



# St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum

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

## Events 2025

Sat., May 24,  
MUSEUM  
OPENING DAY  
10:00-2:00.

Sat.-Sun., June  
14-15, OLD  
TIME SPRING  
EXHIBITION.  
Features Steelin'  
Country 3:00-  
5:00 Saturday.

Sat.-Sun., July  
26-27, CIVIL  
WAR REEN-  
ACTMENT  
WEEKEND.

Sat., Aug. 9,  
Steelin' Country  
12:00-2:00.

Sat., Aug. 16  
ANNUAL BAN-  
QUET and Ser-  
vice Awards.

Sat.-Sun., Aug  
30-31, OLD  
FASHIONED  
HARVEST  
DAYS. Features  
Steelin' Country  
Sat, 3-5:00.

Sat. Sept. 20,  
SLC Chamber  
of Commerce's  
CRAFT, FOOD,  
& WINE OPEN  
AIR MARKET.  
Features Steelin'  
Country 12-2:00.

Sat., Oct. 4, US  
MILITARY  
TIME LINE  
MEET, 10-4:00.

Sat., Oct. 4,  
KIDS PUMP-  
KIN PATCH  
PARTY, 12-  
3:00.

Sun., Oct. 26,  
FALL ANNUAL  
MEMBERS  
MEETING,  
1:30.

## Get Ready for the Spring Show

Work on the Museum's Old-Time Spring Exhibition is underway. The schedule is coming together with Horse pulls Saturday and tractor pulls Sunday. Kids peddle pulls or race each day. Sawmill running, shingle mill shaping, Ft. Tribute with a new building, textiles being made, log cabin, lots of buggies and tractors on display, tractors on parade, petting zoo returning, great food all weekend with chicken BBQ on Sunday. Music by Steelin' Country Saturday. Thirty vendors signed up. Exhibitors are welcome to show off their engines and other old iron treasures with no charge for entry or camping. Church on Sunday. Bring items for the silent auction. Invest in a \$500 gift certificate prize. Bring cookies, cake, and pie for the ice cream corner and attic treasures for sale at the open pavilion. Get a head start by helping mow, trim, and dust during the week before the Exhibition. When there, remember to park in the volunteer parking lot. Take lots of pictures and collect names for the next Newsletter. See you there. *R*



*Rolling stock, saddles, and tack have moved to the Wagon Depot at Ft. Tribute.*



*May workday at Fort Tribute.*

## A POSSIBLE RR HISTORY CENTER?

The Norwood and St. Lawrence Railroad purchased a locomotive (its fifth) that served the North Country of NY from 1923 until it was sent to a Watertown scrapyards in 1956. Old No. 210 had hauled pulpwood, feed, grain, mixed freight, tar, coal, and passengers. But it is still alive. A railroad collector purchased it. Eventually, along with many others, it was moved to Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, PA. After visits by Bill VanKennen and later, Roger Austin, we have been informed that No. 210 has been declared "excess" to the Park and will be made available through a GSA auction for acquisition by a suitable party. Of course, we think that should be the Museum. Though it will never run again, it could become the centerpiece for a new Railroad History Center. We will work to make this possible and keep you up to date on progress. If you want to be part of the RR team, please let Bill, Roger, or Ken Friedel know.



*Locomotive No. 210, formerly of the Norwood & St. Lawrence Railroad, currently located at Steamtown National Historic Site.*

## A Note from Our President

As you receive this Newsletter, your board and countless volunteers have been busy readying the Museum to open for the season. The water is on and tested, landscaping is being spruced up and work days have been happening at various buildings and around the grounds. Since our annual meeting, your board met in April and May. We will be ready for the Spring Show on June 14-15.

When we set our 2025 operating budget, it was necessary to allocate additional revenue in our general operations. Therefore, we will be sending out a letter to all of you asking for your support. With growth at the Museum comes ongoing maintenance, increased insurance costs, and the need to plan into the future. That means we all have to work together to ensure it continues to stay vibrant and relevant for generations to come. So, if you would consider a gift, that will only strengthen our Museum.

