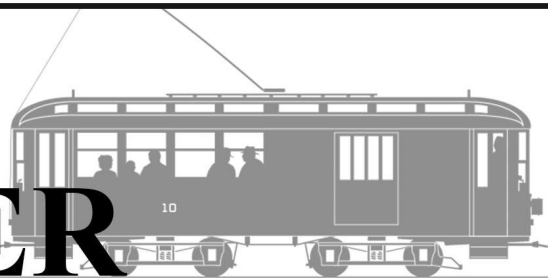


Shall we ride No.10 again next week?

Yes! It sure beats riding in our buggy!



TRANSFER



**VOL. 35 - NO. 2 SHELBURNE FALLS TROLLEY MUSEUM NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2026**

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



Trolleyfest 2026 is Saturday Sept 26! This scene is from last year, we hope you will join us this year.

TROLLEYFEST 2026!

Saturday September 26 is Trolleyfest. We have some new activities planned and lots of the favorite activities that we've had in the past, like Trackmobile-powered caboose rides, speeder rides, two different velocipede rides, and of course our usual trolley and pump car rides.

From 11am-3pm we will have hands-on demonstrations, including cider-pressing, butter making, "cow" milking, weaving, uses for vinegar, vintage toys and tools, metal working, wood-working and wood-carving. If you are wondering why these activities relate to local trolley history you can come and get answers!

We'll also have music by "WhistleStop" from 11am to 3pm, maple syrup and other goodies for sale

by Davenport Maple Farm, quilts, snacks, a railroad related movie and a vintage bus to explore. This year we are charging a little extra for Trolleyfest to cover the extra costs, but current Members always get to attend for free. www.sftm.org/trolleyfest.shtml

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We are having a great season of educational trolley rides this year. Our visitors are also enjoying our pump car rides and monthly speeder ride days. Right now we are 30% ahead of last year and 15% above average for ridership. This is shaping up to be our best year ever for ticket revenue. Memberships and donations seem to be above average as well. We get many good reviews on social media and our guests tend to stay for long visits. And we frequently hear about what great
(cont on page 3)

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS - 2026

Sam Bartlett (President)
Nash Bly (Vice President, Vice Chair)
Betsy Wholey Osell (Treasurer, Asst Clerk)
Lou Musante (Clerk, Asst Treasurer)
Alden Dreyer (Chair of Board)
Jim Kessler - Bill Kaiser - Jordan Helzer
Joshua Redenz - Jim Wholey
Ryan Strong - Rico Gomes

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. Three issues are planned for each year. Comments, contributions, and letters to the editor are welcomed.

Sam Bartlett - Editor editor@sftm.org

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR E-TRANSFER

The TRANSFER is available online as a full color pdf file. If you 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 "SFTM eTransfer".

In the body of your message please enter just your name. Future issues will come to you by email.

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 or text Sam at 413-834-0274. Indicate your interests - operating trolleys, painting, building stuff, selling tickets and gifts or what. We need you!!!

OPERATING SCHEDULE

We will be open 11am-5pm Saturdays, Sundays and holidays until Oct 31.

PROJECT TEAM

If you would like to join a hearty band of volunteers working on projects like restoration, track, maintenance etc., send me an email at sam@sftm.org. We meet once or twice a week. We can use all skill levels and will work with you to gain new skills if you wish.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

At this writing, SFTM has 162 current Memberships, including 22 Life Members. If your printed TRANSFER does not have '2026', '2027' or '2100' on the address label, we hope you will renew your membership. See the Membership Form for more information on Member benefits and giving levels.

Or, renew online at www.sftm.org/join.shtml

If you get the eTransfer, please check the email that was sent with this issue to see your status.

Your support is very important to us!

Please send status questions or changes of address for mail or email to membership@sftm.org

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS!

