



NORTH SMITHFIELD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME II, ISSUE 2 ~ MARCH 2021

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The NSHA Newsletter Celebrates Its First Birthday!



One year ago in March 2020, the NSHA issued Volume I, Issue 1 of the *North Smithfield Heritage Association Monthly Newsletter*. Much has changed in the world since that time, and we have been so fortunate to have been able to share with you some of the wonderful history of North Smithfield and keep you up-to-date on events (both virtual and in person) and the progress of NSHA's work to preserve local buildings and cultural and historic areas. As we start the next year of the *Newsletter's* journey, we hope you will share your stories with us and we look forward to sharing more stories about our wonderful North Smithfield with you!

Sarah McConnell Dubois, Editor

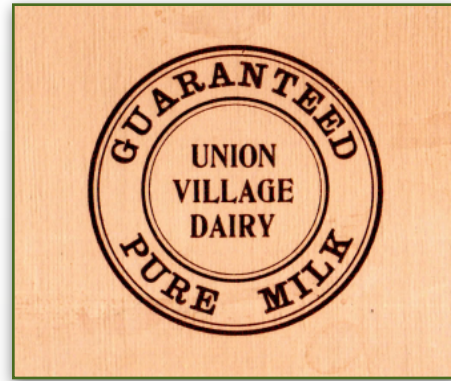
Help Promote Local History

You can help promote local history by simply liking and sharing our Facebook Page with friends and family. It shows what we do on a day-to-day basis and gets you acquainted with some of our members. Also, visit our website, which contains a ton of information about NSHA and our many ongoing historic preservation activities. <https://www.nsheritageassn.org/>

Visit us on Facebook for updates throughout the month.



MARCH SPOTLIGHT: UNION VILLAGE DAIRY



This month we are exploring the Union Village Dairy, which was operated by the Paine Family up to the early-20th century near the rail bed off Great Road. Thanks to the work of our archivists and volunteers who bring stories like these to life, and a special thank you to Rich Keene and Al Menard for their work on this story.



Charles Walker Paine (1855-1936) was the eldest son of Obedience “Obed” Paine (1814-1877). Further research may confirm that C.W. inherited the Paine Farm between Iron Mine Hill Rd and Rocky Hill Road near what is now the Smithfield town line. The City of Woonsocket bought the Paine Family farm in 1895 to create Woonsocket Reservoir #3. C.W. then bought the property on Great Road on what is now Lapre Road, as well as the property on the other side of the railroad tracks on what is now Paine Road and Meadowbrook Lane. We don’t know yet if C.W. built the farm himself or acquired it from someone else.

Regardless, he owned and operated the Union Village Dairy along with his son, Edgar Garfield Paine (1881-1957) and Edgar’s son, Charles Edgar Paine (1908-1986), until at least 1924. C.W. and Edgar owned the two houses on Great Road between what is now Lapre Road and the Thomas Lapham house near what is now Hillview Avenue. The cow barns sat above the railroad cut where Lapre Road now runs.

*See the following page for information about the Dairy,
as well as photographs, from an advertising publication at the time.*



Our barns are located on high land, which provides natural drainage and sanitary surroundings not possible when the buildings are not as well situated.

At all times, we strive to keep both the inside and the outside of our barns neat, clean and in a condition to aid in the production of pure, wholesome milk.



For years we have been improving our herd of cows, until at present we have an exceptionally fine lot of perfectly healthy, and unusually clean animals in our barn.

Milk which is produced from this grade of cows is a pure, nutritious article of food, far superior to that from the average herd.

Bottled milk is our specialty.

We thoroughly cleanse every bottle before using and keep the bottled milk ice cold from the time the jars are filled until it reaches the customer. In order to do this, our new delivery wagon is so constructed that ice may be kept packed around the bottles during delivery.



In order to keep our barns neat, our cows clean and healthy, our milk pure and fresh, we must have eight cents a quart for our product in order to meet the extra expense which all these things incur.

