

Northborough Historical Society Programs 2018-2019

September 28, 2018

Appalachian Mountain Club: Leaders in the Outdoors Since 1876 – presented by Alexandra Molnar, the Development Coordinator of Appalachian Mountain Club. The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), founded in 1876, is America’s oldest recreation, conservation, and outdoor education organization. Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Club’s Worcester Chapter by hearing the stories that inspire the modern-day outdoors enthusiast.

October 26, 2018

Frederick Law Olmsted and the Massachusetts Legacy – presented by Alan S. Banks, the overseer for the historical interpretation of Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline, MA. The firm of Frederick Law Olmsted was involved in over 1200 landscape architecture projects throughout Massachusetts. This illustrated lecture will sample this rich landscape legacy and explore ideas that shaped some of the most treasured places in Massachusetts.

December 7, 2018

The Spirit of Christmas Past: Four Centuries of Christmas in New England – presented by Ken Turino, Manager of Community Engagement and Exhibitions at Historic New England. This well-illustrated lecture traces the development of the celebration of Christmas from the 17th Century, when it was outlawed in New England, to the 20th century with its trappings of a traditional Christmas. We will learn many customs, such as Christmas trees and Santa Claus, are more recent.

January 25, 2019

Northborough’s Historical Markers – In Plain Sight but Unseen – presented by Normand Corbin, a member of the Northborough Historical Society and the Chairman of the Northborough Historic District Commission. This program highlights some of the town’s historical markers, shows their location and manner of installation, and thus increases our awareness of local history as we go about our everyday business.

February 22, 2019

Serving the World with Worcester Dining Cars – presented by Richard Gutman, foremost authority on the history of diners and author of the book *American Diner Then and Now*, a definitive work on the subject. Decades after the company’s closure in 1961, Worcester dining cars were sent to California and two to the United Kingdom—justifying the 1925 slogan. This illustrated lecture will celebrate the Worcester Lunch Car Company’s contributions to the legacy of this enduring American icon.

March 22, 2019

A Visit with Louisa May Alcott – presented by Jan Turnquist, Executive Director of Orchard House, the Alcott family home in Concord, MA. Louisa May Alcott, author of the 1868 book *Little Women*, comes to life with a captivating living history experience by welcoming the audience to interact with her presentation.

April 26, 2019

They’re Irish, They’re Catholic, They’re Guilty – presented by Bill O’Riordan, a founding member of the Halligan & Daley Foundation which was formed in 1982 after Gov. Michael Dukakis exonerated Halligan & Daley for their crimes. This presentation covers a notorious 1806 court case in Northampton, MA involving Irish immigrants, James Halligan and Dominic Daley, who were convicted and executed for the crime of murder which it is now believed they did not commit.

May 17, 2019

Mysteries from our Museum – presented by Ernie Racine, past President and current member of the Property Committee of the Northborough Historical Society. We will explore the backstories of several artifacts displayed in the Northborough Historical Society Museum and hear the fascinating stories of how these items relate to historical events and why they are important today.

Dues Renewal

Dues are Due September 2018

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

☐ I am interested in volunteer opportunities

Rates: ☐Single--\$20 ☐Senior / Student--\$15 ☐Family--\$45 ☐Life Membership--\$250

☐ An additional donation is enclosed \$_____ Thank you!

The Northborough Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, donations to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Please give this completed form along with payment (cash, or check made payable to Northborough Historical Society) to any Society officer, or mail to:

Northborough Historical Society, Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 661, Northborough, MA 01532



THE HOURGLASS

NORTHBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Northborough Historical Society
www.NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org

September 2018

Next Meeting, Pot Luck Supper & Program: Friday, September 28, 2018

Appalachian Mountain Club: Leaders in the Outdoors Since 1876 – presented by Alexandra Molnar, the Development Coordinator of the Appalachian Mountain Club. The Appalachian Mountain Club, founded in 1876, is America's oldest recreation, conservation, and outdoor education organization. Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Club's Worcester Chapter by hearing the stories that inspire the modern-day outdoors enthusiast. The pot luck supper will begin at 6:30 p.m., the meeting will follow 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

Baseball and Some Related Events in the 1890s

Two men born in 1887 in their mature years gave Northborough accounts of what the town was like in their boyhood. William Casey described it in the mid-1890s in a 1951 newspaper article, and Edwin Proctor emphasized the turn of the century in a 1961 talk to the Historical Society. The former, a baseball fan, devoted much of his essay to a local team of the 1890s. Given his name of Casey, this choice was not surprising. A Worcester resident named Ernest Thayer had already composed the famous poem "Casey at the Bat."

