



St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum

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

Winter Work Continues at Church

Winter cold, ice, and snow usually stop work at the Museum, but not these past few months. At the Church, Lee Dezell has organized crews to do inside finish work. The ceiling in the main hall features restored, original patterned tin panels above the center aisle. The walls have been painted white. Original wainscoting covers the lower portion of the walls. The stained glass windows have been framed by matching wood trim. Salvaged wood flooring has been re-laid. Those who remember the original church will be pleased to see that much of its old self has returned. Lee notes that more work remains. The original hanging lamps have been rewired and will be returned. Small ceiling spot lights will be focused on the stained glass windows. At night, they will illuminate their beautiful colors for those outside the church to enjoy. Audio and video hookups will support sound and projection systems. Fortunately, the pews and other furniture were saved and await their return when the overhead work is done. The entry still needs work. Installing the furnace, ductwork, and insulation beneath the floor also remain, not to mention a side-door wheelchair ramp. Inflation of material and labor costs has accelerated spending. Donations are needed to complete the work.



Great winter progress at the old Nevins Memorial Church

Ice Cold Progress at the Wood Shop

Work has resumed at the Wood Shop. The main lineshafts have been mounted to the timbers above. Most of the machines have been put in their places. You can see how the belts, pulleys, and overhead line shaft will provide power to all of them. Members Kirke Perry, Kevin Williams, Paul Moore, Mike Gracey, Terry Tiernan, Tim Tiernan, Jerry Fisher, and Myron Langford, along side the Amish Weaver family of Depeyster did the heavy work over several weeks. Paul Moore found that the old International engine was beyond repair. Some of the

crew had helped remove the machines from their original home at Reggie Stowe's shop at Colton. After Reggie's passing, the family gifted the equipment to the Museum. The Shop will be open at the Spring Show. ✱



Machines, lineshafts, and belts were set up this winter.

The 2023 Board of Trustees

Elections concluded at the Annual Meeting returned the four officers and elected three new trustees. The group photo at left presents: front row, (l-r): Treasurer Lee Dezell, President Ron Sheppard, and Vice President Kirke Perry. At rear are, (l-r): Terry Tiernan (new), Aaron Gravelle (new), Scott Wilson, Gilbert Rivers, and Alie Rivers. Photos immediate left, top-bottom: Ted Ritzko (new), Secretary Roger Austin, and Ron Day.



Museum Events 2023

May 20	Saturday: Reunion and Spring Cleaning. Help open the Museum. 9:00 am until 2:00.
June 9-11	Friday-Sunday: Gathering of the Orange and 40th Annual Spring Time Exhibition.
July 29-30	Civil War Reenactment Weekend in Coordination with the St. Lawrence Co. Historical Assn.
August 12	Saturday: Annual Banquet. Details to be announced.
September 2-3	Saturday-Sunday: 32nd Old Fashioned Harvest Days Exhibition.
September 23	Saturday: Craft Food and Wine Open-Air Market by the S.L.C. Chamber of Commerce.
October 7	Saturday: Kids Pumpkin Patch Party - Pavilion Building.
October 7	Saturday: Military Time Line Meet - Fort Tribute.

SLPEM Leadership Fund Established

The *St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum Leadership Fund*, managed by the **Northern New York Community Foundation (NNYCF)** was established in November of 2022. This is an endowment fund, established to assure financial support for hiring professional skills when needed in the future. Contributions to the Fund are invested in various financial instruments. As the fund grows, part is made available to the Museum when requested, and part is reinvested to keep up with inflation - or more. The Fund's mission is to assure that a reliable revenue stream will be available to the Museum on a regular basis in perpetuity. Forever. Long after we are gone. For future generations.

Leon Goolden and Roger Austin worked with the NNYCF for many weeks to make this possible. With support from their wives, Carole and Carol, they donated \$150,000 to get it started. They urge others who wish to invest in the future of the Museum to join them. Their target is to grow the Fund to \$2 million in the next several years. Having the NNYCF as a partner in this effort helps share this opportunity with benefactors throughout the North Country and provides several mechanisms by which contributions can be made. When it is time to hire employees, their duties and responsibilities will be directed by the Board of Trustees. As always, the Board will continue to determine the Museum's future and be elected by the members.

