



October 2011 Newsletter

NORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 693

NORWELL, MASSACHUSETTS 02061

WWW.NORWELLHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

NEW
WEBSITE!

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CONTACTING US

The Norwell Historical Society
P.O. Box 693
Norwell, MA 02061
781-659-1888
www.norwellhistoricalsociety.org

MUSEUM

& LIBRARY HOURS

The Jacobs Farmhouse is open by appointment only. Please call the Society for further information or to schedule a tour.

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.

NHS ANNUAL MEETING--OCTOBER 18TH

The Norwell Historical Society will host its 76th Annual Meeting at the Phoenix Lodge at Hanover Four Corners on Tuesday, October 18th. The featured speaker will be Norwell historian Pattie Hainer, who will discuss Cuffee's Lane. The Town of Norwell recently approved the purchase of Cuffee's Lane at the 2011 Town Meeting. Pattie will tell us why this land is historically significant and what role Cuffee and his family played in the African-American history

of Norwell. Social hour begins at 6:00 p.m., 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 leaving a message on the Library voice-mail at 781-659-1888 or by contacting the Society via our website (under the Upcoming Events tab).

MEMORIES OF THE JACOBS FARMHOUSE

Editor's Note: In the last two issues of the Historical Society newsletter were the first parts of an article originally written by Harold Turner III, who lived at the Jacobs Farmhouse as a boy. The following is the continuation of that article, written in June of 1990 by Mr. Turner, and re-worked with paranthetical notes by Bill Slattery, Society Archivist.

More reminiscences of Mr. Turner's life at the Jacobs Farmhouse will be featured in future issues. For a complete transcript of Mr. Turner's recollections, please go to the Norwell Historical Society's website (www.norwellhistoricalsociety.org). In the "Newsletter Archive," the entire transcript is available.

With the exception of the barns, Jacobs Farm was without electric power until the 1930's.

Aunt Tat [Mr. Turner's father's youngest sister who was unmarried and lived with them] recalled that Uncle Irving, the husband of Edith, my father's eldest sister, brought a[n electric] line from the big barn to the house so my grandmother would have a single, bare electric lamp for light in

the kitchen. [The Farmhouse's owner] Dr. [Henry Barton] Jacobs noted this bit of gentle piracy by the Turners on one of his [semi-annual] inspections. The hired hands were told to take it down.

Norwell Historical Society papers in my possession extol virtues of Henry Jacobs that are at odds with the recollections of his less-favored cousins. [Although Dr. Jacobs was a philanthropic and generous man, clearly he was less-than-so with his immediate relatives!]

There is sufficient evidence that the Turner part of the house was created for a resident overseer. [Whether or not this was the intended purpose, and no evidence is offered, the east portion had been added around 1840 to accommodate the Jacobs' expanding families.]

The front elevation is deceptively simple. Neither of the original [front] doors were used, except on special occasions. The complex "additions of the moment" can only be seen from the rear. This view is a classic example of those in the scholarly publication of Thomas C.

continued on page 2

MRS. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS COMING TO THE JAMES LIBRARY--OCTOBER 30TH

On Sunday, October 30th at 3:00 p.m., The James Library will host a presentation by historical actress Joan Gatturna titled "Petticoats and Politics: The story of Mrs. John Quincy Adams." This one-woman show features Louisa Catherine Adams, wife of our sixth president John Quincy Adams.

Mrs. Adams was a woman of charm and grace who lived her life in the rough and tumble world of politics. She followed her husband around the world as he pursued his calling as diplomat, secretary of state, and president.

Ms. Gatturna will shine the light of Mrs. Adams' wit on the trials of being married to a great and dedicated man whose first love is his country.



Joan Gatturna as Louisa Catherine Adams, wife of John Quincy Adams.

Tickets to this presentation are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. Please be advised that space is limited.

Advance tickets may be purchased by calling the James Library at 781-659-7100 or by visiting the library during open hours (Tuesday-Friday, 1-5 and Saturday, 10-1). For more information, please visit

the James website at www.jameslibrary.org.

JACOBS FARMHOUSE, CONT'D.

continued from page 1

Hubka: *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn; Connected Farm Buildings of New England* [available for viewing at the Historical Society Library].

Part of the charm of Jacobs Farm is the seeming endless stone walls that fence the fields and buildings. Traditionally without mortar, they were constructed of carefully piled boulders, plowed from the fields. Farmers took pains with the fitting, and the result is surprisingly symmetrical. A curving stone wall separates the garden and house from the barns. The reverse perspective is unique.

A jumble of haphazard additions were made in periods of necessity or prosperity.

From this vantage point, facing the barns, the piggery and chicken coop are to the right. The intervening grassy space and a dirt path lead to an arbor that hid the outhouse. There was no plumbing in any part of the living quarters in my childhood. Ivy, climbing roses, hibiscus and morning glory disguised this essential facility. Grape vines filled the space behind the first Turner buildings.



The three-holer at the Jacobs Farmhouse today

At bedtime, I gave no argument about visiting the "two-holer" [actually a "three-holer"]. A middle-of-the-

night emergency was scary and hazardous. My angry mother, carrying an oil lamp, was forced to accompany me.

