

# NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor  
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## SWEETS CROSSING

Location : Route 30 where route 152 crosses near Bunker Hill

The northern (Northville) branch of the Fonda, Johnstown, and Gloversville Railroad was built in 1875. There was a railroad crossing at the hamlet of Sweets Crossing, about 2 miles south of Northville and Sacandaga Park. It crossed old route 30 which is now route 152. There wasn't a railroad structure there, but the train would stop there on signal. Often school children would board the train at this point to attend the Gloversville High School. Ann B McCullough Beltran's mother, Emma Sweet, lived at Sweets Crossing and boarded the train to go to high school in Gloversville. Emma was the granddaughter of Levi and Zeruah Sweet. She was the 14th of 15 children born to Levi and Zeruah's son, Issac, who inherited the farm after his parents passing.

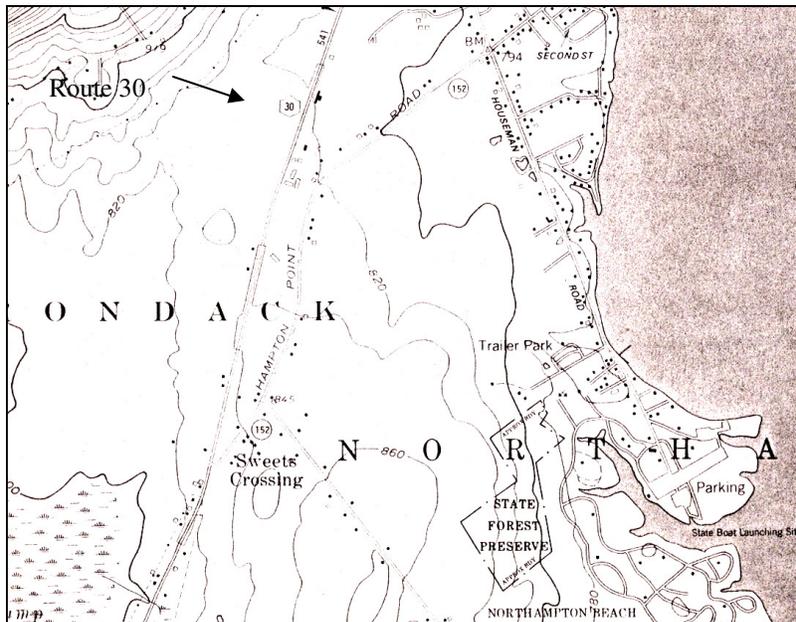
During the 1888 blizzard one of the trains was unable to continue on because of the depth of the snow. The Levi Sweet family, living close by, provided bread and milk and pickles to those in the detained train. Levi's house still stands near Sweets Crossing. There are Sweet families living at Sweets Crossing today.

Historical marker placed on Route 30



Mrs. Emma Sweet  
McCullough.  
Eighth grade teacher at  
NCS

Remember Emma Sweet McCullough  
a teacher at NCS?



A modern map which still shows Sweets Crossing

### MUSEUM NEWS

Great turn out at the Woods Man Show. Over 400 visitors went through the museum.

We have most of the NCS yearbooks in the museum but are lacking the following. If you have one of these and would like to donate it, we'd appreciate it. 1968, 82, 87, 92, 96, 2004, 2006. Also 2008 - 2014.

A new addition to the museum is a section of the old post office donated by Shawn Darling and Lee Robinson of Allen and Palmer. At one time the post office was located in the north side of the Allen and Palmer building.



Dedication of the Sweets Crossing Historical Marker took place at Sweet Crossing July 31, 2015.

Ethel Sweet Gifford and Marshall Sweet (great grandchildren of Levi and Zeruah) along with Jim Groff and Gail Cramer unveiled the historical marker



It was a beautiful day , about 25 people attended , mostly Sweet descendents.

Several in the Sweet family spoke about some family history they remember. Renee Carr, great great grand daughter of Levi and Zeruah, shared some facts, dates and stories passed down from her grandmother.

Gail, Ethel Sweet Gifford, Jim Groff and Marshall Sweet

The Sweet Family



Ethel S Gifford  
Linda Warshona

Dave Baldwin, Samantha Hall - Saladino,  
Louise Sira, Jim G

Marti & Tom Ruliffson, Debra Ngo, Pam Brooks, Nicole Little

## UPDATE ON OUR 1928 FIRE TRUCK

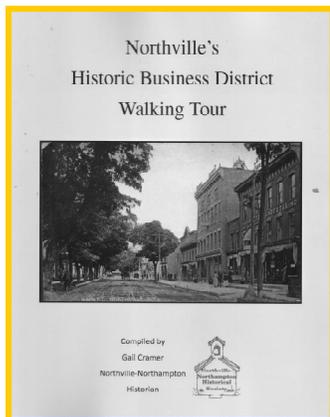


Playpipe nozzles

A visit to Saugerties, NY where we saw a restored '28 Sanford fire truck, just like ours. This is what ours will look like except the main body on ours is grey with red fenders.

Our truck has 4 new tires with tubes and flaps. We are gradually replacing some of the equipment that was taken off the truck. A pair of playpipe nozzles have been purchased and a search light almost identical to the original. We are watching a couple of fire axes on ebay. Also looking for a siren and red light similar to the original and also looking for a soda - type extinguisher.

