



NORTH SMITHFIELD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

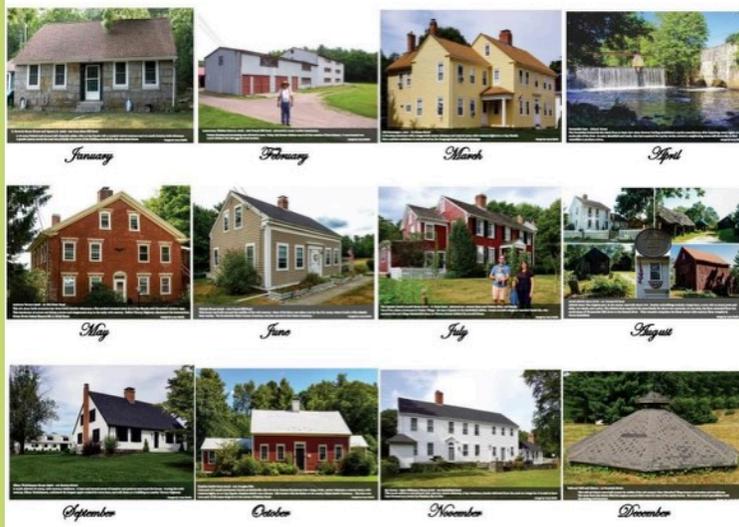
Volume III Issue 8~ October 2022

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*Scenic 2023 Heritage Association Calendars now available
\$10 each at the following locations:
Li'l General, Leeway Hardware and Village Paint*





From the Archives

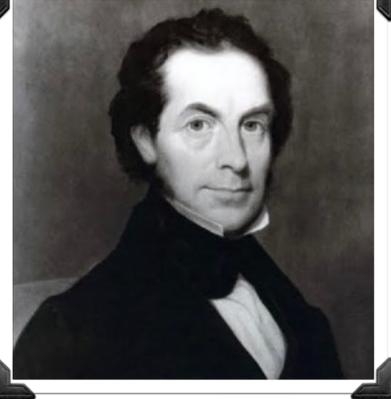
Dr. Elisha Bartlett

by Al Menard

Readers of this newsletter who have had the pleasure of watching the excellent documentary, "Slatersville," created by local artist-cinematographer Christian de Rezendes, will recognize this month's historical figure from Episode 3. Dr. Elisha Bartlett has been largely forgotten in local lore but research attests to the fact that in his day he was internationally respected and widely known. With this in mind, I present a brief biography of this great man.

Elisha Bartlett was born on October 6, 1804 in the part of Smithfield that would soon become Slatersville. Slatersville was first known as Buffum Mills before it became Slatersville. His parents were Otis and Waite (Buffum) Bartlett. Otis worked for his father, who was also called Elisha. He had come to Smithfield from Glocester, R.I. in 1795. It is believed that they manufactured scythes.

Elisha's parents were members of the Society of Friends and Elisha received a finished classical education under the auspices of the Quakers, first in Uxbridge, MA and later in New York. After a series of studies in Boston and Providence, he received his M. D. from Brown Medical School in 1826. He was 22 years old.



Brown Medical School was founded in 1811 as the Brown University School of Medicine, only the 3rd medical school to be founded in New England after only Harvard and Dartmouth. However, one year after Dr. Bartlett received his MD in 1826, the school suspended the program because the new President of the college wanted all faculty to reside on campus. The medical school's physicians also served as the voluntary clinical faculty and refused to jeopardize their practices in order to comply. So the President suspended the program in 1827. It was not re-established until 1972!

Between 1811 and 1827, Dr. Bartlett was 1 of only 87 students who received their MD from the school! Dr. Bartlett then spent some time pursuing medical studies under various distinguished professors in Paris, France, and Italy. His quick mind and facility with language were surely recognized and contributed to his popularity. It was probably during this time that he began to cultivate an impressive group of distinguished colleagues and friends.

Upon his return to America, he settled in the growing town of Lowell, MA in 1827. There he began his medical practice. And soon his compassion and kindness made him a town favorite.

The doctor undoubtedly visited his hometown often and it was to a hometown girl that he was married. But not just any girl. Elizabeth Slater was the daughter of John Slater, who had helped establish the first planned mill village in America, Slatersville.

