

NORTH SMITHFIELD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume IV Issue VI~ July/August 2023

IN THIS ISSUE:

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



The First Battle of Nipsachuck



Historical artist, Tal Dibner, completed this painting that depicts the start of the First Battle of Nipsachuck on August 4, 1675, at the start of King Philip's War.

Nipsachuck is located in the southwest part of town in Primrose. Some local historians believe the battle took place along Greenville Road from Black Plain Road to Douglas Pike in the area bordered by the Woonasquatucket River. According to native oral history, the battle started early in the morning when MA Colony militia opened fire on five native women who were picking beans in the planting grounds. Two of them were killed.

Metacomet "King Philip" and his warriors ran to the sound of gunfire to confront the militiamen. At the end of the day, the native band escaped into a nearby swamp and moved north to link up with the Nipmuc Tribe.

When framed, the painting will hang at the Memorial Town Building.



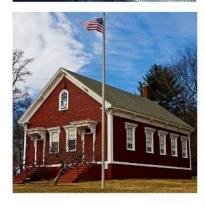


The rain date is Sunday, September 24th!











COMMUNITYANNUAL 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. We plan to complete the restoration of the historic Forestdale School this year. Please donate today to help us finish this project.

Send donations 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 Building, 1 Main St. during our weekday morning business hours:

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

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

Veterans Memorial Program

The NSHA offers to fly memorial flags of deceased veterans for a period of thirty days at the Memorial Building. We will also publish a brief biography of the honoree's military service in the NSHA newsletter. We will return the flag to the family at the end of the thirty day period or continue to fly the flag until replaced by another depending upon the family's wishes.

To participate, please contact us at nsha@nsheritageassn.com or call 401-651-6316





Thank You

The archives and the research center are open every Tuesday from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm and every Wednesday from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm. Stop by and visit or contact us to make an appointment to visit on another day.



Sam Turco, Al Menard and Bob Heath

We thank Bob Heath for donating a handmade display table that we will use to display artifacts



We also thank Jim Bastien for donating a vintage 19th-century student desk for the Forestdale School.

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

Please contact us at nsha@nsheritageassn.com or call 401-651-6316



Thank You



Michael Moore and Dick Potenza

We thank Michael Moore for donating a 19th-century newspaper and old family photos.



We thank Hannah Hazelton for restoring two wooden signs with the NSHA logo.



Marcel St. Germain and Sam Turco

We thank Marcel St. Germain for donating a Radiopticon or postcard projector circa 1910.





From the Archives

Emeline Aldrich Burlingame-Cheney: "A Women of the Century"

By Al Menard



Despite her hectic schedule, Emeline Burlingame took time to write and edit children's newspapers and bulletins under the pseudonyms "Cousin Emeline" and "Aunt Stomly." Upon her death in 1923, *The Providence News* called her, "one of the best-known women of the state." Today, one hundred years later, let us remember Emeline Burlingame-Cheney and her contribution to the cause of women's suffrage.

Emeline Stanley Aldrich was born in Union Village on September 22, 1836. Her parents were Wellington Aldrich and Celeste Angell. Emeline spent her early life living with her mother and maternal grandparents in Providence. She was educated in Providence schools, attended Rhode Island Normal School (now Rhode Island College), and taught in local schools for 5 years or so.

Like her mother, Emeline was deeply religious. At the age of fifteen she was baptized into the Roger Williams Church declaring that, unlike most church denominations, this one "opened its doors to advocates of anti-slavery, temperance, and the broader life of women." She had found the causes that would guide her for the rest of her life.

On Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1859, Emeline married Professor Luther R. Burlingame, a Brown University man from Pennsylvania. The couple lived first in Pennsylvania where he was principal of the Wellsboro Academy. Then they moved to Whitesboro, NY and finally to Dover, NH where Professor Burlingame became Publishing Agent for the Free

Baptist Publishing Establishment. It was there that Emeline began her public career of writing and speaking about her "causes."

Together Luther and Emeline had four children, two of their sons died before reaching 4 years old and their daughter Emma died at age 19. Luther Day was the only child to survive his parents, dying in 1932.



From the Archives

Mr. Burlingame died in 1890 after 31 years of marriage. During those years Emeline rose to become President of the Free Baptist Women's Missionary Society and then on to become the Recording Secretary of the National Women's Christian Temperance Union, which was the largest women's organization in the country. In addition to its emphasis on temperance, Emeline continued the organization's support of the national Suffrage amendment. She addressed audiences and organized unions in different parts of Rhode Island. She also edited Christian newsletters and books. Her fame as a speaker and writer was recognized not only

locally but also on a national scale.

