



St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum

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

Events 2026

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

Sept. 17, Thurs. at 6:30: **Campfire Talk, 220th Anniversary of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, "The Journey Home."**

Sept. 19-20, Sat-Sun.: **Old Fashioned Harvest Days Show.**

Sept. 20, Sunday at 1:00: **Steelin' Country**, music during Old Fashioned Harvest Days.

Sept. 26, Sat. 10:00-2:00: **Open House.**

Oct. 3, Sat., 9:00-3:00: **Open Doors to History Village Tour.**

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

Oct. 24, Sat. 10:00-2:00: **Last Open House.**

Oct. 25, Sun. 1:30: **Members Meeting.** Location to be announced.

Civil War Weekend Enjoys Sun, Features Hunley Sub

Civil War Weekend brought together 152 reenactors from NY, PA, VT, MA, VA, and Canada, representing soldiers of the Union and Confederate armies. A popular feature was the return of the full-scale replica of the H.L. Hunley Traveling Exhibit by Al Couch, the exhibit's General Manager (photos pg. 5-6). Visitors could tour the encampments and observe the daily life of the soldiers. Lectures were well attended with Ken Friedel speaking on the *US Military Railroad* and the *Great Locomotive Chase* and Laini Amaritnant discussing period ladies fashions. Linda Russell sang Civil War era songs while playing the hammer dulcimer or guitar. Fort Tribute was open with exhibits in every building including the exceptional collection of Civil War relics in the bunk house. Children attending the program were mustered in, and performed drills inside Fort. *Continued on page 4*



The roar of seven cannon could be heard rolling up and down the Grasse River Valley.

September Brings Chamber Market and Fall Show

The **Craft, Food, and Wine Fresh Air Festival**, presented by the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, returns for its 6th year, on September 12th. Shoppers will enjoy a remarkable range of art, foods, and beverages and have a chance to visit (many for the first time) the historic and historical treasures of our Museum. It is an opportunity to share the story of our growth and ask them to return for a longer visit.

Old Fashioned Harvest Days on September 19-20 is later this year than usual, allowing our visitors to use Labor Day weekend for other pursuits, and perhaps it is more in keeping with the main harvest season. We also hope that there will be fewer scheduling conflicts with our volunteers. The exhibits and services we provide have many of us stretched thin. We still need help in the kitchen and Snack Shack as well as at buildings. We could use a few volunteers to just sit and keep an eye on things. Even a few hours or a half-day anywhere would help! It's fun and very satisfying. Email slpeminfo@gmail.com or contact a Board member. Their contact information is on the last page. Thanks! *RL*



A large crowd comes to the Craft, Food, and Wine Open Air Market with many Museum exhibits open.

An Important Note from Our Board of Trustees

As you know from previous meetings and in past editions of our Newsletter, one major initiative that was to take place this year is a name change. Now is your chance to be a part of the next chapter of our museum. The Board has narrowed the choices down to four.

**North Country Rural Life Museum
North Country Farm & Village
North Country Heritage Center
St. Lawrence Heritage Museum**

Your ballot is included in this edition. Please fill it out and send it back to us. We will announce the new name after our Board of Trustees meeting in September. Let's continue to move forward together to ensure our museum continues to be a wonderful place to enjoy and learn. I look forward to seeing you at the Old Fashioned Harvest Days Exhibition September 19-20!



An observant reporter found Robert E. Lee speaking with some of his troops during the Civil War Weekend. Who knew? He drove all the way from VA to attend.

Scott

Annual Banquet Celebrates 22 Years of Growth and Dedication



Curt Smith presents the Distinguished Service Award to Maurice Campbell.



Scott Wilson with Sue Parisian, the Mistress of Time.



Roger Austin congratulates Lee Williams for his well earned award.



(Photos right) At the Annual Banquet on August 15th, Sue Parisian cuts the cake donated by the Clock & Watch Shop while brother Tom Hunter hands her dishes and Andrea Castle brings them to the tables. Dave Baker heads one of several tables of members enjoying pulled pork sandwiches from the Ole' Smoke House. Ice cream was provided by the Museum. There were over 60 members and friends attending the meal. Some came early and toured the campus. Lots of work. Lots of growth. Lots of fun.



Three Members Receive Distinguished Service Awards

Distinguished Service Awards were presented to three members during the Annual Banquet on August 15. The Award reads, "Presented for his/her outstanding dedication and support, by the St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum, August 15, 2026." The recipients were:

Maurice Campbell, Master of Water, presented by Vice-President Curt Smith. Maurice, a member since 2012, manages the Museum's Water System. He is state certified for the work. He oversees the Museum's 220-foot deep well which pumps 10+ gal/minute, the Museum's chlorination system located in the basement of the Farmhouse, 4,300 feet of water lines with toilets, showers, kitchen, and 15+ hydrants. He is dedicated to assuring government qualified drinking water, April through October. He provides pre-season flushing, chlorine dosing, and chlorine testing of the well, all lines, and spigots. Each week he flushes a portion of the line, tests for chlorine, and records the results. During major events, he checks the system daily. We have not received a single violation or complaint for the past 10 years.

