



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

Sat., Aug. 9, STEELIN' COUNTRY. 12:00-2:00.

Sat., Aug. 16 ANNUAL BANQUET and Service 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 PUMPKIN PATCH PARTY, 12-3:00.

Sun., Oct. 26, FALL ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING,

Dues up to date? Change of address? Have a winter address? Please take a moment to send us a note or visit the desk at the next show.

Old Fashioned Spring Exhibition a Sunny Success

With over 1,100 paid visitors, an estimated 750 youngsters, 50 vendors, plus exhibitors and horse and tractor pullers, we can estimate at least 2,000 people were at the Spring Exhibition. Did we mention the great weather, or that **Steelin' Country** had folks dancing, or that the improved parking lot and people movers got folks in and out faster than ever? At the pull track were 50 garden tractor hooks on Saturday and 90 antique tractor hooks on Sunday. The horse pull Saturday featured six teams in light and open classes. The sawmill and shingle mill ran well and is looking for apprentices. A teaching forge was set up outside of the blacksmith shop. Three hundred grilled chicken halves and sides disappeared in about an hour on Sunday. Pizzas. Burgers. BIG breakfasts each day. Plenty of maple walnut ice cream and pony rides. We do need more hosts to welcome visitors and share a bit of history and tractor drivers to carry visitors too. Your chance to shine. ★



Bud Dufresne and his 4-year old cooling off after the horse pulls on Saturday.

Electrical System Expansion

After years of planning, it is finally underway. Before anyone had a chance to rest after the June Exhibition, ditches were dug and cables in conduit were laid out to the Church and Fort Tribute. The crew included Gary Sayer, Curt Smith, Jim Scott, Bob Crump, and Leon Gooden. The digging and rock sorting were made easier with machines from **LeBerge & Curtis**, Jay Foster, Gary Sayer, and Curt Smith. Jay traveled from south of Syracuse to connect the wires. Work will resume soon to hot-up the Fort and get power to the Open Pavilion. The AC in the Clock & Watch Shop, presses at the Village Printer, and lights in the General Store are up and finally put to work. Soon the organ will play, bugles will be heard, and lights will brighten the blacksmith, Gas Station, and Shoe Shop. ★



Lee Gooden (l) and Robert Crump pulling cable into conduit.



Jay Foster at work on the electrical system.

A Note from Our President

The June Exhibition was a great success. Our thanks go to the many volunteers who worked not only during the event, but also spent days preparing the grounds, improving the parking area, and setting up exhibits. The Events Committee made sure that all the chores and programs were covered.

Your Board of Trustees approved two important projects recommended by the Long-Term Planning Committee. The electrical expansion project got underway right after the June Exhibition. When finished, power will be available at almost all buildings including those on the Village Green, Ft. Tribute, and the new Open Pavilion. Meanwhile, details are being worked on to also expand the water service throughout the Museum's grounds. Work is expected to begin soon. These projects will make the Museum safer and more comfortable.

We are pleased to announce that Ron Sheppard, our former President, has agreed to chair the Collection Management Committee. This essential position has been open too long, but Ron brings the skills to get the job done.

Enclosed in this Newsletter is a copy of the letter I sent out on July 1, asking our members and friends to help defray the growing costs of operating and maintaining the Museum. Whether \$25 or \$500, every gift will be important. Thank you everyone for supporting your Museum. *Scott*

Business Volunteers Made a Difference at June Show.

Volunteers from **SeaComm Federal Credit Union** helped in a big way, staffing the ticket booth and providing rides for weary visitors. This allowed members to focus on other areas where their specific skills were needed.



Jacqueline Hallock, Michelle Patenaude, Rick Maloney, Sherry Thompson, and (tractor) Tim Zenger.

It might seem like a small detail, but benches are very important to visitors with tired legs. A place to sit, relax, and enjoy people watching has been important since the beginning, and **Jefferson Concrete** has been there to help. They built most of them and have donated many. Their V.P. Mark Thompson has done it again with the two additions seen at the right. Delivery took place in early June. Their new location provides welcome rest stops near the Log Cabin and Fort.



