



NORTH SMITHFIELD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume V Issue II- February/March 2024

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Mangia!



Spring Dinner

We welcome our **members and their guests** to the **NSHA Spring Dinner 2024!** Join us for a night of fantastic food and great company as we celebrate the arrival of spring. This in-person event will feature a delicious dinner menu and a chance to connect with fellow community members. Dinner includes an Italian Buffet with baked scrod. We will also offer a brief surprise program. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to come together and enjoy a memorable evening. Mark your calendars and get ready for a fun-filled night at the **NSHA Spring Dinner 2024!** Due to limited seating, ticket sales are limited to the first 50 people so sign up soon! <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nsha-spring-dinner-2024-tickets-852971740437?aff=oddtcreator>

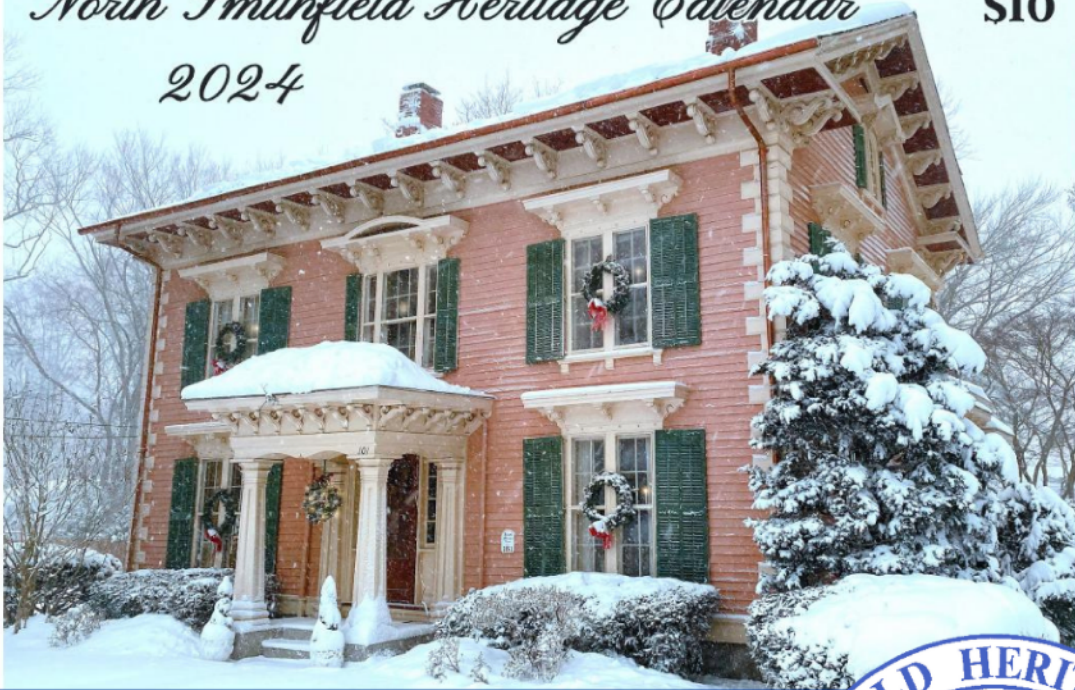




Calendar *for* Sale

North Smithfield Heritage Calendar
2024

\$10



2024 North Smithfield Calendars are available for \$10 at the following locations:

- Wright's Dairy Farm
- Leeway Ace Hardware
- Village Paint and Decorating,
- Memorial Town Building
- NS Heritage Assn Online Store

Sales promote local historic preservation efforts.



The 2024 NSHA calendars are still available limited quantities at the Memorial Town Building and at Leeways!

These high-quality calendars feature beautiful images of local historic buildings and landmarks. Support our preservation activities and learn about our town's heritage!

We will mail them for an additional \$5 shipping fee or deliver them locally for free.



Annual Appeal 2024

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/>



Make a 2024 donation: We appeal to the community to help fund our preservation efforts with a tax-deductible donation. Renovation of the historic Forestdale School is almost complete and we now plan to renovate the main hall at the Memorial Town Building. Please help us to complete these projects at two iconic historic buildings by making a donation to the NSHA.

You may make a tax-deductible donation via mail, PayPal Giving Fund, or Venmo. Or you can simply drop off your donation or pay with a credit card at our headquarters at the Memorial Town Building, 1 Main St. during our weekday morning business hours:

Tuesdays from 9:00 am- 12:00 pm or Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am- 12:00 pm.

We will also pick up donations at your door! **Any amount helps enormously!**

Board Giving: The NSHA Board of Directors continues to set an example for the community by making meaningful donations in January to the NSHA. Last year, their donations covered 15% of the organization's operating expenses.



Thank You



We thank Ray Hamilton, left, for donating three vintage hand irons to our collection. Tom Mrva accompanied Ray.



We thank Paul St. Pierre and his wife, Laurel for donating an old wooden tool chest that belonged to her grandfather who was a machinist who worked in the mills. Al Menard accepted the donation.

