



# Strawberry Festival

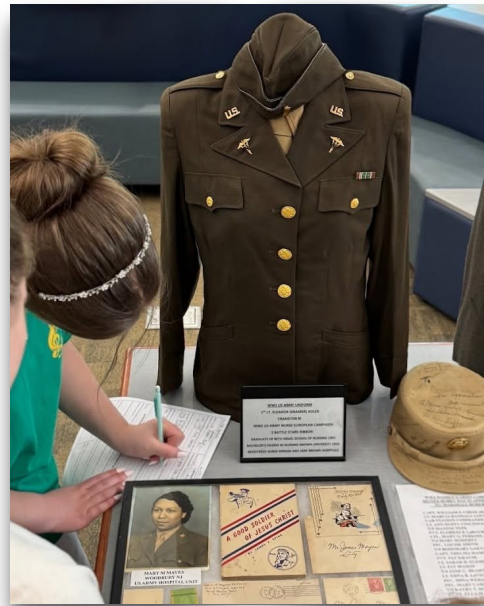


SATURDAY  
JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>, 10-2PM

Free admission  
Open House  
Strawberry shortcake, birdhouses,  
memorabilia and more for sale  
Rain or Shine

*Forestdale Schoolhouse  
190 School Street, Forestdale, RI*





NSHA members visited with the NS Middle School in May to share artifacts and stories from heroes of World War II. It brought history to life for the students.



*Adopt The Bible*

*Thanks to the generosity of our community, we've raised the funds needed to restore North Smithfield's 1761 Colonial Bible! The completed Bible will be on display at an event later this year.*



# Summer Solstice Annual Dinner

DELICIOUS FOOD, GREAT COMPANY

Friday, June 19th, 6pm  
Heritage Hall  
101 Green St, Slatersville



- + MICKEY G'S CATERING SERVICE WILL SERVE MEATBALLS, PASTA, CHICKEN, FISH ALONG WITH SALAD AND DESSERT.
- + TICKETS ARE LIMITED AND COST \$20 .
- + PAY ONLINE WITH PAYPAL OR VENMO, OR SEND A CHECK PAYABLE TO "NSHA" TO P.O. BOX 413, SLATERSVILLE, RI 02876.

# 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](http://www.nsheritageassn.org)  
[nsha@nsheritageassn.com](mailto:nsha@nsheritageassn.com)

**Contact Us**

*Heritage Hall is located at 101 Green Street.*

## Thank You



We thank Sarah Sangermano for donating this antique Nonesuch corn chopper, patented in 1875! The artifact belonged to the Gardner Farm estate.



NSHA member, Larry Smith, will refurbish the wooden structure of the corn chopper.



We thank National Park Service Rangers, Mark Mello and Tim Wynn, for leading a Slatersville Ranger Walk titled "The Seeds of Success" on Thursday, June 11th.



We also thank Bob Salemi for donating a 1927 Maytag washing machine.

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.

Please allow us to scan photos of family, friends and landmarks. It helps us to preserve our town's history!

**Don't lose your family history! Please write names on the back of your family photos.**

## 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/>



## *Annual Appeal 2026*

Please help fund our historic preservation efforts. **Make a tax-deductible 2026 donation!** Renovations are nearly complete on the second floor of the Memorial Town Building, one of Slatersville's most iconic historic buildings. We just need to replace four large arched windows. Donations help significantly.

Donate via PayPal Giving Fund, or Venmo. Or you can mail your cash or check donation to NSHA, P.O. Box 413, Slatersville, RI 02876. Or pay with a credit card at our headquarters at the Memorial Town Building (1 Main St) from 10 – noon on Monday-Wednesday. Or we can pick up donations at your door. Any amount helps enormously!

## *The North Smithfield Heritage Association Fund (Endowment)*

Estate planning? Need to make a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA? Make a tax-deductible legacy donation to the North Smithfield Heritage Fund 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>

## The Life and Legacy of Emma Holt

by Al Menard

In 1871, twenty-seven-year-old Emma A. Holt walked across the grounds of East Greenwich Academy wearing a pair of pale kid-leather gloves and soft silk slippers—delicate accessories chosen for a day she had worked years to reach. The gloves, with their scalloped cuffs and stitched points, and the slippers, with their low Louis heels and satin bows, were the height of feminine formality in the early 1870s. They were not everyday items. They were ceremonial, aspirational, and deeply personal. Today they are cherished artifacts in our historical archives. Today they offer a glimpse into a disappearing past.

