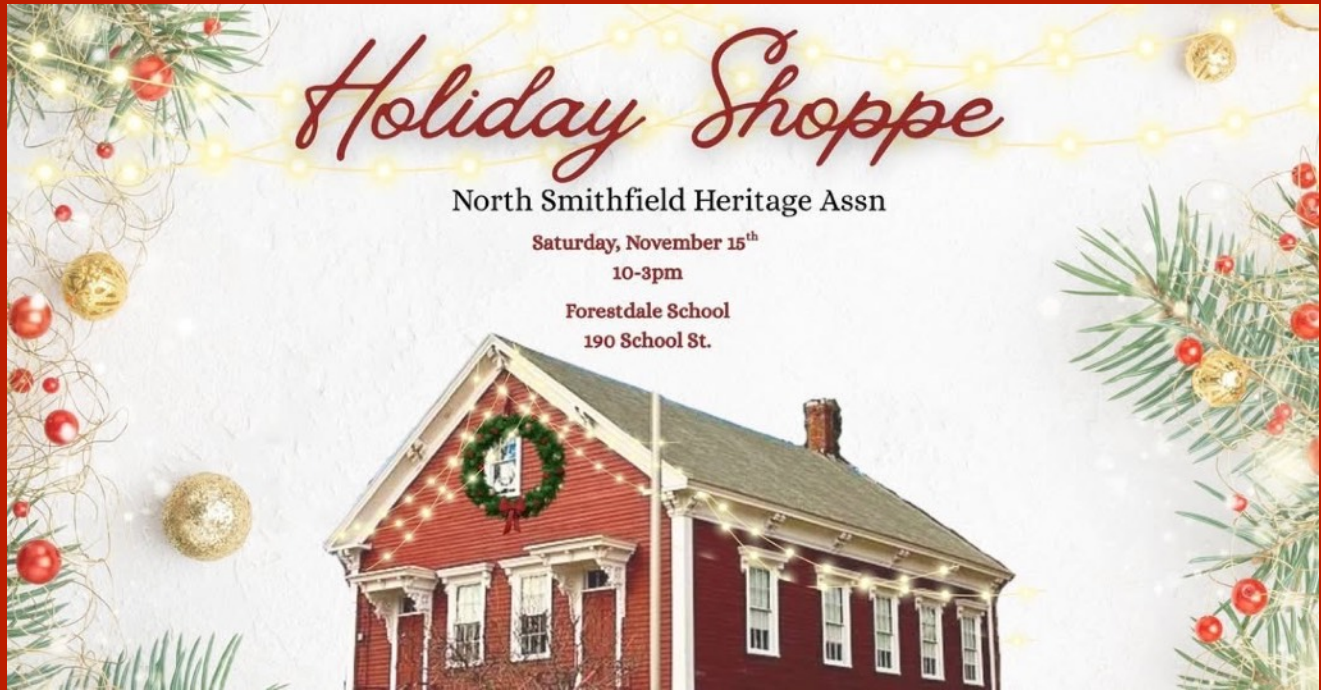




NORTH SMITHFIELD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VI ISSUE VI NOVEMBER 2025



Please join us for the annual Holiday Shoppe with the North Smithfield Heritage Association, on Saturday, November 15th, from 10 am-3 pm at the Forestdale School, 190 School St, Forestdale, RI.

Get started on your holiday shopping with wonderful NSHA merchandise such as ornaments, hand crafted birdhouses, calendars, jigsaw puzzles, books, maps, cozy North Smithfield throws and so much more.



HERITAGE HALL RENTAL

Host unforgettable events in our stylish, flexible Heritage Hall—perfect for showers, parties, and meetings. Heritage Hall has two great options, both mobility friendly and fully stocked kitchens! The Upper Hall seats 69 and the Lower Hall seats 62.



