



**VOL. 27 - NO. 2 SHELburnE FALLS TROLLEY MUSEUM NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2018**

DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF THE SHELburnE FALLS AND COLRAIN STREET RAILWAY

FINAL MORTGAGE PAYMENT!



Sam hands the final mortgage payment “check” to Norm

On July 14, 2018 we made our final payment on our mortgage!

In 2004 we entered into a private mortgage with Blassberg Corp./Norman Sessions. We agreed to pay \$500/mo for the first 24 months, and \$1000/mo for the next twelve years, as well as a \$50,000 down payment. If you have been with us for more than fourteen years you might remember, or even have been part of, our Yard Pledge program to fund these payments. We were also fortunate to have some very generous supporters who came up with the down payment. Our thanks to everyone who helped with the initial funding of the purchase.

The generous payment schedule allowed us to get our feet under us and to generate funds for the

monthly mortgage payment from revenue from renting out the unused portions of the building that came with the property.

Our landlord experience had its ups and downs but we were able to successfully meet our mortgage payments every month without having to keep pleading with you, our valued members, for on-going support. In his comments on the day of the final payment, Norm mentioned that we never missed a payment, nor were we ever late. He also stated how glad he was that we had been able to save the yard. We are grateful for his cooperation in the private mortgage since it would have been much more difficult for us to get bank financing.

Norm also told us how he had *Continued on Page 2*



Norm takes his first ride on No. 10.

worked in the yard as a youth, and later came to work there as the owner of Blassberg Corp after the original owner passed it on to him. Jake Blassberg was a scrap dealer who bought the Shelburne Falls and Colrain Street Railway from C. D. Davenport, who had bought it at auction in 1927. Blassberg also bought the Freight House and a small parcel of land under it for a dollar from the Boston and Maine Railroad in 1964. The freight house and yard were used to transfer loads to and from Blassberg's trucks that served the Griswoldville Mfg. Mills. Blassberg also ran a bus service for a few years after the trolley line stopped operation.

One of Norm's tasks was to help in the unloading of automobiles that were shipped to Shelburne Falls in boxcars! A jack on wheels had to be used to swing the ends of the autos out of the boxcar, and a winch in the boxcar could lower an upper rack of more autos. Then the autos were driven on our freight dock, down a ramp and off to the dealership on the Shelburne side of the village. Good thing they don't unload those long Pan Am Southern auto-rack trains that way.

Not having to pay \$1000 every month is a big burden off of our budgeting shoulders. Now we will have more of a cushion in our planning, and more funds to help with restoration work.

There are now no liens on the Buckland Freight Yard. From the top of Depot Street to Elm Street, it is ours, thanks to you!

PROJECTS: SPARE TRUCK

Last year we bought two used trolley trucks similar to the trucks under No. 10. A "truck" in railroad parlance is the assembly of frame, bearings, axles and wheels that support the trolley or other railroad car. Josh, Nash, Dave, Martin and Sam have started disassembling one of the spare trolley trucks so it can be cleaned up, painted and prepared to be a ready spare truck in case No. 10 develops a truck problem.

LINE MAINTENANCE

In the course of his regular track inspections, Nash noticed that some of the hardware on the bracket arms (which hold the trolley wire up and away from the line poles) was showing signs of wear. We used the caboose as a work platform and the Trackmobile to move it around. One person held the bracket arm in place while the other person replaced the worn hardware. As long as we don't need to access the pole itself this works very well, plenty of room for two people to stand on the roof and for tools and parts.

TRACKWORK

This summer Nash, Dick, Dave and Sam started preparing ties for making panels of track so that we can replace large sections of the House Track (that goes past the Freight House). This will be similar to the replacement project we did last year, but without having to be concerned about the street traffic.

PCC CAR DOORS

One of the obvious improvements that can be made to the MBTA PCC cars is to replace the doors. These doors got plenty of use on the MTA and MBTA over the years, and are probably not the originals. The passage of millions of wet, snowy, salty feet has taken it toll on the doors and steps.

Each car has twelve plywood door panels, with three window openings in each panel. Dave obtained some marine-grade plywood for us and cut the panels to size. Then they went to Rick's shop where he used his computer controlled router to cut out the openings.

Our next task is to prime and paint them, and install glass. We plan to have 3321 in the MTA cream and orange color scheme, and the 3299 in green. Volunteers are always welcome!

RIDERSHIP

So far this year we have carried 1727 paying passengers, 6% above average.

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS - 2018

Polly Bartlett
Sam Bartlett (President)
Nash Bly - Alden Dreyer (Vice Chair)
David Dye (Vice President, Chair of Board)
Jeff Filios - David Goff - Tony Jewell - Bill Kaiser
Lou Musante (Clerk, Asst Treasurer)
Betsy Wholey Osell (Treasurer, Asst Clerk)
Jim Wholey

CONTACT US

Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum
PO Box 272
Shelburne Falls MA 01370
Phone: 413-625-9443 Email: trolley@sftm.org
Web: www.sftm.org

TRANSFER is a publication of the Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum Inc., produced for the enlightenment and entertainment of our members and special friends. Spring, Summer, and Fall issues are planned for each year. Comments, contributions, and letters to the editor are welcomed.

