



NORTH SMITHFIELD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume IV Issue IX~ November 2023

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ~Thank you
- ~From the Archives
- ~Fifty Years Ago
- ~NS Historic Cemeteries
- ~Historic Cemetery
of the Month
- ~Preservation &
Restoration
- ~Maintenance
- ~Conservation
- ~NSHA Activities
- ~Mystery Photo
- ~NSHA Merchandise
- ~Development
- ~Membership
- ~Outreach



PLEASE JOIN
NORTH SMITHFIELD HERITAGE ASSN
FOR AN

OPEN HOUSE

Holiday Shoppe

18
NOVEMBER
10-3PM

Forestdale School, 190 School St
Come see all the renovations we've made!

Get a start on your holiday shopping with wonderful NSHA merchandise such as ornaments, calendars, jigsaw puzzles, books, map, and cozy North Smithfield throws.



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 new 2024 NSHA calendars have arrived!!

These high-quality calendars feature beautiful images of local historic buildings and landmarks. They make a great gift! We will mail them for an additional \$5 shipping fee or deliver them locally for free.



NSHA Annual Meeting & Holiday Potluck *Dinner*

COME & JOIN US!

NSHA Annual Meeting and Holiday Potluck Dinner
Friday, December 8, 2023- at Heritage Hall at 6 pm.
Enjoy a variety of delicious food, good company,
and a \$10 Yankee Swap gift exchange.

Dec 8th

6PM

HERITAGE HALL
101 GREEN ST

All members are encouraged to attend!! After our traditional potluck dinner, members will vote on the 2024 officers and then enjoy an optional Yankee Swap. Members should bring an appetizer, main dish, side or dessert to share. Each member participating in the Yankee Swap should bring a \$10 wrapped gift.



Annual Appeal



COMMUNITY ANNUAL APPEAL

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

2023 INITIATIVES

- ✓ Complete restoration of Forestdale School interior
- ✓ Cemetery restoration
- ✓ Historical artifact acquisition & preservation

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/>



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.

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!



Time to Plant Your Daffodils

Join North Smithfield Heritage Association and your neighbors in planting our yards, street sides and public spaces with thousands of daffodils.

We have ordered TWO kinds of daffodils this year and both are superb naturalizers.

Dutch Master- yellow daffodil bulbs packaged in 50 count bags.

We're offering them to you at cost - \$20 per bag of 50.

Ice Follies- a white daffodil with yellow cup that fades to white packaged in 50 count bags.

We're offering them to you at cost - \$26 per bag of 50.

Besides this modest outlay, you will have to plant them in a site that offers full sun or partial shade. Most daffodils tolerate a range of soils but grow best in moderately fertile, well-drained soil that is moist during the growing season.

If you refrain from cutting the foliage until it naturally dies back, your daffodils will return year after year, offering an incredible return on your invested time and money.

If you'd like to donate a little extra, we'll use it to plant daffodils in public spaces.

Please contact me to order your daffodils or ask questions,
Ann Lilley, jslilley@yahoo.com or 401-556-0853.





Thank You

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 -12:00 pm. Stop by and visit or contact us to make an appointment to visit on another day.



Al Menard and David Huestis

We thank David Huestis for donating NS High School newsletters and other school memorabilia!



Rich Keene and Martha Matthews

We also thank Martha Matthews for donating her research notes on the Phillips family during her recent visit to our archives.

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)



Thank You



The NSHA owns a set of two large and two small throne chairs that belonged to the Union Grange. All of them badly need reupholstering.

Despite the best efforts of our resourceful volunteers, the reupholster work on this large throne chair just wasn't working out, so we outsourced the job to Bob Frances Interiors in North Providence. They donated the fabric leftover from a previous job and gave us a discount on the total labor. The total cost was \$670.

The chair will be on display this Saturday, November 18 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Forestdale School Open House. It will then be returned to Heritage Hall before loaning it to the town for Santa the first week of December!

We will do the matching large chair in January.

Slatersville Dorr Rebellion Flag

Conservation work on the Slatersville Dorr Rebellion Flag is ongoing. Maria Vazquez, Royal Conservation textile conservator, continues to replace missing fragments from the unique 1842 artifact. Funding from a June Rockwell Levy Foundation grant is funding the conservation work.





