



THE HOURGLASS

NORTHBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

CCCXII

Northborough Historical Society
www.NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org

March 2023

Next Meeting & Program: Friday, March 24, 2023

Northborough's Nineteenth Century Lyceum. Kathleen M. Howland will present a historical overview of the Lyceum that was a part of our community in the 1800's. It brought our forebears together during winter months to consider topics that were intellectual and social justice oriented. The speakers, including renowned orators such as Lucy Stone and Frederick Douglass, presented educational, political and social issues. As we look back, we have the chance to look forward and the ways this format could advance our modern sense of community.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m., at the Society building, 52 Main St., Northborough, MA. The event is free and open to the public. Masks will be required.



History Corner

by Ken Bennett

Alexandra and Zenya Molnar wrote a fact-filled article for the December 9, 2014 issue of the Community Advocate. The following is the second of three parts of their article.

A History of Northborough Schools - Part 2

South District

The South District School was built in 1796 and was located on Davis Street near the corner of what is now Southwest Cut-off. In 1841 a brick schoolhouse was erected in place of the original. The school was the first district school to close, in 1887, as the number of pupils declined



Center School built in 1837

and it needed repair. One of its notable pupils was politician John Davis, who served two terms representing Massachusetts as a United States senator, two terms as governor of Massachusetts, and as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

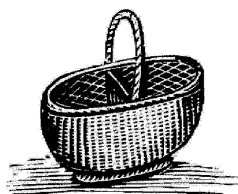
Center District

As the East District School became crowded, another school, which became the Center District, was built in 1811 on Main Street near the modern-day White Cliffs. In 1837 the Center District moved into a new schoolhouse called the Center School. The building is the present Grange and was built in order to accommodate 101 pupils through grade eight. The Center School operated for about 60 years until it was purchased by the Northborough Grange in 1895 and the Hudson Street School was erected.

Factory School

With the opening of the first cotton mill in Northborough, around 1820, many French-speaking Canadians immigrated to Northborough to work in the factories. Even though there was no law that required children to attend school, the Northborough School Committee, in conjunction with the mill owners, voted to open a school for children of factory workers. The Factory School was established in 1880, re-

(continued on page 2)



Curator's News

by Ellen Racine

The Northborough Herald, The Profile, Villager News Recorder, Northborough Star – all of these now defunct newspapers have been collected and are available for you to read and research. There are eight distinct publications / inserts covering the decades from 1960s to 2001.

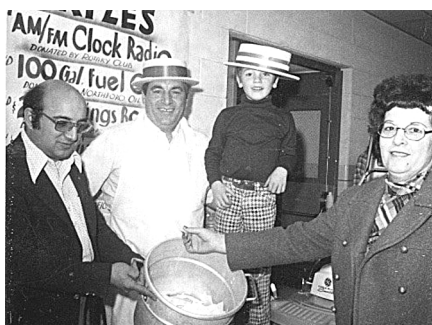
Former editor of the *Northborough Star*, Jodie Martinson, has donated years of this publication including her column, "The random housewife". She also gave us original photographs that were published from 1968 through April of 1975.



This 1974 photo is of former Historical Society member Dot Hunt and Dr. M. C. Chang, co-inventor of the birth control pill.



Bob Trimble with his hi-wheeler, Waldo Bemis and Herb Yankee, 1973. These three men were active in our Historical Society for many years.



Richard Martino, Hector Giovannucci, and two others in 1974
Richard was an optician in town and Hector was a Northborough policeman.

named the Woodside School in the 1920s when the population of factory workers’ children declined, and operated until around 1939. The school had one teacher who was in charge of teaching more than 50 children and young adults, many of whom could not speak English. The school house was dismantled in the 1950s.

