



NORTH SMITHFIELD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume III Issue 5 ~ June 2022

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***Join us for the North Smithfield Heritage
Association Gala 2022!***



North Smithfield Heritage Association
GALA
2022

Saturday, June 18
6:00PM-10:00PM

The Village Haven
90 School Street
Forestdale, RI

DINNER - DANCING - RAFFLE
CASUAL ATTIRE
\$25 per person

Contact: nsaha@nshaheritageassn.com or call 401-651-6315

We still have room! Come enjoy a family-style chicken dinner and dancing in a semi-casual atmosphere at the Village Haven. Tickets are available at the Town Hall, L'il General Convenience store, and the Memorial Town Building. ***Tickets will also be sold at the door.***



NSHA News

The North Smithfield Heritage Association Announces New Restoration Grants

The NSHA has recently received four new grants totaling \$64,250 to continue its restoration of the historic Forestdale School, according to an announcement this week from Beth Faricy, Chairman of the organization's Grant Committee.



Senator Melissa Murray secured a \$4,000 RI Legislative Grant and presented it June 13 to Faricy and Louise Van Houwe, Schoolhouse Open House coordinator. The North Smithfield Ambulance Association awarded a \$2,500 grant, the 1772 Foundation (part of Preserve Rhode Island) awarded a \$10,000 matching grant, and the Champlin Foundation awarded a \$47,750 grant. “We will use these grants to replace the roof, build a new emergency exit stairway, complete window restoration as well as continue to replace outdated electrical circuits in the 145-year-old building,” Faricy said. “Members of the Grant committee include Jeff Harris, Preservation and Restoration Committee Chair, Jody Lamoureux, NSHA corresponding secretary, and Rich Keene, NSHA President.

pictured above: Beth Faricy, Senator Melissa Murray and Louise Van Houwe

The one-room school was built in 1877, using funds procured from a lottery, and was an active school until 1974. It is one of two historic town-owned buildings that the NSHA leases from the town at a cost of \$1 a year. On behalf of the NSHA, Mrs. Faricy extends her sincere appreciation to all the donor organizations, as well as the Town of North Smithfield, who appropriated funds for the building's restoration over the past several years. Without their encouragement and financial support, this project could not happen.

The NSHA began the school restoration project in 2016 using a grant from the RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission to hire the Brewster Thornton Architectural Firm, who developed a master restoration plan. Subsequent grants were used to fund structural repairs, emergency electrical repairs, exterior restoration, and most recently, a connection to the municipal water system. New grants will complete all exterior components of the master plan with the exception of a new cupola and connection to the town's sewer system. The next phase of the restoration will include a new climate control system, new electrical circuits, and refinishing the ceiling, wall, and floor surfaces.

When completed, the school will function as an archive and museum for the Village of Forestdale and the Town of North Smithfield's School and Education system. The NSHA accepts photos and relics of Forestdale's historic buildings, businesses, and residents as well as of all local North Smithfield schools, teachers, and students. Contact the NSHA at nsha@nsheritageassn.com or call 401-651-6316.



Thank You

Local Artist Donates a Painting

Ron Brule, a local painter, donated one of his paintings to the North Smithfield Heritage Association recently. Brule has long admired photos taken by his friend and neighbor, Bill Burroughs. When Burroughs used a unique perspective to take a photo of the buildings on either side of the Memorial Town Building, it inspired Brule to create a painting of the scene. He plans to create more paintings using images captured by Burroughs.

Meanwhile, the Heritage Association will display the painting at the Memorial Town Building, along with others created by local artists.



Ron Brule presents his painting to Al Menard and Lynne Pelletier.





Thank You

We thank NS High School graduating senior, Calla Puchetti, for organizing the NS Days 5k Road Race in April. Her efforts raised almost \$18K for Operation Stand Down and two local non-profit groups.

Here Calla Puchetti is presenting the donations to Lynne Pelletier.



We thank NS High School student, Edwin Santos, for volunteering to mark trails at Booth Pond and Sousa Conservation areas. He has also been clearing branches and fallen trees along the trails. We also thank Oscar Hancock, owner of American Beauty Sign Works for donating trail markers.

