



April 2009 Newsletter

NORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 693

NORWELL, MASSACHUSETTS 02061

EVENING PROGRAM ON APRIL 2ND TO HIGHLIGHT DECORATIVE ARTS

On Thursday, April 2nd at 7:00 p.m., on the 3rd Floor of Sparrell School, the Norwell Historical Society will sponsor a lecture and demonstration of patterns and artifacts of Early American Decoration. Astrid Donnellan, a prominent artist and restorer, will speak about Norwell's Maryjane Clark collection—currently housed in the Historical Society archives.

Mrs. Clark was a master crafts-person who had a studio in Norwell called Scrabble Arts. She was a researcher in Early American Decoration and specialized in tin, wood, furniture and other painted and stenciled media. She worked with a like-minded group of artisan researchers for over 60 years.

Mrs. Donnellan is also a master craftsperson and lecturer, and one of Maryjane Clark's students. Refreshments will be



An example of early tray decoration as was recorded by Maryjane Clark.

available that evening, and admission is free for everyone. There is no need to pre-register for this event, but if you have any questions please contact Gail Storm at 781-659-7852.

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CONTACTING US

The Norwell Historical Society
P.O. Box 693
Norwell, MA 02061
781-659-1888

MUSEUMS & LIBRARY HOURS

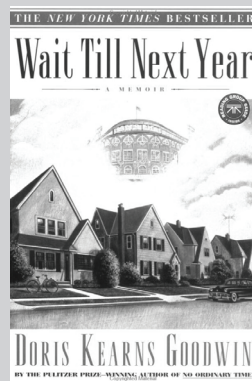
The Jacobs Farmhouse is open by appointment only. Please call the Society for further information.

The Norwell Historical Society Library at the Norwell Middle School (328 Main Street--Route 123) is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays: from 1:30 to 3:30 during the school year, and 10:00 to noon during the summer.

The Norwell Historical Society Archives Center on the 3rd floor of the Sparrell School is open by appointment only.

The purpose of this Society shall be: a.) to plan and arrange for the promotion of knowledge about the Town of Norwell by discussion, research, meetings and publications; b.) to collect, solicit and preserve documents, manuscripts, charts, maps, records, photographs, relics, and items of local interest; c.) to arrange, index, catalog and file/maintain such material for use by the members of the Norwell Historical Society and other interested parties; d.) to work with and cooperate with other entities, groups, organizations, and individuals directly and indirectly.

Norwell Reads is a town-wide project sponsored by the Norwell Public Library. This annual event is part of a nation-wide program designed to foster reading and community through the shared experience of reading the same book.



NORWELL READS 2009

The 2009 selection is Wait Till Next Year by Doris Kearns Goodwin. The book celebrates the author's love of baseball and her childhood in Long Island in the 1950s. Stop by the James Library or the NPL to pick up your copy of the book and attend some of the programs in April and May. Events in the works include a lecture by David Turner on Norwell in the 1950s, a lunch at the COA with Mary Pratt (who was a pitcher for the Rockford Peaches), and an old-fashioned baseball game with the Old Time Baseball League of the South Shore.

MASS MEMORIES PROJECT A SUCCESS! ... BUT SO MUCH MORE STILL TO BE COLLECTED

Written by William Slattery, NHS Archivist

On Saturday, February 14, many citizens of town appeared before video cameras and scanning machines at the Norwell Public Library because they wished to preserve family stories for posterity. The pictures they brought served as a starting point for reminiscing about past personal or family events they experienced in Massachusetts and Norwell.

This activity, entitled Mass Memories Project, is made possible through the assistance of many people and organizations: participating college students, the Massachusetts State Archives, the Norwell Public Library, the Norwell Council on Aging, and the Norwell Historical Society. Similar groups in towns and cities throughout the state are joining together in the effort to build a stronger sense of "community". (There is a rumor that Mass Memories Project coordinators were so impressed by the turnout in Norwell that they may be making another stop here in the not-too-distant future!) So, those who might like to share some memories and photographs should seriously consider making a little preparation. The results of this project will not only be available to the state but also to the Norwell Public Library.

As time goes by, our family photographs, not always appreciated by members of the next generation, often get lost or tossed out in the anxious rush to settle a deceased relative's estate. It is sad that so many of our residents will have nothing but an obituary notice and a tombstone to recall their passing.

The Town of Norwell, particularly the School Department, has graciously allowed the Society space for an archives area in which to collect and preserve such pictures, documents, and a few artifacts. In this electronic age, pictures may be scanned and the originals returned to their owners. The Norwell Historical Society has members willing to catalog and preserve originals as well as scan and return them. The donor or lender should try to identify as much as they know about the picture(s) submitted. They may be brought to the Community Room of the Middle School during the Society's library hours where they may be left under lock and key to the care of our archival staff. If you so instruct us, we may be able to share them with Mass Memories on their return trip should you be unable to attend that session.

