



# NORTH SMITHFIELD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume V Issue III- April 2024

\*\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*\*

Weekly Hotchkiss Cemetery guided walking tours!

Every Saturday!

More details on page 2

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### NSHA Celebrates Spring and Birthdays!

On Friday, March 22, the North Smithfield Heritage Association held a spring dinner at Heritage Hall in Slatersville, with a National Park Service presentation and the celebration of 3 special birthdays. All 3 ladies just turned 94!!! Louise VanHouwe, Ruth Pacheco and Irene Nebiker.



Louise VanHouwe



Ruth Pacheco



Irene Nebiker





## *NS Historic Cemeteries*

RI Historical Cemetery Awareness and Preservation Weeks 2024 will run from April 1<sup>st</sup> until May 31<sup>st</sup> this year. Join us in North Smithfield for a unique opportunity:

### **Hotchkiss Cemetery Tours**

For the first time since Hotchkiss Cemetery was re-discovered, cleaned and repaired, the public can take a one hour guided walking tour with some of the volunteers who made it happen.

Folks can learn about the lives of some of the oldest inhabitants of North Smithfield and Smithfield. Guides will explain the methods used to repair stones and reveal a few secrets about lost stones. Highlights will include visiting Veterans' graves, the discovery of the old town tomb and some sad stories that were almost lost to the past.

Tours will begin on Saturday, April 20, 2024 and will continue every Saturday through May 25, 2024. All tours will begin at 9:00 am. Participants may park at Union Cemetery. In case of rain, please check the NSHA Facebook page for cancellations.



**Volunteers have been busy recently putting a coat of paint on the shed that Larry Smith built for the cemetery teams to store their work materials.**



**The daffodils are in bloom! Daffodil bulbs planted last year by NSHA cemetery volunteers have begun to blossom at Hotchkiss Cemetery and other historic cemeteries in town.**

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



## *Historic Cemetery of the Month*

### Hotchkiss Cemetery by Lynne Pelletier

In honor of Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries and Awareness and Preservation Weeks in April and May 2024, we present a special in-depth look at the Hotchkiss Cemetery, located on Smithfield Road. Many who have driven by this wooded cemetery, right next door to Union Cemetery, have noticed and commented on the incredible transformation that has taken place over the last few years. Trees have been removed, poison ivy has been eradicated, brush and trash has been removed and the beautiful old headstones have been cleaned and repaired.

For the first time since Hotchkiss Cemetery was re-discovered, cleaned and repaired, the public can take a one-hour guided walking tour with some of the volunteers who have made it happen. Folks can learn about the lives of some of the oldest inhabitants of North Smithfield and Smithfield. Guides will not only explain the methods used to repair the stones, but will also reveal a few secrets about lost stones. Highlights will include Veterans graves from many wars including the Revolutionary War, The Mexican-American War, The Civil War, The Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II. Also, the discovery of the old town tomb and some sad stories that were almost lost to the past. Tours will begin on Saturday, April 20, 2024 and will continue every Saturday through May 25, 2024. All tours will begin at 9:00 am. Participants may park at Union Cemetery. In case of rain, please check the NSHA Facebook page for cancellations.

The Rhode Island Historic Cemetery Commission notes that what we call Hotchkiss Cemetery today is actually made up of three separate cemeteries: Old Town Burial Ground (NS031), Hotchkiss Cemetery (NS036), Old Aldrich Burial Ground (NS037). Because it is not possible to determine where one cemetery ends and another begins without a proper land survey, we refer to these collectively as Hotchkiss Cemetery. Located on more than two acres, this cemetery was the largest abandoned cemetery in North Smithfield until it was adopted by the town of North Smithfield. At some point in the past, the organization that was responsible for the upkeep of the cemetery fell apart and the cemetery became overgrown with trees and brush. Vandals spread litter and knocked over gravestones. Descendants were unable to visit the graves of their ancestors and the cemetery was almost lost in the overgrowth.

The first cleaning that we know of was done for a Boy Scout Eagle project, but because no one followed up after, the cemetery soon became overgrown again. Then in August 2017, Christine MacWilliams and Rich Keene began to clean up the cemetery. Even more volunteers joined in when they saw the great work taking place. In 2018, the NSHA adopted those hard-working volunteers and the NSHA Gravestone Restoration team was born. Since then, the group has grown to include three teams led by Denis Chamberland, Ed Walker, Kim Walker and numerous volunteers. Cemetery work has also expanded to include many other local abandoned cemeteries in town.