In 1892 Emeline married Dr. Oren Burbank Cheney, founder and first president of Bates College, Lewiston, ME. They made their home on the college campus. They both shared a deep interest in Christian work and social reform. At this time in their life, they were, according to her words, "weary in the march of life and the clasping of hands steadied and strengthened both."

When women were finally allowed representation in the highest legislative assembly of the Free Baptists, Emeline was chosen as a delegate. She continued her work as a member of the General Conference of the group for 15 years!

After the death of Dr. Cheney in 1903, Emeline stayed with her daughter in Lewiston, Maine. There she authored a biography of her late husband. At age 85, she was still appearing at missionary and temperance functions. In 1918 she returned to Providence to live with her son.

She died on February 25, 1923, and was buried in Swan Point Cemetery.

We salute Emeline as a model of dedication and decency, as an inspiration to all of us and finally as a "Woman of the Century" consecrated to the needs of humanity.

New Udvertisements.

FIFTH AMENDMENT!

FIFTH AMENDMENT

A public meeting in support of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution will be held in the

FRANKLIN OPERA HOUSE,

-KO-

THURSDAY EVENING, Feb. 14th,

ATS O'CLOCK.

which will be addressed by

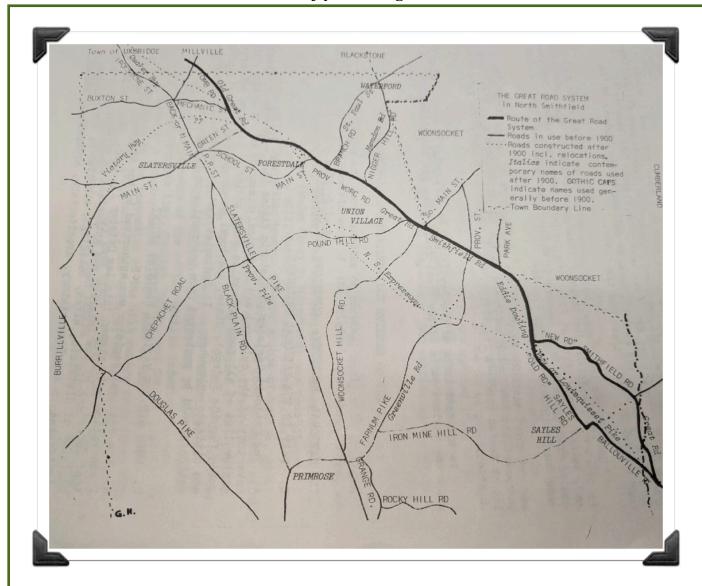
Mrs. Emeline S. Burlingame, of Providence, R. I.

Callery for ladies. All invited. Music by the Mason Quartette.

From the Nashua Daily Telegraph, Feb. 13, 1889. Despite her important work for women's suffrage,
Emeline's first cause was temperance. Here she
spoke in support of Rhode Island's Fifth
Amendment. This amendment would prohibit the
manufacture and sale of "intoxicating beverages"
in the state



Fifty Years Ago



The Route of Great Road- As we try to trace the path of the great road, beginning as it nears the Crook Fall River, imagine a rolling wooded landscape, devoid of homes or highways except for a narrow, one-wagon-wide road, badly gutted with grass in the center and tree branches pressing on both sides. The accompanying map will help you on your way.

We will start on Reservoir Road as it meets the Eddie Dowling Highway. Neither of these roads were there at the time of course and we are just across the town line into Lincoln, but this gives us a clear point of reference. At this intersection today, there is a little-used road- no longer a throughway-with just a few homes along it's borders. The signboard proclaims it to be one end of Sayles Hill Road. Old time local folks claim it as Ballouville Road. Whatever its name, this is the route of the original great road as it entered the area of North Smithfield. Its purpose in the late 1660's was provision of access to Sayles Hill (originally Wesquodamscot, then successively called Inman's Hill, Mowry's Hill and Sayles Hill, according to ownership) where the first white settlement of the town apparently occurred.



The hill is not particularly steep as the automobile climbs it, but it was an appreciable rise under the feet of men and horses. The route of the road today takes a remarkable jog to the left and then to the right in the area where it meets Iron Mill Hill Road, and then continues on to the area of West Acres. It would be presumptuous to claim that this is the exact original route- road-straightening projects and improvements "for the public convenience" are not phenomena of our day alone- but the road has enough of primitive character about it to suggest that changes have probably not been too great.

