



NORTH RIVER PACKET



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Juliette Hammond Votes in Norwell

One of the highlights of the First Parish Comes Alive! Cemetery Tour was seeing children interact with the actors. Young girls who heard the story of Juliette Hammond (portrayed by Liz Hibbard) were perplexed by the fact that women weren't always able to vote.

Society volunteers research and write scripts for the actors at the First Parish Comes Alive! Cemetery Tour. Below is the script for the portrayal of Juliette Hammond written by Peg Norris. Hammond was noted as being the first woman to vote in the town of Norwell.

by Peg Norris

My name is Juliette Hammond, but please call me Lettie. I lived all my life here in South Scituate and Norwell—all 85 years (not to mention the 59 years I have been buried right here!).

I have seen lots of things change—from the way people make their living and raise their children, to the way women can find their places in the world, even the name of the town.



Lettie Hammond explains to young tour go-ers how women didn't used to be able to vote.

My parents, the Sylvesters, told me that I was born during the War between the States in 1863. By the time I was walking and talking, the South Scituate soldiers were back in town, and I even had some school mates whose fathers were wounded. Some of them had even died!

I loved school and wished that I could keep on learning forever. I hear that Bridgewater Normal School trains girls to be teachers now, but at the time I didn't think I could go there. I just didn't have much support. I was living with my brother Fred when I graduated school and besides, Frank Hammond and I were courting. So when I was 17, I did what some of the other girls did, I went to work in the shoe factory where my father also worked. We workers had fun together, but when I was 19, Frank and I got married.

Frank worked for the Clapp Family on Main Street, and he was very hard-working and ambitious. He was such a good dairy farmer and I just knew he could take care of us.

We had three children: Sylvanus, Marion, and Arthur. It broke my heart that we lost Sylvanus when he was just a year old, in 1885. Lots of my friends lost babies, since we did not have very good medicines in those days. It took me five years to get pregnant again, but Marion was such a strong and beautiful child that she helped me to believe that life was good again. And

then baby Arthur came along and we were a family!

The one exciting thing I remember in the years before Marion was born was when South Scituate became Norwell in 1888. Many folks believed that with

“ I wondered what those 84 Norwell men who said women could not vote back in 1895 thought of me, but this opportunity was too important to pass up. ”

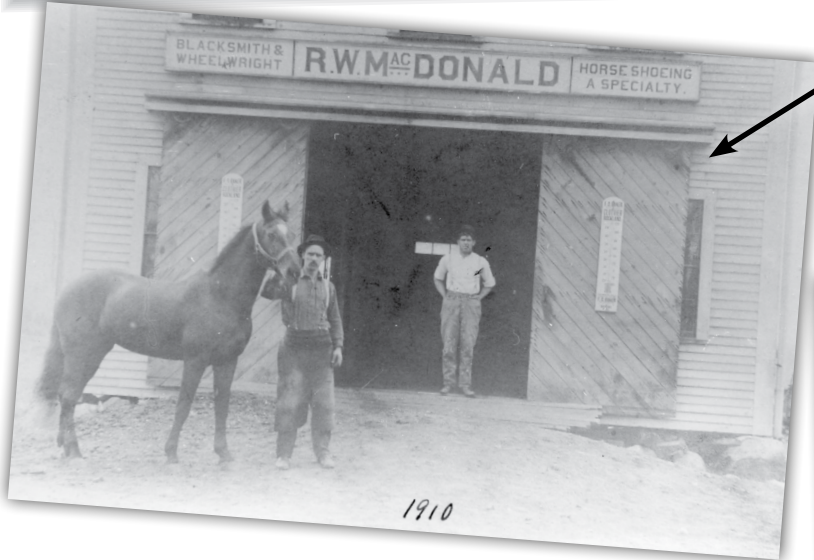
a new name, the town would attract new business and even put a railroad down the middle of Main Street. Maybe we would even keep our young'uns here in town!

I was very disappointed by a Norwell vote a few years later in 1895. Each Massachusetts town had an opportunity to change their laws to allow women to vote in municipal elections: of course, only men were allowed to decide, and 60 Norwell men voted yes, 84 voted no, and 70 abstained from the vote. What were those men afraid of, I wonder?

(continued on page 4)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Treasures known and treasures found in the Norwell Historical Society Archives and in the Jacobs Farmhouse Museum are featured here in each issue.