Part of restoring a cemetery is researching the individuals buried there, finding the family connections and discovering their story. There is a famous quote about death that has been attributed to many people, but it goes something like this...“ They say you die twice. One time when you stop breathing and a second time, a bit later on, when somebody says your name for the last time.” The almost 600 individuals buried within these three cemeteries still have stories to tell us and we will share some of the most interesting stories that we have learned on the cemetery tours and in our newsletter.







In the 1800's, a Quaker named Wellington Aldrich owned the property that is now Hotchkiss and Union Cemetery. His house was located just south of the cemeteries near what is now Williams Street. It was where the Quakers met before they built the nearby Smithfield Friends Meeting House in 1719. Wellington's parents, George Aldrich and Sophia Mann Aldrich are buried in the section called Old Aldrich Burying Ground. Generations of Aldrich family members are buried here including: George Aldrich's parents, Thomas Aldrich and Joanna Arnold, Thomas Aldrich's parents Judge Caleb Aldrich Esquire and Mary Arnold, as well as their son, Captain Caleb Aldrich and his wife Alpha Bartlett. Colonel Dexter Aldrich, a member of the RI militia after the Revolutionary War and his wife Hannah Marjory White who was the granddaughter of Judge Caleb Aldrich are also buried close by. All were prominent residents of the village of Woonsocket which would later become Union Village. In those days, what became the city of Woonsocket was simply know as "The Falls."

## DYE FROM A STOCKING CAUSED DEATH OF WM. A. ALDRICH.

The Senator from North Smithfield Succumbed to Blood Poisoning at His City Home in Elmwood.—Was Prominent in Masonic Circles and Highly Esteemed.

William Arnold Aldrich, State Senator from North Smithfield, died yesterday afternoon at his city home on Vineyard street, in Elmwood. The announcement in these columns yesterday that he was in a precarious condition from blood poisoning, having its origin in poisonous dye from a stocking having penetrated a blistered toe on which he had been troubled with a corn, came as a shock to most of those who know him. Only a few days had passed since



SENATOR WILLIAM A. ALDRICH.

he had moved among them with his accustomed energy and activity, and none seemed possessed of more vigor or better prospects of a long life than he.

Numerous relatives and friends who watched for developments were somewhat encouraged yesterday morning by what seemed to be indications of a rally in his condition. But in the afternoon there was a change for the worse and shortly after 5 o'clock the heart was unable to longer continue its func-

tions under the conditions produced by the poison.

William Arnold Aldrich was a descendant in the eighth generation from George and Catherine C. Aldrich, who came to America from Derbyshire, England, in 1632, and settled in Plymouth Colony, and from whom all the Aldriches in this country are said to have descended.

A unique feature of the genealogy of the family is that his great grandfather, Augustus Aldrich, was one of five brothers, who married five sisters, members of the Arnold family, long settled in North Smithfield. These five couples settled on five farms, all within a radius of two miles, in that town.

His grandfather, Arnold Aldrich, and his father, Augustus M. Aldrich, succeeded in turn to the old Aldrich homestead, which is situated on the old stage road between Providence and Worcester, quite near Janville.

There William Arnold Aldrich was born less than 29 years ago. His mother, Mary (Gifford) Aldrich, was a native of Little Compton. She died while he was a small child and he grew to manhood under the care of an aunt. He had one sister, who died more than a dozen years ago in Pasadena, Cal., whither she had gone because of feeble health.

He was educated in the schools of North Smithfield, the Friends School and Mowry & Goff's School in this city. He learned the carpentering trade with his uncle, Cyrus A. Aldrich of East Providence, and some 10 years ago embarked in business as a contractor and builder. His place of business was on Carter street in Elmwood.

In June three years ago he married Miss Jessie Elizabeth Macmillan, daughter of Thomas and Mary Macmillan of Bridgeville, Pictou, Nova Scotia. They had one child, a daughter, 2 years old.

He was Past Master of Mount Moriah Lodge, A. F. and A. M. of Limerock; a member of Providence Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, and of St. John's Commandery, No. 1, Knights Templar, of this city; America Lodge, Knights of Pythias, and Elmwood Council of American Mechanics.

He was highly esteemed by all of his fellow townsmen in North Smithfield and by his business associates in this city, and he was beloved by those who knew him more intimately and were cognizant of his many amiable qualities, most prominent among which, perhaps, were his devotion to his home and family.