From the Archives

Albert Allen Mowry – First Clerk of the Town of North Smithfield

By Al Menard



If you visit the offices of the NSHA at the Memorial Town Building, one of the first things you will notice when you enter the office is a painting of a young man with piercing eyes. His name was Albert A. Mowry. The Mowry family was among the first settlers of Northern Rhode Island. Their history is closely related to the history of this area.

Albert Allen Mowry was born in Smithfield, RI on June 9, 1842. His father was also named Albert. His mother was Lucy Ann Holt. She died when Albert was three months old. He was raised by uncles and aunts, of which he had more than twenty.

When he was eighteen years old, Albert's father caught gold fever and went to California in search of his fortune. He was later followed by a brother, David, who soon returned and settled in Smithfield. Albert's father, however,

would never return. His fortune in California rose and fell as he worked his way through gold mining to finally becoming a successful mechanic catering to miners' needs. He lived to the age of eighty-eight and died in Calaveras County, California in 1905.

The painting at our office depicts a young man with a chin beard in the style often used by soldiers in the Civil War and is said to have been inspired by President Abraham Lincoln. Indeed, in 1861, Albert Mowry enlisted into the 2nd R. I. Infantry Volunteer Regiment where he was the private secretary to General Devens, whom he admired greatly. Later he would name his only son, Arthur Devens, after the Civil War general.

In 1866 he married Sarah Ellen Smith of Smithfield. The newlyweds lived with Sarah's father, Welcome Smith, who was a widower. In 1869, Governor Burnside issued a testimonial of honor for Albert's service in the Civil War. It was also the year that his first child, Arthur Devens, was born.



From the Archives

In 1871, when Smithfield was divided into towns, Albert was chosen as North Smithfield's first town clerk. He did not finish his first year in that post, however. He accepted employment at the Monohansett Manufacturing Company where his father-in-law was president. He would be a bookkeeper there until his untimely death eight years later. The company was situated in Putnum, Connecticut. There, the family grew to include two daughters: Bertha Louise, born in 1876, who would live to be 80 years old, and Ellen Sarah, born in 1878. She died at seven months. Their son, Arthur Devens lived to be eight-nine years old.

Albert and his wife had short lives. He died of consumption on July 28, 1879, at the age of thirty-seven. His wife, Sarah, who had moved back to Slatersville, passed away in 1885. She was forty-three years old.

Albert, his wife, and daughter, Ellen, are buried in Slatersville Cemetery.



"He was a man of quiet habits, always gentlemanly and courteous, and most highly esteemed in this county." From his obituary in *The Putnam Patriot*.



Monthly Board Meeting



The Board of Directors will meet at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at Heritage Hall, 101 Green Street. Members are welcome to attend in person or via Zoom. Zoom information is included in the email

The Nominations Committee invites members to volunteer for positions on the Board of Directors starting in January 2024. The Corresponding Secretary and Assistant Corresponding Secretary positions will both be vacant at that time. Duties include sending digital welcome letters to new members and digital thank you letters to donors.

Genealogy

Would you like help to conduct research on your family tree? Lynne Pelletier has extensive experience and access to several databases. Please contact nsha@nsheritageassn.com to coordinate an appointment.