The Leadership Fund joins two other funds created to support the Museum's future. The *St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Fund* is an endowment fund also managed by the NNYCF. Revenue from this fund could be used to hire staff and for other purposes as the Board of Trustees determines. The fund was established in 2012 with a \$12,500 matching grant from NNYCF. The fund's value at the end of the 1st quarter 2023 was \$69,134.

The other fund is a *quasi-endowment fund* managed by the Investment Subcommittee of the Museum's Finance Committee. Professional advice is currently provided by Morgan Stanley Financial Advisors in Potsdam. It was originally funded by a bequest from the late Mary and John Harrington plus the proceeds of the sale of the plot of land where the Dollar General Store now resides. The purpose of the fund is similar to the SLPEM Fund. However, there is no restriction on the rate of withdrawal from the principal or proceeds. It's value in April was \$183,105.

The sum of the three funds is now approximately \$405,000, a solid beginning. Those who wish to invest in the Museum's future now have a choice of three options. This summer we will work with the NNYCF on a brochure that will explain the several ways a donor can provide support to the Museum. If you have any immediate questions, please contact Roger Austin, and he will direct you to a qualified source of information.



Roberta Marshall paints antique shelving donated for the General Store.

Civil War Forge: from page 4

The dimensions are correct. It is constructed from the specified white oak, walnut, and poplar. Its heart is a Great Bellows which is 2-stage and is about 30" square. It has a leather skin and is made as per the period spec. It has the coal box filled with coal, a vice on the stock of the forge, and other details.

The 1841 Limber (photo, pg. 4) is pulled by horses or mules. In turn, it pulls the Traveling Battery Forge. The Limber is complete. Its chest is made of cherry wood and is configured without a principal divider. It contains the sub-boxes for the tools as prescribed in the US Ordnance manual of 1850. It is stenciled as per specs. The Limber is correct in detail as to dimensions and materials.

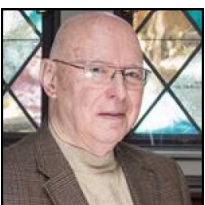


Photos this issue courtesy of Roger Austin, Bob Marshall, Kirke Perry, Gibby Rivers, and Scott Wilson.

Photo left: Two new Museum road signs went up on State Hwy. 310. Hugh Newton had organized the effort. The signs are 4 X 8 feet and announce the town and Museum. Hugh was joined by Don Lustyik, Kirke Perry, and Kevin Finnegan to erect frames for the signs. Finnegan made it easier by bringing his versatile skidsteer to dig the holes. Look for the completed signs during your next visit.



The new traveling forge was welcomed by our resident reenactors (l-r) Scott Wilson, Kirke Perry, and Gibby Rivers.



We Remember

Robert E. Green of Pittsford passed away February 10, 2023. He was born and raised on a St. Lawrence County dairy farm. Robert had been a sustaining member since 2010. Among his surviving family are his brother Howard Green and sister Roberta Marshall, both members of the Museum. He was 88.



2022 DONORS TO PROJECTS, PROGRAMS, AND FUNDS

Below are the names of members and friends who expressed their confidence in the Museum through their 108 donations of cash or in-kind contributions in 2022. The value of these donations exceeded \$165,000, not including donations to the new *Leadership fund* (see page 2). This level of support has enabled Museum projects and programs to move forward, and to do so without debt. With almost no fund-raising costs, proceeds directly benefit the Museum. We apologize if we have omitted someone's name. Please let us know, so we may publish a correction. Thank you. 📁

BENEFACTORS (\$10,000 or more)

Leon & Carole Goolden
Northern New York Community Foundation
Roger & Carol Austin

LEADERS (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Charles & Linda Goolden
PW Campbell Contracting Co.
Dorothy & William Webster

MAJOR (\$2,500-\$4,999)

SeaComm Federal Credit Union
Robert and Roberta Marshall

SUPERIOR (\$2,000-\$2,499)

Scott and Doreen Wilson

OUTSTANDING (\$1,000-\$1,999)

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St. Lawrence County Art Council
Mary Jane Watson
American Legion Post 79
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ASSOCIATE (\$500-\$999)

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Jerry Hobbs
William & JoAnne LaPierre
Judith & Reginald Liscum
Madrid American Legion Post 1513
Price Chopper Supermarket, Canton
Robert & Susan Austin Skeen
Mark & Carole Thompson
Tractor Supply Company, Potsdam