Another prominent citizen buried here is Senator William Arnold Aldrich who died in a most unusual manner. William was born on October 13, 1864 in Smithfield, RI to parents Augustus Muhlenburg Aldrich and his wife, Mary Macomber Gifford. He was educated in local schools and learned the carpentry trade from his uncle Cyrus Aldrich. William married his wife, Jessie Elizabeth McMillan in June of 1899 and they made their home in the Elmwood section of Providence where William's business was located. Unfortunately, William and Jessie were married for just three short years when William died of blood poisoning at the age of 38. William supposedly contracted the blood poisoning from a sore on his foot that became infected from the dye used in his socks. At the time of his death, William and Jessie were the parents of a two-year old daughter and were expecting another child in six months.

Next month we will return to Hotchkiss cemetery and meet a few more interesting individuals with stories to tell.



## Annual Appeal 2024

# 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](mailto:nsha@nsheritageassn.com)  
or visit:  
<https://www.nsheritageassn.org/>



**Make a 2024 donation:** We appeal to the community to help fund our preservation efforts with a tax-deductible donation. We are now focused on the renovation of the main hall at the Memorial Town Building. When complete, it will serve as a museum and large group meeting room. Please help us restore one of Slatersville's most historic building.

You may make a tax-deductible donation via mail, PayPal 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 St. during our weekday morning business hours:

Tuesdays from 9:00 am- 12:00 pm or Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am- 12:00 pm.

We will also pick up donations at your door! **Any amount helps enormously!**

**Board Giving:** The NSHA Board of Directors continues to set an example for the community by making meaningful donations in January to the NSHA. This year, their donations covered 16% of the organization's operating expenses.





## *Thank You*



Thank you Jon Peirce, a master furniture maker and owner of Industrial Revolution, for crafting and donating the exquisite display table for our rare Dorr Flag. We also thank NS DPW for transporting and assembling the table pieces. It was a job far beyond our resources!

This display will become the centerpiece of our future museum at the Memorial Town Building. Meanwhile, the Varnum Armory in East Greenwich will continue to store the flag in its climate-controlled building.



**We thank Nancy Joyce for donating a portrait of her father Paul F Joyce, a former superintendent of North Smithfield Schools. Nancy also donated other school related materials such as NS school photos, newspaper clippings, pamphlets and other treasures. Left to right: Vanessa, Nancy and June Couture**



**We also thank the NSDPW for fixing the flag poles in front of the Memorial Town Building.**



## Thank You



We thank Eileen Rafferty for donating vintage tools to us.



We thank Cora and Bob Dubois for donating a collection of NS tax books dating from 1946 through 1972.



We thank Paul St. Pierre for donating his collection of 78 rpm records dating from the 1920's.

We appreciate 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 our local heritage!***

Please allow us to scan them to maintain a digital copy in our archives.

**Important!** 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 the photos. Too many wonderful photos get thrown away because younger generations don't know who is in them. Images of ancestors are then lost forever.

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

The NSHA archives and the research center is open at the Memorial Town Building every Monday and Wednesday from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm or Tuesdays from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm. Stop by and visit or contact us to make an appointment to visit on another day.

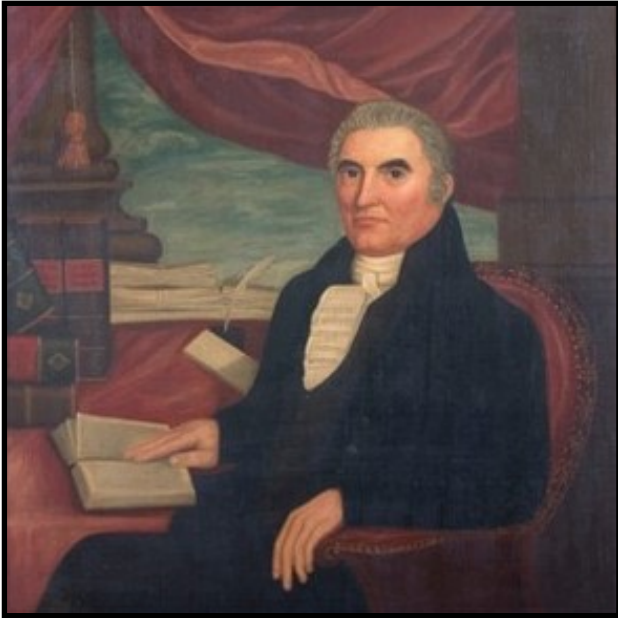




## *From the Archives*

### **Peleg Arnold - lawyer, tavern-keeper, jurist, statesperson, patriot**

by Al Menard



**This portrait of Peleg Arnold was painted by Arnold Steere in 1815 and hangs in the John Hay Library at Brown University. The artist was also born in Smithfield.**