We also thank Rich Keene for donating a book containing the RI 1774 Census and a book entitled *"The Rhode Island Genealogy Dictionary."*

Your family photos and old letters contain our local heritage!

Please allow us to scan them to maintain a digital copy in our archives.

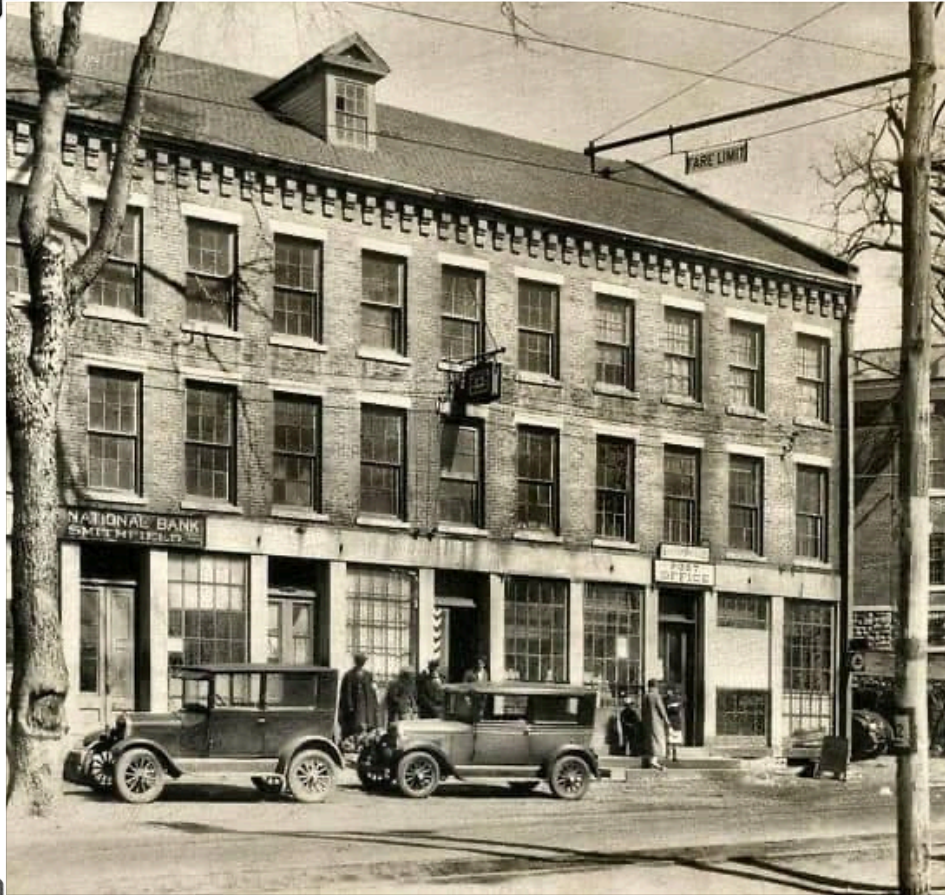
Important! Please write the names on the back of your photos of all the people photographed and the location if possible. Use a pencil as ink may damage the photos. Too many wonderful photos get thrown away because younger generations don't know who is in them. Images of ancestors are then lost forever.

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

The NSHA archives and the research center is open at the Memorial Town Building every Monday and Wednesday from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm or Tuesdays from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm. Stop by and visit or contact us to make an appointment to visit on another day.



Archives



We thank Pat Morgan for sharing this fantastic circa 1935 photo of one of the commercial buildings in Slatersville. It looks like trolley tracks running along Main Street.

If you look closely, you can see NSHA headquarters, the Memorial Town Building on the right side of the photo!



Jon Peirce, a master furniture maker who owns the local Industrious Revolution, has nearly finished the display table that will hold the restored Dorr Rebellion Flag. We ordered museum-quality glass for the tabletop. When finished, this display will become the centerpiece of our future museum at the Memorial Town Building. Meanwhile, the Varnum Armory in East Greenwich will continue to store the flag in its climate controlled building.



The restored Dorr Rebellion Flag



From the Archives

Eleanor Reed Alter- Gifted poet and educator

by Al Menard

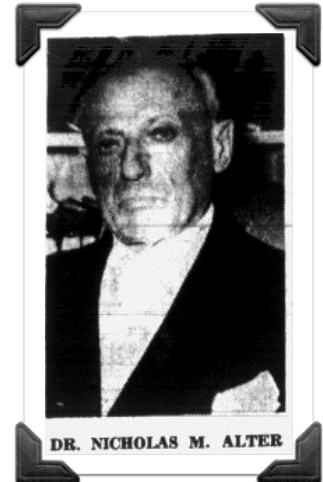


Eleanor was well known locally for her creative writing skills. Her picture was often in the newspaper. Yet, we at the NSHA do not have a good photograph of her. If anyone has one, we would appreciate a copy.