Sue Parisian, Mistress of Time, presented by President Scott Wilson. Three summers ago, Sue invited us to the home of her father, the late Arthur Hunter. He was a farmer near Chipman, but he had a huge shop in the attic for watch and clock repairs. In 2023, Sue presented detailed plans and an offer from her brother Tom, sisters Arlene and Joyce, and her to donate a Clock and Watch Shop. The Museum would own the shop, and the family would operate it. It is now filled with their treasures from Arthur Hunters attic shop. They also promised to host the Shop when the Museum had shows. Sue also helps organize school visits. She was decorator and arranger during the recent renovation of the Farmhouse. And she organized the annual banquet. The cake was provided compliments of the Clock & Watch Shop.

Lee Williams, Volunteer and Benefactor, presented by Roger Austin. Lee is a founding member, one of the 274 that came from St. Lawrence Antique Gas & Steam Engine Association in 2004. He is an old-school guy. In his front yard is a John Deere tractor, Wood Miser band-saw, and a fanning mill (used for determination of horsepower of early tractors). Under the house are six Gravelly riding and walk-behind garden tractors, and more. He has brought some to shows and has gifted some items to the Museum. He has driven tractors and golf cars at shows and worked on several construction projects. His wife, Elizabeth, passed two years ago. From the Museum's beginning, they have been extraordinary, sustaining members, giving substantial gifts every year for which we are thankful. 🙏

Locomotive 210's Progress on Track

Abatement of asbestos on the 210 has been completed. The 2-inch layer surrounding the boiler and the rusted jacket that held it in place are gone. Left is its bare steel boiler and a restoration job for next year. Cracks in one of the drive wheels have been expertly welded so it can roll again. At our Museum, Paul Moore has brought in his transit and earthmoving equipment. Bill Tiernan



The new 210 in 1923 at the ALCO engine works in New Jersey.

loaned his monster John Deere

front loader. With Bill VanKennen driving the big loader, the two men leveled most of a 200 X 45-foot area near Hwy. 345 in the grassed area between the Farmhouse and main entrance. Gordon Merrick delivered nearly 400 tons of 3-inch stone which Paul and Bill packed with a roller. More stone is still needed; but first, ties and track will be laid in anticipation of Locomotive 210's arrival. Then the rest of the stone can come (more on pg. 5). Arrangements are now being made to move the 210 and its tender in two truckloads. We looked at many trucking firms specializing in heavy loads. However, it was necessary to find one that does really heavy loads. We found them in Atlanta, recommended by Steamtown National Historic Site. They will be ready when we are.



The Locomotive 210 boiler jacket (r) abuts the smoke box (l). Fasteners on the belly of the Jacket have rusted off, releasing it so it just hangs there. Asbestos insulation was inside the jacket, keeping the boiler hot. May 2026



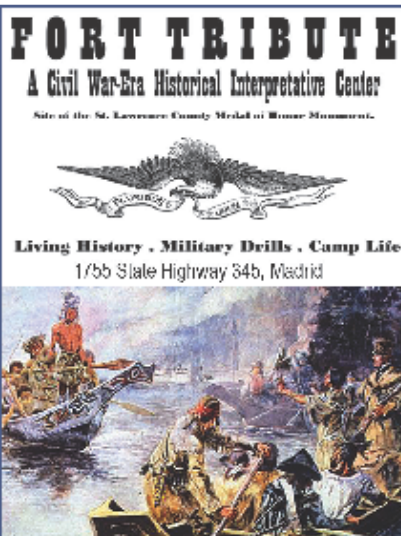
Construction of tracks at the Museum for Locomotive 210 began with grading (left) and setting the sub-ballast (right) consisting of 12 inches of compacted no. 3 stone. Enough has been completed to accommodate laying of 100 feet of ties and rails in the near future, more than enough for delivery of the 210.



Photos in this issue courtesy of Roger Austin, Dennis Barr, Sue Scott, and Scott Wilson.

Camp Fire Talk "The Journey Home" Lewis & Clark Expedition

The third part in a three-year 220th anniversary series "The Journey Home" will explore Lewis & Clark's expedition in its final year. This talk will be held at Fort Tribute on September 17th at 6:30 pm. After spending a long winter on the west coast, the "Corp of Discovery" begins the long journey back east beginning in late March 1806. Even though the expectation was of a far smoother return trip, in many ways the journey was just as challenging and certainly as dangerous



JOIN US FOR A LECTURE
on the occasion of the
221st Anniversary
of the Expedition of Lewis & Clark
"The Journey Home"
SEPT. 17 AT 6:30 P.M.
Free and Open to the Public

After spending a long winter on the west coast, the "Corp of Discovery" begins the long journey back east beginning in late March 1806. Even though the expectation was of a far smoother return trip, in many ways the journey was just as challenging and certainly as dangerous as the journey west the previous year. The class will include a discussion of the various dangers and challenges they faced, and the great courage needed to survive, as we wrap up one of the most fascinating stories in American history.

