



The Northborough Historical Society Presents:

An Evening at White Cliffs

4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 23

167 Main Street, Northborough, Mass.

This Evening's Information

The purpose of this event is for members of the Historical Society to socialize in the relaxed atmosphere of this marvelous mansion. Take time to walk through the public areas on the main and second floors. Admire the craftsmanship in all the woodwork. This is the last opportunity to be inside this facility under the current owners, so we really appreciate being here. With good fortune, a new owner will be found who will appreciate the unique attributes of this building and keep it running for many more years.

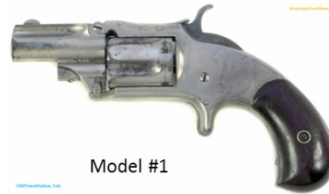
- At 5:00 there will be a short welcome remark and overview about Daniel Wesson and the White Cliffs in the Main Lobby
- There is an 18 minute video about White Cliffs playing in the bar area. It is the first segment of a 90 minute video made by member Brian Smith 20 years ago. The full video is available for a small donation.
- There are several posters located on the main floor with information regarding the Wessons, White Cliffs and the Smith & Wesson Company.

A Brief History

The White Cliffs mansion was completed in 1886 as a summer retreat for Daniel and Cynthia Wesson. It is located on a bluff overlooking the Old Boston Post Road and the Assabet River. When completed, the estate contained about 100 acres that included several fish ponds, large fountains, carriage ways, barns, employee housing and a very advanced water system that pumped water from Bartlett Pond to the estate. The mansion itself contained elaborate carvings, many stained glass windows, gas lit chandeliers, 17 fireplaces and 32 rooms. European craftsmen were brought in for the construction. It was said that each room was made of wood from a different part of the world with furniture to match.

Where did the money come from? Mr. Wesson was a VERY rich man due to the success of his Smith & Wesson firearms business. He was a very innovative inventor which allowed the company to prosper by continuing to improve their products and protect the designs with patents. By 1865 his reported income was \$160,000 making him the wealthiest man in Springfield MA where he had his home and manufacturing facility.

Why Northborough? At the age of eighteen Mr. Wesson apprenticed under his brother who was a well known rifle manufacturer in Northborough. There he met his wife Cynthia Hawes. After the death of Cynthia's parents she requested that they build a summer home partially on the land her parents owned.



Model #1

The first successful firearm from Smith & Wesson



Cynthia Hawes and Daniel Wesson eloped in 1847. Her father was against the marriage because Daniel was “a mere gunsmith with no future”