

October 2010

Newsletter

NORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 693

NORWELL, MASSACHUSETTS 02061

DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

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

Board of Directors

Gertrude Daneau
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 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.

2 BOOKS... 2 PARTIES... 75 YEARS!

It will be an eventful fall for the 75-year-old Norwell Historical Society.

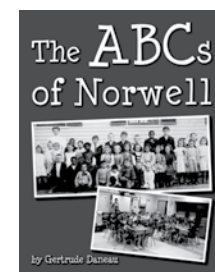
On **Thursday, October 28th**, the Society will hold its **75th Annual Meeting** at the site of its first Annual Meeting: The James Library in Norwell Center. Along with the usual annual update by the secretary and the treasurer's report, there will be speakers and a celebratory birthday cake!

With the surge of interest in farming now that the Jacobs fields are being worked, the Society will feature speakers on the history of farming in Norwell, the role of the Jacobs farm in that history, and the current state of industry in our town. In 1850 (at the time of our "Big Split" from Scituate) farmers outnumbered shoemakers 147 to 129. How has earning a living changed since then? And what does the future of Norwell industry look like? Speakers on this subject will include Jennifer Freidrick, the principal farmer at the Jacobs Farmhouse Community Supported Agriculture Project, Cliff Prentiss, long-time member of the Conservation Commission and amateur farmer, and Rick Merritt, current Chair of the Norwell Board of Selectmen.

On **Friday, November 12th**, the Society will sponsor a **Book Release Party** at the Cushing Center in Norwell Center. This event will feature Gertrude Daneau, author of *The ABCs of Norwell* and Samuel Olson, author of *A Narrative of South Scituate-Norwell (1849-1963): Remembering its Past and the World Around It*.

Gert's book will break down the history of our town into 26 easy-to-remember topics (A to Z). With Betty Butterfly leading the way, we learn

about Norwell's Almshouse (A), the Half Way House (H), the Litchfield Shoe Factory (L), and many prominent citizens. What was Ridge Hill

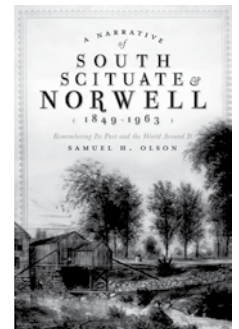


Cover of the Daneau book

Grove (R)? Where was the Valley Swamp (V)? These questions and more will be answered in this easy-to-read paperback that can be used as a coloring book, as a text for teaching budding historians, or as a

quick guide to Norwell's many famous personalities and historical features.

Sam's book chronicles the life and times of our town through a collection of articles previously published in *The Norwell Mariner*. As the shipbuilding industry on the river waned, farmers, shoe makers and summer residents revealed their rugged individualism and their socially-progressive beliefs. Discover how the Norwell we know today was knowingly sculpted by the town's forefathers. By rejecting new-fangled ideas such as the railroad and other "big city"



Cover of the Olson book

ways, Norwell has retained its solitude and rural landscape. This book is a beautiful coffee table book, but also a useful tool for learning more about our town's rich history.

Be sure to attend both events to help celebrate this "historic" milestone with other members of the Historical Society and with all Norwellians!

DR. CHASE'S RECIPES

written by Jody Vermette

In the 1860s with Medicine Shows and general medical quackery, the prices of curative recipes as they were called were very expensive. People were willing to pay anything for a cure. A man named Dr. Chase felt this was wrong, so he traveled the country collecting recipes and other information he felt would be helpful until he had enough material for a book. The good doctor thought that in this way the information would be readily available and much less expensive for the average family.

The cost of his book was \$1.00 with a paper cover and \$2.00 with a Morocco Gilt cover. The book was a wonderful success: first published in 1867, it was in its tenth printing in 1870. The working title was *Dr. Chase's Recipes*. On the title page, however, the full title was: *Dr. Chase's Recipes or Information For Everybody: An Invaluable Collection of About Eight Hundred PRACTICAL RECIPES for Merchants, Grocers, Saloon Keepers, Physicians, Druggists, Tanners, Shoemakers, Harness Makers, Painters, Jewelers, Blacksmiths, Tanners, Gunsmiths, Farriers, Barbers, Bakers, Renovators, Farmers, and Families Generally, To which has been Added a Rational Treatment for Pleurisy, Inflammation of the Lungs and Other Inflammatory Diseases and also for General Female Debility and Irregularities, All Arranged in Their Appropriate Departments.*

Since Halloween is fast approaching and it is the time of ghosts and goblins when witches boil up potions with eye of newt and toe of frog, here are two examples of Dr. Chase's Recipes. In keeping with the season, both have to do with toads.

