



October 2007 Newsletter

NORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 693

NORWELL, MASSACHUSETTS 02061

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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 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday each week.

The Norwell Historical Society Archives Center on the 3rd floor of the Norwell Town Hall (345 Main Street--Route 123) is open by appointment only.

The purpose of this Society shall be: 1.) to plan and arrange for the promotion of knowledge about the Town of Norwell, Massachusetts 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.

SCENIC ROADS OF NORWELL

Conservation and preservation efforts in any town require the coordination of different groups and regulations. One of many regulatory approaches Norwell has embraced is that of scenic roads. In 1976, Norwell designated our first scenic roads: Bowker Street, Norwell Avenue, Stetson Road, Tiffany Road and Jacobs Lane. Subsequent town meetings have added more, and Norwell now has 20 protected.

What makes a road a scenic road? The general laws of Massachusetts (Chapter 40, section 15C) provide that upon recommendation of the planning board, conservation commission or historical commission of a town, a town may designate any road (other than a numbered route or state highway) a scenic road. Why is the designation so important? The answer is that any repair, maintenance, reconstruction or paving work done with respect to the road shall not involve or include the cutting down or removal of trees, or the tearing down or destruction of stone walls (or portions thereof) except with

the prior written consent of the planning board after notice and a public hearing. If the work proposed involves the cutting or removal of a tree, the hearing is to be consolidated with the tree warden as well.

While it is difficult to imagine, there is a thriving business in the purchase of stone walls and relocating them to parts unknown for profit. Such activities in or on the 20 streets designated as scenic ways in Norwell (absent obtaining the required consent described above) would be illegal. If you encounter persons taking down trees abutting a public way or cutting through stone walls for one purpose or another, and the road in question has been designated a scenic road, it may make sense to determine from the planning board if the activity has the required approval.

In the future, we may hope for continuing designation of appropriate ways as scenic roads, with signage to remind us that they are scenic roads and entitled to the preservation protection described above.



**OFFICIAL CALL FOR ANNUAL MEETING!
OCTOBER 18, 2007**

OCTOBER 18TH ANNUAL MEETING

The Norwell Historical Society's annual meeting will be held at the Phoenix Lodge at Hanover Four Corners on Thursday, October 18. Nina Zannieri, the Executive Director of the Paul Revere House, will be the featured speaker for the meeting. Her topic is "Paul Revere and Pasta".

Social hour begins at 6:00 p.m., roast beef dinner at 7:00, and featured speaker at 8:00. The business portion of the meeting will be concluded before the speaker begins. Tickets for the event are \$15 per person; reservations are strongly encouraged for planning purposes and may be made by calling Gail Storm at 781-659-7852. The gathering offers a great chance to catch up with friends, eat well, learn what is going on with the Society and some local history... all at the same time!

GRANTWRITERS NEEDED, In connection with the ongoing preservation and conservation efforts of both the Norwell Historical Commission and the Norwell Historical Society, there are apparently a variety of funding sources available depending on the nature of the project. If you might be able to lend a hand in researching the terms of the grants and/or writing grant proposals, kindly contact the Society.

HAVE A FREE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON?

Board meetings during the school year will be normally held on the third Wednesday of the month at the Middle School at 1:30 p.m. (November's meeting will be the second Wednesday, November 14, to avoid Thanksgiving issues.) All are welcome to attend these meetings.



Since the NHS archives have relocated from the Town Hall to the third floor of Sparrell, the Board has been working **EVERY Wednesday** afternoon to organize and put away the materials in our new home. We would love your ideas and help!

The Society received a very nice thank you note from Julianne Skinner, 2007 Haskins Scholar (featured in an article in the May 2007 newsletter). Miss Skinner was very appreciative of the scholarship!

Did You Know?

...the answer to the last issue's Trivia Corner Question? The question was: *Where, in recent years, was a vineyard in Norwell?*

The answer is: at Barbara Meacham's house on Mount Blue Street. The official wine of the Centennial celebration of Norwell was made with these grapes. Today, the Meacham land is used by R & C Farms of Scituate to grow crops.

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, December 9th will be the annual Norwell Historical Society's Christmas party at the Jacobs Farmhouse from 3 - 5 p.m. Come enjoy some holiday music and cheer.

TRIVIA
QUESTION:

In the early part of the 20th century, we read of people having "Freedom" parties. What is a "Freedom" party?

ANSWER: in the next issue!

Trivia Corner



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 _____
Research Library _____ Historical Research _____
Photo Cataloging _____ Process Archival _____
Material _____
Other: _____



The Norwell Historical Society makes respectful recognition of the passing of Carol Mesheau on May 27, 2007.

Carol was a long-time resident of Norwell and active as a volunteer in many capacities. In recent years she has helped in the Historical Society library, served on the Norwell Historical Commission, and wrote (with her husband, the book on the Ridge Hill area of Norwell. Her contributions live after her.

**STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
SPARKLES**

The shade of the large trees at the Jacobs Farmhouse provided a perfect setting for the 2007 Strawberry Festival this past June 17th. Strawberry shortcake and lemonade were enjoyed by the many who attended the event. The bake table was a huge success, featuring strawberry items from salads to breads to many a strawberry rhubarb pie! Over a dozen people enjoyed the guided tours of the Farmhouse given by Historical Society Board members.



We look forward to another successful Strawberry Festival next year in 2008.



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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.

HISTORIA _____ \$7.50

A gem of local history for the people of the Norwell/Scituate area. George C. Turner's six pamphlets, written in 1898-99 have been re-printed for our enjoyment. Read about Norwell 100 years ago from the man on the scene.

THE WAY WE WERE _____ \$18.88
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.

MORE THAN JUST A COOKBOOK _____ \$5

This book, expectably, is full of time-tested favorite recipes submitted by local people. Beyond the gastronomic delights, we have included historical sketches, interesting narratives and accounts of historic events. In his amply illustrated by local artists.

NORWELL PLATE _____ \$25

Limited edition 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 Norwell Historical Society Library in the Middle School on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., or you may request a publication using this form and enclosing a check (made payable to NHS). Mail to: Norwell Historical Society, P.O. Box 693, Norwell, MA 02061.