The MacDonald Blacksmith Shop was located on Main Street across from Winter Street. The building is still there today, but it is now a home. Joseph Merritt refers to the shop as “comparatively modern... established by him [about 1899]. It is the only blacksmith shop still running in Norwell [in 1938].”

This photo from the Mary Knapp Collection shows historian Mary Power, who lived at May Elms (today’s 841 Main) riding in her one horse open sleigh!



These antique ice skates are on display at the Jacobs Farmhouse Museum. Skating on Jacobs Pond was very popular, and Fred Jacobs’ diaries tell stories of the local youth attending many winter skating parties on the pond.

Just The Facts

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Museum & Research Library

The **Jacobs Farmhouse Museum** is open at scheduled events and by appointment only. Please contact the Society to schedule a tour.

The Norwell Historical Society **Research Library & Archives Center** on the 3rd floor of the Sparrell School (322 Main Street) is open on Thursday mornings from 10:00 am until noon or by appointment.

Administrative Consultant

Rachel Wollam

Mission Statement

The mission of the Norwell Historical Society is to discover, preserve, and celebrate Norwell history through stewardship, education, and awareness—engaging our community, both present and future, to be vested in its history.

Mailing Address & Phone

The Norwell Historical Society
P.O. Box 693
Norwell, MA 02061
781-561-1161



DISCOVER MORE ONLINE!

Look for the magnifying glasses in this issue—that means there is more to discover online and at the Society’s website NORWELLHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG.

Time Conquers Old Village Shop Alger Blacksmith Shop is Taken Down This Week

Found in an old scrapbook in the Society Archives, this short article was clipped from an unknown newspaper. Written in January, 1933 by an undisclosed author, it laments the passing of an Assinippi landmark.

Ten years before he published his [History of South Scituate/Norwell](#) book, Joseph Merritt published a collection of stories titled *Anecdotes of the North River and South Shore*. It is in this book, five years after it was published, that the author of this article finds the photograph of the Alger Blacksmith Shop.

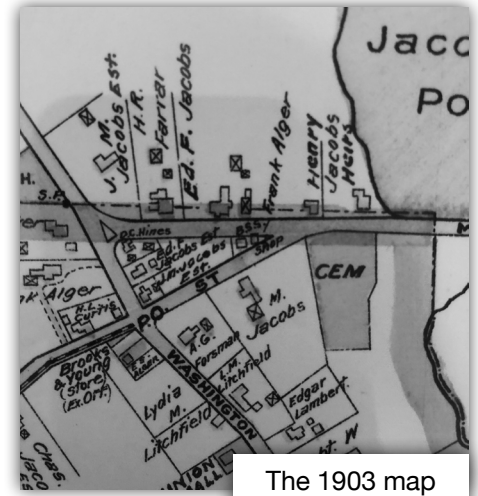
Merritt begins his story called, “The Old Blacksmith Shop,” as follows:

“In the last twenty years garages have steadily become year by year more numerous, until they are now to be found in every village and at almost every cross road, ministering to the needs of the traveling public. In the same space of time the old blacksmith shops, which were necessary to the traveling public of former days and which had remained almost unchanged for more than a century, have one after another disappeared.”

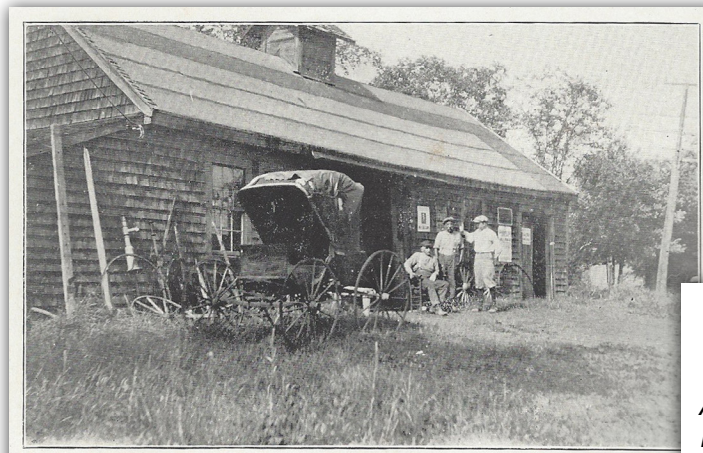
A landmark of intriguing memory passed into the bourne of things that used to be when the old blacksmith shop at Assinippi, in the triangle between Webster Street and Assinippi Avenue, was torn down. This end to a picturesque old relic of the horse and buggy, ox and hand labor farming era, came on Tuesday. On Monday the ancient roof was removed and the next day everything went, leaving nothing but ashes, debris, and clutter, where a useful workshop had stood for 60 years.

