

NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

Issue 136
January 2022
Editor
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Coffin Plates

Maybe not the most popular subject but they were very popular and used locally, and also in my family.



The oldest coffin plates date from around the 17th century and gained popularity in North America in the 19th century. When a loved one died, the family would hire a local blacksmith a silversmith, or a coffin plate manufacturer to create a metal plaque and engrave it with details of the deceased person. Depending on the financial resources of the survivors, coffin plates ranged in size, metals used to create them and how much information was engraved. Common metals used were lead, pewter, silver, brass, copper zinc or tin. *Lorine McGinnis Schulze*

By the middle of the 19th century almost every family could afford to have a coffin plate put on the coffin of their loved one. During this time period, it was a common practice to display the coffin plate on a wooden stand on the lid of the coffin. Sometimes it was placed on a nearby table along with a photo of the deceased. The family then took the coffin plate home as a remembrance of their loved one. Many plates, as was my great grandmother's, were tucked away in drawers and passed on in families but others were framed and hung on a wall in the home. I have the one above hanging on a wall in my home.

In some cases, graves are dug up and coffins removed, as was done when the 3872 bodies in the cemeteries in our area were dug up for the building of the Sacandaga Reservoir. Often the coffin plates were removed, and kept by the family and sometimes they can be found for sale by collectors. Your family may have an ancestors coffin plate, or you may be lucky enough to find one in an antique store or flea market.

Coffin plates are a very unique resource for genealogists. They often contain information that can't be found elsewhere. If you are stuck finding a death record for an ancestor or you simply want to flesh out his or her details, you may want to hunt for a coffin plate. Ancestors At Rest website has an extensive [database of coffin plates](#) online with images.

Onolee Council

No. 313 Degree of Pocahontas
Northville N.Y.



This picture appears to be in a parade. Year unknown. The lady in end of the float, far right is Pauline Langr. Can anyone identify and of the others?

Apparently it was a very active group. There are several articles in old newspapers that record some of their activities.

Covered Dish for Onolee Council
NORTHVILLE Onolee Council. 313, Degree of Pocahontas, will meet In the Red Mens hall on Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock. A covered dish supper will be served by Mrs. Helen Willard, Mrs. Gussie Satterlee, Mrs Lulu Carpenter, Mrs. Agnes Lawton.

Council Welcomes Deputy 1940
Activities of the coming season were outlined by the offices of Onolee Council, Degree of Pocahontas, during the recent meeting in the rooms. Mrs. Kathryn Da Corsi, deputy, was welcomed. A large cake and two baskets of flowers, donated by Lucy McMillin, made up the table decorations. The deputy was presented with a gift by Pocahontas Mary Sauve on behalf of the council. A covered dish was served to 20 members and seven guests. Among the guests introduced were Elsie Stuk, past great Pocahontas and Deputy Lula Carpenter of Mohawk Council of Johnstown. Announcement was made the next meeting of the join union committees will be held tomorrow night with Onolee Council in Northville. Viola Lair, Pauline Langr, Olive Andronna, Iona Darling and Mary Sauve were named on committee to complete plans for a supper. Invitations were received to attend the official visits of Great Pocahontas at councils in Amsterdam and Canajoharie. Members are to make reservations with Idolyn Ellingwood. The attendance award went to Naomi Rhodes. The next

—Onolee Council 313, Degree of Pocahontas, met in their rooms Wednesday evening with Mrs. Lulu Carpenter, Pocahontas, presiding over the business session. The following officers were installed by Mrs. Daisy Becker, deputy of Onolee council, assisted by Roaa Becker, past deputy great sachem, and Mrs. Mary Schwilk, Mrs. Helen Willard, Mrs. Naomi Heath: Mrs. Agnes Lawton, Pocahontas; Celia Smith, Wenonab; Mm. Lulu Carpenter, Prophetess; Mrs. Gussie Satterlee, Powhatan; Mrs. Mary Schwilk, keeper of records; Mrs. Naomi Heath, collector of wampum; Mrs. Helen Willard, keeper of wampum; Mrs. Dorothy Hallock, trustee for 18 months; Mrs. Dorothy Frasier, first scout; Mrs. Marion Willard, second acout; Mrs. Zela Brundige, first warrior; Mrs. Francis Call, second warrior; Mrs. Mabel Horton, third warrior; Mrs. Leona Gifford, fourth warrior; Mrs. Nellie Acker, first runner; Mrs. Elizabeth Detleft, second runner; Mrs. Goldie Carpenter, first councilor; Mrs. Myra Sleczer, second counselor; Mrs. Cora Olmstead, guard of the teepee.

