



# NORTH SMITHFIELD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME I, ISSUE 1 ~ MARCH 2020

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- *New* NSHA Newsletter
- March Spotlight:  
*NSHA Heritage Gala*
- Upcoming Events
- Volunteer Opportunities
- *Did you know?*  
NSHA for Students
- *Getting to Know*  
Peleg Arnold
- 150th Birthday!
- Contact NSHA

## WELCOME TO THE *NEW* NSHA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER!

The North Smithfield Heritage Association Executive Board is excited to offer NSHA members this new monthly email newsletter, to keep you all informed about NSHA events, activities, opportunities, and successes on a regular basis throughout the year. The NSHA Monthly Newsletter will also provide a forum where members can learn about the history of this town that we all love.

Each month, look for a calendar of events to keep you notified of upcoming NSHA programs and events for the month. Also, NSHA welcomes anything that you, as members of NSHA, wish to share or would like to see in upcoming newsletters, including photographs of historic places in town and members working at and enjoying NSHA events. We look forward to working with you to make the NSHA Monthly Newsletter a source of pride for NSHA for many years to come.

## *MARCH SPOTLIGHT:* NORTH SMITHFIELD HERITAGE GALA

NSHA's first major event of 2020 will be the Heritage Gala, to be held on Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 6 p.m. in the lower level of the Village Haven Restaurant. Proceeds from the Gala will help fund NSHA's historic preservation efforts in the town. The event is open to the public, and dress is casual. The schedule of events for the evening are as follows:

6 p.m.

**Cash bar ~ Penny Social ~ Silent Auction**

Open to all—no ticket required.

7 p.m.

**~ Family-style chicken dinner ~**

\$25 per person

Tickets available at Town Hall, Lil General, Village Haven, Wright's Dairy Farm, and from NSHA.

Reservations available for tables of 8.

8 p.m.

**~ Penny Social Drawings~**

8:30 p.m.

**~ Music & Dancing for all ages ~**

***We look forward to seeing you at this special event!***

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Most Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.  
***NSHA Archives Team***  
Heritage Hall

Most Fridays at 3:30 p.m.  
***Native American & Colonial Stone  
Features Research Team***  
Heritage Hall

Tuesday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m.  
***NSHA Board Meeting***  
Heritage Hall

Saturday, March 14 at 6 p.m.  
***NSHA Heritage Gala***  
Village Haven Restaurant

Sunday, March 22, 1:30-3 p.m.  
***Slatersville:  
The Catholics Are Coming***  
Museum of Work & Culture  
42 S. Main Street Woonsocket

Monday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m.  
***150th Steering Committee***  
Heritage Hall

Friday, April 17 at 7 p.m.  
***Program:  
North Smithfield Tribal Ceremonial  
Stones Landscape Presentation  
with Larry & Nathan Smith***  
Heritage Hall

Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.  
***Historic Cemetery Cleanup Day***  
Hotchkiss Cemetery  
Smithfield Road  
(adjacent to Union Cemetery)

Friday, April 24, 6-9 p.m.  
***NSHA Annual Meeting Pot Luck***  
Heritage Hall



### **HERITAGE HALL**

101 GREEN STREET  
NORTH SMITHFIELD

### **FORESTDALE SCHOOLHOUSE**

190 SCHOOL STREET  
NORTH SMITHFIELD



## **NSHA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Spring is around the corner, and there will be plenty of opportunities to get outside and explore with NSHA. There are also opportunities to help with the many tasks that NSHA needs to perform to keep running. Best yet, NSHA members have fun while getting it done! There are opportunities for all ages:

- ~ Simple building repairs ~
- ~ Grounds upkeep ~
- ~ Tree-clearing in cemeteries ~
- ~ Mapping Native American ceremonial  
stone features in town ~
- ~ Scanning and archiving historic items ~

***What special skill can you share?***

## NEW NSHA MEMBERS WELCOME!

NSHA is 185 members strong and has a 2020 membership goal of reaching 220 members! We ask that you help spread the word about how important it is to support the mission of promoting and preserving our town's heritage. And, more importantly, our members HAVE FUN! There are many opportunities throughout the year for members of NSHA—attending programs, volunteering on projects, or just learning about the town and its history by observing the NSHA website and social media. The annual membership fees are waived for students and individuals aged 85 and over. Also, new NSHA Executive Board members are chosen each April—this could be your chance to give back to the community in an important way, working with like-minded individuals.

