



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. 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, 1:30.

Your dues are up to date if there is a 25 (or more) after the V on your mailing label. Dues are still only \$25 for an individual and only \$5 more for a significant other. ☺

Excellent Civil War Weekend Makes Great Motion Picture

During the busy Civil War Weekend July 26-27, Mountain Lake PBS was filming many of the activities. The result is a short video about the Museum's Civil War Interpretive Center. During the weekend, visitors could stroll through the camps and see how the soldiers lived. The program featured many activities including demonstrations on firing a cannon, shaping iron at the traveling forge, how soldiers cooked meals, the children's muster drill, singing recitals with the hammer dulcimer, a 3 act play, and even an 1860s fashion show. The finale each day featured a very loud skirmish between North and South reenactors. The sounds of muskets and cannon filled the air while smoke encircled the battle field. The injured were carried off to the field hospital which, earlier that day, had presented demonstrations of the care provided injured and wounded soldiers. ☘



The cannons roared at the battle reenactment determined to soften the enemy position before infantry made their final assault.

Water Expansion Completed

The electrical and now the water system expansions have been completed. See the President's note below which lists the heroes who labored to complete the work. The electrical cable was placed in conduit and buried about 1 1/2 feet deep. The ditch for the 1 1/2 inch waterline was dug

more than 4 feet deep with the line bedded in sand. And then there were rocks.

Big rocks. Tons of rocks left by the last glacier. The rocks were removed from the clay and sand which was used to back fill the ditch. Then there were small rocks and more rocks to pick with a rake or by hand. Then compaction and more fill. When rains return, more volunteers will be needed for seeding. Thanks to all those who made this possible! ☘



A Note from Our President

As this Newsletter goes to press, countless volunteers, including your board have completed hosting an Old Fashioned Harvest Days Exhibition, following a successful Civil War Reenactment, and the earlier Spring Exhibition.

In between these, the expansion of our electrical and water systems has been completed and are now operational. Jay Foster oversaw the electrical project along with Roger Austin, Lee Goolden, Gary Sayer, Curt Smith and Don Lustyik. John Castle oversaw the water project supported by Gary Sayer, Curt Smith, John Carr, Jerry Fisher, Brian Harrigan, Don Lustyik, Bruce Thompson, Jim Scott, Sue Scott, Bob Crump, Dave Gibson and Gib Rivers. We couldn't have done it without their hard work and determination.

At our Annual Banquet we recognized some who have made significant contributions in making the Museum a success (see page 2). The event also gave us the opportunity to thank many of those who have had anything to do with the Museum, from volunteering to making financial contributions.

The Board's focus is on increasing membership; ensuring the financial viability of the Museum short and long-term; continuing long-term planning of the Museum's maintenance and infrastructure; and having vibrant and engaging events.

Just a reminder that if you haven't made a contribution to our annual appeal there is still time. Please consider making a donation to assist us with ongoing maintenance, increased insurance costs, and for future needs.

Please feel free to reach out to me with your thoughts, questions or anything Museum related by calling or emailing me. My contact information is on the last page of this newsletter. Let's move forward together to ensure our Museum continues to be a wonderful place to enjoy and learn.

Scott

The Potsdam Community Band (r) directed by Theresa Witmer presented a grand concert July 11th at the Equine Pavilion. The concert was part of the Madrid Dam Music Series chaired by Bill and Cherry Barkley. The nearly 80 band members include professional and other excellent students, amateurs, and retirees playing brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments. The largest ever audience filled the stands and many folding chairs. Gary Sayer helped Bill bring in chairs for the Band. All enjoyed the unique resonance the building provides. 🎵



Steelin' Country (l) played its second concert on August 9th at the Open Pavilion. The audience enjoyed the music and entertained themselves with slow dancing, jitterbug, and even square dances. Members Kirk and Michelle Robinson have brought the 4-concert program to the Museum through a grant from the NY State Council on the Arts administered by the SL County Arts Council. The last music of the season will be 12-2:00 on Saturday, September 20th during the SLC Crafts, Food, and Wine Fresh Air Market. 🎵

Photos this issue by Roger Austin, Dennis Barr of Two Guys and a Camera, Bob Marshall, Susan Scott, Paul Williams, and Scott Wilson.