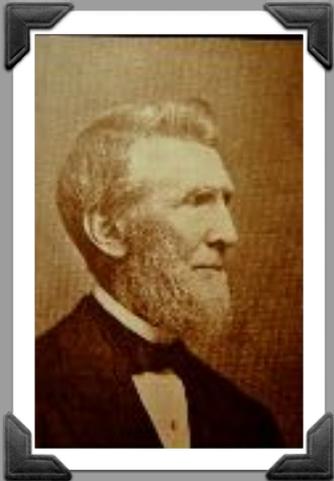




From the Archives

Professor James Bushee

by Al Menard



James Bushee was born on October 15, 1805. He was the first of nine children. The family had a farm on Pound Hill Road in what was then Smithfield. It was said that he resembled his contemporary, Abraham Lincoln. He was tall, lanky and eventually, bearded. More fortunate than Lincoln, James was able to attend school. He walked three miles each way from his home to the new private school in Union Village. This was the Smithfield Academy built in 1810 behind the Captain Daniel Arnold house on Great Road. It was here that he cultivated his love for learning, especially for the sciences.

When he was 18 he went to Providence to attend the Friends' Preparatory School. He graduated from there in 1827. At this point he began his career as a teacher. He taught in Somerset and Fall River in Massachusetts and then returned to Union Village and became teacher and principal at his alma mater the Smithfield Academy for twelve years. Under his direction, the Smithfield Academy became widely known and justly famous. Students flocked from all quarters. Educators of the time believed that the academy had some the best equipment for the teaching the sciences of any academy in the US. Some said "equal to any college"!

When he married Lucy Aldrich in 1832, the couple moved into her father's home, which had once been the George Aldrich Inn on Great Road. The Academy prospered under James Bushee for the next ten years or so. In 1850 Lucy died. Soon after Professor Bushee closed the academy and moved to Worcester, MA. There he became professor of Chemistry at Worcester Medical College. He also headed the science department at Highland Military School. It was a busy and fruitful time for James. During this time he gave lectures, help found the Worcester Natural History Society, wrote for American Scientific and published many articles on scientific phenomenon. He also invented astrological instruments. In 1866 an immense reunion was held in Worcester to acknowledge and celebrate the love and respect his former students felt for Professor Bushee.

In 1879 he returned to his large home in Union Village with his second wife Harriet J. Mowry and their daughter Lucy. There he added 5 rooms to the house, opened a boarding school and continued working with students. A large celebration took place on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. Some 200 people assembled at his home on Great Road to recognize his genius and humanity. He was remembered fondly as a kind and moral man. With his students, his discipline was parental and it is said that his students so cared for him that they would not wittingly do anything to hurt his feelings. Professor Bushee's legacy was far-reaching. He loved knowledge and learning but his satisfaction came from imparting this knowledge to his students. He was not afraid to try new methods of instruction and whenever possible would create or make use of various instruments to help students understand the concepts of science.

His educational work covered more than half a century. He lived to teach and did so until weeks before he died on December 20, 1888 at the age of 83. A great example of an exceptional educator!

He is buried in Union Cemetery.



Archives

Time Capsule

The NS 150th Anniversary Time Capsule is now sealed and stored in the NSHA Archives at the Memorial Town Building. We thank all who donated items!

Sesquicentennial History Book

Author John Hill, a retired reporter for *The Providence Journal*, continues his research for the new history book along with editorial assistance from Dick Potenza. Al Menard has begun gathering photos from our archives to add to the book.

Your memories contain our local heritage! Please loan your old family photos and documents to us to scan. We'll return them promptly!

Email nsha@nsheritageassn.com, call
[401-651-6316](tel:401-651-6316)

or visit our website
nsha@nsheritageassn.org



Research

Did you know that NSHA has a Native American and Post-Colonial Stone Features Research Team?

The team meets at 4:00 pm every Friday at the Memorial Town Building and via Zoom. If you are interested in joining, please contact us for more information.





NS Historic Cemeteries



Historic Cemetery Volunteers

We welcome Stephanie Moaz to Ed Walker's gravestone restoration team. This week they moved on to restore yet another family plot in the abandoned Hotchkiss Cemetery on Smithfield Road.



We also welcome Bob Hansen who adopted the Joseph Nichols Cemetery located on Providence Pike. Additionally, we thank Material Sand and Stone for donating crushed stone that will be used for gravestone resetting work.