The accompanying photograph [below] from Joseph F. Merritt’s *Anecdotes of the North River and the South Shore* gives a view which preserves the setting of the old days. We thank Mr. Merritt for the use of the cut.

In this old shop Frank Alger, veteran of the Civil War and survivor of the horror-prison at [Andersonville](#), put in 48 years of patient labor. During



The 1903 map of Assinippi, showing the Alger Shop in the triangle of land where Dunkin’ Donuts is located today.



THE FRANK ALGER BLACKSMITH SHOP, ASSINIPPI.

A photo of the Alger Blacksmith Shop from Joseph Merritt’s book, *Anecdotes of the North River and South Shore*.

the first period the veteran, then a young man, was hampered by a war-time injury and the pain from a bullet retained in his body ever since the [battle of Olustee, Florida](#), was a constant handicap. Everybody of the whole countryside knew Frank Alger and the craftsmanship which he learned in the Amesbury carriage factory stood him in good stead as the years came and went.

He was well advanced in years before he finally laid down the hammer and ceased to blow the forge. The shop was sold to Thomas Leavitt fifty years to a day from its purchase by Mr. Alger. Curiously enough the original purchase and the later sale were each made upon Memorial Day.

Juliette Hammond, cont'd.

(continued from page 1)

The years passed quickly with the children and all the duties I had on the farm. However, I had a chance when Marion was 10 to voice my strong belief in the power of education. I had heard that a few years earlier in Boston, a woman born in Norwell named Abby May, was elected to be a member of the School Committee.

There was lots of talk everywhere about whether women should be allowed to vote. Massachusetts began to allow women to vote in school elections in 1879, so in 1900 I registered as eligible to vote for School Committee—the first woman to vote in Norwell.

I had to pay a poll tax, same as the men, but I was not allowed to vote in any other town elections. I wondered what those 84 men who said women could not vote back in 1895 thought of me, but this opportunity was too important to pass up.

Poll Tax Prior to the mid 20th century, a poll tax was implemented in some U.S. state and local jurisdictions and paying it was a requirement before one could exercise one's right to vote.

Years passed, and Massachusetts still didn't allow women to vote in all elections, but I kept voting in School Committee elections and, to my great delight, in 1919 the Massachusetts House and Senate ratified the Federal Susan B. Anthony Amendment, giving women across the country the right to vote—19 years after I began to vote here in Norwell.

Both of my children, Marion and Arthur, became teachers. I was so proud of them! Women teachers in 1900 were paid half as much as their male counterparts, an injustice that would take decades to rectify. Neither of my children married, so I never had any grandchildren. While we never talked about it, I did wonder if my daughter Marion avoided marriage because of the "marriage bar," which forced the firing of single women teachers if they married.

Marion and I died in the same year—1948. She was in far-off Leominster when she died, and I was a Norwell girl to the end.

At 85, I had seen amazing changes in the world, from the Civil War to World War II. Maybe the most important to

Marriage Bar is the practice of restricting the employment of married women. The practice often called for the termination of the employment of a woman on her marriage, especially in teaching and clerical occupations. Further, widowed women with children were still considered to be married at times, preventing them from being hired, as well.

me was the ability of women to make personal, professional, and political choices for themselves.



A women's suffrage parade in New York City in 1912—twelve years after Lettie Hammond voted in the Norwell School Committee election.

The Norwell Historical Society lost two former Board members recently, each of whom wrote a book for the Society's benefit. We are truly saddened by their loss, but we know their legacies will live on for many generations in their writings.

Gertrude H. Daneau
age 89
passed away on
September 29, 2022

A retired elementary school teacher, Gert was the former president of the Norwell Historical Society. She wrote three books on local history: *The ABCs of Norwell*, *The History of a Country Chapel (on the history of the Union Mission Chapel)*, and *Childhood Memories—a memoir for her children and grandchildren on her early days growing up in Norwell.*



Samuel H. Olson
age 90
passed away on
November 6, 2022

A retired Social Studies, English, and History teacher, Sam loved passing on his extensive knowledge of history to family, friends, and acquaintances. His book, *A Narrative of South Scituate & Norwell, 1849-1963, Remembering Its Past and the World Around It*, is a readable collection of stories about our town and the fascinating people who lived here.

