

February 2009 Newsletter

NORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 693

NORWELL, MASSACHUSETTS 02061

MASS. MEMORIES ROAD SHOW COMING TO NORWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

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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.

The history of Massachusetts is much more than the stories of famous people. It is the collective story of its citizenry. Take this opportunity to add the images and stories of *your* family to our local history. When did your ancestors arrive here? What did they do and look like? Share photos of your family's early days in Massachusetts, whether very recently or long ago with the Mass. Memories Road Show which will be held at the **Norwell Public Library on Saturday, February 14, from 11-3 p.m.**

This event is sponsored by the Norwell Public Library, The Norwell Council on Aging, and the Norwell Historical Society.

At the event, staff will scan three of your photos and/or documents on the spot, so you don't have to part with the originals. You can also contribute to an oral history video project and talk about your family's history—where they emigrated from, where they settled, and why—on camera. All scanned information becomes a part of the state-wide educational website called Mass. Memories Road Show: Your Place in Massachusetts History. Please

check out their website at www.massmemories.org.

The Mass. Memories Road Show is a project of the University of Massachusetts at Boston and the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities. Their goal is to help build community, encourage the protection of original artifacts, and to facilitate the sharing of cultural heritage information with educators, students and the general public. According to Project Director Joanne Riley, "Taken together, those family memories will form a community photo album in cyberspace, and eventually a self-portrait of Massachusetts will emerge." The Mass. Memory Road Show will be held in the Community Room of the Norwell Public Library.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information visit the library website at www.norwellpubliclibrary.org or call 781-659-2015. The Library is fully accessible to all.

The Mass. Memories Road Show is a state-wide public humanities project documenting the history of Massachusetts' cities and towns through family photographs and stories. It is an initiative of the Massachusetts Studies Project at UMass.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

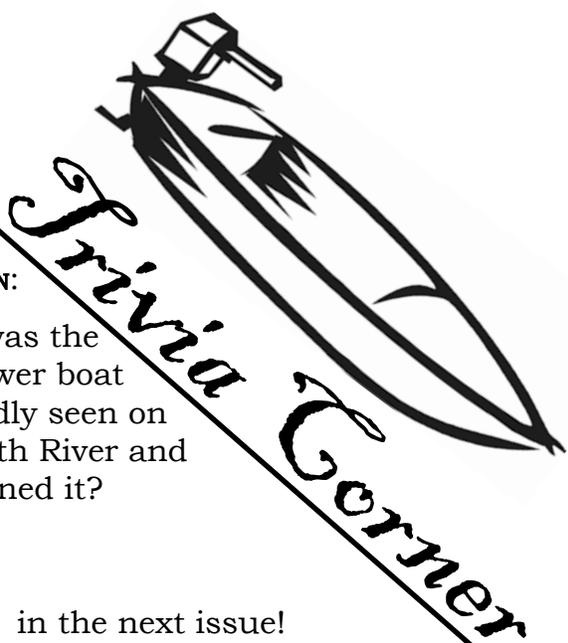
By Bob Norris

The Norwell Historical Society's Christmas shindig was held at the Jacobs Farm House this past December 7th.

There was a lot of hustle and bustle as visitors took advantage of the opportunity to explore the nooks and crannies of an old New England farm house festooned in Christmas decorations and greenery. There was snow on the ground and I was wondering if it might be the first (and practically the last) snow of the season, comparable to a winter we had a few year's back. I need not have wondered!

The party provided a chance to discuss upcoming activities, including the publication of an historic coloring book, partnering with local groups on the date boarding project for Norwell residences, a program in early April highlighting some of the treasures in the burgeoning archive collection, and ongoing efforts to make sure our town's history is accessible to as many persons as possible.

Thank you to all who participated and helped to make the day a success!



TRIVIA QUESTION:

When was the first power boat reportedly seen on the North River and who owned it?

ANSWER: in the next issue!

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Veal Loaf

Boil a rattle of veal until the boanes will slip out easily, fill with a rich dressing, butter and flour top and bake quickly. --Mrs. C. E. Curtis

A Special Thank You...

to Ana Jacobs of Chevy Chase, Maryland, a decendent of the Jacobs family that resided in the Jacobs Farmhouse. Ms. Jacobs' generous donation will pay for the annual monitoring fee for the security system in the Jacobs Farmhouse museum. Thank you!

VOLUNTEERS 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 a 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.

Did You Know?

...the answer to the last issue's Trivia Corner Question? The question was: **The North River is 10 miles directly from its source to the sea. The exhausted canoe paddler, however, knows that he is working harder than 10 miles worth. How many miles does that canoeist have to paddle from start to finish?**

The answer is: 20 miles—this is according to William G. Vinal.

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

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY BICENTENNIAL

Abraham Lincoln defines the civic ideal of what it means to be an American. But what more is there to learn about our 16th president? What's left to unearth? What remains relevant about a president born nearly two centuries ago?

In his Gettysburg address, Lincoln reminded what "the brave men, living and dead" did on the battlefield and challenged the living to dedicate themselves "to the unfinished work" of those men. How much of that work is still not completed?

Surmounting race and assuring equal rights for all are Lincoln's two major challenges still on the nation's agenda. As the embodiment of the highest ideals and values of our nation, Abraham Lincoln can still help us meet those challenges.

Through education programs, public forums, and arts projects, the celebrations associated

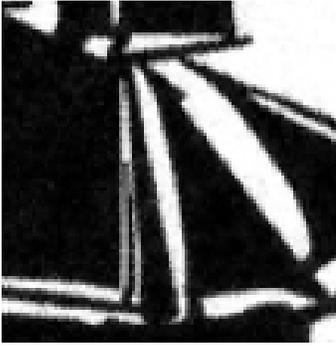
with the bicentennial of Lincoln's birthday (February 12, 1809) provide an opportunity to re-examine what it means to be American in the 21st century.

Two centuries after Lincoln's birth, the nation is still in formation. The United States has grown and expanded, one cost of that growth has been a splintering of many parts of our society. Competing values, interests, and beliefs have complicated Lincoln's goal to find unity in our diversity.



The Bicentennial commemoration of his life and legacy will be a bright beacon to completing our nation's "unfinished work."

The above text was taken from the website www.LincolnBicentennial.gov. Visit the site to find area events celebrating our 16th President!



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NORWELL, MASSACHUSETTS 02061

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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.