Kim Walker, Barbara St. Germain and Lynne Pelletier have moved on to the Darius Mowry Lot on Pond House Road where they located and reset four fieldstone grave markers. The next step will be to preserve Lydia Mowry's inscribed headstone which is badly fragmented and has missing pieces.





NS Historic Cemeteries

April and May were designated as Cemetery Awareness Months by the RI Historical Cemetery Commission and the RI Historic Preservation Commission. On May 21st, NSHA gave a well-attended tour of Union Cemetery and Ed Walker gave a gravestone cleaning demonstration.



48 State Tour!

Restoring America's Cemeteries



Save the date

North Smithfield, Rhode Island

Join us Friday, July 22, 2022 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Hotchkiss Cemetery (Old Aldrich Cemetery) for a **free** workshop on gravestone repair. This workshop is provided by Atlas Preservation and is part of the 48 State Tour.





Historic Cemetery of the Month

The Gideon Sayles Lot
By Lynne Pelletier

This month's cemetery was previously written up in the April 2021 edition of the NSHA newsletter but I was asked to revisit the cemetery to look further into the individuals buried here. This family cemetery is located on Iron Mine Hill Road near the intersection of Sayles Hill Road. It is roughly 1/3 of an acre and is enclosed by a stone wall. The cemetery is in good condition and is maintained by dedicated NSHA volunteers who have worked hard to bring it back to its current condition.

Also known as NS24, the Gideon Sayles Lot is named for Gideon Sayles who was born on November 23, 1765 to parents Jonathan Sayles and Elizabeth Paine, who had 11 other children. Gideon was married to Sally Ballou and they had at least 8 children, most of whom are buried here along with their own spouses and children. Gideon died at age 48 on March 5, 1814. He is neither the oldest individual in the cemetery nor the earliest burial so one wonders why this cemetery was named for him. Perhaps the cemetery was located on his property?



There are 43 individuals interred within the cemetery walls. 22 of them carry the Sayles name, but other family names include Mowry, Baker, Pitts, Taft, Alverson, Burdick and Mathewson. How did these individuals fit in with the Sayles family? A chart was created in order to untangle the family connections and what was learned in that process was pretty surprising!

The first generation of the Sayles family to be buried here was Marcy (Mary) Alverson. She has a rather ornate headstone with a beautifully carved angel. Marcy was born in 1743 to parents Richard Sayles and Abigail Hawkins. She was the wife of Uriah Alverson and she died at age 35 on November 1788. Richard Sayles was a brother of Jonathan Sayles making Marcy Gideon's paternal aunt.

The next generation was comprised of Gideon, his siblings Elizabeth and Welcome, and their paternal first cousin, Richard Sayles. Richard was born in 1791 to Smith Sayles and his wife, Abigail. Richard married Fanny Jeffers and they had 2 sons and 1 daughter. The 2 sons and their daughter's husband are buried alongside Richard and Fanny.

Elizabeth Sayles was born March 6, 1768 and died on December 18, 1844 at age 76. She had no children and never married. Her gravestone refers to her as "Miss Elizabeth."

Welcome Sayles was born on April 4, 1779 and he died on September 22, 1866 at the age of 87. He married his wife, Aurilla Mowry in about 1803 in Smithfield. Together they had at least 7 children, most of whom are buried here along with their spouses and children. It was while researching Welcome's son, Orrin that I made a surprising discovery.



Orrin was born January 17, 1816 and he married Maria Eaton on May 12, 1853. Together they had two daughters, Louisa and Anna. Orrin died at Louisa's home in Manville, RI on April 6, 1908 at age 92. His obituary appeared in *The Evening Call* that day. It states that Orrin was "one of the oldest residents of North Smithfield and was known throughout the state." He was also a "prominent factor in town affairs." He had lived on the family farm on Sayles Hill for most of his life only moving in with his daughter after the death of his wife. He stated that he attributed his longevity "to never using tobacco or intoxicants." Most interesting however, was a statement that said that Orrin could trace his ancestry back to John Sayles, an early settler of Rhode Island who was married to Roger Williams' daughter, Mary!

