

NNHS NEWS LETTER

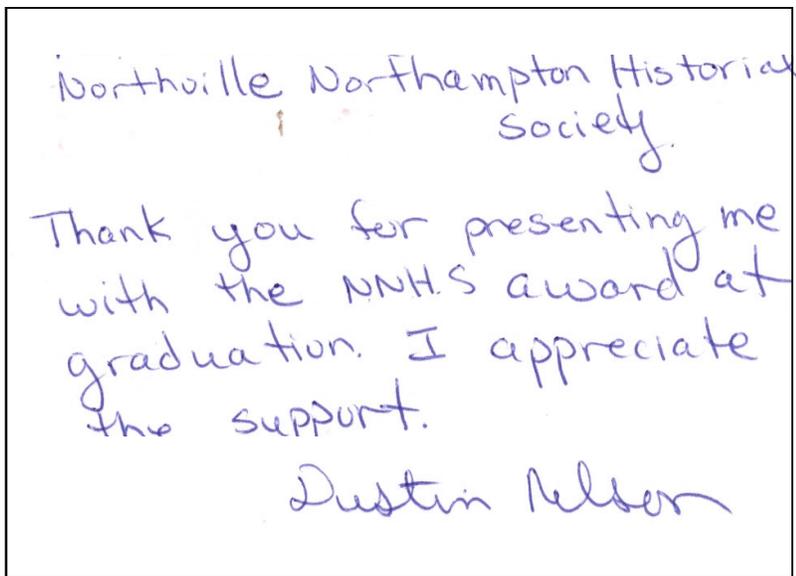
Northville Northampton Historical Society

Issue 24
Sept. 2012
Editor
Gail M Cramer



NNHS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

For a number of years the NNHS has awarded \$100.00 to a Northville High School graduate for either his/her interest in local history or have completed a historical project for the historical society. This year the award /scholarship was given to Dustin Nelson.



MUSEUM NOTES

It was a great summer, especially at the museum. People locally and visitors from out of town were amazed at all the information contained in our little school house museum.

Our guides are very well informed of our local history and were able to educate those who visited.

There were well over 400 visitors that signed the guest book.. Not everyone signs the book so an accurate count isn't available.

There were 2 school groups that toured the museum and there were 5 private/by appointment tours given by Skip and Gail .

Visitors beyond NY State were from; N.J., PA., CT. MASS. CA., IND., VA, OH., GA. N.C., as well as Germany, Ireland, and Columbia.

A **special thanks** to Gloria Fulmer for being there Wednesday's and Skip Thompson on Saturday's. Other guides who helped were Terry Warner, Gail and Steve Collins and Gail Cramer.

Thank you note for the log sleds that we donated to Boonville Black River Canal Museum



August 22, 2012

BOONVILLE
BLACK RIVER
CANAL MUSEUM

Dear Terry,

We got back with everything in order and put away in our storage barn. Just a note of thank you for your donation and help.

We have tentatively planned to put a logging display in our new building. I'll let you know how it works out.

Again, thank you. Sincerely, "Ed"

