



NORTH SMITHFIELD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME II, ISSUE 3 ~ APRIL 2021

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Happy Birthday, North Smithfield!



North Smithfield recently held its first celebratory events to commemorate the town's 150th birthday on March 24, the town's actual birthday. The Parks and Recreation Committee made and delivered cakes to each of the town departments: the schools, fire, police, and public works. (See photos on page 2.) Freya Hainley donated a cake for the NSHA virtual event held at the Memorial Town Building. Finally, town officials held a virtual cake cutting ceremony that evening at the Town Hall.

To continue the celebration, teacher Valerie Carnevale has engaged the schools for items to contribute to a time capsule, and NSHA plans to conduct essay, poem, and illustration contests. The NSHA Time Capsule Team has also begun collecting items—we ask residents to donate items that depict life in 2021. They can be dropped off in our bin at Town Hall, at the Memorial Town Building, or at the Forestdale Schoolhouse. NSHA will seal the time capsule on March 23, 2022.

Help Promote Local History

Please share this newsletter with family and friends! If you have questions or want to learn more, please contact us at nsha@nsheritageassn.com or call 401-447-6394. You can also help by liking and sharing our website and Facebook page! They contain a wealth of information about our local history, our organization and its many ongoing historic preservation activities. Thank you for your support!

Visit us on Facebook for updates throughout the month.



APRIL SPOTLIGHT: 150TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION IN PICTURES

Several of these photographs were compiled by public stories about North Smithfield's 150th birthday celebration on March 24, 2021; the photos below of the celebration at the Memorial Town Building are courtesy of Charlie Dubois.



North Smithfield
Department of
Public Works



Students, staff, and teachers at North Smithfield Elementary School, Middle School, and High School celebrate the town's 150th Anniversary.



North Smithfield
Police Department

Oliver Fuller, 4, son of Chase and Alison Fuller, gets down to work decorating his cake in honor of North Smithfield's 150th birthday. (Courtesy of *The Valley Breeze*.)



NSHA members celebrate at the newly renovated Memorial Town Building.





THE NORTH SMITHFIELD MUSIC DEPARTMENT

“Memories of past years”

by Michael J. Boday

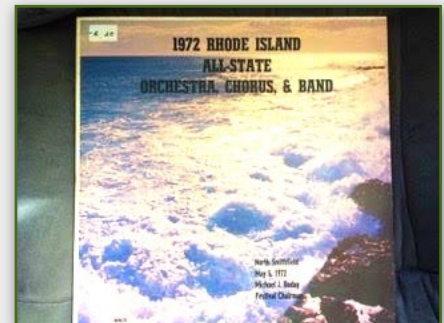
Movement Four — “The First Years”

This month, we continue our look at the history of music in the North Smithfield schools with the fourth part in the series submitted by Michael Boday, former music director.

On May 5, 1972, North Smithfield had the distinct honor of hosting the Rhode Island Music Educators’ “All-State Festival.” Over 280 of the most talented high school musicians in the state gathered on the stage of the Potenza Auditorium at the high school. Featured groups were a band, orchestra, and chorus, conducted by renowned conductors Willis Traphagan (band), Dr. David Buck (orchestra), and Charles Matz (chorus).

As the concert festival chairman, I was assigned the task of engaging a company to record the entire concert, and provide the participating students with a recording of their performance. After many phone calls and reviewing literature from a number of record companies, I decided to extend an offer to Century Records, which was located in California. The day I made the call, the executives of Century Records had just completed a meeting. In their meeting, the executives were trying to decide where, in the entire country, could they best test their new, stereophonic recording system. Problem solved! Century Records would travel across the entire width of the country to test the new apparatus in Little Rhody—in a small village called North Smithfield.

After arriving in North Smithfield, the Century Records techs unloaded their equipment. Then, they carefully placed the stereo microphone in various sections of the auditorium, until they determined the ideal location to record the concert. On the night of the concert, the young musicians performed flawlessly, the audience reacted with overwhelming enthusiasm, and the new stereophonic recording system proved more than adequate. All the months of planning, rehearsing, and scheduling proved well spent for memories to share in future years. The final decision to be made was selecting an appropriate cover for the record album. Our state motto (The Ocean State) made the decision very easy. A portrait of a thundering wave pounding on our shoreline was the unanimous choice. This was the last record album recorded by the R.I.M.E.A. as we moved into a new recording era.