Jeanne
401-447-1801

www.nsheritageassn.org
nsha@nsheritageassn.com

Contact Us

\$10

NORTH SMITHFIELD HERITAGE CALENDAR 2026

Wunnashowatuckquet Conservation Area, Junction of the Blackstone and Branch Rivers
This ancient landmark is also known locally as "Three Corners" lies downstream from High Rocks Gorge. Native Americans quarried soapstone nearby and dried fish in the meadows during spring fish runs. Before WWI, the meadow was a popular spot with mill workers for clambakes. Until the 1970's, a baseball field was located here.

-Image by Salcio Mankato

Hot off the Press!!

2026 calendars are now for sale at the Memorial Town Building and the Forestdale School.



NSHA photographer, Larry Smith is hard at work photographing beautiful sites in North Smithfield for the 2027 calendar. This gorgeous photo was taken in the Wunnashowatuckquet Conservation Area by Lover's Rock in the High Rocks Gorge, one of the most scenic places in North Smithfield.

See the related story about Lover's Rock on page 6!

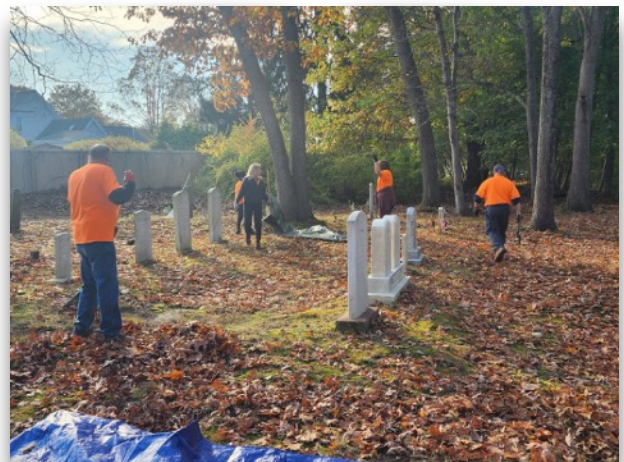
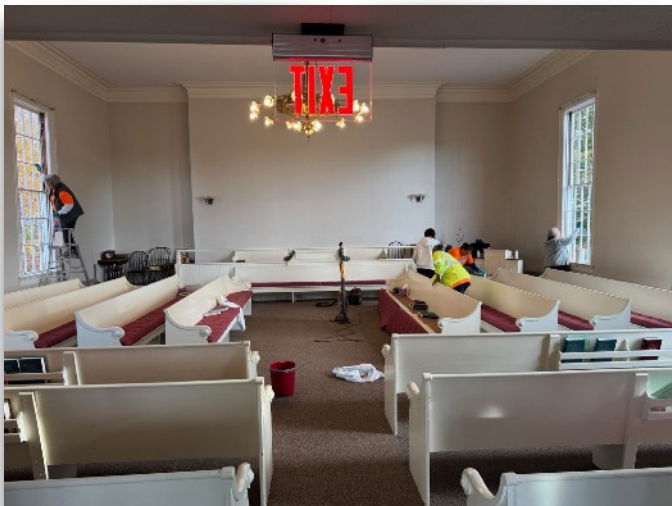
Thank You



We thank Westminster Pet Products of Cumberland and its 54 employees for donating a morning of community service on October 23rd in Union Village!

Volunteer crews cleaned and painted the Smithfield Society of Friends Meetinghouse, cleared brush and grass along the wall at Union Cemetery and cleared leaves and regrowth at the Quaker and Hotchkiss Cemeteries.

We thoroughly enjoyed our time with them and sincerely appreciate their efforts.



Thank You



We thank Lee Mowry for donating 49 diaries from the Mowry family to the association.



We thank Chip and Sherry Daignault who recently donated a Cyclone Seeder.

The team appreciates the opportunity to scan any photos or yearbooks from local schools that you may keep at home. Our oldest school newsletter dates back to the Kendall Dean School in 1946.

Your family photos and old letters contain much of our local heritage! Please help us to preserve that heritage by allowing us to scan them to keep in our archives.

