

# NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor  
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## HAPPY NEW YEAR

It's still January so I think it's ok to wish everyone a Happy New Year. It's hard to believe that we've had such a mild winter "so far". I expect though that we will still get a few heavy snowfalls. That's ok, after all we have chosen to live in the north country. I can't think of a better place I'd rather live.

We just returned from a short anniversary trip (celebrating 56 yrs). We visited an LL Bean store. Neat stuff ( and expensive) We looked at some new style Kayak's which put us in the mood to look forward to Spring and Summer. It's almost Feb and March...then it'll be Spring. So if you're getting cabin fever, it won't be much longer before we'll be mowing lawns again. GMC

## NEW PORTABLE SCANNER

The town of Northampton has purchased the historian a new portable scanner that is going to be so helpful in scanning pictures, documents, maps etc. from places that these items can not be removed from. Anything that will be scanned will be available to the public and of course to the historical society.

If you have anything to share that you'd rather not have removed from your possession, let me know and I'll scan it. It can then be printed, documented and preserved for the future.

I've already scanned some genealogy from an old Bible and some pictures from Parkville.



Northville Fife and Drum Corp  
Circa 1910

## MYSTERY HOUSE OF THE MONTH



Home of the Lehman's, Northville, N. Y.

This house was torn down a few years ago, do you recognize it? Where was it? Answer on next page.

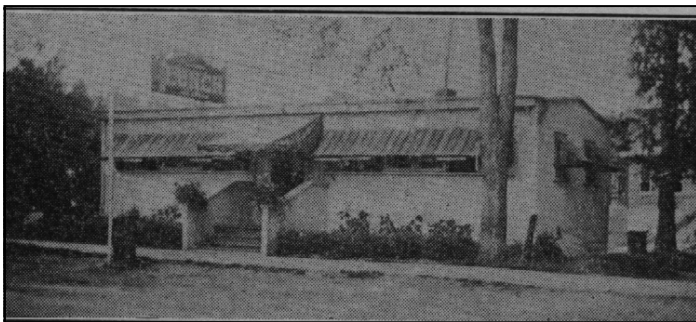


Picture donated by Skip Thompson

A Hack on Bridge Street, circa 1920. Driver unknown (do you know who it is?) Note his uniform I've had two people say he looks like Glen Duncan.

In 1875 the FJ and G RR extended a line to Northville. Two RR stations were built, one in Sacandaga Park and the other one on the west side of the Sacandaga River near the Northville Bridge. Passengers and freight needed to be transported in to the village. A Hacking service was needed. The Lawton Cola Co purchased a ten-seater horse-drawn hack transported people between the village and the station. It also carried the mail.

When the automobile arrived on the scene, the horse-drawn hacks became obsolete. Some men from Northville became "taxi drivers". They had to get licenses to operate this service. The fee for a two seater horse-drawn cost \$10.; three seater, \$15.; four seats, \$20.; Small automobile taxi, \$50.

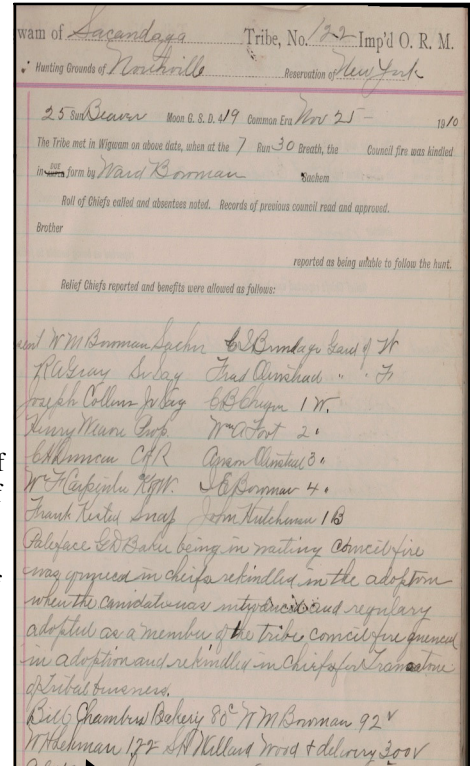


Remember the Alhambra Diner on North Main Street? Years later it was moved across the street and an addition was added on to it. It has since been torn down for the new postoffice

2

Do you remember the Red Men's Hall on the Corner of Reed and 3rd Streets? In the 1950's it was used as a dance hall. Did you ever wonder who were the red men?