We have a number of committees that do the heavy lifting for the board. Committees with new chairs appointed this spring include: Finance - Roger Austin and Long-term Facilities Planning - Curt Smith. We also want to recognize our Events Committee for their hard work in the planning of each of our major events, making them happen for everyone's enjoyment. Please feel free to reach out to me with your thoughts on anything Museum related. My contact information is on the back page of this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you in June!

*Scott*

# The Manns, Gooldens, Farmstead, and Legacy

In 2005, the Museum was in its second year and still looking for a home. In spite of inspecting 18 different properties, we still held our shows at the Canton Sportsman's Club and at the Hutchinson family farm near Heuvelton. That fall an article about our search was placed in the newspapers with a description of the vision: an older farmstead, with house, barn and outbuildings on 40 acres. Leon (Lee) Goolden, formerly from Madrid, read the article. He had been thinking about selling the old farm he owned. It had belonged to his grandparents, then his parents, and then him. The fields were leased and the house was rented - time to let it go and be done with maintaining the old buildings. The house could be dated back to 1855 - same period as the school, cabin, and church.

Roger Austin answered the phone when Lee called to report that his farm seemed to

be exactly what the Museum was looking for. He asked how much they could pay, and Austin said they thought they should be able to raise \$100,000. In the course of several discussions, Lee became excited by the prospect of having a living history museum developed at the property. The Gooldens had a great fondness for their old hometown and felt that this would be a wonderful way to help leave a legacy. Meanwhile, some members of the Museum had become enamored with a 100-acre property next to the Slab City intersection. It had a very tired house, a small barn, a chicken house, and a small but bold stream. And it fit our purse.

At year's end, Lee presented a deal: he would have the property appraised. If its value was less than \$100,000, then that would be the price. If more, then the price would be fixed at \$100,000. The appraisal came in at \$226,000 for the 115 acres. Lee



*Lee's mother, Emma Goolden, drives the 1947 Ford tractor while his father, Leon, Sr plows the field behind today's chicken house. The use of horses was about over.*

assured us the price was still \$100,000. The Board organized tours of the Goolden and Slab City properties two weeks before the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Members. At the meeting, the members elected to purchase the Goolden property. The letter of intent between the Museum and Lee included stipulations that the purchase be completed within 12 months, and that no funds would be borrowed. In fact, the funds were raised before August. The purchase was completed, and a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held on August 19, 2006.

The new Pavilion Building (our first) was finally completed in time for the Spring and Fall Shows in 2008. Since then, the list of buildings on the property has grown from the original six with 3,800 square feet to over 40 with over 50,000 square feet of covered space. Lee and his wife Carole continued their generosity with major support for the construction of many of the new buildings including the Carriage Barn, Fort Tribute and its several buildings, Nevin Memorial Church, Logging Building, and expansion of the Goolden Barn among others. Carole can always be found in the kitchen during shows and Lee, almost anywhere, painting, pushing a broom, or acting as host to visitors.

The three Goolden siblings, Fay Goolden Cambridge, Lee, and Charles, have fond memories of visiting their grandparents Fay G. Mann and his wife Maude. They were the first of the three generations of family to own the farm. The Manns



*Chuck Goolden and two calves about 1947.*

owned the funeral home in Madrid. They bought the farm in the mid-30's and often accepted barter goods for their funeral services.

After marrying their daughter, Emma, Leon Goolden (Sr.) took over the farm in 1949. Emma began running her parents' funeral business. Leon Sr., now a chemical engineer, was frequently traveling, Leon Jr. (Lee), just in his teens, began work at the farm, a dairy which grew to 39 Holsteins and Jersey cows. A tractor had replaced the horses a few years earlier - except for Flicka, purchased by the Manns for their grandchildren. Lee bought equipment and heifers under his father's watchful eye. They bought a Farmall H and installed a DeLaval milking system and sold the old kitchen woodstove in 1951. No more hand milking. No more splitting wood.