Important! Too many wonderful photos get thrown away because younger generations don't know who is in them or where the pictures were taken. Images of ancestors are then lost forever. Please write the names on the back of your photos of all the people photographed and the location if possible. Use a pencil as ink may damage photos.

Please contact us at nsha@nsheritageassn.com or call [401-376-2927](tel:401-376-2927)

The NSHA Archives are located at the Memorial Town Building, 1 Main Street, Slatersville. Open every Monday through Wednesday from 10 am until 12 pm. The Archive Team continues to work tirelessly to manage our extensive archive collection. We welcome help from anyone with an interest.

Rediscovering a Town Landmark

by Al Menard

Recently, the archives made an intriguing discovery—a partial diary belonging to Dr. Metcalf Marsh.

Dr. Marsh, remembered as a dedicated village doctor in Slatersville and an associate of Thomas Dorr, left behind valuable firsthand accounts of his experiences and observations.

Among Dr. Marsh's diary entries, one dated July 1, 1836, stands out. He writes: "Very warm weather. Smoky atmosphere – in the evening went to 'Love Rock' with some Ladies but did not fall in love ---" This lighthearted note not only reveals a slice of daily life but also hints at a local landmark that was once significant for social gatherings.

A vintage postcard from Lover's Rock from the 1940's or 1950's.

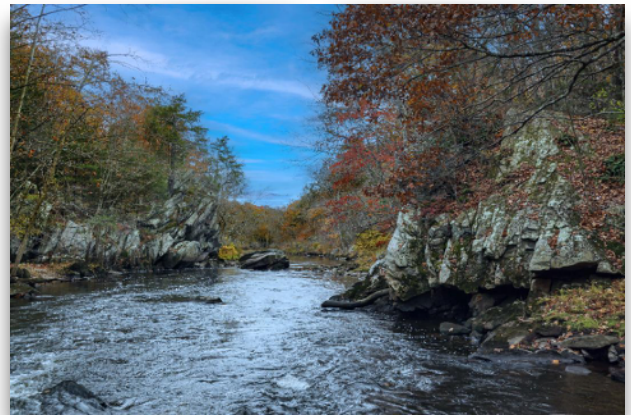
Despite living in a local boarding house and remaining single for another seven years, Dr. Marsh's visits to "Love Rock" provoke curiosity—how often did he return to this spot?

The discovery raised a compelling question: Where exactly is Love Rock? Staff at the NSHA office could not recall any landmark by that name. Initial speculation pointed to Cobble Rock, a large boulder in the woods behind St. Antoine's Nursing Residence. While Cobble Rock was a popular gathering spot, it was not typically associated with romantic meetings or referenced as a place for lovers.

To solve the mystery, attention turned to local historical sources. Walter Nebiker's, "History of North Smithfield" provides insight: "'Lover's Rock,' atop the cliff, is a pleasant lookover made up of a large ledge, where legend has it, a pair of lovers were dropped into the river when a large piece of rock broke off, forever trapping the lovers underneath." Concerning locale, Nebiker also mentions that "Downstream a short distance, at the 'Three Corners,' where the Branch River joins the Blackstone, clambakes were regularly held by Blackstone mill villagers up to World War I."

Further investigation by NSHA members revealed that Lover's Rock appears on an old town map from 1947, confirming its location near the Blackstone River above the junction with the Branch River.

Entries like Dr. Marsh's diary provide invaluable glimpses into the daily lives and traditions of Slatersville's past residents. Although the landmark known as Lover's Rock may not be widely recognized by newer generations, its story persists in local folklore. The legend continues to inspire curiosity and invites further research into the romantic history of North Smithfield.



Lover's Rock as it looks today. The exact position of Lover's Rock is left to speculation. Photo by Larry Smith.

Fifty Years Ago

From the November 1975 issue of the NSHA Newsletter

A HOME FOR THE NORTH SMITHFIELD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

On July 14, 1975, when Abner Bailey, president of the North Smithfield Heritage Association, signed a lease with the North Smithfield School Committee to lease the old Forestdale School for \$1.00 a year, the search for a headquarters for the Association was ended.

