



# December 2009 Newsletter

NORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 693

NORWELL, MASSACHUSETTS 02061

## DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

Wendy Bawabe, President  
Robert Norris, Secretary  
Robert Pashkowsky, Treasurer

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Samuel Olson  
William Slattery  
Gail Storm  
Harold Tuttle  
Joan Vermette

## CONTACTING US

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

## MUSEUM & LIBRARY HOURS

The Jacobs Farmhouse is open by appointment only. Please call the Society for further information or to schedule a tour.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## A LESSER KNOWN CEMETERY IN TOWN

The Norwell Historical Society and the Norwell Cemetery Commission recently published a brochure on the eleven organized cemeteries within the borders of Norwell. This brochure is available at the Society library at the Middle School and at the Norwell Public Library.

While Society researchers have a reasonable grasp of who was buried in most of the cemeteries in town, there are still some burial grounds that remain a mystery. Given the importance of the Jacobs family to Norwell, it is especially important to the Society to know where this family's members were buried.

We know that members of the Jacobs family were buried in Hanover's Union Cemetery at Assinippi. But there is another burial ground in Norwell where many Jacobs are interred: the Jacobs Cemetery located off of Jacobs Trail. The most recent record of a burial there was May 23, 1923. In the 1930s, this small graveyard fell into disuse. It was therefore easy for the developer of the Jacobs Shores housing development to give it little attention, and it soon became overgrown and neglected. Subsequent abutters were unaware of the importance (and even existence!) of this significant burial ground.

In the mid-1900s, a Jacobs family descendent noticed the absence of most of the family stones and the unfortunate condition of the graveyard. He brought three toppled stones to the Jacobs Homestead for safekeeping. One of the stones he brought was for Elisha Jacobs and was dated December 8, 1779 (the earliest known burial in the cemetery).

Today, only a commemorative stone marks the site--no more gravestones remain.

The Society would like to piece together the names of others buried in this often-forgotten cemetery. The research will provide Norwell with a listing of those who had been buried during the cemetery's 125 years of use. If you are interested in this sort of research, please contact the Society at 781-659-1888 and Bill Slattery will explain the process.

The inscription on Elisha Jacobs' tombstone at the Jacobs Farmhouse reads:

*Elisha Jacobs  
Died Dec 8 1779 aged 43 years*

*Lydia his Dau  
Died Sept 24 1785 aged 17 years*

*Lusanna wife of Elisha Jacobs  
Died at Milton May 7 1821  
aged 84 years*

*Erected to their memory by his  
youngest son*

Elisha Jacobs' youngest son was the Hon. Edward Foster Jacobs, who had represented the area (including Hanover) in the state legislature. It is likely his wife, Lusanna, was buried in Milton, but Elisha and Lydia were buried in the Jacobs Cemetery.

Elisha was a manufacturer of bricks. He made them from the kiln on his own land, and built the brick house (now a branch of Hingham Savings Bank) in Assinippi. His youngest son Edward also lived there with his family. Was Edward's family buried in the Jacobs Cemetery also? Maybe. Only further research will tell us how many Jacobs family members are interred in this often forgotten graveyard.

**CHRISTMAS AT THE FARMHOUSE  
DECEMBER 13, 2009**



# SCIENCE CENTER EXHIBIT A SUCCESS! OPENING ICE CREAM SOCIAL—FUN FOR ALL AGES

How do you get families to come to an Exhibit Opening? Serve Ice Cream! How do you get kids to actually look at the exhibit (and not just eat the ice cream!)? Create a Scavenger Hunt with answers found in the pictures and artifacts on display... then give out prizes to those who complete the Hunt!

And this formula was a success for the Norwell Historical Society Ice Cream Social/Exhibit Opening at the South Shore Natural Science Center on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Over 80 Society members and friends turned out to view the exhibit, meet “Mr. and Mrs. Henry Norwell,” eat ice cream, and learn a little bit about Norwell history.



