



# St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum

A Newsletter for Members of the St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum, a 501(c)(3) Education Corporation

## Nevin Memorial Church to Move From Lisbon

The trustees of the Nevin Memorial Church (history on page 2) located in Lisbon have donated their church building to the Museum. Preparations are underway to move the church to the Museum where it will be reconstructed and restored at the south end of the Village Green. The building was constructed in 1855 and named the 2nd Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lisbon.

The Church had to close its doors in December of 2019. Anticipating the closure, Church Trustee Mark Armstrong addressed the Museum's Board at its October meeting and offered the building and its contents to the Museum. After studying the opportunity, the Board voted to accept the offer at its meeting in May of 2020. Assignment of title to the church was completed in November.

Meanwhile, no limits had been placed on what use might be made of the building. It could be moved, downsized or even items salvaged for other uses. Relocation was decided. In June a search for contractors was underway. In July, an estimated cost of \$50,000 was made just to relocate the building and seal it from weather. The first pledges of donations were received and have now reached more than \$27,000.

The Village Green was graded, and excavation for a concrete foundation was completed in October by Dave Gibson. In November, **Burns Construction** poured the foundations and **Painting Etc.** built joists and completed a floor (photo pg. 4). Later this winter, Lee Dezell will direct removal and salvage of the church floor and ceiling and prepare for removal of the roof. This summer the walls should be removed, transported to the Museum, and set in place on the new foundation.

The Church is located at 1705 County Route 31 near Lisbon, NY. It is a white, single-story building 1,700 square feet in area. It has 12 double rows of pews, patterned tin ceiling, and wainscoting on the walls. According to David E. Martin of **The Horwood Stained Glass Museum** in Ogdensburg, its 12 windows were made by Harry J. Horwood of the well known family of glass artists in Ogdensburg. These will be preserved along with as much of the church's interior as possible. 🏠



*The Nevin Memorial Church in the Town of Lisbon, donated to the Museum in 2020.*



*The interior of the Church features stained glass windows, two dozen pews, and patterned ceiling.*

## Shoe Shop Gets Major Makeover

The Museum's Shoe Shop underwent substantial renovation at the end of 2020. It was originally built by the late Reg Chester more than 10 years ago as a fancy, though temporary, building. It now rests on a thick bed of gravel with large foundation blocks of concrete, gifts from **Witherbee & Whalen**. Gary Sayers on his big John Deere tractor pulled the building from the site and re-set it when new foundations were in place. Rear and side walls feature green SmartSide siding donated by **Merriman's**. The deck was replaced with Rhino Decking also from Merriman's. A contributor paid for the contracted labor and most of the supplies. The building now rests on a firmer foundation and enjoys a fresh look. The effort was organized by Shirley Dickinson. Finish work remains, but the building should be ready for visitors in 2021. 🛠️



*Renovation of the Shoe Shop is nearly complete. Maintenance will be reduced.*

<b>Museum Events</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>February 21 Sunday: Virtual Annual Meeting of the Members. Please send your proxy and ballot and join us on the internet with Zoom (instructions are enclosed in this issue and in the inserts).</b>
		<b>June 11-13 Annual Spring Exhibition and GOTO 2021. Cross your fingers.</b>
		<b>???? Old Iron Auction. Plans are underway for a big auction day.</b>
		<b>July 24-25 Civil War Weekend in conjunction with the St. Lawrence County Historical Association.</b>
		<b>Sept. 4-5 Annual Old Fashioned Harvest Days Exhibition.</b>
	<b>October 24 Fall Meeting of the Members and Members-Only Tours.</b>	

# A Brief History of the Town Line - 2nd Reformed Presbyterian - Nevin Memorial Church

by Nancy LaFaver,  
Town of Lisbon Historian

The *Town Line Church* first met in a log schoolhouse on the border of Lisbon and Madrid in 1832. In November of that year, James and Clarissa Martin conveyed land for a new church to be built. In 1855 the church was formally organized and named The *Second Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lisbon*. In May of that year the congregation decided to build the house of worship that stands there today. On the last Sunday of the year Rev. Henry Gordon preached in the new church and dedicated it to the worship of God.