Members and Friends Recognized for Their Outstanding Support

At the Museum's Annual Banquet on August 16, three members received its *Distinguished Service Award* for their contributions to the Museum. The following received plaques presented by Lee Dezell, Ron Sheppard, and Scott Wilson. **Dennis Barr**, a professional photographer, first joined the Museum in 2010. His primary interest has been in the Civil War Interpretive Center and has donated his time and skills to promote its efforts. But he has also made an extensive photographic record of all the other aspects of the Museum including exciting aerial photos. His photographs have graced the Newsletter and aided publicity.

Robert and Roberta Marshall joined the Museum in 2006. Bob served nine years on its Board, 2009-2012 and 2018-2022. He oversaw the construction and fitting out of the General Store. Earlier, he played an important role in expanding the exhibit area in the Carriage Barn with construction of large exhibit shelves. He and Roberta have long been a source of donations to our collections by encouraging others and making their own donations. They likewise have solicited financial donations, again providing their own. Both have spent lots of time in the kitchen, and they have donated and planted many of the trees we enjoy.

Alexandria (Alie) Rivers joined the Museum in 2006. She has always been involved in the exhibitions. Alie served on the Board from 2021 through 2024. She updated and expanded the Museum's website, created a Facebook page, and revised its pamphlet. Alie manages our publicity in newspapers and radio and distributes flyers. She created *Karen's Memorial Scrapbooking Weekend* in memory of her Mother and former member, Karen Rivers who passed 5 years ago. This great 2-day event is for serious scrapbookers and has been a generous source of revenue for the Museum.

The *Outstanding Business Support Award* was presented to two publications which have played pivotal roles in promoting and creating awareness of the Museum. Scott Wilson presented the awards.

North Country This Week was represented by publisher Bill Shumway and his wife and writer, Cheryl.

Watertown Daily Times was represented by its longtime reporter for our region, Bob Beckstead.

The group represents an extraordinary amount of essential time and effort which has supported the growth of the Museum since its beginning.

Continued on page 4



Award recipients (l-r) at the Annual Banquet included Bob Beckstead, Dennis Barr, Ron Sheppard, Bill and Cheryl Shumway, and Roberta and Bob Marshall. Not shown, Alie Rivers.

CIVIL WAR WEEKEND



Young visitors were mustered in for an hour of enlistment and received some drill instruction preparing them for battle.



Gilbert Rivers, who oversees the Quartermaster talked with visitors about the uniform and equipment of the enlistment and how it all was issued.



Generals Grant and Sherman studying maps during Civil War Weekend, part of the 3-Act Play "Now We Stand by Each Other Always," written and directed by Derek Maxfield, presented Saturday evening.



Visitors were given an opportunity to view the traveling exhibit of the H.L. Hunley, a Confederate Civil War submarine that successfully sank the USS Housatonic warship in Charleston Harbor, January 17, 1864. This national exhibit travels around the US giving lessons of this early Navy sleuth of war.



Reenactors enjoyed dinner Saturday evening, catered by the Scott Wilson family. Shown above are (center) his wife Doreen and daughters (l) Paige and (r) Hannah serving the troops at the Open Pavilion.



The Massena PAL Summer Program kids toured the Fort and buildings on the grounds that were of the 1860s period, including the Log Cabin and School House. They were able to experience the loading and firing of a rifle and cannon, watch smithing done at our traveling forge, and learn about Civil War medicine at the post hospital.

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Outstanding Support from page 2

Honors at the Annual Banquet included presentation of the **Trustees Award to Ronald Sheppard**. Ron was the 8th and longest serving president of the Museum, serving from 2020 through 2024. It was presented by President Scott Wilson on behalf of the Board of Trustees for his leadership, dedication, and accomplishments. Previous presidents, in order of their service, were Ross Goodyear, Dave Baker, Roger Austin, Wayne Day, Al Garrand, Reg Chester, and Joe Finnegan. ☺



The Annual Banquet on August 16 drew about 50 members and friends. Lee Dezell and his crew had cooked up a fine meal of roast pork and all the fixings. Curt spoke about the massive amount of electrical and water line work that had just been completed mostly by members. Scott and Roger spoke about the investment and endowment funds. Service awards were presented (see above and page 2). At the end, members were asked to stand and remain so if they worked on the recent projects, did maintenance, hosted visitors, worked exhibitions, or contributed gifts. At the end of this exercise, almost everyone was standing. ☺