During the past few years several places which might have housed the Association were investigated, but never acquired. When it became apparent that the Eleanor Howard kindergarten was to be moved from the Forestdale School, the Association expressed an interest in the building. As a result of our combined efforts, and because the Association serves in the public interest, the hope of acquiring the building became a reality.

The Forestdale School was built in 1877 on land donated by the Forestdale Manufacturing Company and was originally the Branch School in District 3. It was one of the last one-room school houses built in North Smithfield and housed primary grades until 1958, when the kindergarten from the Kendall Dean School was transferred here. The kindergarten was established in the Kendall Dean School in 1936 as a remembrance to Eleanor Howard through an endowment in the will of her granddaughter, Minnie Palmer Dean, and subsequently was known as the Eleanor Howard kindergarten. When the Forestdale School closed last year, the Eleanor Howard kindergarten was returned to its original location, the Kendall Dean School. The popular name of the school as the “Eleanor Howard School” is not correct, and the school will simply be known hereafter by its proper name, the Forestdale School.

In 1958, the cupola was removed and the entrance updated but otherwise the 98-year-old one and a half story Late Victorian bracketed style wood clapboarded structure has remained relatively unchanged.

The Association hopes to put the building to good use, so that it will continue serving an educational use as an interpretive center, to some degree a museum, to house the growing accumulation of photographs, books and other written material in our archives, and to house the archeology project. All plans at this stage are tentative. The executive committee recently established two new committees to handle the responsibilities of our new acquisition. A House Stewardship Committee, a standing committee, will have the responsibility for maintenance of the building and grounds, while a Restoration Committee will provide ideas and plans for the best use of the old school building.



The Forestdale School as it may have looked in 1976.

NS Historic Cemeteries



These photos are from a recent trek to NS cemetery 41, the Mowry-Sayles Lot, on the town's Gold Farm-Nipsachuck Conservation Area. There are 34 individuals buried here although only 14 have head stones and the rest have field stone markers. This cemetery is in need of some TLC and is on our to-do list!

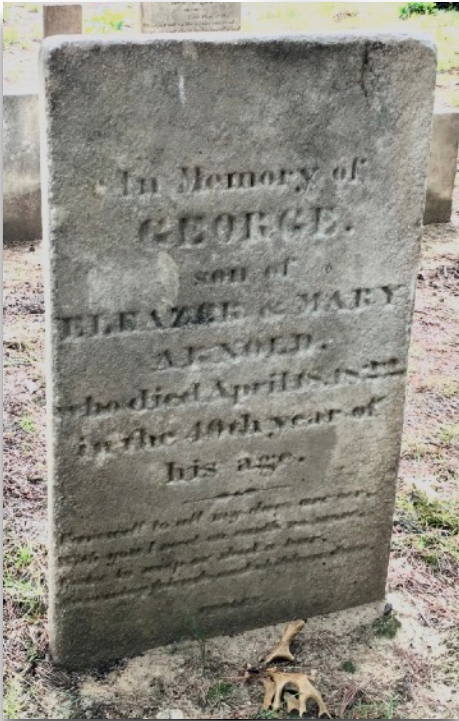


We thank Liane from Holt's Funeral Home for planting flowering trees bushes and perennial flowers in the Ash Garden at Hotchkiss Cemetery on Smithfield Road.

Work is drawing to a close at NS22, the Richard Mowry Cemetery. When temperatures fall below 50 degrees, our epoxies, mortars and compounds do not cure well so we will have to stop repairs for the season. We'll be back in the spring!

Historic Cemetery of the Month

NS 53 The George Arnold Burial Ground by Lynne Pelletier



The George Arnold Burial Ground is located behind a home on Indigo Farm Road. The lot is approximately 20' by 60' and includes 9 graves belonging to members of the Arnold family dating from 1822 to 1876. In 2008, when the cemetery was recorded by Roger Beaudry, he noted that all of the head stones had fallen over. Thankfully, in 2019, the NSHA cemetery team, along with the homeowner, Bill Nangle, began to restore this cemetery. All of the headstones have been cleaned, repaired, and returned to their original upright positions.

