



St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum

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

Events 2026

July 25-26, Sat.-
Sun.: **Civil War
Weekend.**

Aug. 8, Sat., 10-
2:00: **Open
House, Program
TBA.**

Aug. 15, Sat.,
Annual Banquet
4:00 **Tour,**
5:30 **Meet n Greet,**
6:00 **Dinner**

Aug. 22, Sat., 10-
2:00: **Open
House.**

Sept. 12, Sat., 10-
4:00: **SL County
Chamber of
Commerce's
Craft, Food and
Wine Open Air
Market.**

Sept. 19-20, Sat-
Sun.: **Old Fash-
ioned Harvest
Days Show.** Steel-
in' Country music
Sunday at 1:00.

Oct. 10, Sat.,
Noon-3:00: **Kids
Pumpkin Patch
Party.**

Wet Sunday Fails to Dampen Spring Show Spirit

The Annual Spring Show began with a glorious Saturday, sunny, but not too hot. Almost every corner of the Museum was open with hosts greeting visitors. The saw mill milled and shingle mill shingled. Tractors galore. Doors opened across the Village Green. Wonderful quilt show in Heritage Fibers. Lots of vendors. Big and powerful draft horses pulling our new set of stones. Garden tractors (not like dad's) pulling on the track. The Farmhouse showed off its lovely new fittings. Chicks hatched at the nearby Chicken House with other fowl in the White Barn. Catch a ride on the Century Flyer, Cow Train, or Wagon. It did rain Sunday as advertised, but we proved the show can go on. We now have over 50,000 square feet of covered space, most of which handles wet visitors. And our kitchen crew turned out great meals, snacks, and grilled chicken dinners. Who could ask for more?! ☔



Bob Crump (l) and Leon Goolden take shelter during the rain on Sunday.

210 Heading to The Museum

On June 18th, the Museum received a *Pick Up Notice* from the NY State Bureau of Federal Property Assistance in Albany, which authorized the Museum to take possession of Locomotive 210 currently located at the Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, PA. It will be many weeks before the locomotive is ready for transport. It must be moved to a suitable worksite where repairs and asbestos abatement can be completed. Meanwhile, tracks must be installed where the locomotive will reside at the Museum. When all is ready, it will be lifted by cranes and hauled to the North country by truck or rail. Plans are underway to build a short track for Locomotive 210 at the Museum. After the 210 arrives, construction of the Railroad History **See MORE TRAIN on page 6**



Photo taken about 1980 showing the 210 freshly painted. Today, there is work to be done to get it looking this good again. From PhotoVault.com.

A Note from Our President

During the past two months, your board and countless volunteers have been busy hosting a successful Spring Exhibition (Sunday it rained, but we did sell out our BBQ chicken dinners). We also held the opening of our new Welcome Center which sells Museum merchandise. Big news was shared recently on bringing back The N&SL Steam Locomotive 210 to St. Lawrence County. It will be the centerpiece of an exciting new Railroad History Center. Now, we are preparing for our 6th Annual Civil War Reenactment Weekend, only weeks off.

We are well underway in the process of a name change. As you know from previous meetings and in past editions of our Newsletter, this major initiative will take place this year. The current SLPem name is no longer indicative of what we offer today as a museum. We appreciate the roots from which we grew; however, it is time to put forward a name that will encompass all we offer at the Museum today. Since our last Newsletter we have received a good number of suggestions. The Board of Trustees will select at least four to be voted on by the membership in September. The one that receives the highest number of votes will be announced in October.

Another initiative that is being worked on is more interpretive signs on the Museum grounds. These will be placed in front of our buildings to give visitors a good idea of what the history is of the building and what it contains inside. Look for more on this to come in future newsletters.

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 planning into the future. Feel free to reach out to me with your thoughts, questions or anything Museum-related by phone or email. Contact information is on the last page of this Newsletter. Let's continue to move forward together to ensure our Museum continues to be a wonderful place to enjoy and learn. See you at the Civil War Weekend!