Further research has proven that to be true. As you may remember from your history classes, Roger Williams left Plymouth Colony due to his religious beliefs and founded the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in about 1636. His daughter, Mary was born in Rhode Island and married John Sayles in about 1650. There are 7 generations from Roger Williams directly down to Orrin Sayles. This means that every individual buried in the Gideon Sayles lot has a family tie, either by birth or marriage, to Rhode Island's earliest beginnings.

Roger Williams

Dry point etching 1936, by Arthur W. Heintzelman.

Roger Williams University Archives



Genealogy

Recent genealogy projects we are working on include the genealogy of the Allen family with Ruth Pacheco and the identification of individuals in an old photograph of Gayle O'Donnell's 1802 home.



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.



Preservation & Restoration



Heritage Hall (101 Green Street)

Charlie was busy again this month as he painted the upper hallway at the Heritage Hall. Larry will finish the stairs to the attic in the next two weeks!



Heritage Hall Rentals (101) Green Street

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



NS Zoning Ordinance Amendment

Local Historic Districts

The Planning Board approved an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that reduces the administrative and financial burden of property owners who agree to allow the town to designate their historic buildings as an individual historic district. This will simplify the process and reduce costs significantly. It now goes before the Town Council for consideration.



Upcoming Events

Nature and History Tour

Saturday, June 18th: Woonsocket Hill Road history walk and tour.

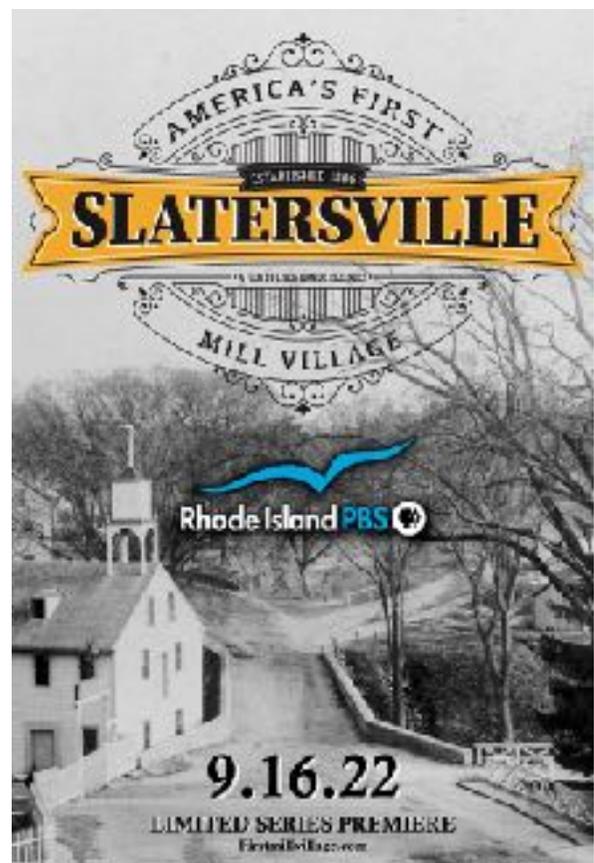
Visit the Mowry Fire Tower, the Philip Mowry house, NS047, and the National Grid stone features. Meet at the NS Middle School parking lot at 9:30 am.



Slatersville Movie premiere date!

After more than a decade in production, we are truly excited to announce that the World Premiere of SLATERSVILLE: America's First Mill Village will take place on Friday, September 16, 2022 at 8pm on Rhode Island PBS. The entire series will consist of 12 episodes and be split into two seasons of six episodes each.

Season One will premiere on September 16, 2022 with a new episode to follow every Friday evening at 8pm through October 21, 2022. Season Two will premiere in 2023 on a date to be determined.





Upcoming Events

North Smithfield Heritage Days

On Saturday, July 9th, the NSHA and the NS Arts Committee will hold a joint NS Heritage Day from 9 am to 4 pm at the Town Hall, Heritage Hall, and the Memorial Town Building. The event will feature antique and relic displays, a local photography exhibit, a car cruise, vendors, food trucks and much more!

Event Schedule

9 am Slatersville Walking Tour- guided by National Park Service Rangers. The tour will begin at the Memorial Town Building at 1 Main Street. That building will remain open during the day to display paintings by local artists and relics as well as to sell NSHA merchandise.

10 am Heritage Hall- opens with more displays of local relics and antiques. The committee encourages members of the community to loan items of local interest for display.