Eleanor Reed, born May 4, 1908, in Montgomery, Alabama, was the child of Prentiss Reed and Eleanor Cochran. Her Southern heritage influenced her upbringing and education, which included the Scarborough School in Tarrytown, N.Y. Eleanor developed a love for creative writing and dance early on. In high school, she was class poet and newspaper editor. She continued her education at Smith College, leading the Press Board and Dance Group. She graduated in 1930.

Eleanor married the distinguished Dr. Nicholas Mark Alter, who held the position of Director of Laboratories at the Margaret Hague Maternity Hospital in Jersey City, NJ. Dr. Alter, a Hungarian by birth, received his training in Vienna and previously served at John Hopkins University. He was a highly esteemed pioneer in cancer research and made significant contributions to the field.

In Jersey City, Eleanor and her husband nurtured a family of four children: Eleanor, Katherine, Nicholas, and Ernest. During this period, Eleanor channeled her boundless creative energy into various pursuits. She held the presidency of the College Club of Jersey City and the Hudson County Chapter of the American Association of University Women. She served on the board of the YWCA and presided over the Dinkel Chapter of St. Barnabus nurses. In addition, she actively raised funds for Smith College and the Jersey City Symphony Orchestra.



In addition to his medical expertise, Dr. Alter was a polyglot, fluent in six languages, and a proficient violin player. His diverse talents and accomplishments earned him great respect in his field.

In 1956, Dr. Alter accepted the position of Director of Professional Education at the Woonsocket Hospital, leading to the family's relocation to North Smithfield. Soon the Alters had a beautiful home on Victory Highway.



After a short time on White Parkway, the Alters made their home in this house on Victory Highway. Here Eleanor would entertain many society friends

As fate would have it, after two years in Woonsocket, Dr. Alter assumed a Directorship at Oswego Hospital in NY. The family had become fond of the area, so they began a span of sharing two homes, one here and the other in Oswego, NY. This arrangement also allowed Eleanor the opportunity to continue working toward her master's degree at Syracuse University. Her exceptional writing talent led to her becoming the inaugural president of the Graduate Writing Group. In 1961, she earned a Master of Arts in British Literature.



From the Archives



MRS. ELEANOR
REED ALTER

**Slatersville
Poet Noted**

Back in North Smithfield, Eleanor became a high school English and French teacher. She taught for 25 years at King Philip Regional High School in Wrentham, MA. The newspapers of the time are full of articles highlighting her poetry and the achievements of her high school classes. She received a citation from President Reagan in 1985 for her excellence in teaching.

As busy as she was, Eleanor helped establish a monthly publication at St. James Church in Woonsocket called, The Epistle. She also helped found the Woonsocket Fine Arts Society, managing its creative writing group and publishing a popular literary magazine, Stylus. She frequently appeared as a guest on talk-show radio programs and was a highly sought-after speaker for civic and educational gatherings, where she shared her expertise on creative writing and poetry. Many of her poems have been published in national anthologies.

In 1971, as the Town of North Smithfield joyously marked its centennial, Eleanor crafted a heartfelt poem to commemorate the occasion. She was interviewed on the WWON Radio show "Open House," hosted by "Rory" Theriault. In this conversation, Eleanor shared her deep fondness for North Smithfield and expressed her wish that the Centennial Book would stand as a valuable resource for generations to come. As the interview drew to a close, she eloquently recited the opening lines of her poem, which now grace the pages of the book:

"I place upon your tree-
crowned slopes
The jeweled crown of the
circling hundred years..."

Dr. Nicholas Mark Alter passed away in 1970. Eleanor lived a long life until the age of one hundred, passing away in 2008. The once dynamic couple rest together in Union Cemetery. Both of their lives were filled with accomplishments and contributions to their community, leaving a lasting legacy.



This photo from the *Woonsocket Call* shows Eleanor, center, with "Rory" Theriault and Dave Russell at the WWON Radio Studio.



Eleanor rests with her husband in Union Cemetery in a simple plot. Their son, Ernest, himself a noted citizen of North Smithfield, is buried with his parents.



From the Archives



NSHA archivist, Al Menard had a nice visit from a former student, Glenn Kuczer. Glenn came from Groton, MA to see if we had any information about his grandfather, Wasyl Kuczer and the Rhode Island Civilian Conservation Corps Camps.

Veterans Memorial Program



The NSHA, in cooperation with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, will fly the U.S. Flag at the Memorial Building for a period of thirty days each month in honor of deceased local veterans. We 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. Families can use the honored veteran's Memorial Flag or a NSHA Flag. Please contact NSHA at nsha@nsheritageassn.com or call [401-376-2927](tel:401-376-2927) to nominate a veteran.



William Schnorr



In February we honored William Schnorr, a former resident who served during WWII.



