

NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor

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MUSEUM
Closed
until further notice

THE RED BARN

One of Northville's favorite places to shop
Was it always an antique store?



June 2020



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Donna Breda and her daughter Sue Sedon



1890 The National Hotel was sold to Gardiner-Winnie. The barn then became a Livery Stable for the Winney Hotel. H. D. Eaton ran the stable.

Tourists, Pleasure Parties and Commercial Travelers conveyed to points of interest in the vicinity at reasonable rates. Special attention given to Lake Pleasant travel.

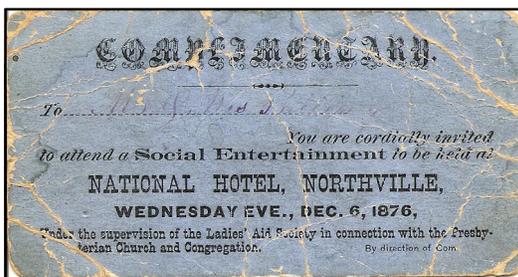
H. D. EATON,

LIVERY, SALE AND EXCHANGE STABLES,

IN CONNECTION WITH WINNEY HOUSE.

Northville, N. Y., 1890

1860 This barn was originally built as a Livery Stable for the National Hotel, which was on the corner of South Main and Center Street. Owner and proprietor R. E Ash.



Winney Hotel with the barn stable in the background

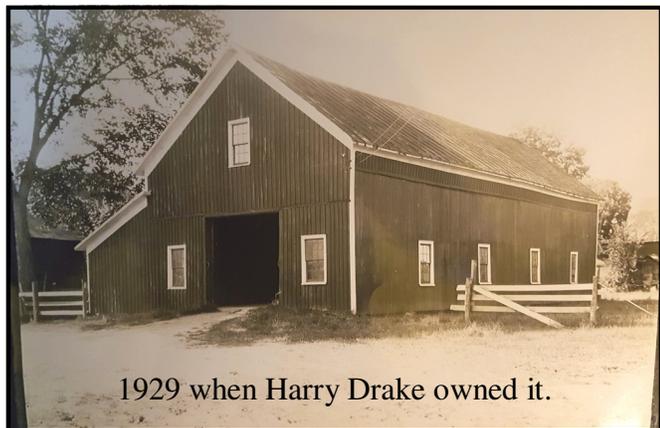
1920 Harry Drake purchased the property and used the barn for storage. He also built a house on the site where the old hotels had stood. Today, Donna, Sue and Carl Sedon live in the house Harry built.

Sam Esposito stored his popcorn truck in the barn.



1967 Local children put on a dramatic play in the barn about Dracula
Sue Breda (Sedon), Paul Breda, Joanne Strode, Sheila Strode, Gretchen and Ellen Markey, Eugene and Nancy Brooks, Todd and Jamie Canfield

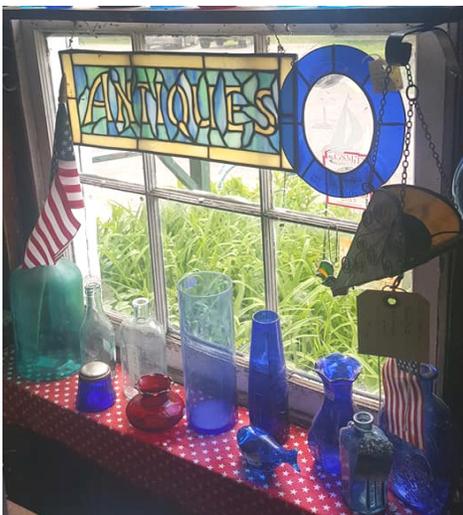
1968
Donna Bergens Breda and her mother, Hilda Bergens opened the Red Barn as an antique, collectible shop.



1929 when Harry Drake owned it.



1976
During the summer the Red Barn was used during the bicentennial year for square dancing. Bales of hay were used for people to sit on. They were able to have six or eight sets.. Patty Sweet's father, Jim Winchell was the square dance caller.



2020 The Red Barn continues to be run as an antique, collectable, and consignment shop by Donna Breda, Sue and Carl Sedon. Several small out buildings next to the barn have been added for specialized items. 2020 marks 52 years of the antique business in the Red Barn.



PRESBYTERIAN GRAVEYARD OF FISH HOUSE

By Joanne Blaaubour

Town of Northampton Deputy Historian of Fish House

The Hamlet of Fish House is located on the east side of the Great Sacandaga Lake. It was established in 1762 by Sir William Johnson. Originally it was called Northampton and was considered a gateway to the Adirondacks. There were stores and hotels as well as many businesses. In 1814 the Presbyterian Church held several revivals in upstate New York, one was in the town of Fish House. After the revival, the people of Fish House decided to build a church, so in 1815, a wooden church was built.