CONTRIBUTOR (Up to \$99)

John and Laura Feligno
Mary Jean Chester.
Madeline Pennington
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Peter & Sarah Austin
Paul J. Backus

Kathleen Fitzgerald and Bob Josephson
James & June Lee
Judith & Roderick Porter
Neil St. Andrews
Linda Tredo
John and Martha Palmer
Frank & Elaine McDonald

Our Sustaining Members

There is a special group of donors that faithfully supports the Museum, year after year. Their strength is their consistency, regardless of the size of the gift. This is the first recognition of this group. Our records are fairly complete, but if you feel your name is missing, please let us know. The Sustaining Members include:

- ◇ Roger and Carol Austin
- ◇ Jack and JoAnne Backus
- ◇ Dave and Mabel Baker
- ◇ John and Rose Bartholomew
- ◇ **Bob's Auto, Norwood**
- ◇ Lisa and Michael Brickey
- ◇ Fay and Mark Cambridge
- ◇ Dorothy Carkner
- ◇ Mary Jean and Reginald Chester
- ◇ **Community Bank, N.A.**
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- ◇ David Sickler
- ◇ Richard and Judy Sitterley
- ◇ Neil and Robin St. Andrews
- ◇ **St. Lawrence Federal Credit Union**
- ◇ William and Carol Venton
- ◇ Lee and Elizabeth Williams

*Businesses and Organizations in **Bold***

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**Saturday
May 20**

**Spring
Cleaning
& Reunion**

9:00 to 2:00

Museum Trustees

President/Trustee: Ronald E. Sheppard, 45 Old State Road, Heuvelton, New York 13654. Phone (315) 323-5349.

Vice-President/Trustee: Kirke W. Perry, PO Box 243, Colton, NY 13625. Phone (315) 212-0627.

Secretary/Trustee: Roger S. Austin, 410 Stevenson Road, Rensselaer Falls, NY 13680. or Winters: 179 Lakecrest Dr. NE, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061. Cell phone (315) 250-9141. Email: rsaustin123@gmail.com.

Treasurer/Trustee: Lee W. Dezell, 1648 County Route 31, Lisbon, NY 13658. Phone (315) 393-6328.

Trustee: Ronald W. Day, 5608 County Route 10, Heuvelton, NY 13654. Phone (315) 344-8823. Email rsday13654@yahoo.com.

Trustee: Aaron C. Gravelle, 61 Park St., Norwood, NY 13668. Phone (315) 244-6566.

Trustee: Theodore (Ted) Ritzko, 1080 County Rt. 31, Lisbon, NY 13658. Phone (315) 322-4058.

Trustee: Alexandria R. Rivers, 320 Dayton Rd., Potsdam, NY 13676. Phone (315) 212-4251.

Trustee: Gilbert E. Rivers, Lot 19, 1700 County Route 25, Canton, NY 13617. Phone (315) 244-4888.

Trustee: Terry A. Tiernan, 488 Brady Rd., Madrid, NY 13660. Phone (315) 322-8946.

Trustee: Scott A. Wilson, 18 Meadow St., Massena, NY 13662. Cell (315) 250-0025.

Newsletter Editor: Roger Austin **Electronic Media:** Alie Rivers

Visit: <https://slpowermuseum.com> and
<https://forttribute.org>

Contact us at: slpeminfo@gmail.com

Send photos to slpemphotos1@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook at **St Lawrence Power and
Equipment Museum**
and at **Fort Tribute**



Ft. Tribute Acquires Civil War-Era Forge

Through the generosity of Lee and Carole Goolden, Fort Tribute at the Museum has acquired a traveling forge like those used during the Civil War. There are less than 2 dozen Civil War-era Traveling Battery Forges in existence today. During the war, there was a forge for every battery and every cavalry regiment. There were thousands in use between 1861-1865, yet most reenactors and the general public have never seen one. Reenactor Scott Wilson said, "I have only seen two in my 22 years reenacting, one in Manassas, VA during the 150th anniversary of the War and the other at our own Civil War Weekend last July. This will be truly unique to the North Country and of course, to the Museum. It will be a crowd pleaser. Further, it will help us tell the story of the Civil War and St. Lawrence County's role during those war years. The forge is constructed from plans taken from *Artillery for the Land Service of United States, 1849*. It is correct in every detail.

**See: Forge
on page 2.**