Fifty Years Ago

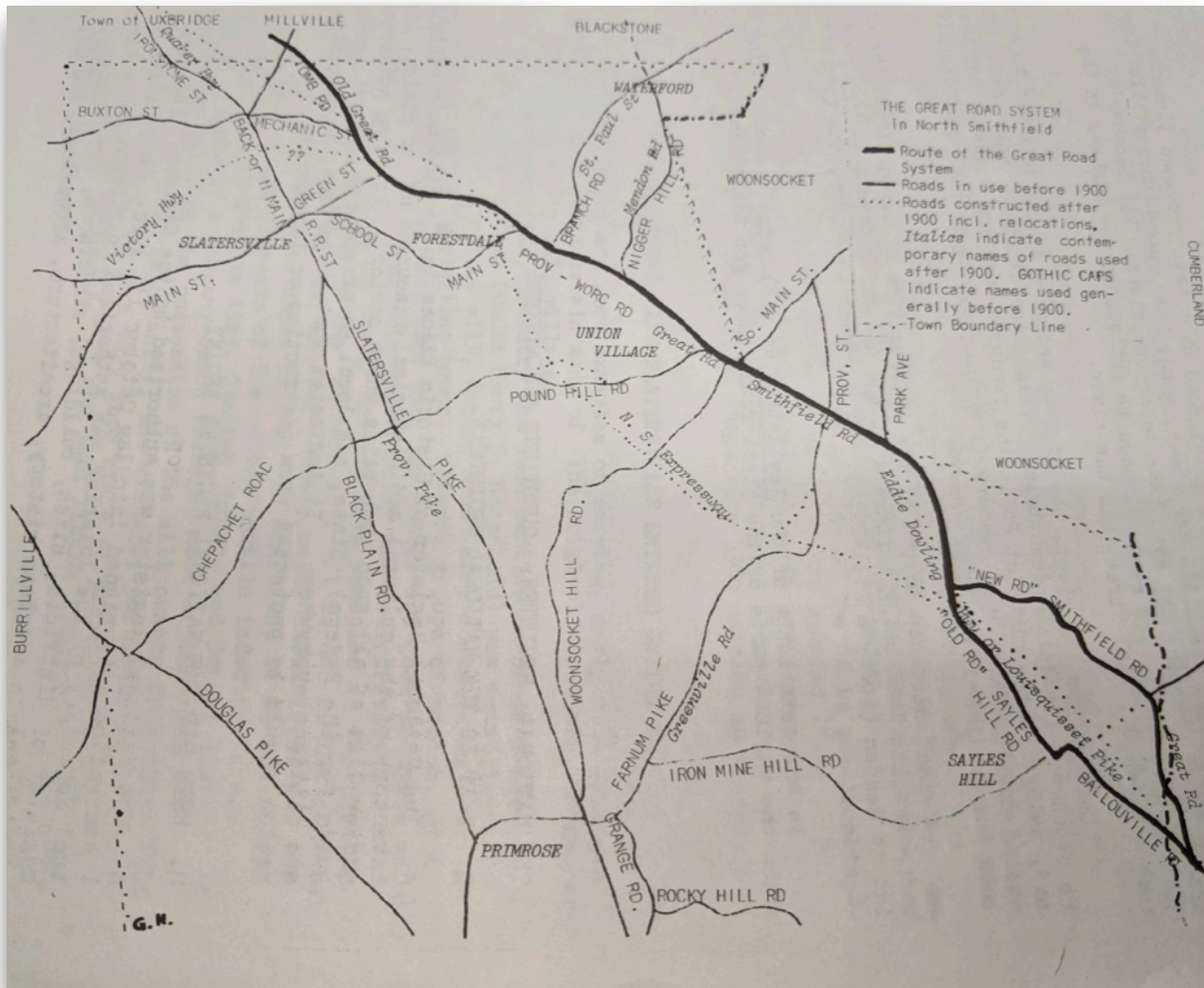
Here's the final section in our continuing article "A Road By Any Other Name" by George A. Harvey. It is reprinted from the February 1974 NSHA newsletter. We began publishing segments of this article back in May and if you missed any parts you may catch up by visiting the newsletter section of our website.

Green Street at the brick tavern to the Massachusetts line at Millville (originally Mendon)

We have finally come to the last segment of the great road in the state of Rhode Island. At present it bears the honest name Old Great Road, which somehow seems so appropriate. But while the road is old, the name is not. In fact, many old-timers still recognize the segment by its popular old designation, Tomb Road.

Just as Pound Hill Road took its name from the town pound near Union Village, so did Tomb Road have its tomb, a modest stone structure by the side of the road almost on the state line. Such a facility was needed in winter for the storage of bodies until the cemetery could be opened in the spring. This particular tomb was dismantled in 1973, presumably because of vandalism and other abuse.

We should note here that some people used Tomb Road as a name not for Old Great Road, but for that segment of Harkness Road that also begins at the tomb and extends eastward along the state line. This usage, however, seems to have been very limited. *Continued on the next page....*





Fifty Years Ago

As our road enters Massachusetts, it adopts the name Providence Street, having reached the outer limits of old Mendon toward which the lower Mendon Road was bound. It is still possible to trace much of the route to Worcester.

