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SHALL WE RIDE NO. 10 AGAIN NEXT WEEK?  
YES, DAD. IT BEATS RIDING IN OUR BUGGY!



# TRANSFER

VOL. 28 - NO. 3 SHELBURNE FALLS TROLLEY MUSEUM NEWSLETTER  
FALL 2019

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

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## TROLLEYFEST 2019



We had another fabulous Trolleyfest this year. The weather was perfect and the preparation and execution matched the weather. This was our Twentieth Anniversary of the restoration of No. 10. We had a very active Tag Sale of Railroadiana and speeder rides. We had trolley-era reenactors riding on the trolley to interact with the passengers as though they were traveling between Colrain and Shelburne Falls in the

1910's. The Car Barn was full of hands-on demonstrations of trolley-era industries like dairy farming, tool making, cider-making and textile production. WhistleStop and friends added a festive flavor with their period music. A new activity was the chance to ride a velocipede. Thanks to all the volunteers who organized and participated in Trolleyfest this year.





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## DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS - 2019

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

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## CONTACT US

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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](mailto:editor@sftm.org)

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:membership@sftm.org).

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## VOLUNTEERING - HOW TO DO IT

Stop by, send an email to [trolley@sftm.org](mailto:trolley@sftm.org) or call Sam at 413-834-0274. Indicate what your interests are - operating, painting, building stuff, selling tickets and gifts, grant writing, or what. We need you!!!

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## OPERATING SCHEDULE

We are closed now and will reopen May 23, 2020. We offer for trolley rides and pump car adventures on Saturdays and Sundays and Holidays from 11am to 5pm through the end of October. In July and August we are also open Mondays 1pm to 5pm. All Aboard!

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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

At this writing, SFTM has 105 current Memberships. If your printed TRANSFER does not have **2020** 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 status questions or changes of address for mail or email to [membership@sftm.org](mailto:membership@sftm.org)

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## CORPORATE SPONSORS

Please patronize our Sponsors!

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Walter's Propane	Shelburne Falls Bowling Alley
Berkshire East	McCusker's Market
Mo's Fudge Factor	
Coldwell Banker Upton Massamont REALTORS	
The Blue Rock Restaurant & Bar	

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## NEW MEMBERS

Joshua Simpson	Emily and Sonny Crawford
Anne Mileski	Heather Row
Will and Sarah Freedberg	

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## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

This year we honored Joshua Redenz. Josh is heading up the project to overhaul the spare trucks (wheel sets for the trolley) that we acquired last year. He prefers to be making noise and dust in the Car Barn, but capably steps up as trolley crew when needed. Josh has also built the velocipede that is pictured on page 1.





### MOONLIGHT MAGIC

Moonlight Magic is the annual holiday celebration in Shelburne Falls, on the evening of the Friday after Thanksgiving. This year we had a cold but not bitter, clear evening which helped bring people out. There were plenty of family-themed activities in town, and we had our usual offering of trolley rides on a brightly lighted trolley. While passengers were waiting for a ride from Salmon Falls Gallery they could warm up in the brightly lighted caboose, and sample cookies, crackers and hot cider. They could also make an ornament in the caboose. In the Visitors Center there were toy and model trains on sale.

I was particularly struck this year by what a great volunteer team we have. We have been doing Moonlight Magic for twenty years now, and we've got the setup and operation pretty well figured out. People know what to do, how to put up lights on the trolley and caboose, how to move the caboose to SF, how to direct traffic in the dark, how to set up the Salmon Falls ticket booth, etc. etc. It is nice for me to sometimes be able to step back and just watch things get done (correctly!), instead of having to be involved in every aspect. And then folks stick around to clean up! If I didn't mention some aspect that you helped on, it means it went so smoothly I didn't even notice.

We waited a bit too long to bring the caboose back to the Shed for the winter, and got caught by the early snowstorm. Above you can see Nash and DaveG bringing the caboose back after having plowed and shoveled out the tracks to make it clear enough for the trackmobile.

