Asa Spooner and his wife, Cynthia Lee May. Nancy died at age 44 on April 19, 1843.

Harris and Nancy's first child was named Jashub for his grandfather. Jashub Wing was born on August 29, 1824 in Smithfield. He served in the Civil War and was a member of Company E of the 3rd Regiment of Rhode Island Volunteers. He never married and he died at age 74 on January 17, 1899.

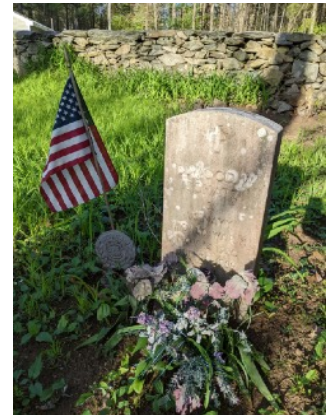


The Jashub Wing Lot and the Blackmar Cemetery

Thomas Spooner Wing was also a son of Harris and Nancy. Thomas was born in 1828 and unfortunately passed away before his second birthday on January 28, 1830. Another young child of Harris and Nancy is also buried here. Mary Wing was born on March 4, 1831 and she died at age 2 on December 5, 1833.

Phebe Wing Albee was the last child of Harris and Nancy. She was born in Smithfield on March 16, 1834. She married her husband, Emery Albee, in 1857 and they had 5 children. Phebe died at age 68 at her home in Ashford, Connecticut on March 2, 1903 at age 68. Phebe's oldest child, Octavia, who died at birth in 1858 is also buried here. Phebe appears to have been the family historian and provided information about the Smithfield Wing family to a publication called *The Owl*, which is an annual publication for the Wing family descendants of America and still exists today.

The newest grave in the Jashub Wing Lot belongs to Elwood Schatz who died on June 30, 1989 at age 68. Mr. Schatz does not appear to be a descendant of the Wing family but may have chosen to be buried here because it was close to his home and he may have cared for the cemetery. Elwood was born in Bellingham, MA on November 14, 1920 to parents Alfred Schatz and Delia Brown. Elwood served in the Navy in World War II and married his wife Constance in 1942. Elwood and Constance were the proprietors of two restaurants on Providence Pike in the 1940's and 1950's, The Pine Kitchen and Breezy Knoll.



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.





Preservation & Restoration

Forestdale School (190 School Street)



We thank Allard construction for installing a new water line that now connects the school to the municipal water system.

Heritage Hall (101 Green Street)

Volunteers painted the hallway and restrooms at the Heritage Hall. New stairs to the attic are next!



NS Zoning Ordinance Amendment

Local Historic Districts

The Planning Board approved an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that reduces the administrative and financial burden of property owners who agree to allow the town to designate their historic buildings as an individual historic district. This will simplify the process and reduce costs significantly. It now goes before the Town Council for consideration.



Heritage Hall Rentals (101) Green Street



Rent the newly renovated upper and lower halls! Call Jeanne at (401) 447-1801 to make a reservation.



Spring has truly sprung and the many flowers in bloom brought this timely piece to mind.



The Language of Flowers

Taken from~ *The Old Farmer's 2022 Summer Almanac*

Do you know the language of flowers? Many flowers, herbs, trees, and other plants traditionally symbolize feelings, moods or ideas, and as our list below shows, each flower has its own particular meaning.

The symbolic language of flowers has been recognized for centuries in many countries throughout Europe and Asia. Mythologies, folklore, sonnets and plays of the ancient Greeks, Romans, Egyptians and Chinese are peppered with flower and plant symbolism-and for good reason. Nearly every sentiment imaginable can be expressed with flowers. The orange blossom, for instance, means chastity, purity and loveliness, while the red chrysanthemum means "I Love You."

Learning the special symbolism of flowers became a popular pastime during the 1800s. Nearly all Victorian homes had, alongside the Bible, guidebooks for deciphering the "language" although definitions shifted depending on the source. Religious, literary, folkloric and botanical publications were all used to inform meanings.

Examples of plants and their associated human qualities during the Victorian era included bluebells and kindness, peonies and bashfulness, rosemary and remembrance, and tulips and passion. Flowers provide an incredibly nuanced form of communication. Some plants, including roses, poppies, and lilies could express a wide range of emotions based on their color.

Take, for instance, all of the different meanings attributed to variously colored carnations. Pink meant "I'll never forget you"; red said "my heart aches for you"; purple conveyed capriciousness; white was for the "sweet and lovely"; and yellow expressed romantic rejection. Likewise, a white violet meant innocence, while a purple violet said that the bouquet giver's "thoughts were occupied with love." A red rose was used to openly express feelings of love, while a red tulip was a confession of love. The calla lily was interpreted to mean "magnificent beauty" and a clover said "think of me."



