

# NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor  
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## THE SHORTEST STREET IN THE VILLAGE

# Newton Street

Newton Street is on the south side of the village between First and Second Streets. According to Carlton Nellis (from his writings), when the street was first constructed, the plan was to extend it from Third Street to South Main Street. The village did not think it feasible because Main Street was too built-up to permit space for the corner of the intersection.

### How it got it's name

Michael and Margaret Newton owned considerable property south of Washington Street. They owned a house on South Main Street next door to the Methodist parsonage. The original owners were a Phillips family. The house was built around 1850. It was a large, two-family house, and it became a boarding or rooming house during the time that the village was a booming railroad town. Many visitors in town provided the need for housing them. This house was torn down in 1988 and a modular house was placed where the old house had been located. There is still a large vacant lot behind where the house once stood. Today there are plans to build senior housing on the piece of property.

The village was expanding westward, and after Mr. Newton died, Mrs. Newton who still owned considerable property, gave the village land for the new streets, including the land on which to construct NEWTON STREET. The village named it in her honor.

There is only one house facing Newton Street. There are 3 other houses on the corners of First and Second Streets



### Michael Newton

1815 - 1904

He was first married to Julie Moore. She died in 1870. He married secondly to Margaret Bass who died in 1917.

Michael had a spring on the hill above Hunter's Creek, from which he sold water to residents in the south end of Northville. It was piped through half-inch lead pipes, and for \$5.00 a year, each family was allowed all the water that would run through a hole in the pipe the size of a needle. The pipes froze unfailingly every winter. Nearly every family at the time kept a large, covered wooden storage tub, in the woodshed or near the kitchen door. (quoted from "Northampton Times Past, Times Present by C. Russell)

According to Carlton Nellis when they tore down the Newton house in 1988, they unearthed some sections of lead pipe. This discovery lends credence to the historical report that the Newton home was one of the first to have water piped into a home. According to historical records, the water line ran along, or near Mechanic Street connecting to Hunter Creek. The pressure needed to raise the water to the level of the village streets, was furnished by a ram. The first cement sidewalk was in front of the Newton House. It recently was replaced by new cement. (see 3/2012 news-letter)

# MAHAR HOUSE

One Newton Street

By Robert "Robin" Mahar

The Mahar House at #1 Newton St was built in 1938, a 3 bed room ranch with a 1 car detached garage on a .17 acre lot. My Dad "Bob" (Robert) and Mother Anne bought it new for \$5,250. It's construction was unique for the time, as it was made of steel (walls and roof). I was told that there was only one other like it in the greater Fulton County area. I do not know the manufacturer or where it was manufactured. It sure was a "strong" structure ( and could probably survive a hurricane) which is probably what appealed to my Dad, remembering the Hurricane on September 21, 1938 which did great damage in New England - I don't recall reports that it affected Northville all that much - I wasn't born yet.

The walls were made of steel ribbed panels 18 " wide by 8' long (aprox) bolted together at the rib on each panel side to make a smooth exterior wall and the roof was the same construction except inside out so that the rib joints at each panel side were visible. The roof was a bear to paint (red) because of all the protruding ribs (18" apart) and subsequent owners added an "over roof " to accept asphalt shingles so the "ribs" are not visible today.

The garage was moved from the Sport Island amusement park before the reservoir was flooded. It was a "concession" structure with 3 large swing-up panels on each side (still visible today, I believe) for concession games (like throwing baseballs to knock down the "cats" inside and win a prize). I believe the structure was "free" if my Dad paid to get it moved before the "flooding" (otherwise those buildings would probably be burned).

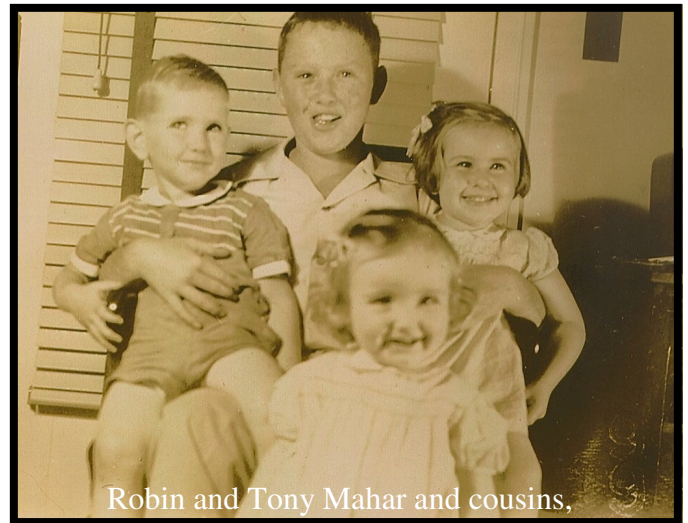
The house was "appraised" July 1979 by Harley Standhart at \$35,000 (\$31K house-lot \$4K). The house picture was attached to the appraisal. I am not sure when it sold , but believe the buyers were Darlene and John Holubetz who did a nice job of modernizing it. Darlene gave me a tour several years back . What memories streamed back.