### YEAR IN REVIEW

2019 was our twentieth year of giving trolley rides in the Buckland Freight Yard. We carried more than 3500 passengers on our 123-year-old trolley car. We did it without injury or incident, and with many happy visitors. Our ridership was about 13% above average. We 'finished' caboose CV 4015 (no restoration project is every really finished). We had income of over \$40,000 and expenses of about \$34,000. All excess revenue is saved for use on major projects like the Car Barn expansion.

We did some design and planning work on the Car Barn expansion, specifically the water main replacement aspect. We need to replace our 80-year-old water main, and upgrade it to be able to eventually handle sprinklers. Dave D has also started making a new plumbing closet in the back of the crew room to make our new plumbing more freeze-proof.

Dave D has been making new doors for the PCC cars. Although doors are not the most important part of restoring the cars, we feel that having complete doors on them will help people see their potential.

Carl has gotten Harvey's speeder running, so there might be a new ride available next year, on select days. We've been working in the Car Barn on getting it more organized, creating storage and setting up some of the new tools.

We put in a ceiling on the porch, which both keeps the birds from nesting in the rafters and brightens the whole area.

We did a bit more track work, but got stopped by the early snowstorm.

Thanks to all our volunteers for all your help!



## GIFT IDEAS

Here are reviews of two books you might consider as gifts. And, of course, you can always get Marie Betts Bartlett's "The Little Yellow Trolley Car" about our No. 10, at [www.mariebettsbartlett.com](http://www.mariebettsbartlett.com).

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### **William Van Alen, Fred T. Ley and the Chrysler Building**

Author: George C. Kingston  
Publisher: McFarland and Company, Inc.  
P. O. Box 611  
Jefferson, North Carolina 28640  
Date: 2017  
Price: \$25.00 ordered directly from author  
George C. Kingston  
66 Rural Lane  
East Longmeadow MA 01028  
Email: [gcking@yahoo.com](mailto:gcking@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.GeorgeCKingston.com](http://www.GeorgeCKingston.com)

Virtually everyone in the Shelburne Falls area knows of the Bridge of Flowers. Many also know it was originally built for the Shelburne Falls and Colrain Street Railway to permit direct across-the-platform transfer of passengers and freight with the Boston & Maine and New Haven RR's.

A few know the builder was the Fred T. Ley Co.

Almost no one knows who Fred T. Ley was.

Amateur historian George Kingston has researched and written a fascinating history of Mr. Ley and his construction firm, rising from small earth-moving projects in Western Mass during the early 1890's, then quickly expanding into the burgeoning street railway construction era circa 1900, and finally capping his career by constructing NYC's Chrysler Building in 1928-29, the world's tallest when completed!

Along with Fred Ley, we meet and examine the career of William Van Alen, the architect of the Chrysler Building. He designed, Ley built, and Walter P. Chrysler personally paid the \$14,000,000.00 tab!

To those of us with a trolley and/or rail interest, Mr. Kingston gives somewhat short shrift. Although Ley was involved in the construction of many 1895—1910 era western/central Mass trolley lines, the 1908 Bridge of Flowers gets but a paragraph, and the 1910-11 Hoosac Electrification including the steam power house, motor shop, and distribution buildings is completely omitted from Ley's project list. The otherwise lengthy trolley/interurban project list confirms the Fred T. Ley Co. constructed numerous Mellon/Morgan backed and controlled properties. He

built and invested early on, but by the early 'teen's began disinvesting as the trolley era passed its zenith. Construction of steel-framed structures would become and remain the firm's forte.

The Ley Company's accomplishments are broad, varied and notable, including the initial 1916 Eastern State's Exposition [aka Springfield Fair] buildings, all of the U. S. Army's 1917-18 Camp Devens buildings in Ayer, Harvard, and Shirley, MA, and numerous large public and private building projects in Massachusetts, New York, Florida, and even Lima, Peru, South America.