When the Society had its library in the Town Center in 1988-90, I remember a man from out of town related to the Nash family who was thrilled to find the Society had a cataloged album of photographs with captions

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Did You Know?

...the answer to the last issue's Trivia Corner Question? The question was: **When was the first power boat reportedly seen on the North River and who owned it?**

The answer is: About 1894 the first power boat appeared on the North River. It was owned by Henry D. Smith of River Street and it was 26-feet long and it had a naphtha engine for power.

TRIVIA QUESTION:

What was the role of the "Hog Reeve" in Scituate Town Government in 1713?

ANSWER: in the next issue!



NORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE _____ NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP

Individual (\$15) _____ Business (\$40) _____
Family (\$25) _____ Life (\$200) _____
Benefactor (\$500) _____

Please make checks payable to the *Norwell
Historical Society* and mail to: NHS,
P.O. Box 693, Norwell, MA 02061

AREAS OF INTEREST

Newsletter _____ Public Relations _____
Hospitality _____ Program Planning _____
Library Volunteer _____ Historical Research _____
Photo Cataloging _____ Process Archival _____
Material _____
Other: _____

MUCH MORE STILL TO BE COLLECTED, cont'd

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and even a genealogy of the Nash family that had lived in Norwell for many generations. He was a relative who deeply cared about his ancestors and wanted to know about them. I remember he also gave us a rather generous donation which greatly surprised President Jeanne Garside and me. While I cannot promise that some day in the future a relative of yours will be joyful to find out about you and other members of your current family, I'd say that it was worth the try to make this happen! Why shouldn't someone in the future be able to come to Town and discover your presence here? Now is the time to take a few steps to make sure you and those you love are never forgotten in the bigger story of Norwell. Everybody makes up the larger fabric of the Town's history—even if we only came here to hang our hats after a hard day's work somewhere else.

In the 1990s, Mr. Marchione, a history teacher at the junior high school, gave his classes

the task of recording oral histories from citizens throughout the Town. The Historical Society has a large set of both tapes and transcriptions from this worthy assignment. Sadly, with the today's educational demands, teachers simply cannot afford the time at the secondary level to continue in Mr. Marchione's footsteps. Yet another reason why your input would be so helpful.

While the Society can use volunteers to cut out current newspaper articles about Norwell personalities and events, even this task may be hampered in the future as more people turn from newspapers to electronic methods of gathering information. Even letters are not available to historians much any more due to e-mails and text-messaging.

To preserve local history in the future will take more effort on everyone's part. Please help the Society to preserve what we can for the education of future generations. We're hoping to hear from you soon.



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P.O. Box 693
NORWELL, MASSACHUSETTS 02061

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STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

JUNE 14, 2009

AT THE JACOBS FARMHOUSE



OF NOTE...

The Norwell Historical Society's esteemed president for many years, Bob Norris, has decided to step down in Fall, 2009. Who can replace Bob? No one. Who *will* replace Bob? Perhaps you.

NORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS AND MEMORABILIA

SHIPBUILDING ON THE NORTH RIVER ——— \$45
by L. Vernon Briggs

The definitive book on ships built on the North River and the shipyards that lined the shores. Written in 1889. Second reprinting in 1981.

HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE-NORWELL ——— \$25
by Joseph Foster Merritt

A recently re-published history of the town to 1938. A unique narrative considered to be an invaluable account of Norwell prior to WWII.

HISTORIC HOMESTEADS OF NORWELL ——— \$15
published by NHS, 1992

We are proud of our lovely town. Learn more about our stately houses and the people who lived in them. This book, well-illustrated with drawings, discusses architectural features and includes genealogical information.

THE WAY WE WERE ——— \$20
by Jeanne Garside

This book is a series of articles written to preview Norwell's Centennial Celebration in 1888. Read what times were like when Norwell came of age. Illustrated with old photographs.

NORWELL PLATE ——— \$25

Limited edition pewter plate with the town seal. Each plate is numbered, suitable for hot and cold use, and may be hung. Handcrafted in the USA.

HENDERSON MAP ——— \$3

Interesting hand-drawn map suitable for framing. It was drawn by Anne Henderson and first issued in 1967 by the NHS. A favorite depiction of the location of historic homes.

All the above items are available at the NHS Library in the Middle School on Wed. & Thur. (1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., see summer hours on front), or you may call Gert Daneau at 781-659-2226, or you may request a publication using this form and enclosing a check (made payable to NHS). Mail to: NHS, P.O. Box 693, Norwell, MA 02061.