



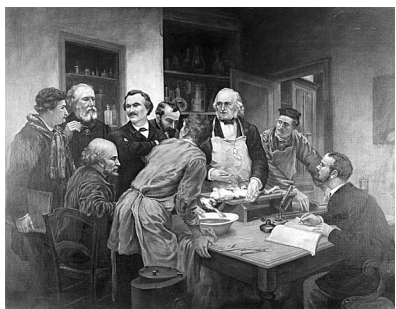
# THE HOURGLASS

## NORTHBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

CCCXIII

Northborough Historical Society  
www.NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org

April 2023



**Next Meeting & Program: Friday, April 28, 2023**

**19th Century Medicine: Doctors and Their Times.** Dale Magee M.D. will share his extensive knowledge of medical history, medical practice during the 19th century, and when and how science replaced outdated medical theories. 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 optional.



### History Corner

by Ken Bennett

The following is the 3rd and final part of an article about the Northborough schools that Alexandra and Zenya Molnar wrote for the December 9, 2014 issue of the Community Advocate.

#### A History of Northborough Schools Part 3 Individual Recollections

Carol Bostock, whose family has lived for several generations in Northborough, attended the Hudson Street School herself and then later taught in the Northborough school system. Bostock was inspired to teach by her mother who taught at the Woodside Schoolhouse, formerly the Factory School, and Marion E. Zeh Elementary School. As a student, Bostock went home for lunch because the school had no cafeteria. Her high school graduating class was 46 students when the town population was around 3,500. Bostock started teaching four first-grade classrooms at the Hudson Street School in 1963 and moved to Marguerite E. Peaslee School in the fall of the same year. Her starting

salary was \$4,500. At the Hudson Street School, Bostock used a hand bell at recess and lunch time, as the school had no bells. Also, when she taught, the nurse was not stationed at one particular school. Instead, the nurse served students on-call, wearing a traditional nurse's uniform.

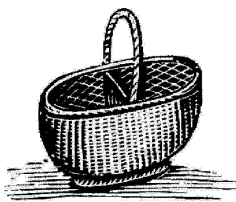
There was no public kindergarten in Northborough during some time of Bostock's teaching career, so most children started school not knowing how to read. Also, Bostock recalls using a mimeograph to copy worksheets and there were no overhead projectors.

Bostock's husband, Eugene, also taught fourth and fifth grade at Peaslee and Lincoln Street schools. He remembers Hudson Street School and said that it was a sad day when it was demolished. In particular, he recalled the large, old furnace that he had to kick to get started.

#### Northborough High School

In 1835, citizens of Northborough realized that there was a need for a high school in the town. The main advantages of a high school would be to attract an experienced teacher who would receive higher wages to a school that is opened longer. The first instance of a high school in Northborough occurred in September 1852 in the upper story of the Center Schoolhouse. The first high school operated for only

*(continued on page 4)*



### Curator's News

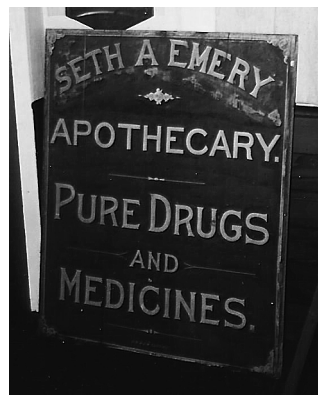
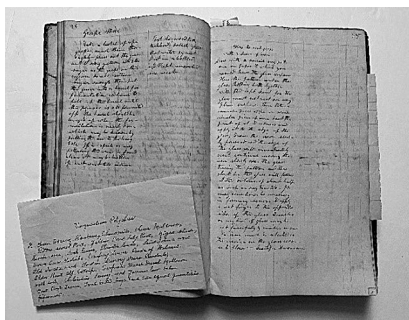
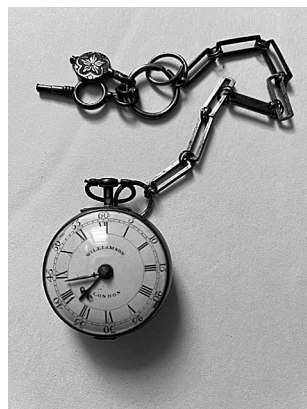
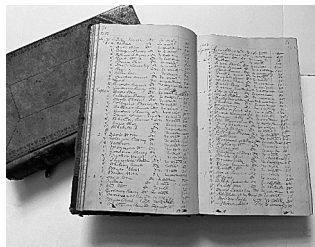
by Ellen Racine

The Museum opens Sunday, May 7, from 2 p.m. - to 4 p.m. Please be sure to check out a new exhibit by Paul Derosier. With his continued interest in Northborough's gas stations, this showcase features Buck's Bears. Back in the 1920s Eugenia and Fred Buck had bears as an attraction to their gas station and apple cider stand.