The namesake of the cemetery was George Arnold, born on December 2, 1782, in Smithfield, RI, to Eleazer Arnold and Mary Aldrich Arnold. George married Mary Taylor Evans on November 6, 1808, and they had at least 3 daughters. George died at age 39 on April 18, 1822, in Smithfield. His headstone is engraved with a poignant epitaph:

“Farewell to all my days are o’er,
With you I meet on earth no more,
Come to weep or shed a tear,
Grieving friends and children dear.”

Mary Taylor Evans Arnold was born in about 1787 and was the daughter of Richard Evans and his wife, Sarah. She was the mother of Lucina E. Arnold Colwell (1816-1876), Sarah S. Arnold (unknown-1841), both buried here, and Mary Ann Arnold Appleby, who is buried with her husband, Thomas Appleby, in Oxford, Massachusetts. Mary Evans Arnold died at age 53 on April 19, 1840. Mary’s epitaph reads:

“Beloved in life lamented in her death,
Calm and resigned she yielded up her breath.”
Freed from life’s cares and every worldly pain,
Our loss we trust is her eternal gain.”

Jonathan Arnold was George’s younger brother, and he was born on March 17, 1784, in Smithfield, RI. On February 12, 1809, Jonathan married Jerusha Aldrich, and they had at least 4 children; 3 of whom are buried here. Jonathan died at age 76 on April 11, 1860, in Sutton, Massachusetts. Jonathan was a farmer and had previously lived in Cumberland before moving to Sutton.

Jerusha Aldrich Arnold was born in about 1788 and was the daughter of Stephen Aldrich and Jerusha Bartlett. It is unclear if Jerusha was born in Smithfield or if she was born in Southwick, Massachusetts, where records indicate that she married Jonathan. Jerusha was the mother of Maria Arnold (1811-1855), Julia Ann Arnold (unknown-1838), and Harrison Arnold (1813-1835). Another daughter, Lucetta Taylor, is buried in Sutton, MA. Jerusha died at age 72 on April 11, 1860, in Sutton, MA.



**Restoration work at the George Arnold
Burial Ground in 2019.**



The LeClair Kozlik Logan Bassett VFW Post 6342 will hold its annual Veterans Day Ceremony at 11 am on Tuesday, November 11, at Scouters Hall, 13 Main Street, Slatersville, RI.

All veterans and local town residents are invited to attend. Scouts, local, state, and town officials will participate in the ceremony. A free collation will follow. Please arrive early.

Veterans Memorial Program

Nominate a deceased local veteran to honor at the Memorial Town Building. The VFW and the NSHA will conduct a brief flag-raising ceremony in honor of the veteran as well as publish a brief biography of the honoree's military service in the NSHA newsletter. Family or friends may contact the NSHA to nominate a veteran. nsha@nsheritageassn.com



Veterans Memorial Museum

One of the Largest Collections of Veterans Artifacts from the Revolutionary War to our Current Military.

Visit the Museum & our Library
Tuesdays & Saturdays
 10 am to 4 pm
 Other days by appointment for group visits.

78 Earle St., Woonsocket, RI
401-222-9025

www.VeteransMemorialMuseumRI.org
\$5.00 Entrance Fee
Free Entry for Veterans & Children

Monthly Board Meeting

The Board of Directors will meet at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, November 11th at Heritage Hall, 101 Green Street.

Members are welcome to attend in person or via Zoom. See the meeting email for instructions to join via Zoom.

Annual Meeting and PotLuck Dinner

**Friday, December 12th
at 6 pm at Heritage Hall**

More information to come!

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

Kara Pressia, a local spiritual medium continues to help with spiritual research. Have you hear of about or seen paranormal activity in North Smithfield? We would like to document it. Anyone interested in joining the Paranormal Research Team please contact us at nsha@nsheritageassn.com.