The interim Hudson engine replacement for our truck is nearly completed. The next step is to remove the remainder of the Buda engine and modify a clutch disk and make an adapter plate to bolt the Hudson engine to the Brown-Lipe truck transmission. Some old style fireman's hats and coats were just donated to us that were found in the old village offices building.



Take the Historic Business District Self Guided Walking Tour on Main Street, Bridge Street and Third Street. Brochures for the tour can be obtained in the designated local historic businesses. Books may be purchased for \$10.00, which shows all the historical signs.

## REMEMBERING TROOPER

### *Ed Blackmer*

*By Jack Sands*

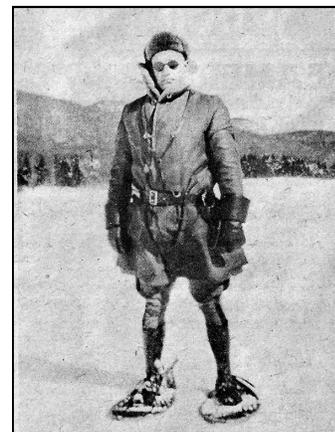
If you shopped at the Martin and Naylor Department Store in Gloversville, during the early 1950's, you probably exchanged pleasantries with Blackie, the parking lot attendant. That's where I met Edward M. "Blackie" Blackmer Sr., who had retired from the N.Y. State Police, for a duty related disability. At one time, he had been the resident trooper in Northville. An Eagle Scout himself, he had also worked with the Boy Scouts at Camp Denton in Hope Falls.

In 1942, his son Edward Jr., earned the title and for the first time in the history of the Sir William Johnson Council, both a father and son, active in scouting held similar honors.

One of the traffic accidents that Blackie investigated during his career, occurred on the Northville - Wells Highway, near Wadsworth Camp on March 20, 1930. He determined that the driver from Mayfield, had fallen asleep and the Essex automobile left the road, struck a pole and a tree and then caught fire. Dr. J. Edward Grant treated two of the injured, who made their way to his office in Northville. He then responded to the scene and treated the others, Two people who were in more serious condition, were transported back to the village by car, then transported by the undertaker, Fred Hay's ambulance (hearse) to Nathan Littauer Hospital in Gloversville. One of the injured was my father. He was 18 years old at the time. His own car had run out of gas earlier and he had been give a ride. He received only cuts and bruises.

In May 1930, Blackie had been sent from Northville to Speculator to oversee the search for the victim of a boating accident on Lake Pleasant. After several days on the scene, he suffered from an attack of the grip and complications, brought about by exposure. He was hospitalized at the direction of Dr. Grant. Apparently, the sickness eventually led to his retirement on disability.

Blackie eventually moved to Florida where he died in 1962 at age 64.



State Trooper Ed Blackmer as he snowshoes across Piseco Lake in 1930

This is the latest historical business sign that will soon be visible on the old telephone building which now houses Styles - Hair Salon and Java John's Coffee Shop at 110 South Main Street.

# GLEN TELEPHONE COMPANY

## CIRCA 1925 - 1957



**Originally a private home**

Probably built circa 1890 by George E. Van Arnam . There were numerous owners before and after the telephone company purchased it.

1897 The first telephone service in Northville. The telephone company in Northville, operated at a number of different locations before 1926.

1902 The Glen Telephone Company of Johnstown acquired the system and for the first time, an outside trunk line was established.

1925 there was a demand for more home telephone service. The Glen Telephone Company decided to expand the switchboard which meant they needed a larger building, so they purchased this house on South Main Street.



Grace VanVranken and Mary Peck  
at the switch board



Hilda and Gus

1930 Mr. and Mrs. Gus Bergens and daughter Donna, moved to Northville to operate the telephone company. The telephone company needed an operator available 24 hours a day, so the Bergen's lived in the house for \$5.00 a week. *Currently it is occupied by Style's Hair Salon by Jill (Gagne) and Java John's Coffee Shop since 2009.*

Some of the telephone operators from 1926 to 1957

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Betty Jones Weaver  | Nina Benton    |
| Madalyn M. Parker   | June Walker    |
| Grace Van Vranken   | Sheila Berry   |
| Nancy Morrison      | Mary Dunham    |
| Mary Morgan         | Helen Gifford  |
| Eleanor P. Conkling | Mary Peck      |
| Alice Chequer       | Carolyn Teetz  |
| Beatrice Barker     | Evelyn Fraiser |
| Alice F. Crowter    | Grace Pearsall |
| Frances S. Brown    | June Davidson  |

Hilda and Gus Bergen's standing beside the Glen Telephone Co. where they lived and operated the business. They kept the fires burning in the winter. They lived there until the company moved.

Note Gus in his Northville Fireman's uniform.

To Glen Telephone Company, Dr.      AUG. 1, 1923  
PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE THE 15TH OF THIS MONTH  
PLEASE BRING THIS BILL WITH YOU

---

3 5 F 3  
KESTEID & BOWMAN  
S. MAIN ST.  
NORTHVILLE N. Y.  
\$ 2. 00

Exchange Service, Month Ending August 31, 1923 .....

Toll Service per Statement herewith, Month Ending July 15, 1923 ..... 2 69

Balance Due ..... *Peck* 4.69



Any problems with tele- phones in the village were promptly dis- posed of by the lone tele- phone repair- man, Claude Parker.

Historic  
Walking  
Tour  
Sponsored  
by



Northville-  
Northampton  
Historical  
Society

Compiled by Historian G.M.Cramer 2015