



# NORTH SMITHFIELD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME III, ISSUE 1 ~ JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2022

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## ***North Smithfield 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration***

### ***Anniversary Parade***

A Parade Committee, co-hosted by Kate Pasquariello and Rich Keene, has formed to plan a parade on May 7. Current plans call for the parade to start at the intersection of North Main Street and Victory Highway, head south on Route 146A, turn right onto Green St, right again onto North Main Street and end at the start point.

The committee welcomes community participation by organizations and businesses. Marching units and floats are most welcome.

Businesses can also sponsor a float for a local organization. Contact Kate at [kpasquariello@nsmithfieldri.org](mailto:kpasquariello@nsmithfieldri.org) The committee meets next at 10 am on Monday, February 7 at the Memorial Town Building.

### **Sesquicentennial History Book**

Author John Hill, retired reporter for the *Providence Journal*, continues his research for the new history book. Currently, we seek information about local sports programs especially histories of Little League Baseball, Pop Warner Football, Youth Hockey and Youth Soccer.





## *Thank You!*

We thank all businesses who donated thus far to our Corporate Giving Campaign. Your support allows us to preserve some of our most precious artifacts. We hope to fund these projects in 2022

1. Create a display case for the historic Slatersville Grenadiers Flag created during the 1842 Dorr Rebellion.
2. Conduct archeological studies of Native American ceremonial sites in the Nipsachuck area of town.



We thank Bob Lowe for recently sharing his memories about growing up, living and working in North Smithfield.

### **Thomas Sayles Local Historic District (152 Grange Road)**



We also would like to thank Allan and Matthew Gardener for agreeing to allow the NS Town Council to create a new local historic district for the Thomas Sayles Farm on Grange Road. Currently, it's one of only two remaining farms in the town with free ranging cattle. The NS Historic District Commission plans to present the proposal to the Town Council at its February meeting.



## January Spotlight

Before the first fire department was formed in 1938, the town relied on volunteers to respond to fire alarms sent by the Mowry Fire Tower on top of Woonsocket Hill. The tower used a telephone to call to the local Fire Warden (Chief) who then used a siren to spread the alarm, often to fight “brush fires” in fields and woodlands. Volunteers dropped what they were doing to rush to the scene, often using five-gallon pump cans to extinguish the fires.

It was dirty, tiresome work in hot and smoky conditions, often far from home or habitation. Until recently, the Fire Warden could submit a bill to the RI Division of Forestry for all hours spent fighting brush fires.

When the Fire Warden received payment, he would then pay the volunteers accordingly.

This poem was written by my grandfather, Lewis Follett Jr., shortly after he was discharged from the Army in 1922. It's ironic that his father was the Fire Warden!

By Rich Keene

### An Ode to the Chief

We have conquered many blazes, from Lincoln to Fields  
And we've done an irksome duty, scarcely thinking of our meals  
Just a call and off we'd hurry, all else seems of small import  
When the tower sends the warning, that much damage may be  
wrought

We hurry to our stations, and dig in with vim  
Recking little of the dangers, and the blisters on your skin  
Many times, it has us guessing, and we're sometimes full of ire  
But this is no Old Maids Picnic, we are here to fight the fire  
We haul water many weary yards and choke and cough and weep  
And hike thru woods both day and night and get but little sleep  
But we do it without kicking, so imagine how we feel  
When all is over and forgotten, and we don't get one square deal  
Our worthy Chief can't get things straight, our time is all awry  
We try to pound it thru his head, but it seems no use to try  
And as the next month comes around, we chase him for a check  
But ten to one our money's short, and we've got it in the neck

MORE EFFICIENCY CHIEF!

By one of the short ones ... (Lewis Follett Jr)





## *HISTORIC CEMETERY OF THE MONTH*

### **PHILLIP MOWRY LOT**

*By Lynne Pelletier*

The Phillip Mowry Lot or NS047 is located on Woonsocket Hill Rd on what was once the Mowry family farm. The original homestead is located at 794 Woonsocket Hill Rd and according to the book *"The Descendants of John Mowry of Rhode Island"* written by William A. Mowry in 1909, It was built in 1768. It was said to be "a good farm on the south side of Woonsocket Hill". On this farm Phillip and his wife Elizabeth Newell raised a family of 10 children; 5 sons and 5 daughters. Phillip is described as frugal, enterprising, and industrious. He was a member of the town council, a member of the Society of Friends and a "strict" Quaker. He left his farm to his sons and is buried in the family cemetery.