Emma was born in 1844. Her later graduation age suggests strong determination and a desire for education that exceeded the expectations placed on many women of her generation. She was fortunate to be able to attend East Greenwich Academy, one of Rhode Island's most respected preparatory schools at the time. Its commencement ceremonies were formal, public, and often photographed, making proper attire especially important. Clothing signaled refinement, respectability, and readiness to step into adult life. Emma's slippers and gloves helped her fit right in.

Four years after graduating, Emma married Henry Aldrich in 1875 and began a new chapter of her life in North Smithfield. The couple settled on Comstock Road off Pound Hill Road, in a rural part of town where families lived closely connected to the land and to their neighbors. There, Emma lived the rest of her life, raising her three children, tending her household, and remaining part of the town's social fabric until her death in 1929.



Gloves and slippers worn by Emma A. Holt at her East Greenwich Academy graduation in June 1871.



In this rare family portrait, restored by AI, *Emma Holt Aldrich*, born in 1844, holds her great-grandson *Robert Ewen*, born in 1927. Behind them stand her daughter *Esther Isenor* and granddaughter *Bessie Ewen*. Created near the end of Emma's life, the photograph brings together four generations whose lives stretch from the mid-nineteenth century into the modern era, preserving a moment of continuity and connection across time. *Gift of Bessie Ewen.*

Emma was survived by her daughter, Esther. Esther Holt Aldrich later married Henry Isenor, and their daughter, Bessie Ewen, extending Emma's legacy into the 20th century. Through this line of women—Emma, Esther, and Bessie—stories, keepsakes, and memories were passed down, including the gloves and slippers Emma had worn on her graduation day. Their survival was no accident. They were kept because they had deep meaning to Emma, to her daughter, and to the generations that followed.

Today, these objects offer more than a glimpse of 19th-century fashion. They are tangible evidence of a woman's aspirations, her education, her marriage, her home, and her descendants. They connect East Greenwich Academy to Comstock Road, and the Victorian-era classroom to a North Smithfield family whose history spans nearly two centuries. Though small and delicate, the gloves and slippers tell a powerful story of perseverance, ceremony, family continuity, and the enduring significance of a single day in 1871.

## *Fifty Years Ago*

*From the March 1971 North Smithfield Heritage Association Newsletter:*

### The Horse Drawn School Bus

Ralph Smith, Ridge Road, Slatersville, loaned a snapshot of the school bus driven by a pair of horses. The picture was taken in 1922 on Louisquissett Pike (now Eddie Dowling Highway) and at that time was Smithfield Road because the pike was not completed until about one year later.

Fred DeCourcy, who was a farmer in Iron Mine Hill Road, was the driver of the bus, according to W. Howard Titherington of Sayles Hill Road.

“When I was a boy I helped drive the horses to Roy’s blacksmith shop, Sayles Hill Road, to be shod. At the end of the school session I drove the horses and bus back to the blacksmith’s to have the vehicle painted and repaired for the fall,” Mr Titherington recalled.

Mrs. Maria Jewell, the first teacher at the Union Village School when it opened in 1917, said that she does not remember that school bus. Mr. Titherington said that the bus was driven from Sayles Hill Road to the Union Village School until the Bushee School was built in 1926.

Mrs. Rose Clifford Arcand recalls that she first rode to the Union Village School in a covered milk wagon driven by Herbert Thayer, a farmer. She said she walked one mile to Sayles Hill Road to board the wagon. The pupils sat on a board across two seats.



1922 on Sayles Hill

North Smithfield horse drawn school bus on Sayles Hill, 1922.

## Historic Cemeteries



Jonathan Appell from Atlas Preservation, NSHA cemetery team members and some of the many participants who attended the workshop on June 1st.

On Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, a large group of enthusiastic volunteers participated in a gravestone repair workshop presented by Atlas Preservation. The Slatersville Cemetery on Green Street was their first stop on their 2026 *48 State Tour*.

We thank NSHA Cemetery chairperson, Kim Walker, for arranging the workshop and cemetery team members for facilitating the event. We also thank Walmart, Firehouse Pizza and Dunkin Donuts among others for supporting us.



Jonathan taught proper cleaning techniques for headstones with biological growth.



Tracy Mahaffey gave an interesting demonstration on slate carving.



Jonathan demonstrated how to raise and re-set multiple piece monuments using a tripod for heavy lifting.



Jonathan repaired multiple monuments during his time with us.

## Historic Cemeteries



We thank Kim and Ed Walker for placing flags at the graves of local veterans on Memorial Day.



We thank members of the local VFW Post 6342 for cleaning historic cemetery NS005 Israel Aldrich at CVS on Industrial Drive! The cemetery is maintained by Anthony Chernaski.

## Research Team

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 6:30 pm at Heritage Hall on the second Friday of each month.

***Please contact NSHA or just show up if you'd like to participate!***



A lace stone wall

### · **The Indigenous Explanation:**

This lace stone wall is built on a steep hillside and believed to be built in Native traditions for Indigenous paths for spirits to pass thru or prayers. In Native tradition, these were never meant to act as property boundaries or fences to enclose animals. Instead, they served as linear landmarks or spiritual guides and are usually less than 100 ft.

### · **The Colonial & Agricultural Explanation**

Traditional historians classify lace walls as utilitarian structures built by 18th- and 19th-century European settlers. Because they are only one stone wide, the "lace" appearance comes from leaving large spaces between rocks. This saved labor and allowed the wind to pass through smoothly on exposed hillsides.

## *NSHA Monthly Board Meeting*

The Board of Directors will meet at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> and August 11<sup>th</sup> at Heritage Hall, 101 Green Street. NSHA members are welcome to attend in person or via Zoom. See the agenda for instructions.

### *Genealogy*

Would you like help to conduct research on your family tree? Would you like to learn to use [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) and [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)?

Lynne Pelletier has extensive experience and access to several databases. Please contact [nsha@nsheritageassn.com](mailto:nsha@nsheritageassn.com) to coordinate an appointment.

### *Conservation*

We are looking for people to help on the Conservation Committee. Members will work with NS DPW to clear and mark local hiking trails, plant native trees and plants, and preserve local natural resources. Can you help?

Contact [nsha@nsheritageassn.com](mailto:nsha@nsheritageassn.com)

We are looking for people to help on the **Arts and Culture Committee**. Members will collect and exhibit examples of local art. They will also help develop a program that displays local cultures. Any help is welcome.

Contact [nsha@nsheritageassn.com](mailto:nsha@nsheritageassn.com)

### *Ghosts and Paranormal Activity*

Kara Pessia, a local spiritual medium, continues to help with spiritual research. Have you heard 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](mailto:nsha@nsheritageassn.com).





## Veterans Memorial Program

Nominate a deceased local veteran for honors at the Memorial Town Building. The VFW, local Boy Scouts 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](mailto:nsha@nsheritageassn.com)

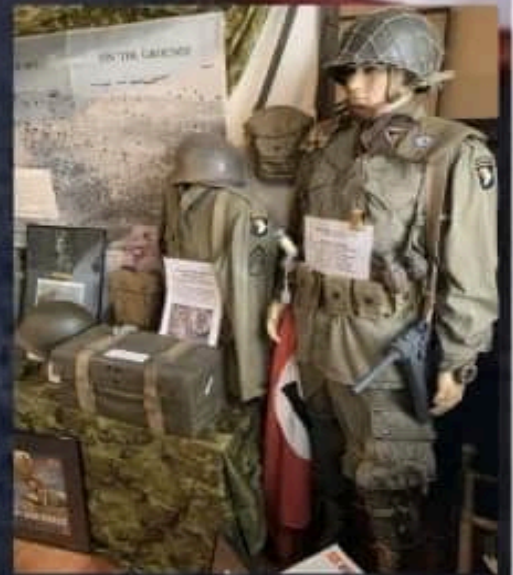


## Veteran's Memorial Museum

**One of the largest collections of veterans  
Artifacts from the Revolutionary War to  
our Current Military**

Visit the museum and our library Tuesdays  
and Saturdays from 10am to 4pm  
*Other days by appointment for group  
visits*

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



[www.VeteransMemorialMuseumRI.org](http://www.VeteransMemorialMuseumRI.org)

## Maintenance



Heritage Hall, 101 Green Street.



