



# THE HOURGLASS

## NORTHBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

CCCXXVII

Northborough Historical Society  
www.NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org

May 2025



**Next Meeting & Program: Friday, May 16, 2025. The Original Bucky Lew, Basketball's First Black Professional Player.** Author Chris Boucher tells the story of Harry Haskel "Bucky" Lew, from the 18 year-old in 1902 in the NE Basketball League, becoming the first Black Professional player in the country, and his rise to professional basketball, to coach, to general manager, to owner. Chris will include anecdotes of Northborough's basketball history and local players.

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 Norm Corbin, Historian

#### Northborough Minuteman Statue

The Northborough Minuteman Statue is located in front of the Northborough Town Hall at 63 Main Street. It was a generous gift to the town of Northborough from Jane and Bill Maney of Northborough. Jane was a descendant of the famous Revolutionary War General John Stark, and his wife Molly Stark. Jane was active in securing statues for both of the Starks in Vermont.



The plaque reads "THE MINUTEMAN, IN HONOR OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF NORTHBOROUGH WHO SERVED OUR NATION IN WAR AND PEACE, 2005, GIFT OF WILLIAM D. AND JANE S. MANEY"

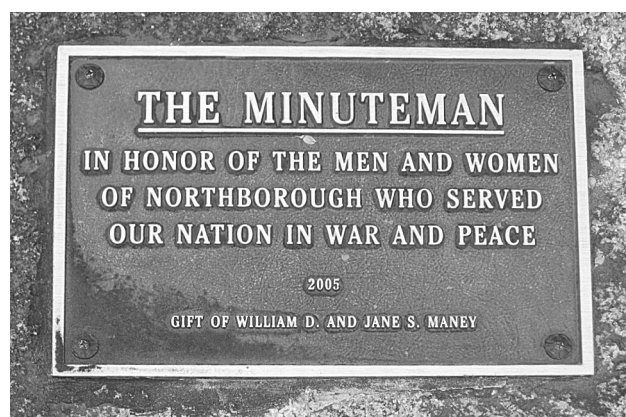
The director, Steven Spielberg, contacted the Maney's about renting the statue for his movie "War of the

Worlds" released in 2005. However, it was never sent to New Jersey for the filming.

On October 26, 1774 the Massachusetts Legislature, meeting in defiance of the Royal Governor, General Thomas Gage, recommended that towns recruit volunteers and "*form them into companies of fifty privates at the least, who shall equip and hold themselves in readiness to march at the shortest notice...*". Because they were expected to be ready quickly, "*at a minute's warning*" they became known as "*Minutemen*".

On April 10, 1775, "*the town voted to pay 50 Minutemen one shilling each, for each half day they shall meet to learn the military art*".

Nine days later, on April 19, 1775 the call came for the battles of Lexington and Concord. Northborough sent 50 trained Minutemen.



#### Photos From the Recent Northborough Revolution 250 Witness House Exhibit



Norm Corbin, Bob Licht, Mitch Cohen

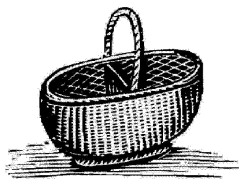


Brian and Lois Smith



A Gathering of Familiar Faces!





**Curator's  
News**  
by Ellen Racine

On May 3rd on the Town Common the start of the Revolution was remembered with appearances from Rev. Peter Whitney, Samuel Wood, and the local Minutemen. Northborough's Mirabel Weston sang the National Anthem and God Bless America, before they headed off to Concord to fight for our Independence.

Our Museum opened on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and is now open through May and June on Sundays from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Under the leadership of Maggie Fitzgerald, her group of fellow Algonquin Seniors dressed in costume to help out in the Museum. In the downstairs meeting hall, there is the exhibit of 27 photographs of "Witness Houses" that are still standing from the Revolutionary War period. Join in the celebration of our Country's birth at your Historical Society events and Museum.



The Minutemen  
Photo by Ellen Racine



Mirabel Weston  
Photo by Kenneth Katz



The Algonquin Colonial Seniors  
Photo by Ellen Racine

**Membership**

Annual Dues:

Single — \$30	Mail dues to:
Student/Senior — \$25	Northborough Historical Society
Family — \$55	Membership Secretary
Lifetime — \$500	P.O. Box 661
	Northborough, MA 01532

*Please make checks payable to  
Northborough Historical Society*  
Dues are due in September each year

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

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

Information about future programs and more  
is available on our website.  
**[www.NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org)**

Scan QR code  
to donate via  
PayPal



**Northborough Historical Society Annual Meeting  
Friday, May 16, 2025 7 p.m.**

# Northborough Historical Society Programs 2025-2026

52 Main Street Northborough, MA 01532

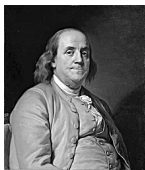
[www.northboroughhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.northboroughhistoricalsociety.org)

Programs take place at the Society building **Fridays at 7:00 p.m.** They are free and open to the public. Please check the Society website to confirm the location near the time of each event

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## September 26, 2025 **Hidden Illness in the White House: Patient Confidentiality vs. the Public Good.**

The presidency of the United States is a demanding job that requires intellectual, emotional, and physical strength. The world depends on a stable executive running the United States government. What happens when they are ill? Dr. Dale Magee will explore 3 presidents: Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt, and Dwight David Eisenhower, to look at the specifics, the uncertainties and the deceptions during their presidencies and their candidacies.



October 24, 2025 **Ben Franklin and the Road to Independence.** Portrayed by Tim O'Connor, Dr. Benjamin Franklin, thrice a Postmaster in America, will discuss the importance of the Post in America's growth, political discontent, revolution, and eventual freedom. Colonial letters will be shown illustrating these points in a very granular approach.

December 5, 2025 **History of the Juniper Hills Golf Course.** Built on the old Brigham farm, the Juniper Hills Golf Course has been in operation for 95 years. Originally built in 1931 by Homer C. Darling, the golf course has remained in the family. It is now run by Dudley Darling who will present a review of the history of this Northborough institution.



January 23, 2026 **You'll Get a Bang Out of Henry Knox.** How did a 25-year-old bookstore owner become the hero who launched the American Revolution without firing a shot? Steven Glovsky explores the improbabilities and inconsistencies of Henry Knox's story, leading up to his undertaking the transport of urgently needed cannon in the winter of 1775 -1776.

February 27, 2026 **Massachusetts' Paranormal Past: The Haunted History of Massachusetts.** Christopher Daley weaves together historical facts, legends, and myths, of the Haunted Hoosac Tunnel, The Curse of Giles Corey, The Old Pilgrim Burial Ground, and The Ghost of the Eunice Williams Bridge. He offers a perspective on real events and the haunting tales.



March 27, 2026 **The Legacy of Inventor Thomas Blair.** Zenya Molnar will speak about Thomas Blair and his role in Northborough's history, as well as his inventions and entrepreneurial pursuits related to photography and other industries. She will also provide context about photography during that point in history in the late 1800s / early 1900s.

April 24, 2026 **How Isaiah Thomas Brought the Revolution to Worcester.** Ashley Cataldo will tell us how Isaiah Thomas, revolutionary printer and founder of the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, traveled with his printing press from Boston to Worcester in April of 1775. Hear how Thomas made the journey and what he did to promote the Revolution in Worcester.



May 15, 2026 **Timber Frame Construction in Early New England.** Tom Kelleher discusses how people in early America built their houses, barns, and sheds long before power tools. This presentation will explore the materials, tools, techniques, traditions, and considerations that went into making a forest into a home.