The two houses [of Jacobs Farm] form a "U." On the left [at the end of the added buildings to the east of the house] was the carriage barn that protected the Jacobs' closed four-wheel carriage. That decaying conveyance was still there when we were children. Janice and I could not resist peeking. We were forbidden to slide open the ancient carriage door, and were caught a number of times. Even at high noon, it was dark, musty and eery, and the leather on the vehicle and harnesses had deteriorated badly, adding to the smells.

Both carriage and barn are gone, now. Some enterprising caretaker attempted to make a screened patio of the area and failed. [I don't know the standard for success he was using, but the screened patio/porch is still there today.]

Attached [right of the former carriage barn] was my grandfather's workshop, the converted tack room of the carriage barn. This retreat was declared out-of-bounds because he smoked his pipes there. My grandmother never allowed tobacco in the house, and he acceded to her wishes, thereby gaining a retreat that protected him from three generations.

Aunt "Tat" remembers the day "Ma" died. "Pa" appeared in the living room after the funeral and, without fanfare, lit his pipe and smoked contentedly in his favorite chair to the end of his life. My father [Harold Sr] inherited his rack of pipes. A hole was worn through each stem. In old age, George Turner had only one tooth in the centre of his mouth with which he could grip the pipe.

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

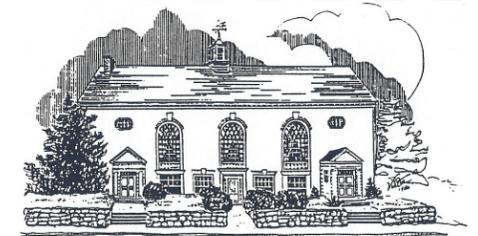
Newsletter____ Public Relations____
Hospitality____ Program Planning____
Library Volunteer____ Historical Research____
Photo Cataloging____ Process Archival____
Material____

Other: _____

HISTORIC CEMETERY BROCHURE AVAILABLE IN OCTOBER...

The Norwell Cemetery Committee 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) or at the Norwell Public Library and tour the cemeteries in time for Halloween!



Did You Know?

...the answer to the last issue's Trivia Corner Question? **The question was: 2011 is the 75th anniversary of the construction of what building in Norwell Center?**

The answer is: The Cushing Center. According to Gert Daneau's book *The ABCs of Norwell*, when Florence Cushing died in 1927 she left \$100,000 to the town of Norwell to provide a suitable memorial to her father, Haywood Pierce Cushing and her uncle, Nathan Cushing. Both men had given outstanding service during their lifetime to South Scituate and Norwell.

In 1936, a building was constructed in their honor at Norwell Center and was named the Cushing Memorial Town Hall. By 1986 the town offices had outgrown the building and needed more space. Town Offices are now located at the former Osborn Elementary School on Main Street. Still owned by the Town of Norwell today, the (renamed) Cushing Center is home to businesses on the lower level, and the upper level consists of a hall and is available for rent.

TRIVIA QUESTION:

Where is Bryant's Corner in Norwell and what businesses used to be there?

ANSWER: in the next issue! OR...read Chapter 10 in Sam Olson's *A Narrative of South Scituate/Norwell 1849-1963: Remembering Its Past and the World Around It* to find out the answer right now!

Trivia Corner



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76TH ANNUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18TH
AT THE PHOENIX LODGE, HANOVER



NORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS AND MEMORABILIA

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| <p>A NARRATIVE OF SOUTH SCITUATE-NORWELL _____ \$20
 by Samuel H. Olson
 This book chronicles the life and times of our town from 1845-1963 through a collection of articles previously published in <i>The Norwell Mariner</i>.</p> | <p>THE ABCS OF NORWELL _____ \$10
 by Gertrude Daneau
 This coloring book is perfect for children (of all ages!). This illustrated book can be used as a text for teaching budding historians, or as a quick guide to Norwell's many famous personalities and historical features.</p> |
| <p>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, and re-printed in 1988.</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>HISTORIC HOMESTEADS OF NORWELL _____ \$15
 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.</p> | <p>MORE THAN JUST A COOKBOOK _____ \$5
 This book is full of time-tested favorite recipes submitted by locals. Beyond the gastronomic delights, we have included sketches, interesting narratives and accounts of historic events.</p> |
| <p>HENDERSON MAP _____ \$3
 Interesting hand-drawn map suitable for framing. Drawn by Anne Henderson and first issued in 1967, it is a favorite depiction of the location of historic homes.</p> | <p>THE WAY WE WERE _____ \$20
 by Jeanne Garside
 This book is a series of articles written for Norwell's Centennial Celebration in 1988. Illustrated with old photographs, it tells what times were like in 1888.</p> |
| <p>1879 MAP _____ \$3
 This map is reproduced from a hand-drawn map of South Scituate in 1879. It shows the locations of road, homes and their owners. Suitable for framing.</p> | <p>JACOBS MILLS PAINTING REPRODUCTION _____ \$25
 This 8" X 10" reproduction of the 1830s Jacobs Saw and Grist Mills painting is canvas-mounted on board and ready for framing. The original hangs in the Jacobs Farmhouse.</p> |
| <p>NORWELL TILES _____ \$10
 These 6" X 6" white tiles depict various scenes: Kent House, Cushing Center, etc. <i>Limited number.</i></p> | |

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.