Memorial Town Building, 1 Main Street.



Forestdale School, 190 School Street

Several volunteers were busy working the week before Memorial Day.

Walter rebuilt the sign post at the school house and hung our newly printed Heritage Association logo sign. New flags were placed at Memorial Town Building. The VFW donated the American flag and NSHA purchased a new RI Flag. The NSHA logo sign was attached at rear entrance of Memorial Town Building.

The Heritage Hall fence got a good sprucing up by Jon, our carpenter, who replaced many broken pickets and top rails. It's a continuing project!

The finishing touch was hanging a 250 anniversary commemorative flag by our neighbor Jake who also keeps an eye on Heritage Hall from his home across the street.

Even though the Memorial Day parade was canceled, we honor our Veterans and our town's heritage every day!

***If you are interested in volunteering we have several opportunities available.***

- Housekeeping after rentals at Heritage Hall.
- Housekeeping at Memorial Town Building as well as housekeeping of our developing museum upstairs.
- Fence painting at the Forestdale school house & Heritage Hall.
- We are also looking for someone to hold open houses at the Forestdale school house, 4 hr time slots, twice per month.

***It takes many hands to keep these beautiful restored buildings in shining glory! Can you help?***

You can reach out at these two numbers:

Richard Keene 401 447 6394

Charlie Dubois 401 741 8022



## *Events & Activities*



### **Mammoth Mill Park**

The NSHA will give a public presentation about Mammoth Mill Park in Waterford at 6 pm on Wednesday, June 17 at the Blackstone River Watershed Council headquarters, 100 River Road, Manville, RI. The presentation is open to the public.

### ***Wunnashowatuckqut Conservation Area Heritage Walking Tour***

Join us for a Heritage Walking Tour of Wunnashowatuckqut Conservation Area. We will walk along the west bank of the Blackstone River and the High Rocks Gorge. Meet at 9:30 am on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, at the NS Fire Station, 675 St Paul Street or at 9:45 am at the trailhead on Martha Road. Bring insect repellent and comfortable walking shoes for this 2.5 mile hike through pristine woodland trails.



### ***Union Village Documentary***

The NSHA received grants from the RI 250 Commission and Ocean State Media to create a documentary about the village of Woonsocket before and during the Revolutionary War and its transition to Union Village after the war. Local film maker, Christian de Rezendes, recently began work to produce the video which will premiere on Labor Day.

## *Events & Activities*

An art exhibit of former North Smithfield resident, F. Foster Lincoln, will be on display July 1 thru August 28 during normal business hours at the Town Hall, 83 Green Street.

The North Smithfield Public Art Advisory Committee organized the event using artifacts from the NS Heritage Association archives.

**THE NORTH SMITHFIELD PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**IS PLEASED TO PRESENT  
THE FIRST IN A SERIES FROM THE ARCHIVES OF  
THE NORTH SMITHFIELD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION**



AN EXHIBITION OF DRAWINGS AND  
ILLUSTRATIONS FEATURING:

**F. FOSTER LINCOLN**  
(1877-1959)

PROFESSIONAL ILLUSTRATOR & NORTH SMITHFIELD RESIDENT

**JULY 1st - AUGUST 28th**

EXHIBIT OPEN DURING TOWN HALL REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS

**North Smithfield Town Hall  
83 Green Street**



*Events & Activities*

The Blackstone River Watershed Council (BRWC) invites the public to help eradicate the invasive water chestnut plants from the Slatersville Reservoir by participating in a water chestnut pull event from 10 am to 2 pm on Friday, July 10 at the Slatersville Reservoir Fishing Area and Boat Ramp, 2890 Broncos Highway (RI Route 102), North Smithfield. The BRWC will provide kayaks and canoes for volunteers.