Eugenia Buck and "friend"

Our April 28 program on 19<sup>th</sup> century medicine by Dr. Dale Magee should be a fascinating one. From our collection we have Dr. Henry Jewett's medical log journal from 1849-1893; Dr. Stephen Ball II's (1767-1850) "1839 Recipe Book", with a transcription and his pocket watch, from early 1800s, and Seth Emory's apothecary sign.



# NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Underlined names are submitted to be voted on at the  
May 19, 2023 Annual Meeting

POSITION	PERSON	TERM ENDS
President	<u>Mike Duchesneau</u>	2024
Vice President	_____	2024
Directors	Mark Bashour	2024
	Kathleen Howland	2024
	Rob Van Buren	2025
	Paul Derosier	2025
	<u>Zenya Molnar</u>	2026
	<u>Alex Molnar</u>	2026
Treasurer	Dale Williams	2024
Membership Secretary	Jean Langley	2024
Recording Secretary	Hilary Wilson	2024
Museum Trustees	Jane Fletcher	2024
	Diane Lyford	2024
	Lynne Derosier	2025
	Allyn Phelps Jr	2025
	<u>Carol Bostock</u>	2026
	<u>Linda Corbin</u>	2026
Publicity	Laura Ziton	2024
	Carolyn Squillante	2025
	<u>Hilary Wilson</u>	2026
Hospitality	Suzanne Williams	2024
	Debra Bennett	2025
	<u>Cindy Atwood</u>	2026
Program	Janice Ferenchick	2024
	Cathy Duchesneau	2025
	<u>Nadine Proctor</u>	2026
Property	Peter Stone	2024
	Chuck Liljestrand	2025
	<u>Paul Derosier</u>	2026
Kitchen	Marcia Parsneau	2024
	Rhonda Van Buren	2025
	<u>Jane Fletcher</u>	2026
Legislative	Kenneth Bennett	2024
	Rob Van Buren	2025
	<u>Jean Langley</u>	2026
Nominating	<u>Rick Ferenchick</u>	2024
	<u>Hilary Wilson</u>	2024
	<u>Rob Van Buren</u>	2024
Ways and Means	Mark Bashour	2024
	_____	2025
	<u>Henry Squillante</u>	2026

Submitted by the Nominating Committee:  
Jane Fletcher ▪ Laura Ziton ▪ Ken Bennett

## Membership

### Annual Dues:

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

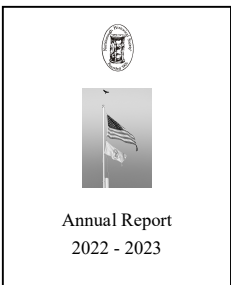
Send dues to:  
Northborough Historical Society  
Membership Secretary  
P.O. Box 661  
Northborough, MA 01532

Please make checks payable to  
*Northborough Historical Society*

Dues are due each September

## Calling All Officers and Committee Chairs!

Please make sure that you get  
your annual committee reports to  
Hilary Wilson by May 1.



We need to have the entire  
Annual Report ready in time for  
the Annual Meeting - your  
cooperation would be  
much appreciated.

Please email your report to:  
**hilarywilson@charter.net**

**Next  
Board of Directors  
Meeting  
Tuesday, May 9**



## Custodian Needed

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

Only members who have paid dues for the 2022 - 2023 Society  
year may vote at this annual meeting. If you are not sure if your  
dues are current, please email Membership Secretary Jean Langley.

**MembershipSecretary@NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org**

**Proposed by-law amendments to be voted on by the members  
at the Annual Meeting to be held on May 19, 2023.**

The Legislative Committee is submitting the following amendments to the bylaws for consideration at our May Annual Meeting and recommends their acceptance. These amendments come from Board of Directors recommendations to improve the efficiency of the organization. Changes to Article III make adjustment of dues to an administrative function handled by the board and regular membership meeting, rather than a legislative one requiring a by-law change and vote at annual meeting.