The family cemetery is very small, comprised of 2 fieldstone graves and 1 large inscribed marble headstone. The lot itself measures no more than 20x20 feet and is now located between the driveways of two nearby homes. Its curious placement so close to the edge of Woonsocket Hill Rd leads one to wonder if at one time the road may not have been in its current location. It was speculated that the two fieldstone graves belonged to Phillip Mowry and his wife, Elizabeth. Elizabeth died 23 November 1825 and Philip died 29 July 1828. *"The Descendants of John Mowry"* book confirmed that one of the graves belongs to Phillip and it seems most likely that the other belongs to his wife, Elizabeth. It was also common for members of the Quaker community to be buried with unmarked fieldstone markers.

The large marble headstone marks the grave of Lydia Mowry, Philip and Elizabeth's eldest daughter. Lydia was born on 19 December 1765 in Smithfield. She was a seamstress by trade and remained single her entire life. She died of phthisis pulmonalis on 30 January 1855 at age 89 years, 1 month and 11 days. Phthisis is an antiquated term for the disease we now know today as tuberculosis.

Until recently, this cemetery was almost completely obscured from view by brush and leaves. Work began in 2020 when D.H. Keene Excavating removed a tree in the center of the cemetery. Volunteers then sprayed an herbicide to rid the lot of a heavy growth of poison ivy. At that time, the lot contained only the fieldstone graves, a footstone with the initials L.M. and a rectangular brown stone base. The headstone was missing until a call from a homeowner not far away on Woonsocket Hill Road, solved the mystery of its location.

A former property owner took the broken pieces home to repair, but the repairs failed. Two large pieces of headstone were found on an abandoned stone BBQ structure; however two smaller side sections were missing. Luckily, the current homeowner recognized what these pieces were and contacted the Heritage Association. The name on the stone matched the initials on the footstone and the rectangular base was a perfect fit, proving that this headstone was indeed the one missing from the lot. The pieces were returned to the cemetery and remained lying on the ground until restoration work could begin this summer. Once the weather was warm enough to support the use of epoxy and mortar, the restoration began. The following paragraphs describe the process used to restore the headstone. The first step involves cleaning both the headstone and the base with a special biologic cleaner made to clean but not damage the stone in any way. Next, the base was moved into position. It may have been shifted when the stone was removed for repair but it now needed to be moved into alignment with the footstone



leveled into place. The process can be tricky and time consuming; involving digging, layering stone, stone dust, water and dirt to make a firm and most importantly, level foundation for the headstone. If the headstone is placed in a base that is not level it is more likely to fall or break.

Once the base was secure and level, mortar was used to set the bottom portion of the headstone into the slot of the base. Supports shored up the headstone until the mortar was completely dry. Once the bottom half of the headstone was secure in the base, the top half of the headstone was epoxied into place using a special 2-part epoxy made just for this purpose. Again, the headstone was braced with supports until the epoxy was completely dry.

Finally, an antique white limestone-based mortar was used sparingly to fill in any cracks that remained where the repairs were made. This step was important because it prevents water from getting in and cracking the stone as it freezes. With the Lydia Mowry headstone, volunteers also used this product to recreate the missing side pieces which give it more stability. Finally, workers used the same mortar mix to recreate the letter "P" in the inscription. After all these years, Lydia Mowry's headstone finally stands once again as it did when it was first erected in 1855.



## Genealogy

**Would you like help researching your family tree?** Lynne has extensive experience and access to several databases. Please contact [nsha@nsheritageassn.com](mailto:nsha@nsheritageassn.com) to make an appointment



## NSHA'S PRESERVATION & RESTORATION

### Forestdale School (190 School Street)

We raised enough money to restore the nine window sashes. However, we must raise \$145,000 to install emergency stairs, replace the roof and recreate the cupola. The window sashes have been removed by APG and while they are being restored, the window jambs and trim will be painted.



Rent the newly renovated upper and lower halls! Contact [nsha@nsheritageassn.com](mailto:nsha@nsheritageassn.com) to make a reservation or call (401) 447-1801 or 401-651-6316

New storm windows for the stained-glass windows are due any day. We also plan to move a fire alarm radio box here from the Memorial Town Building. Volunteers remain hard at work keeping the building ready for hall rentals.