Scott

New Welcome Center Opens at Spring Show

The grand opening of the Welcome Center took place during the Spring Show. The project was made possible in large part by a gift of \$5,000 from **SeaComm Federal Credit Union**. Alie Rivers, communications chair and center hostess, said she was very pleased with the new accommodations. Until then, she had been selling the Museum's soft goods out of suitcases. Now, visitors can choose their purchase from racks and tables. Site preparation and pouring a concrete slab was overseen by Bruce Thompson. A contractor partially assembled the building offsite. Curt Smith, with help from Jim Scott and Gary Sayer, moved it in two loads to the Museum. Gary pulled it off the trailer with his tractor. Once the contractor assembled the building, Don Lustyik, Bob Tracy, and Ray Page added porch steps and railings. Finishing the interior remains to be done. ✂



Museum Quilters Share Winter's Work

In honor of America's 250th the Museum Quilters met the challenge of making patriotic quilts during winter.



Cheryl Latimer, Linda Zufall, Nancy Smith, Sue Willard, and Stephanie Olson. ✂

They were displayed at the Spring Show. Quilts were made by Andrea Castle, Carol Lama, Chris Bradshaw, Phyllis Acres, Linda Carr,

New Members Sign Up at Spring Show

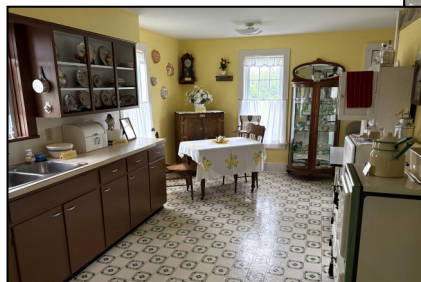
At the Spring Show, 13 new members signed up, helping to stabilize our membership above 500. The percentage of members who support the Museum by volunteering or providing financial support (or both) is greater here than at most other organizations. Some are reluctant to join, because they feel they don't have the time or resources to do so. But every member serves us well just by joining and sharing their support and appreciation of the Museum with others. ✂

Museum Name Change Suggestions Coming In

The Museum's effort to find a name that better reflects its many features and exhibits is well underway. President Scott Wilson has received two dozen suggestions. Before the fall meeting of the members, the Board will select the best suggestions and then ask the membership to choose its favorite. In 2004, members and the Board went through the same difficult process. The activities of the old St. Lawrence Antique Gas & Steam Engine Association had already become more diverse. When we reincorporated, the present name was chosen. Twenty four years later, the Museum has much greater diversity than the name implies. A name reflecting our broader interests will help promote the Museum and attract even more visitors. ☺

Security Cameras Added and Updated

After the Spring Show, member Jay Foster spent three days with Trustees Jim Scott and Bob Crump, making improvements to the Museum's security camera system. Jay has made most of the installations during the past few years. Now Jim and Bob have taken over the operations. The system has over a dozen cameras that continuously record groundhogs and people dropping in to use our toilets. At present, there are a limited few who are able to monitor the cameras on their computer or phone. Smile! ☺



*The Farmhouse was ready for visitors at the Spring Show. Many had worked and contributed during early spring to make the improvements. More in the next issue, but we should give thanks to **Gardner's Furniture** in Ogdensburg for donating two area rugs that complement the 40's-50's era.*

At the Spring Show, Saturday Was Delightful



SeaComm volunteers Sherry Thompson, Tim Zenger, and Rick Maloney greeted visitors.



The team at the shingle mill made shingles to finish the Vertical Saw Mill roof.



Blacksmiths kept the forge hot.



The 1926 Chevrolet 4-door Touring car, made its debut at the Show. This beautiful auto was given to the Museum by the Real "Frenchie" Coupal family last fall.

A Great Day for Pulls

Ten teams participated in Saturday's event including Percheron, American spotted, and Belgian draft horses. There were 10 teams competing in the Light and Free-for-all classes with five in each.



Sandi Goolden and Jim Walker visit the Carriage Barn.



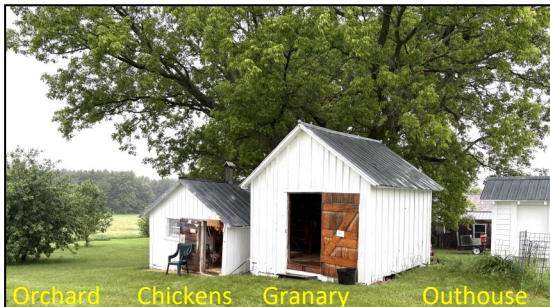
Ken Friedel had the Century Flyer running on schedule.



