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# NORTH SMITHFIELD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Volume IV Issue 1~ January 2023

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## Demolition has begun!

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The North Smithfield DPW began demolishing the office partition walls and the suspended ceilings on the second floor of the Memorial Town Building last week. When the building was built in 1923, the original space was used as an event space where dances, recitals, special events and even catechism classes were held. At some point in time, the space was changed into office space by adding a drop ceiling and partition walls which covered up the beautiful woodwork and original arch-shaped windows. The NSHA plans to restore the second floor to its original glory. Eventually, the floors will be refinished, the wiring replaced, the walls and ceilings will be repaired and repainted. The NSHA hopes to use the second floor as museum space to exhibit artifacts from the town of North Smithfield.



See more photos on page 2.....



**The stage area with its carved woodwork**



**Arched windows that will need restoration.**



**Glass globes from the original light fixtures**

The NSHA does not have any photos of the original second floor meeting space and would love to locate some. If you have any you would like to share, please let us know!

We are also looking for photos of paintings by a local 19th century painter CPT. Philip Hall and photos of the former Red Tavern on Main Street in Slatersville.



## *Thank You*

It's been very busy at the NSHA Headquarters in the Memorial Building recently!



Scott Reichenberg donated Union Village and Bushee Schools P.T.A. records and scrapbooks that date between 1923 and 1924.



Dick Potenza donated a Beverly Caya watercolor painting of the Slatersville Congregational church.



Deb and George Nydam loaned us the Aldrich Family photos to scan for our archives. Deb is an Aldrich descendant who lives in Uxbridge. Her grandparents were Bessie and Battey Ewen, who owned the Israel Aldrich Farm on Comstock Road.

Also, Marcel and Anna St. Germain donated a book printed in 1860.

Dan Lamoureux donated a photo of his 1969 kindergarten class at the Forestdale School. (See this month's Mystery Photo found on page 17!)

Finally, Ruth Pacheco donated a series of historic booklets published in the early 1930's by Old Stone Bank. Each booklet describes a Rhode Island historic event, person or landmark. The stories are fascinating and may be included in future newsletters!

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.

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

Please contact us at [nsha@nsheritageassn.com](mailto:nsha@nsheritageassn.com) or call [401-651-6316](tel:401-651-6316)



## *From the Archives*

F. Foster Lincoln-Illustrator  
by Al Menard

In the early 1900's, Union Village was slowly evolving. It still had accommodations for travelers on Great Road. And it was still considered a prestigious educational center. But the quaint village was becoming more residential and less commercial. The beautiful lawns and well-kept house fronts began to attract more affluent homeowners. Among these were industrialists and merchants who were investing in the nearby, bustling city of Woonsocket.

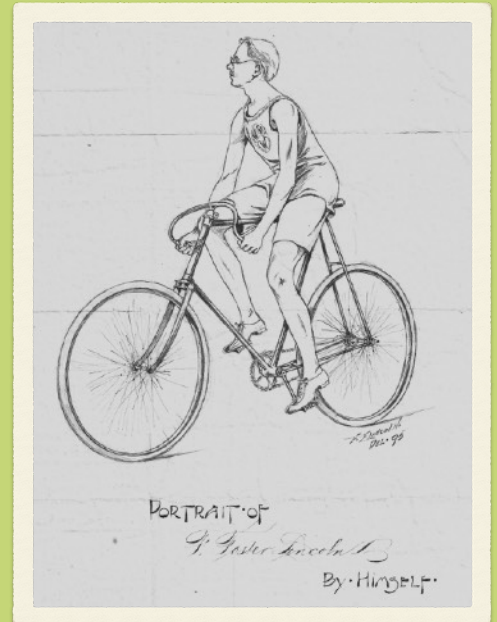
One of these was a grocery merchant named William B. Lincoln. In 1900 he moved his family from Manchester, CT to settle in the historic Seth Allen Tavern on Great Road near Pound Hill Road. William Lincoln would eventually become a respected member of the Woonsocket Common Council and the Superintendent of North Smithfield Schools. With him, he brought his wife, Emma; daughter, Veronica; and his 22-year-old son, who is the subject of this article.