The Red Men (IORM Improved Order of Red Men) was a men's club similar to the Mason's, Lions etc. This fraternity traces its origin back to 1765 and is descended from the Sons of Liberty. After the War of 1812 the name was changed from, Sons of Liberty to the Society of Red men, then in 1834 it became the Improved Order of Red Men. More info can be found on the web.



Recently Frank Bendl donated the Records Book of the Northville chapter of the IORM. It dates back to 1910.

This is a page from the record book. You'll have to enlarge it to read it. Note that it's the Sacandaga Tribe # 122. The date is November 1910. You'll also see the name of W. H. Lehman mentioned.

### MYSTERY HOUSE

This was W. H. Lehman's house. He was a local funeral director and embalmer. The house was razed a few years ago to provide land for the Village Park. The house was located behind and to the left of the Old Brass Rail (now Timeless Tavern). During the 1950's Floyd Brownell lived in the house.

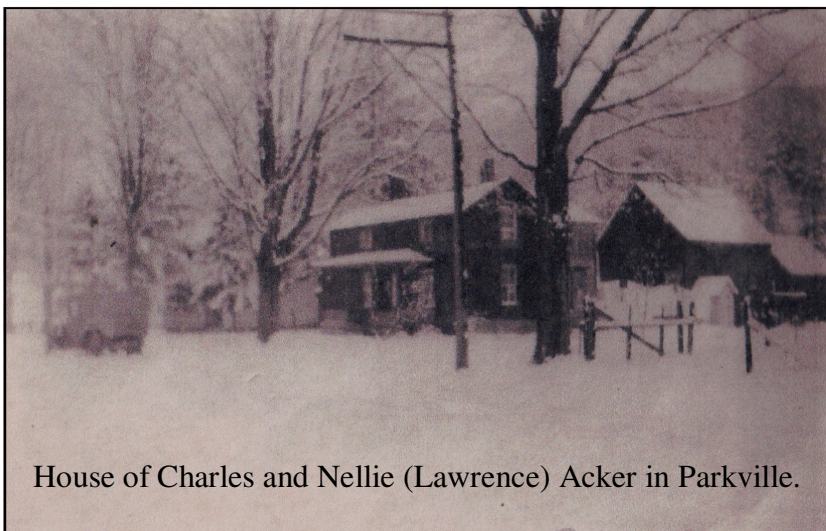


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Do you ever wonder where I find all my information? Here is one example. Some one found part of an old scrapbook that was obviously in poor condition, but fortunately they didn't throw it out, but turned it over to the historian.

Many pictures, some identified and some not are brought to me in envelopes and sometimes boxes of pictures. I sort them, try to identify those unmarked, file them and scan them into the computer for future reference. Maybe one of them is your great grandmother.

I don't throw anything out, there's always a piece of history in most everything people turn in. So don't throw any old pictures away, or scrapbooks, letters etc, you never know how valuable they might be to the history of our town/village.



House of Charles and Nellie (Lawrence) Acker in Parkville.

For a long time we have had very few pictures of the little hamlet of Parkville (now under the Great Sacandaga Lake). Recently Gloria Jensen Fulmer has come across many pictures of her family when they lived there. She is sorting and identifying them and I'm scanning them. .



## DID YOU KNOW?

- \*That at one time the plans were to have the FJ & G RR tracks into the village.
- \*That John Gruit, local artist and printer, printed our school report cards.
- \*Seven Hills Road was named for the Seven Hills in Rome.
- \*The first gas pump in Northville was in front of Kested's Drugstore on Main Street.
- \*That "John Boy" of the Walton's played in the Sacandaga Park Summer theater?
- \*Northville was first called Sacandaga. It was renamed by Joseph F. Spier when he was post master in 1827.
- \*The first bank in Northville was established in 1895.