The car is a 1936 Dodge my Dad bought new for \$936. It was given to me at age 16 (so I wouldn't ask him to use his car). I learned a great deal about auto mechanics working on it with good friend Tommy Andrew's help. I prepped it for painting (the color you see) and had it painted at Van Arnam's Garage paint shop. My brother-in-law Jim Williams called it "The Golden Flash" ( I married Marion, his sister ).

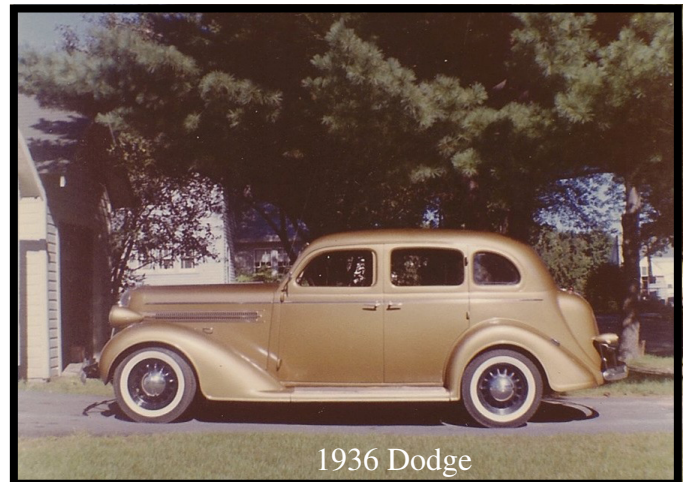
The picture is brother "Tony" (guessing age 11) holding me "Robin" (age 3), and the two girls are cousins Judy and Christine from Rochester,NY. Tony died in October 2014 at 82.



Mahar's at 1 Newton Street



Robin and Tony Mahar and cousins,



1936 Dodge

Northville was a great place to grow up. Marion and I love returning each summer for a two week vacation on the lake with our daughter Molly and husband Brian. Seeing friends and enjoying the Great Sacandaga Lake are a highlight of our year.

*A response to last months article about the Salvation Army from Jack Sands who grew up in Northville.*

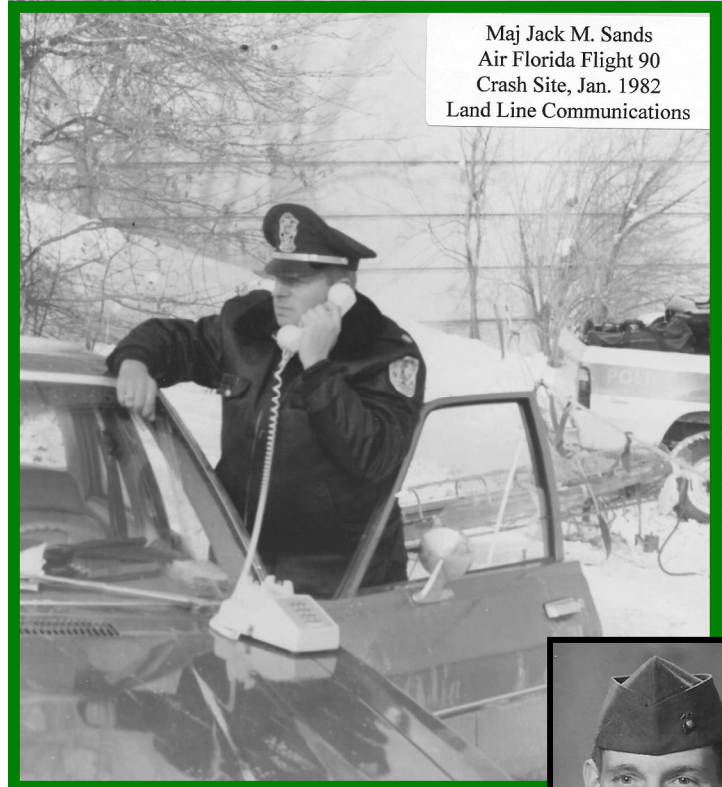
*We should be proud of his involvement and dedication to his job as Major Jack M. Sands of the National Parks Service in Washington D. C.*