From the present end of Sayles Hill Road at the West Acres Interchange, the great road made its way to the present Park Square area by a somewhat more circuitous route than used by present highways, because of rock outcroppings, knolls and wet areas that were avoided when possible. Keep in mind the pre-twentieth century homes that are still standing and imagine a road going by their doorways: it will be something less than straight.

We are going to backtrack briefly at this point in order to trace an alternate great road route that was also laid out in the very early years. Near the Reservoir Road-Dowling Highway intersection mentioned above there is a roadway to the east labelled "Great Road" by the Town of Lincoln. Richardson tells is that this was laid out in the 1730's in order to avoid going over Sayles Hill. Irene Nebiker, in her extensive study of our history in this area, dates this segment of roadway much earlier. She believes that the land was developed for farm use by the end of the 1600's, indicating that some kind of access road would have been established by that time. Because it avoided the hill and because it went close to the Blackstone River, it soon became the favored route.

Next Month: The "Old Road" and the "New Road"



The Board of Directors will meet at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at Heritage Hall, 101 Green Street. Members are welcome to attend in person or via Zoom. Zoom information is included in the email notification.

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.



NS Historic Cemeteries

Our two teams are busy with their restoration work. Ed Walker and Stephanie Moaz have been working hard to reset gravestones in the Hotchkiss cemetery while Paul Collamati continues to keep the grass trimmed!





Wow! What a difference!



Stephanie is setting up a hoist for lifting heavy headstones.

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



NS Historic Cemeteries



Kim is applying infill to a crack in a gravestone.



The Capt. Luke Phillips lot, NS 09



Julie, Hannah and Audrey work to repair a foot stone.

Kim Walker, Barbara St. Germain, Hannah Hazelton, Julie Tilley, Audrey Godin and Lynne Pelletier continue restoration work at NS09, the Capt. Luke Phillips lot on Pound Hill Road. They have uncovered many buried fieldstones and have begun the process of raising them.

Are you interested in learning how to preserve historical cemeteries? Please contact NSHA if you'd like to help out!



Historic Cemetery of the Month

Mann-Holley Lot by Lynne Pelletier

The Mann-Holley Lot is also known as NS 013 and it is a combination of two small family cemeteries located 250 feet east of Old Smithfield Road at telephone pole #57 and it is on top of a hill near a field. The Mann family portion of the cemetery is surrounded by a fieldstone wall with three openings; 2 openings to the outside and 1 opening to the adjoining Holley family cemetery. The Holley family portion is enclosed with granite posts, iron rails and a chain across the opening. While the unique positioning of cemeteries and the opening between suggests that there was a connection between the families interred here, there is also a definite separation between the 2 lots which is curious.



In total, there are about 26 burials with 20 of these having inscriptions. The oldest burial dates to 1831 while the most recent was in 1899. In all likelihood, there are more burials here than are listed on the Rhode Island Cemeteries Commission's database because there appear to be gravestones missing. There are foot stones that do not have a coordinating headstone with them and then there are fragments of what appears to be at least 1 headstone. Were the stones removed for some reason or have they fallen and become buried over time? Further research and restoration may reveal more burials.

The Holley family lot contains the graves of 13 individuals with 4 different family names. The first grave belongs to James Bates, an individual born in about 1786 and who died at about age 62 in 1831. There is little information about him and it is unknown how he is related

to the Holley family

Major George Chace was born on February 19, 1774 to parents Bernard Chace and Margery Almy Paine. He died at age 60 on September 30, 1834. I was not able to find information as to where the rank of "Major" came from but it is proudly engraved on his headstone so he must have had some importance.

George was the husband of Mary Smith Chase, whom he married on February 2, 1806. They had at least 3 children: Adelia Ann Chase Mann, Louisa Chase Hill, and Margery Almy Chase. Mary was born on October 12, 1782 to parents Jeremiah Smith and Lavinia Olney. She is buried beside her husband but there is no date of death for her as only her footstone remains with the initials MSC. It is also unclear of this couple's connection to the Holley family.

The next interesting grave belongs to Hannah Gulley. She was the oldest individual buried here and she was born in about 1763 and died in 1866 at age 103! It is also not known how she is related to the Holley family.

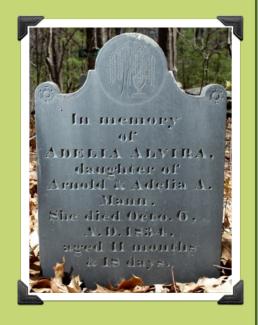


Historic Cemetery of the Month

The next interesting grave belongs to Hannah Gulley. She was the oldest individual buried here and she was born in about 1763 and died in 1866 at age 103! It is also not known how she is related to the Holley family.

