



THE HOURGLASS

NORTHBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

CCLXIX

Northborough Historical Society
www.NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org

May 2018

Next Meeting: Friday, May 18, 2018

Annual Meeting, Pot Luck Supper & Program.

Fill 'Er Up! Northborough Gas Stations, Then and Now. Paul Derosier will present a look at the town's old-time gas stations and what they are today. The pot luck supper will begin at 6:30 p.m., the meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m., at the Society building, 52 Main Street, Northborough. The program, and the supper, are free and open to the public. .



History Corner

by Bob Ellis

The Pedal Extremities of Bears and Indians

Recently a representative of Iron Mountain, a data-processing firm that occupies the site established by Springfield Sugar on what is known as Bearfoot Road, asked me for some historical background. I gave a brief explanation of the construction of the road from Solomon Pond Road through what was once the Sparrow (and earlier the Warren) farm to the point where Colburn Street approaches the old Fish and Game, now Senior Center, site. The new road followed the northern part of Colburn Street and thus replaced it. Old maps give no evidence of houses on the western side of old Colburn Street north of the railroad tracks—but there is evidence that someone did live there.

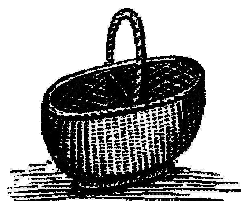
On two maps of Northborough, Gill Valentine's map of 1830 and another map twenty-five years later, a portion of the open land lying west of that part of the old Colburn Street is identified as "Bare Foot Road" or "Barefoot Road." Observe the spelling. We have in our archive a typewritten document identifying an Indian named Bare-

foot as living in the meadow. No author or date appears on the document, but by 1830 maps were thus identifying the meadow. When would Barefoot have been dwelling there?

Early accounts of Indians in Northborough begin with the scalping of poor Mary Goodenow in 1707. All accounts of the story at this time—and for that matter accounts of Indians well into the twentieth century—routinely describe them as "savage." Some of our legendary or historical Indians seem to date from a later period. Kent's history of Northborough speaks briefly of Solomon, who died in a pond and thus gave his name to it. Edwin Proctor in a Historical Society talk, added that Solomon was drunk at the time. Barefoot is another Indian whose date we don't know. Could these men have lived as late as the period covered by early federal censuses, say from 1790 to 1830?

During this period only heads of household were listed by name, either as white, "other free men," or slave. Being without slaves, Northborough had a great preponderance of white men and very few blacks. Indians' status in the white man's world may have been dubious, but surely they might have been considered "other free men." Yet it is known that few Indians were listed in early censuses. Would an early Northborough census taker have ventured into the meadow to interview Barefoot? Very likely he would have been considered a "savage" or in no proper sense the head of a household.

(continued on page 4)



Curator's News

by Ellen Racine

The Museum is now open for the spring season, Sundays through June from 2 to 4:00. On May 6, nine people visited, including a reporter from the Telegram and Gazette. Please support our efforts by visiting the museum and inviting your friends to join you. Thanks to Helen Calverley for beautifying our outdoor space with two decorative chairs, baskets and pansies!

The Trustees have again donated a basket of "historical goodies" for the Library Raffle, including two free Society memberships.

I attended the third workshop for disaster planning on April 11. It was a review of procedures and we broke into groups to try out our plans on two sample disasters. The next week we visited Belfor, a salvage and restoration company in Marlborough. We toured their warehouse and learned of their services of water removal, cleaning, securing buildings, packing,

moving and freeze-drying books and documents. They also offer help in halting mold growth and recommending restoration professionals when needed.

Recent Accessions:

1944 High School yearbook from Janet Rich Morin.

Five B&W photographs from Ernie Racine: Diamond Jim's Lounge at the 9/20 Motel, Victor's Motorcycle Club on Hillside Circle in the 1980s, and an earlier postcard of the Tea Terrace on Main Street next to Avidia Bank.

A Visit to the

Willard House and Clock Museum

*A Members-Only Event
of the Northborough Historical Society*

Sunday, June 3, 2018

- Rain or Shine -

11 Willard Street, North Grafton

Guided tours: 12:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Indoor Picnic: 1:00 p.m.

Members and their guests: \$15*

Space is limited, so please sign up ASAP.

Tickets may be purchased:

At the Welcome Table at the Society's meetings at
7:30 p.m. Friday, March 23, April 27 and May 18;

OR, by calling Norm Corbin at 508-393-0181;

OR e-mailing 77norlin@charter.

Checks may be mailed to: Norm Corbin, 35 Whitney Street.

Please make checks payable to Northborough Historical Society.

*If transportation is an issue, please let us know when you
make your reservation.*

* Membership Annual Dues: \$20 single-\$15 senior-\$45 family



<u>Choose a sandwich:</u>	<u>Choose a tour:</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Ham	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 Noon
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:30 p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/> Roast Beef	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian	



Benjamin Willard began making clocks in his small, rural Massachusetts workshop in 1766. His three younger brothers, Simon, Ephraim and Aaron, quickly learned the trade and began a three-generation clockmaking legacy.

