



THE HOURGLASS

NORTHBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

CCCXIV

Northborough Historical Society
www.NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org

January 2024



Effingham Capron

Next Meeting & Program: Friday, January 26, 2024

Underground History at Blackstone National Park. Susan Franz, a history professor, will describe her experience working to gain National Park Service designation for Underground Railroad locations in the Blackstone River Valley, which led to recognition by the African American Heritage Trail.

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

Northborough 1962 and 1963

Bob Ellis wrote an article for the May 2012 Hourglass titled "Northborough in 1962" which caught my attention because it was an important time of my life when I was midway through high school.

The Hourglass article gives information about the selectmen's 1962-1963 Annual Town Report which discussed the very poor condition of the town hall, whether it should have major restorations done to it or should it be destroyed and replaced with a new building.

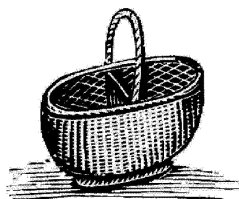
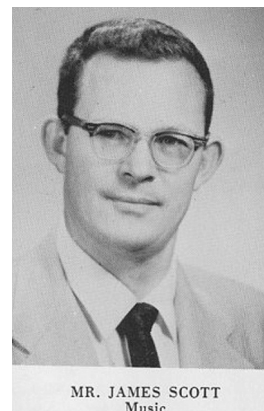
Other items covered in this report were routes 495 and 290 which were under construction at the time, and town fire and police protection. Francis P. Boudreau who had been the town's police chief for thirty years, died and was replaced by James Carbrej. Rachel Carson's very influential environmental book *Silent Spring* is mentioned. This book was the beginning of my interest in organic gardening. Bob writes about the nationally famous boxers like Joe Gans and Sam Langford who had once trained on the third floor of the Winn-Whitaker building at the corner of Main and South Streets. He recently talked about this subject at the Senior Center.

Also in this Hourglass article was information about Algonquin Regional, Hudson Street, Maple Street, and Lincoln Street Schools.

Our class was the beginning of the baby boomers and in 1962 I was midway through high school, having finished my sophomore year in June of 1962 and started my junior year that September. I had spent 5 years at the Howard Street School, now the Marion Zeh School, and had double sessions in fourth and seventh grade at the Hudson Street School. For eighth grade in the fall of 1959 we were at the old high school which is now the Town Offices.

1959 was also the year that Algonquin opened. At Algonquin I played trumpet for 4 years in the band where, besides playing for school functions, we would also march on Memorial Day in Southborough in the morning and in Northborough in the afternoon. Mr. James Scott, our band director, was a great trombone player and would march and play with us on Memorial Day. The band would also play at all the home and away football games. My friend and classmate Chester Leonard who played the baritone, and Ray Rogers who played saxophone in the band, joined the football team in my sophomore year. In my junior year in 1962 Chester would be a starting tackle and linebacker and Ray Rogers was our starting quarterback.

The only games that Algonquin lost in 1959 and 1960 were the last games of the season on Thanksgiving Day against Westboro. Also, the six years before that Northboro High School had lost all the Thanksgiving games against Westboro. Then in 1961 with time running out and Algonquin losing, Bill Davis caught a
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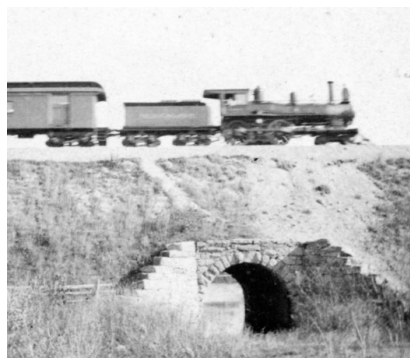
Curator's News

by Ellen Racine

It's been a busy few weeks for the start of the New Year. Three researchers came to the archive to investigate their curiosities from Holloway Taylors farm - spinning wheels and yarn winders. Two passionate railroad enthusiasts spent two hours pouring over our photos and files. Bob Kennerly's program slides and notes helped them tremendously with the Agricultural Branch Railroad, that was completed in 1855, and ran through Northboro. They are preparing a presentation which includes the towns that this RR passed through.

Hopefully they will present this program to our Historical Society.

My thanks to Ernie Racine for helping with their research and broadening my vocabulary with such terms as "cornfield meet, gandy dancer, and siding."



Train on bridge over
Cold Harbor Brook, 1880s

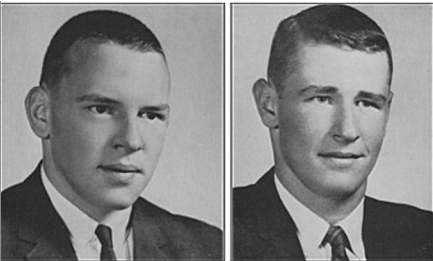


Snow plow heading to Berlin from
Whitney St. bridge, 1973

History Corner, continued

long Ken Leitch pass in the endzone to win the game which was the first time a Northborough football team won the Thanksgiving game against Westboro. Dick Walsh was the head coach and John Sullivan was his assistant coach.

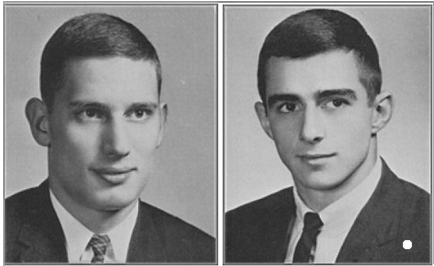
Our 3 captains in 1962, my junior year when I joined the football team, were John Macnamara, Gene Bullos, and Bobby Laforest. Cliff Martin and I ended up being the starting defensive tackles. The game in 1962 that I remember the most was against Hudson. There was a huge crowd of people to watch this game because it was the last game before the Thanksgiving game and both teams were undefeated. I remember making a lot of tackles and recovering a fumble in the game. Hudson blocked a punt and scored a touchdown on it, winning the game 6-0. We would go on to win the Thanksgiving game against Westboro that year. There was a very scary time during the Cuban missile crisis which occurred during our 1962 football season.



Charles Sargent John Schunder

The following year our captains were John Rose and Frank Tetreault whose sister is Janice Ferenchick. Our starting fullback was John Schunder who was the head of the Northborough DPW for many years. Our record

in 1963 was 5-2-1. In the game against Hudson which had been the only team to beat Algonquin in the previous 2 seasons, we had a 0-0 tie. On the very last play of that game Frank Tetreault threw a long pass which Chester Leonard caught and was tackled at the 5-yard line. We easily won our Thanksgiving game with Westboro 30-6. That game featured a block punt by Charlie Sargent and a touchdown run by our 200-pound center Paul Mazzairelli. It was at football practice preparing for the Thanksgiving game on the Friday afternoon of November 22, 1963, that I heard the awful news of the assassination of our president, John F. Kennedy.



Chester Leonard Frank Tetreault

You can read the Bob Ellis May 2012 Hourglass article titled "Northborough in 1962 on the Society website.

northboroughhistoricalsociety.org/Hourglass/Hourglass_2012_05.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.

Next
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, February 13

Welcome New Members!

Adrian & Patricia Kennedy
John Nelson

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

Information about future programs and more is available on our website.
www.NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org

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