Frederick Foster Lincoln was born in Manchester, CT on October 10, 1877. As a child he discovered that he had a talent and fondness for art, especially drawing. By the time his family had settled in North Smithfield, Frederick was earning his spending money as a commercial illustrator for local businesses.

In 1899 he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania where he had been head of the school illustrating department. Soon thereafter he set up a studio in New York City with the help of his father and began his career as an illustrator. For the next 20 years he would have a home in both New York City and North Smithfield.



Seth Allen Tavern, as it looked when the Lincoln family lived there in the 1920's. From a photo album that belonged to Frederick's sister, Mrs. Veronica Lincoln Hutton.



Portrait of F. Foster Lincoln, by himself 1895. Frederick would have been 18 years old.



## From the Archives

Frederick's fame grew as his work began to appear in issues of Life Magazine, the New York Herald and other magazines from prestigious publishing houses. While working for the New York Herald Tribune, his main duty was sketching personalities at court proceedings. He also illustrated a few books and drew political cartoons. The Woonsocket Call called him "one of Life's foremost illustrators."

In 1909 he married Alice Gertrude Lothrop. Alice's father, George Lothrop was well known in town as the "Squire of Union Village." (His biography is in the April 2022 NSHA newsletter.)

Just as the Roaring Twenties were beginning, Frederick and his wife decided to retire from NYC to a large, new home at 22 Morse Avenue in North Smithfield. The spacious, elegant 'farmhouse' survives to this day.



"Best of Friends Must Part." British and American Troops parting as war ends. Life Magazine, February 6, 1919.



Magazine cover: *Torchy's Greatest Discovery*, Buffalo, NY Courier magazine, 1915. Frederick illustrated various books for Sewell Ford, the author of the "Torch" series.

Frederick continued his freelance artwork at home. In the 1940's he took a position as General Manager of the Woonsocket Supply Company, a business owned by his wife and sister-in-law.

Frederick died on March 28, 1959, at the age of eighty-one. He is buried in the Lothrop plot at Union Cemetery.



## *Fifty Years Ago*

This month's article was taken from the North Smithfield Heritage Association newsletter for January. In 1973, the association published 3 newsletters, January, April and December. This first article begins with a poem, and because it is rather lengthy, it will continue in the February and March editions. Enjoy!

In recent years, several buildings of historical importance and architectural interest have been lost forever. Although some of the destruction has been wrought by nature, man has been the principal agent in their demise, either through negligence and/or lack of concern, or deliberately. Once destroyed, these places are gone for good. They are irreplaceable.

Sybil Gatta, of Woonsocket, has a strong awareness and concern for the environment and our heritage. She dedicated a poem to North Smithfield, now entering her second century of existence as a town, "...facing the upheaval and ravage of progress."

### *Plot Of Sacrifice*

Primroses bloom in an empty farmhouse;  
Earlier tenants why did you leave?  
And the East wind thrums  
It's aged song, through the  
Last of the sleeping trees  
While bulldozers crunch and clatter were gone  
Our forbears struggled!  
Leaving stones to thwart the plough  
In every line to be furrowed....  
Pigeons linger, to snatch the  
Lunch-thrown remnants  
Of workers who toss  
The powered bracken  
And rip the darkened heather;  
Nervously glancing upward, uneasy,  
Wondering whether the older Gods are watching, angry  
In chill shadows;  
At this keening of the departure  
Of destructive razing, of meadows.

Sybil Gatta 1972





## *Historic Cemetery of the Month*

### Morrison Streeter Lot by Lynne Pelletier



The Morrison Streeter Lot is the historic cemetery of the month for January. Located off Old Smithfield Road, this small cemetery is the final resting place of 14 individuals; 13 of whom have an engraved headstone. The cemetery is approximately 40x40 feet and it is enclosed by a stone wall and a wooden fence. Unfortunately, this cemetery is in very poor condition and needs work to remove the overgrowth of brush and to repair the broken headstones.