The great road system between Providence and Worcester has a wonderful lot of stories to tell, and we are only beginning to know something of them: how it witnessed the smuggling of slaves as part of the pre-Civil War underground railroad route; and before that, how it bore troops marching to support the abortive Dorr Rebellion in Chepachet. Moving back several more decades we recall how the road shared visits by Washington and Lafayette, and even earlier, carried the simple carriages of Quakers to their meeting house. Farthest back we know all too little of the Baptists who travelled to their little-known meeting house near the site of Lums Restaurant (approximately where CVS is at Dowling Village today) or of the Indians who first created this as a trail through their hunting grounds. Many, many stories and events await our discovery, all a part of history of the old, great road.



Education

Two NS High School Seniors continue their work with NSHA mentors to complete their senior projects. Ava and her mentor, Julie, conduct oral interviews with longtime residents. Please contact us if you'd like to share your experiences and memories of living in town.

Nick and his mentor, Kelly continue to work on photo surveys of local rivers and major waterways.



A beautiful shot of the Slatersville Reservoir behind the North Smithfield Library.



We thank Linda Thibault for coming in to interview with Ava. We also thank Linda for the copies of school committee booklets that she donated.



Monthly Board Meeting



The Board of Directors will meet at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at Heritage Hall, 101 Green Street. Members are welcome to attend in person or via Zoom. Zoom information is included in the email notification.

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@nshheritageassn.com to coordinate an appointment.



Ghosts and Paranormal Activity



Kara Pressia, a local spiritual medium has joined the team!! Have you heard about or seen a ghost in North Smithfield? We would like to document it! Anyone interested in joining the Paranormal Research Team please contact us at nsha@nshheritageassn.com.



Research Team

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

The team generally meets at 6:00 pm at Heritage Hall on the second Friday of each month. If you'd like to join us, please contact NSHA for the next meeting date!

An interesting rock formation near Lake Belair.



NS Historic Cemeteries

RI Historical Cemetery Awareness and Preservation Weeks 2024 will run from April 1st until May 31st this year. Join us in North Smithfield for a unique opportunity:

Hotchkiss Cemetery Tours



For the first time since Hotchkiss Cemetery was re-discovered, cleaned and repaired, the public can take a one hour guided walking tour with some of the volunteers who made it happen.

Folks can learn about the lives of some of the oldest inhabitants of North Smithfield and Smithfield. Guides will explain the methods used to repair stones and reveal a few secrets about lost stones. Highlights will include visiting Veterans' graves, the discovery of the old town tomb and some sad stories that were almost lost to the past.

Tours will begin on Saturday, April 20, 2024 and will continue every Saturday through May 25, 2024. All tours will begin at 9:00 am. Participants may park at Union Cemetery. In case of rain, please check the NSHA Facebook page for cancellations.



Spring is coming! The daffodils planted by NSHA volunteers have begun to peek out of the soil at Hotchkiss Cemetery. It will be beautiful when they flower and fill the cemetery with color!



We thank the Lincoln High School students who recently cleaned the leaves from the Smithfield Friends Meeting House Cemetery on Smithfield Road in Woonsocket. The NSHA helps to maintain the cemetery due to the prominence the church and its members played in local history.

Check out all of the cemetery restoration work on our NS Heritage Assn. Cemetery Group Facebook page.



Historic Cemetery of the Month

The Duty Baker Lot by Lynne Pelletier

The Duty Baker Lot, or NS 035, is located behind a home on Providence Pike at Pole # 1531. This small family cemetery had been lost until the Biron family discovered it on their property when their home was being built in the late 1980's. The Rhode Island Historic Cemetery Commission had no records of this cemetery until it was brought to their attention and finally recorded in December of 1992. The Biron family has adopted the cemetery and have worked hard to maintain it.

The lot is roughly 50' x 37' in size and on two sides there are stone walls. On the remaining two sides there are granite posts with missing iron rails. There are 9 known burials here, however only 8 have inscriptions. The oldest burial took place in 1839 and the most recent took place in 1936. All of the individuals are members of the Baker family.

The patriarch of the family was Duty Baker. Duty was born in Smithfield in 1795 to parents Benoni Baker and Abigail Snow. Duty married his first wife, Polly Paine on January 23, 1820 when he was about 25 years old. Duty and Polly had at least 5 children. According to census records, Duty was a farmer by trade. Duty died on October 1, 1874 at about age 78.

Polly Paine Baker, was born in about 1804 although her parents are unknown. Unfortunately, Polly died on August 25, 1845 at about age 40 leaving Duty with 5 children, the youngest being only 4 years old at the time. Duty next married Prudinia Tanner on September 3, 1846 and they were married for 5 years before Prudinia died on October 5, 1851. Duty and Prudinia had no children. Duty then married Mercy Sayles in 1852. Two more children were added to the family before Duty's death in 1874. Mercy died in 1892. It is interesting to note that Prudinia and Mercy are not buried in the Baker Lot.





