



# February 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 BACK THEN...”

Save **Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>** on your calendar! The Norwell Historical Society will have a roast beef dinner program titled “Norwell Back Then...” at the Phoenix Lodge in Hanover Four Corners starting at 6:00 p.m.

The program will feature Norwell Schools, particularly how students of the past traveled to them, where they attended classes, and how they were

instructed. Students, administrators and teachers will be speaking on their personal experiences.

The dinner is \$12 per person paid in advance, or \$15 per person paid at the door. Reservations are strongly encouraged and should be made as soon as possible by mailing your check to the Norwell Historical Society, P.O. Box 693, Norwell, MA 02061.

## A FESTIVE TIME!

The Historical Society’s traditional Christmas party at the Jacob Farm House on December 10<sup>th</sup> was an overwhelming success! Although the was-sail and refreshments were much enjoyed by the “older” crowd, perhaps the best time had was by the children. Historical Society member Jody Vermette arranged a number of old-fashioned games to keep the younger generation entertained--and they were a hit! Favorites of the kids were drop-the-clothespin-in-the-milk-bottle and home-made button buzzers. Thank you Jody and all the volunteers!

## ARCHIVES ON THE MOVE

You may have heard that the Norwell Historical Society is looking to relocate its archives to the former Sparrell School’s third floor. As the School Department readies space for the Society, the Community Preservation Commission is reviewing a NHS application for funds to assist in the preservation and archiving of Norwell’s artifacts and documents. We will continue to update everyone on the progress of funding for this much-needed move.



**PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR: JUNE 17, 2007**



**STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**

# BIG ISSUES OUT WEST...

## (FROM THE PRESIDENT, ROBERT NORRIS)

On a recent visit to San Diego, I happened upon an interesting piece of history. The Mason Street School in the Old Town of San Diego apparently had many concerns in 1848--none of which related to the then-current struggle between the states regarding slavery and secession. Of concern was the appropriate behavior of their students--a list of which I've attached. Recently re-produced by the San Diego County Historical Days Association, it certainly puts today's methods of discipline in perspective!

### Punishments

		<i>Lashes</i>
1.	<i>Boys and Girls Playing Together.....</i>	4
2.	<i>Fighting at School.....</i>	5
3.	<i>Quareling at School.....</i>	5
4.	<i>Gambling or Betting at School.....</i>	4
5.	<i>Playing at Cards at School.....</i>	10
6.	<i>Climbing for Every Foot over 3 Feet Up a Tree.....</i>	1
7.	<i>Telling Lyes.....</i>	7
8.	<i>Telling Tales Out of School.....</i>	8
9.	<i>Giving Each Other Ill Names.....</i>	3
10.	<i>Swaring at School.....</i>	8
11.	<i>For Misbehaving to Girls.....</i>	10
12.	<i>For Drinking Spiritous Liquors at School.....</i>	5
13.	<i>Making Swings and Swinging on Them.....</i>	7
14.	<i>For Waring Long Finger Nails.....</i>	2
15.	<i>Misbehaving to Persons on the Road.....</i>	4
16.	<i>For Going to Girls Play Places.....</i>	3
17.	<i>For Going to Boys Play Places.....</i>	3
18.	<i>Coming to School With Dirty Faces and Hands....</i>	2
19.	<i>For Calling Each Other Liars.....</i>	4
20.	<i>For Wrestling at School.....</i>	4
21.	<i>For Weting Each Other Washing at Playtime.....</i>	2
22.	<i>Scuffling at School.....</i>	4
23.	<i>For Going and Playing about the Mill or Creek....</i>	6
24.	<i>For Going about the Barn or doing any Mischief about the Place.....</i>	7

Of the 24 crimes, perhaps five still warrant a firm response. Now if we could just get the teachers to work on their spelling!

**TRIVIA QUESTION:**

Who was Simon Hill Road named after?

**ANSWER:** in the next issue!



Trivia Corner

### *Did You Know?*

...the answer to the last issue's Trivia Corner Question? The question was: ***What Norwell resident designed the first Massachusetts state seal (used from 1780 until 1898), and where is his memorial in town?*** The answer is: Nathan Cushing, whose stone memorial lies on the north side of Main Street between Paradise Drive and Lincoln Street. Mr. Cushing's seal (shown at left) is displayed on the memorial, which is currently receiving a much-needed overhaul (see article on page 3). The state seal used today is altered only slightly from Mr. Cushing's original design. Today's seal uses color (blue and gold), a less-intricate coat of arms, and a more accurately-clad Native American.

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

**NORWELL BOY SCOUT OVERHAULS  
THE NATHAN CUSHING MEMORIAL**

Nicholas Cunio, Norwell resident and a member of Boy Scout Troop #44, is currently working on a complete overhaul of the Nathan Cushing Memorial on Main Street as his Eagle Scout project.

The memorial, which has been completely overgrown by brush and poison ivy over the years, was all but invisible to passers-by until recently. Wes Osborn, former Norwell Tree Warden, alerted Nicholas of the dire condition of the monument. The formerly beautiful wrought iron posts and chains in the fence surrounding the memorial had broken and the memorial stone was all but invisible because of the tangle of vines. With help from his parents, Nicholas braved the jungle of brush (contracting a serious case of poison ivy in the process!).

With help from Norwell resident Bill Moore (a former Scoutmaster himself), Nicholas is welding the broken posts and replacing the connecting chains. Plymouth Quarries has donated a stone bench placed near the memorial that will encourage passers-by to stop and read about Mr. Cushing.

Although many of the materials for this project are being donated, help is always needed to cover additional costs. If interested, you may send a check to the Norwell Historical Society with a note to direct the funds to the Nathan Cushing Memorial. The Society will be sure to pass your gift on to Nicholas and his Boy Scout Troop.



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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 Norwell Historical Society Library in the Middle School on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., or you may request a publication using this form and enclosing a check (made payable to NHS). Mail to: Norwell Historical Society, P.O. Box 693, Norwell, MA 02061.*