During the Revolutionary War he had advocated letting slaves fight for the Continental Army in exchange for their freedom. Later, to continue with this cause, he founded the Providence Society for the Abolition of Slavery, one of the first abolition societies in America.

After the war, he was a Rhode Island delegate to the Constitutional Congress in New York and later served as Chief Justice of the Rhode Island State Court for seventeen years. By this time in his life, he had become known familiarly as “Judge” Peleg.

Peleg Arnold was born on June 10, 1751, at his father’s inn, in the section of Smithfield that would come to be known as Union Village. He was the ninth of fifteen children. His parents were Judge Thomas Arnold and Patience Cook.

At the age of 17, Peleg was sent to Boston to investigate the treatment of the poor and upon his return, he was appointed overseer of the poor in Smithfield. He attended Brown University, studied law, and had a local law practice in Union Village. When the state began to lay out the Great Road, Peleg was chosen to be on the committee.

Unlike most of the Smithfield Friends, Peleg took an active role in the Revolution and the inn he inherited from his father became the headquarters for the Smithfield rebels. In the Arnold Inn was housed at least one hundred arms, ready in case of a British invasion.

After serving as deputy to the Rhode Island General Assembly for two years, he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel Commander of the Second Battalion in the Providence County Militia.



**Peleg was part of the committee to lay out the Great Road. He erected this milestone on old Great Road in Union Village across from the Friends Meetinghouse. In 1927 the DAR added a bronze plaque, and the stone was cemented into the Union Cemetery wall.**





## *From the Archives*

In addition, he was a founder and first president of the Smithfield Union Bank. This bank was the first bank in the area and for a time ran out of Arnold's tavern. The Woonsocket Trust Bank traced its roots to this bank. In 1810, he served as chair of the committee that founded the Smithfield Academy and then as its President. This educational institution was a preparatory school that became widely known and respected for its excellence.

He married his cousin, Alpha Arnold, in 1768. The couple did not have any children.

Of the many illustrious members of the Arnold family, none were more influential than Judge Peleg Arnold. It was said that if you lived in northern Rhode Island "no political measure was entered upon without first attempting to conciliate his opposition or to secure his favor."

Judge Peleg accomplished remarkable things in his life and was truly an ardent patriot. He travelled a lot and was a great scholar. Yet of his nature and personality we know little. One small tidbit exists of his legend: "Towards the close of his life Judge Peleg was widely known not only as an extensive dealer in, but an ardent lover of, New England Rum."

In 1818 Alpha passed away and two years later Peleg followed at the age of sixty-eight. Both are buried in Union Cemetery.



**This apartment house was once the center of life in Union Village. A popular tavern, noted for its excellence and hospitality, during Revolutionary times it was the center for northern Rhode Island's defense. The first part of the house was built around 1690.**



## Veterans Memorial Program

On April 6, VFW Post 6342, Boy Scout Troop 1139, and the NSHA joined family and friends at the Memorial Town Building to honor David McCutcheon (1947 – 2024).

David was born in North Smithfield and graduated from Woonsocket High School in 1965. He served as an Electrician's Mate in the United States Navy from 1965 through 1968, first on the USS Enterprise CVA(N) in the Gulf of Tonkin, Vietnam, and later at Treasure Island, San Francisco, California. He later worked at the Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Massachusetts for over 25 years. He was well respected by his peers and leaders and was awarded numerous awards and commendation medals for his selfless service to the country.

David enjoyed fishing, hunting, and cooking. He also participated in his children's activities by being a coach as well as a Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 1139. He delighted in his granddaughters' sporting events and dance recitals. He is survived by his wife, Joyce (Holmes), his son Chris, his daughter Sevi, a stepson Tom, a stepdaughter Jenn, as well as sisters Susan and Deborah and brother Malcolm.