Ghosts and Paranormal

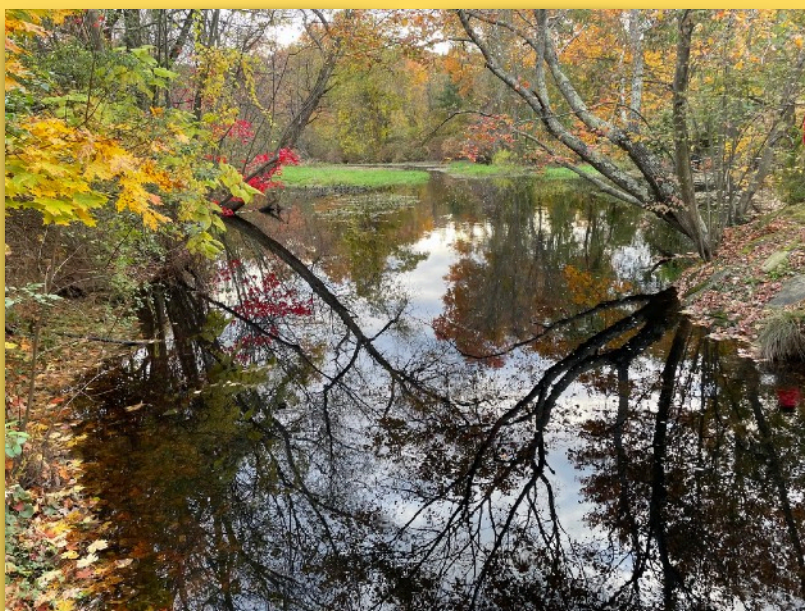


Have you heard about or seen a ghost in North Smithfield? We would like to document it! Anyone interested in joining the Paranormal Research Team please contact us at nsha@nsheritageassn.com.



Education

Two NS High School seniors are working with NSHA mentors to complete their senior projects. Ava has begun conducting oral interviews with lifetime local residents. Please contact us if you'd like to be interviewed! Nick is conducting a photo survey of NS waterways. Here's a sample of his work:





Fifty Years Ago

Just a short excerpt this month from our continuing article “A Road By Any Other Name” written by George A Harvey that was originally printed in the 1973 and 1974 NSHA newsletters 50 years ago.

After World War I, Rhode Island began to update its highway system to accommodate the vastly increased number of automobiles. Consequently, during the decade of the 1920's, the main roads through North Smithfield were redeveloped. This involved both the great road system on the east and north sides of town and a new highway on the west.

Up to this time, a highway traveler to Providence might go via West Acres and the “new road” either to Manville and thence south, a very popular route, or continue on the great road into Lincoln until it connected with the old Louisquissett Pike which terminated originally in the Lime Rock area. The latter route was most direct but apparently the least comfortable.

During the 1920's the Louisquissett Pike, which had long since ceased being a toll road, was extended northward into this town. Entering over a new roadbed between the so-called old and new roads, it proceeded to West Acres where all the roads, old and new, came together again. From here to Park Square it followed the original road but brought in a new name. From this time the route was to be called the Louisquissett Pike; the state so ordained. In the process however, Smithfield Road lost it's middle portion from Park Square to West Acres.

After World War II, a new highway was needed between Providence and Woonsocket., but once again in North Smithfield it simply followed the old route of Louisquissett Pike. The state said, let this route be numbered 146, be known as Eddie Dowling Highway. Furthermore, said the state, let this name now be applied to the entire length of route 146 from Providence through Park Square, through Union Village and beyond even to Carpenter's Corner and then north to the state line at Uxbridge. Residents ignored the new name for a long time but eventually it became grudgingly accepted although only as far as Park Square. While state-named highways do not and cannot eliminate the names used locally, they often cause confusion. Thus, while the Eddie Dowling Highway and Louisquissett Pike are separate routes in Lincoln, they are identical in North Smithfield and even utilize part of the same road.

Next month: Park Square to South Main Street at Union Village

Research Team

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

The team meets at 7:00 pm at Heritage Hall on the second Friday of the month. Contact NSHA if you'd like to help!





NS Historic Cemeteries



Hotchkiss Cemetery



Capt. Luke Phillips Cemetery

Our cemetery restoration teams have finished their work at Hotchkiss Cemetery and NS09, the Capt. Luke Phillips Lot on Pound Hill Road for the season. Work will resume at these and other cemeteries when spring sunshine and warm temperatures return next year!



The Hotchkiss cemetery team recently repaired this original cast iron Civil War veterans marker rather than replacing it with a new modern aluminum marker. First, new legs were found in a box of spare parts. Next, holes were drilled and steel pins were placed in order to connect the pieces together securely.

It may seem like a lot of work, but it is just one small step to the process of trying to restore Hotchkiss Cemetery back to the way it appeared in the 1800's.



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



NS Historic Cemeteries



We thank NSHA member, Larry Smith, for building this incredible storage shed that will be used for storing the tools needed for cemetery restoration work. Outstanding work, Larry!

Cemetery volunteers are now focused on fall and winter clean-ups. Contact the NSHA if you'd like to help move leaves!







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

Forestdale School (190 School Street)

With grants and your generous support, critical renovations are now complete at the 150-year-old Forestdale School! While we still need to insulate the attic, install a replica cupola, and install a climate control system, we can now reopen for business.