The 227-page volume is well researched, illustrated, and has copious footnotes. It is an easy read on the history of two men who jointly rose to the top—literally—of their chosen professions; and one of whom has a direct relationship with Shelburne Falls and the SF&C to this day.

Reviewer: Carl R. Byron

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### **TEDDY ROOSEVELT, MILLIE AND THE ELEGANT RIDE**

Author: Jean M. Flahive  
Publisher: Indie Author Books,  
[www.indieauthorbooks.com](http://www.indieauthorbooks.com)

This book is based on a true story of a trolley that was saved and is being restored at Seashore Trolley Museum, in the vein of "The Little Yellow Trolley Car". The trolley car in this story is the "Narcissus", built in 1912 for the Portland - Lewiston Interurban. Teddy Roosevelt rode this car in 1914. The fictional story revolves around a young girl named Millie, her fascination with the "Narcissus" and how it lead her to meet Teddy Roosevelt. Millie gets to ride the first trolley car through her town. We follow her as she does her daily and seasonal farm chores. The story includes much more than trolley cars, of course. Millie sells Liberty Bonds at the Cumberland County Fair to raise funds for the Great War effort and she works for the woman's right to vote. Flahive paints a vibrant picture of rural life in the early 1900's. The tremendous life shifts that occurred through the arrival of the trolley, the challenges of learning current news, the Great War and its impact on families and lives at home, women's suffrage and difficult life choices are woven into a moving, believable and engrossing tale that puts the reader squarely in the lives of its characters.

At 200 pages, this book is for middle-school readers.





### **BUCKLAND YARD 1940**

Here is another aerial shot that Tony found of the Buckland Yard in 1940, looking roughly south. Note the Hood Milk Plant in the center of the picture. You can make out the cupola and roof of the coal vendor's building just north of the 'Agway' building that is now our Visitors Center. The east end of the Shelburne Falls Union Station and its platform is evident in the upper right. Also notice how open both the yard and the surrounding neighborhood are.

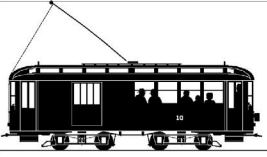


### **BUCKLAND YARD CA1910**

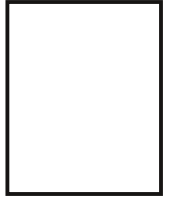
This is a close-up of a postcard we recently acquired. It shows the 1910 Shelburne Falls Union Station (burned 1980s) the Potter Grain Store (now Salmon Falls Gallery) and the Henry Ware Coal unloading facility in the background, beyond the 1867 Freight House. Lots of freight cars in the yard! No sign of trolleys or trolley wire.



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413/625-9443 [www.sftm.org](http://www.sftm.org)



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Please consider getting your Transfer online, see Page 2 for eTRANSFER details.

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



**BUCKLAND Pre 1890**

Here is one frame from a stereograph picture of downtown Buckland/Shelburne Falls from before the 'Iron Bridge' was built in 1890. You can see a yard track and turnout in the foreground. I think most of the major buildings no longer exist, there was a large downtown fire in 1876.

☆ **GIFT MEMBERSHIPS!** ☆  
Did you know you can give an SFTM Membership as a gift? Just write the lucky person's name and address on the membership form, check the Gift box and include your check. ☆

**BIG RAILROAD HOBBY SHOW**

The Big Railroad Hobby Show is January 25 and 26, 2020 at the Big E in West Springfield. There will be four buildings worth of model railroad displays, vendors, scenic railroads and railroad museums. Be sure to stop by our booth in the Better Living Center, Section 18.

**PLEASE VOTE!**

Our Annual Meeting is Feb 11, 2020 at the Greenfield Cooperative Bank at 6:30pm. You do not need to attend to vote, a ballot is included in your mailing or eTransfer. You can send in your ballot when you RENEW your membership.

Thank you Betsy, Carl, Marie, Tony, Jim and Dave for contributing to this issue.

To submit an article, picture or idea for the Transfer, please email [editor@sftm.org](mailto:editor@sftm.org).