### Memorial Town Building (1 Main Street)

Larry Smith built new bookshelves at the Memorial Building for original Deed Books and Probate Records dating back to 1871.



We plan winter renovation projects inside the Forestdale School and the Memorial Town Building. We always welcome volunteers!



## Dorr Rebellion Artifacts

Maria Velasquez, of the Varnum Armory in East Greenwich, continues her conservation work on our 1842 Dorr Rebellion Flag that once belonged to the Slaterville Grenadiers.

The Preservation Framers of Attleboro completed conservation work on Dr. Metcalf Marsh's self-portrait as well as his portrait of Thomas Dorr. Dr. Marsh, of Slatersville, was a staunch supporter of Dorr's fight for Men's suffrage in RI. We consider these items our most valuable local artifacts.





## Did you know.....

According to the Farmer's Almanac, this February's full moon is traditionally known as the "Full Snow Moon" since the heaviest snows typically fall in this month. Since hunting is more difficult at this time, some Native American tribes were known to call this moon the "Hunger Moon."

## NSHA MEMBERSHIP

This month we would like to welcome new members Bill Burroughs and Aileen Naylor. Our current member roll indicates that we now have 160 members with current dues. We sincerely thank all who recently renewed for the next year!

We thank all our members for everything you do to support our historic preservation efforts! Your \$20 annual dues allow us to conduct our many preservation activities and events. If you are not sure of your membership status, please contact us. *Want to join?* Seniors over 85 and students are still free.

## *Time Capsule*

Do you have any iconic items from the past 150 years that you would like to donate? Contact us to arrange a drop off! We plan to seal the capsule in March 2022 then store it in our archives at the Memorial Town Building.



## Payment Options

- 1. PayPal Giving Fund:** search for [nsha@nsheritageassn.com](mailto: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](mailto:nsha@nsheritageassn.com) or call [401-651-6316](tel:401-651-6316)



## Get Your NSHA Merchandise!

Did you know that NSHA offers a wide variety of items that make perfect gifts for yourself or loved ones? And the best part: All profits support our preservation efforts!

- *NSHA's brand-new 2022 Historic Calendars are available for \$10.*
- *NSHA Puzzles feature images from two town farms (Martin's and Gardner's) as well as an image 19th century Main Street Slatersville. They are available in two different sizes (524 or 1014 pieces) and cost \$20 each.*
- *NS 150th anniversary Commemorative Ornaments These beautiful Christmas ornaments feature the Town Crest with a banner that reads "1871-2021" and cost \$15 each.*

### *Where and How to Purchase NSHA Gifts:*

- Our gift shop at the **Forestdale School** offers calendars, ornaments, maps, books, and other items that reflect our local history. The gift shop opens the second and third Thursday and Saturday of each month from 10 am to 2 pm. To make an appointment on other days, contact Louise at 401-769-8177.
- Limited items are available at **The Budding Violet at Red White & Brew Coffeehouse** on Great Road.
- Limited items are also available at the **Memorial Town Building** at 1 Main Street on Tuesdays from 9am-12pm or call 401-447-6394 for an appointment.
- Visit our **online shop** on our website, [www.nsheritageassn.org](http://www.nsheritageassn.org). Pay by check or PayPal Giving fund. Make checks payable to "NSHA." Orders ship immediately upon payment. The shipping fee for a single item is \$5. Multiple or large items require an adjusted rate. Local delivery to your door is free. Contact [nsha@nsheritageassn.com](mailto:nsha@nsheritageassn.com). Thank you for your support!
- All profits support our schoolhouse operating costs.



## Recent Events

### November

**Primrose Historic District Walk:** In November, members and guests visited Sheldon Four Corners, Andrews School, NS19 Mathewson Cemetery, old Woonsocket Hill Road, and the Othniel Mathewson Homestead.

### December

**NSHA Christmas Party:** Members enjoyed the annual Christmas party on Friday, December 10th. The potluck dinner was delicious and all enjoyed the beautiful harp music during dinner and the Yankee Swap afterwards. Thanks to all who made this night a success!



### December

**Waterford Village History Walk:** In



December we walked through Waterford Village to view the old train station, the Mammoth Mill ruins, the Blackstone Canal and Coblin Rock.