Sam Bartlett - Editor editor@sftm.org

SIGNING UP FOR eTRANSFER

As a convenience to our members, and as an attempt to control costs, the TRANSFER is available online as a pdf file. This will give you the option of filing your copies of the TRANSFER on your computer, in case you want to refer back to them at some later time. eTRANSFER comes out in full color! If you are a current member and wish to receive your future TRANSFERS by email, here's how to do it:

- Send an email to: membership@sftm.org
 - In the Subject line, please enter 'eTransfer'.
 - In the body of your message please enter just your name.
- Your address will be entered on our emailing list, and the future issues will come to you by internet instead of by snail mail, thereby saving printing and mailing costs. Save a tree, too!! Please note – if you are an eTRANSFER subscriber, and subsequently change your email address, please be sure that you let us know at membership@sftm.org.
-

VOLUNTEERING - HOW TO DO IT

Stop by, send an email to trolley@sftm.org or call Sam at 413-624-0192. Indicate what your interests are - operating, painting, building stuff, selling tickets and gifts, grant writing, or what. We need you!!!

TROLLEYFEST 2018

Trolleyfest this year will be Saturday September 29, 2018. We will have all sorts of special railroad-themed rides and hands-on demonstrations representative of the local industries and farms of the trolley era.
See Page 5 and <http://www.sftm.org/trolleyfest.shtml> for more information.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

At this writing, SFTM has 109 current Memberships. If your printed TRANSFER does not have **2018** on the address label, please renew your membership, see the **Membership, Donation and Volunteer Form**. See the Form for more information on Member benefits and giving levels.

Or, renew online at <http://www.sftm.org/join.shtml>
If you get the eTransfer, please check the message in the email that was sent with this issue.
Your support is very important to us!
Please send changes of address for mail or email to membership@sftm.org

OPERATING SCHEDULE

We are open for trolley rides and pump car adventures on Saturdays and Sundays from 11am to 5pm through the end of October. Also Columbus Day Oct. 8 from 11am to 5pm. See you there! All Aboard!

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Please patronize our Sponsors!

West End Pub	The Optician
Walter's Propane	Zoar Outdoor
Berkshire East	McCusker's Market
Salmon Falls Gallery	Mo's Fudge Factor
Pondside Pizza and Shelburne Falls Bowling Alley	
Coldwell Banker Upton Massamont REALTORS	
The Blue Rock Restaurant & Bar	

NEW MEMBERS

Sarah Hunter	Chris Cleland
Jay Flint and Family	Janice Adam
Ken Briers	Jay Falik



Nash, Dave and Sam perform preventative maintenance on the bracket arm that holds the trolley wire at Pole 4. Caboose CV4015 and the 9TM Trackmobile assist.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

We have been the recipient of several interesting items this summer.

We bought (with some designated donated funds) a large used metal-working lathe. Tony and Joe had to put a lot of muscle into getting it out of the shop where it had lived. Soon it will be set up in the Car Barn and ready to go to work. Josh already has plans for things to turn to replace rusted out connectors on the spare trolley truck.

The folks who sold us the lathe also donated a large screen monitor. We will set this up in the Visitors Center for viewing movies and slides and Operation Lifesaver programs.

Mike donated a Railway Express Agency scale. These were ubiquitous at railroad depots nation-wide. REA was the UPS/FedEx of the time. You would bring a package to the depot, weight it and ship it via REA on a baggage car.

Mike also donated a walk-over coach seat, similar to the ones in the caboose. We might place this in the Visitors Center to provide a place to watch movies on our new screen.

Tony found two Conway Electric Street Railway postcards on eBay which we acquired. One lists the names of the crew in the picture.

We now have a propane heater installed in the Visitors Center, with assistance from Walter's Propane. It hasn't been needed this summer, but I think that is about to end.

SHATTUCKVILLE POST OFFICE

When Nan called to ask if the museum would like to have the "Shattuckville Post Office", I first pictured an entire building, but I knew that didn't make sense. It turns out the post office for Shattuckville was a special window inside Ray's Market (aka Fischlein's Store).

Shattuckville is the southernmost village in Colrain. It used to have a large mill, a dam and mill pond, a bridge across the North River and Ray's Market, which contained the post office and had its own zip code, 01369. During the trolley era, the trolley made three mail deliveries a day to Shattuckville, now there are none.

The building for Ray's Market still stands and was the home of the storekeeper, Irene Fischlein, until her recent passing. The market and post office closed years ago. You can find remains of the dam, mill and bridge if you look closely.



This is the customer side of the Post Office.

