It’s time to start thinking of opening up our museum. Cleaning has already begun and some new things are being added to our collection. Looking forward to another good year. Be sure and come in and check out our new displays. We’ll be open by appointment in June. Wednesday and Saturday’s 10 am to 2 p.m. in July and August. September and October by appointment.

The ball finial on the United Methodist Church, was removed from the steeple in 1970 when the steeple was repaired and strengthened with steel girders. There was some thought to remove the steeple above the bell tower but the Trustees felt it would ruin the architectural aspect of the building. The entire spire was sheathed with exterior plywood and then covered with 20 oz. Revere lead sheathed copper plates. At this time they replaced the ball finial with a 6 foot cross.
The history of the Methodist Church in Northville is very interesting. It's beginning began in 1800 when the first formal class of the church was established with 20 members. In 1805 a meeting house was erected on what is now the corner of Bridge and Main Streets. This structure was used by both the Baptist and Methodist congregations for several years.

In 1821 the Methodist Church congregation greatly increased after intensive evangelistic services were held. As a result, it was decided to build their own sanctuary. A piece of land was purchased from Michael Newton and a white clapboard structure was erected, measuring 60’ by 34’. The entire cost was $600. It was constructed on the corner of Washington and South Main Street. In 1871 it was moved behind where the new Methodist Church was to be built. After it was moved, it was used for many purposes over the years. In this building, on May 20, 1873 by a vote of 81 to 35, it was decided that Northville should become an incorporated village.

School Classes were held here when more room was needed for class rooms. It also was used as a tenement house until it became in great disrepair. It was torn down and parts of it were used to build a church on Fox Hill.

A booklet of the history of the Methodist Church was written in 1972 by Herbert Corey who was a member of the church from 1930 until his death. A copy of Mr. Corey’s booklet can be read at the Northville Public Library, the NNHS historical museum, or at the Historian’s Office in the Municipal building.

The NNHS wishes to thank the Methodist Church for donating the ball finial from the church steeple. We are sure it will be a very interesting conversation piece of history in our historical museum.
SACANDAGA SWINGERS

was a square dance group which began in 1978. The first class being taught by Dotty Nyszczy of Broadalbin at the NCS. We met in the old art room in the basement. It consisted of 8 to 12 couples.

Ward and Rudy Smith  
Rev and Mrs. Paul Wilson  
Carl and Lois Reese  
Irv and Doris Plaskett  
Milt and Virginia Groff  
Peg and Ernie Mason  
Doug and Marion Parker  
Bill and Mary Effingham  
Ralph and Amanda Travis  
Art and June Collins  
Ben and BJ Close  
Charles and Barb Owens  
Rusty and Linda Mosher  
Mike and Sandy Herdman

In the beginning we were the Adirondack Angels later becoming the Sacandaga Swingers, as we established our own group under the leadership of Ward Smith. Doug Parker called on occasion and Rudy Smith called rounds. We became quite proficient and traveled to the Flaming Leaves Festival at Lake Placid, the Oquaga Lake Festival and nearby dances including; Ponderosa, Albany and others. We danced in many of our homes, clearing the furniture to make room.

There were many area clubs (I don’t remember their names) that had dances at their schools. I remember Canajoharie for one. There were many special calls to learn. One caller, Frannie Heinz walked us through “peel a banana”. What fun! Sometimes we met 2 or 3 nights a week. It was an active group until 1988.

Written by Linda Mosher

This quilt was made for Rudy and Ward Smith when they retired from the Sacandaga Swinger’s Club. It depicts the history and fun times of the club they were so involved with from 1978 to 1988. The quilt now hangs in the community room in the Village Municipal Building.

Donated to the Historical Society by Rudy and Ward’s daughter, Joy.
Do you recognize this? Have you ever stopped to read it? I’ll have to admit I never did until a few years ago, and I went to this school from K-12.

**Promote as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion it should be enlightened…**

Washington

Corner Stone on the left hand corner of the auditorium wing