Plants could also express aversive feelings, such as the "conceit" of pomegranate or the "bitterness" of aloe. Similarly, if given a rose declaring "devotion" or an apple blossom showing "preference" one might return to the suitor a yellow carnation to express "disdain."

How flowers were presented and in what condition were also important. If the flowers were given upside down, then the idea being conveyed was the opposite of what was traditionally meant. How the ribbon was tied said something too: tied to the left, the flowers' symbolism applied to the giver, whereas tied to the right, the sentiment was in reference to the recipient. And of course, a wilted bouquet delivered an obvious message!

The meanings and traditions associated with flowers have certainly changed over time, and different cultures assign varying ideas to the same species, but the fascination with "perfumed words" persists just the same.



Upcoming Events

NS Gala 2022

Come enjoy a family style chicken dinner and dancing in a semi-casual atmosphere from 6:00pm -10:00pm on Saturday, June 18 at the Village Haven Restaurant. Tickets cost \$25 and are available at the Town Hall, L'il General Convenience Store, Village Paint, and the Memorial Town Building. We will also make local doorstep sales. Groups of 6 or more may reserve a table before May 28.



North Smithfield Heritage Association ***GALA*** ***2022***

Saturday, June 18

6:00PM-10:00PM

The Village Haven

90 School Street

Forestdale, RI

DINNER - DANCING - RAFFLE

CASUAL ATTIRE

\$25 per person

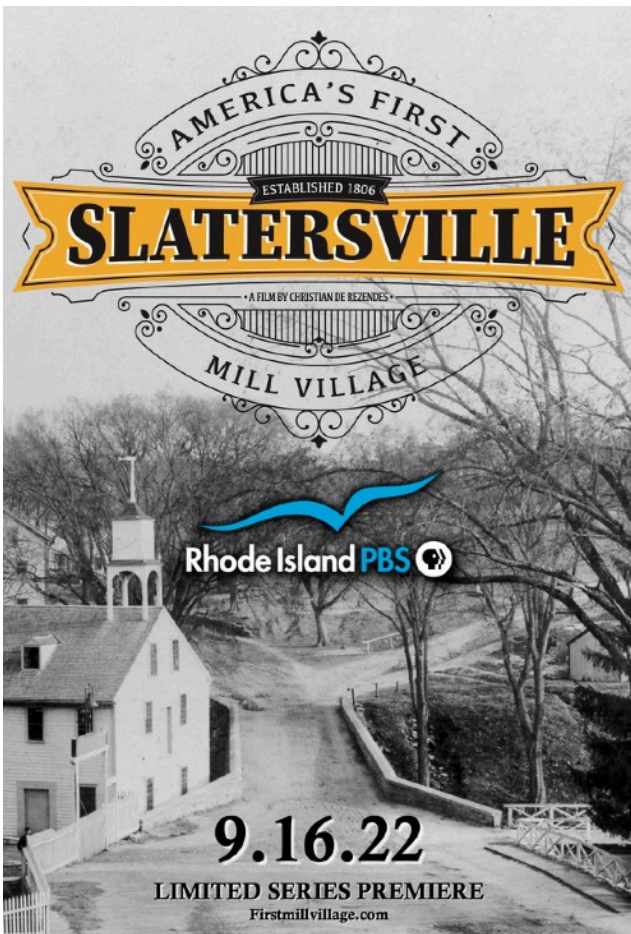
Contact nsha@nsheritageassn.com or call 401-651-6316



Nature and History Tour

Saturday, June 18th: Woonsocket Hill Road history walk and tour.

Visit the Mowry Fire Tower, the Philip Mowry house, NS047, and the National Grid stone features. Meet at the NS Middle School parking lot at 9:30 am.



Slatersville Movie premiere date!

After more than a decade in production, we are truly excited to announce that the World Premiere of SLATERSVILLE: America's First Mill Village will take place on Friday, September 16, 2022 at 8pm on Rhode Island PBS. The entire series will consist of 12 episodes and be split into two seasons of six episodes each.

Season One will premiere on September 16, 2022 with a new episode to follow every Friday evening at 8pm through October 21, 2022. Season Two will premiere in 2023 on a date to be determined.



Mystery photo

Last month we published this mystery photo that a member shared with us. We wondered if anyone knew the children pictured. We received an answer from Linda Rawlings.

