



The Hourglass

CCXX Northborough Historical Society April 2013

www.Northboroughhistsoc.org

NHS1906@verizon.net

Meeting April 26, 2013, 7:30 PM Northborough Historical Society

Program: Lincoln and his Generals at the Turning Point of the Civil War. The nearly simultaneous battles of Vicksburg and Gettysburg marked the turning point of the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln's Challenge in building a successful military strategy while dealing with his generals is one of the key subtexts of the Civil War. Presented by Dennis Ricci.

Hosted by Sandra Chaurette and Carolyn Squillante.

Northborough in August, 1844 to a Newcomer

The following is part of a typescript of a letter written by Anne Lincoln in August of 1844. She is in a house on Pleasant Street near Church Street, today designated "2 Tri Corner Circle." Imagine looking out the same window, obviously on the south side of the building, today. She is eighteen, and her family has just moved to Northborough. She is writing to her older sister, who remains in Hingham. Their mother is the sister of Lucy Allen, the wife of Rev. Joseph Allen, who lives a stone's throw away. Anne's sentence structure, punctuation, and spelling are deficient, and I have made some changes, but I have not altered the wording. In such matters as the use of details and appeals to the senses her writing is very good. (I would have liked to be able to teach her!)

I am sitting in my room-the prospect is fine. From the window directly before me is a slope, it does not look very well as yet because there are a great many stones and rocks: then beyond it are green fields with here and there a patch of corn and potatoes. It does not look far across, it is so

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

Curator News

The Museum will open Sunday, May 5th from 2 to 4:00. New this year will be an exhibit of Northborough's industries through the ages. A

perfectly level, but it is quite a walk to the corner. Next to father's land is a piece equally level, then comes Mr. Fay's farm at the foot of Mount Assabet. I wish I could draw-it would make a sweet picture. There is quite a large house and four other buildings adjoining. [These buildings, gone today, would have been on the north side of West Main Street approximately across from Monument Drive.] They are all painted white and look very neat and pretty. I can hear people thrashing in the farm now, it is very pleasant to hear such noises at a distance for it is almost perfectly quiet here. Such stillness is delightful to me.

Mount Assabet looks beautiful now, the trees are very fresh and green, [and] most of them you know are on the top. I have not been there yet but want to go very much. On the right is a farm house. I can see very little of it, however, as it is nearly hid by the trees round it. On the left is the village. The liberty pole is very conspicuous in the center. A little farther to the left is the Allens' [house] and the Meeting house. They are surrounded with trees, the house especially. You can see here and there a roof, then a chimney, some of the white house peeping through the trees. Nearer is the Orthodox Church [the building is today a private residence across the street] and a few houses near it, then comes the road winding to the right and left to our house. A little beyond our place is Mr. Hastings's ugly red house and a long black barn. The background to this picture is wooded and hills. Prentiss [one of Rev. Allen's children] said the other evening that it was equal to the scenes of the Connecticut River with the exception of the river itself. I think it may be [that] a river winding through the place is the thing needed.

Just below the house is our large barn and yard; one solitary cow is in the yard. She is to be pitied, I am sure, for she has just broken off one of her horns, but I do not like her much. She is not pretty

sampling of brickmaking, woodworking, dairying, farming, textile, button and comb manufacturing, etc. will be on display in the front showcase. Refreshments will be served in the downstairs meeting hall on opening day. Please come and see what's new.

This month, several students from a marketing class at Algonquin came and researched two eras in Northborough's history and another cub scout troop toured the museum. Thanks to our skilled tour guides, JoAnn Sullivan and Bob Ellis, the boys enjoyed their visit and learned much of how our former residents lived and worked.

June 15th - mark your calendars! In conjunction with Big Truck Day and a town-wide yard sale, we will be hosting one to benefit the Historical Society. Since our building is rented on Saturday mornings, our yard sale will be held at 102 Whitney Street. Please start your spring cleaning soon and set aside some saleable items. For information call 508-393-2343.

nor gentle and gives miserable milk and very little of it. Opposite the front window is the picture. There you can see five nice cows feeding about or lying under the trees. We were very glad to see our three cows Wednesday morning, you may be sure. Mother and I rushed down to the barn to welcome them as soon as we saw them. Father [Jairus Lincoln] said he did not believe we were half so glad to have them here as he was. Father and Augustine came late Tuesday night and left the cows about four miles from here. So he took the boys and went for them the next morning. Father was very tired, for he led one of the cows all the way from Hingham. . . .

More of this letter will appear in a later Hourglass.

Bob Ellis, Historian

March 27, 1918. The Allen Parsonage.

An event of Considerable interest took place at the Allen Parsonage this evening. A reception was held there in recognition of its first occupancy by Dr. Joseph Allen and his new bride. Dr. Allen was ordained in the church on Oct. 30, 1816. A minister in those days was supposed to own his own house. He immediately set himself the task of building a house. In this task he was assisted by the men of the parish.

Mr. Allen was married to Lucy Clark Ware, daughter of Prof. Henry Ware of Cambridge on Feb. 3. The next day he brought his bride to Northborough, and to the new parsonage, where they lived until their deaths -- Mrs. Allen in 1866 and Mr. Allen in 1873. Soon after they settled in their new house they gave a series of receptions to the parish -- one for the old people, one for the younger people and one for the children. That was one hundred years ago. The reception this evening was in recognition of that event. Mrs. Harriet H. Johnson, who lives in the house now is a grand daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Allen, and is herself seventy-five years old. Rev. Mr. Kent gave a talk,

New Accessions:

Wedding outfit from 1872
and worn again in 1960
from Louise French
Small diary of Helen Ware
Allen Myrick, 1886, from Al
and Kathy Aldrich.

Ellen Racine, Curator

**Director's Meeting
Northborough
Historical Society
Building
April 9, 2013
7:30PM**

**Our mailing address has
changed. It is now
Northborough Historical
Society
300 Ball St
Northborough, MA 01532**

giving a history of the house and calling attention to some of the many well known people who had been entertained in the house. He also read a letter from Rev. Benj. H. Bailey, regretting his inability to be present, and then introduce Rev. Frederick H. Hosmer of California. Mr. Hosmer was a minister of the Unitarian Church, as colleague with Dr. Allen 1869-72. He gave a few reminiscences of Dr. Allen and then read his own poem "The Village Meeting House".

goodly number were present. It is very rare that we find a house now -a-days that has been occupied by the same family for one hundred years. I think there is only one other house in town of which this is true - the old Ball house, now occupied by Mrs. Sarah Searle. Next to the library.