



March 2011

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

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.

HORSES JUST AFTER THE REVOLUTION

BY WILLIAM GOULD VINAL

Transcribed by William Slattery from South Shore Life And Associated Papers, March 20, 1942 as a sequel to "Horse and Democrat Days."

[Transcriber's note: The Peter Sears' house was at 211 Lincoln Street in Norwell; Dr. Vinal was a descendant of Peter Sears, who was an early soldier in the American Revolution--responding just after the battles of Lexington and Concord.]

Commencing in 1797 and for twenty-three years, Capt. Peter Sears of Scituate made entries in his account books about his "horse." [Sears' account books are in the Society archives]. The items have been tabulated, and from this data certain interesting observations are made. They not only offer a side light on the horse language of the day but give an interesting perspective of certain social customs that prevailed up to and through "Horse and Democrat" days. The record is put in print here for the first time.

Date	Name of Debtor to Peter Sears	Entry	Charge
Jan. 1797	John Wright	To my horse to plow corn	2 shillings
April 1811	Elijah Bowker	To 1 days plowing oxen & horse	14 shillings
1815	John Bowker	To furrer 1 day	75 cents
		To plow among corn	50 cents
		To my horse a ½ day to plow corn	33 cents
		To myself & horse a ½ day to plow corn	67 cents
		To myself & horse & plow 1 day	\$1.78

The following records are taken from the Town Report of Norwell [about 100 years later]. In this table I have placed figures to show interesting comparisons.

Date	Person	Entry	Charge
1910	Albion Damon	Working on road 17 days @ \$2.00	\$34.00
1910	Wallace Damon	& horse 2 days @ \$3.36	\$6.72
1910	E.G. Bates	& team @ \$5.00	\$5.00
1922	Lyman Lincoln Carlton O. Litchfield	& horse @ \$6.00 a day & team at \$8.00 a day	

In 1815, a horse cost approximately 66 cents a day; in 1910, \$1.36; and by 1922, \$2.50. In the same period of time, a man received in 1815 the same as a horse for a day's work (i.e. \$1.34); in 1910 a man could earn 64 cents more

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The Norwell Historical Society makes respectful recognition of the passing of Thomas Hyslop on February 9, 2011. He was 84.

Tom served in World War II, and worked at the Bethlehem Steel Company at the Quincy Shipyard for many years. He retired in 1987.

With his wonderful wife Alice, Tom served as co-Vice President of the Norwell Historical Society (4 years) and co-president (4 years). Tom was also president of the Society for one year. During their tenure, they catalogued the archives and computerized and implemented many special projects. Even after he and Alice relocated to Plymouth, they continued to return to Norwell for their weekly volunteer stints at the Library. Tom will always be remembered for helping with research, identifying resources, and proposing projects.

Bob Norris recently said of Tom: "He probably forgot more about Norwell and her history than the rest of us will ever learn."

Tom leaves his wife Alice, his two daughters Bonnie and Sarah and their husbands, and five grandchildren.

APRIL 13TH & APRIL 14TH : NORTH RIVER SPEAKER

On **Wednesday, April 13th at 7:00**, Paul McCarthy, an amateur river detective and lover of history, will be giving a lecture titled: **The Search to Identify a 19th Century Wooden Sailing Ship Wrecked in the North River in Marshfield**. This lecture is an illustrated presentation of one man's search to find the identity of an archaic maritime wreck, which has appeared and disappeared periodically over the past 65 years. This lecture will be open to all Historical Society members and to the general public. The lecture will take place on the **3rd floor of the Sparrell School** at the Society Archives.

Mr. McCarthy will also be speaking to the Society Board of Directors at their regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, March 14th at 1:30**. He has a few theories on the poles in the North River bank near Stetson Meadows (see photo at left). Please join the Board to hear



his theories on what this river anomaly could be. Monthly meetings take place at the **Society Library at the Norwell Middle School**. Please come to listen and share stories, photos and theories!

