



THE HOURGLASS

NORTHBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

CCCIX

Northborough Historical Society
www.NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org

May 2023



Next Meeting & Program: Friday, May 19, 2023

Eleanor Roosevelt – The First Lady of The World as portrayed by professional actor Sheryl Faye. Eleanor Roosevelt is one of the top ten most admired people of the 20th century. She advocated for the rights of women, minorities, immigrants and refugees, and accomplished many historical firsts as the First Lady. 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. *This program is funded in part by a grant from the Northborough Cultural Council.*



History Corner

by Ken Bennett

Northborough High School Alumni Association Reunion

Last September was the 149th reunion of the Northborough High School Alumni Association which was held at the Haven Country Club in Boylston. The reunion was open to anyone who ever attended Northborough High School, Peters High School, Algonquin Regional High School, or Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School.

I have gone to the reunion on four occasions, the first being about seven years ago when Dick Sargent was president. My daughter, who also graduated from Algonquin, came with me because she wanted to see the inside of White Cliffs, which is where the reunion was held. She won the prize for the youngest person there. In September of 2021 at lunch at the Haven Country Club I sat beside Paul Pisinski, whom I had never met before. He was in the first class to graduate from Algonquin in 1960 after going to Northborough High School the first 3 years. He also played football for Algonquin.

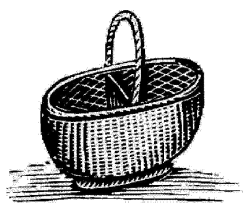


Class 1962

Last year the class of 1962 celebrated their 60th class reunion with us and had 14 classmates there. Bill Davis, representing the class, gave a short speech. Bill is the football player who caught the ball in the end zone at the end of our Thanksgiving Day match up with Westborough to win the game. It was the first time a Northborough team had beaten Westborough in nine years. I played on the Algonquin football team the following two years in my junior and senior years with Bill's brother Ted Davis.

The first Northborough High School was in the old Town Hall which was located on Whitney Street and burned in 1870. A new high school was then built on the same land later in 1870. That same year, the Northborough High School Reunion was formed and began meeting in 1872 on Thanksgiving eve in the Town Hall for supper and dancing.

(continued on page 2)



Curator's News

by Ellen Racine

One of the most time-consuming and fun projects this month was working with Satoshi Conway, a Junior at Algonquin. He, and a group of students, are assembling an exhibit of the former high schools in Northborough and Southborough. I pulled out several duplicate artifacts that we could donate: unidentified 1958 football jersey, sports letters, embroidered logo of a Native American, yearbooks and student newspapers called "The Scoop". As Satoshi looked through scrapbooks, class photos and graduation pamphlets, he was most amazed at how students of these decades looked alike with their hairstyles and clothing. I scanned many class and sports photos for him

to use in a virtual booklet. I included photos from 1884 through the 1970s with Mike Sherman and Mark Fidrych as students, and the marching band directed by James Scott. Here is a Northborough High School photo from 1884. In identical plaid dresses are Fannie Proctor, a teacher for some 40

years, and her sister Emma Proctor who ran the Proctor Button & Comb factory after the death of her father, Josiah Proctor. The girl in the center, wearing a dark dress and hat, is the adopted daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Chapin. Ezra owned a woolen mill on Hudson St., beyond the Woodside mill.



History Corner, continued

A new high school was built on Main Street in 1924 and at the meeting that year, the group toured the new school. Over time meetings were held in the school, the Historical Society Museum or in the Unitarian Church. The first group picture was taken in 1931 with 130 alumni present. The Northborough Grange prepared supper for some of the meetings.

Simeon Fouracre, Class of 1935, donated coffee mugs with a picture of the high school printed on them. They were presented to all members of the 50-year class at the annual meeting in 1986. The Class of 1939 went to the World's Fair in New York for their class trip, and in the year of their 50th reunion, they showed pictures and talked about their adventures at the fair.

The 100th anniversary annual meeting was held on October 21, 1972, at the Lincoln Street School, with a reception and tea in the afternoon, and a supper in the evening, with entertainment from the Mulligan Guards. In 1979, the group had guided tours of Algonquin Regional High School. Graduates of Algonquin were again encouraged to become involved in the association.

During the annual meeting in 2005, a plaque was dedicated naming the Municipal Building for the former principal of Northborough High School, Elwood S. Fraser. A statue of a Minute Man, donated by Mr. and Mrs. William Maney, was placed on the front lawn of the Municipal building, and dedicated at the same meeting.

The Northborough High School Association looks forward to many more annual meetings. Since the last graduating class from Northborough High School was the Class of 1959, participation of later graduating classes is encouraged. Let's keep these reunions going for many years to come! Correspondence can be addressed to P.O. Box 693, Northborough, MA 01532. The next Northborough High School Alumni Association Reunion will be this year, September 30, 2023, from 12 noon - 4 p.m. at the Haven Country Club.



Class in gym

NHS Annual Report is available at: northboroughhistoricalsociety.org/pdf/Annual_Report_2022-2023.pdf

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



**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.

Annual Meeting

**The Society Annual Meeting
will take place at 7 p.m. on
Friday, May 19 at the
Society Building.**

Welcome New Member!

Deb Black
Michael Durkin
Nadine Proctor

**Next
Board of Directors
Meeting**

Tuesday, September 12

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