



St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum

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

NYNYCF Rock Charitable Fund Grant Award to Help Church Project

On January 24, 2022 the Museum received notice from the **Northern New York Community Foundation** that they had approved a \$20,000 grant from the **Rock Charitable Fund** to support the restoration and historical preservation of the Nevin Church. After moving the church to the Museum last year, the structure was dried-in by November, ending phase 1. It is ready for finish work on the interior and exterior (see page 3) as soon as weather permits. The Foundation funds will provide important support toward completion of Phase 2, the restoration of the church. The NYNYCF has supported the Museum since 2013 when it awarded the Museum a \$12,500 challenge grant to help establish an Endowment Fund. The Fund is now worth about \$70,000 and growing. Establishing an endowment was an important step toward assuring the Museum's continued growth well into the future.



The Village Green begins to take shape with the Schoolhouse at one end and the Church anchoring the other. There is plenty of room for other buildings to be added in future years.

Website Updated and Growing

The Museum's website, www.slpowermuseum.com, is changing almost every day. Dates of events have been updated, focus on more features and exhibits has been added, and more photos can be seen than ever. Twenty three years of Newsletters can be found under News and Events. We have added an arial view map of the museum, and links to our Facebook pages (SLPEM and Fort Tribute) can be found. The website is now managed by Alie Rivers who a bit earlier assumed a similar role for our Facebook page. Rivers noted that the three are all linked yet serve different purposes and audiences. Having a centralized location to sort through incoming stories and information will enhance all sites. She invites anyone with materials to send them to splemphotos1@gmail.com with a write up or description of what is being sent.

To sign up new members, update your address or phone number, or make a donation to the Museum, go to the slpowermuseum.com home page and click *Become A Member* . Thanks!

Sweetgrass Challenge Met, Award Received

Work on the Village Printers building has gained important support from the **Sweetgrass Foundation**. In June, the Foundation awarded the Museum a challenge grant of \$5,000 contingent on the Museum receiving contributions matching that amount by year's end. In December the Museum replied that the challenge had been met. A check from the Foundation was received soon after! Work on the Print Shop continued until winter weather closed in. Dale Baker, Ted Ritzko, and Bob O'Marah finished roughing in the electrical wiring. Spring will see installation of exterior siding and the beginning of work on the interior.



Print Shop (foreground) and General Store await spring and renewed construction.

This is a good year to invite your friends and neighbors to join the Museum!

Museum Events 2022	February 27	: Annual Meeting of the Members. Sunday at 1:30. Zoom meeting. Contact Kirke (see page 4).
	May 28	: First Work Weekend and Opening of the Museum. Saturday, 9:00-noon and 10:00 to 2:00 pm.
	June 11-12	: 39th Annual Spring Exhibition.
	July 30-31	: Civil War Reenactment Weekend with SLCHA at Ft. Tribute Civil War Center. Set up Friday.
	September 3-4	: 31st Old Fashioned Harvest Days Exhibition.
	Late-Sept.	: Craft, Food and Wine Open Air Market with the SLC Chamber of Commerce host.
	October 1	: US Military Time Line Meet. Saturday at the Civil War Interpretive Center at Fort Tribute.
	October 23	: Fall Meeting of the Members. Sunday at 1:30.

Annual Meeting of Members February 27, 2022

The Annual Meeting of the Members will be a virtual meeting using Zoom at 1:30 PM on Sunday, February 27, 2022. The purpose of the meeting is to present annual reports, conclude the election of trustees including officers for 2022, review financial and operating plans for 2022, approve the prior actions of the Board of Trustees, and transact any other such business as may come before the membership. Zoom makes it possible to hold virtual meetings through the internet. If you wish to attend, please send an email (yours or a friend's) to Vice-President Kirke Perry at kirkeperry@gmail.com. You will receive instructions from Kirke or Zoom at your email address about a week before the meeting. If you have any topics or questions you wish to see on the agenda, please send them to Kirke at least a week before the meeting. 🖥

Photos courtesy of Roger Austin, Dennis Barr of Two Guys and a Camera, and Bob Marshall.