## Veterans Memorial Program



The U.S. Flag will fly at the Memorial Town Building each month in honor of a deceased local veteran. We will conduct a 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. Families can use the honored veteran's Memorial Flag or the VFW Flag. Please contact the NSHA to nominate a veteran.

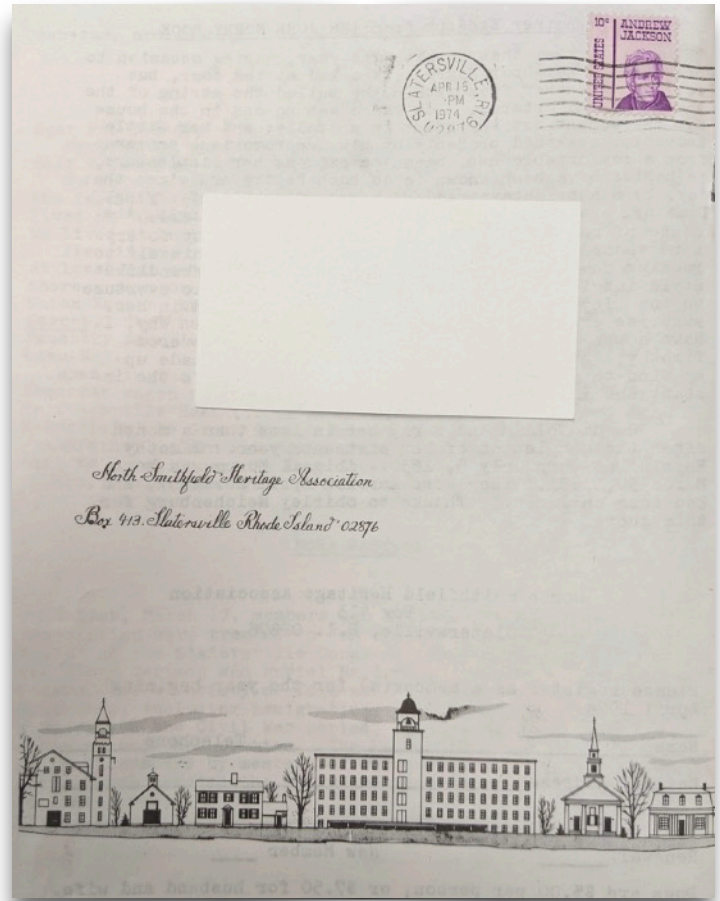




## *Fifty Years Ago*

*This month we will start a new “Fifty Years Ago” story taken from the April 1974 North Smithfield Heritage Association newsletter edited by G. P. Moore. This story, entitled Panorama Explained, will describe the art work that once graced the back cover of the newsletter.*

*I have included a photo of the newsletter so you can refer to the buildings as you read along. The format of the newsletter was a booklet which was 8.5”x 7” in size and it was about 6 to 10 pages long. It was also mailed to the members. Note the 10 cent stamp!*



April 1974 newsletter. Member address hidden for privacy.

### *Panorama Explained*

For the past few months, a scenic panorama has appeared on the back page of the NSHA Newsletter and on the stationery of the Association. The six buildings depicted were drawn by Harris Hien, the artist who also designed the Association’s logo. Although derived from the buildings in town, the panorama is meant to symbolize aspects of the town’s history. Included are a home and a carriage shed, one of the many kinds of accessory buildings associated with our residences and are an important part of the town and village scene. There are also cotton textile mills, which were, for most of our history, the main industrial strength and source of the town’s economic wealth. And there is a church, reminding us of our needs beyond material goods, shelter and jobs. In total these places represent the diversity of life and the variety of perspectives of our town throughout its history.

*~continued on next page.....*



**Buildings** (left to right)

1. **Forestdale Mill, Main Street** (now known as School Street) A well-built stone cotton textile mill, erected in 1860. The mill and the handsome shingle-style tower which was changed to its present style in 1885 form one of our town's landmarks and the pivotal center for one of our historic villages. **Unfortunately, this mill would burn down in 1977.**



**Forestdale Mill fire, 1977.**



**Stephen Brownell barn with cupola**

2. **Carriage Shed, Union Village.** This late Victorian-style structure was built on or near the site of an earlier barn on the former estate of Stephen Brownell, whose house, built in about 1800, is close by. The old barn was reportedly used for educational purposes. The present building is a symbol of the era of the horse and carriage, before such structures became garages for automobiles. Many, like this one, were well-built and handsome, with a cupola atop the ridge. It is also representative of Union Village, a small community which always contained a segment of vital, educated, prosperous people, a village quite different from our other villages which were centered around mills.

