



December 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.

NORWELL'S ANTIQUE HOME SURVEY --ALMOST DONE!

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires all local Historical Commissions to perform a survey of their towns' historical resources. In 2004, the Norwell Historical Commission hired an architectural firm that specializes in historic cataloging and research to compile a detailed inventory of all the historic homes and sites in Norwell.

Three years later, this inventory is in its final state of revisions. Soon this compilation will be copied and put into 3-ring binders--available to our

WHERE IS THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY?

There has been so much talk amongst the Norwell Historical Society lately regarding the 3rd floor of the Sparrell School and the new archives there. Where, then, is the Norwell Historical Society located? Do you want to do some research? Do you want to call or stop by to ask a question?

The Norwell Historical Society still maintains its library at the Norwell Middle School in the Community Room, and its hours continue to be from 1:00 until 4:00 on both Wednesdays and Thursdays. If there is an object or book that you would

townspeople at the Public Library, the James Library, and the Norwell Historical Society library at the Middle School.

Each state form in the survey (which is also on record at the Massachusetts Historical Commission) includes the historic background of the site and its architectural features.

Do you want to know more information about your historic home or another home in town? The complete survey should be available by June, 2008.

like to view that is in the NHS archives (now located on the 3rd floor of Sparrell School), please stop by the Historical Society Library at the Middle School during these hours, and an NHS staff member will escort you to the Sparrell School (a one-minute walk across the parking lot!) to investigate with you.

We apologize for any confusion regarding the NHS Library and the staff location during our regular weekly hours. Please be assured that it remains at the Norwell Middle School.



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT...

It's been a busy year at the Norwell Historical Society, and I had much to report at the recent Annual Meeting on October 18th at the Phoenix

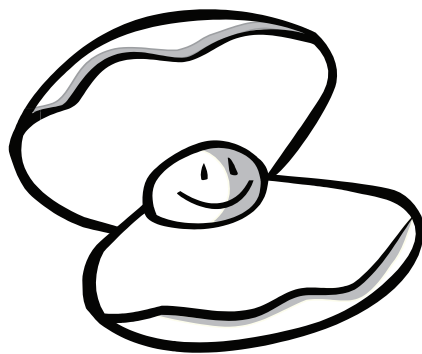
Lodge in Hanover Four Corners.

The organization of the archives on the third floor of the Sparrell Building continues. The principal effort at present is the organization of the 4500 pieces (stencils, sketches, drawings and other documents) in the Mary Jane Clark collection so generously donated to the Historical Society. The Society has engaged the services of Valerie Thomas on a part-time basis to oversee the archival effort. We have also acquired file cabinets and other supplies to appropriately house the collection and we have purchased special window treatments to minimize the effects of the sun and ultraviolet rays on all of our irreplaceable collections. The Society is now in the process of selecting cameras, scanners, copy stands and comput-

ers for the digitizing and preservation of both our own records and those of Norwell citizens desirous of conserving and preserving their own older documents and records.

The Annual Meeting of the Society this year was a rousing and well-attended event! The dinner, as usual, was exquisite, the business portion of the meeting was brief, and the featured speaker was Nina Zannieri, Executive Director of the Paul Revere House in Boston's North End. Her discussion, entitled "Paul Revere and Pasta", was a reminder that preservation efforts often start in isolation and end up drawing support, meaning and ideas from the persons and institutions (such as the North Bennett Street School) in the surrounding area.

We at the Norwell Historical Society can only hope that *our* preservation efforts will also excite and motivate those in our surrounding area so that Norwell's treasures will be available for future generations to enjoy.



Did You Know?

John G. Saxe, the American writer best known for his poem "The Blind Men and the Elephant", used the phrase "happy as a clam" in his Sonnet to a Clam, in the late 1840s:

*...Inglorious friend! most confident I am
Thy life is one of very little ease;
Albeit men mock thee with their similes,
And prate of being "happy as a clam!"...*

...the answer to the last issue's Trivia Corner Question? The question was: **In the early part of the 20th century, we read of people having "Freedom" parties. What is a "Freedom" party?**

The answer is: People would celebrate with their friends when they (hooray!) paid off their mortgage!

TRIVIA
QUESTION:

Whence comes the water that feeds the North River?

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) _____

AREAS OF INTEREST

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

Other: _____

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

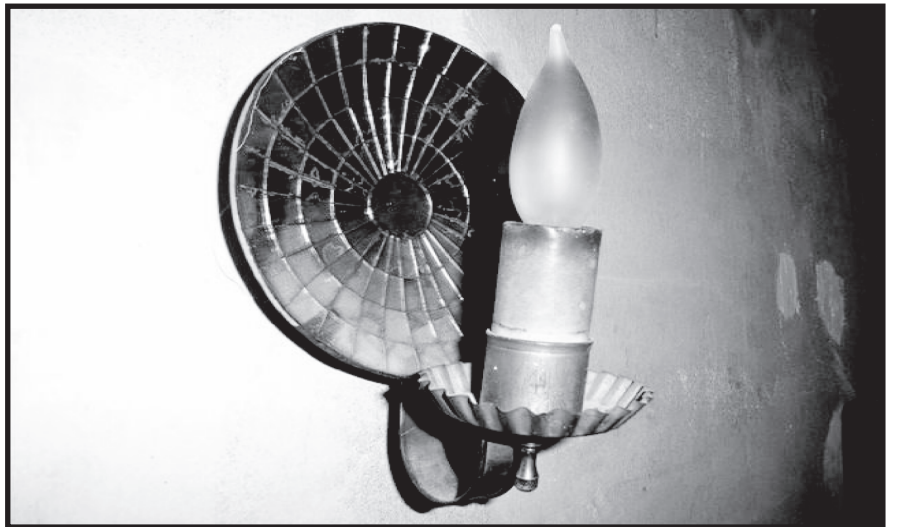
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS SCONCE?

Do you have an attic filled with antiques? If so, take a gander upstairs and help out the Norwell Historical Society!

The Jacobs Farmhouse currently has beautiful sconces lighting some of its rooms (*pictured at right*). The Historical Society hopes to acquire more of these historic replicas to provide more light for both the Society collection-side of the Farmhouse and the rental-side of the Farmhouse.

Please note the fixture has a switch on the bottom to turn the light on and off. This type of sconce will eliminate the need for a wall switch.

If you have this sconce or a similar version, please contact David DeGhetto at 781-659-1284 or e-mail him at deghetto@mindspring.com.



*Where in the World is the
Norwell Historical Society
Christmas Party?!?!*

... postponed 'til next year. Sorry!



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P.O. Box 693
NORWELL, MASSACHUSETTS 02061

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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 NHS Library in the Middle School on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., 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.