Today, over 80 Willard clocks are exhibited in the birthplace and original workshop of the Willard clockmakers, along with family portraits, furnishings and other Willard family heirlooms. Works by all three generations of Willard clockmakers, including famed clockmakers Simon Willard Jr. and Benjamin Franklin Willard, are also displayed.

Nominating Committee Report



Open Positions

We are still looking for a handful of members to serve on the following committees. If you would like to volunteer your services to help the Society, or if you need more information, please contact President Bob Marchetta. marchetta4@verizon.net 508-393-1421.

Publicity Committee

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**.

Ways & Means Committee

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**.

Kitchen Committee

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**.

Legislative Committee

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**.

President	<u>Robert Marchetta</u>	2019
Vice President	<u>Ken Bennett</u>	2019
Directors	Jenifer Bakkala	2019
	Ted Rollins	2019
	<u>Kathy Pierce</u>	2019
	<u>Paul Derosier</u>	2020
	<u>Rob Van Buren</u>	2020
	<u>Peter Stone</u>	2020
Treasurer	Frank Bissett	Indefinite
Recording Secretary	Hilary Wilson	Indefinite
Membership Secretary	<u>Jean Langley</u>	Indefinite
Newsletter Editor	Jane Fletcher	Indefinite
	Hilary Wilson	Indefinite
Museum Trustees	<u>Beryl Krouse</u>	2019
	Bill Webster	2019
	Cindy Atwood	2020
	Richard Atwood	2020
	<u>Carol Bostock</u>	2021
	<u>Lois Smith</u>	2021
Hospitality	<u>Helen Garcia</u>	2019
	Linda Corbin	2020
	<u>Marcia Parsneau</u>	2021
Program	Diane Lyford	2019
	Janice Ferenchick	2020
	<u>Suzanne Williams</u>	2021
Property	Chuck Krouse	2019
	Ernie Racine	2020
	<u>Chuck Liljestrand</u>	2021
Publicity	<u>Melissa LeSage</u>	2020
	Carolyn Squillante	2021
	<u>Vacant</u>	
Kitchen	Carolyn Squillante	2019
	<u>Lynne Derosier</u>	2020
	<u>Vacant</u>	2021
Legislative	<u>Vacant</u>	2019
	Hilary Wilson	2020
	<u>Jane Fletcher</u>	2021
Nominating	Mark Bashour	2019
	<u>Helen Calverley</u>	2019
	<u>Jane Fletcher</u>	2019
Ways & Means	<u>Vacant</u>	2020
	<u>Vacant</u>	2021
	<u>Vacant</u>	2022

History Corner, continued

Prior to the construction of Solomon Pond Mall a publicity person asked me for information about the pond. I decided against telling about Solomon, but in the end nothing that I could say satisfied the representative as useful for her purpose. It would be fine to know more about Solomon and Barefoot, but we are reduced to hearing of foolish people who couldn't swim or don modern footwear.

If anyone knows of accounts of bear tracks that could justify the common spelling, I would be glad to hear them. Otherwise I must classify the recent spelling of that road from the early 1970s as incorrect. My copy of the 1983 ver-

sion of the topographical map of Marlborough and vicinity does spell it correctly, but Northborough documents of recent decades do not. I will not lodge a campaign for an official change that probably would only confuse people. ("Does your town have both a Bearfoot Road *and* a Barefoot Road?") But for the sake of preserving accurately a story that, if meagre, may well be true, I recommend that we remember the road as one like others in Northborough that remind us of our history. It should be Barefoot Road.

Bob Ellis can be reached by email at rpje1@aol.com

News from the Board of Directors

The following topics were discussed at the May 8, 2018 meeting:

- Which documents are to be placed in the Society Dropbox
- Progress on committee nominations, budgets and annual reports
- Various ideas for fundraising
- The upcoming pot luck supper
- The concerns that the Society would like to share with those working on the Town master plan
- Applefest
- The decennial photograph Northborough day in October

Welcome to Our Newest Members!

Arthur & Sue Boucher
Diane Mehlman

Membership

Annual Dues:

- Single — \$20
Student/Senior — \$15
Family — \$45
Lifetime — \$250

Send dues to:
Northborough Historical Society
Membership Secretary
P.O. Box 661
Northborough, MA 01532

Please make checks payable to Northborough Historical Society.

Dues are due in September!

Don't forget the Pot Luck Supper before the May 18 meeting!

Come along and enjoy sharing a meal with fellow members.

Not been to a Society supper before? Bring a dish to share, a plate and silverware, and you'll be all set.

Tip: Paper plates and plastic cutlery mean nobody has to do dishes!

What kind of food? Your choice.

No time to cook? Store bought is fine.

What time? We eat at 6:30 p.m.



Desserts, fruit punch and coffee will be provided by the Board of Directors and the Program Committee.

Save time. Save money. Save space. Save a tree.

Would you like to receive the Hourglass by email?

Please email your request to northborough_historical_society@charter.net

Next
Board of Directors
Meeting
Tuesday, September 8