SeaComm executives volunteers included (l-r) Michelle Patenaude,

Thanks to each of them for sharing a great weekend with us. Perhaps others would like to help. ★



Bob O'Marah at the newly restored Mergenthaler Linotype machine. He can prepare type for use in the Whitlock flatbed press (see pg. 7).



Fifty vendors offered a great selection for our visitors.

An Exhibit of Items Made in New York

appeared just as the Board was beginning discussion on the subject. It is more than losing Alcoa and General Motors. Manufacturing was everywhere; but now, much is lost to time and change. Charles Davidson of East Syracuse and a member of the **Central NY Antique Tractor Club** has donated a 20-foot trailer loaded with made-in-New-York items such as a Franklin airplane engine, Syracuse; Brunner air compressor, Utica; Coldwell lawnmower, Newburg; Fell plow from Ogdensburg; Goulds water pump, Seneca Falls; Franklin air cooled engine, Syracuse; and so on. The exhibit is parade-ready and has been to many shows and in many parades. The exhibit was designed and built by the late Barry Muggin with help in restoration and construction by other members of the Central NY Club. The exhibit was in the Dairy Princess Parade with Al and Nancy Garrand at the wheel. Al introduced the donors to the Museum and had become a Club member himself when he was organizing the GOTO show. Many club members were there to help out. Visit the exhibit during future shows. Consider taking it to other shows and parades - the trailer is licensed and travel ready.



Al and Nancy get ready for the parade.

Norwood-Norfolk Central School 7th Grade

spent a day at the Museum's Civil War Interpretive Center. They learned about St. Lawrence County's involvement in the Civil War. They toured Fort Tribute, the Schoolhouse, and concluded at the Log Cabin. The 70 students were hosted by Museum members of the 11th NY Light Artillery reenactment group that gave talks and demonstrations on the loading and firing of muskets and on how the traveling forge was used. The schoolmarm drilled the students on Civil War-related trivia questions. Channel 7 News covered the event. ★



Norwood-Norfolk school students at Ft. Tribute.



Carole and Lee Goolden (l) with Scott Wilson.

Leon and Carole Goolden were Honored

by Fort Tribute at the Museum's spring event. They were recognized for their dedication and ongoing support of Fort Tribute and its mission of preserving St. Lawrence County Civil War history. The Gooldens have provided the funds to build numerous buildings at the Fort including the new Wagon Depot, Hospital, and Sutler Building. In addition, they made large contributions to assist in the purchase of the traveling forge and ambulance. 🛠️

Relocated and Restored Nevin Memorial Church Was Dedicated

during the June Exhibition. The Church was originally located in the Town of Lisbon. President Scott Wilson welcomed those present with comments about the Museum's growth. Treasurer Lee Dezell recognized special guests including Colin Hostetter who represented the Northern NY Community Foundation's Rock Fund board of advisors. Secretary Roger Austin reviewed the project with historical notes from Dezell



Stephen Ward at the dedication.

whose family had been long-time members. The program was concluded with a prayer and benediction by Stephen Ward. Significant construction volunteers were recognized including Lee Dezell, Roger Austin, Dave Gibson, Dale Baker, and Gary Sayer. Significant contributions were made by Leon and Carole Goolden, Lee Dezell, the

Northern NY Community Foundation's Rock Charitable Fund, Jefferson Concrete, and Lee and Elizabeth Williams among many others. ★



Jeanie Kunzler Has Collection Building Looking Good

Many of the items formerly residing there have been moved to new buildings. This significantly reduced congestion and allowed many items to be better displayed and new items added. Jeanie would like to add more labels and add more attractive covering to hide insulation where it is still exposed. A remarkable collection of washing machines reflects the history of attempts to make life easier. There are enough to support a laundry building on the Village Green if anyone is so inclined. Volunteers are always welcome to help. Contact Jeanie or tell a Trustee (contact information on last page). ★