Commencing September 1st, 1910, our price for milk will be eight cents a quart, until further notice.

Union Village Dairy,
C. W. & E. G. PAINE.



THE NORTH SMITHFIELD MUSIC DEPARTMENT

“Memories of past years”

by Michael J. Boday

Movement Three– “The First Years”

At the beginning of the 1968-69 academic year, the North Smithfield senior high band had the luxury of a double period scheduled on Friday afternoon. This allowed the music department to prepare the band for football half-time shows. With marching charts from Michigan State’s Bill Moffet, the band was trained to form a variety of intricate designs on the field. Students drilled on the standard marching technique—8 for 5—that called for taking eight steps for every five yards. Though the band numbers were relatively small at this time, the students excelled at this task, week after week.



North Smithfield High School Band during football halftime show.



North Smithfield High School Band in front of Capitol Building.

Another interesting fact from the early years was the number of families who had multiple children involved in the program. The Briggs family, the Authier family, and the McGee family, to name a few, formed the foundation of the early senior band years. The highlight of the beginning years was the trip to the Cherry Blossom Festival in 1970. The sky was clear, and the air was flavored with fresh cherry blossoms. The band rose to the occasion and performed in a fashion that made all of the accompanying adults proud. One of the most memorable moments, besides the parade itself, was posing for a picture in front of the Capitol building.

The year 1971 marked the beginning of a long line of McDonald’s All-American Band members from North Smithfield. To qualify for the McDonald’s Band, a student submitted an audition tape. The tape was sent to a screening committee of music teachers who then recommended two students to represent each particular state and the U.S. Territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The McDonald’s All-American Band performed in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day and the Tournament of Roses Parades, and at Carnegie Hall. (One of the nationally recognized alumni of the Band includes jazz trumpeter, Chris Botti.)



Robert Sorel (on the left with trombone) receiving his McDonald’s certificate.

Thank you to Michael J. Boday for sharing these stories about NS music education! See pp 10-11 for a new musician bio.



Upcoming Events

Be sure to like our Facebook page to receive updates about upcoming events

Friday, March 19, 2021 ~ 7 p.m.
*History Night: Restoring Relic Flags,
Uniforms, and Other Fabrics*
Zoom Presentation

See NSHA website or Facebook page
for viewing information.

~
Wednesday, March 24, 2021 ~ 1 p.m.
SLATERSVILLE-In-Progress Screening
The John Fox Side
register at slatmuseum.org/events

~
Saturday, April 10, 2021 ~ 9 a.m.
North Smithfield Heritage Hike
Grange Road and Rocky Hill Road
Meet at NSHS Student Parking Lot
(Grange Road near tennis courts)
Masks and social distancing required.

~
Tuesday, April 13, 2021 ~ 6:30 p.m.
*NSHA Board Meeting
& Annual Meeting*
Zoom Video Conference
~ open to all members ~
Email nsha@nsheritageassn.org

NSHA History Nights

The NSHA Program Committee has continued our monthly History Night tradition using virtual Zoom presentations. The presentation about the Hearthside Museum last month was exceptionally well done and enjoyed by many. We hope to continue with History Nights on the third Friday of every month. See our Facebook Page event for information and sign in instructions. The next virtual presentation will take place on March 19, 2021 at 7 p.m. Patrick Donovan and Maria Vazquez of the Varnum Memorial Armory in East Greenwich will demonstrate how they restore relic flags, uniforms and other fabrics. We hope to see you there!



Arts and Culture Committee Update

Ann Lilley has taken charge of our newest committee, which is dedicated to preserving and promoting arts and culture in North Smithfield. The committee hopes to collect and display more locally produced art and fine crafts. Marc Gelinas recently donated a painting that he created for his mother, former Town Tax Assessor Betty Gelinas (see photos on page 9). If you would like to donate or loan a painting, image, or fine craft such as embroidery, needlepoint, woodcarving, etc. please email NSHA at nsha@nsheritageassn.com or email Ann Lilley directly at jslilley@yahoo.com.