**NOW HAS ITS OWN YOUTUBE CHANNEL.
FOR THE LATEST VIDEOS & UPDATES
SUBSCRIBE**

@SlatersvilleAFMV

From award-winning film maker, Christian de Rezendes:

“To subscribe to the NEW Slatersville: America's First Mill Village - ONLY Youtube channel, this is where you go!! Our Breaking Branches channel has over 2,200 subscribers, but we are now moving all our Slatersville followers to a channel dedicated solely to the series and its outreach. So I invite you to join us here to keep up with our Q&A panel videos, press links and more

Thank you. “

<https://www.youtube.com/@SlatersvilleAFMV/videos>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sh0mGoAJ6LU>

Research Team

The NSHA Research Team recently investigated stone features on Black Plain Hill in the vicinity of Old Oxford Road.

One property owner showed them a chamber and some indigenous soapstone artifacts that he found nearby.



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

Ron Lapierre is the RI Coordinator for the New England Antiquities Research Assn. (NEARA)

The Research Team generally meets at 6:00 pm at Heritage Hall on the second Friday of each month.
Please contact NSHA or just show up if you'd like to participate!

Preservation and Restoration

Memorial Town Building (1 Main Street)



Workers are replacing two of the large arched windows at the Memorial Town Building thanks to a grant from the town this year.

The original 12 over 12, single-pane, wooden sashed windows were replaced decades ago with the existing metal windows. The arched windows were replaced with a piece of plywood.

The new energy-efficient and UV-protected replacement windows replicate the original windows. Besides conserving energy, they will protect the irreplaceable artifacts on display inside from the harsh effects of sunlight.

Eight of the second floor 6 over 6 windows were replaced this September thanks to a grant from the Champlin Foundation.

More windows will be replaced as funds allow.



The Native American exhibit is taking shape in the Memorial Town Building! NSHA archivist, Al Menard and Ed Walker.

Forestdale School (190 School Street)



Joan diNunzio, left, and Elaine Smith, right, served homemade hot apple crisp to the yard sale shoppers.

On Saturday, October 11th, the NSHA held a very successful Apple Crisp Festival/Yard Sale event. Over \$1,500 was raised for NSHA preservation efforts!

We thank the many volunteers who donated items to sell, organized the sale, helped with set-up and clean-up, made homemade apple crisp, staffed the event and of course the shoppers who gave so generously!



Preservation and Restoration



Heritage Hall (101 Green Street)

Please contact Charlie Dubois at 401-741-8022 if you can help with routine maintenance!

Events & Activities



Spooky Spirits Night

Although we enjoyed perfect weather, the crowd was smaller this year at Spooky Spirits Night. Nevertheless, those who came enjoyed a wonderful event!

We thank Goodwin Brothers Farm for hosting the event and providing a tractor and hay wagon, Wright's Dairy Farm for providing a tractor and hay wagon, Tim McGee for providing music.

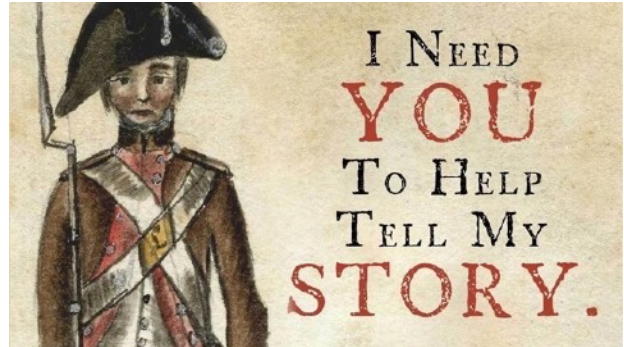
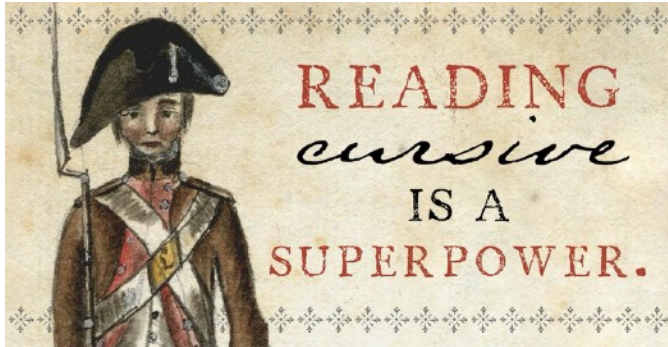


We also thank the vendors, including BS Troop 1139, NS Parks and Recreation, NS DPW, NS EMA, and NSHA volunteers, for helping to make this such an enjoyable community event!