**Fort Tribute at the
St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum**

CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT WEEKEND

1755 State Highway 345 • Madrid, NY

*Descend Below the Surface and Explore the Depths of the
CSS H.L. Hunley. An Educational Exhibit -
Full Size Replica of the World's First Combat Submarine!*

Sat., July 26 & Sun., July 27

Military Camps Open: Sat., 9am-5pm • Sun., 9am-1pm
Historical Demonstrations, Lectures, Book Signing,
Period Music & Play, Traveling CSS H.L. Hunley

Schedule on page 7 **BATTLE REENACTMENT**
Sat. 3:00 pm & Sun. 1:00 pm

Facebook: forttribute Concession Available
Web: forttribute.org

Emily Knowlton's 4th graders from Lisbon

Central School visited May 30. Welcoming the visitors were Roger and Carol Austin, Wayne and Mary Day, Ken Friedel, Sue Parisian, Robert Crump, Kirke Perry, Sue Scott, and Curt and Nancy Smith. Tours were provided of the Schoolhouse, Heritage Fibers, Clock and Watch Shop, General Store, Carriage Barn, and Blacksmith. Photo right: the kids play chasers on the Village Green. ★



The Campus Looks Great

with several volunteers mowing with the big gang-mower, the new zero-radius mower, weed whacking, and picking up rocks and trash. They cover the entire campus every Wednesday. So far this spring we have seen Dave Gibson, Chuck Goolden, Kirke Perry, and Gary Sayer getting it done. ★



A New

Exit Road Was Built in May between the Logging Building and the campus road to the new parking lot. It passes between the Sawmill and Lumber Building and extends to the south end of Fort Tribute, joining the New Parking Lot road. Gary Sayer used his Bobcat track loader to skin off the topsoil. He, Curt Smith, Long-term Site Planning Committee Chair, and Jim Scott rolled out geofabric for a base. Gravel was delivered, and Gary spread and compacted it along its entire length. The new road has already helped relieve traffic congestion. ★



Amy Moulton Was Recognized for her Accounting Service

by the Board of Trustees at its meeting on May 19. President Scott Wilson presented her with an award recognizing the untold hours of work on behalf of the St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum and its members during her 14 1/2 years of service. It further acknowledges the number of contributions of Amy Moulton and holds her as an example of service in the highest of esteem. The Board had passed the resolution to make the award at its April meeting. ★



The Raquette Valley Service Unit

of the Girl Scouts of America held its spring overnight at the Museum with troops from Madrid-Waddington, Potsdam, and Colton-Pierrepont townships on May 31. About 61 were present. The focus for the overnight was working on the "Heritage Trunk Patch" which includes the exciting history about the founder of Girl Scouts in the US, Juliette Gordon Lowe. Activities were focused on the life of Juliette and some of the unique activities and interests that she was involved in as a person and as a Girl Scout. The weekend went well thanks to the Museum's newly constructed Open Pavilion. Mother Nature was very challenging, providing constant rain accompanied by strong wind on Saturday. A few tarps strung on the windy side helped the Scouts cope with some of the blowing, and a few extra jackets and blankets kept the girls warm while they pushed through their planned activities. All of the adult volunteers with the group were very helpful and kept the girls busy and involved. ★



A Great Old-Time Spring Exhibition with Good Weather and Friends



More Great Old-Time Spring Exhibition with Good Weather and Friends

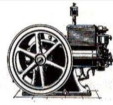


Saturday during the Show

Accomplishments Shared at the Show



At the Heritage Fibers Center, Andrea Castle and other ladies showed off the several butterfly-patterned quilts sewn during the winter. Visitors also enjoyed demonstrations of many other traditional fiber skills. The Center is now filled with many unique vintage tools and machines. At the Village Press, Bob O'Marah (r) and Ted Ritzko showed the results of a winter's work, the restoration of the Whitlock flatbed press. Over 100 years old, the press is ready to print newspapers again, IF someone has the time to set type with our equally old, fully restored Mergenthaler linotype machine. ★



ST. LAWRENCE POWER & EQUIPMENT MUSEUM

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SCOTT A. WILSON, PRESIDENT

July 1, 2025

Dear Members and Friends,

What a true gift our museum is to St. Lawrence County and the North Country. It is filled with more than 40 buildings denoting the history of everything from tractors to blacksmithing, lumber milling to carriages. Whatever you are interested in, I am sure we have it. I am so very impressed by what has been accomplished, all through the generosity of our volunteer members. Acts of selflessness and in the name of historic preservation.