MISS CLARA BAKER DIES SUDDENLY

Well-Known School Teacher Stricken With Double Pneumonia—Was Out Shopping Saturday and Died Early This Morning.

Miss Clara L. Baker, one of the most popular members of the teaching force of the Woonsocket public schools, died this morning in the Woonsocket Hospital. Miss Baker taught school last Friday. She was on the street Saturday and although she was suffering from a severe cold, did not appear to be alarmed over her condition. Saturday evening she was taken ill and Dr. W. C. Monroe was called and diagnosed the case as double pneumonia. Miss Baker grew very weak and would have been removed to the hospital Sunday had the weather conditions been favorable. Yesterday just before noon she was taken to the hospital and last night she was able to take nourishment at stated intervals.

This morning at 6:30 o'clock Miss Baker asked for a glass of water and as she was about to drink the water she expired.

Miss Baker was born in Forestdale in what was then Smithfield, in December, 1866. She lived in Woonsocket during the early part of her life and attended school in this city. In January, 1883, she graduated from the R. I. Normal school in Providence and began teaching in the Grove street primary school in September, 1884. She was a teacher in the Grove street grammar school from 1887 to 1902, and was then elected principal of the Kendrick avenue school, where she had served up to last week. Previous to her commencing teaching in Woonsocket in September, 1884, she taught school in Smithfield, Tiverton and Kingston.

Deceased was a member of the Woonsocket Fortnightly club, the Woonsocket Teachers' association, Woonsocket Chapter, D. A. R., Woonsocket Commandery, No. 311, U. O. G. C., and was a charter member of Primrose Grange, No. 9, P. of H., of North Smithfield.

Miss Baker was the daughter of the late Joseph Baker and Mrs. Sarah Baker. Besides her mother, she leaves one sister, Mrs. Howard Mowry, and one brother, Roscoe W. Baker, all of North Smithfield.

Miss Baker was always of a pleasant disposition, ever ready to do for others and help in time of need and adversity. Of a bright and winsome temperament, she won many friends, who held her in high esteem and affection and who, with her family and relatives, will greatly mourn her loss.

The funeral will be held Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock at St. James' church.

Only 3 of Duty's sons are buried with their father. The oldest burial belongs to Gilbert who was the oldest child. He was born in about 1820 and died at about age 18 on August 28, 1839. Next is Mowry Baker, who was born in about 1822 and died on September 4, 1841 also at about age 18.

The youngest son was Joseph Paine who was born on April 19, 1835. Joseph spent most of his life working the family farm with the exception of 5 years that he lived in Woonsocket where he was known for being one of the first men to lay concrete sidewalks in the area. Joseph married Sarah Elizabeth Brown on November 5, 1861 and together they had 5 children. Joseph died of the flu on February 25, 1907 at age 71.

Sarah Elizabeth Brown Baker was born on December 26, 1837 to parents Joseph Olney Brown and Prucia Paine Aldrich. Sarah died at age 77 on October 18, 1915. She was buried beside her husband, Joseph.

Two of Joseph and Sarah's children were buried here also. Clara Luella Baker was born January 23, 1865. She was a well-loved and respected teacher in the Woonsocket School system. Clara graduated from the Rhode Island Normal School in 1883 and began teaching in Woonsocket in 1884. She also taught school in Smithfield, Tiverton and Kingston before becoming the principal of Kendrick Avenue school in 1902. According to her obituary, Clara taught school on her final Friday and then spent her last Saturday running errands before she became sick later that evening. She sadly passed from double pneumonia on Tuesday morning, November 12, 1907 at 47 years old.

The final member of the family to be buried here was Roscoe Wilson Baker, born December 12, 1862. Roscoe was elected as the first master of Primrose Grange in January of 1888. He was also a town moderator for the town of North Smithfield and ran the Annual town meetings for many years. Roscoe died on December 13, 1936 at age 74.

Clara Baker's obituary from *The Woonsocket Call*, November 12, 1907.



HERITAGE HALL

*Perfect for
your small
Event*

101 GREEN ST
NORTH SMITHFIELD, RI
NSHA@NSHERITAGEASSN.COM

CHAIR LIFT ACCESSIBLE



Heritage Hall Rentals (101) Green Street

Rent the newly renovated upper and lower halls!

Visit the NSHA website for an application and rules: <https://www.nsheritageassn.org/general-3>

Call Jeanne at (401) 447-1801 to make a reservation or send an email to nsha@nsheritageassn.com



Preservation and Restoration

Memorial Town Building (1 Main Street)



Renewal by Anderson recently replaced the damaged window sash. We are still waiting for the insurance contractor to replace the damaged door jamb to the research room.



Forestdale School (190 School Street)

RISE has agreed to schedule an energy audit at the school. We will apply for a grant to install bulk insulation above the ceiling.

We need members to help open the school to the public.
Please contact us if you can spare a couple of hours a month.
Meanwhile, we will open the building by appointment.



Winter is upon us!