Sponsored by Niles Financial Group

as the journey west the previous year. The class will include a discussion of the various dangers and challenges they faced, and the great courage needed to survive, as we wrap up one of the most fascinating stories in American history. Fort Tribute is a Civil-War era historical interpretive center located on the campus of the St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum in Madrid located at 1755 State Highway 345, Madrid, NY. It also has the only single Civil War monument to recognize the Congressional Medal of Honor recipients from St. Lawrence County that fought in the War 1861-1865. For more information about the Fort visit Facebook forttribute or its website www.forttribute.org. This program sponsored by Niles's Financial Group and is free and open to the public.



More Civil War Weekend

Civil War Weekend (from page 1) Each day the program ended with a North-South skirmish. Every infantry soldier fired their black powder musket, joined by the roar of cannon including four mountain howitzers, a 1-pound howitzer and a 3-inch ordnance rifle. Over 75 cannon rounds were fired during the weekend. The warriors became enveloped in the gun smoke. To round out their day, most of the Village was open to visitors. The snack shack had the grill at work while ice cream was sold from the back porch of the Heritage Fibers building. In all, it was a great weekend. 🐎

ATTENTION MEMBERS PLEASE HELP SELECT THE NEW NAME FOR YOUR MUSEUM. VOTING MEMBERS (LOOK FOR THE "V" AFTER YOUR NAME ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL) ARE ASKED TO SEND IN THEIR CHOICE OF THE FOUR NAMES LISTED ON THE FRONT PAGE. YOU WILL FIND BALLOTS AND ENVELOPES ENCLOSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER. THANKS !



Ft. Tribute presented Marie Gravelle with the Outstanding Achievement Award for her continued service to the Fort's operation. Marie, seen here with Scott Wilson, can be found greeting fort guests at the Sutler Store.



Dennis Barr of 2 Guys and a Camera shot this drone photo during the weekend.

Positions Open
Docent: Members needed to greet guests during open house days, school visits, and special events. Guide them through selected areas of the Museum. Share information about the places and items visitors see. Learn about the Museum through its literature and reports.

Seated Show Volunteer: Someone to greet visitors, mind visitor's behavior, make notes, answer questions about the schedule, place, or event covered. Half or full day. 🐎



Department Commander Jeff French, Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, with six future brothers of a new camp forming at Fort Tribute. It will be named the Sgt. Judson E. Horsford Camp #106. The letters Horsford wrote home during the Civil war are on display at the Madrid Historical Society. 🐎

History of the Confederate Sub Revealed

The H.L. Hunley was the first combat submarine in history to sink an enemy warship. It was constructed in Mobile, Alabama in 1863 and shipped to Charleston, SC on August 12, 1863. During testing in Charleston, the Hunley sank twice, once on August 29th and again on October 15th, killing a total of 13 crew members. The submarine's inventor Horace Lawson Hunley was one of the crew who perished in the October 15th sinking. Raised for a third time, the new crew headed by Lt. George E. Dixon successfully attacked and sunk the USS Housatonic on February 17, 1864. Despite the successful sinking of the USS Housatonic, the Hunley sank in Charleston Harbor while returning to base. In 1995, 131 years after sinking in Charleston Harbor, the Hunley was located. It was raised from the harbor floor on August 8, 2000. It is housed at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center, the former Charleston Navy Yard in North Charleston, in a specially designed tank. 🐎



Over 150 reenactors from many states and Canada participated in the Civil War Weekend.

CIVIL WAR WEEKEND



A full-scale replica of the Hunley submarine provided a vivid picture of bravery.



Linda Russell entertained with guitar, dulcimer and songs of the Civil War era throughout the weekend.



Children who attended the Civil War Weekend mustered in and performed drills inside of Fort Tribute.



Gary Sayer, Jim Scott and Kirke Perry set bleachers in place for the public to view the battlefield.



Ken Friedel, trustee of the Board at SLPEM lectured on military railroads and the story of the General.



Laini Amaritnant models a daring item during her lecture.



Confederate Artillery loaded and ready to start a cannonade as the first day of battle opens up.



(Photo above and right) At the Snack Shack selling burgers, hotdogs, and drinks were Nancy Smith, Gary Sayers, Curt Smith and Alie Rivers. Selling ice cream, cone or cup, next-door were Andrea Castle, Jim Scott, and Sue Scott. Not shown are the Brian Harrigans who worked at the grill.



Thom and Jackie Hallock oversaw admissions. Here they are greeting a family ready to enjoy the day at the Fort.



Federal troops ready to move out before the battle.



Surgeons and hospital staff take time out of their busy operating schedule to pose for a photo at the Fort hospital.



ST. LAWRENCE POWER & EQUIPMENT MUSEUM

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<https://forttribute.org>

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St Lawrence Power and Equipment Museum
and at Fort Tribute



Ft. Tribute Coordinator Scott Wilson presented Al Couch of Charleston, South Carolina, General Manager of the H.L. Hunley Traveling Exhibit, with a collage of the history of Fort Tribute and its construction. The presentation commemorates his second visit to the Fort and St. Lawrence County.