

# NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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It's hard to believe that the Ku Klux Klan made an appearance in our little quiet village, racing up and down Main Street and then burning a cross up on Prospect Street near Lamb's Hill. The article below mentions it was behind James Slack's blacksmith shop which was on Reed Street on the lot where Rusty and Linda Mosher's lived before moving to First Street. A few years ago I talked to Hilda Fuller about this because she lived on Prospect Street near where the cross was burned. She told me that she remembers looking at the ashes the next morning after the fire. I understand that a local man was involved (mentioned in another article), but I won't mention his name. Unfortunately none of these articles are dated, but I would guess it took place in late 1920's. If someone reading this knows the date of this incident, please let me know.

## FIREY CROSS OF THE K. K. K. DISTURBS THE SLUMBERS OF MANY NORTHVILLE RESIDENTS

### Explosion Of Firearms Warns People Of Northern Village Of Presence Of Flaming Cross Burning In The Rear Of The James Slack Shop.

NORTHVILLE, Aug. 1.—Residents of this village were rudely awakened early this morning by the explosion of firearms. Investigation was made immediately and a flaming cross was found in the area at the rear of the James Slack shop, illuminating the district brilliantly. Several men were gathered about the cross, and it was the opinion of many that the noise and illumination was caused by members of the Ku Klux Klan.

Considerable alarm was caused among the people of the village by the appearance of this manifestation. The ire of many persons was so aroused that they are considering an investigation to learn the cause of a disturbance that is calculated to arouse people in the middle of the night.

Some scout the theory that members of the hooded order had anything to do with the firing or with the burning cross. These sceptics, who are in the minority according to report figure that a bunch of young fellows from Spocandaga were here on a lark and caused the cross to be lighted and the shots to be fired for the sake of excitement.

However, in the opinion of many who have read more or less recently of the Klan meetings being held in various other sections of the country, the order may have gained a foothold here, and the appearance of the flaming cross, symbol of the Klan, was a part of some ritualistic work of that organization.

If it was a joke, the people are resolved to have no more of it, or if it is the work of the Klan they would like to learn a bit more of it. At any rate they are determined that their slumbers shall not be disturbed again in a like manner.

## ARRESTED IN NORTHVILLE FOLLOWING DEMONSTRATION

### Man Claiming to be William A. Jacobey Charged With Reckless Driving by State Trooper—Judge Bass Im- poses Fine of \$20 on One Charge and Suspends Sen- tence, Pending Good Behavior, on Another — Arres- Follows Burning of Cross on Lamb Hill, in That Villag

As an aftermath of a Ku Klux Klan demonstration held last night on Lamb's Hill, near Northville, William A. Jacobey, said to be a prominent member of the hooded organization, was arrested and tried on two charges before Police Justice Bass. Jacobey, it was charged, drove an automobile through the streets of Northville at an excessive rate of speed. After being arraigned on one charge he was re-arrested and arraigned on the other.

The first trial took place at about ten o'clock, and was on a complaint of Patrolman Miller, who charged violation of a village ordinance. On this charge Jacobey pleaded guilty before Justice Bass and paid a fine of \$10. The second charge was preferred by State Trooper Frederick Apple. Jacobey also pleaded guilty to this charge, and after examination was given a suspended sentence.

On the last charge the provision was made, with the suspended sentence, that if Jacobey is arrested again before January 1, the sentence will be imposed.

According to a statement made early this morning to The Morning Herald by Jacobey, troopers fired two shots in order to bring him to a halt.

