

# NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

Issue 70  
June 2016  
Editor  
Gail M Cramer



## SAMUEL OLMSTEAD

(Abt. 1768) - 1845

We have just celebrated Memorial Day. Northville, as usual, had a parade and a very memorable service to honor those who have gone on before us. We especially remembered our veterans who gave their lives for our freedom and for the veterans that risked their lives and performed many duties that resulted in our freedom. We also remembered other loved ones who have made a difference in our lives. I was thinking about our forefathers here in Northville, who because of them, Northville has become a town/village to be proud of. Others who have contributed to the success of our students, local government, businesses, our safety and upkeep of our beautiful village are our: Firemen, Policeman, Teachers, Mayors, Supervisors, Merchants, Public Servants, Pastors, Sunday School Teachers, Boys and Girls Scout leaders and Citizens.

Samuel Olmstead came to mind as I thought of those who contributed to the founding of our village. He arrived by canoe on the Sacandaga River in 1788 from Danbury Conn, being the first settler of what is now our village. He built a crude shed along the river and later built a log home on what is now South Main Street. A Historical marker can be seen at this location.



South Main Street Historical Cemetery

## MUSEUM NEWS

Opening June 25 through August 27, Wednesdays and Saturdays 10 to 2. It will also be open on special event days and other days by appointment.

Some new signs have been hung and old ones moved. Gloria has been busy cleaning and reorganizing some displays. A few new posters have been made by the historian for the poster display.

NNHS annual meeting and picnic will be held 5 p.m., June 15 at the Town Park.



# OUR HISTORIC SOUTH MAIN STREET CEMETERY

When was the last time (if ever) did you take a walk through this cemetery? So much history lies in the names of so many of our forefathers buried here. I recommend that you browse through, read the names and be thankful for these folks that established our village/town.



Entering this cemetery you will notice many very old stones. The cemetery land was given to the village in early 1800s by Joseph Spier. He was our first post master and named our village Northville. in 1824. Thankfully someone is restoring his 1819 brick house on South Main St. Joseph and his wife are buried in this cemetery.

As I walked down the nearly grown up pathways, I saw names that I often read about as I record historical events, stories and genealogy for folks looking for their ancestors.

There are many interesting people buried in this cemetery among them is;

Joseph C. Peek,  
1836 - 1911

A farmer of Dutch origin, and local stage driver in Northville. In 1863 he enlisted in Co. B, 95th New York Volunteers, Army of the Potomac and participated in the battle of Mine Run, and Wilderness, besides other skirmishes. He received a gun shot wound in the hip and carried the ball near his spine until his death. He lay on the ground for two days and nights and was taken prisoner by the rebels and removed to Andersonville, where he remained two months. He was taken to Savannah prison and paroled in 1864. He served in several more battles and had his left leg broken by a gun shot, and disabled for service. He was mustered out at Albany, NY. He was a pensioner and member of the GAR after returning to his hometown of Northville. He died in 1911.

Other well known names that you'll see are: Lobdell, Resseguie, Lawton, Anibal, Barker, Blowers, Van Arnam, Conklin, Conroy, Gifford, Gould, Lyon, Newton, Van Ness, Vibbard, Palmer, Whitman, Albro, Cole.



# PROSPECT HILL CEMETERY

1882

The land was formerly the Slocum Farm.

It's been written that as this cemetery was being constructed, a Stephen Acker was helping and made the statement, "I wonder who will be the first person buried here?" Stephen built the abutments of the first iron bridge across the Sacandaga River in Northville in 1882. He also built the Hubbell Chimney that we know as the former home of the Swift's. Stephen was accidentally killed in 1883 and strangely became the first person buried in this cemetery.

We are fortunate to have a beautiful cemetery, that is well kept. It's location being on Prospect Street with the Adirondack Mountains in the background. The land is flat and easily accessible to loved ones visiting the graves of their ancestors. It is a very peaceful and quiet place.

Stuart Van Nostrand has maintained this cemetery for 45 years. What a great job he has and is doing. He's always friendly to whomever is looking for a grave of their families or has to make arrangements for burials. He keeps good records, and manages the many tasks that needs to be accomplished to keep it orderly and neat.