Spavin

(This is an American Indian cure for a horse complaint called Spavin, which appears to be a calcification of the leg.)

Bind a toad Upon it; or two, if one does not cover it, and keep on for 8 to 10 days.

Dr. Chase's comment: "An Indian cured a horse in this way, near St. Louis. This cure proved to be permanent." *My comment: I'm not sure if a horse would agree to have a toad tied to its leg for 8-10 days!*

Toad Ointment

(For sprains, strains, lame back, rheumatism, etc.)

Good size live toads, 4 in number; put in boiling water and cook very soft; take them out and boil the water down to ½ pint, and add fresh churned unsalted butter 1 pound and simmer together; at the last add tincture of arnica 2 ounces.

Dr. Chase's comment: This was obtained from an old Physician who thought more of it than any other prescription in his possession. Some persons may think it hard on the toads but you could not kill them quicker in any other way. *My comment: we do it to lobsters!*

Remember the butter must be newly churned and unsalted. Happy Halloween!

Did You Know?

...the answer to the last issue's Trivia Corner Question? The question was: **One of the oldest graveyards in Norwell was established in 1644 at the site of the Second Parish Church meetinghouse. The cemetery was heavily vandalized in the early 1800s. No gravestones remain today, but a large boulder marks its locale. Where in Norwell is this burying ground?**

The answer is: On the corner of Main Street and Old Meetinghouse Lane. No sign of this graveyard remains today except for a boulder on the edge of Main Street commemorating the site of the Second Church in 1642. Gravestones that were found on the site include one for Thomas King, who died in 1691, and another for Cornelius Briggs, who died in 1694.

For more information on this and other cemeteries in town, pick up a copy of "Historic Cemeteries of Norwell" at the Norwell Public Library or the Historical Society Library at the Middle School.



TRIVIA

QUESTION:

In 1913 there was a "murder mystery" in Norwell, and the house where it happened still stands today. Where is the house and what was the mystery?

ANSWER: in the next issue! OR... read Chapter 16 ("Arsenic and Old Assinippi") of Sam Olson's new book to find out the details of the "crime" and trial.

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

**OFFICIAL CALL
FOR ANNUAL MEETING!
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28TH
7:30 PM
THE JAMES LIBRARY**



**HISTORY AT THE JAMES:
NOVEMBER 7TH AT 3:00**

One man. One hour. One unforgettable show. In *Teddy Roosevelt: Mind, Body and Spirit*, actor Ted Zalewski brings to life one of America's greatest presidents. Combining history, drama and fun, TR gives voice to many of Roosevelt's own words, writings and beliefs. Cowboy, soldier, naturalist, father, statesmen and winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace, Roosevelt lived a life that inspires us still. Get ready for "bully" time!

The James Library will host Ted Zalewski on **Sunday, November 7th at 3:00** in the afternoon. This program is \$10 per person and tickets are available at the door, on-line at www.jameslibrary.org or by calling 781-659-7100.



Ted Zalewski will play Theodore Roosevelt on November 7th at The James Library.

Learn more about this picture (which was taken on Pine Street in Norwell and appeared in *Country Life in America*) and the well-known photographer who took it in the next issue of the Historical Society newsletter...



...coming in December!

Sponsored by the James Library's Estelle Mosher Memorial Fund with support from the Norwell Historical Society, the program is intended for adults and children 12+.



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

NORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS AND MEMORABILIA

A NARRATIVE OF SOUTH SCITUATE-NORWELL _____ \$20
 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 *The Norwell Mariner*.



THE ABCS OF NORWELL _____ \$10
 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.

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, and re-printed in 1988.

MORE THAN JUST A COOKBOOK _____ \$5
 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.

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.

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.

HISTORIC HOMESTEADS OF NORWELL _____ \$15
 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.

THE WAY WE WERE _____ \$20
 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.

HENDERSON MAP _____ \$3
 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.

NORWELL TILES _____ \$10
 These 6" X 6" white tiles depict various scenes: Kent House, Cushing Center, etc. *Limited number.*

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.