Our progress is remarkable, achieved in just two short decades. With growth comes ongoing maintenance, increased insurance costs, and the need to plan into the future. That means we must work together to ensure our future success.

The SLP EM relies on your support to continue to preserve and protect our extraordinary collection and the buildings that hold them. I hope you will consider making a gift to our annual appeal. Your donation – whether it is \$25, \$50, \$100, \$500, or more – will ensure that we can continue to keep our museum well into the future.

On behalf of our entire Board of Trustees, I thank you for what you have done to make our museum what it is today, ensuring the Museum will be here for many others to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Wilson
President

CIVIL WAR WEEKEND PROGRAM

Saturday		5:00	Camps Closed
9:00	Camps Open to Public Infantry & Artillery Drills	6:30	3-Act Play: "Now We Stand by Each Other Always"
10:00	Hospital Demonstrations	Sunday	
10:30	Traveling Forge Demonstrations	9:00	Camps Open to Public
11:00	Period Cooking – Inside Fort	9:30	Artillery Loading and Firing
11:30	Children's Muster Drill – Inside Fort	10:00	Lecture: Bright Lights on the Battle field – Big Tent
12:00	Songs of Civil War – Big Tent	10:30	Hospital Demonstrations
1:00	Lecture: William Tecumseh Sherman - Log Cabin	11:30	Songs of Civil War – Big Tent
2:00	Women's Fashion, 1860's – Big Tent	1:00	Battle Reenactment
3:00	Battle Reenactment	2:00	Closing Ceremonies

We Remember

William (Bill) C. Clinger passed away on May 21, 2025. He had been a member of the Museum for several years. He had steam fitting in his past and had a keen interest in the Museum's Farquhar steam engine. Working with Gary Hargrave, he could be found nearby, keeping a close eye on its safe operation. Bill can be seen with his familiar engineer's cap in the photo (r) taken a few years ago. He was 79.



John B. Hough, Jr. passed away on June 6, 2025. John joined the Museum in 2006, soon after Madrid was chosen as its future location. Deeply interested in history, he valued the preservation of things and means of earlier life in the North Country. He donated several valued items from the horse era including a Ferrier's exhibit of horseshoeing products, mule halters, and even one of the earliest John Deere manure spreaders that he had used at his farm. He was 84.



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Vice-President/Trustee: C. Curtis Smith, PO Box 185, Bombay, NY 12914. Cell (518) 521-9549.

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

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Find us on Facebook at



St Lawrence Power and Equipment Museum and at Fort Tribute

Photos this issue by Roger Austin, Dennis Barr of Three Guys and a Camera, Chuck Goolden, Bob Marshall, and Scott Wilson.

Drag Saw Exhibit Blast from the Past

Cutting logs to specific length for firewood or timber framing can be done quickly with a properly sharpened two-man crosscut saw. Doing this all day soon reveals the limit to manpower. The dragsaw was invented and soon adapted to horse power, and then the 1-cylinder gas engine - a bit handier. A teacher from Brasher brought his saw and gas engine to the Spring Exhibition and spent the weekend explaining how the remarkable machine worked. Bringing exhibits like



this involves a ton of work restoring and learning how to operate it. It does not travel well or fit handily in the back of your SUV. The excellent exhibit complemented the Sawmill and Shingle Mill operated by Paul Moore, Bob Tracy, Steve Hewlett, David Hebert, and Leon Cline. ✂