A COLLAGE OF MEMORIES

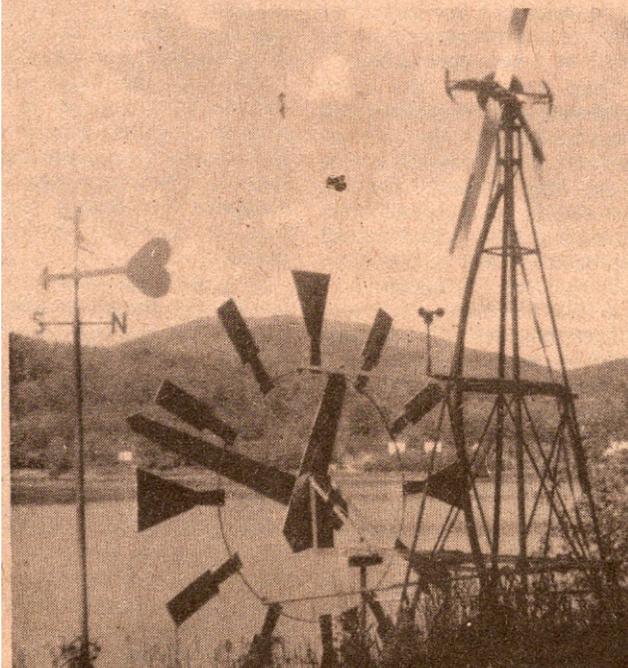
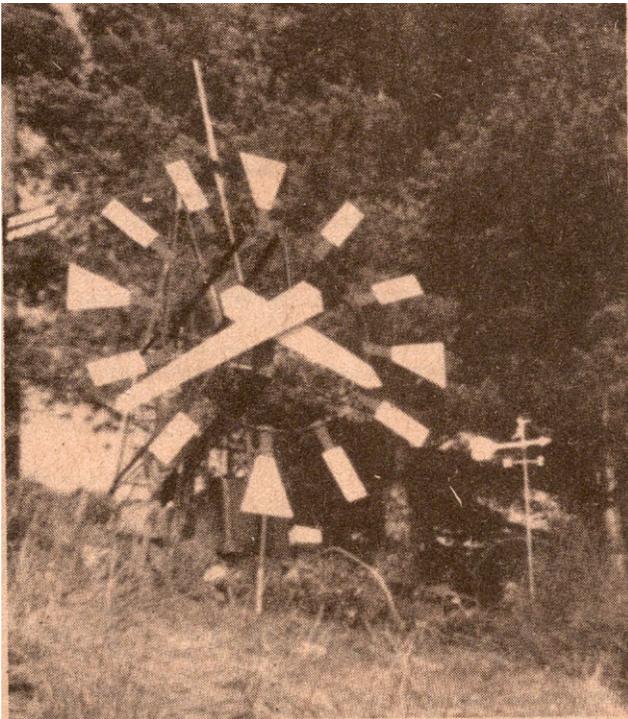
How many of these do you remember? Do you remember where they were located? The Brass Rail was where Timeless Tavern is, Serfis Glove Corp was in the old school where our municipal building is, Sacandaga Suppy was on the Reed Street Curve, Willard Lumber was where the N'ville Beach is, Tracy Howard's was where Morrison's Ins. Is on N. Main, Mosher's on the cor. Of Bridge and First St., Yates on S. Main .

<p>FLEWELLING'S BRASS RAIL <small>SERVING THE FINEST DINNERS IN THE NORTH COUNTRY</small> PHONE 25 MAIN STREET NORTHVILLE, N. Y.</p>	<p>SERFIS GLOVE CORP. GLOVE MANUFACTURERS NORTHVILLE, N. Y.,</p>
<p>HEATING OIL CO. WILLARD WEAVER BOX 343 NORTHVILLE, N. Y. Dial WAverly 5-5615</p>  	<p>PHONE 169 512 REED STREET Sacandaga Supply Co. HOME SERVICE CENTER Building Materials — Cottages on the Lake NORTHVILLE, N. Y. M. E. FOUNTAIN</p>
<p>All claims for errors or damages must be made within Five days after receipt of goods. ESTABLISHED 1875</p> <p>John A. Willard Lumber Co. MANUFACTURERS OF AND DEALERS IN Rough and Dressed Lumber. SHINGLES, SASH, DOORS, GLASS, ROOFING, WALL BOARD, PLASTER and PLASTER BOARD, FLUE LINING, SEWER PIPE OFFICE AND YARD OPPOSITE R. R. DEPOT. NORTHVILLE, N. Y., <i>Dec 30 1922</i></p> <p>ADAMANT BRICK LIME HAIR CEMENT</p> <p>Telephone 42-F-2. Sold to <i>Kested & Porman</i></p> <p>..... TERMS: NET CASH Interest Charged After Thirty Days.</p>	<p>ERNEST P. GIFFORD HEATING Esso OILS NORTHVILLE, N. Y. PHONE 198</p>
<p><i>Northville, N. Y., Sept 8 1905</i> <i>M. Wm Hollarn</i> <i>Northville Store</i></p> <p>IN ACCOUNT WITH SEYMOUR H. WILLARD, DEALER IN Hard and Soft Wood and Ice.</p>	<p>Tracy H. Howard I Sell the Earth and Everything On It Northville, N. Y. Phone 194</p>
<p>Northville 107</p> <p>JESSE BLOWERS TAXI SERVICE LONG TRIPS A SPECIALTY NORTHVILLE NEW YORK</p>	<p>NORTHVILLE TEL. WA. 5-5241</p> <p>MOSHER BROS. GORDON B. MOSHER</p>  <p>FROZEN FOODS RESTAURANT SUPPLIES</p> <p>FEED FARM SUPPLIES PET FOODS</p> <p>MAYFIELD TEL. 210</p> <div data-bbox="1182 1491 1453 1869" style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>FLAVORINGS OF ALL KINDS</p> <p>EXTRACT OF VAN ELLA</p> <p>MANUFACTURED BY BURDELL YATES NORTHVILLE, N. Y.</p> </div>