### January



**Booth Pond:** This month we used snowshoes to walk by Booth Pond and to climb Pine Hill.



### New 2022 Historic Calendars

Purchase our stunning calendars for just \$10 at Wright's Dairy Farm, Leeway Ace Hardware, Village Paint and the Forestdale Schoolhouse. Also buy them at our on-line store [www.nsheritageassn.org](http://www.nsheritageassn.org) or contact us for home delivery. We thank our 2022 sponsors for their generous support!

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>)

## 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](http://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](mailto:nsha@nsheritageassn.com) or [401-651-6316](tel:401-651-6316)



## Thomas A. Aldrich

By Lynne Pelletier



Thomas Appleby Aldrich was a well-respected gentleman who lived much of his life in the town of North Smithfield in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He was brought to my attention by an article written in the Woonsocket *Evening Bulletin* that recounted the story of his unusual double funeral in 1886. Thomas and his wife Maria both died of pneumonia within a few days of each other and their dual funeral took place on March 31, 1886. I wondered who these prominent town residents were and why there was such a detailed article written about their lives?

Thomas Appleby Aldrich was born on July 29, 1796 in what was then Smithfield to parents Nathan Aldrich and Esther Phebe Appleby. There is conflicting evidence that gives his birthplace as Cumberland; but this may be a mistake likely due to the fact that he did live in Cumberland for a period of time. Thomas was 1 of 8 children and he was named for his mother's older brother, Thomas Appleby. Uncle Thomas Appleby was the first of the Appleby family to own the Smith-Appleby House in Smithfield when he inherited it upon his father-in-law's death in 1807.

Thomas was about 25 years old when he married 20-year-old Maria Gaskell. Maria Gaskell Aldrich was born in about 1802 in Mendon, Massachusetts to parents Peter Gaskell and Hannah Thompson. They also had 6 other children. Thomas and Maria married in Mendon on February 25, 1821 and eventually settled in Smithfield where they had 11 children. They had been married for 65 years at the time of their deaths. Maria was said to have "a supreme regard for her husband in whom she had found husband, counselor, companion and guide." She was also "devoted to her family and its interests."



Thomas was characterized as "an ambitious and far-sighted young man" who successfully oversaw the running of 3 farms in the 23 years that he lived in Cumberland. His family also lived in Worcester for a short time before returning to Smithfield to live on the family homestead where he continued his prosperous farming. A small article from an 1863 issue of *The Springfield Republican*, reports that "this well-known agriculturalist was experimenting with growing potatoes and in fact now had over 150 varieties. "

Farming wasn't the only thing that Thomas was successful at however; he was also known for his "financial integrity." In 1805, The Smithfield Union Bank was incorporated at



### Dual Funeral at the Friends' Meeting House.

The dual funeral of Thomas Appleby Aldrich and his wife, Mariah, both of whom died within a few days of each other at North Smithfield, was solemnized yesterday at the late residence of the deceased and at the Friends' Meeting House. Never before in the history of the town has such a remarkable scene been witnessed as that which was looked upon in the church edifice when the solemn procession of eight pall-bearers entered the main aisle and conveyed the remains of the aged dead to the altar and deposited the two draped caskets upon the stands. The deceased were widely known, Mr. Aldrich for his financial integrity, his knowledge of agriculture and his large wealth; Mrs. Aldrich for her tender devotion to her family and its interests, and her supreme regard for her husband, in whom she had found husband, counselor, guide and companion for sixty-five years. It is not to be wondered at that there was a large attendance at the house and the church even. The venerable pair were married in Mendon in that part of the town now Blackstone, on February 25, 1821, Mrs. Aldrich being 20 years of age and Mr. Aldrich a young man of 25, ambitious and far-sighted, not at all given to romance, but having the stern realities of life in view. They lived for a while in Worcester, Mass., then for two or three years lived in Umland, where he successfully conducted three farms, before removing to the old homestead in North Smithfield, where he lived the remainder of his long and profitable career, carrying on farming operations. Eleven children were born to them, three of whom are living, two daughters and one son, the latter a highly prosperous resident of Nebraska. An only sister, Mrs. Samuel Verry, resides at Chestnut Hill, and will be 78 years old to-day. Pneumonia was the cause of the death of Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich, both being very ill at the same time.