Thank you to Mr. Boday for sharing these amazing stories about music education in N. Smithfield!



NORTH SMITHFIELD MUSICIAN PROFILE:

Jeffrey Ethier



My musical journey began in North Smithfield, RI and continues in North Smithfield to this day. I have been extremely fortunate in my life to be surrounded by incredible support from family, friends, and mentors to inspire and motivate me to pursue my dreams. I knew from an early age that my goal was to become a music teacher and follow my passion. My parents, Nancy and Gerry, created a loving and supportive family environment for me and my siblings, Chris and Kerri. They are certainly my strongest mentors and inspirations in life. They have supported me every step of the way in my musical endeavors with private lessons, instrument needs, advice, and encouragement. They have always

been my number one fans having never missed a performance and continue to be ever present at my events and their grandchildren's events as well. Furthermore, my father has been a math teacher for over fifty years and has been my primary mentor as a teacher. He has always loved and continues to love teaching. Growing up, I was always enthralled by the joy he experienced through teaching as well as the tremendous impact he had on generations of his students in his career. My childhood in North Smithfield was wonderful and is one of the main reasons for choosing to stay in North Smithfield to raise my family. In addition to my fond family memories, I enjoyed my childhood experiences with my friends including neighborhood street hockey tournaments, riding our bikes, and playing NS Little League baseball.

As a 5th grader at Halliwell School, it finally became time for me to enter the instrumental music program. Thanks to my dad introducing me to the saxophone through his friend and colleague, Thomas Hessney, at BMR, I couldn't wait to begin learning how to play. The NS Music program has always had such an incredible reputation so it was a huge draw. Unfortunately, as the Fall of 1980 approached, Halliwell's instrumental program experienced cut backs which limited participation to only twenty-five 5th grade students. Entrance into the program was determined by music aptitude testing in order to fairly choose participating students. Thankfully, I was selected to join the program, and I was so excited to learn the saxophone. I was very fortunate to have Mr. Michael Boday as my first music teacher.





Jeffrey Ethier *(continued from page 4)*

I quickly discovered that Mr. Boday was an innovative and inspirational music teacher who was ahead of his time. He developed great strategies to promote practicing, love of music, and motivate his students to excel such as the long tone contest, the “Badge Program”, and the summer lesson program. I completed all four badges and later earned the Fred B. West Award in 6th Grade. Years later as a sophomore in high school, Mr. Boday invited me to teach incoming 5th graders at Halliwell in the



aforementioned summer program. He took the time to work with me on teaching and gave me an incredible opportunity. This experience and his mentorship inspired me to become a music teacher. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing other students experience the same joy as me through music.

My love of music continued to grow through Junior and Senior High School in North Smithfield. My two huge passions and interests in high school were music and baseball. The North Smithfield school system provided a nurturing and supportive environment for me to explore both of these areas of interest. The high school music program had an excellent reputation filled with past successes, a well-rounded music education program, motivational and accomplished music educators, and numerous All-state caliber musicians as students. During my years at NS, our music program was uniquely comprised of so many talented musicians many who have continued on a musical career path. The friendships that I forged during my high school years were very meaningful and deep-rooted. In



Little League field at Pacheco Park

fact, my high school friends remain some of my closest friends to this day ... I find this very unique and special. I am so proud as an alumnist to see the music program continuing to thrive today under the expert leadership of Regina McAdam and Kevin Plouffe.



Jeffrey Ethier *(continued from page 5)*

In addition to participating in the wonderful in school ensembles at NS, I had the opportunity to participate in an after-school music theory program with a composer in residence. My music teachers always encouraged me to pursue my passion for music outside of school. As a result, I studied privately with great saxophone teachers in and around New England, took part annually in the RIMEA Solo & Ensemble Festivals, and auditioned into RIMEA All-State Concert Band throughout high school. As a sophomore, I was accepted into the National Band Association National Honor Band which performed in Knoxville, TN under the direction of legendary conductor William Revelli. I have always been extremely grateful and proud of the music preparation that I received from all of my teachers as a young musician.

