



THE HOURGLASS

NORTHBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

CCCXVII

Northborough Historical Society
www.NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org

April 2024



Next Meeting & Program: Friday, April 26 2024. The Blizzard of '78.

Michael Tougias recounts how New England was knocked to its knees in February, 1978 by an incredible snow and wind storm. The lecture will follow the storm through its progression; the period before the storm, the commuter nightmares, and the ensuing devastation.

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

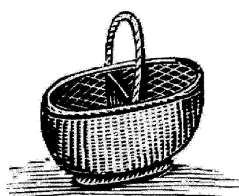
The Northborough Star Newspaper

From December 1967 to the spring of 1975 our town had its own weekly newspaper called the Northborough Star. The editor for most of that time was Jodie Martinson. Jodie is from Pennsylvania and achieved a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism before coming to Northborough in 1963. She worked for several local newspapers before becoming editor of the Star. She has also been an active member of the Northborough Historical Society for many years. Jodie gave a presentation about the Star at the Society in 2009, and she donated 7 big boxes of the weekly editions of the Star to the Society. Last June I had a discussion with Jodie about the Star when she was a host at the museum.

One 1969 news item in the Star that caught my attention was the Mt. Pisgah Park project which the Department of Natural Resources was considering for a state park. It was a 2100-acre tract that included acre



(continued on page 4)



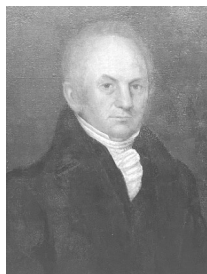
Curator's News

by Ellen Racine

The Ball Family

If you have been a member of the Society for several years, you have heard mention of Dr Stephen Ball II and his wife Lydia Lincoln occasionally.

They married in 1800 and he was a doctor for 54 years in town. Their house still stands at 38 Main Street. Last month descendants Rebecca Hagerty and her two lovely twin daughters visited the archive and donated these early oil portraits of their ancestors and approximately 75 articles of clothing and trimmings dating back to the 1700s.



Kathy Pierce joined me in welcoming the family and hearing all the wonderful stories. They also had a chance to visit their grandmother's house that Becca remembered visiting as a child.

Back in 2019, another branch of the family (Graves) donated letters, diaries, books and photo albums. We now have a wonderful record of the family that lived and served the town for five generations.



Lydia's pink velvet ball dress from the 1830s

Alice M. Swainhart Irwin's wedding dress of 1914.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Underlined names are submitted to be voted on at the
May 17, 2024 Annual Meeting

Position	Person	Term Expires
President	<u>Mike Duchesneau</u>	2025
Vice President	<u>Janice Ferenchick</u>	2025
Directors	Rob Van Buren	2025
	Paul Derosier	2025
	Zenya Molnar	2026
	Alex Molnar	2026
	<u>Ken Bennett</u>	2027
	<u>Valerie Kennedy</u>	2027
	<u>Dale Williams</u>	2027
Treasurer	<u>Jean Langley</u>	2027
Membership Secretary	<u>Hilary Wilson</u>	2027
Recording Secretary		
Museum Trustees	Lynne Derosier	2025
	Allyn Phelps Jr	2025
	Carol Bostock	2026
	Linda Corbin	2026
	<u>Jane Fletcher</u>	2027
	<u>Kathy Pierce</u>	2027
	Carolyn Squillante	2025
Publicity	Hilary Wilson	2026
	<u>Zenya Molnar</u>	2027
	<u>Alex Molnar</u>	2027
	Debra Bennett	2025
Hospitality	Cindy Atwood	2026
	<u>Marcia Parsneau</u>	2027
	Cathy Duchesneau	2025
Program	Nadine Proctor	2026
	<u>Suzanne Williams</u>	2027
	Chuck Liljestrand	2025
Property	Paul Derosier	2026
	<u>Bob Van Buren</u>	2027
	Rhonda Van Buren	2025
Kitchen	Jane Fletcher	2026
	<u>Marcia Mills</u>	2027
	Bob Van Buren	2025
Legislative	Jean Langley	2026
	<u>Hilary Wilson</u>	2027
	Rick Ferenchick	2025
Nominating	<u>Carolyn Squillante</u>	2025
	<u>Carol Bostock</u>	2025
	<u>Mike Mills</u>	2025
Ways and Means	Henry Squillante	2026
	<u>Marie Spence</u>	2027

Submitted by the Nominating Committee:
Rick Ferenchick ▪ Bob Van Buren ▪ Hilary Wilson

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

Next

Board of Directors
Meeting

Tuesday, May 14



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.