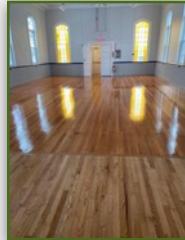
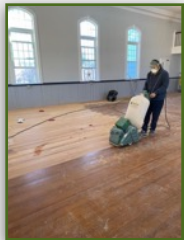
NSHA Properties Update

Forestdale School (190 School Street)

NSHA Director of Preservation, Jeff Harris continues to work with Architectural Preservation Group contractors to restore the school's exterior. APG is currently making two new replacement doors. Next, they will restore the three windows in the front. As soon as the ground thaws, Dione Electric will install underground electrical service to the building. The Town Council recently restored \$25K of capital improvement funds, for which we remain sincerely grateful. Since RI voters approved the bond issues during Special election, we hope to secure a matching state grant to replace the roof and restore the remaining windows.



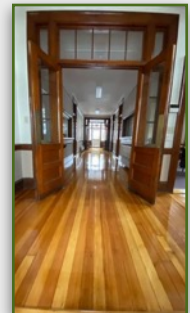
Heritage Hall (101 Greene Street)

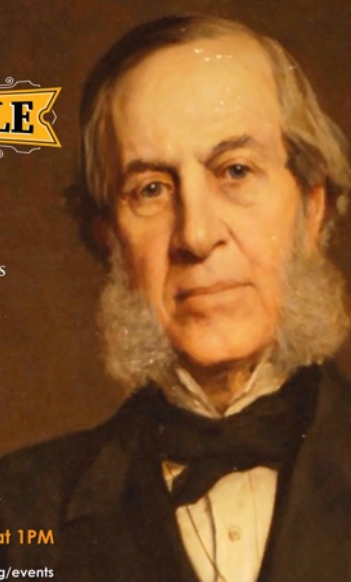


This building remains closed until the COVID crisis passes. The loss of rental revenues curtailed much of our planned preservation activities. However, funds raised by membership dues, calendar and ornament sales as well as donations enabled us to paint the hall ceiling and interior walls and refinish the floor. It looks stunning!

Memorial Town Building (1 Main Street)

Charlie Dubois and his team of capable assistants completed renovations to the walls and ceiling on the first floor. Charlie Desmarais kindly donated new carpet tiles for floors in the new Archive, Research Center and Business Office. Le Floor Services refinished the hall floors. Christian de Rezendes plans to film a video tour of the building that we can post to our Facebook Page and website. Then we will schedule an Open House followed by a virtual Zoom Meeting to receive feedback from the community about possible uses for other spaces.





AMERICA'S FIRST
ESTABLISHED 1866
SLATERSVILLE
MILL VILLAGE

SLATERSVILLE-IN-PROGRESS
SCREENING #7

**THE
JOHN FOX
SIDE**

A Virtual Event Hosted by
Slater Memorial Museum
at Norwich Free Academy

Wednesday March 24, 2021 at 1PM

Register today by visiting slatermuseum.org/events

North Smithfield 150th Anniversary on March 24!



The North Smithfield Parks and Recreation Commission has partnered with NSHA to plan community events to celebrate the town's 150th anniversary this year. The first virtual event to commemorate the occasion will be a cake cutting on March 24, the town's actual birthday. Students at each of the town schools will hold virtual ceremonies. The NSHA will hold a similar virtual event at 4:30 p.m., and town officials will hold a virtual cake cutting ceremony at the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

The NSPRC is also planning a "150 Challenge." Residents are asked to do one thing 150 times and post photographs and a description to the NSPRC Facebook page. Have fun and be creative!

Further, NSHA is making progress on the design of the 150th commemorative ornament, and several men have offered to join the Brothers of the Brush—they just need a leader! The group pledges not to shave for the entire year of 2021 (trims are ok). Fun and frivolity is mandatory. Contact nsha@nsheritageassn.com if you'd like to join the fun.

NSHA Annual Meeting

NSHA will hold its virtual Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m. After the election of officers, we will adjourn the meeting and open the regular monthly Board of Directors Meeting. All members are welcome!