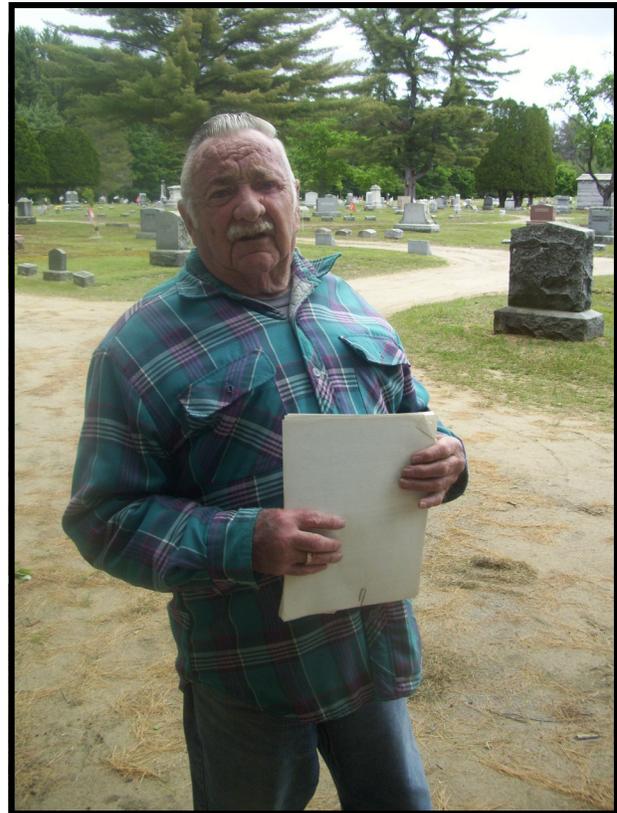
## **45 years of Service (so far)**

Stuart started working there in 1957. He worked there until 1966, when he took another job or awhile, then returned in 1980 and has worked there ever since. His dream is to be able to put in 50 years.

Stuart, is proud to say that his grand father , Hiram Ellsworth was head of operating the cemetery from 1940 to 1965. His Uncle Gordon (Corky) Ellsworth from 1965 to 1990. His son Stuart, Jr. worked there with his father for 13 years and his son Brett for 6 years. He proudly says four generations of his family has a total of 114 years as employees at Prospect Hill Cemetery.

Stuart has had many interesting experiences over the years, he's thankful that there's been little vandalism over the years and that was very minor. He said that the neighbors across from the cemetery keep a watchful eye on any thing unusual that might take place.

Thank you Stuart for a fine job well done.

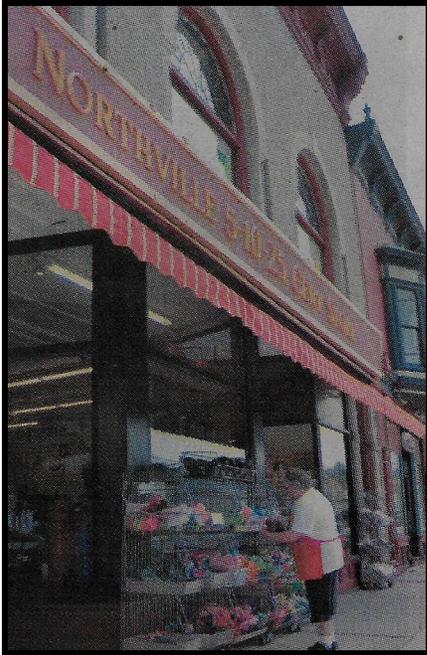


Stuart Van Nostrand



PROSPECT HILL CEMETERY

Did you know that the Northville Dime Store is the oldest Dime Store in the United States? Alberta Blowers has worked there for 52 years. I wonder how many Northville folks can say they worked there at some time.



Alberta Blowers



Willard Bros. 1914



This building was actually built in 1914 but just down the street was the R. G. Dewitt Dime Store That was in operation in 1907 and moved into this building as soon as it was completed.



## “THE DOINS” 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS



The “Doin’s” and 4th of July parade began in the mid 1940’s, by the Northville Firemen’s Association . There were many rides for all ages, games of chance, provided by the amusement company. Local organizations also set up games such as ring toss and penny toss and food booths. Remember the clam chowder?

The “Doins” took place where the firehouse stands today and later at the American Leagion property (now the post office). It was always celebrated on the Fourth.

The parade consisted of mostly local folks, dressed as clowns, decorated bicycles, floats, animals, etc. North Main Street was blocked off to accommodate the square dancing.

### Official Program in 1949

Parade at 10 A. M.  
Baseball Game 3 P.M.  
Block Dance 9 P. M.  
Bingo and Concessions all Day

### Northville Fireman’s Association, Inc.

1949

Officers

Nelson Weaver President  
Roy Gardner Vice President  
C. W. Simons... Secretary  
Howard Dunham Treasurer  
Frank Langr....Asst. Treasurer

### HISTORY IN THE MAKING

The 1950s classes of NCS are having a reunion July 1 at the American Legion Picnic Pavilion.  
If you haven’t already registered, call NOW. 8632628