Floodwater Brewing
Salmon Falls Gallery
Mo's Fudge Factor
Buckland Pizza House
Blue Rock Restaurant
Hotfire Bar and Grill
Mirick Insurance

Baker Pharmacy
Walter's Propane
Davenport's Service Sta.
RR Uniforms of NE
Keystone Market
Blooming Inn

NEW MEMBERS

Bailey Payne
Nancy Shinn
Sarah Laakso
Ryan Smee
Nathan Tobey
Everett Stuart

Margaret Parr
Monika & Wylie Dole
Vaughn Scannell
Suzanne Crawford
Beth Howes
Thomas & Lauren Friedman



join.shtml



donate.shtml



Josh (black hat) tells guests about his unique people-powered track car. You can ride on this at Trolleyfest!

(cont from page 1) volunteers we have. If you've been to our museum you know what I'm talking about. Be sure to thank our volunteers the next time you visit.

We are less than \$3283 away from raising \$33,000 for our match for the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund for our MBTA 3283 Line Car project. We received the H. Albert Webb Award of \$10,000 through the Mass Bay Railroad Enthusiasts and an Amherst Railway Society grant of \$1000, plus many generous gifts from individuals to get us this far. If you haven't already shown your support for this project, we hope you will make a donation now to help get us over the finish line.

See the Restoration Dept. news for details on our progress on this unique car.

We do not send special fundraising mailings or conduct formal fund drives, but we rely on member support to sustain our operations and to move our special projects along. The Transfer is the only place where we ask members to consider a contribution.

Your gift will make an immediate impact. While our crew will continue to make progress as funding allows, knowing that members stand behind them provides a meaningful boost to their morale. Please take a moment to visit the Rolling Stock pages on our website, and make your donation today at:

www.sftm.org/donations.shtml

Together, we can keep these vital restoration efforts moving forward.

Please remember to renew your Membership!

Thank you for your ongoing support!

SAM BARTLETT - PRESIDENT/EDITOR

TROLLEY AND PUMP CAR CREW WANTED!

We are always glad to welcome new volunteers to our trolley operating crew. If you would like to learn how to operate a trolley or pump car and work with our guests to help them learn more about local railroad history, we would be glad to hear from you at training@sftm.org. We could use extra hands!

If operating machinery isn't your thing, we need help with Ticket Sales in the Gift Shop as well. Email betsy@sftm.org if you'd like to learn more about being a Ticket Agent.

FROM THE RESTORATION DEPARTMENT

CABOOSE REPAIRS

Our 1925 Central Vermont wooden caboose sits outside all summer so that people can climb up into the cupola and see what it was like to be a brakeman or conductor one hundred years ago.

We've completed the repairs to the cupola and body windows and siding. We will do a complete repaint and lettering when the weather cooperates. We are also replacing deteriorated parts of the roof walks.

"BERKSHIRE HILLS"

Work on the Berkshire Street Railway parlor trolley "Berkshire Hills" will commence when we get the Line Car "finished", or if more volunteers show up to help with the "Berkshire Hills". Currently our visitors can see what it looks like inside and out, and compare that to pictures of the car in its glory days.

MBTA 3283 - THE LINE CAR

Our Projects team has been focusing on the Line Car this summer. Tom H is making the new bumpers with anti-climbers for each end of the car. Anti-climbers (see the picture) were not to deter vandals or fare-evaders. The bumpers of subway cars had several horizontal bars designed to lock with another car's



*Upper: New bumpers with anti-climbers
Lower: Showing anti-climber as delivered,
Kevin Farrell collection*

anti-climber in case of a collision, so that one car didn't climb up over the frame of the other car causing a telescoping disaster of the cars.

Larry, Dick, Martin, Ian, Phil and Nash have cleaned, primed, painted and reassembled the brake gear for one truck and put that truck back under the car. Painting of the the brake rigging on the other truck is complete. We need to roll that truck out to make reassembly easier.

Tom P is working on making new wooden sills (horizontal frame members at the bottom) for the body wall frames. This will require making mortises (square holes in the sill) for the side frame tenons (square extensions designed to mate with the mortise) with our new mortising machine. Ian is priming and painting the sills so that they will "play nicely" with the metal frame when it is all bolted together.

We have now raised \$30,665.30 toward our required match of \$33,000 for our Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund grant for the Line Car. You can see we are very close to unlocking this \$33,000.