Dr. Bartlett can surely be called a "Renaissance Man." He was not only a medical physician treating common ailments. He was also a clinician, a scholar, a poet, a philosopher, an author, and finally, a politician!

Only a year after he settled in Lowell, he was lecturing at the Lowell Lyceum and he was the orator at the annual Fourth of July celebration. The citizens of Lowell soon recognized his genuine concern for the welfare of the townspeople and when in 1836 Lowell became a city, Elisha Bartlett became its first mayor. Later, he became a member of the Massachusetts Board of Education and in 1841 served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Being more of a statesman than a politician, Dr. Bartlett left political life to devote himself more completely to medical teaching and writing. Even while mayor he had continued lecturing as a professor of medicine.

His progressive thinking and eloquent expression, as well as his keen understanding of the foundations of medicine,



From the Archives

cemented his reputation as an important lecturer. He is said to have held professorships in no less than eight medical schools during his career. Dr. Bartlett's writings had brought him international fame, and many remain relevant to this day. In 1845, he was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

One of his professorships was at Transylvania University in Kentucky, the first college west of the Allegheny Mountains. Dr. Bartlett made the grueling 900-mile trip several times, spending at least two terms there. This was especially difficult for him because he had developed a lingering and ever worsening disease whose symptoms included progressive paralysis. One theory was that his illness was caused by lead poisoning and another, more likely theory, was that it was ALS.

At first, Dr. Bartlett was able to continue to meet the demands of his busy schedule. In 1841, while teaching in Kentucky, he wrote to his wife that he was suffering "chills and flying tics in my arms and legs." Despite his illness he continued to write and lecture. It was not until 1852 that ill health made him and his wife, Elizabeth, return to the family village. Once there the old Slater family home was moved a few yards down the street and Dr. Bartlett built a more impressive replacement. Today this elegant Greek Revival home remains as a monument to and as a reminder of this extraordinary man. The Bartlett House now stands at 2 Green Street.

In his later years, Elisha continued writing. He even published a book of poems. He also continued his correspondence with his many friends who included Oliver Wendell Holmes and Charles Dickens.

Dr. Elisha Bartlett died on July 9, 1855, two months after the death of his father.

He is buried in the Slatersville Cemetery with his wife and the Slater family.

The Bartlett home remains, resplendent, in the center of our town, reminding us that the history of our small town holds the stories of many men and women of greatness.

Special thanks to Christian de Rezendes and Gail Denomme for sharing their notes on this subject.





From the Archives News

Samuel Turco joined the Archive Team recently. He's a town resident and student at Keene State University where he's pursuing an advanced degree. Sam hopes to do an internship with us next semester.



The team has worked tirelessly to comb through Woonsocket Call archives for newspaper clippings related to North Smithfield.

We plan to resume video recordings of Oral Interviews with our town's older residents. Their memories of their families and town neighborhoods decades ago are priceless!



Your memories contain our local heritage! Please loan your old family photos and/or letters to us to scan. We'll return them promptly! We'll also store them for you if you'd like.

Please contact us at nsha@nsheritageassn.com or call [401-651-6316](tel:401-651-6316)

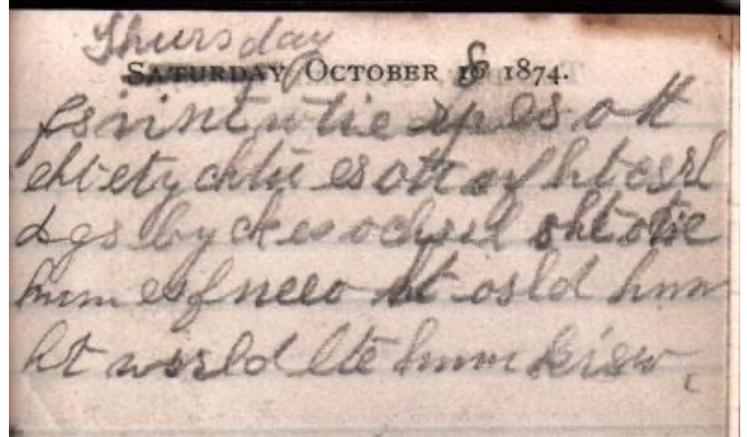


From the Archives News

From September's newsletter article about the diary written in code:

Ellen Marsh Code Update

At this time, we have 5 individuals and 1 classroom working on breaking the code. So far Ellen still has us stumped! We have found that "Mtecylyf" is "Metcalf", but that has not led to any other words. Contact Al Menard if you wish to join our group of code-breakers or if you wish for more examples or to schedule a time to see the diaries in person. Contact Al at nsha@nsheritageassn.org



NS Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Local Historic Districts

Thanks to a newly passed zoning ordinance amendment, it's easier than ever to have your historic property designated as a Local Historic District. Designated properties are eligible for the Historic Building Tax Credit Program which waives a portion of property taxes for certain repairs. The designation also requires property owners to seek approval from the NS Historic District Commission for certain exterior repairs.

