

**“Listen My Children and You Shall Hear”** The midnight ride of Paul Revere was made famous by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, but much of what his poem teaches us about the night of April 18, 1775 is more myth than fact. Patrick M. Leehey, research director at the Paul Revere House, will discuss misconceptions about Paul Revere, and review the life and times of one of the most famous and often misunderstood figures in American history. *This program is supported in part by a grant from the Northborough Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.*

**The Board of Directors** will meet at **7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 14.**

**Get Involved, Stay Involved:** Be an integral part of the Historical Society by offering your time and talent to one of our many committees. Are you new to the Society? Joining a committee is a great way to meet people, find out more about the community and more about Northborough's history.

The Board of Directors is responsible for conducting the routine business of the Society. The Board exercises its powers through the standing committees, and through special committees which may be appointed from time to time by the Board. *The Board meets monthly (usually the second Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.), September through May, and consists of six elected Directors, Chairperson of the Museum Trustees, Property Committee Chairperson, the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, and Treasurer. Three directors are elected each year to serve for two years.*

The Museum Trustees are responsible for the policies governing maintenance and use of the collections, and for the care, use and maintenance of the Museum. They also recruit members to act as Museum hosts on the days that it is open to the public. *The Trustees meet monthly, and the group consists of six elected members. Two Trustees are elected each year for a term of three years.*

The Hospitality Committee is responsible for recruiting hosts to provide refreshments at regular Member meetings. *The Hospitality Committee has three members. One new member is elected each year to serve a three-year term.*

The Program Committee, in cooperation with the Historian, arranges the programs for monthly meetings for the coming year. The finalized program schedule is given to the Newsletter Editor in time for printing and mailing to members prior to the September meeting. *The Program Committee has at least three members but not more than five. One new member is elected each year to serve a three-year term.*

The Property Committee is responsible for overseeing the use and maintenance of the society buildings and grounds, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors and/or the Museum Trustees. *The Property Committee meets at least four times a year, and consists of three to five members. One member is elected each year to serve for three years.*

The Legislative Committee is responsible for reviewing the Society by-laws each year and making any necessary recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Committee also acts as the interpretive and advisory authority on all questions concerning the by-laws. *The Legislative Committee has three members. One new member is elected each year to serve a three-year term.*

The Publicity Committee is responsible for publicizing all activities of the Society, including regular meetings. *The Publicity Committee has three members. One new member is elected each year to serve a three-year term.*

The Ways & Means Committee is responsible for raising funds for the support of the Society and its projects. *The Ways & Means Committee has three members. One new member is elected each year to serve a three-year term.*

The Kitchen Committee is responsible for ensuring that the kitchen is kept in a clean and sanitary condition, and that it is stocked with necessary equipment and supplies. *The Kitchen Committee consists of three members. One new member is elected each year to serve a three-year term.*

The Nominating Committee is responsible for preparing a slate of candidates for board and committee vacancies as laid down in the Society by-laws. This slate is presented to the Society members one month before the Annual Meeting. *This is a three-member committee, two of whom are elected each year for a one-year term. The third member is the immediate past-president.*

- If you would like to volunteer to be nominated, or know of someone to nominate for a committee, please contact Kevin Carroll at [skybars@verizon.net](mailto:skybars@verizon.net) or Hilary Wilson at (508) 393-3869.

## History Corner

by Bob Ellis, Historian

### A Passionate Educator

Our subject this month is an extremely influential and forward-looking educator who generated organizations of teachers on a large scale and intense opposition from both liberal and conservative thinkers. His name was Thomas W. Valentine.

Born in Northborough in 1818, he was the son of Gill and Sabra Valentine. His father, a land surveyor who made the first comprehensive map of Northborough, also held many town offices, while Sabra was the daughter of Northborough's first composer, Abraham Wood, (who will be one of composers featured in "Early American Music," the Society's May 15 program).

Educated initially in Northborough schools, Thomas Valentine began teaching in Lancaster in 1836, then in his home town for three years, then, after two more assignments, served as principal of a public school in Albany, New York. For his last twenty-four years, from 1855 to 1879, he was principal of a school in Brooklyn, New York.

Valentine not only taught, but in 1838, at twenty years old, he organized the first teachers' convention ever held in Worcester County. While at Albany, he established the New York State Teachers' Association, and in 1857, while leading that association, he called for a national association of teachers, which was organized in that year.

The 1857 New York meeting, held in Binghamton, attracted a record one hundred teachers and a few additional women, including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, a passionate defender of women's rights, who posed a problem for Valentine, an equally passionate defender of teachers. He called the injection of women's rights an "apple of discord" and rejected allowing any woman "to dash off a senseless tirade on 'Women's Rights' . . . or any other subject foreign to the general objects of this Association."

Despite this utterance, whose contradictions we can see more clearly than Valentine probably could at the time, that meeting passed two resolutions suggested by Stanton's great associate in women's rights, Susan B. Anthony, that "colored children of the State should enjoy equal advantages with the whites," and that the majority of teachers ♡ women ♡ often paid one-half or one-third as much as the men, thus faced a situation "calculated to degrade her in the distinction of the community and inconsistent and unjust."

At the same meeting Valentine suggested a change 122 years ahead of its actual date: "The time will come when our government will have its education department, just as it now has one for agriculture, for the interior, for the navy, etc." Thus he immediately became for some critics a socialistic violator of the Constitution, which by implication left education to the states. This criticism, of course, is still often voiced.

The National Association of Teachers, eventually the National Education Association, did not admit a majority of its possible membership ♡ women teachers ♡ until 1866, , nine

years after its first meeting.

Thus by 1857, Valentine, still less than forty, had been a public school teacher and principal for nineteen years and either wholly or largely responsible for teachers' unions at the county, state, and national levels. In 1866 he wrote to Dr. Joseph Allen, praising him for his lengthy service as chairman of Northborough's school committee and hailing the achievements of many Northborough teachers: "I do very much doubt whether any other town of the same size in the whole Commonwealth, or in the whole country, can show a better record in that respect."

## Curator's News

by Ellen Racine, Curator

The Museum opens Sunday, May 3 from 2 to 4 p.m. for Children's Day. Bring your favorite doll or toy, learn to make a May basket or other project, enjoy a museum tour and refreshments. Historic replica costumes will be available to wear and parents may photograph their costumed children. For more information call 508-393-2343.

Visit our web site:

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

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## Membership

### Annual Dues:

Single ♦ \$20

Student/Senior ♦ \$15

Family ♦ \$45

Lifetime ♦ \$250

Send dues to:

Northborough Historical Soc.

Membership Secretary

P.O. Box 661

Northborough, MA 01532

*Please make checks payable to  
Northborough Historical  
Society*