Winter Fun

An Excerpt from Gertrude Daneau's Memoir

Before she passed away, Gertrude Daneau wrote down stories from her early days growing up in Norwell so that her children and grandchildren could appreciate the joys and trials of small town living in the 1930s and 1940s. Below is her chapter on "Winter Fun."

by Gertrude Daneau

In the winter, if there was snow on the ground, sliding was a favorite. Perry Osborn, the highway surveyor, would close off the eastern part of Cross Street near Main Street so there was no traffic and we could slide down the hill safely. I remember we had one sled so two of us could slide at the same time. There were other neighbors sliding too and we all shared. As a grown-up, I remember my mother telling me that at least once she and my father had gone sliding on that hill too.



This snow clearing photo from the 1940s is from the Mary Osborn Knapp Collection. Mary was the daughter of Perry Osborn, the highway surveyor who lived on Cross Street .

Another great activity after a snow storm was constructing snow forts. We hollowed out a space on both sides at the top of the driveway. Then we built up the sides. The idea was to have the sides high enough so you could hide behind them. Then you made a supply of snowballs. The object of all this work was to try and hit the person in the other fort with your snowballs while you dodged the ones your opponent was throwing at you. We would keep those snow forts as long as the snow didn't start to melt.

“If anyone got cold, the older boys always started a fire on the large rock in the pond so we could get warm.”

Ice skating on Fuller's Pond [also known as Mill Pond or Torrey's Pond] was enjoyed by all my siblings as well as by myself. It was a short distance from our house, down through the woods. It was great fun skating, either racing in the middle or working our way through the bushes that grew around the edge. Even when we had no skates we would go and still have fun. We would take our sled with us and someone on skates would give us a ride by pulling us around the pond.

If anyone got cold, the older boys always started a fire on the large rock out in the pond so we could get warm. It was far enough from the land so the fire could not get away from us. As long as the ice remained safe, we could count on many winter days ice skating.

I don't know if you would call this fun, but there were times when we helped our elderly neighbors shoveling their driveway and walkway to the door. We were always anxious to help because

they insisted on paying us a small amount of money. You can guess that it didn't take us long, later, to walk to Henderson's store down on Main Street to spend the money.



BUY THE ABCS OF NORWELL BOOK ALSO WRITTEN BY GERTRUDE DANEAU:

scan this QR code to visit the Society merchandise page on the website or click [HERE](#).



Recipe

Gertrude Daneau also wrote a book on the history of [The Union Mission Chapel](#), located in Scituate just over the boundary from Norwell on Old Oaken Bucket Road. The chapel was founded by local residents in 1885 with the purpose of "preaching the gospel, doing mission work, and bringing unsaved souls to Christ." This recipe for eggnog pie is from a cookbook published by the [Dorcas Society](#) of the Union Mission Chapel in 1915.

EGGNOG PIE

- 2 cups commercial egg nog
- 1 envelope of plain gelatin
- 1 ½ tsp. vanilla
- ¼ tsp. almond extract
- 2 ½ cans fruit cocktail, well-drained
- ¼ cup sugar
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ¼ pint heavy cream (1 cup whipped)

Mix gelatin, sugar & salt. Gradually stir in eggnog. Warm over direct low heat until gelatin and sugar are dissolved. Chill until mixture mounds when dropped from a spoon. Fold in whipped cream, fruit & flavorings. Chill 10 min. Heap into a prepared pie shell. Chill well.

William H. Eaton

Answer from page 3: The Salmund Tack Factory was located off of Tiffany Road on the old mill pond. The dam which created the mill pond has since been removed to improve the continuity and streamflow of the Third Herring Brook. Later photos of the Tack Factory show a much larger building, but the distinctive chimney stack is always present.

Mary Jacob Returns Home

The Society recently received a “found” gravestone with the carving “Mary Jacob, 1794.” Where did Mary belong? Thankfully, our experts knew!

by Stephen O'Neill

The Norwell Historical Society recently returned an interesting gravestone to its rightful place in the tiny Jacobs-Collamore Cemetery located on Jacobs Trail between Wendall and Doris Avenues.

The stone is the footstone of Mary Jacob who died in April, 1794 at age 85. The little cemetery had suffered neglect over the years. The headstones for Mary Jacob and her husband Dr. Joseph Jacob (who died August, 1780 at age 73) were returned to the cemetery in 2012.