Simple services of prayer were conducted at the farm residence on Smithfield Hill, the Rev. M. S. Hartwell, of the Globe Congregational Church, invoking Divine guidance. The funeral cortege moved to the meeting house at the Old Bank village, where the impressive services peculiar to the Friends took place. Robert Gifford, a Providence friend, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Hartwell, conducted the exercises, which were opened with prayer, followed by the reading of scriptural extracts by Mr. Hartwell, appropriate to the solemn occasion. The reverend gentleman took for his text the words found in Philippians iv.:19—"But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." This occasion, said Mr. Hartwell, is a most unusual one. Never in by memory, perhaps in the memory of any here, has such a remarkable event occurred in this town, that of two people, husband and wife, who have lived together for 65 years, died together and now to be buried together. What is the lesson that can be learned from this occasion? I am not acquainted with the family to a sufficient extent to warrant my giving an account of the events in the case of these venerable people, whose remains lie before us inanimate; but in speaking the words of the text I feel at home. One needs the wisdom that God can give to understand an occasion like this. It is an occasion that causes all to sit up and think, and to wonder at the mysteries of Divine power. Two lives endowed with life for a certain purpose, prolonged to an age far beyond the allotted span, three-score-and-ten, and then shut cut together, causes us to consider the grandeur of God. Mr. Hartwell then spoke of the sympathy which an event of this nature always begets, and said that the words of the text should give all assurance that God in His infinite wisdom supplies all needs.

Mr. Robert Gifford spoke eloquently, paying a high tribute to the daughter who had remained at home, a malnastay for the declining years of the father and mother. He, too, was not personally acquainted with the deceased, but had sufficient knowledge to state that its two venerable dead had endeavored through life to inculcate all the good principles of Christian religion in their children's character. At the conclusion of Mr. Gifford's remarks Mrs. Della Mann offered a prayer, which was followed by a prayer by Mr. Hartwell and the benediction. The remains were conveyed to the Friends Burying Ground, the pall bearers being Joseph E. Cole, H. G. Itard, Latimer W. Hallow and Darius Farnum; W. H. Andrews, J. B. Hawry, Jesse Smith and Byron Andrews. All the prominent business men of Woonsocket and Smithfield were present.

"Bank Village" what we know today as Union Village. Peleg Arnold was the first president and Thomas A. Aldrich was appointed, along with others, to a committee to build a vault and find a location for the first bank. This may have begun his interest in banking because on July 28, 1828, he was elected to the board of directors for the Woonsocket Falls Bank and then again on August 4, 1851, he was elected to a 9-member board for the Railroad Bank. Thomas' success at farming and his financial know-how allowed him to amass a personal wealth of \$250,000 at the time of his death in 1886. In 2022 that would be equivalent to \$7,414,947. It is also interesting to note that according to published newspaper tax notices, Thomas wasn't the only person in his family to pay taxes to the town. It appears that his wife Maria paid separately on occasion. One can only assume that she may have had her own money which would have been quite unusual in those times.

The estate of Thomas A. Aldrich and his wife Maria was divided among their descendants. Their 3 living children: Charles Aldrich of Nebraska, Elvira Cook of Woonsocket and youngest daughter Sarah Aldrich of North Smithfield (who took care of her parents in their final days), along with daughter-in-law Desire Aldrich, the widow of son Davis, all inherited a portion of the estate. Also inheriting money from their grandparent's estate were Warren Cook, Sylvester S. Aldrich, Erwin E. Aldrich, Herbert A. Aldrich, and Hattie Metcalfe along with her husband, John Metcalfe from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. One curious fact in regard to this estate; in 1905 Sylvester S. Aldrich petitioned the town of North Smithfield to allow him to move the half of the home he inherited from his grandparents from their property to his own home near Cherry Brook where it became an addition to the back of his house. It is not noted what became of the other half of the house.

The funeral services for Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich took place at the family homestead in Union Village and at the Friends' Meeting House where Thomas and Maria were faithful members. The funeral was said to be large with all the prominent business men of Woonsocket and Smithfield in attendance. Burial followed at the Friends' Burying ground; although at some point the graves were transferred to Union Cemetery where they can still be seen today, 136 years later.



## Archives

We want to thank David Mowry, Keith Klockars and Tim McGee for their recent donations.

Keith Klockars donated items that his father, Fred, owned while a member of the NS Civil Defense, now called Emergency Management Agency. Donated items include two badges, a license plate emblem and a radiation dosimeter.



David Mowry donated a 19th century family bible owned by Stephen Mowry, as well as a song book from the Primrose Grange.



