



# June 2008 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 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, 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.

## COME TO THE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL-- JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup> AT THE JACOBS FARMHOUSE

The Norwell Historical Society's Annual Strawberry Festival will be on June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Jacobs Farmhouse. Come by and enjoy a piece of yesteryear (and, of course, the strawberry shortcake!).

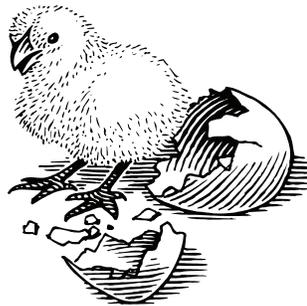
This year's Festival will feature some new additions...

- Step into old-fashioned fun with sack races, three-legged races, egg and spoon relays, donut eating from a string and more!

- Come pet the visiting calves and sheep—they'll love the attention!

- Bring naming ideas for the newly-arrived chicks --the Jacobs Farmhouse's newest residents!

- Enter a raffle to win a beautiful framed picture of old Norwell.



- View the extensive arrowhead collection housed in the Farmhouse. A local arrowhead expert will be available to answer questions.

As usual, tours of the Farmhouse will be given throughout the Festival. And of course the homemade (NOT store-bought!) Bake Table will be stocked with some old-fashioned goodness. Historical Society publications about Norwell will also be available for sale.

So bring the family by for some fun, fresh lemonade, delicious strawberry shortcake, and an opportunity to learn a little more about our beautiful town.

**IMPORTANT  
NOTICE:**

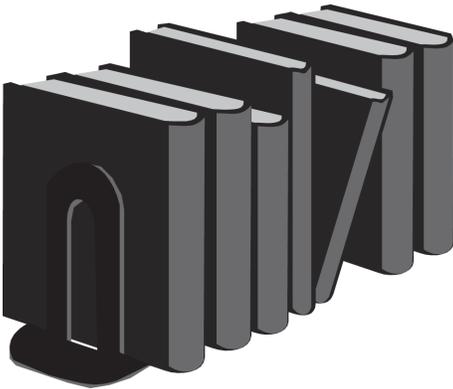
**NHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 16<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:30  
AT BOB NORRIS' HOME (299 OLD OAKEN BUCKET RD.)**

# IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RUN A LIBRARY...

When Tom and Alice Hyslop retired from their weekly volunteer posts at the Norwell Historical Society's Library at the Middle School, a huge void was created.

How large a void was not realized until the Library schedule for the summer and fall was arranged. E-mail requests were sent to long-time Library volunteers and only 2 responses came back! The Society contacted the Council on Aging in the hopes that a volunteer or two might emerge from their ranks. At press time, the schedule remains almost completely unfilled for the months of August, September and October.

What does this mean for the fate of the Society Library?



Bill Slattery (former NHS President and current Archivist at the library) or another member of the Society board can

always meet a citizen looking for information at a mutually-convenient time. But having the Library open 2 days a week allows a regular schedule to be maintained for the "drop-in" visitor.

Maintaining the regular hours also allows citizens to call the Library and know that someone will answer the phone (and, perhaps, answer a question!).

What does a Library volunteer do? It's as easy as 1-2-3.

- 1) Turn on the lights and unlock the cabinets.
- 2) Check the answering machine for messages, return any calls, and answer the phone if it rings.
- 3) Be available for drop-in visitors.

If you have a couple of hours a month to donate to the Historical Society Library, please contact Wendy Bawabe (who maintains the Library's volunteer schedule) at 781-659-1464 or e-mail her at [bawabe@comcast.net](mailto:bawabe@comcast.net).

## Did You Know?

...the answer to the last issue's Trivia Corner Question? The question was: **Norwell is a heavenly place to live, but Purgatory is also here. Where, in Norwell, is Purgatory?**

The answer is: As one heads north on Summer Street from Old Oaken Bucket about 1/3 of a mile, there is a swampy low spot with no houses. The locals call the area "Purgatory"--and so it is for the lonesome walker.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to staff the Historical Society Library at the Norwell Middle School during our summer hours: Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Please keep the Library open for the summer by helping out--no experience necessary and on-the-job "training" available! Please contact Wendy Bawabe of the NHS at 781-659-1464.

TRIVIA  
QUESTION:

What did Simon Hill used to be called and why?

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) \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Research Library \_\_\_\_\_ Historical Research \_\_\_\_\_  
Photo Cataloging \_\_\_\_\_ Process Archival \_\_\_\_\_  
Material \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**HANDHOUSE STUDIO  
TALK A HUGE SUCCESS!**

On March 31<sup>st</sup> Rick and Laura Brown, the founders of Handhouse Studio in Norwell, gave a lecture and presentation about their work to a packed house at the Cushing Center in Norwell Center.

A non-profit educational organization, Handhouse is dedicated to the perpetuation of history, science, architecture and art through the reconstruction of large historical objects. Handhouse scholars, educators, historians, architects, engineers, anthropologists, archeologists, artists, craftsman, and builders reconstruct history—often right on the grounds of their Norwell studio!



Thank you to the Browns for an evening of storytelling *and* science!

**NORWELL'S HISTORY--  
TELLING THE CHILDREN**

On Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, Vinal School's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade took a school bus to the center of town for a "Field Trip." Learning more about Norwell's history was the purpose of this short trek down Central Street to the Town Green.

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher Mary Howard coordinated the trip to accentuate the group's study of Norwell history. The children were taken to the First Parish Church, the war monuments on the Town Green, Drum's Emporium, and the First Parish Cemetary. In the Church the group met with Stuart Twite, who told them about Rev. Samuel May and the Cold Water Army. The group also met with a representative from the Historical Society and viewed some of the Society's collection of Norwell arrowheads.

The Historical Society looks forward to helping more children appreciate the history of Norwell.



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**WHY NOT RENEW YOUR DUES  
BEFORE THE SUMMER BEGINS?**

## 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 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.*