The poster features a scenic background of a blue lake with green trees on the shore under a blue sky with white clouds. In the foreground, there is a large, detailed illustration of a water chestnut plant with green leaves and a round, green seed pod. A green brushstroke graphic is positioned behind the date text. The event details are listed in a clean, modern font with icons for location, address, time, and equipment. The logos for the North Smithfield Heritage Association and the Blackstone River Watershed Council are at the bottom, along with a slogan.

# Water Chestnut Pull

**Friday  
July 10**

 **Slatersville Reservoir**

---

 **2890 Broncos Highway,  
Rt 102 Fishing Area**

---

 **10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

---

 **All equipment supplied**

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**NORTH  
SMITHFIELD**  
HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

  
**BLACKSTONE RIVER  
WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
*Friends of the Blackstone*

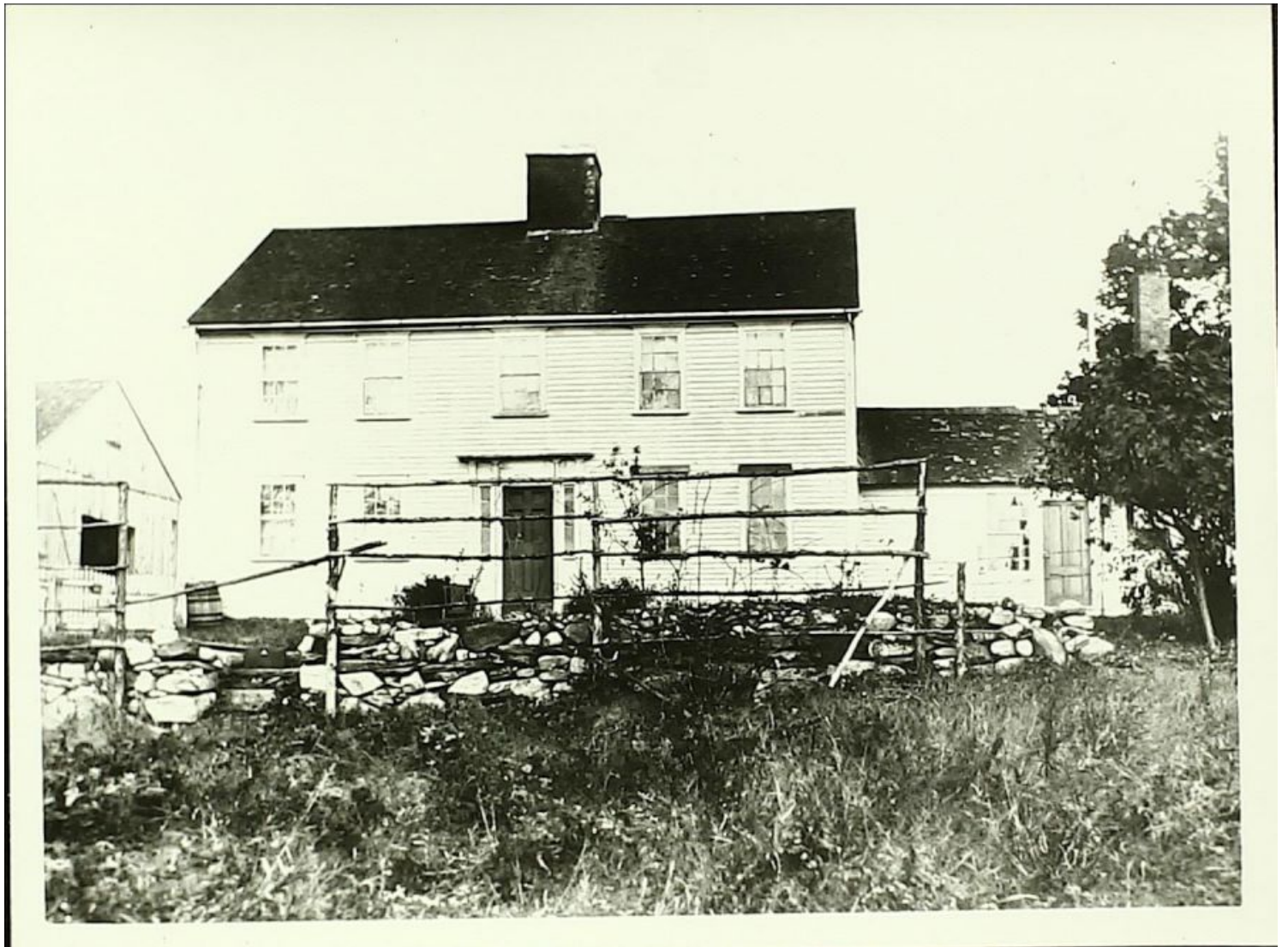
***Healthy Lakes Stronger Communities!***