The oldest burial took place in 1821 while the newest took place in 1903. Of the 14 individuals interred here, only 5 were adults. Child mortality rates in the 1800's were very high due to diseases such as scarlet fever, diphtheria, tuberculosis and typhoid fever. Other likely causes of death were malnutrition and accidents. At one time almost half of the children born during this time did not survive until their 5th birthday. Infants under the age of 1 year were particularly vulnerable and some families didn't even name an infant who died at birth or shortly thereafter.

Most of the individuals in this cemetery have some relation to the Streeter family. Lydia Streeter Morrison was the daughter of William Streeter and Hannah Mason. She was born in New Hampshire in about 1796 and died at the age of 78 on September 1, 1875. Lydia married David Morrison on February 15, 1816 and they had 7 children. Four of whom are buried here alongside their parents.

David Morrison was the son of John Morrison and Elizabeth Moor. He was born in Bedford, New Hampshire on May 4, 1794. His family then moved to Vermont where he lived until he was 25. David was a merchant and lived in Woonsocket in the area of South Main Street and Providence Street. He was said to be "an honest, successful and much respected citizen."

Lydia's cousin, Amira Jeffers is also buried here. Almira was the daughter of Thomas Jeffers and Philadelphia Streeter. She was born in Cumberland on February 2, 1825 and she died on June 28, 1871 at age 46. Almira remained single her entire life.

Constantine Francis, "C. F.", Volney Streeter was born in Smithfield on February 13, 1836. His parents were Van Rensselaer Streeter and Eunice Noble Gardiner. Constantine was the nephew of Lydia Streeter Morrison. Constantine married Cynthia Albee on July, 2, 1854 in Smithfield and they had 2 sons. Their first son, Van Rensselaer or "Vanny" died at age 4 and is buried alongside his parents. Constantine was a salesman and died at his home in Chelsea, MA on November 15, 1889 at age 53.

Cynthia Albee Streeter, was born on December 12, 1835 in Smithfield. She was the daughter of James Albee and Betsey Tourtellot. Cynthia died at age 67 on July 4, 1903.

Finally, there are also the graves of 4 infants belonging to Willard Freeman and Olive Mason Wesson. Why these infants are interred here remains a mystery as there seems to be no relation between their parents and the Streeter and Morrison families.





## *NS Historic Cemeteries*

The North Smithfield DPW plans to trim dead limbs and remove several trees at the Hotchkiss Cemetery this winter. This will make it safer for volunteer workers and visitors.



Cemetery sign created by NSHA volunteer, Kim Walker. The sign notes the founding years of Smithfield and North Smithfield.



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

### *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](mailto:nsha@nsheritageassn.com) to coordinate an appointment.



### *Ghosts and Paranormal Activity*



Do you have a ghost(s) in your house? We would like to document it! Please contact us right away.





## January Spotlight

### New Year's Resolutions

#### History of New Year's resolutions

New Year's resolutions actually go back to ancient times! So, before you pooh-pooh the idea, let's explore the history behind this tradition.

In 2000 B.C., the Babylonians celebrated the New Year during a 12-day festival called Akitu (starting with the vernal equinox). This was the start of the farming season to plant crops, crown their king, and make promises to pay their debts. One common resolution was the returning of borrowed farm equipment (which makes sense for an agriculturally based society).

The Babylonian New Year was adopted by the ancient Romans, as was the tradition of resolutions. The timing, however: eventually shifted with the Julian calendar in 46 B.C., which declared January 1st as the start of the new year.

January was named for the two-faced Roman god, Janus, who looks forward to new beginnings as well as backward for reflection and resolution. The Romans would offer sacrifices to Janus and make promises of good behavior for the year ahead.

Janus was also the guardian of gates and doors. He presided over the temple of peace, where the doors were opened only during wartime. It was a place of safety, where new beginnings and new resolutions could be forged.

If you think about the land and the seasons, the timing of early January makes the most sense for most of Europe and North America, too. The active harvest season has passed. The holiday frenzy is ending.