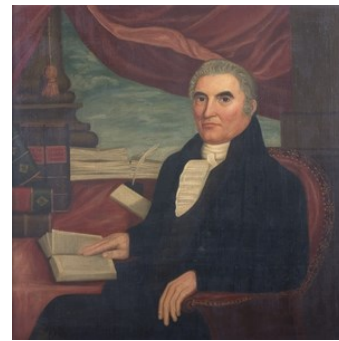
*Encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to join NSHA today!*



### DID YOU KNOW...

...that NSHA offers opportunities for students to become involved in historic preservation and many other events and activities in the town? Students of all ages can participate in various NSHA activities, including the creation of this monthly newsletter, website creation and updating, audio-visual coordination at events such as History Nights, cemetery clean-up and preservation, historic walks, archiving and organizing historic material, research, writing, and many other activities related to the mission of NSHA—to preserve and promote North Smithfield heritage.

Currently, NSHA President Richard Keene is mentoring a North Smithfield High School senior who has turned his love of history into his senior project, which involves working with historic cemeteries and surveying a Native American burial ground in town. NSHA provides a forum right here in town where high school seniors can turn what they love into work in their own town, through their senior project! Membership in NSHA is free for all high school and college students—be sure to spread the word to teachers, parents, and students about this opportunity to make a positive impact on North Smithfield!



## GETTING TO KNOW PELEG ARNOLD

You may know the name *Peleg Arnold* from the tavern of the same name at the top of Woonsocket Hill Road. Let's learn more about this fascinating man!

Arnold was born in 1751 in the part of Smithfield that is now North Smithfield (our town split from Smithfield in 1871). He attended Brown University, studied law, and practiced law in town. He served as a state representative, and in 1780 was colonel of the Second Regiment of the Providence County Militia in the Revolutionary War. After the war, Arnold was one of the founders of the Providence Society for the Abolition of Slavery. He was a Federalist and Rhode Island delegate to the Continental Congress in 1787, and in 1795, he was named chief justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, retiring in 1812.

During his life, Arnold opened and kept the Peleg Arnold Tavern, still standing in town. He also served as the president of the Smithfield Union Bank and the Smithfield Academy, and after his retirement he served again in the General Assembly representing the town, from 1817-1819. Peleg Arnold died in 1820 and is buried in the Union Cemetery.



## BE A PART OF NORTH SMITHFIELD'S 150TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

In 2021, North Smithfield celebrates 150 years as a town. NSHA is busy planning several events this year to commemorate the occasion, including the Heritage Gala on March 13, Heritage Fair in May, Spooky Nights (as co-sponsor) in October, and a Graveyard Service with our Ancestors (date TBD). In addition, NSHA is working on publishing a 150th supplement to the town's Centennial Book. Individuals and civic groups are encouraged to sponsor activities and events. The NSHA 150th Anniversary Steering Committee meets next on April 13, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. at Heritage Hall. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Contact [nsha@nsheritageassn.org](mailto:nsha@nsheritageassn.org) for more information.

### ~ WORD OF THE MONTH ~

**sesquicentennial**  
se-skwi-sen-'te-nē-əl

adj. relating to the 150th anniversary of a significant event.

*"North Smithfield's sesquicentennial celebration planning is underway."*

n. a 150th anniversary.

*"the North Smithfield Sesquicentennial is less than one year away"*



### CONTACT NSHA

**Email:** [nsha@nsheritageassn.com](mailto:nsha@nsheritageassn.com)

**Website:** [www.nsheritageassn.org](http://www.nsheritageassn.org)

**Facebook:** [@northsmithfieldheritage](https://www.facebook.com/northsmithfieldheritage)

**By Mail:** PO Box 413, Slatersville, RI 02876

**By Phone:** (401) 477-6394