



THE HOURGLASS

NORTHBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

CCLXXXVIII

Northborough Historical Society
www.NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org

June 2020

COVID-19 Information

The Museum and archive will remain closed until further notice.

Stay safe and well!



History Corner

by Kathy Pierce

I Remember it Well: Life in the Time of the Coronavirus

In March, the History Corner recounted how the influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 struck Northborough and its 1,700 anxious residents. In just five months, at least nine people died and scores fell ill. Schools, churches and the library closed for a month or more. History is repeating itself here 100 years later...and it is up to us today to preserve the memory of this pandemic for future generations. Hence this appeal to all historians-in-waiting.

Some information for the March article was gleaned from annual town reports, death records and other official annals. But much of it - that which told the personal stories of the scourge - came from the jottings and comments of town residents in their letters, diaries and journals. The Rev. Josiah Kent's well-detailed journal "Current Events in Northborough" is a trove of happenings between 1910 and 1920. Mary Mentzer, a hardworking farmer's wife, kept a daily diary for several decades as did another woman of the day, Rosa Warren. All of these are preserved in our archives. The writers likely had no idea how helpful and in-

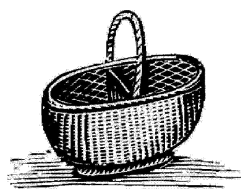
sightful their notes would be a century later for a historian seeking to recall that pandemic in the Society's newsletter.

So that is where we all come in. Museum curator, Ellen Racine, and I as historian, encourage society members and town residents to join us in building our Coronavirus Chronicles. Some may think their day-to-day experiences during this public health crisis are insignificant. Not so. Your contributions and real-time observations will be a valued primary source of town history in years to come. Yes, we have television and newspapers to capture the bigger picture. They don't tell Northborough's story, however. That is what we want to store in our archives. That is why the Historical Society exists.

For example, my neighbor is recording how she shopped for groceries and then came home and "quarantined" certain items in her garage for a few days until they were deemed virus-free and safe enough to bring inside. She has developed quite a process for a seemingly routine weekly errand. She is noting other life alterations as well.

My chronicle includes an account of what Easter Sunday was like for me. No church service. No big family brunch with egg hunt for the kids. It was likely to be the first time in my life that I was going to be alone on that holiday. Social distancing was in full swing, and no one was visiting elderly family members for fear of infecting them with COVID-19. But then, my good neighbors, who are self-

(continued on page 4)



Curator's News by Ellen Racine

The Historical building has a somber silence within—but master gardeners Helen Calverley, Carolyn Squillante, Diane Guldner and Carol Benedict have livened up the entrance with uplifting summer flowers.

Kathy Pierce and I continue offering our historical services to those who have puzzling quests. I supplied photos of tortoise shell jewelry made by Milo and Moses Hildreth to a Historical Facebook request, information on Gov. John Davis's family and birthplace, and a little history on 59 Main Street,

next to the Town Hall. My at-home projects included updating the collections list on computer – a time-consuming project, sorting through cancelled checks and check registers for anything memorable that should be filed, and sifting through the huge photo collection of the Ball, Barnes, Baker, Winsor and Graves families. Most photos are not identified and the Barnes women had strong family resemblances making identification dubious. There are four photo albums from 1890 through 1920 with Northborough scenes, activities and many vacation travels.

We recently received a book from Nancy and Wesley Olmsted, formerly of Northborough. It contains

blogs from their son, Major Andrew J. Olmsted, who served in the military and was killed in Iraq in 2008. During his early years, Historical Society members Gen Earle and George Hamilton spent time with Andrew on his accurate WWII battleground replica while in Middle School, and his project for his Eagle Scout award.

We also received an 1826 book, *Sketches of the Town of Northborough with the Early History of Marlborough*, by Rev. Joseph Allen. This valued copy was sent to us by Lillian R. Kearney of Houston, Texas.

We hope to be open and accessible to the public in September.

Northborough Historical Society

Second Annual Calendar Raffle!

Congratulations to Our 2020 Calendar Raffle Prize Winners!

A. Baily	H. Calverley	M. Gillespie
A. Bezanson	H. Squillante	M. Westley
C. Bostock	H. Wilson	M. Wheelock
C. Crisafulli	J. Chamberlain	M. McCollum
C. D'Entremont	J. Fletcher	N. Corbin
C. Harrington	J. Langley	P. Pfeifer
C. Liljestrand	L. Covino	R. Doucett
D. Bennett	M. Duchesneau	R. McMenemy
Dull Men	M. Ferenchick	T. Rollins

A Huge Thank You to All of Our Generous Donors!