#### Trooper Makes Arrest

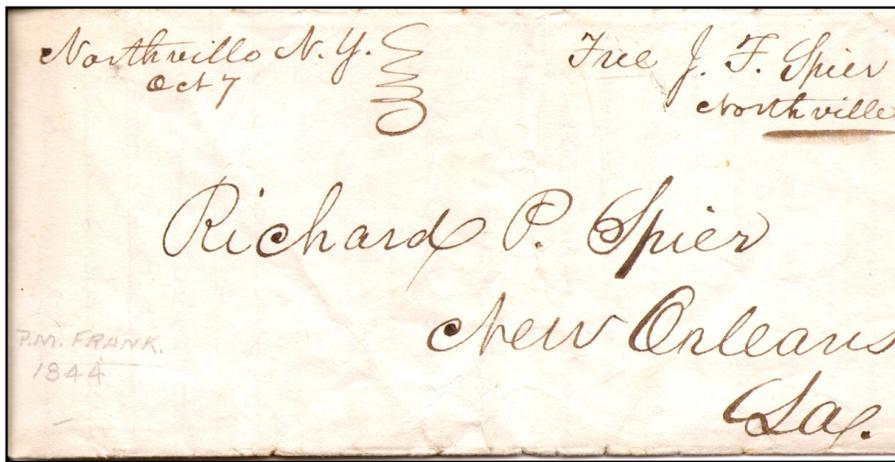
He was arrested by Trooper Apple, who who is his complaint charged that Jacobey drove through the streets at the rate of 40 miles an hour, in an Oakland sedan. It was reported that Jacobey, with several others was driving up and down Main street at a fast rate and blowing the horns on the cars.

It was reported earlier in the evening that a Klan meeting was being held on Lamb's Hill. Patrolman Miller investigated and says that he found a big crowd gathered on the slopes of the hill. Many automobiles were parked in the immediate vicinity. Later, it is understood, a cross was burned and a ceremonial conducted.

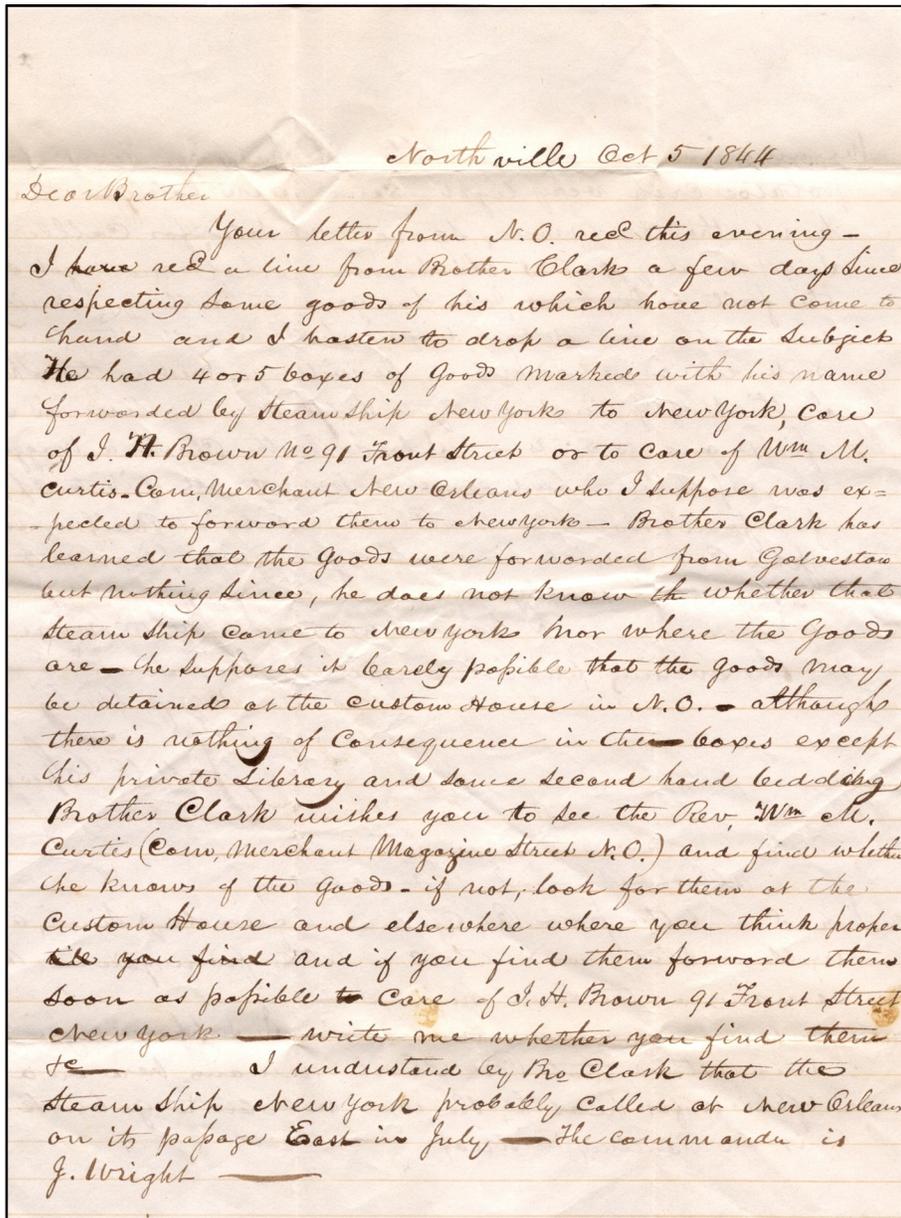
which further information could be obtained, was distributed.