After graduating from North Smithfield High School in 1988, I continued my musical studies in college as a music education major. I graduated summa cum laude with my Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from the Hartt School of Music in 1992, where I met my wife (violinist and music teacher), and many years later in 2006, I earned my Master's Degree in Science in Music Education from Central Connecticut State University with an emphasis in conducting. Both of my college experiences truly prepared me for a career in education. These were not only great musical environments but provided incredible guidance in teaching. I began my teaching career in the Woonsocket elementary schools in 1992. Long time WHS band director, Jim Castaldi, took me under his wing and brought me in to work with the saxophone section and the entire band during my time in Woonsocket. I remain extremely grateful for his mentorship. I left RI to teach high school band in MA for 4 years and then returned to RI for the next 13 years teaching in South Kingstown and once again in Woonsocket. Budget issues in Woonsocket forced me to seek a position elsewhere, which brought me to my current position as band director at Killingly High School for the past 11 years. At KHS, I teach Symphonic Band, Marching Band,



Percussion ensembles, and Music Technology classes. Over the years, my ensembles have enjoyed great success at local, regional, and national festivals regularly receiving superior ratings. I have also enjoyed organizing numerous performance opportunities for my ensembles over the years as out of state school trips to perform, compete, and represent the community in a variety of venues such as Walt Disney World, New York City, Pennsylvania and Virginia.



Jeffrey Ethier *(continued from page 6)*

In my teaching career, I have also been lucky enough to enjoy many incredible guest conducting experiences as well. I was invited to conduct the RIMEA Junior All-State Jazz Band twice, the RIMEA Junior All-State Honors Band, and the Quinnebaug Valley Music Festival Concert Band. In addition, I was named Killingly Public Schools Teacher of the Year in 2020. I am incredibly humbled and honored to receive these accolades, and I continually work to become the best teacher and colleague that I can be. I have been extremely blessed to work with incredible teachers who not only constantly inspire me to be better, but I'm honored to share in a close friendship.



I thoroughly enjoy living in North Smithfield with my wife and my two sons, Matthew and Michael. We have a very musical family as you may expect with both parents as music teachers. Our kids have experienced a lifetime of concerts, performances, gigs, and musical events as they were growing up. Both of my children are graduates of the illustrious North Smithfield Music Program and are pursuing careers in music performance. Matthew received his Bachelor's Degree in Trombone

performance from New England Conservatory in Boston and is currently pursuing his Master's at Duquesne University. He has studied with two amazing professional trombonists, Norman Bolter (BSO) and Jim Nova (PSO). Michael is currently a freshman saxophone performance major at Michigan State University studying with Joe Lulloff. In a unique and wonderful connection, Michael studied the saxophone privately through the New England Conservatory Prep School with my college saxophone professor, the fantastic, Ken Radnofsky. Once again, the North Smithfield music program has fully prepared the next generation of young musicians. We're very proud of our boys' accomplishments and look forward to their future careers in the wonderful world of music.

Thank you so much to Jeff Ethier for sharing your inspiring story with NSHA!



Upcoming Events

Be sure to like our Facebook page for more information about upcoming events

April 1st through May 31st, 2021
Statewide Historic Cemeteries Cleanup
See Facebook page for local events!

~
Sunday, April 18, 2021 ~ 9 a.m.
Branch River Hike (4 mile hike)
Park on Charron Dr. at Black Plain Rd.

~
Sunday, April 25, 2021 ~ 1 p.m.
Varnum Armory Field Trip
6 Main Street, East Greenwich
email nsha@nsheritageassn.org to register

~
Friday, April 30, 2021 ~ 6 p.m.
Arbor Day Celebration Tree Planting
Heritage Hall ~ 101 Green Street
(masks and social distancing)

~
Saturday, May 8, 2021 ~ 9 a.m.
Heritage Hike: *Crookfall Brook*
Meet at Aldi's Dowling Village
(not recommended for small children)

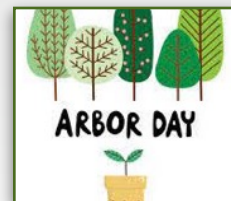
~
Tuesday, May 11, 2021 ~ 6:30 p.m.
NSHA Board Meeting
Zoom Video Conference
~ open to all members ~
Email nsha@nsheritageassn.org

~
Friday, May 14, 2021 ~ 4-8 p.m. &
Saturday, May 14, 2021 ~ 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Memorial Town Building Open House
1 Main Street, Slatersville
(limited occupancy, masks, and distancing)

2021 Statewide Historic Cemeteries Cleanup

In past years, NSHA has participated in the Rhode Island Historic Cemeteries Commission historic cemetery cleanup day, which occurred annually on a day in April. Due to COVID restrictions on gatherings, this year the Commission is holding the "2021 RI Statewide Historical Cemetery Restoration and Awareness event," an 8-week celebration running from April 1 through May 31.

