



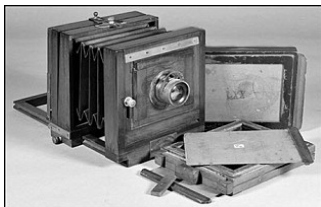
THE HOURGLASS

NORTHBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

CCCXXXIII

Northborough Historical Society
www.NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org

March 2026



Next Meeting & Program: 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.

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

Searching for Colonial Northborough Histories

Over the years I have spent time investigating the ownership of the land on which our home at 35 Whitney Street is built, and investigating the families who lived here. This effort was primarily to document



35 Whitney Street

the property to nominate it for the National Register of Historic Places. Listing the property on the Register was formalized on March 11th 2026. Not being a genealogist, I was fortunate to have guidance from several people skilled in that area including Jenifer Kahn Bakkala, Beth Finch McCarthy, and Jennifer Doherty. In this article I want to provide some guidance to anyone looking into old Northborough records for either land or family information. I was tripped up several times by not knowing where to look.

Location of Vital Records - For the lands currently lying within Northborough, the earliest vital records are in Marlborough databases from 1660 through 1717. The records are in Westborough databases from 1717 through 1744. After 1744 the vital records are located in Northborough, as that was the year Northborough separated from Westborough as a district.

Location of Land Transfers - The recording of land transfer deeds is archived at the County level. There was no Worcester County until July 10, 1731. On that date Worcester County was formed by transferring several towns from the counties of Middlesex, Suffolk, and Hampshire into the new Worcester County. Marlborough stayed within Middlesex County while Northborough and Westborough became part the new Worcester County. Hence, deed information about Westborough and Northborough lands before July 10, 1731 are located in the Middlesex County database. After that date, they are in the Worcester County data-

base. On a side note, on-line access to Worcester County deeds going back to 1731 is relatively easy, whereas those from Middlesex County are not.

Phonetic Spelling - In many instances, vital statistics information on births, deaths, and marriages use phonetic spellings. I had particular interest in the early Hayward family because they were colonial owners of the land our home is on. I have found eleven phonetic spellings for the Hayward name in vital records. The variants include Hayward, Haywood, Hayword, Heywood, Heyward, Hawyard, Howward, Howard, Haward, Harwood and Heaward. Any documents that contain an original signature were always written as Hayward, their correct spelling. The most common second spelling is Howard, a name associated with a Northborough street, cemetery and brook. In addition, the forename Simeon was commonly used in the Hayward family. I've found spellings as Semeon and Semion. Suffice it to say, the phonetic spellings of names can make searching genealogy information quite challenging.

Duplicate Names - The Haywards liked to name several of their children and grandchildren after their patriarch Simeon Hayward (1648/49-1696). I'm sure this is a common genealogy headache. So, care must be made to identify the different people by their birth/death dates.

Name Challenges - One last name confusion I had was because there were two instances in Massachusetts where a Gideon Hayward married a Lydia. This side tracked me for a while until I found references to the maiden names for the two Lydias and their marriage information. One couple was from the Northborough area and the other near Hingham, Massachusetts.

Calendar change - In 1752, Great Britain and its American colonies switched from the Julian Calendar to the Gregorian calendar. This change aligned them with most of Europe. The change resulted in the loss of eleven days because **September 2, 1752, was followed immediately by September 14, 1752.** The act also changed the start of the legal year from March 25th to January 1st.

Save the Date!



Northborough Historical Society Pizza Party

When: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Where: Northborough Historical Society, 52 Main Street,
Northborough, MA 01532

Tickets: Will be \$15. Ticket price includes 2 slices of
pizza, and salad



The Pizza Party is a fundraiser for the Society

Watch out for more details and get your tickets as soon as they go on sale.
The number of tickets will be limited.

Don't miss out!

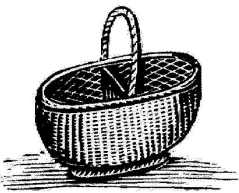
Welcome New Member!

Lester Malecki

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

www.NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org

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



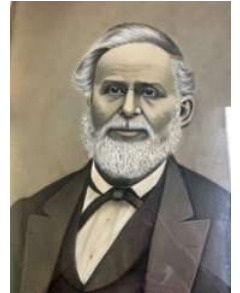
Curator's News by Ellen Racine

Lois Smith and I have been conducting a current inventory of framed paintings, portraits and documents in the archive. We are checking accession numbers, taking photographs and checking for archival backings of each item. There are approximately 266 framed articles in our collection. A few of my favorite portraits are the

crayon/pastel enhanced photographs of Hezekiah Higgins Crosby and his adult daughter, Rose Crosby Warren. The Crosby brick house is still standing on South Street, and the Warren house on W. Main St., next to Mayo's Pet Supply. In his early years, Hezekiah was a traveling peddler and later a market gardener. His daughter Rose kept a diary during her teenage years from 1866 through 1925. We have her blue silk wedding dress that she made and Rose was one of the first women in Northborough to vote on November 2, 1920.



Rose Crosby Warren



Hezekiah Higgins Crosby

► 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

Membership

Annual Dues:

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

Mail 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 in September each year

Scan QR code
to donate via
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**Next
Board of Directors
Meeting
Tuesday, April 14**