In 1916 the congregation voted to rename the church the *Town Line United Presbyterian Church*. Twelve stained glass windows attributed to Harry J. Horwood of Ogdensburg were donated in 1929. These replaced somewhat narrower, shuttered windows. In 1950 the church was again renamed, this time in memory of Rev. William J. Nevin who pastored there from 1920-1949. It became the *Nevin Memorial United Presbyterian Church*.

The church had various departments throughout the years. A Sabbath School was started, a Ladies Aide Society, and in 1868 a mission's department. All were integral parts of the church and did many good works.

Approximately in 2010, the Presbyterian Church allowed the church to be removed from its organization. The Trustees took charge of its operation as an independent church. With members getting older and membership declining it was decided to close the church altogether. On December 27, 2019, lay minister, Larry Smith, held the last meeting of worship. The 186 years of worship in the Town Line - Nevin Memorial Church came to an end. On November 26, 2020, the title to the church building was transferred to the St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum which intends to move it to its campus in the Town of Madrid. With their agreement to allow weddings and church services to be held when relocation is complete, this stalwart house of worship will live long into the future - a fitting retirement for her! †

## Collection Cataloging Progresses

Cataloging the many items in the Museum's collection made great strides during 2020. Hunter Crary has completed listings of the items in each of our 26 categories, bringing the lists of accessioned items more up to date. Photos of individual items accessioned during the last four years are now part of the digital files. More photos have been added to make identification of the items easier. Items in several Museum buildings have been inventoried including the Gas Station, Schoolhouse, and Carriage Barn among others. Shirley Dickinson has been working with Hunter as he matches photos with listed items. More work remains to assure ID numbers are affixed to each item and each item having a complete digital data and photo record. 📖

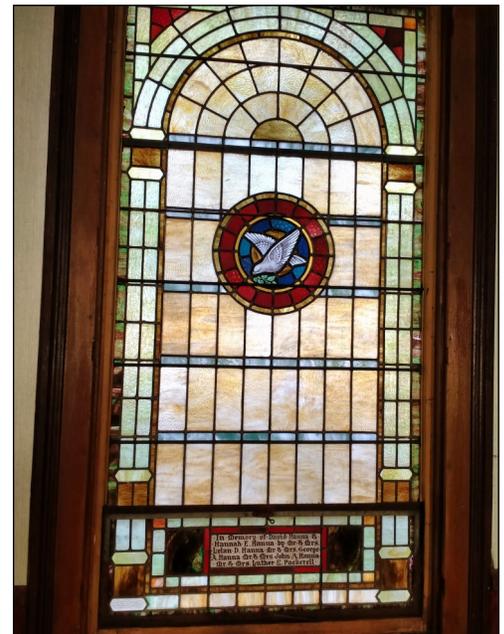


*The illuminated Christmas star on the barn was made by the late Eugene Jones and donated to the Museum. Mary Jones sees to its lighting each year.*

**Hats off to Shirley Dickinson, Barbara Fisher, Mary Jones, Cheryl LaBarge, Don Lustyik, Bob Marshall, and Marcia Oney for putting up Christmas Decorations.**



*An early photo of the Church showing shuttered windows. If you have information or photos of the Church, please share them with Nancy LaFaver, Lisbon Town Historian, or the Museum. Thanks.*



*One of the dozen stained glass windows in the Nevin Church. Dates on the windows indicate they were donated in 1929.*

**Photos courtesy of Roger Austin, Shirley Dickinson, the Lisbon Depot Museum, and Robert Marshall.**



*The altar in the Nevin Memorial Church. All the furnishings are included in the church donation.*

## Election of Officers and Trustees Underway

The Museum's by-laws call for election of officers and trustees during the first two months of each year. Enclosed with this issue or under separate cover are ballots, proxy forms and instructions for each member. Counting of ballots will be completed at the Annual Meeting of the Members scheduled for Sunday, February 21, 2020. The meeting will be held using Zoom on the internet. To join this virtual meeting, find a handy computer or iphone and send Vice-President Kirke Perry an email at [kirkeperry@gmail.com](mailto:kirkeperry@gmail.com). Information on how to join the meeting will be sent to your email address.