Abraham Beecher and Isaac Noyes were the first deacons. In 1859 the wooden church was replaced by a brick one that stands today near the intersection of County Routes 109 and 110. The brick building is now privately owned and no longer is an active church. Next to the church is a small graveyard of close to 70 gravestones. The oldest gravestone is that of Deacon Abraham Beecher's



daughter, Lydia, who died in 1803. The last person to be buried in the graveyard was Sarah Fay Cunningham in 1862. Almost half of the people buried there were children under the age of 6. Those were harsh times. Many cemeteries were researched during the 1930's. They called it the Presbyterian Cemetery, Abandoned. It has a few variations of that name, but nothing official. If you look on line you will come across the 1930's list for this small graveyard. Then in the 1990's, Dave Bixby, realizing how little was known about the

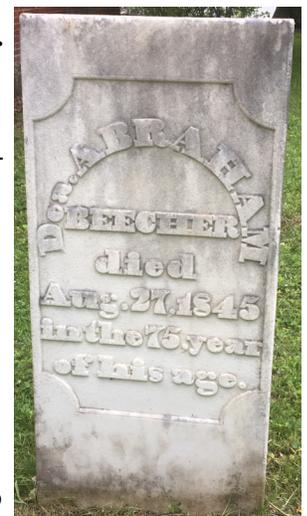
cemeteries of Fulton and Montgomery Counties started to record the names in each cemetery. By the year 2000, he had done 182 cemeteries, including the little graveyard of Fish House. Not only did he record the names, he also had a grid system for the location of the graves. His research helped me immensely with the Fish House graveyard. Please note, I refer to this cemetery as a graveyard. The definition of a graveyard is a cemetery found next to a church. For over 150 years, the little graveyard has been largely ignored, other than the occasional mowing by neighbors. I decided to try to research as many "residents" of the graveyard as I could. With such a small graveyard, in such a small town, and with almost half of them being children, I didn't think that I would find too much information, but I was wrong. Many "residents" have a connection with historical events. Here are a few:

David Marvin died in 1811 at the age of 77. He fought in the Revolutionary War as a private in the Connecticut Volunteers. He was the father of Dr. **Langdon Marvin**, one of the early doctors of Fish House.

John Fay died in 1855 at the age of 82. He built the first brick store of Fish House. He also built the Fish House Hotel. He was elected to the 16th US Congress and was also a US Postmaster.

Deacon Abraham Beecher Jr. died in 1845 at the age of 75. He was instrumental in establishing the Presbyterian Church of Fish House. His cousin was the famous author, Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Lydia Day Fuller, wife of Abraham Beecher, died in 1847 at the age of 78. Lydia's great great grandfather was Samuel Fuller who

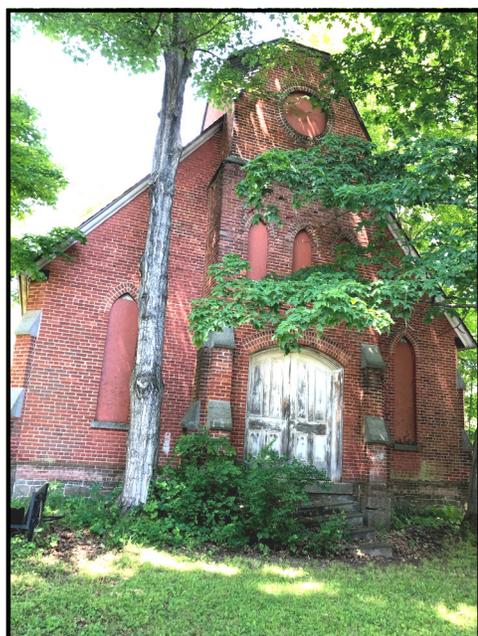


came to America on the Mayflower at the age of 12. When Samuel was 27, he married **Jane Lathorp**. The person who married them was **Captain Miles Standish!**

Truman Beecher Shew died in 1848 at the young age of 31. He was the grandson of **Deacon Abraham Beecher**. Truman and his three brothers were trained in daguerreotype photography by **Samuel T. Morse** (the inventor of the telegraph). Sadly it was the mercury from that photography process that would cause his young death.

Lucius Spaulding, died in 1839 at the age of 2. After he died, his parents, Andrew and Emmeline Spaulding left Fish House and moved to Buffalo, NY. There they had a daughter named Mary. In 1856 Mary married Lewis Bennett. Bennett and his father in law, Andrew Spaulding started a company in Buffalo called Spaulding & Bennett. Lewis then started the Buffalo Cement Company. In 1889, Bennett developed the Buffalo neighborhood known as Central Park. He also donated land for a high school which to this day is still called Bennett High School. So the brother-in-law of **Lucius Spaulding** made a major impact on Buffalo, NY.

Reverend Joseph Farrar died in 1821 at the age of 36. He was the reverend for the Presbyterian Church from 1818 -1821. He also preached in Galway, NY. His gravestone is lying in the grass. It was not listed in the 1930's list, so perhaps it was buried. It was visible when Bixby was doing his research.



When I first started working in the graveyard, I was confused by what I thought were tiny gravestones. I thought that they might mark a child's grave. After some research I realized that they were foot stones and each of them had the initials of the buried person. In this graveyard, the gravestones face West, toward the back of the church. Perhaps the main entrance to the graveyard was from the back of the church. The confusing part for me was that the foot stones are not in front of the gravestones but behind them, on the East side. After doing some more research I found that according to old Christian beliefs, bodies were buried East-West, with the head on the West end. The foot stones have been very helpful to me in locating gravestones.



With one gravestone, using the foot stone as a guide, I had to dig a foot down to find pieces of a missing gravestone. If you visit this graveyard, just watch out for the small foot stones, they can be a tripping hazard! Just recently I applied for a grant for an historical marker for this graveyard.

Many hours were spent trying to meet their criteria, but unfortunately the grant was denied due to many of their restrictions. Hopefully in the future we can get some kind of sign to mark this historical place. It would be a shame that this graveyard would be forgotten as time progresses. If you would like to read more about Fish House and this little cemetery, go to my website: www.northamptonnyhistory.com



Cleaning the stones is a labor of love. I do the best I can with the time I have. The cleaning product is expensive but does a nice job. Some stones are hardly readable until they are cleaned.