The Clock

on the shores of the Sacandaga

How well I remember sailing on the Great Sacandaga Lake and checking the time on this huge clock. It was so unique. The following article describes how and why it was built and about the engineer who built it.



FRONT AND BACK of clock in Northville Bridge area

Robert Hickey of Northville, a retired engineer who has built nearly 1,500 clocks during his career, has constructed what he terms "the most unique" clock in the Tri-County area, a giant, bright yellow timepiece 9 feet in diameter overlooking the Great Sacandaga Lake near the Northville Bridge.

The clock, which Hickey says "resembles a huge 63-square-foot sunflower," is easily visible to boaters on the lake and can be seen through the trees from Route 30. It is located on a high eastern bank in a clearing of property owned by Miss Georgiana Motiaytis, from whom the retired engineer has rented a room since his retirement as a clockmaker in 1973.

"Thanks to this massive timepiece," Hickey said, "it is now virtually impossible for a boater on the lake to approach the Northville Bridge from the south without suddenly being aware of the correct time."

As to why he decided to build the clock, his largest, which took only a week to complete, he said: "Because this property is 25 feet above the lake in a clearing that provides for good visibility, I thought it was a unique experiment to build the largest clock possible driven by the smallest mechanism.

"I found that 9 feet was the ultimate size that could be constructed to be driven by the 5 watt mechanism and withstand the wind." Five watts, he noted, is only twice the power used to operate a small desk clock.

"The clock's creation and erection illustrates one way in which a senior citizen can apply his talents to the rendition of an appreciated public service," he commented.

The clock, he said, is strapped to a 10-foot windmill, which supplies power to operate the spotlights that light the clock from 8 to 10 each night.

The clock's digits, made from old television cabinets donated by Miss Motiaytis, are firmly clamped to an iron hoop which is 5 feet in diameter. They extend about 2 feet from the hoop.

The hands of the timepiece are made of thin strips of plywood and the minute hand is reinforced by a thin aluminum strip. "It would flop around, otherwise," Hickey noted.

The hands are in perfect balance, according to the retired

6/19/1976

engineer or else the small mechanism, a cylindrical box only 9 inches in diameter, would not be sufficient to drive the clock.

"You could put each hand on a knife edge and it would balance," he explained. The mechanism itself is so small it is hidden from view.

Because of the clock's light weight and perfect balance, it can withstand winds up to 40 m.p.h. "The wind blows right through the clock," he explained. "It's just so light you could almost compare it to a spider web."

Hickey had been in business constructing clocks since 1951. He had been employed as an engineer for the Veeder Root firm of Hartford, Conn., for five years before beginning his clock business. Through the business he built hundreds of clocks for Connecticut banks and public buildings.

The first clock he built in 1951 was for the Hartford National Bank and Trust Company, but his hobby of constructing large clocks with small mechanisms began when he was 9 years old, when he put together a clock using whittled down shingles as hands and an alarm clock as the driving mechanism. He sold it to the local grocer for \$5.

He has three children and 11 grandchildren living in Springfield, Mass. area. Hickey's wife Sarah is dead.

This clock was situated behind where the Northville Library is.

The clock was torn down when the building for the library was renovated and the parts were given to Lawrence Faust, a local sculpturer who had an art park at the old Sacandaga Park railroad station.