Core Connection	Kathleen's Hair Creations	Casa Vallarte
Uno's Westborough	Moe's Northboro Auto Service Center	Qdoba
JPs Restaurant & Pub	Sachi Japanese Restaurant	Margarita's
Level Up Your Home	Northborough Area Community Chorus	Tougas
Mainstream Boutique	Michelle Gillespie Realtors	Al's Oil
Town Center Pizza	Vincent Picard American Legion Post	Chet's Diner
Scrubs with Style	Paint Your Own Pottery Studio	Lala Loot
Archie's on a Roll	Lowe's Variety & Meat Shop	Steakloft
Sasha Kartoon Clothing	Northboro House of Pizza	Jimmy John's
Ted's Montana Grill	Northboro Contra Dance	European Auto
Northboro Septic	Not Your Average Joe's	Craftworks
Innovations Hair Salon	JD Estevez Landscaping	Monti's Pizza
Northborough Oil	MOOYAH	Apex
Clean & Green Car Wash	Anonymous Donors	

Thank you to all who bought raffle calendars. The raffle raised \$2490 which will help the Society to continue its goals of gathering, preserving and sharing the history of Northborough.

To those who didn't win, we wish you better luck next year when we hope to have even more prizes!

Did you know that you could support Northborough Historical Society while shopping at Amazon?

When you shop through this link the Society will receive 0.5% of your eligible purchases made at Amazon. This costs you nothing - the program is funded through the AmazonSmile Foundation. You access the same pages and pay the same prices - the only difference is that you will see a small banner if the item is Amazon Smile eligible.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-6156604>

Officers, Board & Committee Members **2020 - 2021**

POSITION	PERSON	TERM ENDS
President	Ken Bennett	2021
Vice President	Rick Ferenchick	2021
Directors	Mike Duchesneau	2021
	_____	2021
	_____	2021
	Allyn Phelps Jr.	2022
	Lois Smith	2022
	Michael Mills	2022
Treasurer	Dale Williams	Indefinite
Membership Secretary	Jean Langley	Indefinite
Recording Secretary	Hilary Wilson	Indefinite
Museum Trustees	Carol Bostock	2021
	Claire Swan	2021
	Beryl Krouse	2022
	Bill Webster	2022
	Nancy Harlan	2023
	Melanie Magee	2023
Hospitality	Marcia Parsneau	2021
	Cathy Duchesneau	2022
	Marcia Mills	2023
Program	Suzanne Williams	2021
	Jo-Ann Sullivan	2022
	Karen Walsh	2023
Property	Chuck Liljestrand	2021
	Paul Derosier	2022
	Chuck Krouse	2023
Publicity	Carolyn Squillante	2021
	_____	2022
	_____	2023
Kitchen	Diane Guldner	2021
	Debra Bennett	2022
	Cindy Atwood	2023
Legislative	Jane Fletcher	2021
	Mark Bashour	2022
	Ernie Racine	2023
Nominating	Janice Ferenchick	2021
	Linda Corbin	2021
Ways & Means	Mike Duchesneau	2021
	Henry Squillante	2022
	_____	2023

Results of the Election for Officers, Board and Committee Members

The results of the Northborough
Historical Society election are
as follows:

Total Membership 141

34 votes were received.

30 by email.

4 by phone.

0 by US mail.

All 34 votes were for approval of
nominees as presented by the Nomi-
nating Committee. There were no
votes of non-approval.

The Board would like to thank the
membership for their
flexibility on voting in these
difficult times.

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 2020

Welcome New Members!

John Bainbridge, Jr.

Deborah Dyer

Mathew Goodwin & Shayne O'Malley

Robert Lang & Linda Cragin

History Corner, continued

isolating as strictly as I, asked if I would like to join them for their dinner ordered from a nearby restaurant. I threw caution to the wind and said yes. We stayed well-spaced and enjoyed a fun and memorable dinner.

Unfortunately, not all memories of this time will be pleasant. Some will have lost loved ones or fought for their lives in hospital ICUs. Those hard times need to be remembered as well.

So we encourage members and others in the community to send us your chronicles. These observations can cover several pages or a few paragraphs. In years past, people kept diaries and sent newsy letters to friends and relatives. Not so much anymore. We do, though, fire off chatty emails and text messages. They are today's written correspondence. Copies of these are welcome and some timely ones are probably sitting in your computer. And, of course, photos of your experiences or life around town are a must if

you have them.

Mainly we are thinking of preservation for the future, but we may feature the collection at some point in a museum exhibit, on our website or on social media. There is no set deadline. When you are ready, send your thoughts along or send them in installments.

To submit your contributions or for more information, email Kathy Pierce at Historian@NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org, or Ellen Racine at Info@NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org. You can also mail them to Northborough Historical Society, P.O. Box 661, Northborough, MA 01532, or leave them in the drop box at the door of the ell in the rear of the Society building, corner of Main and School streets. Please include your name and contact information and keep a copy of the work for yourself.



Selectmen's Meeting on Zoom



COVID-19 shopping rules outside Tom Lowe's



Membership Secretary Jean Langley buying milk in Tom Lowe's



Socially distanced line to buy fish in the parking lot at Davidian's



Who was that masked man??? Fish Day at Davidian's parking lot



Masks & gloves ready for a shopping expedition



How We Live Now