Charlie desperately needs two people to help shovel the sidewalks at Heritage Hall and the Forestdale School. Please contact him at 401-741-8022 if you can help!



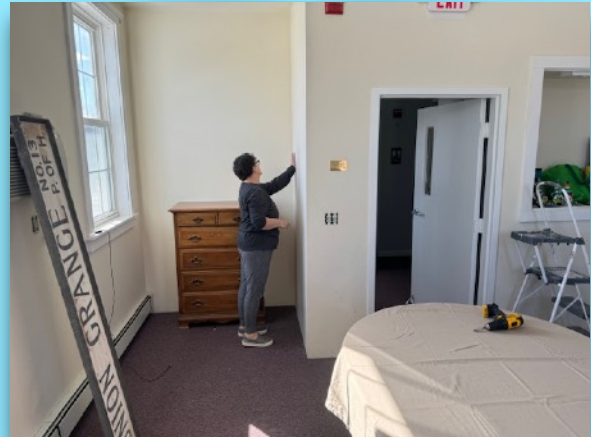
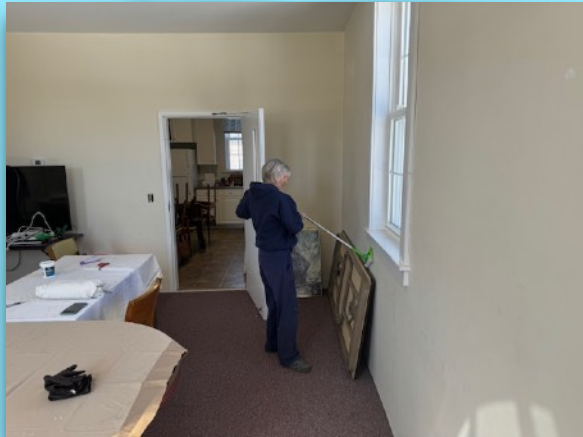


Heritage Hall (101 Green Street)

Charlie and his amazing painting crew repainted the lower hallways and the conference room.

Well done!!

They are now altering the closet space to make more room for supplies.



Master painters at work!

Martha, Christine and Charlie are getting it done.

Finance

Beth Faricy and her team applied to the Champlin Foundation and the 1772 Foundation for grants to replace windows at the Memorial Town Building. The team will apply for other grants for funds to begin renovations on the second-floor hall. Such renovations to the second floor will include fire safety upgrades, electrical wiring and lighting upgrades, stage walls and floor refinishing, main floor refinishing, painting and plastering as needed. We will be applying for two more grants in March and with the help from these grants and the generous donations of members and the public, the second floor will come alive once again. If the stars align, we can open a new museum next year in the renovated space.



Heritage Walks and Tours 2024

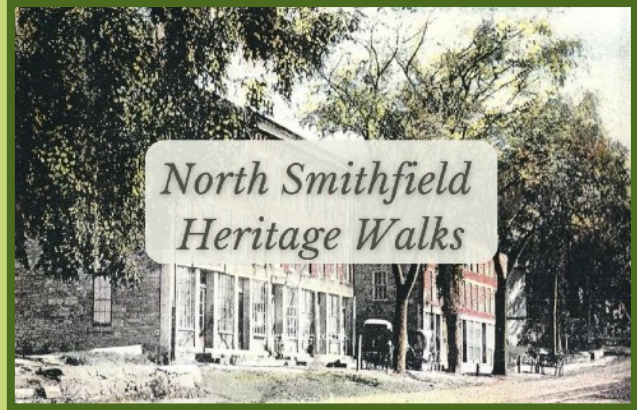
All NSHA Heritage Walks and tours start at 9:30 am.

Please see the individual walk description for the meeting place.

Tours are generally rain or shine unless there is a downpour or blizzard when we start.

Participants are encouraged to wear long pants, use insect repellent, and bring water.

See NSHA Facebook Page Events or contact nsha@nsheritageassn.com for more information.



March 16: Wunnashowatuckqut: Old Harkness Rd, High Rocks Gorge, Colony Rd, and Stone Features. Meet at the Forestdale School, 190 School Street.

April 27: Crookfall Brook: Woonsocket Reservoir #1 & Pump House, Woonsocket Reservoir #2 and Mill Site, Spring Brook. Meet at Aldi's parking lot at Dowling Village.

May 25: Waterford: Coblin Rock, Mammoth Mills Ruins, Blackstone Canal, Waterford School, St. Paul's Church, Waterford RR Station, RR Fountain, Covered Bridge Site. Meet at Fire House Pizza parking lot, Great Road.

June 22: Union Village: Great Road, Pound Hill Rd, Union Cemetery. Meet at Union Cemetery, Smithfield Road.

July 13: Slatersville: Main St. Green Street, Slatersville Mills, Centennial Park. Meet at the Memorial Town Building, 1 Main Street.

August 17: Wesquidomsett: West Farm, NS 60, NS24, Tyler Mowry House, NS 32, Old Sayles Hill Rd, Rustic Drive-In, Milk Can, Paine Mill. Meet at Aldi's parking lot at Dowling Village.