If you would like to contribute to the restoration of this unique piece of Boston transit history, we encourage you to make a donation to the Line Car Fund. See www.sftm.org/donations.shtml for donation details, and read about our Line Car (and see new photos!) at www.sftm.org/linecar.shtml.

RESTORATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you would like to support our restoration efforts by volunteering, please email Sam at sam@sftm.org or call (413) 834 0274.



Nash and Phil build the wooden trough for the trolley wire in Stall One, upside down for easier assembly.

wooden trough in sections to support the overhead trolley wire that we will put in Stall One.

Ian and Sam cleared out decades of stuff that had been "stored" under the Warehouse so that the contractors working on the Art Garden project could have access. Dick, Martin and Sam built and painted an informational sign that greets our visitors. Tom P, Dick and Sam created interpretive signs for our buildings and equipment so our guests have a better idea of our history and what each piece of equipment is for. John is working on repairs to our boom truck, Trackmobile and tamper. Bruce L and Larry and Tom P finished up the interior wall of the Office which had been demolished when we rebuilt the exterior last fall.

Martin and Sam T keep the grass mowed and trimmed for a safe and pleasant experience for our guests. Other minor repairs and projects get our attention too.

Want to help? Please email Sam at sam@sftm.org or call (413) 834 0274.

PROJECTS TEAM UPDATE



Nash and Ryan replant the Porch Garden

The Projects team has been busy on many fronts. Dick and Larry did some repairs to the ramp railings and stripped and repainted it. Ryan rebuilt and replanted our porch garden. Nash, Phil and Larry built a

2026 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS OVERDUE!

2026 Memberships are now due! If your printed TRANSFER does not have '2026', '2027' or '2100' on the address label, we hope you will renew your membership now. See the attached Membership Form for more information on Member levels and benefits.

Or, renew online at www.sftm.org/join.shtml

If you get the eTransfer, check the email that was sent with this issue to see your Membership status.

Your membership dues are very important to our financial well-being, any time of year. We also depend on donations above your dues amount to fund our ongoing Projects, like the "Berkshire Hills" and the Line Car. Please consider a *generous additional* donation with your Membership.

DAVE R. DYE 1933-2026

Dave Dye was an early supporter of SFTM. He had heard that we were looking for volunteer wood-working help and showed up one day ready to work. He was instrumental on the initial caboose restoration and helped me build the two restrooms. We also removed some ugly additions to the Freight House roof and put slate over the repairs.

Dave took over as Board chair in 2000 when I moved from that position to President. He guided us well and shared his wisdom and advice. He was also a generous financial supporter of the museum.

Dave gave me a "Leatherman" multi-tool many years ago and I often think of him when I pull it out of my pocket to fix something. His hard work, generosity, good humor and stories will be missed.

A complete obituary can be found at obits.csnh.com/david-dye.

BERKSHIRE & EASTERN CONNECTION

Recently a brand new turnout ("switch") kit was unloaded at the Elm Street end of our property. This is reportedly going to re-connect our South Track to the B&E Main 1 track. About ten years ago a derailment destroyed the turnout that had connected our yard to the outside world. Now it looks like we may get re-connected. Stay tuned.



Switchstand, frog, points and timbers awaiting installation by Berkshire & Eastern Railroad

WHAT IS A "SIGNAL GARDEN"?

We acquired some out-of-date railroad trackside signals. We want to display them but since they are not appropriate for our trolley line (too modern), we will put them in one place so they can be displayed together in what is called a Signal Garden.

Brian has spearheaded this project. We had all the parts stripped and primed by Orchard Equipment Supply (thanks!) and Brian has painted the masts and signal heads in shiny aluminum paint. We built forms for the concrete footings and hope to have everything in place by Moonlight Magic (Nov 27).

Our ultimate goal will be that visitors can control the signals, turning them on and off and changing the colors, along with signs explaining how signals work and what they are used for.



Above: Brian paints the masts that hold the signals

Below: Signal heads ready to be installed



HISTORY CORNER

SOME ANSWERS AND NEW QUESTIONS

Dave Allen sells maps at www.old-maps.com. He also produces the Franklin County Railroad calendars. We recently acquired from him the survey of the Shelburne Falls & Colrain Street Railway from 1911.