*Continued on page 4*



*Fay, Chuck, and Lee Goolden (on Flicka) at the farm about 1945.*



*Carole and Lee Goolden address the audience at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held August 15, 2006.*



*The Goolden-Mann farm on Highway 345 ca.1950.*

# More 2024 Donors Recognized

As expected, more donors from 2024 turned up including in-kind gifts. Roberta Marshall thought that small children visiting the Museum would enjoy a swing set - which proved correct. **Ogdensburg Tractor Supply** donated a Schwinn tricycle for a raffle at the General Store. The **Canton Price Chopper** supermarket provided 35 cases of bottled spring water, which everyone enjoyed. **Walmart Supercenter** in Potsdam donated 800 lbs. of charcoal which cooked up lots of grilled chicken. Contributions from local stores saved or benefited the Museum nearly \$900.



*Little kids think antique tractors are nice, but the swings are really neat*



*Participants at Karen's Memorial Scrap Weekend enjoyed working in the new Open Pavilion in 2024.*

Scrapbooking is an exciting pastime for many people, and the Museum is the perfect place where they can gather to share their talents. For the past four summers, a large group of 30 to 50 scrappers have attended **Karen's Memorial Scrap Weekend** at the Museum, a tribute to Karen Rivers who passed unexpectedly in 2020. Proceeds from the purchase of materials by participants have been donated to the Museum raising \$700 to \$1,000 each year. The next annual event will be held September 6-7. The scrappers love the event and really like the new Open Pavilion.



*In early May, Scott Wilson presented a SOAR class titled "20 Years of Progress" about the state of the Museum.* ✈

*(left) This old photo of a meeting of the St. Lawrence Antique Gas & Steam Engine Association was shown to Harlow Hogle's daughter, Toni Besio who said, "The photo was actually taken at my parents' home in West Pierrepont many years ago." Left to right are four Association founders Paul Shirley, Ed Fincham, Harold Derushia, and Harlow Hogle, and very early member, Bill Pharoah, all now deceased.*

**We Remember Harlow D. Hogle**, formerly of Colton passed on March 9, 2025. He was survived by his wife, **Joyce A. Hogle**, who passed only six days later. Harlow was a founder of the St. Lawrence Antique Gas & Steam Engine Association which was reincorporated in 2004 as the Museum. He and his wife were members of the Museum until they became residents of Florida several years ago. Two brothers were also founders of the SLAGSEA. Vernon died in 2023 and Rodney, in 2014. Harlow was 90. Joyce was 86. Harlow's daughter, Toni Besio of Colton contacted us regarding some items her father wished to leave the Museum.



**Helen L. Alton**, of Antwerp, passed on March 21, 2025. Her husband, Charles, had died in 2022. They had been married 66 years. Helen and Charlie attended virtually every show including many of the predecessor organization's. They always had exhibits and volunteered everywhere. Helen took on the Attic Treasures sales, creating a significant profit center. With Charlie as cook, she organized the hotdog lunches held on Fridays before the Spring and Fall Shows. She even helped Charlie when he did repairs to the old siding on the White Barn. They attended many other shows and shared what they learned in all they did.



## ST. LAWRENCE POWER & EQUIPMENT MUSEUM

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<https://forttribute.org>

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Send photos to [slpemphotos1@gmail.com](mailto:slpemphotos1@gmail.com)

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St Lawrence Power and Equipment Museum and at Fort Tribute

Photos this issue by Roger Austin, Toni Besio, Lee Goolden, Bob Marshall, National Park Service, Alie Rivers, and Scott Wilson.

**Legacy, from page 2** The funeral home business continued with the next generation. Lee's mother, Emma M. Goolden and his brother Charles, both licensed Funeral Directors, took ownership.

Big changes in 1957 saw Lee and Carole married, buying and moving into a trailer at the farm, and Lee finishing college. Lee headed off to the army while Carole worked as an R.N. at Potsdam Hospital. They were moving on to new employment fields when Leon Sr. passed in 1971.

Lee bought the farm, sold the heifers and equipment, and began renting the house and fields. In the years that followed, Lee lived in many states, following a career path at General Electric Co. Even so, his heart remained in the North Country and farming.

Today, Lee and Carole have been joined by Roger and Carol Austin to form the St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Leadership Fund, managed by the Northern NY Community Foundation. Having helped build a grand museum, the Fund will help pave the way for its future leadership. Anyone can help with their own contributions, either directly to the Foundation or through the Museum.



*The Museum's monument dedicated to the three generations of Manns and Gooldens that served the region.*