William Pettis Holley was born in 1784 to parents Joseph Holley and his wife, Dorcas. William was a farmer by trade when he married his wife, Loney in about 1812. They had at least 8 children. The remaining Holley graves belong to their children and spouses.

The Mann family lot also contains about 12 individual burials and 1 grave containing unnamed infant twin boys. Arnold Mann was born in1804 to parents Thomas Mann and his wife Lydia. In 1828, Arnold married Adelia Ann Chase, daughter of George and Mary Chase. Arnold and Adelia had 3 children together, the infant twin sons and a daughter, Adelia Alvira. In 1834, Arnold lost both his wife Adelia in February and then in August he lost his daughter, Adelia Alvira less than 2 weeks before her first birthday.



Margery Almy Chase Mann, a daughter of George and Mary Chase, died as a young mother at about age 22 in 1837. She had married William Brayton Mann, a first cousin of Arnold Mann, on October 22, 1835. They had two infants, a daughter and a son, who are buried beside Margery as they both died before their first birthdays. The fact that sisters married first cousins speaks to the closeness of these two families and the connection between the cemeteries.



NSHA volunteer, Denis Chamberland, worked to clean up this cemetery in 2019.



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 Activity



The paranormal team is trying to coordinate investigations on Green Street and Great Road.

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.

Indigenous Ceremonial Stone Features



The Research Team continues to locate and document local colonial and indigenous stone features. Members searched property for stone features at West Acres on Eddie Dowling Highway and the Paine Mill on Old Smithfield Road.

Contact us if you'd like to help!





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



Forestdale School (190 School Street)



Martone Construction will complete its roof and stair work at the Forestdale School in August! That just leaves the repair of the sidewalks to complete the exterior renovations.



Volunteers finished painting the ceilings and walls in the halls, bathrooms, library and kitchenette. They also started to remove the suspended ceiling to facilitate upgrades to the lighting circuits and renovations to the classroom ceiling.

Contact us if you'd like to help!

Memorial Town Building (1 Main Street)



The town council approved a contract with Renewal by Anderson to replace two more windows at the Memorial Town Building. When installed in the fall, all the windows in the rear of the building will match the original colonial-style windows.

Meanwhile, the RI Interlocal Risk Municipal Trust, the town's insurance provider, covered the cost of a local contractor to replace damaged bricks and two marble windowsills damaged by the car fire last fall.



Conservation

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:

August 12: Nipsachuck Legacy: The Blunders, Nipsachuck National Battlefield & Black Plain Hill Stone Landscape, Three Dog Site, NS57. Meet at the NS Middle School Parking lot, Providence Pike.

September 9: Wunnashowatuckqut: Old Harkness Rd, High Rocks Gorge, Colony Rd, and Stone Features. Meet at the Forestdale School, 190 School Street.

October 14: Wesquidomsett: West Farm, NS60, NS24, Tyler Mowry House, NS32, Old Sayles Hill Rd., Rustic Drive-In, Milk Can, Paine Mill. Meet at Aldi's parking lot at Dowling Village.

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.



1842 Dorr Rebellion Flag

Conservation of our circa 1842 Dorr Rebellion Flag continues at the Barnum Armory. Maria Vasquez has done considerable work to stabilize the fragile silk and linen fabric to enable us to display the flag without causing further damage to this important town relic. We thank the June Rockwell Levy Foundation for approving a \$4,000 grant to pay for the conservation work. Due to it's generosity, we were able to replace significant parts of the flag that broke away and became lost.



NSHA Events

Revolutionary War Veteran Grave Marking Ceremony

In recognition of Flag Day, the NS Heritage Association and Woonsocket Historical Society partnered with the RI Society if Sons of the American Revolution, The Beacon Pole Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the United Veterans Council of Woonsocket on June 17th to mark the graves of five Revolutionary War Veterans buried in the Friends Meeting House Cemetery on Smithfield Road. Participants honored veterans Walter Allen, Joel Bradford, James Brayton, John Earle, and Chad Smith.



Heritage Dinner

Almost 130 guests enjoyed a night of great food and fun with Father Misgivings at the Village Haven on June 17th.