Please contact us at nsha@nsheritageassn.com or call [401-651-6316](tel:401-651-6316)





NS Historic Cemeteries

The NSHA Cemetery Restoration Team continues its work at the Hotchkiss Cemetery on Smithfield Road. Cold weather will soon force the team to take a hiatus since the compounds they use become less effective in cold temperatures.

Volunteers also continue to clear Woon 11 across the street by the Friend's Meeting House.

Denis Chamberland is keeping NS24 Gideon Sayles and NS32 Tyler Mowry Cemeteries on Sayles Hill Road in great shape.

Tony Chernasky adopted NS5 Israel Aldrich Cemetery near CVS on the Industrial Highway. It looks much better already!

Bob Hanson adopted NS16 The Nichols Lot on Douglas Pike. The cemetery looks amazing!

Check out their work on our NS Heritage Assn. Cemetery Facebook Group page.



Well done team!



Donations needed

Do you have any unused old tools to get rid of? The NSHA cemetery group could use them. Right now we bring our personal tools each day. Packing and unpacking our cars each day takes a lot of time so we are looking for tools that we can leave at the job site. The tools would be kept covered and out of sight.

Tools we are looking for include shovels, pry bars, carpenter levels, probe bars, mortar mixing tub, masonry hammer, sledge hammer, stone chisels, etc.

Thank you



With Autumn upon us, the leaves have already begun to fall. We could use help with our usual Fall cleanups and raking is great exercise!





Historic Cemetery of the Month

The Ahaz Mowry Lot by Lynne Pelletier

The Ahaz Mowry Lot is located on the east side of Cranberry Lane off of Rocky Hill road. This cemetery is located up on an embankment and it is enclosed by granite posts and iron rails. The land the cemetery is on, was originally a farm belonging to Ahaz Mowry, Jr. The 7 individuals buried in this family burial ground are the descendants of Ahaz and his wife, Huldah.

Ahaz Mowry, Jr. was born November 13, 1797 in Smithfield to parents Ahaz Mowry, Sr. and Lavina Buffum. Ahaz Jr. married Huldah Smith Mowry on May 18, 1822. Together they had at least 4 children: Sally Smith Mowry Brown, Duty Smith Mowry, Amanda Willard Mowry and Alvah Smith Mowry. Ahaz died on May 26, 1868 at age 70.

According to the book *"The Descendants of John Mowry"* by William A. Mowry, Ahaz was positively described as having "sound common sense". He was "a useful and upright citizen honored and respected" and "his example was for good in all things." He had many occupations in addition to farming including as a teacher, tax collector, land surveyor and in 1843, a member of the Smithfield town council. He was also a noted mathematician.

Huldah Mowry Smith Mowry was born on March 20, 1801 in Smithfield to parents Duty Smith and Huldah Mowry. Did you notice the length of her name? Huldah was named after her mother and took her father's surname as usual but then when she married she added the Mowry name again. Popular naming traditions of the times dictated that it was a sign of respect to name your child after an older relative. It was also not uncommon to marry a distant relative which is how Huldah got her long and repetitive name! Huldah died at age 66 on July 31, 1867.

Sally Smith Mowry Brown was the eldest child of Ahaz and Huldah. She was born August 27, 1823 and she married Gilman Brown on June 2, 1851 when she was 28 years old. Sally and Gilman had 3 children; Amanda "Minnie" Brown Ross, Othello Brown and Huldah Brown. Sally died June 16, 1866 at age 42.

Amanda Willard Mowry was the second daughter of Ahaz and Huldah. She was born February 3, 1828 and she died on October 18, 1895 at age 67. She never married or had children.

