

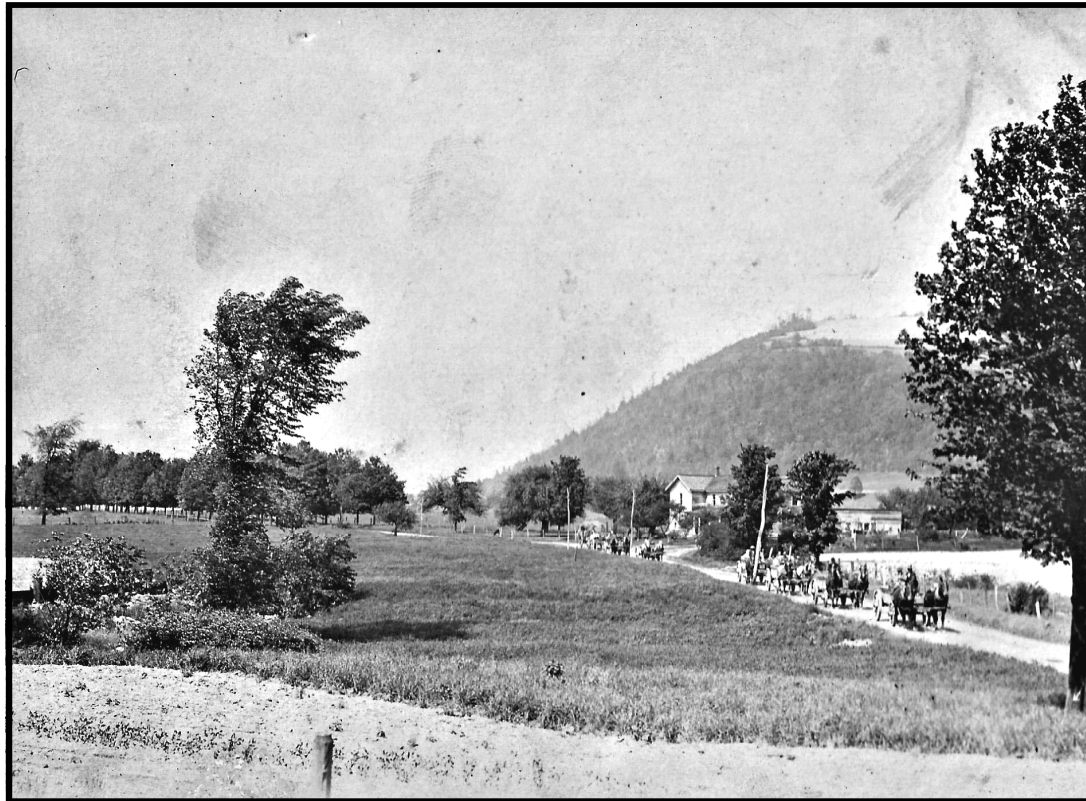
NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

Issue 155
August 2023
Editor
Gail M



Funeral procession to Willard Cemetery on the old River Road Cole Mountain in the background



MUSEUM
Open by request
only, during Sep-
tember and Octo-
ber.

There were over
300 visitors to the
museum during
the Rotary Wood-
worker Art Show.

Looking for an
obituary of a fam-
ily member or
friend? Cookie
Langr Blanchett
has been collect-
ing obituaries
from newspapers
and saving them in
archival safe fold-
ers. If you want to
access any of them
call 518 863 2628
or email:
cramergm@gmail.
com



Drawing of the river road line is approximate

Originally the River Road was an Indian trail to north country before it became a road from Northville to Hope and Wells and northern New York State. It is the route that Sir John Johnson and his party of Loyalists and Indians took in 1776 to escape to Canada.

According to Ted Aber and Stella King in their book, "The History of Hamilton County, it was a trail well-known to the earliest hunters of the southern Adirondacks.

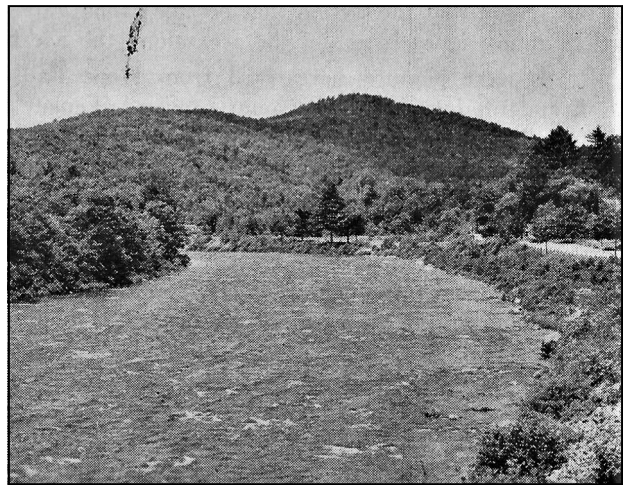
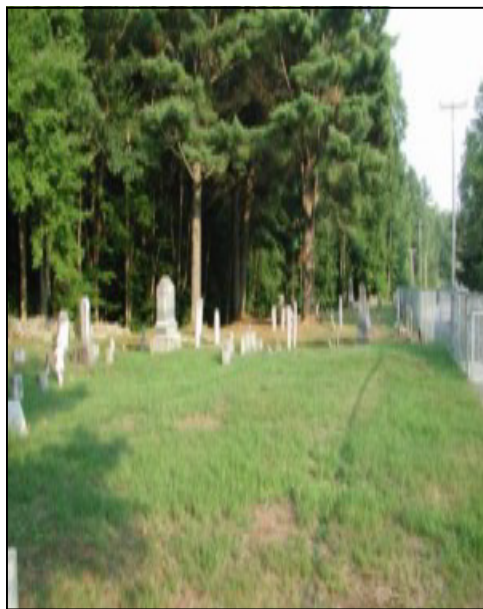
On Google Earth the old road approaching the Willard cemetery can barely be recognized amongst the trees. View map on next page or go to Google Earth and see a clearer picture