~In Memoriam~

We are saddened to report the passing of NSHA member, Patrick Michael McAssey, who passed away on May 30, 2023. You may read Mike's obituary here:

https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/brattleboro/name/patrick-mcassey-obituary?id=52124965



NSHA Events

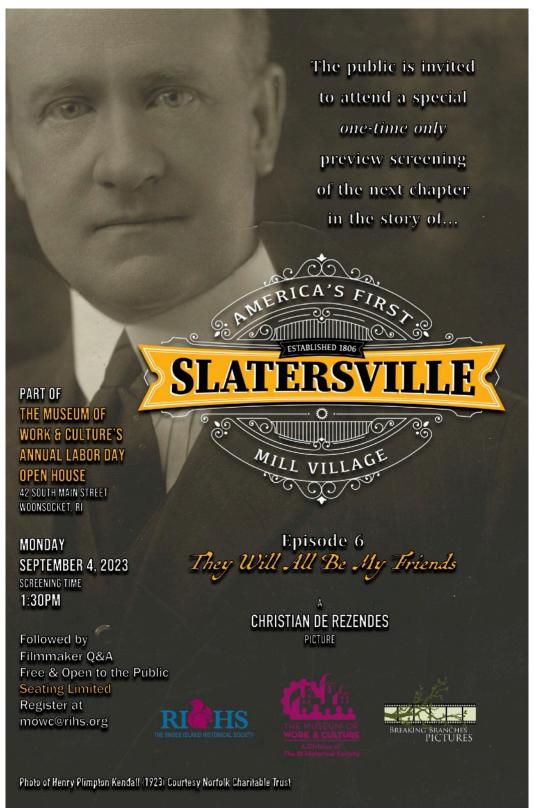
Hot and humid weather accounted for a very disappointing turnout for Heritage Day on July 8th. Thirty vendors braved the heat, while a moderate showing supported the walking tours of the Slatersville historic district and the Slatersville Cemetery. We thank our volunteers for all their hard work in putting this event together!













June Mystery Photo



This photo created quite a stir on Facebook! Thank you to Jim and Mary Lou Bertherman who provided us with the full color version of the photo which is much easier to see. They were also able to provide names for most of the girls. Jill Boday also confirmed the identity of a few girls.

Front row, left to right: Lynn Bertherman, Heather Taratuta, Sarah Duper, Jennifer Lareau, Sarah Boucher and Kaitlyn Watts.

Second row, left to right: ?, Allison McCooey, Audra Theroux, ?, Kelly McGahan, Alexis Peloquin, ?, and Mary Beth Young.

The consensus is that this is a mid-1990's town league softball team and Facebook users correctly identified the coaches as Jim Bertherman, Mike Lareau, Hank Boucher and Ken Peloquin.

If you recognize the unidentified individuals please contact NSHA.

Please contact us at nsha@nsheritageassn.com or call 401-651-6316



July/August Mystery Photo

Since last month's mystery photo created such a buzz on our social media sites we decided to try another sports picture! This photo was also in a file given to us by *The Woonsocket Call*. The unlabeled image appears to be of a North Smithfield High School's girls basketball team. Who are these excited young athletes and when was this photo taken?



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!



Development

The North Smithfield Heritage Association Fund

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.

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



NSHA Merchandise

We maintain a wide range of merchandise that includes books, maps, puzzles, and so much more! View our entire inventory at the **NSHA On-line shop** at **www.nsheritageassn.org**. We will deliver free locally.





2024 NSHA Calendar

The NSHA calendar team is working hard to complete the 2024 calendar containing beautiful images of local historic buildings and landmarks. Calendars will go on sale during Pumpkinfest



Membership

We welcome new members Connie Klockars, Kyle Klockars, Heather Cardone, Steve Biron, Rachel Biron, Tim Wynn and Rene Blais!

- ~Your \$20 annual dues allow us to conduct vital preservation activities. Seniors over 75, high school students and full-time college students are still free. If you are not sure of your status, please contact us.
- ~2023 Annual Dues are due on **January 1, 2024**. Those who recently renewed are good for the calendar year 2024. **We thank the 192 members who joined or renewed this year!** Members in arrears or with expired memberships can still renew by mail, via PayPal Giving Fund, Venmo or Tuesday mornings at the Memorial Town Building.
- ~You can become a member by filling out an application found on our website: https://www.nsheritageassn.org/membership

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 <u>nsha@nsheritageassn.com</u>, 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 401-651-6316.



Outreach

We continue to see growth in our social media platforms!

Facebook Page Followers: 1,296

Website: 222 interactions in last 30 days

NSHA Newsletter Subscribers: 1,293

Instagram Followers: 166

nsha@nsheritageassn.com



We now have a Venmo account that you can use to make dues payments, donations or to purchase merchandise.

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

