



Summer 2015

Newsletter

NORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 693

NORWELL, MASSACHUSETTS 02061

WWW.NORWELLHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG



“So’s YOUR FATHER’S MUSTACHE!”

by Samuel Olson

“So’s Your Father’s Mustache!”

[From *Urban Dictionary*: A retro semi-insult used either in annoyance or to contradict an assertion.]

From the *Rockland Standard* of March 27, 1912:

Alonzo Osborne had a narrow escape. When soldering a gasoline tank that had not been used for some months, the tank exploded knocking him across the room. One side of his face was burned resulting in the loss of half of his mustache.

It was not reported whether Alonzo, a well-known “hen man” from Assinippi, shaved off the rest of his mustache or effected a new style. Later, with mustache or not, he held the position of head of poultry operations at the Lawson estate in Scituate.

One way of dating photographs with a degree of accuracy is not only noting clothing worn, but also noting facial hair, or lack of it, among the adult males. For instance, photos of crowds of men taken before 1960 show virtually all wearing some sort of head

gear. John F. Kennedy’s penchant of going hatless became the norm for most men after 1960.

A good baseline to determine a time period when men went beardless, bearded, or mustached would be photos of our presidents. Our first bearded president was Lincoln (1861-65) followed by Grant (1869-77), Hayes (1877-81), Garfield (1881) and Benjamin Harrison (1889-93).



Our town’s namesake, Henry Norwell, sported “friendly mutton chops” in the late 1800s—side whiskers connected by a mustache.

Mustaches prevailed after clean-shaven McKinley (1897-1901), with Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909) and Taft (1909-13).

It is believed that the trend toward clean-shaven and short-haired men

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CONTACTING US

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

MUSEUM & LIBRARY HOURS

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

The Norwell Historical Society Library at the Norwell Middle School (328 Main Street) is open on Wednesdays from 2:00 to 3:00 during the school year or by appointment.

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.

The year’s Strawberry Festival will be co-sponsored by Norwell Farms: a community-supported agriculture program based at Jacobs Farm. Because of the harsh winter/late berry season and the Norwell SummerFest on June 13th, the Festival has been delayed until the last week in June. Please stop by!



STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Sunday, June 28th
at the Jacobs Farmhouse
3:00 - 5:00 pm

Tours of the Farmhouse & Gardens
Strawberry Shortcake & Lemonade
Children’s Games

“SO’S YOUR FATHER’S MUSTACHE!” CONT’D.

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as the century advanced stemmed from wartime experiences of the First World War (1914-1918). It was much easier for doughboys to keep free of lice that abounded in the trenches with clean-shaven faces and short hair. Thus, the practice prevailed in the post war.

All our presidents from Harding (1921-23) through Obama have been beardless and mustache-less. Wearing a mustache might have been a factor in Thomas Dewey’s losing the presidential election of 1948—an election that pundits had felt he couldn’t help but win. Apparently, many voters agree with Alice Roosevelt Longworth that his pencil-thin mustache made him look too much like “the man on the wedding cake.” Could Hitler’s sporting a not-very-glamorous mustache also have created a distaste for the style?

Although political figures abandoned facial hair, many debonair actors of the 20s and 30s wore trimmed mustaches. They include John Gilbert, Clark Gable, William Powell, Robert Taylor and Don Ameche.

My own father wore a mustache through the 20s and 30s, his reason being to conceal a scar above his lips

sustained as a result of an accident while cranking his car.

Some mustaches of the early twentieth century could be quite glamorous and others quite bizarre. Among the styles were the “walrus,” the “handle bar,” the Van Dyke and the Fu Manchu. Many men took great care in coloring, curling and waxing their mustaches. However, this practice wasn’t compatible with coffee drinking. Consequently, some of the best known potters created mustache cups. This drinking cup, a



An antique silver mustache cup

valuable collectible in today’s antique market, was designed with a semi-circular ledge under the rim, allowing the passage of liquids, keeping the mustache dry, and not disturbing the coloring and curling effect.

THROWBACK PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Where was this school in Norwell?

This photo (taken circa 1950) was the Center School, which housed grades 1-3. A former student recalls the teacher heating up soup for lunch on the wood stove and remembers the outhouse in the back yard (although the school later got indoor plumbing).

(Location/Answer at the bottom of page 3)



Former president of the Norwell Historical Society Jeanne M. Garside passed away in Tuscon, Arizona on May 26, 2015 surrounded by her loving family. Among many other accomplishments, Jeanne was active in the Norwell Visiting Nurses Association as president and a member of the board for many years. She was active in developing a number of fund raising activities including the annual Haunted House Tour and Holly House tour. Jeanne and her husband, Bill, received the Norwell Citizen of the Year Award in 1995. Jeanne was also involved with the Norwell Historical Society in a number of roles over the years, including president from 1982-1988. Jeanne was also the author of *The Way We Were*, a history of Norwell in honor of the town’s centennial celebration.

Thank you to Jeanne for all she has given to the Town and to the Norwell Historical Society.

NORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE _____ NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP

3-Year Membership (\$35) _____

Life Membership (\$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 _____ Research Library _____

Tour Guide _____ Program Planning _____

 **OR YOU CAN JOIN ON-LINE** 
www.norwellhistoricalsociety.org

THE JACOBS' FAMILY HISTORY

by Bill Slattery

Editor's Note: The following is the first installment of a history of the Jacobs Family written by Society Archivist Bill Slattery for the Town of Norwell's application for the Jacobs Homestead property to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The application is still pending.

The first Jacob settler in America was named Nicholas. He may have been born in the Norfolk portion of East Anglia (England) in 1597. It is likely that the Jacob family was of, what we'd call "of the middle class." Nicholas, who married Mary Gilman in 1629 and had already two children with her by this time, decided to go to this new land in 1633. He traveled with his wife, son John, infant daughter Elizabeth, and a cousin named Thomas Lincoln, who was a weaver by trade and may have been the brother of an ancestor of President Lincoln who was named Samuel.

At first the Jacob family settled in Watertown, but soon moved to Hingham of Massachusetts Bay Colony. Nicholas was made a "freeman" or voting member of the colony by the standard used by Town authorities: one had to own some property, be a member of a Puritan congregation, be an adult male, and be deemed a person of sound moral character (that is, one of the "elect" of God for salvation). Nicholas served as a selectman for the Town of Hingham from 1637 to 1640, during the religious/political war in England between King Charles I and Parliament. As a selectman, he divided the Conohasset lands, now Cohasset, with eight other selectmen. However, some of these lands would eventually be granted to others. Nicholas also served during the years 1648 and 1649 in the Massachusetts Bay General Court (colonial legisla-

ture). He would die on June 5, 1657 at age 60, having fathered eight children, all but one surviving him.

Nicholas' son John, his first, was the only son to survive both parents and inherit the family's assets. He married Margery Eames on October 20, 1653 in Hingham, but she died after six years, leaving two sons and two daughters. In 1661, John married Mary Russell. She would live thirty years and give birth to 5 sons and 6 daughters, but she still did not outlive her husband.

John controlled much land on both sides of today's Main Street comprising much of the current Glad Tidings Plain Historic District in Hingham. While he worked as a surveyor, he was also a captain of militia, later called the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company. His eldest son, John, was killed by Indians on their land in King Philip's War (circa 1676). John Sr. constructed a lumber mill on Cushing Pond near Crooked Brook in 1692. There were competitors, among them Matthew Cushing's lumber mill on Triphammer Pond in 1670, now within Wampatuck State Park.



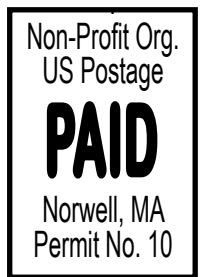
A signpost in Hingham, Norfolk, England—where Nicholas Jacob was born.

(to be continued in the next issue)

*Answer from page 2: Next to the town green—the
Sctuate Federal Savings Bank drive-thru and
parking lot is on the site today.*



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS AND MEMORABILIA

- | | | | |
|---|-------------|---|-------------|
| A NARRATIVE OF SOUTH SCITUATE-NORWELL
by Samuel H. Olson
This book chronicles the life and times of our town from 1845-1963 through a collection of articles previously published in <i>The Norwell Mariner</i> . | \$20 | THE ABCS OF NORWELL
by Gertrude Daneau
This coloring book is 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 famous personalities and historical features. | \$10 |
| SHIPBUILDING ON THE NORTH RIVER
by L. Vernon Briggs
The definitive book on ships built on the North River and the shipyards that lined the shores. Written in 1889, and re-printed in 1988. | \$45 | HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE-NORWELL
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. | \$25 |
| HISTORIC HOMESTEADS OF NORWELL
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. | \$15 | MORE THAN JUST A COOKBOOK
This book is full of time-tested favorite recipes submitted by locals. Beyond the gastronomic delights, we have included sketches, interesting narratives and accounts of historic events. | \$5 |
| HENDERSON MAP
Interesting hand-drawn map suitable for framing. Drawn by Anne Henderson and first issued in 1967, it is a favorite depiction of the location of historic homes. | \$3 | THE WAY WE WERE
by Jeanne Garside
This book is a series of articles written for Norwell's Centennial Celebration in 1988. Illustrated with old photographs, it tells what times were like in 1888. | \$20 |
| NORWELL 1903 MAP
This 16" X 20" reproduction of the 1903 Plymouth County Atlas map of Norwell is a high quality digital copy of the original hand-colored version. Suitable for framing. | \$25 | JACOBS MILLS PAINTING REPRODUCTION
This 8" X 10" reproduction of the 1830s Jacobs Saw and Grist Mills painting is canvas-mounted on board and ready for framing. The original hangs in the Jacobs Farmhouse. (Framed copies available at the Society for \$75.) | \$25 |
| NORWELL TILES
These 6" X 6" white tiles depict various scenes: Kent House, Cushing Center, etc. <i>Limited number.</i> | \$10 | | |

All the above items are available at the NHS Library in the Middle School on Wednesdays during the school year (2-3:00 p.m.), or you may call Wendy Bawabe at 781-659-1464, 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.