The old River Road
 Willard Cemetery
 Old route 30
 Northville Road
 Isaac Williams House
 (Reidel's)
 The old River Road
 Route 30 today

Willard Cemetery

Town of Hope, on route 30, east side of the road, one-quarter mile north of the Fulton-Northampton County Line



The first road into the Southern Adirondacks in the 1790's followed the Sacandaga River through Hope.

Picture courteous of "The History of Hamilton County" by Ted Aber and Stella King

According to records, the first burial was in 1837 of Synthia Eglin wife of Peter Eglin. There are many local descendants of those buried here, living in our area today, including Willard, Bennett, Groff, Harris, Conklin.

<https://hamilton.nygenweb.net/cemeteries/willard.html>

Levi and Jane (Sherman) Brooks A Northville Family in the late 1800's



When Levi Andrew Brooks was born on April 13, 1838, in Northville, New York, his father, Hosea, was 36 and his mother, Charity, was 26. Hosea moved to Northville from Massachusetts. His wife, Charity Torry was born in Mayfield. They had 11 children.

Levi and Jane had four sons and four daughters.. He died on July 10, 1918, in his hometown, having lived a long life of 80 years. He is buried in the Prospect Cemetery in Northville. Jane grew up in Mayfield, she was born in 1852. She died on March 6, 1929, in Northville, New York, at the age of 77, she is also buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery.

Levi was living in Northville when he was 15 years old, so he must have attended a one room school house in Northville. Levi served in the civil war from 1861 to 1865, in the **77th NY Infantry, Co. F** He and his family lived in Hope in 1870, the census says he was a farmer. They were living in Edinburg in 1892.

Jane Sherman was born in 1852 in Mayfield.. After Levi's death she remarried to Seymour Holmes She died on March 6, 1929, in Northville, New York, at the age of 77 and is buried beside Levi in Prospect Hill Cemetery in Northville.

Jane and Levi's 8 children: Arthur, Kitty, Cora, Dwella, Clarence, Robertina, Lena, and William.

The picture of the two young boys are of Clarence and William. It looks like they are ready to go to school. Clarence is on the left and is holding a book. Note the wagon to the right of William.

According to the 1885 Johnstown Daily Republic, Clarence Brooks, son of Levi and Jane Brooks, dies of diphtheria at 5 years old.





Linda Finch, local artist, has donated one of her paintings to help defray expenses of the museum. \$1.00 a ticket. The painting is the view in Fish House

FISH HOUSE

Fish house, built in 1762 was the name of Sir William Johnson's fishing camp on the Sacandaga River. As the second largest landholder in the Colonies, after William Penn, Sir William used this rough story and a half building to entertain guests while fishing and hunting in the vast wetlands of the valley. Wherever Sir William went, there was usually a large entourage of people including Mohawks, English and Irish gentry, slave, military and well-to-do Colonists.

Game was plentiful and includes deer, moose, geese, ducks and a wide variety of fish. Hard cider, liquor and Madeira were plentiful as was the wild game. Stories, parties, drinking and evenings with the Wormwood sisters abound.

Pictured are Sir William in a birch bark canoe with his body guard, Pontioch (half Black and half Mohawk), and fiddler, the dwarf named Billy in the bow. Fish and turtles complement the scene. In the back on a rise is his camp made of rough planks; there were by then two local sawmills. Around the fire are several people including slaves stirring the pot for the evening dinner. His two hunting spaniels are nearby. Strings of horses are there as this was before Sir William had a road constructed for the coaches. Tents were erected for additional sleeping space. To the far right are Molly and Joseph Brant, Sir William's Mohawk wife and brother-in-law. Both of these people were of great social and political help to Sir William in his position as Indian agent for the colonies. *Written by Linda Finch*
See www.finchfinearts.com for this and other regional folk art of the Sacandaga Valley.



Original size 3 X 5



"Best Friends" abt 1889
Margaret Green and Alice Lyon
Margaret married W. Kested
Alice married I. Houghton