Events & Activities

In collaboration with the National Park Service, the NSHA will conduct Revolutionary War pension file transcription events on Wednesdays at 6 pm at Heritage Hall, located at 101 Green Street in Slatersville. These events will take place on November 5 and December 3.

The public is cordially invited to contribute to the transcription of these handwritten records. Comprehensive instructions and guidance will be provided during the events. If possible, please bring a laptop.



Wunnashowatuckquet Conservation Area

We thank Eagle Scout candidate, Maxwell Olsen and fellow Scouts from Slatersville Troop 1139 for installing the main supports for a new kiosk at the Wunnashowatuckquet Conservation Area Trailhead on East Harkness Road .

Neighboring property owners pitched in as well! Maxwell used the kiosk at the Booth Pond Conservation Area as a model. Maxwell plans to complete the project in November.



Conservation

Heritage Walking Tours

Please join us for the following upcoming walking tours!

November 8- Wunnashowatuckquet Conservation Area. View Harkness Hill and the Blackstone River. Meet at 10 am at the NS Fire Station 675 St. Paul St.

December 13- Forte Wildlife Refuge. See the remains of an 18th century homestead and native ceremonial stone features. Meet at 10 am at the Refuge parking lot, 1453 Providence Pike, North Smithfield



It was a perfect day for a walk recently when visitors explored the area around Woonsocket Reservoir #3. They were able to view the great wall, the ruins of the Obed Paine Farm and a 19th century quarry.

Mystery Photo



October's mystery photograph was shared by Gayle O'Donnell. Richard Potenza was the only reader who guessed that photo might be of the former ski resort at Diamond Hill in Cumberland. This photo will remain a mystery for now!



This month's mystery photo was found among other photos from North Smithfield. Does anyone recognize the home or perhaps the make and model of the car? It would give us an approximate time period for the photo.

If you can help, please let us know! Contact us at nsha@nsheritageassn.com

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!

NSHA Merchandise



We offer a wide range of merchandise including calendars, books, maps, puzzles, ornaments, birdhouses and much more! Get the new 2026 calendar for only \$10!

Visit our Gift Shop at the Forestdale School from 1 pm- 4 pm every first and third Friday and from 9 am until 12 pm every first Saturday.

Also visit our online store at <https://www.nsheritageassn.org/shop>. We will deliver locally for free!



Development



COMMUNITY ANNUAL APPEAL

We rely on you to help preserve
North Smithfield's amazing heritage!

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/>

The North Smithfield Heritage Association Fund (Endowment)

Estate planning? Need to make a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA?

Make a legacy donation to the NSHA to avoid paying higher taxes. The RI Foundation manages the endowment fund, helping it to grow every year.

Click on the link for more information:

<https://rifoundation.org/giving/funds?q=north+smithfield+heritage+&s=3>

You Can Help!!

Join: Membership costs just \$20 each year! *No commitment required!*

Volunteer: Help with any of our ongoing activities and events. No need to make a steady commitment. We appreciate whatever time you can spend with us!

Donate: Our Annual Appeal runs all year long. We accept local artifacts. We appreciate whatever you give!

Share: Share this free newsletter with family and friends. Encourage them to subscribe. Only shared history can preserve our heritage!

Membership

We welcome new member: JC Chellel

Our membership now stands at 192 including 42 life members and 6 students. Some members live as far away as NH, CA, WA and AR. Your dues help significantly to fund our local preservation activities!