Get ready - only 15 months to go. Gathering of the Orange Meeting of Allis Chalmers Fans and Spring Show, June 9-11, 2023.

Big Music Program Coming to Spring Show

Music at the Museum is coming to the Spring Show, June 11-12, 2022. During December last year, the Museum and the very popular music group, **Steelin' Country**, signed an agreement providing for three great music programs to be presented during the Show. The event is made possible by the **St. Lawrence County Arts Council**, which administers regrants for the **New York State Council on the Arts Statewide Community Regrants Program**. Steelin' Country will bring to the North Country community a chance to re-live the past through traditional musical styles and presentations. These include a gospel singalong, round dancing, and a square dance demonstration/workshop. The Museum is grateful for the efforts of Kirke and Michelle Robinson of Steelin' Country in making this exciting event possible. 🎵

Moving or spending winter elsewhere? Let us know the dates and places, and we'll be sure your Newsletter gets there.

Friends we will miss



Top to bottom: Bob Bixby, Bob Moulton, Bert Beswick, and Carlton Stickney

We Remember

Charles G. (Chuck) Horton, Sr. of Norfolk passed away December 15, 2021. Chuck had been a member since 2011. He was an excellent mechanic, and you would see him at shows driving mini-tractors he made for himself and friends. Chuck was 78.

Burton T. (Bert) Beswick of Madrid passed away December 17, 2021. He had been a member since 2006. He is well known for his community service. He also spent time at the Museum, serving as the perennial host of the Collection Building during shows and watching construction projects. He is survived by his wife, Betty, a regular volunteer for many years. Bert and Betty received the Museum's Distinguished Service Award in 2014. Bert was 100.

Robert A. (Bob) Moulton, Sr. passed away January 3, 2022. Bob had been a member since 2006. He became active, volunteering at the Museum's shows and on various work days. The last several years he became an important fund raiser, soliciting contributions from friends and businesses and selling long strips of 50:50 tickets. Bob and his wife, Carole, received the Distinguished Service Award in 2017. Carole survives him. Bob was 83.

Walter G. (Jerry) Reimer of Norfolk passed away January 7, 2022. He had been a member since 2016. He is survived by his wife, Linda. Jerry was 71.

Robert O. (Bob) Bixby of South Colton passed away January 28, 2022. He was an original member of the Museum having transferred his membership from the predecessor organization, the former St. Lawrence Antique Gas & Steam Engine Association. Bob attended many shows. His most memorable performances were with his vintage Mack truck hauling clay for the pull track and sand needed to bed several hundred feet of sewer pipe. He also mastered driving the Museum's stubborn army truck. Bob is survived by his wife and fellow member, Louise. Bob was 82.

Carlton Stickney of Stockholm passed away January 28, 2022. He was a passionate historian and collector of historic artifacts. He was a leading member of historical groups, providing administrative and educational assistance, creating exhibits, and demonstrating vintage skills. Though not a member, he frequently dropped in at the Museum during shows to demonstrate his fiber skills, especially the use of flax to make linen. He donated items for the Museum's collection including his late 19th century phaeton on exhibit in the Carriage Barn and period furniture for the 1835 Log Cabin. Carlton was 78. 🎵

Church Architectural Details Discovered

With the aid of photos and prints contributed by Pat Fields, Nancy LaFaver, and Bob Marshall, we have been able to discover the exterior architectural detail of the Nevin Memorial Church. These features date back to at least 1930 and more likely to its original construction in 1855. The unique feature is a circular fanned wood medallion nearly four feet in diameter beneath the gable end above the front entrance. Other unique features include a stepped fascia, a plain soffit, but a large yet simple cornice extending down from the soffit about 18 inches including a bull nose feature toward its base. These features extend the full lengths of both eaves and continue around the corner about two feet to form open boxed gable ends. At the base of the wall above the foundation is a plain board molding about the same width as the 5 1/2" bevel siding. Most of the features were removed or obscured during the installation of vinyl siding done at least 30 years ago. We will reinstall window sills and plain 5-inch casing to windows and doors and 5 1/2" boards along the exterior corners, and the restoration of these details will be complete. The chimney remains a question. 📧