The upper image below is just a short section that I marked up, showing the line through Griswoldville, from the northern-most canal crossing to south of the North River Bridge. There has been some question as to whether the trolley line crossed the North River just south of Griswoldville, or whether it was crossed closer to Shattuckville, the next village downstream. This clearly shows the line crossing the North River where Rt 112 does now. One question answered.

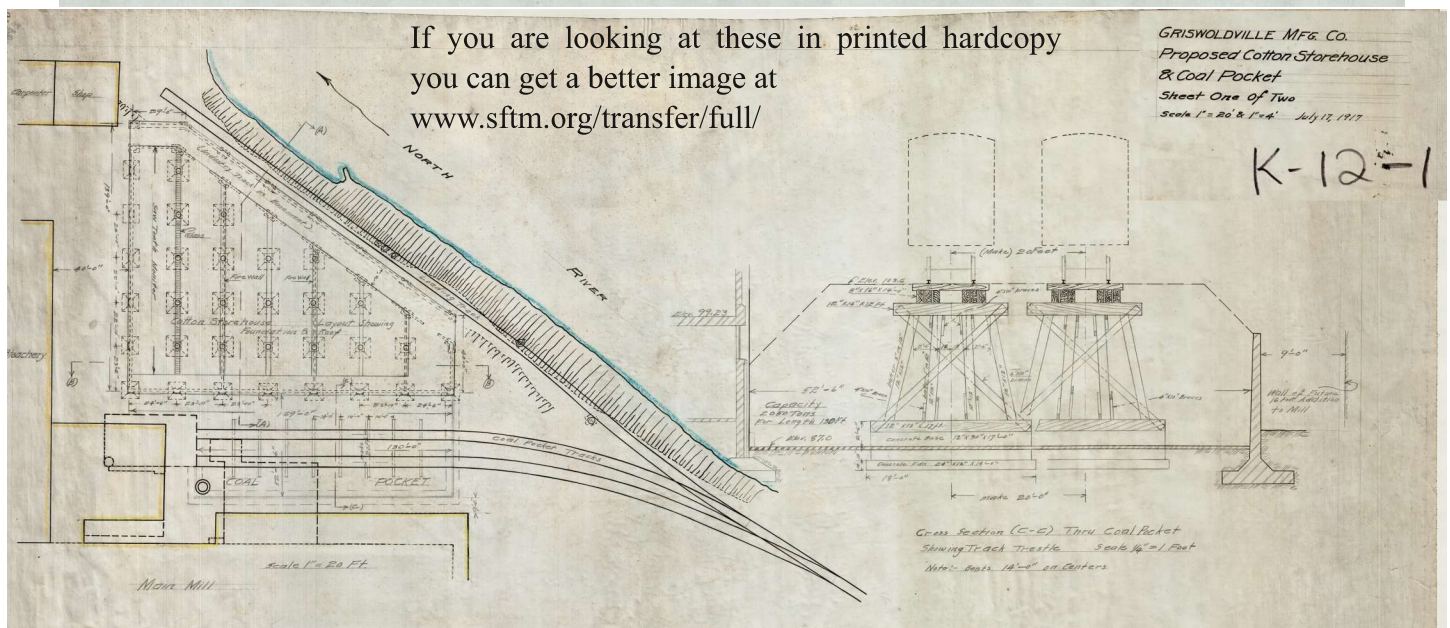
The bottom image shows a proposed cotton storehouse and coal pocket for the Griswoldville Mfg Mill. The date is July 17, 1917 five weeks after American

troops landed in France for The Great War. The Griswoldville Mill produced over 3000 miles of gauze rolls a yard wide for use as bandages during this war.

The proposal shows a two track coal pocket (side tracks to unload coal). The proposed tracks would have been connected to the tracks shown in the upper map as "mill siding".

The hopper cars loaded with coal would be pushed onto a section of trestle over a pit called a "coal pocket". The bottom hopper doors of the cars would be opened to dump out the coal into the pit below. The notes show the trestle to be 130 feet long with a 2050 ton coal capacity. Another track was to be built right along the North River for loading and/or unloading raw cotton or finished gauze into a proposed cotton storehouse.