September 28: Nipsachuck Legacy: The Blunders, Nipsachuck National Battlefield & Black Plain Hill Stone Landscape, Three Dog Site, NS57. Meet at the NS Middle School Parking lot, Providence Pike.

October 19: Pound Hill Road: Smithfield Union Bank, NS8, Aldrich Farm, Staples Farm, Staples School, Nike Site, Nike Site RIANG, NS55, Landfill.

November 16: Woonsocket Hill Road: NS19, Mathewson Homestead, Follett Farm, Philip Mowry House and NS47, Mowry Fire Tower, Martin Farm, Wright's Farm, Meet at the NS Middle School parking lot.

December 21: Woonsocket Reservoir #3: NS48 Oliver Smith Lot, Amasa Sweet Quarry, Great Wall, William Mowry Homestead, Obed Paine Homestead. Meet at NS High School Tennis Courts on Grange Road.



Conservation



Mammoth Mill Clean-Up

Ten volunteers braved the cold on Presidents Day to pick up trash and clear trees and underbrush at the Mammoth Mill Street and along the Blackstone Canal on Canal Street. They made remarkable progress! We plan to resume the clean-up at 9:00 am on Saturday, March 9, 2024.

Local property owners are taking advantage of the Historic Building Tax Credit Program

Several years ago, the North Smithfield Town Council adopted an ordinance establishing this program. The purpose states that preservation of Rhode Island's historic residences enhances an understanding of the state and town's heritage, improves property values, fosters civic beauty and promotes public education, pleasure and welfare. The purpose of this ordinance is to allow the town to provide property tax relief to mitigate against the increased assessment of historic houses when they undergo substantial maintenance or rehabilitation.

Owners of North Smithfield historic buildings located within a National of Local Historic district can apply to the North Smithfield Historic District Commission for tax credits of up to 20% over five years to help offset the cost of exterior repairs to their historic building. If a historic building is not currently located within a historic district, the NSHA can provide guidance to owners about the process of joining a district.



The historic Seth Allen Tavern.



January Mystery Photo



Last month's mystery photo did not bring an answer to where this item might be located but we will keep looking!

Facebook member, Scott Coyle did however decipher that last blurry word. In case you are curious, under Gov. Thomas W. Dorr, it states: "Elected under the people's constitution."

Thanks for your help, Scott!

February/March Mystery Photo

Does anyone recognize this lovely lady? Her last name may have been McLaughlin. Her picture was included with a packet of papers about the McLaughlin family which was donated to the Forestdale School by Brenda McLaughlin in 2009.

Unfortunately, the picture is not labeled and we haven't been able to locate a Brenda McLaughlin to ask. From the information written in the packet of papers, we know that 5 generations of McLaughlins attended the Forestdale School and many in the family were also employed as custodians there because they lived close by.

If you recognize this young lady or if you know a Brenda McLaughlin who had a son named Jeffrey, please reach out to us because we'd like to know more. Thanks for your help!



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

Our wide range of merchandise includes calendars, books, cozy throws, jigsaw puzzles, ornaments and so much more! Free local delivery!

We have just one Forestdale School ornament left and the horse-drawn school bus has sold out!



View our entire inventory at the **NSHA On-line shop** at <https://www.nsheritageassn.org/shop>

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).



The North Smithfield Heritage Association Fund

Estate planning? Need to make a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA? Make a tax-deductible legacy donation to this RI Foundation managed fund. Your donation earns interest every year. The NSHA only uses a portion of the earned interest each year for preservation activities. Your donation therefore, continues to grow in perpetuity, increasing the interest that the NSHA can use each each year for historic preservation.

Click on the link for more information:

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



Outreach

Annual Dues were due on January 1, 2024!!

Some members still owe Annual Dues! Please send your payment ASAP!

~ The NSHA relies heavily on membership dues to pay operating expenses. We thank our members for their steadfast support! Our membership now stands at 209 including 20 life members and 5 students.

~Your \$20 annual dues allow us to conduct vital preservation activities. Seniors over 75, high school students and full-time college students pay no dues.

~We thank the 121 members who joined or renewed this year! ~Annual Dues are due on January 1, 2024. Those who recently renewed are good for the calendar year 2024.

~Members in arrears or with expired memberships can renew at any time. **If you are not sure of your status, please contact us.**

~You can become a member by filling out an application found on our website: <https://www.nsheritageassn.org/membership> or you may pay by mail, via the PAYPAL Giving Fund, or M, T, W mornings at the Memorial Town Building.

You Can Help!!

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

Join: Membership costs just \$20 each year!

Share: Only shared history can preserve our heritage!

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



Instagram (nsha1970)
Please follow us!

Instagram followers:282

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



Facebook followers:1336

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

Website visitors: 562 site sessions in last 30 days.

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

NSHA Newsletter Subscribers:1445

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

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

Please share this free newsletter with family and friends!!