NSHA kicked off the spring historic cemetery cleanup in North Smithfield at Hotchkiss Cemetery on April 3; volunteers raked leaves, cut brush, and picked up debris. A total of 11 bags were moved in a tremendous start to the cleanup! Keep an eye out for upcoming NSHA cleanup events.



NSHA will celebrate **National Arbor Day** with a tree planting ceremony at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 30 at Heritage Hall, 101 Greene Street. To learn more about the history of Arbor Day, which is celebrated in all 50 states, visit the Arbor Day Foundation at arborday.org.



Memorial Town Building Painting Donated to NSHA



In March, Frank Halliwell donated a Bev Caya painting of Christmastime at the Memorial Town Building in memory of his grandmother, Sylvia Halliwell Sayles, who was a North Smithfield public schools educator and a founding member of the North Smithfield Fine Arts Council. The painting will hang prominently at the Memorial Town Building. NSHA is so thankful to Frank for this donation!

Sylvia D. (Whitehead) Halliwell Sayles was born and raised in East Providence. She married William (Bill) R. Halliwell, Jr., who was from North Smithfield, and their children, William III, Doreen, and Betsy all attended the North Smithfield public schools. Sylvia later married Warner Sayles, also of North Smithfield. Sylvia taught physical education at Halliwell School until her retirement. She was also active in the North Smithfield Republican Party and was elected to the Town Council in 1984. When Sylvia passed away in 2007 at the age of 80, a Memorial Scholarship was established in her name.



The artist: Beverly (Valois) Caya was born in Woonsocket in 1940; she and her husband Gerald E. Caya raised their four children in North Smithfield. Bev was an avid painter of many mediums but best known for her watercolors. Her passion for painting started while in junior high school under the tutelage of the nuns. Her artistic talents were put aside after getting married and having a family. She began painting again after her husband passed away in 1987. Bev attended many workshops both locally and abroad to refine her craft. While raising her children, she worked for the North Smithfield schools. Bev died in 2016 at the age of 76.



HISTORIC CEMETERY OF THE MONTH: **Gideon Sayles Lot**



The Gideon Sayles Lot on Iron Mine Hill Road is known as Historic Cemetery NS24. This large cemetery, enclosed by a low stone wall, is prominently located near the intersection with Sayles Hill Road. It contains 43 burials of descendants of Jonathan Sayles and Elizabeth Paine, including their daughter Elizabeth as well as the families and descendants of their sons Gideon (1765-1814) and Welcome, who were both farmers. Gideon, the cemetery's namesake, married Sally Ballou (1776-1836) in 1797, and the couple had at least seven children. The cemetery covers an area of .34 acres and is recorded in the North Smithfield land records. There is, however, no owner of the land listed.



According to the notations for this cemetery on the Rhode Island Historic Cemeteries Commission website, "[a]t the time of the last survey [in 1994], the cemetery was found to be in rather fair shape except for the abundance of nearly waist high weeds throughout the area. A condition which could easily be taken care of by some conscientious neighbors." Sure enough, NSHA volunteers from nearby Sayles Hill Road (pictured here to the left are Jim DiChristofero, Denis Chamberland, and Tad Maciejewski) adopted the cemetery four years ago and restored it to its current excellent condition. The group encourages other volunteers to join them in their ongoing efforts to regularly cut the grass, cut back brush, and remove leaves and other debris. Email nsheritageassn.com for info on how to volunteer.



NSHA Research Team Seeks Volunteers

The NSHA Research Team seeks volunteers to research the history of local Native American and colonial-era stone features that the team locates and documents. Features include stone walls and the ruins of farmhouse and mill foundations, as well as abandoned roads and trails. Researchers will examine land evidence records as well as colonial and state records to trace ownership and potential origins. The Research Team holds Zoom meetings to share findings. Contact nsha@nsheritageassn.com or Larry Smith at 401-450-4478 for more information about this exciting opportunity.



