

# NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor  
Gail M Cramer



## NORTHAMPTON AMBULANCE SERVICE

(Northampton Rescue Squad)

1950 TO 2020

*Researched by Terry Warner*

In 1950, Yates and Corey undertakers operated a 1936 Oldsmobile Hearse that was used in emergencies to transport injured and sick to Nathan Littauer Hospital in Gloversville.

Notice I said, transport, there was no first aid or any other medical help available at that time.

Bill Crannell remembers hitching a ride back to Northville in this hearse. He says it was black with a purple interior and he rode on the jump seat located behind driver Elmer Cole. Incidentally, this ambulance was found by myself about 1979 or so, located at the back of the road behind the Holy Mackerel Restaurant near the Batchelerville Bridge. It was abandoned in a field and is no longer there. I have been unable to locate where it went from there.



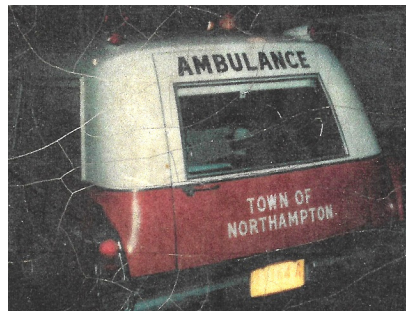
Photo by permission from John Dunn,  
Consultant, Ambertec, P. E., P.C.

During the 1950s Claude Lipe Funeral Service bought a 1954 Cadillac ambulance which he also used as a hearse. Similar to the one above.

According to Northampton Town Clerks records in May of 1964, Bill Gates and Claude Lipe informed the Town Supervisor, Mark Brownell and Board Members that as of July 1, 1964 they will no longer provide any

ambulance service. In June of 1964, the town board approved that Supervisor Mark Brownell purchase an ambulance for the town. In July 1964, the town Board established an ambulance service for the purpose of public safety. The first ambulance was purchased from Kobuskie Funeral Home in Gloversville for \$800. No mention is made about the make of vehicle, but may have been an old Cadillac, as Cadillacs were very popular then, and now, as hearses.

A very short time later in November of 1964, records show a 1954 Cadillac ambulance was purchased for \$2295.99 with an allowance of \$1000. for the trade in of the prior model.



In July of 1966 purchase was made of a used Mitey Mite resuscitator for \$230. and two oxygen tanks for \$30 each.

In October 1967 a 1964 Buick ambulance was purchased for \$4500, less \$1000 trade in.

Prior to 1973, the ambulance was stored in Frank Catanzaro's Chevrolet Dealership Garage on the corner of Reed Street & N. Second St. That building still exists under private ownership.

## MUSEUM

It won't be long before our little museum will be open again for visitors. We have an exciting new display that we will soon be working on. We are planning on an open house for the community, hopefully in June. We will be announcing the date, so be watching for it.

## 2020 OFFICERS of the Town of Northampton Ambulance/Rescue Squad

EMS CHIEF and  
PRESIDENT

Jack Farquhar

ASST. EMS CHIEF

Jon Van Alstyne

VICE PRESIDENT

Steve Collins

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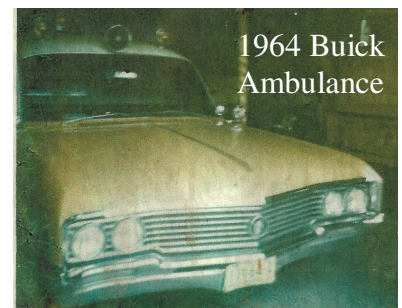
Kim Sakadolsky

TREASURER

Ruth Farquhar

DIRECTOR

Gerry Wildermuth



1964 Buick  
Ambulance

At some point possibly around 1970 call letters were designated for our ambulance as EMG65 for county wide identification purposes.

1973 marked an agreement with the Northville Volunteer Fire Dept. starting march 1, at \$40 a month for storage of the ambulance in the Fire Dept. building and in September of that same year, payment to the village of \$400. per year for use of the Fire Phone System to dispatch the ambulance.

1974 marked the purchase from Cape Hard Hospital Supply of a stretcher for \$201.70.

In August 1975, a 1973 Chevrolet wide body window van ambulance from Superior Body was purchased for \$8000. I remember, as an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician), in 1976 working out of this particular ambulance and still remember that Superior Body had split the entire body in two and added an extra one foot to it's width, making an enormously better work area in the back with patients and also a much more stable ride due to the increased width.