The new question is, was this ever built? That would have been a lot of coal to move by trolley.



TROLLEY FEST

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26

SHELBURNE FALLS TROLLEY MUSEUM

11 AM-5PM

- * Trolley Rides
- * Pumpcar Rides
- * Caboose Rides
- * Speeder Rides
- * Velocipede Rides
- * Toy Trains
- * Gift Shop
- * Visitors Center
- * Vintage Bus



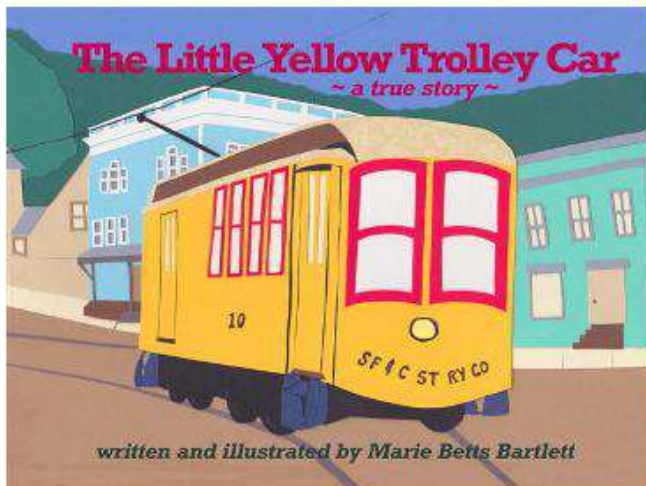
ON SALE

- * Lunch
- * Local Farm Products
- * Quilts

11 AM-3PM

Hands-on demos

- * Wood Carving
- * Tool Making
- * Cider Making
- * Butter Making
- * Weaving
- * Old Hand Tools
- * Antique Toys
- * Music by
"Whistlestop"
- * and more...



Come see how the people of Shelburne Falls worked and lived and traveled in the "Trolley Era", 1896 to 1927.



All-Day-Passes Adults \$7, Youths \$5, under 6 free

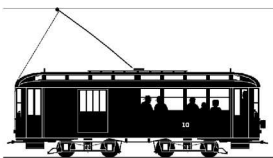
www.sftm.org/trolleyfest.shtm for details

14 Depot St

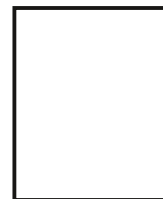
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Shelburne Falls MA 01370-0272



413/625-9443 www.sftm.org



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See the included Membership Form, or renew online at

www.sftm.org/join.shtml.

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

You can visit our FaceBook page at

www.facebook.com/ShelburneFallsTrolleyMuseum/

SPECIAL EVENTS COMING!

Trolleyfest is Saturday Sept 26.

Mark your calendar for Moonlight Magic Nov 27

See all our Events on our Events page at

www.sftm.org/events.shtml

MUSEUM RECIPROCITY

A group of trolley museums has formed a Member's Reciprocity Program. Current SFTM members get a discount at participating museums.

See what museums are participating at www.trolleywayfinder.org/. Bring your membership acknowledgment letter or membership card.

TRANSFER INDEX AVAILABLE

Nina has create an index of Transfer articles. We are missing Vol 9-14, anyone have copies of them?

You can download the index from www.sftm.org/transfer/transferindex.xls to make it easier to find old "news" about our museum, and local railroad history. We have been publishing Transfer newsletters for thirty-five years!

THANKS FOR THE HELP!

Thank you to Marie and Rico for contributing to this issue. To submit an article, picture or idea for the Transfer, please email editor@sftm.org.

TRANSFER AVAILABLE ONLINE

If you only get the printed version of the Transfer and want to see the pictures in color, or want to look at back issues, go to: www.sftm.org/transfer/full/

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.

EDITOR'S NOTES

I tend to only use first names, because the Transfer is posted online and some folks prefer not to have their names splashed all over the web.

Feedback is always welcome.

Sam Bartlett- editor

editor@sftm.org



join.shtml