***To be continued in May, when we will learn about the the final 4 buildings in the photo above.....***





### **Monthly Board Meeting**

The Board of Directors will meet at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at Heritage Hall, 101 Green Street. Members are welcome to attend in person or via Zoom. Zoom information is included in the email notification.

### **Genealogy**



Lynne has been exceptionally busy researching the biographies of people buried in the Hotchkiss Cemetery. Her work provides materials for the weekly tours in the cemetery beginning on April 20, 2024.

Read the related story on page 13 for more information!

**Would you like help to conduct research on your family tree? Lynne Pelletier has extensive experience and access to several databases. Please contact [nsha@nshheritageassn.com](mailto:nsha@nshheritageassn.com) to coordinate an appointment.**

### **Ghosts and Paranormal Activity**



Kara Pressia, a local spiritual medium, continues to help with spiritual research. Have you heard about or seen a ghost in North Smithfield? We would like to document it! Anyone interested in joining the Paranormal Research Team please contact us at [nsha@nshheritageassn.com](mailto:nsha@nshheritageassn.com).

### **Education Outreach**

NSHS Seniors, Ava and Nick, have both completed the fieldwork portion of their Senior Projects. We thank them both for taking on projects that the NSHA proposed.

We also would like to thank our members, Julie Tilley and Kelly Gallagher, for serving as student mentors!





## Research Team



Lee Beauregard recently showed members of NSHA the quarry behind Pacheco Park. Thank you to Lee and thank you to Harry Gaudette for the photos.



The power company is clearing brush under their lines and marked off Native American ceremonial stone features identified by the tribes. Pine Hill is behind Dowling Village. Federal law requires the utilities to cooperate with the tribes to protect and preserve stone features located on power line easements. We never know when or where they plan their work. It was serendipitous that we came across this site while hiking a few days ago. The power company will remove the tapes once they finish each segment.

The Research Team generally meets at 6:00 pm at Heritage Hall on the second Friday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2024.

***Please contact NSHA if you'd like to participate!***





HERITAGE HALL

*Perfect for  
your small  
Event*

101 GREEN ST  
NORTH SMITHFIELD, RI  
NSHA@NSHERITAGEASSN.COM

*CHAIR LIFT ACCESSIBLE*



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

***Rent the newly renovated upper and lower halls!***

Visit the NSHA website for an application and rules: <https://www.nsheritageassn.org/general-3>

Call Jeanne at (401) 447-1801 to make a reservation or send an email to [nsha@nsheritageassn.com](mailto:nsha@nsheritageassn.com)



## *Preservation and Restoration*



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

All the damage caused by the car fire in November 2022 is now repaired. We thank the town's insurer, The RI Interlocal Risk Management Trust, for its cooperation and fine service!

We are once collecting planning estimates to install new electrical circuits and well as restore the walls and ceilings on the second floor of the Memorial Town Building. These will help us to apply for grants.

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

We are still waiting for RISE to schedule an energy audit at the school. We hope to qualify for a grant to install bulk installation above the ceiling as well as new storm windows.

In the meantime, the daffodils are all in full bloom!!

### **We need members to help open the school to the public.**

Please contact us if you can spare a couple of hours a month. Meanwhile, we will open the building by appointment.



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

We thank Tim McGee for helping Jeff Harris measure the inside of the tower at Heritage Hall. With the measurements in hand, Jeff can create plans for a new cupola on the top of the tower. With the plans we can develop a list of required materials and a cost estimate. The plans and the cost estimate will allow us to apply for grants. "We Eat the elephant one bite at a time!"





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



Charlie and his “Angels” installed a new epoxy floor in the lower hall. Well Done! We thank the Woonsocket Sportsmen’s Club for donating half the materials!



### ***Arbor Day-April 26 at Heritage Hall***

Please join us at Heritage Hall, 101 Green Street, at 4:00 pm for a short tree planting ceremony.

DEM is offering free Energy-Saving Trees online. To learn more and sign up for a free tree, visit:

<https://dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/agriculture-and-forest-environment/forest-environment/urban-and-0>



### ***Finance***

Beth Faricy and her team applied to The Champlin Foundation and the 1772 Foundation for grants to restore the upstairs hall at the Memorial Town Building. We will hear at the end of this month if we are successful.