January 1981 saw the sale of this 1973 Chevy to Adirondack Appus Club for \$4,555, upon receipt of the new 1981 Ford van ambulance for, as I remember, around \$19,000, which seemed a tremendous amount of money, Little did we know the latest ambulance would cost \$212,000, with 40 years of inflation.



April 1982 saw the purchase of a paging system for squad members allowing a central dispatch out of the Fulton County Sheriff's Department, eventually, to contact volunteers more rapidly and anywhere they were located, as the pager was carried on the person of each individual.

January 1989 saw, due to lack of members, the suspension of daytime service availability, from 6 a.m. - 6 p.m. The Ambulance Service of Fulton County now covered that time period.

September of 1990, a No Smoking policy was adopted.

January 18, 1991 a used Type 3, wheeled coach ambulance was purchased from Speculator for \$14,670.

March 2020: At this time the latest ambulance is the third purchased since 1993 when Jack Farquhar came to this area and has led a very fine Ambulance Corp since.

Although the first evidence of a Northampton Rescue Squad roster does not occur until Oct 21, 1976, it is thought by several former squad members and EMT's, that the squad was formed in the late 1960s or early 1970s.

Fran and Maureen Sheldon and Frank Catanzaro provided dispatching of squad members to an ambulance call from their homes and from Fran and Maureen's Mobil Gas Station garage on Bridge Street across from the now NBT Bank.

Over the approximate 50 years many community members, myself included, have donated their time, taken much schooling, and given compassionate, caring and medical assistance to help those injured or sick within the Northville and Town of Northampton area. This past year, 2019, the squad answered 171 calls.

2020

The rescue squad desperately needs new members to be able to continue this important volunteer service. There have been several times when the service came close to closing down for lack of members. **WON'T YOU HELP?**

*This article was researched to the best of Terry's ability to find the facts. Some information is from old records and some from the memories of those who were involved over the years. Thank you Terry for the hours you spent putting this important history together.* Editor



EMT's, First Aider's, Drivers, Trainees, Nurses, Doctors, & Emergency numbers (if no one else was available.) Years 1976, 1980, 1981, 1990, 1992

This roster of names were on record and given to me.

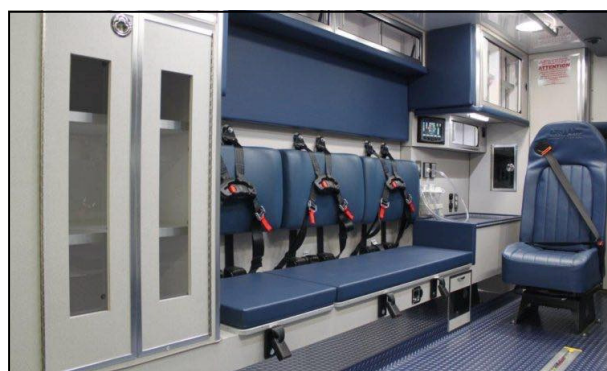
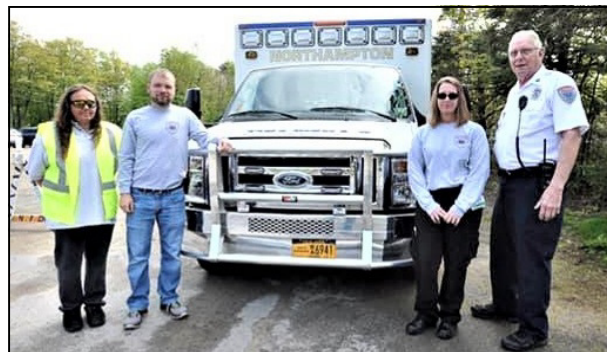
If anyone else has lists of other years please let me know so I can add to this list. *Terry Warner*

