



The Hourglass

CCVIV Northborough Historical Society March 2012

Meeting March 23, 2012, 7:30 PM Northborough Historical Society

Program: "I'll pass for your Comrade" - **Women Soldiers in the Civil War**. Anita Silvey, author and professor of children's literature at Simmons College, will share information about 1,000 women who fought as men in both the Union and Confederate armies.

Hosted by Pat and Skip Doyle, Cindy and Dick Atwood.

Three Assabet Crossings

In how many places can you cross the Assabet in Northborough without getting wet? There are bridges at two extremities-South and Boundary streets-on Brigham, Main, River, and Allen Streets and also within the confines of the golf course. Add another quite new crossing and indications of two old ones, all of which I photographed on February 10.

Our first photograph is of a former crossing that can be approached from just south of 89 School Street.

Membership

Northborough Historical Society

Membership Dues:

Regular \$15.00; Student and Seniors (65 and over) \$10.00; Family \$35.00; and Life \$250.00.

**Dues should be sent to
Judy Bissett
300 Ball St.**

Northborough, MA 01532

**Checks should be made
out to the
Northborough Historical
Society**

**Director's Meeting
Historical Society Building
March 13, 2012
7:30PM**

Curator's News

Work is underway for a new exhibit or two in the Museum for its opening on May 6th. To celebrate the occasion, we will be hosting a Tea and a Bake Sale. Proceeds will go toward the Organ Restoration fund. This is a worth-while project and

There you will find no bridge but two prominent abutments. The first picture shows the one on the east side of the river, amidst a tangle of riparian shrubbery beyond which lies the northern end of the Juniper Hill Golf Course. It seems unlikely that the crossing would ever have been necessary for makers or users of the golf course, so it must have been the work of the Brighams, who farmed the considerable area that is now the golf course for about two centuries before the golf course was constructed in the 1930s. Who else could possibly have needed it? Access would have been to School Street, or if this route was devised much before the middle of the nineteenth century, to a trail leading to a much shorter School Street that on an 1830 map was a mere cul-de-sac from Main Street. It would have provided a route to town considerably shorter than one involving Brigham Street.

Next is the crossing from Winn Street to a private road leading to Brigham Street. This picture shows

hopefully the CPA funding requests will be voted in during Town Meeting in April and our fine 1874 pipe organ will be restored to good working order.

New Accessions:

Northborough telephone directory, 1975-6, from Claire Swan

N. National Bank coin roller from Helen Calverley

Ellen Racine, Curator

no appreciable abutments but indicates the road leading up to a point between 64 and 68 Brigham Street. Article 28 of the town warrant for March 5, 1917 tells us more about this route: "To see if the Town votes to accept the private road extending from the end of Winn Street to Brigham Street and laid out through the property of R. E. Blair and adopt it as a highway at a cost of \$500, or act in any way thereon." R. E. was Rose Blair, the wife of Northborough's camera maker and legal owner of most of the Blair possessions. Thomas Blair surely had the road built, since his factory was on Winn Street and he had built a home at 107 Brigham Street and also owned several other properties thereabout. The road was raised above ground level, bordered by substantial rocks on its flanks, and would still be passable today, if a short stretch of land at the end of Winn Street were tidied up-and if the bridge still existed. Other than Thomas Blair, who by 1917 was probably not using his road much (he would die two years later), few people apparently felt a great need for it, and the voters decided to save the \$500.

Our last picture is of a crossing installed not long ago by the Northborough Trails Committee and essential

to anyone who wishes to pursue the Coyote Trail from its terminus near Hudson Street. The likelihood of meeting another rabid coyote such as the one that attacked Arthur Cole being remote, this trail is well worth the risk.

Bob Ellis, Historian