Road Angels Car Club and other local owners display cars and trucks at the **Town Hall**. The committee encourages local car and truck owners to display their vehicles as well.

Local vendors and organizations to set up booths at the Town Hall and Village Common.

NSAC Photography Exhibit opens at the Town Hall.

11 am Parks and Rec will hold a Kids Day in the Park from 11 am to 1 pm at Pacheco Park. Kids can enjoy a bounce house, water slide, face painting, food, and more. At the end of the event, the NS Fire Department will spray the water for the kids.

1 pm Slatersville Cemetery: Walking Tour by Gail Denomme Berlinghof. The tour will feature actors playing the roles of people buried in the cemetery.

4 pm The Blunders Walking Tour - Meet at the Middle School parking lot on Providence Pike.

6:30 pm Food Trucks at North Smithfield High School

Dusk- Fireworks Display





Recent Activities

The Crookfall Brook History and Nature Walk took place on May 14th. Walkers viewed the Woonsocket Reservoir #1 & Pump House, Woonsocket Reservoir #2 and mill site, and the dam on Spring Brook.



Memorial Day

The General Zenas Bliss Camp #12, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War commemorated Memorial Day at the Union Cemetery. Members read General Logan's Orders, the Gettysburg Address, and the names of 150 Civil War veterans buried in the cemetery. After they laid a wreath, Civil War reenactors fired a salute and a member played taps.





Memorial Day

Parade and Ceremony Photos

North Smithfield held its annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony on Monday, May 28th.





Mystery photo



This month's mystery photo appears to be a class photo taken in the 1960's or 1970's. There is nothing on the back so we don't know the school or even the grade. Kindergarten or first grade maybe? Please let us know if you recognize any of these adorable smiling faces or the young teacher.

Update:

Last month's mystery photo did not bring any results. It seems as if no one recognizes poor "Granny Lamont."





NSHA Merchandise

Exciting news! We have a “new” ornament this year! For 2022, we are bringing back an old favorite, the Slatersville Congregational Church Ornament, now for sale, along with the 150th Sesquicentennial Ornament, for just \$15. Of course, we still have NS Throws (blue, green or burgundy) for \$35 and 2022 Historic Calendars for \$10.



View our entire inventory at the NSHA On-Line shop at www.nsheritageassn.org. \$5 shipping fee for each order. Free local delivery. Orders ship immediately upon payment.



Development

Annual Appeal 2022: Members of the community can support NSHA preservation and conservation efforts by making a tax-deductible donation today.

Membership

2022 Dues are now due. We thank the 102 members who have already paid. Members can renew by mail, via Pay Pal Giving Fund or Tuesday mornings at the Memorial Town building. Your \$20 annual dues allow us to conduct our vital preservation activities. Seniors over 85 and students are still free. If you are unsure of your status, please contact us.

We welcome new members: Carol Gagnon, Lisa Gagnon and Lynne Richer.

Email nsha@nsheritageassn.com, call
[401-651-6316](tel:401-651-6316)

or visit our website nsha@nsheritageassn.org

Payment Options

- 1. PayPal Giving Fund:** search for nsha@nsheritageassn.com, select “**Donation**” and type the purpose for the payment on the memo line.
- 2. Give cash or check.** Make checks payable to “**NSHA**”. Note “**Dues, Annual Appeal or Merchandise**” on the memo line.
- 3. Mail Checks** to NS Heritage Assn, P.O. Box 413, Slatersville, RI 02876.
- 4.** We will also pick up payments at your door if you live locally. Contact nsha@nsheritageassn.com or call 401-651-6316



Amazon Smile is a part of Amazon that allows you to shop as well as generate a corporate donation for **The NSHA**.

- ❖ Simply create an account on **Amazon Smile** (<https://smile.amazon.com>).
- ❖ Choose The North Smithfield Heritage Association as the charity that will benefit from your purchases at no extra cost to you.

Make sure you use the AmazonSmile website to shop! (<https://smile.amazon.com>)



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

Outreach

Facebook followers: 1,036

Website: 236 interactions in the last 30 days

NSHA newsletter subscribers: 1,015



Instagram (nsha1970) Please follow us!

Help wanted: We need a volunteer familiar with Instagram to manage our account. Can **YOU** help?

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](tel:401-651-6316)