As our founder, Robert B. Thomas, said: "this is a time of leisure to farmers...settle accounts with your neighbors... now having been industrious in the summer, you will have the felicity of retiring from the turbulence of the storm to the bosom of your family."

A Boston newspaper from 1813 featured the first recorded use of the phrase "New Year's resolution." The article states "*And yet, I believe there are multitudes of people, accustomed to receive injunctions of new year resolutions, who will sin all the month of December, with a serious determination of beginning the new year with new resolutions and new behavior, and with the full belief that they shall thus expiate and wipe away all their former faults.*"

#### How resolutions have changed

In the United States, New Year's resolutions are still a tradition but the type of resolutions have changed.

As a legacy of our Protestant history, resolutions in the early 1900's were more religious or spiritual in nature, reflecting a desire to develop stronger moral character, a stronger work ethic, and more restraint in the face of earthly pleasures.

Over the years, however, resolutions seem to have migrated from denying physical indulgences to general self-improvement, like losing weight. While it may seem superficial, medical sociologist Natalie Boero of San Jose State University, suggested that today's resolutions are also a reflection of status, financial wealth, responsibility and self-discipline-which isn't that different from how the New Year's resolution tradition began.

Whether we resolve to return borrowed farm equipment as the Babylonians did or drop a few pounds, we're tapping into an ancient and powerful longing for a fresh start by setting resolutions!

Reprinted from "The Old Farmer's Almanac"





### *Help Needed*



Winter is here! We need to shovel sidewalks at Heritage Hall and the Forestdale school after every storm. Contact us if you'd like to help!



### *Education*

NSHA volunteers will help NS Middle School history teacher, Valerie Carnevale, with a Civil War artifact display on January 31<sup>st</sup> The Veterans Memorial Museum in Woonsocket and the Varnum Armory in East Greenwich will join the NSHA to display unique local Civil War era artifacts.



### *Development*

#### *Annual Appeal 2023*

***We appeal to you to help us continue our preservation efforts. Please donate today by mail, Pay Pal 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 Street during our normal business hours.***

***Any amount helps enormously!***



## *Maintenance*

### **Memorial Town Building (1 Main Street)**

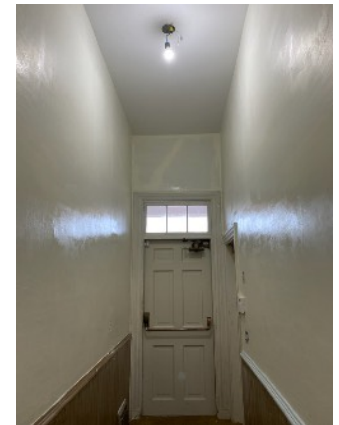
We are thrilled that NS DPW workers have demolished most of the office partition walls and suspended ceilings on the second floor of the Memorial Town Building. Soon we will start to paint the walls and ceilings and refinish the floor. We welcome any help anyone would like to provide!



### **Forestdale School (190 School Street)**



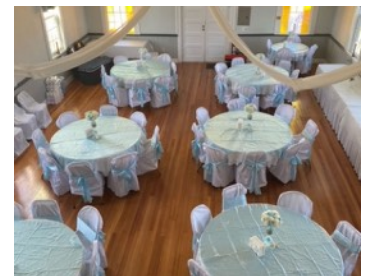
Our volunteers have begun to paint the ceilings and walls in the hallway and kitchenette at the Forestdale School. Others have boxed up books and artifacts in the library to allow renovations to proceed. The electrician will soon finish phase 2 of the project to rewire electrical circuits in the building. We hope to restore the ceilings in the library and other hallway soon.



### **Heritage Hall Rentals (101 Green Street)**



***Rent the newly renovated  
upper and lower halls!***  
Call Jeanne at (401) 447-1801  
to make a reservation.





## *Indigenous Ceremonial Stone Features*

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



The team meets at 7 pm every other Friday night at the Memorial Town Building. Attend in person or via Zoom!

The next meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on Friday, February 10th.