The Degree of Pocahontas is the women's affiliate of The Improved Order of Red Men. It was organized in 1885 and soon councils had sprung up across the United States. The organization takes its name from the famous Pocahontas, daughter of the powerful Native American Chief Powhatan of the Algonquian Indian Tribe. The Degree of Pocahontas patterns itself after the virtues of this Native American Princess Pocahontas those virtues of teaching kindness, love, charity, and loyalty to one's nation. *The Texas Redmen Foundation, Inc*

The Return of Sam's Popcorn Truck

Like most of us that grew up in Northville, Sam and the popcorn truck were just an icon we all remember, Soon after Sam's passing in 1977, the truck 'just disappeared' " I recall several years back that Larry & Gail Cramer along with Terry Warner discovered that the truck was in the Vail Mills area. Gail took pictures of it, and wrote an article in her historical newsletter about seeing the truck and showed the pictures of it. That and social media Face Book, started the craze about trying to get the truck back to Northville. After many attempts and unsuccessful tries of buying it, the owners just did not want to part with it and slowly the desire just faded away as the dream of getting it back to Northville just didn't seem possible.

I (Joel) have many fond memories of just hanging out with Sam, fishing on the blue bridge and spillway, and I never really lost the feeling of trying to help get the truck "home".

Quick memories of Sam: besides his love for fishing he also liked ice cream. Nearly every time I'd stop by on my bike to sit and watch him fish, he would pull out a large roll of cash.... From a kids perspective at least I thought it was a large roll! He'd peel off a few dollars and send me off on my bike to the Grand Union or Oneida Market to get a couple pints of ice cream that we'd sit and eat while he patiently fished. I also remember him rolling his own cigarettes which I thought was pretty amazing.

Back to the truck: With thanks to all mentioned above as well as Charlene Ellingwood there would be occasional posts about the truck that I'd see on Face Book and the interest just stayed with me. Charlene and I started a dialogue on Face Book. She had been in contact with the owner as well as with Terry Warner. The bug got serious enough that Charlene and I started talking on the phone about the possibility that the owner (Ellen Vietri) may now be interested in parting with the truck. After several calls and also letting the owner know, that the goal is to have the truck returned home to Northville permanently. So that's the quick story. There have been plenty of people helping behind the scenes and thanks to all.

The truck has been purchased, with the help of all my siblings and will soon be making its journey home. We're not 100% sure of the amount of work needed yet, to preserve it to the original state that we all remember it, but that will be the plan. Obviously, more to follow once we have it and start going through it, but the plan is to see it sometime in the next year or 2 parked on Bridge street with the smell of fresh popcorn once again filling the air by the Village Green.

I want to thank everyone who has helped, posted support, and excitement, and just shared their memories. On behalf of my Siblings (Rory, Lori, Barbara and Loren) along with so many who helped, we are excited and humbled to do our part in bringing the popcorn truck home. For those who still remember it, we hope it brings a smile to your face and pleasant memories, and to the new generation, the hope that someday you too will have the memories that so many of us "old folks" have. And lastly- thank you Sam!!

Sincerely Joel Crannell

The Return of Sam's Popcorn Truck

January 25, 2022



11 a.m.
and I'm ready
to go back
home.

It was
45 years ago
I left
Northville.

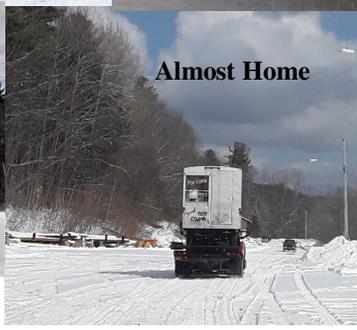


Here I come



Vail Mills Corner

Route 30



Almost Home



Terry on the inside



Checking it out



HOME AT LAST