Tim McGee shared a photo of John Slater's portrait. Our archive collection continues to grow!!



**Your memories contain our local heritage!** Please consider loaning your old family photos and documents to us to scan. We will return them promptly! Please contact us at [nsha@nsheritageassn.com](mailto:nsha@nsheritageassn.com) or call 401-651-6136.



February 6 @ 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

### Valley Talks: Entangled Landscape

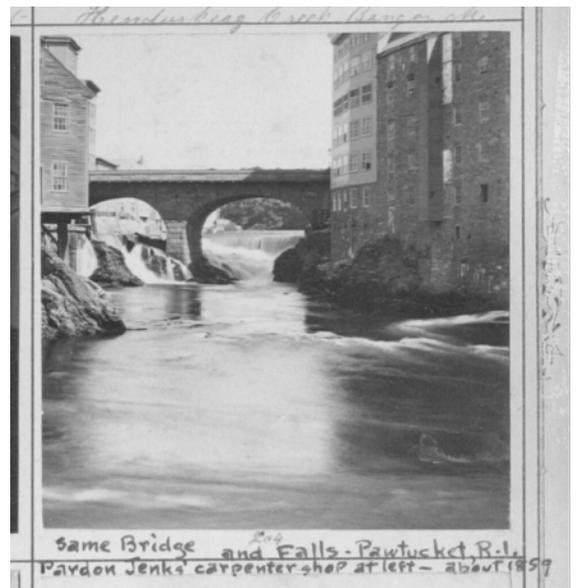
Valley Talks, a series of biweekly historical lectures by the Museum of Work & Culture, continues Sunday, February 6 at 1pm on Zoom.

In this talk, retired National Park Ranger Chuck Arning and member of the Nipmuc community Bruce Curliss discuss the Blackstone Valley, and New England as a whole, from the standpoint of how native communities and English settlers used and viewed the landscape. At the time of English arrival, the New England landscape was not a wilderness; native peoples had been manipulating the landscape for over 1500 years. However, the English saw the landscape as a frightening and mystifying wilderness, while for the Native peoples it was home, and not a wilderness at all. “Entangled Landscape” will also delve deeply into the complexities of language with regard to indigenous communities.

Individuals can register for the talk by visiting: <https://bit.ly/327C9bC>

Chuck Arning, a retired National Park Service Interpretive Ranger, logged 25 years in the service. He produced, wrote, and hosted the award-winning cable television series *Along the Blackstone* for the National Park Service. Arning was awarded the 1997 National Freeman Tilden Award for Excellence in Interpretation from the National Park Service. In 2002, with help from a wide variety of partners, Arning was awarded the Freedom Star Award for his work on the Underground Railroad by the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. In 2014, he was awarded the Leadership in Preservation Award by the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce and in 2017, he was awarded the Bay State Legacy Award by the Massachusetts History Conference. Arning was the project manager for the widely acclaimed book, *Landscape of Industry – An Industrial History of the Blackstone Valley*, published by the University Press of New England in 2009. Arning continues his interest in history and non-profit museums and historical sites through his consulting business. He is a member of the American Antiquarian Society, the National Council for Public History, the New England Historical Association, the American Association of State & Local History, and the American Conference for Irish Studies.

Bruce F. Curliss (aka Star) is a pragmatic lifelong learner, public speaker, lecturer, multimedia artist, and member of the Nipmuc tribe. Curliss has been steeped in the tradition of the land of his ancestors which includes the Blackstone Valley, finding the common relationship of his eastern woodland traditional lifeways and the history of what has transpired throughout that history. Curliss has served in several capacities for his community, including as the Chairman of the MA Commission of Indian Affairs, an elected Tribal Councilman, and is referred to by the community as a wisdom keeper. His professional career, spanning over 30 years, has had him involved in many aspects of tribal communities from youth development, economic development, and governance on a national stage. Although he values his mainstream learning experiences as giving him opportunities, he has held onto it as only what opens the door. It is the people and relationships that drive the change. Currently, he is working in the for-profit world and enjoys much of his free time exploring the waterways of his ancestors on his kayak.