In case you missed any of season one's episodes they can be streamed at [RIPBS.org](http://RIPBS.org)



## BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors will meet at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, February 14th at Heritage Hall. Members are welcome to attend in person or via Zoom.



## *Upcoming NSHA Events*

### *NS Heritage History Night*

Our first Heritage Night in 2023 will take place at **7 pm on Friday, January 27, at Heritage Hall, 101 Green Street**. It is entitled “*Women in Agriculture*” and it will be presented by Alexa Wallace. A historian, scholar, and public school teacher, she will discuss her research about women in agriculture. During her graduate work, she researched gender and sexuality in the 19th-century United States. She also has over ten years of museum experience.



### *February Heritage Walk*



**Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>: Woonsocket Reservoir #3**  
Visit the NS38 Oliver Smith Lot, Amasa Sweet Quarry, Great Wall, William Mowry Homestead, Obed Paine Homestead. Meet at NS High School Tennis Courts on Grange Road, North Smithfield, RI 02896. NSHA Heritage Walks start at 9:30 am.

1. Tours are generally rain or shine unless there's a downpour or a blizzard when we start.
2. Participants are encouraged to wear long pants, use insect repellent (seasonal), and bring water.
3. See NSHA Facebook Page Events or email contact [nsha@nsheritageassn.com](mailto:nsha@nsheritageassn.com) for more information.



### **North Smithfield Parks and Recreation conservation walks**

The North Smithfield Parks and Recreation director, Kate Pasquariello, announces that the department will offer guided weekly hikes in three local conservation areas starting at 9:30 am on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. The family-oriented hikes will follow well-defined trails at a leisurely pace stopping occasionally at scenic overlooks. Trails are 2-3 miles long and take 1.5-2 hours to finish. Hikes will cancel in the event of steady rain or heavy snowfall. Hikers should wear long shirts and trousers, preferably hiking shoes, use insect repellent and bring a bottle of water. In the event of snow covered trails, hikers should wear slip-on ice grips or snowshoes.

**Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>:** Wunnashowatuckcut: Old Harkness Rd, High Rocks Gorge. Park on Martha Rd.

**Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>:** Booth Pond, Pine Hill, Souza Farm. Meet at Aldi's parking lot at Dowling Village.

**Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>:** Audubon Fort Wildlife Refuge: Meet at 1455 Providence Pike, North Smithfield.

The schedule repeats the first, third, and fourth Saturday of each month. For more information, contact volunteer guide, Rich Keene, at [rfkeene6@gmail.com](mailto:rfkeene6@gmail.com) or program director Kate Pasquariello at [kpasquariello@nsmithfield.org](mailto:kpasquariello@nsmithfield.org).

### **Mammoth Mill Park Clean Up**

Twenty-five volunteers turned out for the MLK Day of service cleanup at Mammoth Mills park on Mill Street on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Four hours later, it's starting to truly look like a park! Well done everyone!

There's plenty of work left to do. For those who missed today or who want to do more, we plan to return at 9:00 am on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> (Presidents Day).



More photos on the next page...



## Mammoth Mills Park Clean Up





## *NSHA Activities*

### *January Heritage Walk*

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, a small group of history loving individuals braved the chilly temperatures to learn about the Primrose area. They visited Sheldon Four Corners, NS19, Mathewson Homestead, Malavery House; Durrans Farm NS20; Primrose Grange; NS30; Blackmar-Wing Farm ruins NS26 & NS40. Looks like they had a great time!



### **December's Mystery Photo Identified**

We thank the many readers who correctly identified this location as the beginning of Woonsocket Hill Road where it meets Great Road. Eagle-eyed readers quickly spotted the plaque on the former Peleg Arnold Tavern and the carport on Bellevue Avenue that still stands today.







## Mystery Photo



This month's Mystery Photo was kindly donated to us by Dan Lamoureux. It is a photo of his kindergarten class in 1969 at the Forestdale School. As you can see below the picture, the teacher and almost all of the students have been identified. The only student who remains unidentified is the last little fellow in the top row with reddish hair and a green shirt. Does anyone recognize him? If you do, please contact us!