## *Mystery Photo*



### **UPDATE:**

There were no guesses on May's mystery photo, unfortunately.



**June's mystery photo is also from the unidentified house file. Does anyone recognize this beautiful old farmhouse? Please contact us if you can help identify it!**

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!

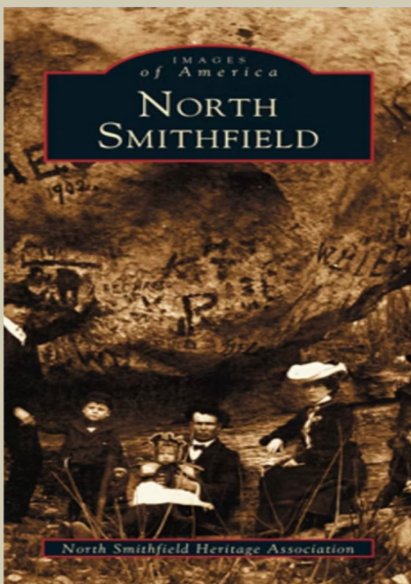
## NORTH SMITHFIELD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION FORESTDALE SCHOOL GIFT SHOP

OPEN FROM 1 PM - 4 PM EVERY FIRST AND THIRD FRIDAY EACH MONTH  
AND FROM 9 AM - NOON EVERY FIRST SATURDAY

WE OFFER A WIDE RANGE OF MERCHANDISE INCLUDING 2026 CALENDARS, BOOKS, MAPS, PUZZLES,  
ORNAMENTS, COZY NS THROWS AND MUCH MORE. LOCALLY HANDMADE BIRDHOUSES ARE STILL  
AVAILABLE! GET 2025 CALENDARS AT A 50% DISCOUNT!

ALSO VISIT OUR ONLINE STORE AT [HTTPS://WWW.NSHERITAGEASSN.ORG/SHOP](https://www.nsheritageassn.org/shop).

SHIPPING AND HANDLING FEES ARE NOW \$10 MINIMUM. WE WILL DELIVER LOCALLY FOR FREE!



### *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 members! Our membership now stands at 210 including 69 life members and 6 students. Some members live as far away as NH, CA, WA and AR.

You can become a member by filling out the application found on our website: <https://www.nsheritageassn.org/membership> as well as paying \$20 dues.

## Dues

\$20 Annual Dues were due on **January 1, 2026**. 43 members' dues are in arrears.

- Seniors over 75 and students pay no dues.
- Make a \$100 or more donation and get a complimentary one-year membership.
- Make a \$500 or more donation and get a complimentary Lifetime membership.
- Former members can renew their membership at any time. We value your support! Your dues help significantly to fund our local preservation activities.
- Pay via PayPal, Venmo, or check. Indicate 2026 Dues on the memo line.

Please contact us if your status has changed or if you are unsure of your status.

**Please renew today.** We thank our wonderful members for their vital support!

## 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).



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

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

**Followers: 353**

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](https://www.facebook.com/northsmithfieldheritage)

**Followers: 1,907**



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

**Website:** 652 site sessions in the last 30 days.

**NSHA Newsletter Subscribers: 1,721**

**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](mailto:nsha@nsheritageassn.com) or [401-376-2927](tel:401-376-2927)

2026 NSHA Calendar Sponsors

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woonsocketsportsmanclub.com

*The beef barn*



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375 St. Paul Street, North Smithfield RI 02896

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

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