Society Board member Bill Slattery ran the Prize Wheel at the Ice Cream Social.

Society Board member Bill Slattery created two 10-question Scavenger Hunts (one for older children, one for younger children). The questionnaires had the kids searching photos, reading captions and

checking maps to complete their forms and get a chance to spin the Society’s new Prize Wheel.

Prizes included candy, memberships to the Society, passes to the Science Center, and copies of *More Than Just A Cookbook*.

Henry Norwell’s great grandson Mark Norwell and his wife Karen dressed up as Mr. and Mrs. Henry Norwell and handed out the prizes to the children.



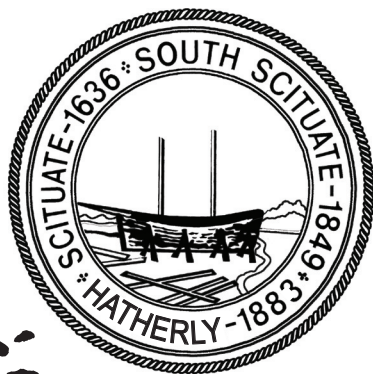
Former Historical Society president Bob Norris stands with Karen and Mark Norwell and incoming president Wendy Bawabe in front of the newly-framed print of Andersonville Prison in Georgia.

The exhibit featured a number of items that typically are tucked away in the Historical Society archives--not available for the general public to view. A large printed cloth depicting Andersonville Prison in Georgia was specially framed for the exhibit. Other special items and pictures were borrowed from the Jacobs Farmhouse to complete the whole picture of Norwell history from its early shipbuilding days to its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

## Did You Know?

...the answer to the last issue’s Trivia Corner Question? The question was: **In 1883, South Scituate made a move to change the town’s name by petitioning the State Legislature. No action was taken. What was the proposed name? (Hint: the name is not Norwell!)**

**The answer is:** According to Jeanne Garside’s *The Way We Were*, in 1883 Town Meeting asked to petition the Legislature for a change of name to Hatherly. As part of this move a series of Town Meeting articles was offered: “To negotiate for the sale, leasing, or letting of the Almshouse or to fit up the same for a manufactory or other industry in the Town,” and to offer “inducement for the encouragement of manufactory or other industry.” No action was taken.



## Trivia Corner

### TRIVIA

#### QUESTION:

In 1855, Henry Norwell sailed to America from his country of birth. In fact, he didn’t become a U.S. citizen until the 1860s. Where was Henry Norwell (after whom our town was named) born?

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

**COME CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT THE FARMHOUSE  
ON DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2:00 - 4:00 PM**

Please mark your calendars: **Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** will be the traditional Christmas party of the Norwell Historical Society at the Jacobs Farmhouse. The house will be scrubbed and polished and decorated in a traditional fashion for the holidays. The public will be invited to tour the house during the party, from 2:00 until 4:00 in the afternoon.

Volunteers to decorate and clean the farmhouse prior to the event are especially needed. A cleaning and decorating "party" will take place on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at the Farmhouse from 2:30 until 4:00. If you are interested in helping, please call Wendy Bawabe at 781-659-1464 to coordinate cleaning supplies and decorations needed.

Donations of greenery, antique Christmas finery, and edible treats are also welcome. Children's games and old-fashioned party ideas are always needed. If you are interested in donating to the event, please contact Bob or Peg Norris at 781-659-7279.

The Norwell Historical Society  
invites you to celebrate

**Christmas  
at the  
Farmhouse**

Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 'til 4:00 p.m.  
at the Jacobs Farmhouse  
Jacobs Lane, Norwell

Tour the Jacobs Farmhouse decorated for the holidays  
and  
Enjoy holiday virtuals, mulled cider  
and Christmas music on the antique home organ!



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**Is it time to renew your  
Historical Society membership?  
Check the expiration date on your address label.**



**CHRISTMAS AT THE FARMHOUSE  
DECEMBER 13, 2009**

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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.

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.

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.

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. It is amply illustrated by local artists.

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.

*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.*