One historical connection between the Shattuckville PO and the SF&C is that Frank Johnson (the farmer who saved No. 10) wrote and received letters from Maud Purrington, and they would sometimes make plans to ride on the trolley together, to go to events. These letters would have often gone through the Shattuckville PO, although it seems that sometimes Maud used the Shelburne Falls PO to avoid a mailman who was also romantically interested in her.

Here is an excerpt from one of the letters, "the car" means the trolley car :

"The next one of the lectures is to be on the coming Friday night. I would be delighted to find you on the car to attend when I get on here at the (Shattuckville) store, that is, if you would be pleased to do so. There is a special car leaving S. Falls at 7:30 and returning after the lecture so you would not have to walk as you had to before. If I do not hear from you I shall expect you are going."

Frank and Maud married in 1909, and perhaps if it weren't for those letters, No. 10 wouldn't have been important to Frank and No. 10 would be a pile of ashes somewhere.

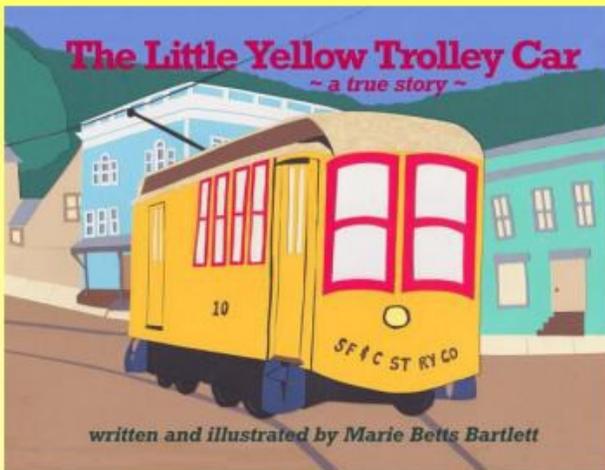
TROLLEYFEST

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 29 11AM - 5PM
SHELBURNE FALLS TROLLEY MUSEUM

- * Trolley Rides
- * Pumpcar Rides
- * Caboose Rides
- * Speeder Rides
- * Reenactors from the Trolley Era
- * Toy Trains



- Hands-on demos
11am to 3pm:
- * Cider Making
 - * Butter Making
 - * Tool Making
 - * Weaving
 - * Milk a 'Cow'
 - * Food Samples



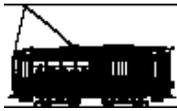
SEE HOW THE PEOPLE OF SHELBURNE FALLS WORKED AND LIVED AND TRAVELED IN THE TROLLEY ERA, 1896 TO 1927.

- * Food for Sale
- * Velocipede Demonstrations
- * 1:15pm – Author's reading of “The Little Yellow Trolley Car”
- * 11pm to 3pm Music by “Whistlestop”

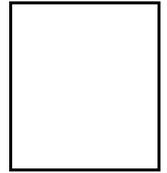


All-Day-Passes Adults \$4.00, youths \$2.00, under 6 free
www.sftm.org/trolleyfest.shtml for details
14 Depot St 413 625-9443 www.sftm.org

Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum
PO Box 272
Shelburne Falls MA 01370-0272



413/625-9443 www.sftm.org/



If your address label does not say '2018' or '2100' please renew your Membership today. See the included Membership Form, or renew online at <http://www.sftm.org/join.shtml>.

Please consider getting your Transfer online, see Page 3 for eTRANSFER details.

You can visit our FaceBook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ShelburneFallsTrolleyMuseum/>



Did you know that you can rent out the caboose for a unique dining experience? We don't provide food but we can suggest caterers, or you can bring your own. You can even spend the night if you want to. Contact us if you'd like to try this out. The caboose does not move for this rental.

NEW GIFT SHOP ITEMS

The new SFTM puzzles have been a big hit this year. Stop in and see what we have for puzzles, toys, games and other new items.

RAFFLE!

We will be holding a raffle at Trolleyfest! Prizes include a bird feeder and 10lbs of black oil seed from Aubuchon , a fall plant from Shelburne Farm and Garden, four summer excursion voucher tickets for the Berkshire Scenic 2019 season, \$20.00 gift certificate for the West End Pub, two sets of decorative wall plates, two copies of Hoosac Tunnel Book signed by Cliff Schexnayder, Gift Certificate for 2 adult and 2 children coach seating for the 2018 season thru Dec. 31 (Black out 9/22 to 10/8) on the Conway Scenic Railway, and more coming. Tickets are 1/\$5, 3/\$10 or 8/\$20. A complete list and more details of raffle will be available at Trolleyfest, or watch the website or Facebook for details.

TAG SALE AT TROLLEYFEST

We will have a railroad-themed Tag Sale at Trolleyfest again this year. Contact Tony at tonyj@crocker.com if you would like to have a table to sell your rail-related items.

Thanks to Dave, Diantha, Martha and Phil for contributing to this issue.

Your contributions are welcome, to editor@sftm.org.