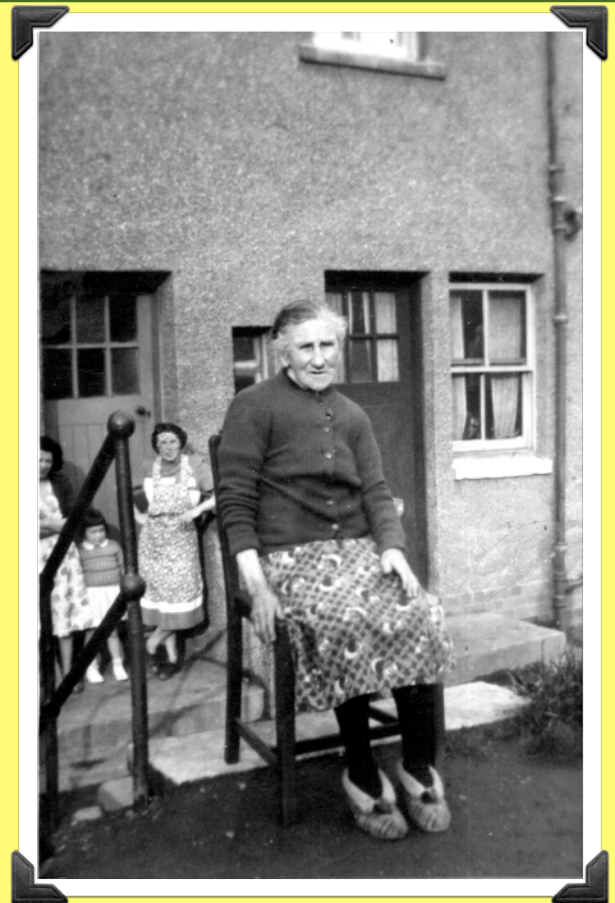
Linda wrote: "In the article with Mrs. Potenza showing movies to her classroom of children, it includes a photo at the bottom with several students. The little girl at the left is Janet Overton, my stepsister who lived on Maple Avenue in Forestdale and attended school there. She went on to graduate from Woonsocket High School in 1954, graduate with an Accounting Degree from Bryant College in 1956, work for Corning Glass Works in both Central Falls, RI and Corning, NY, married Dr. George Beall, Corning geologist, and had three children before passing away suddenly in Corning at Thanksgiving in 1974 at the age of 37. She was a beautiful gal."

Thanks for your help, Linda!



Here's a new mystery to solve!

This photo was found in a donated box of old photos. "Granny Lamont" is written on the back. Does anyone recognize her, the people in the background or the building? Please let us know if you do!





Membership

2022 Dues are now due. We thank the 62 members who have already paid. Members can renew by mail, via Pay Pal Giving Fund or Tuesday mornings at the Memorial Town building. Your \$20 annual dues allow us to conduct our vital preservation activities. Seniors over 85 and students are still free. If you are unsure of your status, please contact us.



Email nsha@nsheritageassn.com, call
[401-651-6316](tel:401-651-6316)

or visit our website nsha@nsheritageassn.org

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. Give cash or check.** Make checks payable to “**NSHA**”. Note “**Dues, Annual Appeal or Merchandise**” on the memo line.
- 3. Mail Checks** to NS Heritage Assn, P.O. Box 413, Slatersville, RI 02876.
- 4.** We will also pick up payments at your door if you live locally. Contact nsha@nsheritageassn.com or call 401-651-6316



Amazon Smile is a part of Amazon that allows you to shop as well as generate a corporate donation for **The NSHA**.

❖ Simply create an account on **Amazon Smile** (<https://smile.amazon.com>).

❖ Choose The North Smithfield Heritage Association as the charity that will benefit from your purchases at no extra cost to you.

Make sure you use the AmazonSmile website to shop! (<https://smile.amazon.com>)



Get Your NSHA Merchandise!

2022 Historic Calendars \$10, NS 150th Anniversary Ornament \$15, NS Throws \$35

This month's featured item is:



NS Throws-available in 3 colors
(blue, green and burgundy)



View our entire inventory at the NSHA On-Line shop at www.nsheritageassn.org. \$5 shipping fee for each order. Free local delivery. Orders ship immediately upon payment.

Help Promote Local History



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

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

Most importantly, share this newsletter with family and friends! To join our mailing list, simply contact us at nsha@nsheritageassn.com or 401-651-6316

Outreach

Facebook followers: 1030

Website: 180 interactions in the last 30 days

NSHA newsletter subscribers: 989



Instagram (nsha1970) Please follow us!

Help wanted: We need a volunteer familiar with Instagram to manage our account. Can **YOU** help?