Dear Editor, Since your little sister BJ had a career with the Salvation Army I thought she'd be interested in an experience I had many years ago. (editors note: also interesting to others from Northville)

January 13, 1982, Air Florida Flight 90 crashed in the Potomac River shortly after take off from Washington National Airport. There were 79 people aboard and all but 5 died. Those 5 were rescued from the icy river by one of our U. S. Park Police helicopter crews. Since the recovery and investigation took place on Nat'l. Park Service property, along the banks of the river, our Force was involved. I was there for the 9 days it took to get the scene clear of bodies and wreckage. There were people from 25 different agencies involved in the work that had to be done. It was bitter cold every day.

Without being called, a Salvation Army Major and his wife brought in a mobile kitchen to the scene and fed all the workers who wanted to eat. They were there every day and never asked for a donation of any kind. They didn't even have a donation jar on the counter of the truck. Their presence sure was a moral booster for all of us. Just before all the work at the crash site was finished, I asked one of our sergeants to go around to the various agencies and take up a collection for the Salvation Army. As I recall, he collected about \$1200.

I had a mobile phone in my police cruiser, but it required going through an operator to make a call, plus there were a limited number of mobile frequencies. I had the phone company hook up a land line for us to use.



Maj Jack M. Sands  
Air Florida Flight 90  
Crash Site, Jan. 1982  
Land Line Communications



They sure could have used cell phones, but they hadn't been heard of yet in 1962

### FYI Old NCS Yearbooks

When ever I find a NCS yearbook in a garage sale I buy it, so I have many duplicates. If you never got one for your class or have misplaced the one you did have, I just might have the one that you'd like to have. If I have what you want, for \$5 plus postage I would mail one to you. The Editor

### Tidbit of Information

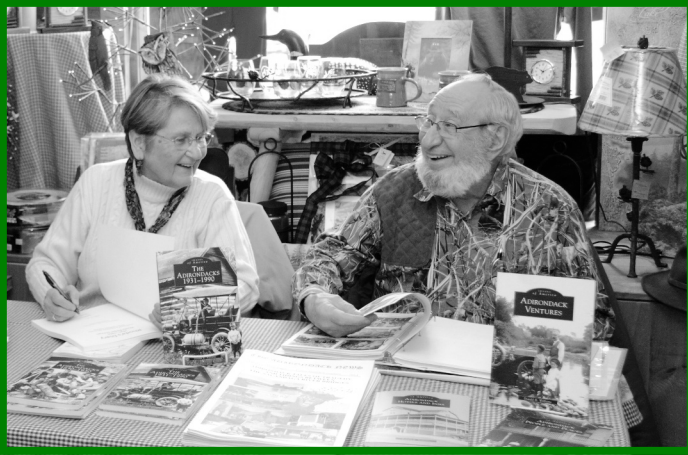
Due to the loss of the railroad to Northville in 1929. a franchise was granted to the railroad company in 1930 to operate a bus line for passengers and a freight-truck line to Northville. Due to the increase in the availability to drive your own car, this service was discontinued in 1953. The end had come for 78 years of F J & G public transportation between Gloversville and Northville. It cost me 10 cents to ride the bus from my house across from the golf course to Northville. (Ed.)

LOCAL HISTORICAL BOOKS SIGNING

At the Adirondack Country Store

by two local authors

Don Williams and Gail Cramer



D. SANDNER. STATEMENT. H. SANDNER.

NORTHVILLE, N. Y. *June 10 1907*

M<sup>7</sup> *Ch. Van Brocklin & Co.*

To D. & H. SANDNER, Dr.,  
—DEALERS IN—  
**FLOUR, FEED AND GRAIN.**  
FEED A SPECIALTY.

TERMS: NET CASH. MILL IN REAR OF DEPOT.

	<i>338</i>	<i>feed</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>6 09</i>	
<i>22</i>	<i>281</i>	<i>feed</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>4 61</i>	
<i>July 1</i>	<i>356</i>	<i>feed</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>6 05</i>	<i>16.75</i>

*Paid*  
*D & H Sandner*  
*7/6/07*

D & H  
SANDNER'S

David Sandner came to Northville in 1907, and with his brother Henry, established the D & H Sandner Feed and Grain business. The mill was located at the Northville railroad terminal. It consisted of several storage buildings and an underground conveyor which carried grain directly from freight cars to the storage bins. The bulk of the business was carried on with logging companies. The business closed in 1929, due to the Reservoir. (Northampton, Times Past, Times Present)