

# NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor  
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## CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS



During our Annual Historical Society Christmas Party we shared with each other traditions we remember from our childhood and new ones we have made.



Barbara Warner shared the tradition her family had in making these Santa Claus apples each year. It was a real treat because they didn't get a lot of gifts/toys. Someone asked her how long they'd keep them and she said, "Oh we ate them as soon as we got one". She made enough for some of us to take home.

Seventeen members attended the party at the Cramer's. A variety of food was brought to share, plus the traditional egg nog was enjoyed.

While folks were enjoying the refreshments, there was much visiting and fellowship going on.

The theme of the party was "Christmas Traditions". Everyone shared at least one and some shared several, and also memories of past Christmas's they hold dear.

### Some traditions that were shared

- \*Tinsel shining on the Christmas tree
- \*Waking up to the tree that mysteriously had been decorated overnight.
- \*A pigs tail given as a joke
- \*Attending church, holding a lighted candle and singing "Silent Night"
- \*Cutting our own Christmas tree
- \*Having to wait until after dinner to open the presents.
- \*Placing the tinsel one piece at a time and perfectly straight..then after Christmas removing each one very carefully to save for the next year.
- \*Receiving one gift and oranges, apples, nuts and a candy bar.
- \*Christmas excitement at school.
- \*Reading the Christmas story from the Bible before opening gifts.



Each memory that was shared, reminded us of many more of our family traditions that maybe we'd forgotten or hadn't thought of for years.



# Celebrating Christmas in 2013 around our beautiful village of Northville



Our Fire station



Welcome to Northville



Star over the dime store



# Vintage Christmas Cards

I found a box of old Christmas cards amongst my grandparents things, which impressed me to look up the history of Christmas cards. The information came from selections on the internet and my grandparents collection. The Editor

The oldest Christmas card created for general distribution probably was created by William Egley Jr.; a 16 year-old British youth. His 3 1/2-inch- by 5 1/2-inch, 1842 printed impression, preserved in the British Museum, depicts four holiday scenes and a "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" greeting with blanks after the word "To" on the top and "From" at the bottom. The father of American Christmas cards was award-winning Boston lithographer/inventor Louis Prang, who, in 1873, reproduced a holiday card autographed by Christmas Carol author, Charles Dickens.



Perhaps the greatest of Prang's many innovations was the development of a multi-color printing process that incorporated as many as 20 colors on one print or card. Hues and detailing were so vivid that artists were sometimes not able to distinguish their own works from reproduced chromos.



Highly collectible Prang cards usually can be identified by tiny lettering "L Prang and Co., Boston" on the bottom margin. Occasionally, Prang left only a rose symbol (a veiled sign of affection for his wife, Rose) or disguised his mark under a tiny shoe or on a leaf.



The box I found that contained my grandparents old Christmas Cards

Nineteenth-century Christmas cards are often graphic masterpieces incorporating silk fringes, tassels, mother of pearl inlays and satin backgrounds. Flowers, angels, carolers, gentle animals, romantic young women and happy children are dominant design themes. From 1900 to 1920, penny postcards from Germany featuring Santa Claus, nostalgic hearth and snow scenes, holly, toys and Nativity settings captured the market.



In 1910, J.C. Hall began selling postcards out of a shoebox at a YMCA in Kansas City, Mo. His one-man enterprise turned into what we know today as **Hallmark Cards Inc.** Xmas card collecting (by the way, "X" is not a tacky abbreviation, it has religious significance in that X is the first letter of the Greek word for Christ)

# NORTHVILLE FOLKS WE WILL NOT FORGET

## Fannie and Nelson Schuyler



They moved to Northville from Wells, about 1923. Nelson was a lumber dealer and had several lumber camps and log jobs on Fox Hill, Bleeker, etc. He also appraised large tracts of timber on estates. About 1928 he was awarded the mail contract for the Northville - Lake Pleasant route. He had quite a large bus that would carry several passengers as well as the mail.

Later he became the Railway Express agent here and operated several trucks locally and trips to Utica for local hardware stores. During WWII he carried groups of soldiers to induction centers. He had some seven passenger cars for this purpose. He also used these for taxi service, carrying vacationers to Camp of the Woods and other summer resorts.

Around 1930 he bought the Haiman property on Reed Street. He added a store for hay and grain and also some groceries. He retired in 1959.



Where Nelson's Store was on Reed Street. This picture was taken when it was the Morris Garage. Today the Electric Power Company is located here.

The Schuyler's had one daughter, Josephine. She was a teacher at NCS and was well liked by her students. Next month I will feature a story and pictures about her.



## REMEMBERING FRANCIS "ZEKE" FOSTER By Jack Sands

In the late 1940's and early '50's, Northville had a resident State Trooper named Francis "Zeke" Foster. He lived and worked out of the rented room in a private residence on Bridge Street. While Police Chief Clarence Davison was primarily responsible for policing the village, "Zeke"'s patrol area included parts of Fulton, Hamilton and Saratoga Counties.

At the time, even troopers driving police cruisers still wore what is now referred to as the "old horse uniforms", consisting of riding breeches, black leather puttees and spurs, along with the present day Stetson hat.

Resident troopers were not assigned to towns where their families lived. Zeke and his wife Alice had 10 children, 6 sons and 4 daughters, but he had only two nights a week and four consecutive days a month off, to go home to his family.

After his assignment in Northville, Zeke was transferred to South Glens Falls, where he served as a Zone Sergeant. After a 25 year career with the State Police, from 1940 to 1965, retired and became Dresden Town Supervisor. Zeke died in 1984 at the age of 69. He's buried in Mountain Grove Cemetery in Dresden, Washington County, New York.

Zeke was a friend of mine and a positive influence in my life, when I was a young man living in Northville.



Thank you Jack for sharing this memory of "Zeke"