Hudson Street School

By the fall of 1895, a new schoolhouse, the Hudson Street School, was built to accommodate students from all school districts except the Factory School. The central schoolhouse was located on Hudson Street near the intersection of Main Street. The two-story Hudson Street School had four large classrooms. It could hold seven to eight grades at one time with about 50 students per room. The school served students until the 1950s and ‘60s when the current elementary schools and high school were built. Only the sixth grade and special education students attended Hudson Street School after the new elementary schools were built. The Hudson Street School building



The Hudson Street School built in 1895

remained at its original site until it was razed in 1983 to clear space for senior housing. The Hudson Street School’s flagpole currently stands at the Northborough Historical Society.

School Populations and Teachers’ Salaries

According to the “Report of the School Committee of the Town of Northborough” for 1896-97, grammar school lasted for 36 weeks while high school was 37 weeks. That year, a high school teacher, all male that school year, earned between \$500 and \$600 whereas female grammar school teachers were paid between \$144 and \$360. In the 1869-70 school year the schools had various class sizes and terms. The high school had 56 students in the spring term and 54 in the fall. The South District only had a spring and fall term with 14 students enrolled in each. On the other hand, the East District had the largest population ranging from 36 to 40 students in all three spring, fall and winter terms. Between 25 and 34 students were enrolled in the North District in all three terms. The West District had between 24 and 29 students throughout the school year.

*Part 2 of an article written by Alexandra and Zenya Molnar, originally published in the Community Advocate.
Part 3 to follow next month.*

Welcome New Members!

Anne Campbell
Janet and Ron Cason

**Next
Board of Directors
Meeting
Tuesday, April 11**



**Custodian
Needed**

The Property Committee is looking for a custodian. If you are interested in the position, or if you would like more information, please contact Paul Derosier at stude38paul@yahoo.com or phone 508-361-7321.

If there is a red dot in the address panel below, it is time to renew your membership.

Membership

Annual Dues:

Single — \$30
Student/Senior — \$25
Family — \$55
Lifetime — \$500

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 each September

► It is now easier than ever to make a donation to Northborough Historical Society ◄
Donations can be made online at our website. www.northboroughhistoricalsociety.org/donate.html

Northborough Historical Society, 52 Main Street, Northborough



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Since 1906, the Northborough Historical Society has preserved our connection with the past. As the Society enters its 117th year, we ask you to consider contributing to our Annual Appeal. We rely on the contributions of members and friends to fund our daily operations, offer public programs, preserve the Society’s building, and continue our commitment to collect and protect documents and artifacts that bring our historical past to life.

Member historians have written more than 200 articles and books about Northborough’s past. Our curator has organized and catalogued thousands of documents and over 6,000 artifacts and is in the process of digitizing many of these records. Our archives are available for research by appointment.

The Northborough Historical Society Museum is located in the 159-year-old former Baptist Church at 52 Main Street. The Museum is open to the public, free of charge. It features artifacts dating from the 1700s to the present. Exhibits honor veterans from the American Revolution to the Iraq War, and commemorate notable sports figures, artists, inventors and business owners.

Our monthly meetings, which are open to the public, are held on the fourth Friday of the month.

Recent programs included:

- Challenger: Soaring with Christa McAuliffe - a program paying homage to Christa’s life
- Before Brooklyn: The Unsung Heroes Who Helped Break Baseball’s Color Barrier
- Code-Breaking: The intriguing history of code-breaking and the role it played in WWII

Upcoming Programs include:

- 18th to Early 20th Century Medicine: Doctors and Their Times *April 28, 2023*
- Eleanor Roosevelt – The First Lady of The World. Portrayed by Sheryl Faye *May 19, 2023*

Please consider a donation to the Society, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your contribution will help us to continue our mission, and enable us to apply for grants that require matching funds.

Sincerely,

Richard Ferenchick

Richard Ferenchick, President, Northborough Historical Society



Thank you for your generous support of the Northborough Historical Society. Your contribution will help the Society to continue its mission of preserving and sharing Northborough’s history



Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please send me more information about membership, and the Society’s programs

☐

I would like to donate: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other amount \$ _____

Please mail this completed form, along with your check made payable to *Northborough Historical Society*, to the address below.

Northborough Historical Society Appeal HG, P.O. Box 661, Northborough, MA 01532

Donations may also be made at our website: www.NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org/donate.html

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