



October 2008

Newsletter

NORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 693

NORWELL, MASSACHUSETTS 02061

SOUTH SCITUATE MEN ANSWER PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S CALL

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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 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.

Did you realize that 250 South Scituate (Norwell) men served in the armed forces during the Civil War? In a town of fewer than 1,800 citizens this statistic is startling! Of those 189 who served, 24 were either killed in combat or died during their service. These 24 brave souls are listed today on the Civil War monument in the center of Town.

It is with these facts in mind that Sam Olson will speak to those at the **Norwell Historical Society's Annual Meeting on Wednesday, October 15th.**

Sam is a life-long student of history and a lifetime member of the Historical Society. He taught history in the public schools of Massachusetts for nearly 40 years. His specialty, however, is bringing world events back home--relating what was going on in history to our little town of Norwell. Following the dinner and Annual Meeting, he will speak about how South Scituate's men fought to keep our country united.

In fact, although Congress enacted a draft in 1863, no South Scituate men were drafted because we've *always* exceeded our quota of enlisted men. Of note are the six South Scituate blacks who served in Robert Gould Shaw's 54th Regiment: Warren Freeman, William Freeman, Benjamin Lee, Jason Prince, Richard Winslow and Henry Winslow.

Civil War items from the NHS archives will be available for viewing during the meeting, and the Society encourages all attendees to bring with them any Civil War memorabilia that they would like to share with others.

Social hour begins at 6:00, roast beef dinner at 7:00 and featured speaker at 8:00. The business portion of the meeting will be concluded before the speaker begins. Tickets for the event are \$15 per person; reservations are strongly encouraged for planning purposes and may be made by e-mailing or calling Gail Storm at agailstorm@verizon.net or 781-659-7852.



**OFFICIAL CALL FOR ANNUAL MEETING!
OCTOBER 15, 2008**

THOUGHTS ON REV. SAMUEL MAY FROM *HISTORIA*

From the Editor: The following is an excerpt from Historia: A Magazine of Local History that is for sale by the Norwell Historical Society. I recently was "required" to read through Historia for some research on historic cemeteries in Norwell. What began as a requirement continued as pleasure: the hand-lettered articles read like good bedtime stories. I would recommend borrowing a copy from the NHS library and perusing the pages!

From "Happy and Helpful Memories" by Susan C. Damon, published in *Historia*, Vol. I, No. 5.: Yes--Happy because Helpful, and Helpful because Happy--for surely such has been the memory of Rev. Samuel J. May, whose beaming face, so radiant with the true Christ-like spirit of helpful love cast its inspiring light on my young life, when he first came to the Unitarian Church in South Scituate, in 1836.

...He believed most thoroughly in baptism, but believed that one drop of pure water was as effectual as an ocean. However, if any one thought differently he acceded to their wishes, and when Miss Mary Merritt thought immersion the only true baptism, he gave her baptism in the North River.

...I once heard him tell of his experience when travelling in New Hampshire on a lecture tour. He was obliged to ride through a long piece of woods which had a great reputation for robbers. Just as he was about halfway through, a very rough-looking man rushed from a thicket toward his horse's head, when Mr. May, reining in his horse, said "Well, sir! You seem to be going my way. I am alone, jump in; I shall be happy to have your company." --Rather amazed, the man got in, and was soon listening to Mr. May's pleasant and interesting stories. At first the man was very reticent but finally quite sociable, and when the village was reached he said, "I will now leave you," and giving his hand a warm clasp as he left the carriage said, "You can never know the great benefit you have done me." Mr. May had good reason to believe that the man's evil intentions had been overcome by his kindness.

The same spirit was manifest in his parish life. One gentleman was so opposed to [Mr. May] on account of his great earnestness in the temperance cause that he would not go with his family to church, so Mr. May would always take pains to send [that gentleman] word when he was to exchange [sermons], that he might then have the privilege of attending.

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: _____

WHAT A FESTIVAL!

On May 22nd, the Jacobs Farmhouse sparkled, the air was filled with the sounds of bleating sheep and chirping chicks, and the grounds were filled with excited visitors. The children, especially, had a wonderful day at the Norwell Historical Society's Annual Strawberry Festival.

The Farmhouse's new chicks were named (one, by the way, is not a hen but a rooster who now wakes the residents at dawn!). Strawberry shortcake was consumed by young and old, lots of strawberry-related baked goods were sold, and tours of the Farmhouse were given. Of note, many NHS publications were purchased that day--especially *Historic Homesteads of Norwell*.

Special thanks to Beth Mackey for coordinating the children's games, Bob and Peg Norris for preparing gallons of strawberries, and to the entire NHS Board for staffing the event.



The Norwell Historical Society makes respectful recognition of the passing of Caryl Gaudette on August 28, 2008. She was 94.

Caryl was a long-time administrator at Bethlehem Steel's Quincy and Hingham shipyards. Truly a woman ahead of her time, she purchased her Norwell home in 1944 as a single woman--practically unheard of back then!

She was a world traveler with her husband, Bud; an avid reader; an expert on current affairs; and a wonderfully organized and devoted volunteer in the Norwell Historical Society Library. Her happy face greeted visitors weekly for many years, and she will be greatly missed.

Did You Know?

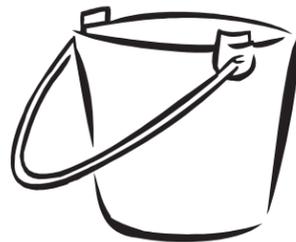
...the answer to the last issue's Trivia Corner Question? The question was: **What did Simon Hill used to be called and why?**

The answer is: "Symond's Wigwam Hill". We'll have more information on the Native American "Symond" and his home in an upcoming issue!

NEW!

HISTORIC CEMETERY BROCHURE NOW AVAILABLE

The Norwell Cemetery Commission and the Norwell Historical Society recently updated a brochure on cemeteries in Norwell. Pick up a copy at the NHS Library (at the Middle School) and tour the cemeteries in time for Halloween!



Trivia Corner

TRIVIA QUESTION:
Where is the Town Spring?

ANSWER: in the next issue!



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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 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.