Ahaz and Huldah's grandchild, Amanda "Minnie" Brown Ross, was born in 1854 to parents Sally Smith Mowry and her husband, Gilman Brown. Minnie married Edwin A Ross on September 25, 1876 and they did not have children.

The final 2 individuals buried in this cemetery are the great-grandchildren of Ahaz and Huldah. Raymond Warren Mowry was born in May of 1903 to Aaron Percy Mowry (son of Duty Smith Mowry) and Annie Mayo Burgess Mowry. Raymond died of scarlet fever in Rhode Island Hospital on December 17, 1906. He was only 3 years old.

Marjorie Burgess Mowry Rouette was Raymond's younger sister and she was born on August 11, 1909. Marjorie raised her family in a house across the street from the cemetery. She died on September 30, 1978 at age 69.





October Spotlight

Tomato cage ghosts

From *The Old Farmer's Almanac 2022*

A quick and easy way to make a spooky Halloween decoration!

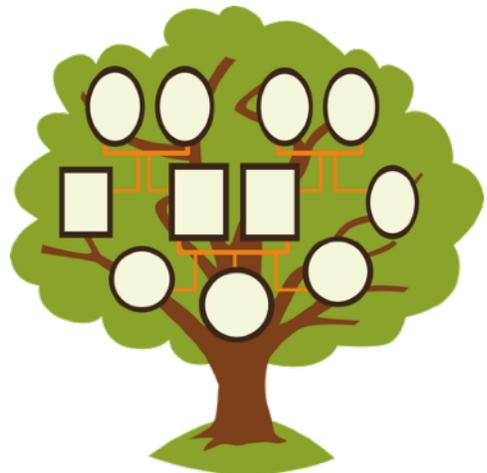
Everyone knows to watch out for vengeful spirits on Halloween night, but does anyone ever expect *vegetable* spirits? We don't think so! It's time to get one last use out of those tomato cages before storing them for the off-season. We're going to make them into ghostly lawn ornaments:

1. Gather up your tomato cages, some old white sheets, a plastic bag of fallen leaves, black construction paper, safety pins, clothespins and scissors.
2. Cut out a set of ghostly eyes and a mouth from the black paper for each ghost you want to make. Then use safety pins to attach a set of eyes and a mouth to the middle of each sheet.
3. Pick out a few spots on your lawn and stick the tomato cages firmly into the ground. Place a bag of fallen leaves on top of the cage (to act as a head), then drape the sheets over the cages so that the ghost faces forward.
4. Finally, use clothespins to secure the sheets to the cages. This will make sure that your ghosts billow in the wind but don't blow away.
5. Optional: attach glow sticks or Christmas lights to the inside of your tomato cages to make the ghosts glow!



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

Memorial Town Building (1 Main Street)

Advanced Comfort Systems made an emergency replacement of the boiler at the Memorial Town Building recently. Thanks to the quick action by the town administration, the building will stay heated with the onset of freezing temperatures. Cox Cable will soon remove unneeded IT equipment from the second floor. This will allow us to start the demolition of the second-floor partition walls.

Contact us if you'd like to help!



Forestdale School (190 School Street)

Charlie and his "crew" finished painting the stairs and foundation at the Forestdale School. Larry plans to repair the rear fence gate at the school soon. The Town Council recently approved a bid from Martone Construction for a new roof and emergency exit stairs at the Forestdale School. We will fund the repairs entirely from grants. Work will start as soon as we agree on a contract.

Heritage Hall (101 Green Street)

Tim McGee offered to work with Mr. Jeff Macari and students at the NS High School, to build a new cupola for the Heritage Hall on Green St. We're indeed fortunate to enjoy the support of such community-oriented individuals!



Heritage Hall Rentals (101 Green Street)

***Rent the newly renovated
upper and lower halls!***

Call Jeanne at (401) 447-1801
to make a reservation.





Education



Larry Smith and Ron Lapierre recently conducted a Field Trip to Nipsachuck with Kim Rawson's NSHS history classes. Students learned about the Native and European clash of cultures that led to the bloody King Philip's War (1675 – 1676). Two battles were fought at Nipsachuck in southwestern North Smithfield. Students visited one of the battlefields and the Blunders.





Indigenous Ceremonial Stone Features

The Research Team continues to locate and document local colonial and indigenous stone features. The team will visit the Standing Rock at the Mowry Conservation Area in Smithfield at 9:30 am on Saturday, October 29. Meet at the NS Middle School parking lot at 9:30 am, 1850 Providence Pike.