The RI State Legislature notified us that we will receive a \$4,000 grant to continue our historic building restorations. We thank Senator Melissa Murray for her steadfast support!



## *Heritage Walks and Tours 2024 Schedule*

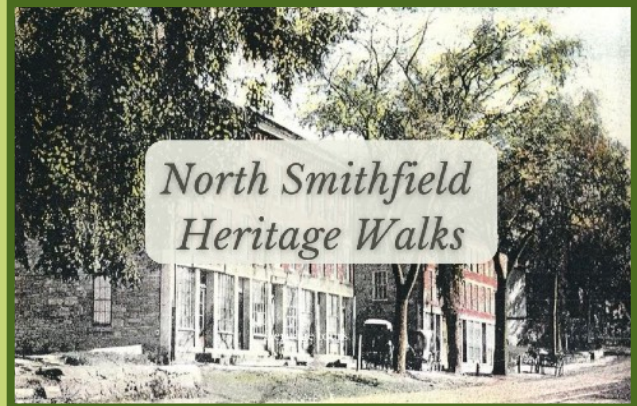
All NSHA Heritage Walks and tours start at 9:30 am.

Please see the individual walk description for the meeting place.

Tours are generally rain or shine unless there is a downpour or blizzard when we start.

**Participants are encouraged to wear long pants, use insect repellent, and bring water.**

See NSHA Facebook Page Events or contact [nsha@nsheritageassn.com](mailto:nsha@nsheritageassn.com) for more information.



**April 27: Crookfall Brook:** Woonsocket Reservoir #1 & Pump House, Woonsocket Reservoir #2 and Mill Site, Spring Brook. Meet at Aldi's parking lot at Dowling Village.

**\*This walk will take place at 2:00pm\*** We changed the time in order to not conflict with the Hotchkiss Cemetery tour that same morning.

**May 25: Waterford:** Coblin Rock, Mammoth Mills Ruins, Blackstone Canal, Waterford School, St. Paul's Church, Waterford RR Station, RR Fountain, Covered Bridge Site. Meet at Fire House Pizza parking lot, Great Road.

**June 22: Union Village:** Great Road, Pound Hill Rd, Union Cemetery. Meet at Union Cemetery, Smithfield Road.

**July 13: Slatersville:** Main St. Green Street, Slatersville Mills, Centennial Park. Meet at the Memorial Town Building, 1 Main Street.

**August 17: Wesquidomsett:** West Farm, NS 60, NS24, Tyler Mowry House, NS 32, Old Sayles Hill Rd, Rustic Drive-In, Milk Can, Paine Mill. Meet at Aldi's parking lot at Dowling Village.

**September 28: Nipsachuck Legacy:** The Blunders, Nipsachuck National Battlefield & Black Plain Hill Stone Landscape, Three Dog Site, NS57. Meet at the NS Middle School Parking lot, Providence Pike.

**October 19: Pound Hill Road:** Smithfield Union Bank, NS8, Aldrich Farm, Staples Farm, Staples School, Nike Site, Nike Site RIANG, NS55, Landfill.

**November 16: Woonsocket Hill Road:** NS19, Mathewson Homestead, Follett Farm, Philip Mowry House and NS47, Mowry Fire Tower, Martin Farm, Wright's Farm, Meet at the NS Middle School parking lot.

**December 21: Woonsocket Reservoir #3:** NS48 Oliver Smith Lot, Amasa Sweet Quarry, Great Wall, William Mowry Homestead, Obed Paine Homestead. Meet at NS High School Tennis Courts on Grange Road.





## *NSHA Activities*



On March 16, 2024 Heritage Walk participants visited Wunnashowatuckqut. They viewed High Rocks Gorge and the Blackstone Gorge.

## *Mammoth Mills Clean-Up*

On March 9, 2024, volunteers picked up trash, cleared trees and underbrush at the Mammoth Mill site on Mill Street and along the Blackstone Canal on Canal Street. The park looks amazing!

The clean-up will continue on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 9:00 am in conjunction with NS Clean and Green Day.





## *NSHA Activities*

### **North Smithfield's 21st Clean & Green Day**

Saturday, April 27th, 2024 from 8 am – 12noon;

Sign in at the new town hall (Kendall Dean Building), 83 Green Street, Slatersville to get a free tee shirt and supplies.

