



June 2009 Newsletter

NORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 693

NORWELL, MASSACHUSETTS 02061

THE NORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY WANTS YOU!

DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

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

Board of Directors

Joyanne Bond
Gertrude Daneau
Karen Joseph
Beth Mackey
Sam Olsen
William Slattery
Gail Storm
Harold Tuttle
Joan Vermette

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 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.

While the Norwell Historical Society has always had plenty of people volunteering for particular events, it is much harder today to find people willing to commit themselves long-term. Our Society, like any other organization, is only as good as the work done by its membership.

The impending retirement of President Bob Norris highlights this dilemma. Bob has successfully strengthened our Society's archival resources, library, and decorative arts materials while still maintaining our commitment to the headquarters at the Jacobs Homestead. This success, however, translates to a growing need for volunteers.

What is particularly helpful is having people suggest the kind of programs they would like to see and who might do them, writing historical information for our newsletter, taking a couple of hours once-a-month to supervise the library, cutting out newspaper and magazine

articles, and (as always) attending Society functions. Mostly, our Society requires a continuation of the leadership we've had in the past—someone who is willing to keep things organized and moving in a positive direction. It is the president who often determines the activity of the Society—you can be laid back or be a dynamo! In either case, we're looking for service from our members in any capacity: please refer to our "Want Ads" on page 3 of this newsletter for all of the specific needs.

Remember, this is not the time to let the other fellow do it. The Norwell Historical Society began in 1935 as a group of townspeople interested in local history and genealogy who came together in homes like "May Elms" to talk amongst themselves. It is easy to put historical interest on the back burner, but to paraphrase our greatest U.S. president (the 200th anniversary of whose birth we celebrate this year):

We hold it in our hands to decide if any Society such as ours, so conceived and dedicated, may long endure.
Please help.



STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

JUNE 14, 2009

AT THE JACOBS FARMHOUSE

DECORATIVE ARTS PROGRAM ON APRIL 2ND DREW ENTHUSIASTS AND FORMER STUDENTS

On the night of April 2, 2009, Gail Storm, NHS Director in charge of the Maryjane Clark Decorative Arts Center at the Norwell Historical Society Archives, introduced Astrid Donnellan as guest speaker on the history of decorative arts. The discussion was sponsored by the Norwell Historical Society to bring attention to the Clark Collection.

Mrs. Donnellan, who was Maryjane Clark's protégé, is a master craftsperson in her own right. Mrs. Donnellan described the history of artistic decoration of trays, furnishings and even carriage doors, all of which originated in Wales and arrived in the U.S. in the late 1700s. She used many of the tracings from the Maryjane Clark collection to illustrate her points. The beautifully colored sketches and objects were very impressive and were passed around to the crowd seated around the tables of the third floor of the former Sparrell School. It was fortunate that this location was handicapped accessible and had an elevator as some of Maryjane's former students, now getting on in years, were present to reminisce about former days with their instructor. The materials were readily at hand as

the Decorative Arts Center forms part of the Society's Archives at Sparrell School, and has recently been organized. Those interested in decorating using her tracings are encouraged to use this facility made available to the Society by the School Department.

We should continue to be grateful to Maryjane Clark for her patterns that are used to paint the floor of the Henry Barton Jacobs room at the Jacobs Homestead, and for her desire to donate her collection to the town in which she had lived, taught, and created artistic pieces.



ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

June 14, 2009

- Tour the Jacobs Farmhouse
- See the Norwell arrowhead collection
- Compete in sack races & egg relays
- Pet the chickens
- Purchase Home-made Baked Goods
- Eat old-fashioned Strawberry Shortcake!

Did You Know?

...the answer to the last issue's Trivia Corner Question? The question was: **What was the role of the "Hog Reeve" in Scituate Town Government in 1713?**

The answer is: The Hog Reeve determined damages from swine and rounded up strays. Also employed by the town at that time were a Surveyor of Board Timbers and a Fence Viewer. The Town of Norwell still has a Fence Viewer—Arthur Garceau—but the Hog Reeve and Surveyor of Board Timbers are no longer needed. Be sure to read Mr. Garceau's most recent Fence Viewer Report in the 2008 Norwell Annual Report. It always makes for entertaining reading!



TRIVIA QUESTION:

There are three homes in Norwell on the National Register of Historic Places: the town-owned Jacobs Farmhouse, the town-owned Stetson-Ford House, and... What is the third?

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) _____

AREAS OF INTEREST

Newsletter _____ Public Relations _____
Hospitality _____ Program Planning _____
Library Volunteer _____ 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

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS—HELP WANTED

BAKERS NEEDED to provide homemade goodies for Historical Society events. If willing to bake a couple of times a year, please contact the Society at 781-659-1888 and leave a message.

PAPER READERS NEEDED to read local newspapers and clip articles relating to Norwell notables. Clippings can be dropped off at the Historical Society Library at the Norwell Middle School or picked up by an NHS volunteer--whichever is more convenient. Newspapers to be read include *The Boston Globe*, *The Patriot Ledger*, and *The Norwell Mariner*. If interested, please contact the Society at 781-659-1888 and leave a message.

WRITERS NEEDED to research historical topics and write short articles for the Norwell Historical Society newsletter. Topics can vary from Norwell-related to non-Norwell-related. Room in the newsletter is limited, so articles should be brief or could continue from issue to issue. If interested, please contact the Society at 781-659-1888 and leave a message.

PRESIDENT NEEDED to lead a vital non-profit organization (i.e., The Norwell Historical Society!). Duties include signing routine state filings and meeting monthly with a hard-working Board of Directors. Potential duties include providing leadership and direction for the organization. Do you love Norwell's history and desire to see it thrive for generations to come? If so, please contact current president Bob Norris at 781-659-7279.

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to staff the Historical Society Library at the Norwell Middle School. Training is available for all volunteers, but skills required are minimal. Bring a good book with you or peruse the Society's collections. Monthly, bi-monthly or weekly slots available throughout the summer (Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10:00-noon) or during the school year (Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:30-3:30). If interested, please contact the Society at 781-659-1888 and leave a message.



NORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 693

NORWELL, MASSACHUSETTS 02061

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage

PAID

Norwell, MA
Permit No. 10



STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

JUNE 14, 2009

AT THE JACOBS FARMHOUSE

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 _____ \$20
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. It is 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.