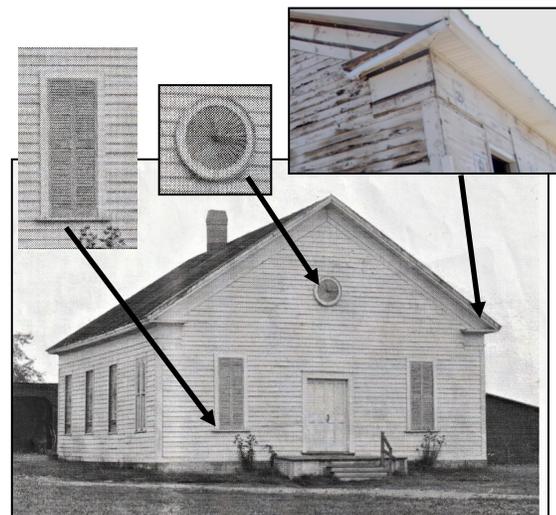


Photo of Nevin Church ca. 1930 showing original wood clapboard exterior. Note detail of window sills (left at top), medallion (center) and soffit and cornice detail on eaves (right). Photo from collection of Pat Fields.

Vertical Saw Mill Gets Its New Home

The operating manual calls it a Lateral Frame Saw, but we know it as the vertical, up-and-down, reciprocal, sash or gang sawmill. By any name, it cuts logs into multiple boards with a set of reciprocating vertical blades. It was built ca. 1940 by Gebruder (brothers) Muller in Sumiswald, Switzerland. Hans and Ida Loretz of Brasher Falls donated it to the Museum's predecessor organization in 2003. The Loretzs also had a home in Triesen, Liechtenstein where they purchased the used mill in 1982. They had it shipped to Montreal and trucked to Brasher Falls in 1983. Legend says Hans felled trees and cut the lumber to build a farm at his new home. Ross Goodyear, our first president, got it run-



ning and operated it at shows at the Hutchinson Farm. The manual says it is easily erected by chaining it to a tree or tripod. It was found that the saw liked to walk and needed anchoring. Paul Moore poured concrete footings and strengthened the mill. Last year he and others erected its new timberframe building. 🏠



2021 Ends on Sound Financial Footing

The year 2021 was one of the best in several years as visitors sought a fresh air escape from COVID restrictions. It was also the first year when our two traditional shows were joined by three new major events. The results below are preliminary and do not include depreciation or the value of newly donated collection items.

Balance Sheet: The Museum concluded 2021 with assets of \$2.086 million. This includes \$342,700 in financial institutions and cash. This sum includes an estimated \$36,500 available for operations, \$134,200 committed to projects, and special reserves of \$172,000 (the Dollar General sale and the bequest of Mary and John Harrington). Another \$15,100 consists of receivables, cash and inventory. The endowment funds managed by the NNYCF total \$71,700. The remaining assets consist largely of land and improvements, collection, buildings, vehicles and equipment. We carry virtually no debt.

Operating Income totaled \$80,300, back to the highs of pre-COVID days in major part due to grossing \$47,200. Dues at \$8,800, unrestricted donations of \$14,000, rentals of \$5,700 and other income made up the rest.

Operating Expenses totaled \$57,800 including event costs of \$22,700, buildings and grounds at \$8,600, professional fees at \$5,500, and utilities at \$2,900 among others. By continuing to minimize unnecessary spending, the year ended in the black with a **net operating profit of \$22,500**.

Special Projects received \$184,400 in donations plus the grant from NNYCF of \$5,000 for the Nevin Church. Construction projects used \$135,700 from funds restricted by donors for these projects. They primarily included the Nevin Church, Print Shop, General Store, and Fort Tribute. 🏠



This past summer the Corn Crib joined its big brother, the Granary, at their new location between the White Barn and Carriage Barn. During high winds in late December it attempted to fly but crash-landed after only a few feet. Corrective surgery is planned for spring. 😊

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