Column Right: A new menu, new pizza oven, and an excellent crew in the kitchen, at the counter, dipping ice cream, cleaning tables, taking out the trash, and preparing plenty of great food kept them busy all weekend. Yes, we did sell out of grilled chicken on Sunday.



Kids love Jerry Fisher's Cow Train and face painting by the PiClawso's Face Painting.



Above and Left: Not everyone finds their way up to the Farmhouse (see pg. 2). Fewer visit the Small Granary, Milk-house, Chicken House (with chicks hatching) or even the White Barn on Show day. For the Fall Show, the Outhouse door will be open. Not allowed to use it, but it is rather nice inside. Look to the left of the Chicken House and you can see a corner of the Apple Orchard with vintage varieties - most are very juicy.



Carol Austin with her incubator at Chicken House at the June Show. She hatched 7!



CIVIL WAR WEEKEND JULY 25-26

ANNUAL BANQUET AUGUST 15

CHECK THE SCHEDULE ON PAGE 1 FOR MORE INFORMATION



The Petting Zoo and Pony Rides were popular.



The Franklin County Garden Tractor Pullers arrived, complete with scales and headquarters. There were several young competitors.



The number of vendors increases each year.



The garrison at Ft. Tribute forms up, ready for drill.



The Fort held a children's muster and drill on Saturday.

What is not shown in the photos are the activities that began in April, beginning with the annual turning on the water and purging the system. Last year's excavations had settled a bit and required filling and grading. In May, mowing began with tractor,



The garrison's checkers champ.

zero-radius mower and string trimmers. Road repairs were done. Flies and ladybugs swept out. The parking lot signs and ropes get installed. Ropes for vendor lots. Tractors moved outside for exhibit. Benches brought outside. Tables and chairs up. Then tents. All almost spontaneously. Amazing!



Rita Curran, St. Lawrence County Legislator, District 15, Wad-dington and Louisville, was on hand asking questions of Aaron Gravelle (l) and Scott Wilson about the Fort and Museum.

And Sunday it rained, but

much of the 50,000 square feet of covered space at the Museum provided ample space for our visitors, especially at Ft. Tribute, the Village, Farm, and Blacksmith among others. We offer a great rainy day experience!



Schoolmaster Jack Backus looks for students,



while Bob Crump seeks customers,



and the Wood Shop was warm and dry.



The Church provided sanctuary.



Instead of horse pulls at the Equine Pavilion, the ladies

Maybe we should rent umbrellas and have stands for them in our buildings. Maybe we can be a Rainy Day Destination?

threw against each other in the Skillet Toss competitions.

More Train (from pg. 1)

Center will begin. The first building will be an Engine House for the locomotive and its tender, and the second will be a railroad depot that will serve as its Interpretive Center. Large windows and lights on one side of the Engine House will allow year-round view of the historic N&SL Locomotive 210. The project may take three to five years.

Built more than a century ago, Locomotive 210 of the former Norwood & St. Lawrence Railroad was one of many earlier short line railroads. It had 13 miles of track connecting the now submerged river port at Waddington to Norwood where passengers and freight could be transferred to other carriers for destinations elsewhere.



Locomotive 210 idles on the N&SL tracks at the end of its line in Norwood, NY. From there, passengers and goods could be transferred on other carriers to all points. Photo courtesy of the Norwood Historical Society Museum.

We Remember

Stan Alford passed away on May 26, 2026. He had been an active member of the Museum for many years while he lived in Madrid. He was a volunteer at Shows, usually arriving on his motorcycle. He built sash and doors in his father's old shop, including the windows in our Gas Station. His wife, Barbara, survives him. Until a few years ago, she helped too mowing acres of grass at the Museum on her zero-radius mower. Stan and Barbara had been generous donors. Stan was 87.



