



NORTH SMITHFIELD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME I, ISSUE 2 ~ APRIL 2020

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Social Distancing
- Membership Dues
- SLATERSVILLE
- April Spotlight:
Annual Meeting
- *Did you know?*
Vampire Grave
- Who is This?
- Future Events
- *Did you also know?*
NSHA's 50th
Anniversary
- Thank you, Senator!
- Contact NSHA

“Social” Distancing

During this time when we all must adhere to restrictions on person-to-person interaction to stop the spread of the coronavirus and keep ourselves, our loved ones, and our neighbors safe, NSHA has postponed many of our cherished events, including the Heritage Gala, Annual Meeting, and Heritage Fair. However, the existence of these restrictions does not mean the work of NSHA stops, nor does it mean that your ability to learn about the town's heritage should cease. Indeed, this is an opportunity to learn something new, and reach out to NSHA!

Keep an eye on the NSHA Facebook page for posts about what individuals in the community are doing during this time to learn about and appreciate North Smithfield. Also, if you are outside and come across something you've never noticed before, do some research and reach out to NSHA to find out more!

We hope that you all are staying safe and healthy, and we look forward to a time that we can continue with our treasured programs and events!

**Looking for something
you can do at home?**

**View the latest
SLATERSVILLE-in-
Progress screening
here:**

[https://vimeo.com/
392722528](https://vimeo.com/392722528)

Renew your NSHA Membership Now

Members may renew their membership at the current rate of \$10 per individual by the date of the 2020 Annual Meeting. Make checks payable to “N. Smithfield Heritage Assn” and mail to NS Heritage Assn, P.O. Box 413, Slatersville, RI 02876. Please indicate “Dues” on the memo line. Thank you for your support!



APRIL SPOTLIGHT: NSHA 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

The NSHA Annual Meeting and Pot Luck has been postponed from its originally scheduled date of April 24, 2020; currently we are hoping for a June date, but stay tuned! *What is the Annual Meeting, you ask?* Under the NSHA By Laws, each year in April there is a meeting of the members at which the NSHA Board reports on the past year's activities and elects new officers. This year, the Board will ask our members to approve proposed changes to the By Laws, elect new officers, and renew their annual dues.

Members will soon be receiving an email outlining the proposed By Laws amendments. The significant changes include increasing the size of the Board of Directors by making the past president an *ex officio* member (to provide for continuity); adding a Governance Committee; increasing the annual dues to \$20 for individuals (from \$10) and providing free membership for students and individuals over 85; and updating the lists of duties for officers and standing committees of NSHA. The proposed changes will allow for a more efficient administration of NSHA as it moves forward into its next 50 years! Regarding the issue of membership dues in particular, NSHA relies heavily on dues to conduct our historic preservation activities and events. For for only about the third time since 1970, the Board is asking members to approve an increase in dues, which is long overdue. Members keep an eye on your email in box and the NSHA Facebook page and the Newsletter for updates on when we will hold the Annual Meeting for 2020.



DID YOU KNOW...

...that it appears that the only headstone in the United States to specifically mention vampirism is located right here in North Smithfield? The grave of Simon Whipple Aldrich, located in the Old Aldrich Burial Grounds at Hotchkiss Cemetery, reads:

*“Though Consumption’s vampire grasp
had seized thy mortal frame,
Thy ardent and inspiring mind, untouched,
remained the same.”*

Learn more about Simon Whipple Aldrich, and the historic cemeteries of North Smithfield, in future editions of the Newsletter!



Upcoming Events

April 6, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
NSHA Board Meeting TEST
Zoom Video Conference
- open to all members -
email nsha@nsheritageassn.org
for access information

**Dates & times TBD
for the following events:**

NSHA Heritage Gala
Village Haven

History Night
Heritage Hall

*Historic Cemetery
Clean-Up Day*
multiple locations

*NSHA Annual Meeting
of the Members Pot Luck*
Heritage Hall

2020 Heritage Fair
Heritage Hall &
other Slatersville locations
*We encourage vendors,
artisans, and civic groups to
participate. Contact us at
nsha@nsheritageassn.org
for more information.*

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THESE PEOPLE?

The front cover of the NSHA 2020 Calendar shows two individuals from the past admiring the Peleg Arnold Mile Marker, a stone that today sits half-buried in the wall of the Union Cemetery, almost directly across from the Friends Meetinghouse.



The stone was erected in 1774 and features the name Peleg Arnold (we learned about him in the March 2020 *Newsletter*); it indicates that the viewer of the stone is a distance of fourteen (14) miles from Providence. It is one of several known markers in the area, which were described in a 2018 *Valley Breeze* article by Laura Clem: “The stones are among five known historic mile markers dotting North Smithfield and Woonsocket, relics of another time when roadside carvings, not Google maps, told travelers how far until their destination.”

We do not have information as to who these individuals in the photograph with the Peleg Arnold marker are—we see a small girl with another female (possibly her mother?). We welcome any information you, our readers, can provide about their possible identity!



DID YOU ALSO KNOW...

...that the North Smithfield Heritage Association was incorporated in 1970? That makes this June 26 the NSHA's 50TH ANNIVERSARY as a nonprofit corporation serving the Town of North Smithfield! The current NSHA Executive Board, which is comprised of both new members and members who have been with and served NSHA for decades, expresses its gratitude to all who have supported the association over the years. Here's to 50 more successful years preserving and appreciating our town's heritage!



The NSHA extends a huge thank you to Senator Melissa Murray, who represents District 24 from Woonsocket and North Smithfield, for her efforts to acquire a \$4,000 Rhode Island legislative grant on our behalf. NSHA will use the funds to begin a sorely needed restoration of Heritage Hall's main hall.

CONTACT NSHA

Email: nsha@nsheritageassn.com

Website: www.nsheritageassn.org

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

By Mail: PO Box 413, Slatersville, RI 02876

By Phone: (401) 477-6394