Dennis Poulin  
Gladys Rockwell  
Don Wood, Sr.  
John Arsenault  
Loren Bentley  
Elwood Ginter  
Betty Ginter  
James Grega  
James Groff  
Ronald Hayes  
Jack Shufelt  
Ken Warner  
Harry Forsey  
Terry Horton  
Bud Darliing  
Imogene Morrison  
Maureen Sheldon  
Connie Weiss  
Terry Warner  
Jim Izzo  
Art Markey  
Jack Buyce  
Sharon Peck  
George Spencer  
Lil Davis  
Terry Errico  
Marion Drummonds  
Carl Christenson  
Patti Sweet  
Cindy Close  
Randy Palmateer  
Sylvia Buyce  
Bea Deming  
Sam Lecates  
Buddy Bucknell  
Dennis Cline  
Fran Sheldon  
Edward Lecates  
Jack Groff  
Dean Shepard  
Frank Bendl  
Dr. Larry Gruet  
Joe Capobianco  
Betty Maines  
Elmer Cole

Jim Deming  
Greg Ellsworth  
Donna Fancher  
Tom Groff  
Sue Hayes  
Dan Krodel  
Proper, Mark  
Denise Milnyczuk  
Kim Peck  
Deb Reynolds  
Terrie Remano  
Rob Schoneman  
Gerry Wildermuth  
Delos Woodruff  
Grace Collins  
Nora Groff  
Doug Ellsworth  
Carl Reece  
George Spencer  
Lisa Tennant  
Penny Whitman  
Don Edwards  
Sheldon Ginter  
James Lewek  
Larry Benton  
Peter Bradt  
Ernest Gifford  
Gerald Ginter  
David Jacquard  
Sid Junquera  
Mike Markiewicz  
Don Wood, Jr.  
Toni Zier  
Frank Bendl  
Bea Deming  
Bob Ellsworth  
Sally Gagne  
John Markiewicz  
Ann Paulin  
Dr. Larry Gruet  
Heidi Darling  
Jerry Popp  
Tom Preston



These 3 pictures of the 2018 ambulance



The following information was contributed by the Northampton EMS Ambulance Service

Today we operate a 2018 Ford E-450 with a custom LifeLine Ambulance body carrying state-of-the-art equipment. We try to have the newest and most effective technology available to our community whenever possible. Our vehicle and service are regularly inspected by the State Health Department. *(Next page)*

There are two levels of ambulance service in NYS: Basic Life support (BLS and Advanced Life Support (ALS). BLS requires at least one EMT on each call and can perform some medication treatments. All of the first aid and transport skills are provided at this level. It takes about 180 to 200 hours in the classroom and skills labs to become an EMT

ALS involves cardiac monitoring, IV administration, a wide selection of medication, advanced airway management and more. To provide ALS, at least one Medic must be in attendance to the patient. Critical Care level Medics spend about 400 hours in the classroom, while Paramedics see upwards of 1,200 hours. We are an ALS service Many of our Medics are or have been full time or part time employees of large commercial ambulance services.

We carry a cardiac monitor which we purchased just a couple of years ago. It allow us to record 12 lead electrocardiograms, just like the ones in your doctor's office or in the hospital. This monitor also tracks blood pressure, pulse rate, blood oxygen levels, and much much more. It's also an automatic defibrillator when needed. We have the capability to send an EKG and other patient information directly to a physician in the emergency department long before we arrive.

Currently, we have 4 Medics trained to the Critical Care or Paramedic level, 11 Emergency Medical Technicians, plus 10 drivers and aides. Our Medic and EMT' must re-certify current on procedures, medications, and equipment.

Our Medics and EMT's have a large assortment of medical treatments available to the, covering of almost all of the medical emergencies that we might encounter in the pre-hospital setting. We carry several different pain medications in addition to cardiac and other meds.

There are a number of medical conditions that are now reversible if, and only if, the patient is delivered to the appropriate medical facility as fast as possible after the initial event. Some strokes and heart attacks can be successfully treated with clot-busters and other new medications or treatments but they must be administered with a couple of hours of onset. These patients must go to Ellis Hospital in Schenectady or Albany Medical Center where they have the correct facilities and medications to diagnose and treat these conditions. In these cases, we may decide to save precious minutes by utilizing one of the medical helicopter ambulances located throughout the region.

#### IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

When you dial from cell phone the dispatcher can not see where you are located...be prepared to give medical history and medications currently taking, and any allergies...call 911 as soon as a problem is determined...at night turn on porch and house lights that can be seen from the road...give good directions to the location...the town your location is in...street number easy to read...at a difficult location have someone standing by the road.