We will hold Open House and Holiday Shoppe event from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday, November 18th. Please join us as we reopen our doors!



A new cupola base has been installed



The original wood floors have been refinished



Charlie Dubois, Christine Dubois, Louise Van Houwe, Martha Shean, Jeanne Marion, and Ralph Amato worked very hard to get the school put back together.



Volunteers work to replace the student desks and artifacts



Maintenance

Memorial Town Building (1 Main Street)



The Interlocal Municipal Trust paid a contractor to replace the office door and jamb. Renewal by Anderson replaced one of the remaining windows in the rear of the building. They will return shortly to replace the last one.



Heritage Hall (101 Green Street)



Just in time for the cold winter months, we have a new boiler at Heritage Hall. A local contractor gave us a significant discount to replace the failing system.



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.



Conservation

Grange Road Historical District



Runyon Heritage Associates completed its survey of properties on Grange Road that will facilitate an application to register the district on the National Park Service Register of Historic Places. The survey is a preliminary step towards a formal application. If approved, the designation would make listed historic properties eligible for the local Historic Buildings Tax Credit Program.

2023 North Smithfield Heritage Walks

Heritage walks are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month. The locations are in the descriptions below. All walks meet at 9:30 am.

Heritage Walks 2023 Schedule:

November 18: Woonsocket Hill: Mowry Fire Tower, Philip Mowry House and NS47, National Grid stone features. Meet at the NS Middle School parking lot.

December 9: Cedar Brook Legacy: Todd's Farm and Cedar Brook Cart Path. Meet at NS High School Tennis Courts on Grange Road.

Next year's schedule coming soon!

Wesquidomsett Heritage Walk

We recently conducted a driving and walking tour of Wesquidomsett Hill, now known as Sayles Hill, where the first white colonists settled into what is now North Smithfield. Participants viewed the graves of John and Mary Mowry who both died of small pox on July 7, 1690, an abandoned portion of Old Sayles Hill Road that brought the first settlers into North Smithfield and historic buildings on and around the hill.





NSHA Activities



Hundreds of people recently attended Spooky Spirits night which was held on October 28th at Goodwin Brothers Farm, on Greenville Road where they enjoyed free hayrides, hot apple cider, fortune-telling, food trucks and more!

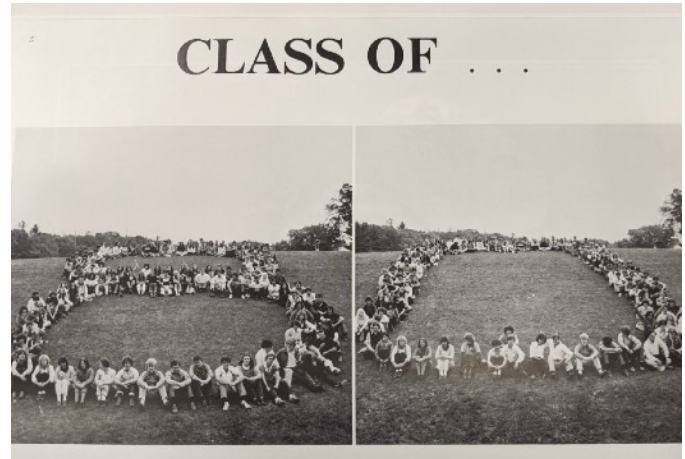




October Mystery Photo

Solved!!

Ellie Rouselle Morrissey, Scott Walling and many Facebook subscribers correctly identified the mystery photo as a 1980 North Smithfield High School senior class photo taken on the hill near the football field. With this information, we were able to locate the original photo in the Class of 1980 yearbook. Thank you for your help!



November Mystery Photo



This month's mystery photo shows young people who may have participated in a Fall performance of some type judging by the decorations. Do you recognize these young people or do you remember the event? If so, please contact us!

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

Start your holiday shopping with some local merchandise!

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



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? 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

It's time to renew your membership!!

~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 204 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.

We welcome new members: Audrey Godin and Bob Hanson

Website visitors: 243 site sessions in last 30 days

NSHA newsletter subscribers: 1,377

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

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



Instagram (nsha1970)
Please follow us!

Instagram followers: 273

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/

Facebook followers: 1,177



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: Only shared history can preserve our heritage!

Most importantly, share this newsletter with family and friends!