The Article IX change provides a longer period for members to submit suggested by-law changes for consideration the same year. Changes suggested after the date are not sure to be considered until the following year.

Text to be deleted is struck through; text to be added is underlined and bolded.

**ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP**

**Application for Membership**

Application for membership may be made by any prospective member by filing an application with and paying dues to the Membership Secretary.

**Class of Membership; ~~and~~ Dues**

Active Members	<del>\$30.00</del>
Student (with ID)	<del>\$25.00</del>
Seniors (over 65)	<del>\$25.00</del>
Family (2 adults and their children aged 18 & under)	<del>\$55.00</del>
Life Members	<del>\$500.00</del>
Honorary Members	<del>No Charge</del>

**Dues amounts for each class of membership may be adjusted from time to time as proposed by the Board of Directors and voted on at any membership meeting.** All dues shall be payable in September. Nonpayment of dues shall constitute resignation. The Board of Directors may reinstate a member upon payment of unpaid dues.

**ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1. Process**

The By-laws may be amended at an Annual Meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present. Members proposing changes must do so in writing to the Legislative Committee by ~~December~~ **January** 31. The Legislative Committee will consider these as part of their annual review of the Bylaws for needed change and after deliberation provide the Board of Directors with specific recommendations for changes by the March Board of Directors meeting. The Board of Directors shall review changes to determine if they are ready for consideration at the Annual Meeting.

Submitted by the Legislative Committee: Ernie Racine ▪ Ken Bennett ▪ Rob Van Buren

---

**New Membership / Dues Renewal**

**Dues are due in September!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I am interested in volunteer opportunities

Areas of special interest \_\_\_\_\_

Rates:    ☐ Single--\$30    ☐ Senior / Student--\$25    ☐ Family--\$55    ☐ Life Membership--\$500

☐ 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 mail this completed form along with your check, made payable to *Northborough Historical Society*, to:

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

two terms, or sixth months, before it closed.

Ultimately, the Northborough High School opened in 1866, as the town again found it necessary to have a school that operated for the whole year and for students beyond the age of 16. They believed that opening a high school would encourage children to attend school for a longer time. The first school term, in which 34 students over the age of 12 attended, started on May 1, 1866, and ended the last day of June. The school was originally located in the former town hall building of Northborough which was located on land facing Whitney Street near the current Unitarian Universalist Church. The building burned down in 1870 and a new one was built nearby.

Unlike the current tradition at Algonquin Regional High School, graduations did not exist at the high school for several years. In fact, students could stay as long or as little as they wanted before the first graduation occurred in 1878, 12 years after the school was founded.

In the 1870s, students took subjects that resemble the current curriculum of the high school, but they also studied a few subjects that would be unusual to today's student. The standard courses included arithmetic, geography, grammar, reading and spelling, writing, history, chemistry, drawing and physiology. Latin, German and French were offered as electives. Certain courses were required that students today may wish they could take, including bookkeeping, botany,

natural philosophy, rhetoric, astronomy, geology, and elementary zoology.

As years passed and the high school became crowded, a new high school was built in 1924 in a location which many Northborough residents would recognize: the current Northborough town offices at 63 Main St. The building burned in 1938 but was rebuilt with an addition to the original design.

A new high school building, Algonquin Regional High School, officially opened in its current location, 79 Bartlett St., Sept. 11, 1959, where it welcomed 444 students, 273 from Northborough and 171 from Southborough. In 1959, the former high school at 63 Main St. became Elwood S. Fraser Junior High School. The junior high school was named after Fraser, who was the principal of Northborough High School from 1938 to 1959.

Modern-day Elementary and Middle Schools

The four elementary schools as they exist today were built between 1950 and 1965. The Marion E. Zeh School was built in 1950. Fannie E. Proctor School opened in 1956. The Marguerite E. Peaslee School was built in 1962. Lincoln Street School opened in 1965. Lastly, the Northborough Middle School, currently called Robert E. Melican Middle school, was built in 1971.



This is the 3rd and final part of an article about the Northborough schools written by Alexandra and Zenya Molnar and published in the Community Advocate. The entire article can be found at :

<https://www.communityadvocate.com/2014/12/09/a-history-of-northborough-schools>

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

► 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](http://www.northboroughhistoricalsociety.org/donate.html)