Photo Left: If you are having trouble seeing the green stripe across the middle of the Village Green, then you can thank Dan Andress for the great job of hydroseeding the disturbed ground above the waterlines and electrical cables that we buried last year. He brought over his big Green Machine and seeded and mulched 6 to 10-foot-wide swaths extending through out the campus many hundreds of feet. Folks say our lawn looks great. They're right! ☺



H.L. Hunley Traveling Exhibit

A meticulous full-scale replica of the world's first successful wartime submarine attack. Witness the H.L. Hunley that made history by sinking the USS Housatonic on February 17, 1864, in the Charleston Harbor.



Supporting Living History and Education across the United States.

SEE IT AT FORT TRIBUTE JULY 25-26!
CIVIL WAR
REENACTMENT WEEKEND
 1755 State Highway 345
 Madrid, NY
 \$5 admission
 Children 12 & Under Free
 9am-5pm Sat. & 9am-1pm Sun.

Hunley Submarine Returns

The Confederate submarine, H.L. Hunley, will be back at the Museum during the Civil War Week-end. This extraordinary replica of the famous Confederate Civil War submarine returns to share the history of the first successful sinking of a ship in the US by a submarine.



Bill VanKennen (center) checks the time, and Ken Friedel is ready to ring the bell.

Members Ring In the 250th

The county's 250th Anniversary Commission called on all people and organizations to ring bells at 10:00 am on July 4th for 2.50 minutes, sending their sounds across the land. The Museum's only bell stands on the post in front of the Schoolhouse. As the hour approached, a dozen members showed up. At 10:00 am sharp, the bell was rung by members taking turns at the rope. The gathering was small, the moment was brief, but it was very satisfying none the less. Happy 250th!



St. Lawrence County Historian and 250th Commission member Nancy Lafaver and husband Dan, during the Open Doors to History event held June 6th.

Open Doors to History Event Celebrates 250th Anniversary

On June 6th, Museum President Scott Wilson and Trustee Aaron Gravelle greeted guests and provided tours of Fort Tribute during the St. Lawrence County 250th Anniversary Commission's *Open Doors to History* event. This was part of the Commission's ongoing effort to highlight St. Lawrence County history. Scott is a member of the Commission.

Commission Grant Received

The Museum received a grant of \$1,000 to support Fort Tribute, provided by **St. Lawrence County** and awarded by the County's 250th Commission.

Federal Home Loan Bank Grant Received

The Museum received a grant of \$10,000 through **SeaComm Federal Credit Union**. Half will be used at Fort Tribute, and the rest will be used to purchase interpretive signs that will be placed at the campus and Golden-Mann Farm and in front of the 1850 Schoolhouse, 1837 Log Cabin, and the 1855 Nevin Memorial Church.

Photos and illustrations in this issue courtesy of Roger Austin, John Bartholomew, Andrea Castle, Bob Crump, Alie Rivers, Curt Smith, and Scott Wilson.

ST. LAWRENCE POWER & EQUIPMENT MUSEUM

1755 State Highway 345

PO Box 400

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Museum Trustees

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

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

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: Kirke W. Perry, PO BOX 243, Colton, NY 13625. Phone (315) 212-0627.

Trustee: Robert W. Crump, 3684 County Rt. 14, Madrid, NY 13660. Phone (315) 244-4150.

Trustee: Kenneth (Ken) Friedel, Jr., 800 County Rt. 35, Potsdam, NY 13676. (315) 212-2636.

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

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

Trustee: James E. Scott, 599 Bagdad Rd., Potsdam, NY 13676. Phone (315) 265-7692.

Trustee: Trustee: Bruce Thompson, 56 W Stockholm Southville Rd., Potsdam, NY 13676. Phone (315) 244-1355.

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

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



The 1947 photo below shows the 210 ready for work. Note the difference between the paint pattern on it and the photo on page 1. This one shows it to be entirely black with white rims on the wheels. The earliest photos show the headlamp on top and in front of the smokestack. We are not certain why the change was made.

The St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum will be seeking sponsors and other donors to support the relocation of Locomotive 210 and construction of the Railroad History Center, one of the largest projects it has attempted. Anyone wishing to assist with the project by researching the subject or working on the restoration should contact Roger Austin (information on back page) or text or phone Bill VanKennen (315) 250-5304.