The ballot will list nominees for each of the four Officers who are elected annually, the Trustee elected annually whose nominee is usually the former President, and two of the six Trustees who are elected to three-year terms on a rotating basis. This year your proxies are much needed. Representation by proxy counts toward the number of meeting attendees required for a quorum. Your 2021 membership dues must be paid to be qualified to vote. If you do not have a ballot, if you can not afford dues at the moment, or are just confused, please email or call the Secretary (contact info on the last page). Sorry, you will have to supply your own coffee and cookies this year. 📧



*A maple tree nicely trimmed by Bob Marshall. Lots of invisible jobs.*

## Financials Survive a Difficult COVID Year

Without our usual shows during 2020 we have ended the year with cash for operations still on hand. We started with \$12,500, but only \$ 5,700 remains. We do have the means to bring us through 2021. First, we will continue to watch our spending. Operating costs in 2020 through mid-December were about \$14,000 instead of the usual \$25,000 or so. Most capital costs were for projects using donor-restricted funds on hand that can't be used for other purposes. However, some were not like the new furnace needed for the Farm House which cost about \$3,700.

If COVID can be managed, the Spring/GOTO Show and Fall Show can each net us about half of our normal operating budget. But we already see the chance of diminished events or even a cancelation. A good Civil War Weekend in July will help. Other possible events such as an auction or a craft and yard sale could do likewise. A good dues collection will be important. Gifts from members and friends will be very important. Unrestricted gifts through mid-December totaled more than \$11,000 thanks to those who answered the call.

Our last alternative is the use of funds which the Board has held in reserve. These include the proceeds of the land sale for construction of the Dollar General store and the remarkable inheritance from Mary and John Harrington received in January of 2020. We will try to avoid tapping these assets, yet critical expenses could raise their ugly heads in 2021 such as gravel for roads to support visitor traffic, outdoor lights to make our overnight visitors more safe, or repair of leaking roofs.

Capital construction will continue using donor-restricted funds earmarked for specific projects. These funds will be kept separate from cash for operations. This allows us to continue to grow while focusing on keeping the Museum running. Members can help by adding a gift when paying dues, volunteering as ever at fund raising events, recruiting new members, and donation of services for which we will otherwise have to pay for. Our future is up to us. 😊

## Spring Show and GOTO 2021

The first major event of the year is the combined Spring Show and Gathering of the Orange (for Allis Chalmers fanciers) scheduled for June 11-13. The promise of new COVID vaccines made us optimistic that the event could take place in 2021. However, by mid-January the excitement had been diminished by the difficulty of getting it delivered to the public. New York and other states are beginning to ramp up efforts and change policies that we hope will improve current rates. GOTO 2021 Chair Al Garrard is in regular communication with folks across the country who want to come to this event. Major vendors seek 100% assurance that the event will take place. Of course this is not possible. None the less, we remain cautiously optimistic that an event will be possible and continue to plan accordingly. Please keep the Museum in mind as you plan your activities in the coming months. 📧

**Dues and Donations:** Members will find forms for donations and dues as well as election ballots and information inserted in this Newsletter. Others who wish to help support us through 2021 can mail their donations to SLPEM, PO Box 400, Madrid, NY 13660-0400. Those wishing to become members can use this address as well. Dues are \$25 for individuals and \$30 for couples. Thanks! 📧



*The logging bob sled was fitted with new cross-beams by Bob Tracy. The logs on top were provided by J&S Logging of South Colton.*

**ST. LAWRENCE POWER & EQUIPMENT MUSEUM**  
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PO Box 400  
Madrid, NY 13660-0400

*Temp-Return Service Requested*

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**ARE YOUR  
DUES UP TO  
DATE?  
CHECK YOUR  
LABEL**

## *Museum Trustees*

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