Organizers: [Rhode Island Historical Society](#) and [The Museum of Work & Culture](#)

Register: <https://bit.ly/327C9bC>



## Upcoming Events

### **History Walk**

**Wunnashowatuckqut Conservation Area History Walk:** February 12 at 9am. Follow the abandoned Old Harkness and Old Colony Roads to the west bank of the Blackstone River. See Rolling Dam and High Rocks Gorge from new vantage points. Meet at the Forestdale School,

### **Upcoming events from the Blackstone River Valley Heritage Corridor**

#### **Volunteer Skills Workshop: Maple Sugaring**

*Learn the art of maple sugaring and prepare to volunteer for maple sugar days!*

**Saturday, February 12**

**1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park  
287 Oak Street, Uxbridge, MA

Many hands are needed to continue the tradition of Maple Sugar Days returning March 5 and 6 to Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park.

Please consider attending this volunteer training to learn the history of maple sugaring and enjoy a hands-on demonstration on how to tap a tree.

You'll get a tour of the maple sugar shack and receive training for visitor interpretation which

BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY  
VOLUNTEERS-IN-PARKS

**SKILLS WORKSHOP SERIES**  
Learn a new skill, sharpen skills you already have, and open new doors for future volunteer opportunities. Workshops count toward VIP training.

**MAPLE SUGARING**  
Saturday, February 12 - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park  
287 Oak Street, Uxbridge, MA

**LEARN THE ART OF MAPLE SUGARING AND PREPARE TO VOLUNTEER FOR MAPLE SUGAR DAYS**

Many hands are needed to continue the tradition of Maple Sugar Days returning March 5 and 6 to Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park.

Please consider attending this volunteer training to learn the history of maple sugaring and enjoy a hands-on demonstration on how to tap a tree.

You'll get a tour of the maple sugar shack and receive training for visitor interpretation which you can use when volunteering for the 2022 Maple Sugar Days.

Please consider a volunteer shift on one or both of the event days. To register for volunteering at Maple Sugar Days, visit [bit.ly/MapleDays2022](http://bit.ly/MapleDays2022).

dcr  
Massachusetts

RSVP for the Skills Workshop at [bit.ly/MapleSugaringSW](http://bit.ly/MapleSugaringSW)



## Upcoming events from the Blackstone River Valley Heritage Corridor

**Save the Dates:**  
**Saturday, March 5**  
**Sunday, March 6**

### Maple Sugar Days at River Bend Farm

*Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park*  
*287 Oak Street, Uxbridge, MA*

The sweet tradition returns! Learn how maple syrup is made as park staff and volunteers at River Bend Farm take visitors through a guided tour of the art and science of tapping maple trees, gathering sap, and producing maple syrup.



Free tours will be offered at 11 a.m., Noon, 1 p.m., and 2 p.m., and last about 90 minutes.

***NOTE: Pre-registration is required this year.***

### “Connect to Birds, to Nature, and with Each Other”

Get your binoculars ready! We invite you to join in the Great Backyard Bird Count.

This backyard birding event will run from February 18-21, 2022. Stay tuned for more details on how to get involved.

*Photo of Cedar Waxwings in Uxbridge, MA by Carol Dandrade, a Blackstone Heritage Corridor Photography Ambassador.*





## Upcoming events from the Blackstone River Valley Heritage Corridor

Join Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park and Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor for a free virtual series of winter workshops on how people have worked, rested, and played in the Blackstone River Valley. Together with historians, artists, and craftspeople, we'll explore the struggle for a balanced life of work and wellness.

These 60-minute discussions will take place on Saturday afternoons at 1:00 PM.

### **February 12 - Discussion on Rest**

During the past two years, a staggering number of people have left their jobs in the midst of a global pandemic. Millions of workers have also reported unprecedented levels of burnout. With this in mind, what can histories of workplace injuries and mental health teach us today? For this discussion, labor history scholar Robert Forrant will offer an overview and history of how industrial accidents have been managed. We'll also be joined by Paul Piwko with Alexandra Orlandi, who coordinate the National Museum of Mental Health Project, Inc. They will share the local history of the movement for mindfulness and wellness at work.

### **February 26 - Discussion on Play**

What do you do with your free time? For centuries, workers who have reported their time or been bound to a clock have struggled for more opportunities for leisure. During this talk, rangers will offer a short history of Slater Mill, as both an industrial workplace and later, as a place where people could ride bicycles for pleasure indoors. We'll also be joined by Joe LyonWurm, the founder of Pedal Powered Anthropology, a highly creative approach to blending fitness and education about human history.