Register online at [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0845AAAE23AAF85-34529716-newnsclean#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0845AAAE23AAF85-34529716-newnsclean#/)

We hope to focus on highly littered areas that need our help the most. Please choose from the areas listed then Google the road to familiarize yourself with where you'll be cleaning. Our goal is to double the number of volunteers over the last year so we can make a bigger impact on our main roads. If you don't have a preference, we can choose an area for you and notify you which road you will be working on if you have registered early enough. If those areas are too hard, you can still clean up a road of your choice that has less traffic, just tell us in the comments what road/area you chose. Either way, we are happy you can join us!

**From the NS Land Trust:** A nice article by journalist John Kostrzewa, recently appeared in the Providence Journal about hiking the Booth Pond Conservation Area.

***Discover Booth Pond, a hidden haven for rare dragonflies and damselflies in RI.***

Click on the link below.

<https://www.providencejournal.com/story/sports/outdoors/2024/04/12/booth-pond-magnet-for-rare-dragonflies-north-smithfield-walking-rhode-island-john-kostrzewa/73230024007/>

### **Heritage Dinner**

On Saturday, June 22, 2024 at 6:00 pm, the public is invited to the Village Haven to enjoy a traditional family-style chicken dinner and comedy by Dave Kane (Jokes my Irish Father told Me!)

Tickets will cost \$35 per person and they are on sale at the Memorial Town Building.

Dave Kane's  
**JOKES MY IRISH  
FATHER TOLD ME**



You'll have lots of fun, as comedian Dave Kane brings you a laugh filled presentation of jokes, one liners and stories that celebrate the warmth and resilience of the Irish sense of humor.

### ***Clouds Hill Museum Newsletter***

The Clouds Hill Museum issues newsletters that provide wonderful perspectives about Rhode Island's history. One article in the spring edition describes RI's aviation history, including a description of Montgomery Field or Woonsocket Airport, located on Mendon Road where L'Hospice Saint Antoine is now located. Another article describes the advent of "Garden Cemeteries" in the latter part of the 19th century.

<https://www.cloudshill.org/>





### *Mystery Photo*



#### The Class of 1956

This month's mystery photo is the 8th grade Kendall-Dean School graduation photo from 1956. It was donated to us by Nancy Joyce and we know that her father, Paul F. Joyce is the man in the light-colored suit. The other man is Fred West. Unfortunately, we do not know who the graduates are. Can you help us to identify these proud students? If you recognize any of these young scholars, please contact us! Thank you



### ***NSHA Merchandise***

Our wide range of merchandise includes calendars, books, cozy throws, jigsaw puzzles, ornaments and so much more! Free local delivery!



View our entire inventory at the **NSHA On-line shop** at <https://www.nsheritageassn.org/shop>

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



### ***The North Smithfield Heritage Association Fund***

Estate planning? Need to make a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA? Make a tax-deductible legacy donation to this RI Foundation managed fund. Your donation earns interest every year. The NSHA only uses a portion of the earned interest each year for preservation activities. Your donation therefore, continues to grow in perpetuity, increasing the interest that the NSHA can use each each year for historic preservation.

Click on the link for more information:

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





## Outreach

### *Annual Dues were due on January 1, 2024!!*

~ The NSHA relies heavily on membership dues to pay operating expenses. We thank our members for their steadfast support! Our membership now stands at **212** including **28** life members and **6** students.

~Your \$20 annual dues allow us to conduct vital preservation activities. Seniors over 75, high school students and full-time college students pay no dues.

~We thank the **154** members who joined or renewed this year!

~There are **58** members in arrears or with expired memberships can renew at any time. **If you are not sure of your status, please contact us.**

~You can become a member by filling out an application found on our website:

<https://www.nsheritageassn.org/membership>

~You may pay membership dues online via the PayPal Giving Fund, or Venmo, by mail to P.O. Box 413, Slatersville, RI 02876 or in person on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at the Memorial Town Building. You can also drop off a check in our mailbox in the rear of the Memorial Town Building.

### ***You Can Help!!***

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

**Join:** Membership costs just \$20 each year!

**Share:** Only shared history can preserve our heritage!

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



**Instagram (nsha1970)**  
*Please follow us!*

**Instagram followers:284**

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)



**Facebook followers:1358**

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

Website visitors: 379 site sessions in last 30 days.

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

**NSHA Newsletter Subscribers:1446**

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

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

***Please share this free newsletter with family and friends!!***