



# The Hourglass

CCXXII Northborough Historical Society June 2013

[www.Northboroughhistsoc.org](http://www.Northboroughhistsoc.org)

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## It Happened in June

For the final Hourglass essay of 2012-2013 we'll review some of the events that have happened in various Junes.

We all know about July 4, 1776, but one month earlier, on June 3 the following warrant article passed in a Northborough town meeting: "If it be the mind of this town to be independent of Great Britain, in case the Continental Congress think proper, and that we are ready with our lives and fortunes, if in Providence called to defend the same." It isn't quite a sentence, but it's a commitment.

On June 5, 1917 over ten million men between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-one registered for possible military service. One hundred thirty-one of them were from Northborough.

On June 6, 1953 Northborough was not quite in the path of a devastating tornado. After passing through Shrewsbury, the twister made a slight twist and missed the southern portion of town, did considerable damage in Westborough, and went on to Southborough. At least one Northborough resident was among the scores who died in the tornado. Her name was

as Ruth Carlson, and she was visiting her parents in Worcester at the time of the

## 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

**Yard Sale: June 15th, 9 to  
2:00 at the Racines, 102  
Whitney Street. Please  
support this event by  
donating, volunteering or  
shopping! Proceeds will  
benefit the Northborough  
Historical Society. You may  
drop off items on Friday  
afternoon  
or Saturday morning  
between 8 and  
9:00. Please, no electronics  
or large pieces of**

disaster.

Much news is bad news, of course, but some news is not unpleasant. On June 12, 1899 the Worcester Telegram reported that Louis Batcheller of Northborough had completed a 450-piece quilt for a friend in Scotland. What made the event reportable was that Ms. Batcheller was ninety-eight years old.

On June 12, 1828 the first Baptist meeting house in Northborough was dedicated. The building stood on the same lot as its successor, now the headquarters of the Historical Society, although it appears to have been set back slightly farther from Main Street. When the present building was constructed in 1860, the original home of the town's Baptists was moved back to one corner of School and Summer Streets. I was once told by a neighbor that the current house at the southwest corner rests on the same foundation.

June 15, 1997 was another unhappy day. Eleven-year-old Jamie Benedict was playing on the Laurence Candle property on Whitney Street near her home. The area had been established as a play area for children. A large and very heavy statue of Santa Claus somehow became dislodged and fell on Jamie, and she died shortly thereafter. No charges were brought against the Laurences as a result of this accident.

On June 16, 2008 Dorothy Carlson, born Dorothy Brigham Corey on November 6, 1899, died at The Willows in Westborough at the age of 108. She was descended from Northborough's first-known settler, John Brigham. She at one time was secretary to John Robert Gregg, the deviser of shorthand. She married Walter Carlson in 1930 and for many years the Carlsons farmed at 253 Whitney Street, where her father had previously farmed. Dorothy was for several

furniture. Rain date is June 16th. Call 508-393-2343 for more information.

We will soon be busy with third grade visits to the museum. Proctor, Zeh and Peaslee Schools will be coming in the next three weeks. If you would like to volunteer, give me a call. Training will be provided. Each of four guides will work with small groups of children and conducts two, half-hour tours. The dates: May 29, June 7, and June 12th, mornings.

I hope you get a chance to see the two new exhibits in the Museum showcases: "Family Life" and "300 Years of Northborough at Work" which includes a photo album of the towns past businesses.

And again, my thanks to Forest Lyford who re-caned a bent-wood rocker in our collection.

Have a great summer.

Ellen Racine, Curator

**Kent's Current Events**  
**June 25, 1910 The**  
**Westborough Historical**  
**Society dedicated a boulder**

years the secretary of the Historical Society, gave several programs, and donated many items. It would be interesting to know whether she lived longer than any other Northborough resident. I have found no record of any other person living as long.

On June 22, 1996 Robert E. Melican was named Superintendent of Northborough-Southborough Schools. Northborough Middle School, where he once taught mathematics, was later renamed in his honor.

On June 25, 1749 residents of what was at that time the North District of Westborough fasted and prayed for relief from severe drought. Relief came, but not until three more dry weeks had passed.

Let's end with a happy occasion. Since the 1870s alumni of Northborough High School have gathered annually. At their meeting on June 26, 1912 they honored J. B. Davis. He was not one of the Northborough Davises, having come from Princeton, Massachusetts, but he had been the first teacher in the school and had served as its principal for nine years. Here is Rev. Kent's description of the occasion.

"J. B. Davis (he is always spoken of as 'J.B.') was the guest of honor. And if a man ever spent an absolutely happy day in this world, that man was J. B. Davis. It was forty-six years since he took up his duties as the first principal of the new school, and thirty-seven years since he left the school; yet notwithstanding that long lapse of time, fifty of his former pupils were present to greet their old master. They came from far and near, and were all glad to be there. Mr. Davis himself had 'the time of his life,' he said."

*Bob Ellis, Historian*

today on the grounds of the Lyman School, which is the site of the first church of Westboro. Addresses were made by Rev. Mr. DeForset, the historian of Westboro, (now living in Lexington). Judge William Forbes of Worcester, and Rev. Josiah C. Kent of Northborough. I record this event here because as Northboro was at one time part of Westboro, the first church of W. was also the first church of Northborough.

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

**Organizational Meeting  
For new committee  
nominees  
Historical Society  
Building  
Tuesday June 11, 2013  
7:30 PM**