Reminder: Annual dues renew in April and are \$20 per member; seniors over 85 and students are free. If you paid dues after October 1, 2020, your dues carry over until April 2022. Dues allow NSHA to conduct significant preservation activities and are an easy way to help preserve our local history. Pay online by PayPal, give cash, or make a check payable to "NSHA." Note "Dues" on the memo line and mail to NS Heritage Assn, P.O. Box 413 Slatersville, RI 02876. **We will also pick up payments locally—call 401-447-6394.**



Historic Residence Tax Credit Ordinance



In the fall, the Town Council made a serious commitment to preserve our surviving historic houses by unanimously passing the tax credit ordinance. The ordinance provides for a 20 percent tax credit for five years to eligible property owners for preservation work done to the exterior of their houses. Because current state enabling law gives the Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) jurisdiction, the North

Smithfield Tax Assessor must coordinate with the state to administer the program.

The town's General Assembly delegation, led by Representative Brian Newberry and Senator Melissa Murray, filed bills in their respective chambers to amend the enabling state law to give the North Smithfield Historic District Commission (HDC) jurisdiction. The Town Council unanimously approved a resolution supporting the bills, and therefore we are hopeful they will pass into law without any problem. Once that happens, we will ask the Town Council to make the necessary changes to the ordinance so the HDC and Tax Assessor can establish procedures for the program.

WANTED

NEWNSHA MEMBERS!

Join NSHA's 200+ members to help preserve our local history! We welcome new members of all ages; membership dues of \$20 per person allow us to conduct preservation activities. Seniors over 85 and students are free. To join, email your name, email, home address and phone number; see page 7 for info and payment options. We challenge current members to recruit one new member this year!



Last fall, NSHA promoted a campaign to buy and plant daffodil bulbs in town. We successfully distributed 5,000 and they are coming up! Look for some along the park near the stone bridge, under the Forestdale sign at the Little Red Schoolhouse, and near the Halliwell school sign. Consider participating this fall when our goal is 150 (for our birthday) times 100, for a total of 15,000 bulbs! Happy Spring!



HISTORIC CEMETERY OF THE MONTH: UNKNOWN LOT NS046

This month we look at NS046, one of our mystery cemeteries. Located high on the hill at Pole 32 on Rocky Hill Road, the cemetery contains 25 unmarked fieldstone burial markers that cover a rather large area. *The mystery: We do not yet know who is buried in this lot.*



The trail that became current-day Rocky Hill Road was once one of the three main paths into these parts back in 1660, when Edward Inman, John Mowry, and Nathaniel Mowry first purchased 2,000 acres from a member of the Wampanoag Tribe.



Accordingly, the burials could belong to one of the first white settler families in North Smithfield and likely dates back to the early 18th century. Prominent colonial families such as the Smiths and Paines settled along this road that contains seven known historic cemeteries. According to the Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Commission website, the cemetery was first pointed out by Irene Nebiker in her early survey done during the 1970s, and it was surveyed by Roger Beaudry on February 25, 1995. Last year, Cole Dubois, a NSHS senior pictured on the left, cleared the cemetery of trees and brush as part of his senior project. One day, we hope to research land evidence records to better determine who may be buried there.



Earlier this month, NSHA installed an original beautiful watercolor painting by Marc Gelinias in the Memorial Town Building in Slatersville, with help of SLATERSVILLE's Christian de Rezendes. Marc painted this local work of art for his late mother Betty years ago on her retirement and wanted to donate it to NSHA. He asked that it be displayed in the Tax Assessor's office, where his mother worked for decades. NSHA thanks Marc, Sarah and the entire Gelinias family for this amazing addition to the Memorial Town Building.



Betty Gelinias



NORTH SMITHFIELD MUSICIAN PROFILE:

Adam Blais

The seeds of Adam Blais's musical journey were sown as a fifth-grader at Halliwell Memorial School when he rushed home to show his parents, Ronald and Regina Blais, his instrument, the bassoon. While not evident at that moment, this simple introduction would blossom into a musical odyssey that would lead Adam to perform on local, state, regional and national stages, participate in two international concert tours, perform at the Olympics, and lead to Hollywood's doorstep.