NSHA Properties Update

Forestdale School (190 School Street)



At the little red schoolhouse, painters recently met with Jeff Harris and APG. They plan to start preparing the building for paint in the upcoming weeks. We therefore expect to see a dramatic difference in appearance soon. APG should finish making two new doors as well as complete restoration of the three front windows. Dione Electric will install underground electrical service to the building as soon as National Grid reviews the project. The Town Council recently restored \$25,000 of capital improvement funds, for which NSHA remains sincerely grateful. Because Rhode Island voters approved the bond issues during the special election, we hope to secure another matching state grant to replace the roof and restore the remaining windows.

Heritage Hall (101 Greene Street)

This building remains closed until the governor lifts COVID restrictions. Meanwhile, NSHA continues to raise money through grants and the Annual Appeal to repair the building's stained-glass windows and to install two new hall doors. Last week, volunteers began to paint the Lower Hall. Thank you to all of our helpful members for getting this building ready for rentals and association events.



Memorial Town Building (1 Main Street)



Volunteers have finished painting the first-floor walls and ceilings. Once our carpet order arrives, we will complete the business office and meeting room floors.

Meanwhile, we have opened the Archives, Research Center, and Meeting Room for association activities. Come visit us for an Open House over two days in May (details on page 8), which will be followed by a virtual Zoom Meeting to receive feedback from the community about possible uses for other upstairs spaces in the building. We hope to see everyone in May as we showcase this amazing building!



In Memoriam



Sadly, we report the untimely passing of our fellow North Smithfield Heritage Association member Gary Ducharme. Gary was a lifelong resident of North Smithfield. He joined the Primrose Volunteer Fire Department as a junior firefighter in 1976. He graduated from North Smithfield High School in 1978. He was a veteran of the United States Coast Guard. He is survived by his wife Helen and two sons, Jared and Joshua.

Gary was truly kindhearted and caring, which was especially evident in the devotion he showed to his "Helen Mary." Their love is enviable, and they truly set an example of a beautiful partnership full of laughs, love and

NSHA Arts & Culture Committee Update

NSHA announced in February that Ann Lilley has taken charge of our newest committee, which is dedicated to preserving and promoting arts and culture in North Smithfield. The committee has been busy collecting and displaying locally produced art at NSHA properties.

As we read on page 9, Frank Halliwell donated the wonderful Memorial Town Building painting by Bev Caya in honor of the memory of his grandmother. And in the March Newsletter we highlighted the installation of an original watercolor painting by Marc Gelinas

in honor of his mother, Betty, in the Memorial Town Building. If you would like to donate or loan a painting, image, or fine craft such as quilts, embroidery, needlepoint, and woodcarving, please email nsha@nsheritageassn.com or Ann Lilley at jslilley@yahoo.com



Historic Residence Tax Credit Ordinance Update

Last month, we updated our readers on the Town Council's serious commitment to preserve our surviving historic houses by unanimously passing a tax credit ordinance in the fall. We expect the General Assembly to pass amended enabling legislation this week. Bill H-5025 was passed by the Senate on April 13, and it is now on its way to the governor for his signature. The companion bill, S-363, is on the House calendar for April 15. As soon as the governor signs one of the bills into law, NSHA can ask the Town Council to amend the current ordinance to give the North Smithfield Historic District Commission and the North Smithfield Tax Assessor local jurisdiction to administer this important program. Stay tuned for updates on our Facebook page and in next month's Newsletter!



NSHA Annual Meeting Rundown

On April 13, 2021, NSHA held its Annual Meeting of the Members virtually via Zoom. Richard Keene and several members were in attendance at the Memorial Town Building; Rich gave his 2020 President's Annual Report wherein he summarized the association's activities of the past year. Despite the pandemic, NSHA was able to hold almost 20 events (virtually and in nature), including six history nights, nine heritage tours, and four nature hikes. Importantly, those in attendance elected the following slate of officers and directors for the year 2021:

President:	Rich Keene
Vice President:	Peter Hainley
Treasurer:	Fred Grant
Assistant Treasurer:	Doug Osier
Recording Secretary:	Rachel Pecoraro
Corresponding Secretary:	Jody Lamoureux
At-Large Director:	Ruth Pacheco
At-Large Director:	Bill Nangle
Past President:	Jerry Faricy (Ex-officio Member)