We thank our wonderful members for their vital support! You can become a new member by filling out an application at :<https://www.nsheritageassn.org/membership>

Seniors over 75 and students pay no dues.

\$20 Annual Dues were due on January 1, 2025. Your dues help significantly to fund our local preservation activities. **33 members have not yet renewed their dues.** We value your support. Please renew today! Former members can renew their membership at any time.

We thank the members renewed their 2025 membership dues! **If you are not sure of your status, please contact us ASAP.**

See payment options below.

NSHA 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. **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 [401-376-2927](tel:401-376-2927).



Instagram (nsha1970)

Please follow us!

<https://www.instagram.com/nsha1970/>

Followers: 325

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



Followers:1558

We thank Julie Tilley for making posts to all of our social media platforms,
We continue to see steady follower growth!

Website: 356 site sessions in the last 30 days.
NSHA Newsletter Subscribers: 1681

Visit our website! Read past newsletters, learn about our organization as well as our many ongoing historic preservation activities. <https://www.nsheritageassn.org/>

To join our mailing list, simply contact us at nsha@nsheritageassn.com **or** [401-376-2927](tel:401-376-2927)

2025 NSHA Calendar Sponsors

Village
PAINT & DECORATING

Keith Klockars
Vice President

PO Box 364
900 Victory Hwy
Slatersville RI 02876
www.villagepaintinc.com

Phone: 401-765-3128
Fax: 401-767-2468
Mobile: 401-524-5587
Email: vpandd@gmail.com



The Woonsocket Sportsman's Club

145 Log Rd
Harrisville, RI 02830
401-374-4639
wsclub.ri@gmail.com
woonsocketssportsmanclub.com

The beef barn

200 Industrial Dr., North Smithfield, RI 02896
Tel: 401-762-9880 Fax: 401-762-9224
Marc Branchaud

• SINCE 1940 •

HERCULES
PIZZA • SANDWICHES • WINGS • MORE

7 Main St, Slatersville, RI 02876
401-766-1111

LINDY'S
EST. 2008
TAVERN

Known for our
FRESH SEAFOOD
GREAT BURGERS
and **DAILY SPECIALS**
OPEN 7 DAYS

Where Old & New
Friends Meet!

98 School Street
FORESTDALE, RI
401-356-1966
Locally Owned and Operated
Sam Caruso, Owner

C&C GARAGE
ALL YOUR REPAIR NEEDS

AUTO, TRUCK, MOTORHOME
ASE CERTIFIED

140 MONEY HILL RD
CHEPACHET, RI 02814
GUARANTEED WORK

401-371-2791

STANLEY TREE

Residential & Commercial
Tree Services
401-231-8733

Tree Removal • Tree Pruning
Stump Grinding • 24/7 Emergency Tree Service

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE QUOTE TODAY!
Get in Touch with us to keep your Trees Happy & Healthy

Navigant
CREDIT UNION®

Leeway ACE
Hardware

790 Great Road • North Smithfield, RI
401-765-2222



LECLAIR KOZLIK
LOGAN BASSETT
POST NO.
6342
VETERANS OF
FOREIGN WARS

Wright's
DAIRY FARM & BAKERY

MON-SAT 8-7PM SUN 8-4PM
PLEASE CALL FOR HOLIDAY HOURS

watch cows
being milked
from 9-10:30pm
everyday

EXPERIENCE A 100 YEAR OLD
WORKING DAIRY FARM

**NORTH SMITHFIELD
FENCE, INC.**
Complete Line of Residential
& Commercial Fencing

375 St. Paul Street
North Smithfield, RI 02896
PHONE (401) 769-2575
FAX (401) 766-2956
WEB www.nsfenceri.com

Mike & Terri Bartamoli, OWNERS

This newsletter is published by Lynne Pelletier. The editorial team includes Beth Faricy, Jody Lamoureux, Linda Rawlings, Al Menard, Beth Newberry and Rich Keene.

Please share this free newsletter with family and friends!!