It was also in fifth grade that Adam first listened to Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, which proved an enlightening moment. For it was then that he decided to set his musical compass on a course in classical music. As an eighth-grader, Adam expressed a desire to learn a string instrument, as well as the bassoon, selecting the double bass. He would earn All State honors on both instruments. Adam continued to elevate his performance skills in his sophomore year with his selection to the New England Conservatory Youth Symphony (NEC), Boston, one of the premier youth symphony orchestras in the region, as a bassoonist.



Adam's music endeavors proved a family affair. Each Saturday morning, his mother would drive him to Warwick for his RIPYO rehearsal, return home for a quick lunch before driving to Boston for Adam's NEC rehearsal. Each Thursday afternoon, his father would drive him to Providence for his bassoon and double bass lessons with private tutors. This pattern repeated itself until Adam earned his driver's license. As a sophomore, Adam traveled with the NEC Symphony to Israel for a two-week concert tour that included performances in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Jerusalem and at the Red Sea Festival in Eilat.

As a junior, Adam was again selected for the NEC Symphony on bassoon and double bass, opting for the bass. He also secured a seat in the Southern New England Honors Band on both his instruments. That year he was also featured in a live interview for the first Student of the Arts segment on WPRI Channel 12. That summer, he was accepted on the double bass to attend the Interlochen Center for the Arts, Traverse City, Michigan, a summer gathering of the best youth musicians in the world. While at Interlochen, he traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, to perform at the XXVI Summer Olympic Games. Also at Interlochen, Adam studied with Lawrence Hurst, then-president of the International Society of Bassists and a music professor at Indiana University. At Hurst's urging, Adam auditioned and was accepted into IU's Jacob School of Music, one of the top music schools worldwide.

continued on next page



Adam Blais (continued from page 10)



As a senior, Adam was elevated to the NEC Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, NEC's top youth group and with whom he participated in another two-week concert tour, this time to Brazil, performing at numerous venues including Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. It was also in his final year of high school that he was selected for the All Eastern Orchestra and journeyed to Baltimore, Maryland, to perform in concert.

Adam was not merely a one-dimensional student, devoting himself solely to music. He demonstrated his leadership skills by being elected president of his class all four years of high school, and was selected for the Hugh O'Brian Leadership Award as a sophomore. He also held membership in both the National and Rhode Island Honor societies. His community service included serving as a Sunday school teacher at the Arnold Mills United Methodist Church, Cumberland. He also worked as a newspaper carrier for 10 years, completing his route prior to reporting to jazz band rehearsal at 6:30 a.m. at the high school. He received the Most Improved Musician Award for Jazz Ensemble as a sophomore.

While at Indiana, Adam developed a love of opera and relished any opportunity to play in the orchestra for the university's opera productions. He also performed with the Evansville Symphony. After earning a bachelor of music degree at IU, Adam decided to pursue a master's degree in film music composition at the North Carolina School of the Arts, Winston-Salem. During his two-year tenure, Adam wrote the music for several independent films, all eight senior films, a first in school history, and the music for the school's promotional video. With his master's in hand, Adam relocated to Los Angeles, California, to embark on a dual career in music and computer science. Shortly after his arrival, he collaborated with David McHugh, his instructor at NCSA, in writing and orchestrating the music for the Hallmark channel movie "Love is a Four-Letter Word."

When not at his piano keyboard, Adam toils at his computer keyboard, working as a computer automation engineer for an e-commerce company. He resides in Simi Valley, California. Adam credits the encouragement and guidance he received from Michael J. Boday, his Halliwell music teacher, and the unwavering support of his parents for contributing to his success.



What a wonderful story, and what an honor to get to know Adam. Thank you to Mr. Boday and to Adam's parents for sharing his story with NSHA!