Additionally, the Executive Board approved the President's nomination of the following 2021 Standing Committee Chairpersons: Archives (Al Menard); Audit (Linda Rawlings); Arts & Culture (Ann Lilley); Budget (Beth Faricy); Cemetery (Denis Chamberland); Development (Bill Nangle); Education (Jeanne Marion); Governance (Sarah McConnell); Grants (Beth Faricy); Information Technology (Fred Grant); Maintenance (Charles Dubois); Marketing (Jen Bolduc); Membership (Martha Shean); Merchandise (Kim Leahy); Preservation & Restoration (Jeff Harris); Program and Hospitality (Freya Hainley); Property Rental (Louise Vanhouwe); Research (Larry Smith). Additionally, the Executive Board approved the President's nomination of Bill Nangle and Beth Faricy to the Governance Committee (the Vice President and Past President are ex-officio members).

~ Message from the President ~

I want to thank the Board of Directors who gave so much of their time and who went above and beyond each week to ensure the organization's success. Just as importantly, I thank all our members for their continued support through their equally hard work as well as paying vital dues. I also thank the town officials for their steadfast support throughout the year. Finally, I thank the public for supporting our programs and fundraising efforts, as well as gifting invaluable local relics. It takes a team to preserve our town's heritage. Our team is a champion!

-Richard Keene, April 13, 2021



GET YOUR NSHA GIFTS!



Our gift shop at the Forestdale School offers calendars, ornaments, maps, books and other items that reflect our local history. It will be reopening in June on the second and third Saturdays of each month, as renovation work allows. Additionally, patrons of the Red, White and Brew Coffeehouse can purchase ornaments and calendars at that location on Great Road. We also deliver locally for free! Pay by cash or by check payable to "NSHA." Pay using PayPal and we'll ship immediately. If you pay by check, we'll will ship once we receive the check. The shipping fee for a single item is \$5. Multiple or large items require an adjusted rate. **NOW! Visit our on-line shop on our website www.nsheritageassn.org.** Contact nsha@nsheritageassn.com or call 401-447-6394 with any questions or to coordinate costs. Be sure to look out for new items for sale in the upcoming months, including puzzles and commemorative ornaments!

Reminder: Memberships Renew in April



NSHA Annual Dues provide a significant revenue source for our preservation activities. Please stay with us! Annual dues cost \$20 per member, and seniors over 85 and students are still free. If you paid dues after October 1, 2020, your membership carries over until April 2022. Due to recent tax code changes, your dues are now 100% tax deductible! Pay with PayPal Giving, give cash or make a check pay able to "NSHA" and write "Dues" on the memo line. Mail to NS Heritage Assn, P.O. Box 413, Slatersville, Rhode Island 02896. We can also pick up payments locally; call Rich at 401-447-6394.

An Easy Way to Support NSHA: Register for Amazon Smile!

Want to help NSHA's work preserving historic cemeteries and other properties? NSHA is listed as a charity on Amazon Smile! Amazon will donate .05% of your eligible purchases to NSHA. Shop as you normally would at [amazonsmile.com](https://smile.amazon.com), choose NSHA as your charity, and NSHA will automatically receive a donation! If you are interested in joining, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/51-0187598>





ANNUAL APPEAL

NSHA derives revenue for our preservation work from many sources, including membership, dues, the sale of merchandise, grants and donations. The **NSHA Annual Appeal** plays a vital role in our fundraising efforts. This year, we plan to focus our work on Heritage Hall: repair broken panes of stained glass, install storm windows, finish wainscot and baseboards as well as replace a folding door with French doors. We thank the members of the Board of Directors who gave so generously to start off the appeal this year. Now we ask the public to lend a hand. We rely solely on your donations to fund our important preservation work

Donations are fully tax deductible - You can donate in two ways. Via Mail: Make a check payable to "NSHA" and write "Donation" on the memo line to: NS Heritage Assn., P.O. Box 413, Slatersville, RI 02876. Via PayPal: "Send money" to nsha@nsheritageassn.com; write "Donation" on the memo line; Submit. Thank you for your support!



As of March 1, 2021, NSHA had 209 active members. Lets grow that number—with your help. NSHA challenges current members to recruit one new member to NSHA in 2021! We welcome new members of all ages to join us to help preserve and celebrate our local history. Simply send the new member's name, email, home address, and phone number via email to nsha@nsheritageassn.com. As a reminder, dues are \$20 per member, and seniors over 85 and students are **free**. We can't wait to welcome our new members!

CONTACT NSHA

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