The small stone recently re-erected proved a bit of a mystery for the

Historical Society at first. Why would Mary Jacob have two stones? The answer is quite simple. Gravestones prior to the 1820s were purchased as a pair—a headstone and a footstone. They are comparable to the headboard and footboard of a bed, and in Colonial times often had rounded tops with rounded shoulders, just like a bed. The metaphor of death as “sleeping,” often found in epitaphs and elegies of the time, reinforced this idea of using the two stones to mark “eternal rest.”

Most early graves were dug on an east-west axis, with the larger, more elaborately carved headstone facing west, and the smaller footstone (which usually contained little more than

the name and year) facing east. The headstones of Mary and Dr. Joseph Jacob’s have elegant winged angels from the late 18th century, and it is with great satisfaction that we see these gravestones in place once more.

Mary Jacob’s footstone is back in place near her headstone.



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

The Society recently updated its website to include a page called “Projects & Research.” Check it out to find a listing of volunteer jobs, current research projects in need of assistance, and future and proposed research projects. Is there something in these listings of interest to you? Or do you have a project you would like to suggest?

CHECK OUT THE NEW PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE!

scan this QR code to visit the Projects & Research page on the website or click [HERE](#).



THROWBACK PHOTO OF THE MONTH



This photo was recently found in the Archives and digitized. In examining the large chimney stack, it became clear where the photo was taken, but this Cape-style structure was slightly mysterious since the most recent building associated with the chimney was much larger. The backs of the farmhouses in the distance are also clues to the location.

Where was this chimney stack and building located, and for what purpose was the building used? (Answer at the bottom of page 5)

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INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

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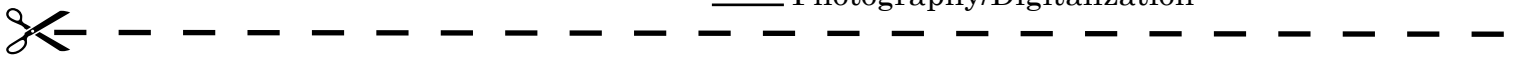
_____ Organizing at the Archives

_____ Farmhouse Tour Guide

_____ Farmhouse Maintenance

_____ Event Planning

_____ Photography/Digitalization



Cemetery Tour a Success Again!

The third annual First Parish Comes Alive! Cemetery Tour was enjoyed by record crowds. Hundreds of tour-goers came out on a sunny day to hear eight actors portray Norwellians buried at the cemetery.

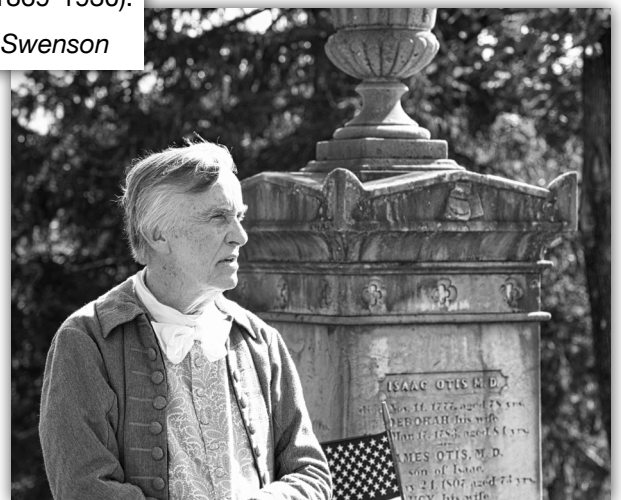
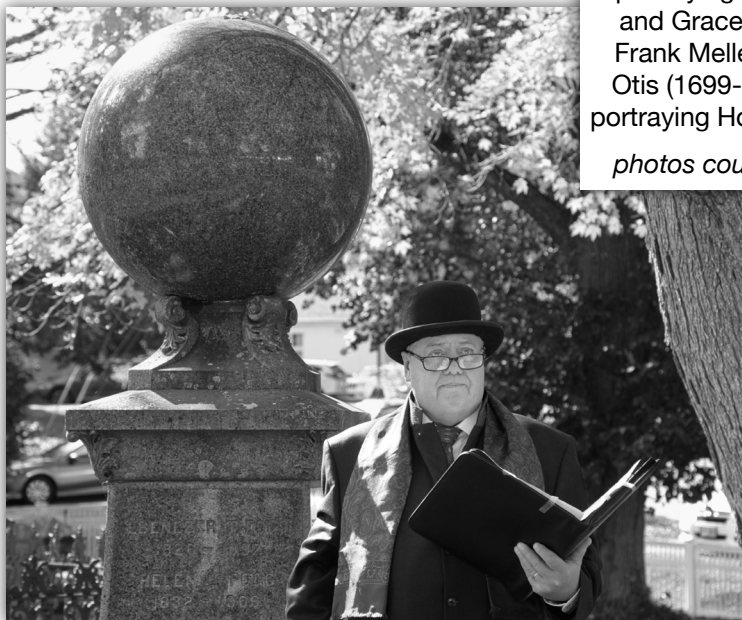
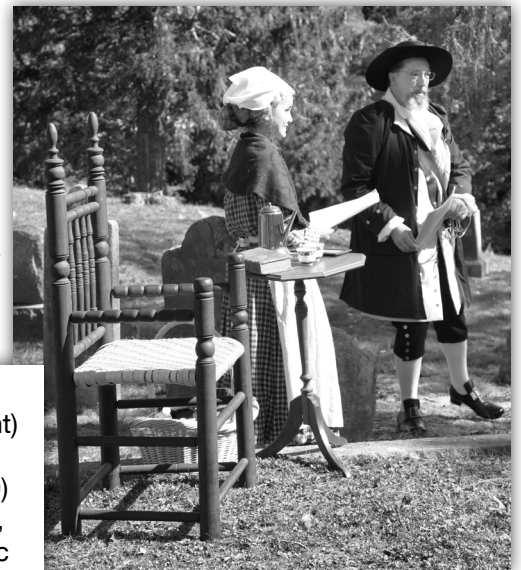
Over the years, the Norwell Historical Society has learned that history is best taught through stories, not lectures. The First Parish Comes Alive! Cemetery Tour is the perfect venue for that rationale. This year, Becky Freed (creator of the tour) and Christian Jevne (co-chair) coordinated the Saturday, October 15th event.