If you think any of these students are misidentified or their names are misspelled, please contact us so corrections can be made.

Do you have any photos you would like to share with NSHA? If so, please contact us to make arrangements to scan your photo. Maybe we can solve a mystery together!

Grade: Kindergarten 1969  
 School: Forestdale Little Red Schoolhouse  
 Teacher:

<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	Mrs. Sharkey	John Vadenais	David Royer	Dan Lamoureux	Marc Rousselle	?	<b>X</b>
John Schwegler	Ed Renaud	Norman Lamoureux	Mark Gelinas	Deb Bailey	Mark Dumachelle	Steve Millette	Gary Santucci	Douglas Palardy
<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	Gayle Cormier	Sharon Laquerre	Susan Turgeon	Joyce Contildes	Laura Orlando	Diane Marceau	<b>X</b>



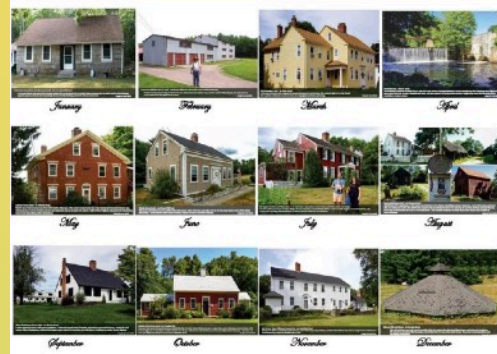
## NSHA Merchandise

**This month's featured item remains the NSHA 2023 Calendar.**

It is still available for just \$10 at Village Paint, Leeway Ace Hardware, Wright's Dairy and Li'l General Convenience Store! You can also purchase them at the Memorial Town Building, the Forestdale School, and our online store.



*Scenic 2023 Heritage Association Calendars now available \$10 each at the following locations:  
Li'l General, Leeway Hardware and Village Paint*



**New Slatersville Congregational Church Ornament!** Costs only \$15.

Just Arrived! The new Wright's Farm 252-piece puzzle. Cost is \$20.



View our entire inventory at the NSHA On-line shop at [www.nsheritageassn.org](http://www.nsheritageassn.org).



## ***Membership***

~2023 Annual Dues are due on **May 1** each year. We thank the **167 members** who have renewed. Members in arrears can still renew by mail, via PayPal Giving Fund, Venmo or Tuesday mornings at the Memorial Town Building.

~Your \$20 annual dues allow us to conduct vital preservation activities. Seniors over 85 and students are still free. If you are not sure of your status, please contact us.

~*We welcome new members Brenda and Dan Baxter and Mike Cavanaugh.*

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



## *Development*

### *The North Smithfield Heritage Association Fund*

#### **Background**

The NSHA created this RI Foundation endowment fund in 2021 with personal donations made by its Board of Directors and a corporate grant from Amica Mutual Insurance Company.

#### **Purpose**

The Fund establishes a perpetual investment that grows every year to help fund NSHA preservation projects and activities.

#### **Tax Benefits**

Your donation is tax-deductible.

In addition to cash, the Foundation accepts gifts of securities, real estate, and other personal property, which may help you avoid capital gains taxes on appreciated assets.

#### **Free legal assistance**

Receive legal assistance with trust or bequest language; charitable annuities; charitable remainder trusts;

Contact

Kelly Riley

Donor Services Administrator

401) 427-4028

[kriley@rifoundation.org](mailto:kriley@rifoundation.org)

Make a tax-deductible donation to this RI Foundation managed fund that will grow perpetually.

The NSHA can use a portion of the fund each year for preservation activities.

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>



## Outreach

Members who would like to create a post or event on the NSHA Facebook Page, should send a photo and text to the NSHA email account.

Facebook Page Followers: 1,119

Website: 378 interactions in last 30 days

NSHA Newsletter Subscribers: 1,175

[nsha@nsheritageassn.com](mailto: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!**



We still need a volunteer to repost Facebook posts to our Instagram and Twitter accounts. Can you help?

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)