Recently, six members of the Wabbaquasset Nipmuc Tribe joined the last team meeting. We look forward to working jointly with our native partners to preserve and promote the tribe's heritage in North Smithfield.



November is American Indian Heritage Month!

Tomaquag Museum - Culture Bearer Series. 2:30 pm on Saturday, November 5 at the Museum, 390 Summit Rd, Exeter, RI. Annawon Weeden of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe will discuss the history and misconceptions surrounding wampum.

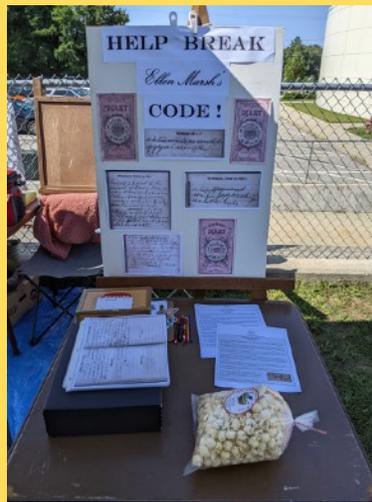
Hingham Historical Society Lecture Series: Native Homelands/Settler Colonialism (via Zoom). 3 pm, Saturday, November 6 at the Memorial Town Building, 1 Main Street, Slatersville. Professor and Chief Justice Robert Miller will explain how the European Doctrine of Discovery influenced settler colonialism in North America.



Recent Activities

Pumpkin Fest

NSHA members staffed two booths this year at Pumpkin Fest which took place on September 17, 2022. We had a great time and met a lot of nice folks!



On September 24, 2022, we guided the first wellness hike at the Fort Wildlife Refuge sponsored by the RI Interlocal Risk Management Trust for municipal employees. Folks came from as far away as Middletown and Jamestown!



On October 8, 2022, a small group enjoyed a beautiful morning Heritage walk among historical sites on Wesquidomsett (Sayles Hill).





Upcoming Events

Mushroom Hunters will present at our monthly Heritage Night at 7 pm on Friday, October 21 at Heritage Hall, 101 Green Street.

Mushroom Hunters will take us for a mushroom hunt at 9:30 am on Saturday, October 22. Meet at the NS Middle School parking lot, 1850 Providence Pike.



NS Days – Spooky Spirits Night, 3-8 pm on Saturday, October 22 at Goodwins Brothers Farm, 466 Greenville Rd. Free hayrides, food, and fun! Park at the North Smithfield Middle School.

North Smithfield Spooky Spirits Night October 22, 2022, 3 to 8pm

Food Trucks ✨ Warm Cider Sampling ✨ Hay Rides
Stories by the Campfire ✨ Tarot Card Readings
Local Vendors

Goodwin Brothers Farm, 458 Greenville Road, North Smithfield
Please park at the North Smithfield Middle School

FUN FOR ALL AGES!

Rain date October 23



Upcoming Events

VFW Post 6342 will conduct a Buddy Poppy Fundraiser from 9 am to noon on Saturday, November 5 in front of Brigido's Market at the Slatersville Plaza, 900 Victory Highway. Please stop by and pick up your Buddy Poppy (made by disabled Veterans) and leave a donation.

VFW Post 6342 will hold its Annual Veterans Day Ceremony at 11 am, on Friday, November 11 at Scouters Hall. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will assist Veterans by posting the Colors. Town Officials are invited to give remarks. A small collation will take place at the end of the ceremony. The public is invited.



NSHA Heritage Walk - Primrose & Grange Rd at 9:30 on Saturday, November 12: Visit Sheldon Four Corners, NS19, Mathewson Homestead, Woonsocket Hill Rd. Malavery House; Durrans Farm NS20; Primrose Grange; NS30; Blackmar-Wing Farm ruins NS26 & 40. Meet at NS High School tennis courts on Grange Road.



NSHA Holiday Shoppe and Open House, 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday, November 12 at the Forestdale School, 190 School Street. Come visit! Peruse a wide range of gift items related to the town's history.



Upcoming Events



Woonsocket Historical & Preservation Society

42 South Main Street
Woonsocket, RI 02895
Phone: 401-356-006

The Woonsocket Historical Society is pleased to announce a **North End Walking Tour on Sunday, October 23 at 1:00 pm.** Over the years the historical society has received many requests for a North End tour. During the summer, Irene Blais and historian Don Hoard have worked together to research and develop the tour.