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

Only members who have paid dues for the 2023 - 2024 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 amendment to be voted on by the members
at the Annual Meeting to be held on May 17, 2024.**

Proposed Change to By-Laws concerning Finance Committee appointments vs. elections

Currently there is a contradiction in our by-laws concerning the Finance Committee. In Articles V and IV under standing committees, the by-laws clearly state that the Finance Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors. Article IV under Finance erroneously states that the Finance Committee is elected.

Article V, Terms of Office, Section 1, D, Standing Committees, Finance, page 10

This clearly states that the Finance Committee is appointed by the BOD, so no change required there.

Article IV, Section 6, Standing Committees, Page 7

This already clearly states that the Finance Committee is appointed by the BOD so, no change required there.

The Proposed Amendment

Current Wording

Article IV, Section6, H, Finance, 1. Page 9

“The Finance Committee Shall consist of three members, each serving a three-year term, with one elected annually, plus the Vice-President, who shall be chairperson, and the Treasurer who shall be ex-officio with vote.”

Proposed Wording

Article IV, Section6, H, Finance, 1. Page 9

“The Finance Committee Shall consist of three members, each serving a three-year term, plus the Vice-President, who shall be chairperson, and the Treasurer who shall be ex-officio with vote.”

Submitted by the Legislative Committee: Ken Bennett ▪ Rob Van Buren ▪ Jean Langley

Meet the unsung heroine behind the new deal: Frances Perkins

The Northborough Historical Society and the Northborough Free Library are collaborating in a two-part program.

Part 1. Monday April 22, 2024. 7 p.m. at the Northborough Library Meeting Room

Part 2. Friday October 25, 2024. 7 p.m. at Northborough Historical Society

Registration is required at the Library but not at the Historical Society

For more information and registration go to

<https://www.facebook.com/events/430689986290795>. Or scan the QR code →



Frances Perkins

Frances Perkins was the first female US Cabinet Secretary, a relentless advocate for exploited workers, and object of admiration and contempt from her male contemporaries. A Massachusetts native, she dedicated her career to providing exploited working men and woman with safe, humane, fair working conditions.

In this two-part portrayal, audiences will walk through the personal and professional trials and triumphs of this heroic, principled politician. You'll discover her secrets to building alliances and staring down bullies to enact legislation to help make government a champion for working people and retirees.

All ages welcome!

age in Berlin and Boylston, and 900 acres in Northborough which included an area between Green and Howard Streets. More than three quarters of my parent's farm property on Howard Street and Lyman Street in Berlin could have been affected.

A September 1971 article in the Northborough Star was titled “Farewell Reception Given for Trinity Pastor and Family.” This farewell was for Marshall Eck who had been the pastor for 17 years, coming to Trinity in 1954. While he was pastor here, he saw the establishment of three new churches, which were the Episcopalian Church, the Rice Memorial Baptist Church, and the Seventh-day Adventists. The article said that the membership of Trinity Church continued to grow to more than 800. Our family attended Trinity when we were going to school, and we are in the church booklet with the family pictures taken around 1964.

In a 1972 article about Green Acres Nursing Home located near the intersection of Whitney Street and Rice Avenue, several residents of the area were complaining about the vandalism to the building which had been empty for 3 years. My grandparents, with whom I spent a lot of time during my school years, lived on Whitney Street, and I remember seeing the nursing home quite often from their home.



Green Acres Nursing Home

Part of Green Acres was built in the late 1700’s on Church Street and was moved around 1807 to Rice Avenue. It was used as a nursing home for some 50 years.

As a student in the early 1960’s, our school bus would go by the Sparrow Farm on the way to Algonquin. The farm had over 100 milking cows and an additional 50 in young stock. Their barn and house were located on Colburn Street (now Rice Avenue) and their 140 acres of fields surrounded part of Solomon Pond. There was a half-page article in the April 2, 1969, issue of the Star about the future of the Sparrow Farm being in doubt due to the State taking 70 acres from the property for I-290 and the SuAsCo flood control project. A few months later, in the December 31 issue of the Star, Hermon L. Sparrow Jr. the chair of the Board of Selectmen announced that he was retiring from being selectman and would be moving his dairy operation to Vermont.



Sparrow Farm

I have been scanning articles from Jodie Martinson's newspaper, the Northborough Star, and will be posting them Tuesdays on the Historical Society Facebook page in the future.

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

► 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