After several demonstrations, including the burning of crosses has been reported, an article appeared in The Morning Herald telling of a demonstration in Northville, where shots were fired, and a huge cross burned in a vacant lot. Residents of the town were awakened by the sound of shots and witnessed the cross burning with several men standing nearby.

The next afternoon a man came into the office of The Morning Herald, and in a secretive manner called a reporter outside. This man introduced himself as "Walter Rockford," County Kludge of the Ku Klux Klan. After this several stories concerning Klan activities were communicated to the paper by this person.



1844 letter from Joseph F Spier, mailed "Free" from Northville, NY  
Do you suppose that he could mail it for free because he was the Post Master?



This letter was just recently rediscovered in the attic of Joan and Bill Loveday. Joan mailed it to me, as she thought it should be in the Northville Archives. Thank you Joan and Bill for sending it on to us.

## POST MASTER IN NORTHVILLE, (formerly Sacandaga, N.Y.)

Does that title surprise some of you? Yes, our first Post Master was Joseph F. Spier. He changed the name of our village from Sacandaga to Northville, 3 years after the first post office was established in 1824. He changed the name because it was the village farthest north to have a post office. The first P. O. was in Mr. Spier's store which was on the corner of Washington Street and South Main St. It was a brick building and it is thought to have burned. Terry and Barbara Warner's house is located on this corner now.

Joseph's parents (Joseph and Livia) left their home in the town of New Lebanon, Columbia County in 1795. They built a cabin on the point of land on Lake Pleasant, now owned by Camp of the Woods in Speculator. Since it was very isolated there Livia wanted to move to Northville to a more populated area. Joseph F was born in Columbia county and moved with his parents to Northville in 1807.

Joseph F. is found in the 1834 Methodist Church records as a Trustee and also the Officiating Minister.



Joseph and Livia built the first brick house in Northville in 1819. The bricks were made on Hunter's Creek.

It still stands at 331 South Main Street.



Joseph F Spier home built his home at 520 South Main Street. (The artist Mel Graff lived here in the 40's & 50's)

## Addition to July 2011 Newsletter

A list of the doctors in the Town of Northampton was in the July issue of the NNHS newsletter.

Jane Gritsavage Gardner informed me that there was another doctor that practiced for a short time with her father. The doctor was Dr. Gritsavage's nephew. His name was Dr. Frank Stashak. He practiced with Dr Gritsavage during the second half of the 1940's. No one in Jane's family seems to know exactly for how long or exactly when. He moved from Northville to California and from there to Colorado to practice.

### Recommended Reading

"Rue the Reservior"

By AnnaBelle Melville

AnnaBelle was a former teacher at Northville High School.



It's a mystery novel . The story takes place in the village of Eastville. As you read the story you realize that Eastville is Northville and the characters in the story are local people (names changed) but you can figure out who they are.

She includes some real incidents that took place in Northville, like the sand-bank cave in . The Northville library has the book and you can also find it on Amazon.com or maybe even BN.

## Do you remember?

...One memory I have is of the road crews on Ridge Road...working so hard by hand keeping the brush cut..sweeping the roads....we would always take them a drink and snack.....this would be in the late 40s or early 50s....town crew...

Sally Sauve Gagne

...The "old country" (Italian?) couple who went around the village monthly in the summer, I think, in their converted bus to sharpen items for residents. People would bring out their scissors, knives, etc. for sharpening.

Gayle Buyce Poole

...The coal being delivered through the coal shoot at our house. We loved to then pick up a good sized piece of coal and play hopscotch on the sidewalk.

Gayle Buyce Poole

Send me your memories and I'll print them in the newsletter



### Northville Methodist Church Sunday School Class

Can you pick out Archie Dunham, Ralph Youngren, James Aston, Mary Gruet, Skip Van Aram, Dick Jenner, Don Williams and Geraldine Sauve? About 1951