Traveling doctors who used limited medical knowledge to treat neighbors

and bartered for their services; 13-member families living in 3-room houses; the patriarch of the Jacobs family who supported colonial independence; and the after effects of Civil War PTSD—these are just some of the stories told at this year's tour.

Actors from the cemetery tour included (clockwise from top right) Stephen O'Neill and Allie Ning portraying Benjamin (1667-1740) and Grace (1665-1732) Stetson, Frank Mellen portraying Dr. Isaac Otis (1699-1777), and Bob Hynes portraying Horace Fogg (1869-1930).

photos courtesy of Karl Swenson





NORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 693
Norwell, Massachusetts 02061
www.norwellhistoricalsociety.org

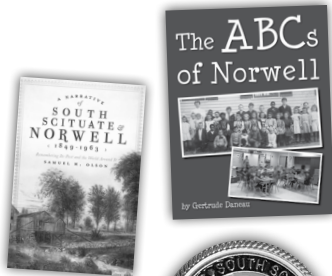
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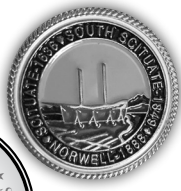
HISTORICAL SOCIETY ITEMS FOR SALE

(perfect for holiday gift-giving!)



The ABCs of Norwell (*shown at left*) **\$10**
by Gertrude Daneau
 A coloring book perfect for children of all ages! This illustrated book can be used as a text for teaching budding historians, or as a quick guide to Norwell's many historic people and sites.

Historic Homesteads of Norwell **\$15**
 Always wanted to know the history behind the antique homes in town? This book delves into the background of many of Norwell's historic houses and the people who lived in them.



A Narrative of South Scituate & Norwell (*shown at left*) **\$20**
by Samuel H. Olson
 This book chronicles the life and times of our town from 1845-1963 with a collection of articles previously published in The Norwell Mariner. Each chapter is its own story, so this book is very readable. Looking for a single book to summarize Norwell's more recent history? This is the one.



History of South Scituate-Norwell **\$25**
by Joseph Foster Merritt
 This history of the town, originally written in 1938, was republished in 1988 by the Society. A unique narrative with illustrations, it is an invaluable account of Norwell prior to WWII.

Norwell town seal pin (*shown at left*) **\$5**
 Looking for the perfect teacher gift for the holidays? Since all faculty wear lanyards, the brass and enamel town seal pin (1-inch wide) is a great gift for your child's teacher.

Looking for more items? Use this QR code to visit our website or click [HERE](#).



All the above items are available for delivery (within Norwell) or will be mailed (for a \$5 fee). You may purchase items online or you may use this form and mail a check (made payable to NHS) to: NHS, P.O. Box 693, Norwell, MA 02061.