Please park at the St. Stanislaus Kostka parking lot located at [174 Harris Avenue, Woonsocket](#). We will meet across the street at the corner of Homestead and Harris Avenue in the little park.

Some of the streets we will walk are Oakley, Glen, Woodland, Prospect and Winter Street. The history and architecture of many homes will be discussed.

The tour should last 1 ½ - 2 hours. Please wear comfortable shoes.
Please join us in what will be an informative tour.

This is a free tour. In case of inclement weather, the rain date will be Sunday, November 6. Please call 595-3062 with inquiries.



The first season of **SLATERSVILLE: America's First Mill Village** premiered in September on Rhode Island PBS. In case you missed any of this season's 5 episodes, you can stream them anytime at <https://www.ripbs.org/>





Mystery Photo

September's mystery photo did not spark anyone's memory and the individuals on the 1931 Slatersville baseball team remain unidentified.



This month's mystery photo appears to be a group of female teachers engaged in an activity in a school gym. Does anyone recognize these women or the location of the photo? Please contact us if you do at nsha@nsheritageassn.com or call [401-651-6316](tel:401-651-6316)





NSHA Merchandise

This month's featured item is the NSHA 2023 Calendar.

It is now available for just \$10 at Village Paint, Leeway Ace Hardware, and Li'l General Convenience Store! You can also purchase them at the Memorial Town Building, the Forestdale School, and our online store.



Scenic 2023 Heritage Association Calendars now available
\$10 each at the following locations:
Li'l General, Leeway Hardware and Village Paint



New Slatersville Congregational Church Ornament! Costs only \$15.

Just Arrived! The new Wright's Farm 252-piece puzzle. Cost is \$20.



View our entire inventory at the NSHA On-line shop at www.nsheritageassn.org.



Membership

~2022 Annual Dues are due on **May 1** each year. We thank the **146 members** who have renewed. Members in arrears can still renew by mail, via PayPal Giving Fund, or Tuesday mornings at the Memorial Town Building.

~Your \$20 annual dues allow us to conduct vital preservation activities. Seniors over 85 and students are still free. If you are not sure of your status, please contact us.

~*We welcome new members David Whitefield, Samuel Turco, Ellen Hewitt, Ron Lapierre, Michael and Katherine Sipala, Donna Macksoud, and Paul Leclerc.*

You Can Help

Join: It costs just \$20 each year!

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

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

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

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. 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.

We will also pick up payments and deliver purchases at your door if you live locally. Contact nsha@nsheritageassn.com or call [401-651-6316](tel:401-651-6316).



Development

The North Smithfield Heritage Association Fund

Background

The NSHA created this RI Foundation endowment fund in 2021 with personal donations made by its Board of Directors and a corporate grant from Amica Mutual Insurance Company.

Purpose

The Fund establishes a perpetual investment that grows every year to help fund NSHA preservation projects and activities.

Tax Benefits

Your donation is tax-deductible.

In addition to cash, the Foundation accepts gifts of securities, real estate, and other personal property, which may help you avoid capital gains taxes on appreciated assets.

Free legal assistance

Receive legal assistance with trust or bequest language; charitable annuities; charitable remainder trusts;

Contact

Kelly Riley

Donor Services Administrator

401) 427-4028

kriley@rifoundation.org

Make a tax-deductible donation to this RI Foundation managed fund that will grow perpetually.

The NSHA can use a portion of the fund each year for preservation activities.

Gifts can be made to the Heritage Association Fund in two primary ways:

1. A check made out to the Rhode Island Foundation (with a reference on the memo line to the NS Heritage Association Fund) can be mailed to the Rhode Island Foundation, One Union Station, Providence, RI 02903.
2. A credit card gift can be made at this link: <https://rifoundation.org/funds/north-smithfield-heritage-association-fund>



Outreach

We welcome Ron Lapierre to our Board of Directors as Director of Publicity. Members who would like to create a post or event on the NSHA Facebook Page, should send a photo and text to the NSHA email account.

Facebook Page Followers: 1,093

Website: 215 interactions in last 30 days

NSHA Newsletter Subscribers: 1,023

Instagram (nsha1970) Please follow us!



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](tel:401-651-6316)