North Smithfield Musician Wins 2021 Grammy Award!



The *Newsletter's* *NOVEMBER SPOTLIGHT*, “From North Smithfield to Nashville,” introduced musician David Rawlings, who grew up in North Smithfield, and his partner, Gillian Welch. At this weekend’s Grammy presentations, Gillian and Dave won Best Folk Album for “All the Good Times are Past and Gone,” an album they recorded in their living room in the midst of the pandemic. We are so thrilled for them and for Dave’s proud parents, Linda & Pete Rawlings.

TO OUR FRIENDS AND FANS,

For reasons better discussed in the history books, in the Spring of 2020 Gillian and I dusted off an old tape machine and did some home recording. Sometimes we bumped the microphone, sometimes the tape ran out, but in the end we captured performances of some songs we love. Five are first takes and five took a little more doing, but they all helped pass the time and held our interest in playback enough that we wanted to share them with you. We sincerely hope that you enjoy ALL THE GOOD TIMES. -David & Gillian



North Smithfield Heritage Association Fundraising Efforts

The North Smithfield Heritage Association would like to thank all its Board members who successfully raised over \$8,000 in February through personal donations and corporate employee matching grants. In the coming months, the NSHA will initiate a Corporate Giving campaign as well as a Public appeal with the hopes of raising additional funds to support the efforts of NSHA. All donations received by the NSHA are used to support the many programs and restoration projects being managed by this all-volunteer, non-profit organization. With the help of so many people, the NSHA has been extraordinarily successful in preserving many of North Smithfield’s historical landmarks and artifacts.

In the coming months, the NSHA Development Committee will host several traditional fundraising events and are working to develop new events that can be enjoyed by residents of all ages. One of our events, the North Smithfield Heritage Association Gala, was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19. Prior to the cancellation, the Gala was sold out! We have scheduled this year’s Gala for July 31, 2021 at the Village Haven in Slatersville. We look forward to seeing old and new friends at this year’s Gala for a great evening of music, dancing, dining, and conversation in a casual atmosphere. Tickets will go on sale soon!

For more information, please feel free to email nsha@nsheritageassn.com or call or text Bill Nangle directly at 401-578-4360 or email him at Bill@extremesales.net.



Register for Amazon Smile Today!

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>



NSHA MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE!



We sell a wide variety of wares to help fund local preservation activities. Our gift shop at the Forestdale School offers calendars, ornaments, maps, books, and other items that reflect our local history. To make an appointment, contact Louise at 401-769-8177. Also, visit our online shop at www.nsheritageassn.org. Pay by cash or by check payable to "NSHA" (will ship when check received) or via PayPal and will ship immediately. Shipping for a single item is \$5; multiple or large items require an adjusted rate. Local doorstep deliveries are free. Contact nsha@nsheritageassn.com to coordinate costs. Shoppers can also now purchase some ornaments and calendars at the Red White & Brew Café on Great Road.

2021 Historic NSHA Calendar

Our beautiful 2021 Calendars are still available at Wright's Dairy Farm, L'il General Convenience Store (Great Road), Leeway Ace Hardware, Village Paint Store (Slatersville Plaza) and the Forestdale School (by appointment, email nsha@nsheritageassn.com or call 401-447-6394). They only cost \$15. We will deliver locally for free or mail one out of state for an extra \$5.

CONTACT NSHA

nsha@nsheritageassn.com

(401) 447-6394

PO Box 413, Slatersville, RI 02876

VISIT US AT

Website: www.nsheritageassn.org

Facebook: [@northsmithfieldheritage](https://www.facebook.com/northsmithfieldheritage)

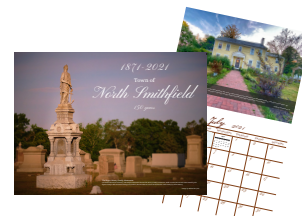
Please Support Local Historic Preservation



North Smithfield Heritage Association

2021 Calendars

\$15



Created by local artists and published by
New England Image and Print.