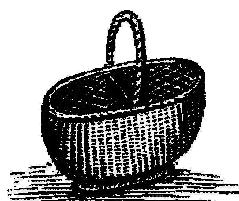
In 1893 some of the young men who worked at Chapin's fabric mill, located just off Hudson Street on Chapin Court, formed a baseball team. Although Northborough

had only about two thousand inhabitants, the part surrounding the mill had its own identity, Chapinville, after the owners—and even its own post office, the neat little headquarters of which can now be seen displayed in the southeast corner of the Society's museum. Today many of its residents do not even know that they live in Chapinville. When the team began to play competitively in 1894, they played very well.

Fans flocked to the team's home field to see them perform. "A suitable playing surface was secured from Philip G. Hilliard on Rice Avenue, located in the rear of . . . the Stone turkey farm." More recently the Stones have entertained different animals, including llamas.

In 1894 the team won 18 games and lost 6. The following year no one could beat them, not even Grafton, although that opponent had buoyed their ranks with a National League pitcher and catcher. We can't identify these players. Could the team have been the Boston Beaneaters, the predecessors not of the Red Sox but of the Boston (and later Milwaukee and Atlanta) Braves? "The last Saturday in

(continued on page 2)



Curator's News

by Ellen Racine

In July, I attended the two final workshops on Disaster Planning. One was a live burn of two rooms stocked with books, documents, textiles, artifacts, etc. Four days later we returned to learn of salvaging the materials. The water damage and mold were just as destructive as the fire itself. It was quite an experience.

This summer was extremely busy with many large donations. From Philip, Bruce and Kent Warren we received old annual reports, 1916 postcards and programs from the town's 150th celebration, photos from 1930, a bicentennial vest and

bow ties, memorial programs of Pres. Garfield and Grant, high school reunion photos and graduation programs. These were donated in memory of their parents, Annette and Leonard Warren who were married in this Baptist Church in 1947.

We received annual reports, an American Revolution 1976 banner and a final edition of *The Record* from Kevin Carroll.

We also received more very old annual reports, Northborough research and genealogy, Anson Patterson's 1825 day book, Fred Proctor's cash journal, 1930-40s, and maps of Northborough and surrounding towns, – from the estate of Pat Proctor MacFarland through Dan Combs.

From Carol Bostock we received many great photographs of her rela-

tives, Northborough sites, school photos from the 1950s, vintage greeting cards and an antique doll carriage used by her grandmother.

Bill Brinkmann stopped by and donated a wood trunk full of WWI memorabilia from his step-grandfather Ralph Bailey and WWII memorabilia from his step-father Robert Bailey.

Jane Merrill Berube from Olympia, Washington sent along 1966 parade photos and other photos from her father and his college roommate Roger Harry Morse of Northborough.

And most recently, three diaries from 1868-1878 of three men of the Maynard family in Northborough from Brian Thacker.

History Corner, continued

August was an ideal day, all hands, including scores of Northboro fans, boarded horse-drawn vehicles of all descriptions, barges, carry-alls and buggies, and trekked to Grafton, via Westboro, over dirt roads.” If that isn’t the description of a way of life soon to end, I’ve never read one. The Northborough team won 4-2.

Like the career of Mark Fidrych, who made his mark eighty years later, that of the Chapinville team was spectacular but also brief, in this instance because of two important events in Northborough. An aqueduct was constructed through the field. Its water not at the time intended for Northborough, but as Bob Kennerly and, more recently, Forest Lyford and Norm Corbin, have demonstrated, the aqueduct enormously altered local topography. The team moved to what is today Memorial Field, but soon fell out of favor with the fans. Why?

Casey must have interviewed George Martin, the Chapinville catcher, who in 1951 was the sole living survivor of the team, as his main source. He suggested that the new trolley through town diverted people from watching the local games. Diary entries by Rosa Warren, who lived on Main Street in the summer of 1897 when the trolley first started to pass by her home, tend to confirm its great popu-

larity. You no longer had to hitch up your team to visit Worcester or Marlborough; if you had the fare you could ride there on rails any time you desired. The old American dream of the joys of being elsewhere had received a big boost. And by the end of the century people were beginning to spot a thing called the automobile.

Electricity, along with its other effects, eventually made a mill operated by power from the Assabet River obsolete. Not just a baseball team but a means of employment and a way of life vanished. Today you can stand on the hillock across Hudson Street and see where the channels for the water that powered its big boiler ran into and away from the long-gone worksite.

In some ways the new events of the 1890s parallel ones more familiar to us. The routines of life, modes of work, and recreational habits all change profoundly under such influences. What do people ask you at the end of summer but “Where did you go?” What the spread of electricity brought to home life, travel, and communication in and after the 1890s, its electronic applications bring to us today.

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

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 September 2018

Don't forget the Pot Luck Supper before the September 28 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 Museum Trustees and the Hospitality 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, October 9