*I ran across this book maybe 15+ years ago. I've never read the entire book but was fascinated with the story Mr. Simms wrote about the following incident that happened in Northville in 1792. You can read on line the entire book at*

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015028149378&view=1up&seq=>

#### TRAPPERS OF NEW YORK

Jepthe Simms

Samuel Olmstead and Zadock Sherwood, natives of Ridgfield, Conn. Located at Northville about the year 1786, going up the Sacondaga from Fish-House in a canoe, containing a few necessary articles; and after constructing a rude hut, they began to clear up the forest. Nearly four years after the two named took up their abode in the wilderness, Caleb and Daniel Lobdells, brothers, removed thither from Danbury, Conn. Between the advent of the Lobdells, and the year 1794, the Sacondaga settlement had been increased by the arrival of Joseph Olmsted, Abraham Van Aernam, Paul Hammond, John Shoecraft, Aaron Olmstead, Samuel Price, and Possibly one or tow others. The settlers, who had gone through the hardships and experienced the thousand and one difficulties at attending the settling of all new countries, were a this time living very comfortably on the lands, not a few acres of which, on both sides of the river, were under improvement; yielding in their virgin strength, a rich compensation to the husbandman.

Indian hunters were very frequent guests among the pioneer settlers of Northville; and as the latter spared no pains to cultivate amity with the, the ready may judge their surprise, when, on some occasion in the summer of 1792, possibly on the eve of which intimations of save intimations of savage invasion had been clandestinely put afloat, as alarm spread through settlement, that a party of Indians hideously painted were in their vicinity, only waiting a favorable opportunity to kill



the inhabitants and bear off their hard earnings, While all was bustle and confusion at the rude tenements of the settlers, peal after peal of firearms broke the stillness of night, interrupted occasionally with the whoops and shouts of the foe, approaching as they seemed to be on the west side of the river. Every preparation that could be made on the emergency to resist the invaders was quickly made; and the colonist, there being no chicken-hearted among them, resolved to sell their lives as dearly as possible. Hour after hour wore away until morning; the clanger of arms and lungs had ceased; still the foeman had not crossed the river.

Some of the settlers, whose mettle had been tried in the Revolution, crossed the river in the morning, when, lo! They found greater evidence of Indian invasion than did the Windhamites, on the morning after their alarm by the frogs of their neighborhood in olden time; for in the cornfield nearly opposite the Lobdell dwelling, there were numerous moccasined tracks, and not a few half consumed gunwads. One particularity was observable, however; the footsteps did not turn in at the toes, as those of the red man invariably did. It was now recollected, that Price and Aaron Olmsted, had not been among the excited inhabitants when counseling for defense; and from some impending circumstances, suspicion rested upon them of having played possum for some purpose.

It soon leaked out that the suspicion of the inhabitants was well founded; that the two had undertaken, as the menials of certain land speculators, to frighten away the earliest settlers, for which service they were to receive "twenty-five dollars" the land sharks to get the improvements the hard-fisted yeomanry had made, for a nominal sum. Accordingly they repaired to the cornfield with pistols and stentorian lungs, to practice the war dance. When the trick was discovered, the Achans, who had families, were obliged to make a hasty flight from the country, to escape the vengeance of the enraged neighbors: and so

precipitate was their departure, that Olmstead forgot his own wife and took along another man's wife. Thus terminated the only Indian alarm the pioneers of Northville ever experienced.

*(Facts from Nathan P Lobdell, son of one of the pioneers settlers names in this article)*

*Mr. Simms was largely self-educated. He became an acknowledged authority on the history and geology of upstate New York through years of personal interviews with the region's oldest surviving residents and collecting fossils and mineral samples. The interviews became the backbone of his subsequent writings, while his geological collection was eventually purchased by the State of New York for \$5,000 (an impressive sum at the time)*

*As a young man, Simms worked at Canajoharie New York, but removed to New York City in 1829. A few years later, he returned to upstate New York and began compiling his collection of historical material while working as a railroad ticket agent.*

*From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*



NNHS Newsletter Book 1 and Book 2  
is now selling at  
Sally and Bob's Flower Barn  
on Division Street

After reading the article about our Rescue Squad, I hope you will appreciate their dedication to saving your life, the number of classes they attended plus other programs throughout the year and being on call 24/7. Most members also have other jobs. I have been a recipient of their expertise, kindness, gentleness and caring. Thanks isn't enough !

Editor