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Did You Know?

...the answer to the last issue's Trivia Corner Question? The question was: **What is a block-house and where was the most notable one in Norwell located?**

The answer is: According to Gert Daneau's ABCs of Norwell, a block house is a type of garrison house used during the early settlement of Scituate. Garrison houses were a centrally-located safe house that was well-fortified and as a gathering place to protect settlers from Indian raids. One of the best known garrison houses in Norwell (then Scituate) was a "block house" of logs just up the river from Union Bridge at the location of what is today Block House Lane. A force of 12 men was ready to protect any settlers who fled to the garrison for safety.



TRIVIA QUESTION:

Franklin Delano Roosevelt ran for President four times. Out of these four presidential races, how many times did FDR win in Norwell?

ANSWER: in the next issue! OR... read Chapter 26 ("Rock-Ribbed Republicans") of Sam Olson's new book to find the answer.

Trivia Corner

NORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE _____ NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP

AREAS OF INTEREST

Individual (\$15) _____ Business (\$40) _____
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Newsletter _____ Public Relations _____
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Please make checks payable to the *Norwell
 Historical Society* and mail to: NHS,
 P.O. Box 693, Norwell, MA 02061

Other: _____

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HORSES AFTER THE REVOLUTION, CONT'D.

per day than a horse; and by 1922 a man obtained a dollar more per day. In 1922 it cost \$6.00 a day to hire a horse and man, nearly twice as much as in 1910 and almost five times as much as in 1815. It would be fantastic to ask if they did five times the work. It is interesting to note that it made a difference whether one hired a man and horse, or a man, horse, and plow. Today, it is almost impossible to hire a horse. Men can still be employed at a nominal fee, although there are those who have considerable doubt as to whether they are men, whether they will work, and whether the fee is nominal. That, of course, as always, has been dependent on the traits of the individual.

TO THE MILL (From Capt. Peter Sears' Account Book)

Date	Person	Entry	Charge
Feb. 1797	Jonathan Otis	To my horse to Capt. Turner's Mill	1 shilling
1797	John Wright	To my horse to Gulf Mill	2 shillings
Jan. 1802	Elijah Bowker	To my horse to Mill	2 shillings
March 1805	Bartlett Barrell	To my horse to Dr. Charles Mill	2 shillings
March 2, 1810	Laban Rose	To my horse to Clapps Mill	2 shillings
1814	Laban Rose	To my horse to Mill	25 cents

"To the Mill" probably meant to the grist mill to take Indian Corn to be ground. The corn meal was often mixed with rye for making "rye-an-injun" bread. Two shillings was the usual horse fee whether the journey be to Doctor Charles Stockbridge's mill, which formed the industrial center of the little village of Greenbush, or Amasa Bailey's mill at the Gulph, the natural body of water which separated Cohasset and Scituate. John Wright and Laban Rose were privates in the Revolutionary Army and, no doubt, had many a reminiscence with Capt. Turner and Capt. Sears or Capt. John Clapp, who had a grist mill on the same brook as the celebrated Doctor Charles.

*Gravestone Girls
 coming to the Norwell Public Library
 on Tuesday, May 3rd*

"The Gravestone Girls" will be coming to the NPL at 7:00 on Tuesday, May 3rd to discuss cemetery art, history and symbolism in the graveyards of Norwell! Come join us!



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P.O. Box 693

NORWELL, MASSACHUSETTS 02061

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NORTH RIVER WRECK PRESENTATION APRIL 13TH AT 7:00



NORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS AND MEMORABILIA

- | | |
|---|---|
| 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> . | 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. |
| 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. | 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
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. | 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. |
| 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. | 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. |
| 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. | 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. |
| NORWELL TILES _____ \$10
These 6" X 6" white tiles depict various scenes: Kent House, Cushing Center, etc. <i>Limited number.</i> | |

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.