

NORTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 1711

18 West Main Street

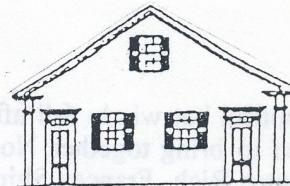
Norton, MA 02766

508-285-7070

<http://cs.wheatonma.edu/nhs>

Hours:
Wednesday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Thursday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. E-Mail Address nortonhistoricalsociety@verizon.net



November 15, 2011
7:30 p.m.

Meeting Notice

The Public is invited to attend all meetings of the Norton Historical Society.

FROM THE SCHOOLMARM'S DESK

Once again, November arrival brings colder, frosty mornings and the trees becoming bare as the leaves fall to the ground. The air is invigorating as one rakes the leaves to place in the compost pile. Yes, there are still people who use rakes rather than mechanical machines - excellent exercise and less pollution!

We welcome new member Noreen Kiff of N. Attleboro to our Society. We thank the many members who have renewed their membership. Without this support, we would not be able to pursue our mission to collect and preserve memorabilia relative to the history of Norton and the encouragement of any cultural activities. If your address label has the date 2011, please renew your membership by the end of November. **Single - \$5.00; Family - \$8.00; Supporting - \$25.00; Single Life - \$100.00.**

We are saddened with the passing of Marie Lemieux, née Yelle. She was the last surviving sibling of 8 brothers and 4 sisters. Marie was born and educated in Norton. She and her husband, Raymond, were employed at Fernandes Market until retirement. Marie was an active member of our Society, participating in many activities through the years. We express our condolences to her family and friends.

THANK YOU

We appreciate Chartley Garden Club member Diane Rowe and her husband Jonathan tending the herb garden by our back steps during the year. The appearance and fragrance are such pleasures as one passes by. Thank you, to Diane and Jonathan who are also Society members.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

With the approaching holiday season, we continue to have Tricentennial Souvenir items for sale at the museum. Our Society also has some nice items to give as gifts. Some of them are: "**Images of America: Norton**" \$19.00; reprint of **Clark's History of Norton** - \$55.00; reprints of Norton Maps (1855, 1871, 1895) - \$7.00 each; and magnets of different sites around town - \$2.00 each. The Town Historical Commission is offering a historical plaque/marker program. Property owners can acquire a customized marker to display on the front of a building for \$75.00. Applications are available at the Old Schoolhouse or the Public Library.

DONATIONS

Ellen McGrath has done extensive research on the Bonny-Storer house situated on Mansfield Avenue. She and her husband own the house. Ellen compiled her research in a notebook to donate to the Society. She also donated a J. C. Solmonese tee shirt for the year 1997. Mark Hoyle has donated pencils engraved, "Hoyle Photo Services" which his father, David, operated.

MEETING

November 15, 2011 at 7:30 P. M. - Ronald Benaski will present our next village program, "Winneconnet." Winneconnet Village is about 3 miles east of Norton Center. This village has grown more slowly than the rest of the town. Lake Winneconnet is the only good-sized, natural, body of water in the town. It is said that Winneconnet is a Native American word for "the place of black geese." Old Bay Road extends from Boston Bay to Taunton, passing through Winneconnet. Originally a Native American trail, it was later used by the early settlers. It became a postal route and stage road. Bay Road was made a scenic road by the town in 1974, and the entire byway is a national historic highway. Do join us for an enjoyable evening.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE PARK

On a beautiful but windy fall afternoon, October 23, the dedication of the Tricentennial Park was held. This park was developed to bring together Norton's past, present and it's future, The Park Committee, Mary E. Brown, Brendon Jones, Butch Rich, Frances Shirley and Phil Zawasky under the leadership of Kathy Ebert-Zawasky, accomplished a fantastic undertaking to incorporate these aspects into a well designed park for people to enjoy today and in the future. It is wonderful how so many people came forward to generously give their time, suggestions, encouragement and donations - a truly community effort. When you have a moment, drop by, sit on a bench (try the Society's seat) and contemplate our town's past history, its present 300th anniversary and its future for our younger generation. KUDOS to all.

OPEN HOUSES

Although there is no meeting held by our Society in December, we will have 2 open houses. One will be held on December 4th, after the Festival of Lights ceremony on the common. Then on December 11th, we will have a holiday open house between 2:00 P. M. and 4:00 P. M. We hope you will join us for holiday cheer.

IF YOU CLEAN THE ATTIC OR THE CLOSETS, REMEMBER US

As you begin to down size, please remember the Norton Historical Society. We are very pleased to receive photos, scrapbooks, class pictures, souvenirs from school days or any other memorabilia that family members may not be interested in. For example, we have a large collection of scrapbooks that Mrs. Findlater worked on for years and Mark Hoyle donated scrapbooks of Norton's Championship Baseball Teams. So please consider us before you toss old memories out in the trash. We will provide a very good home.

COULD YOU VOLUNTEER?

Could you give us a few hours of your time? We have many projects. Could you do some work on our copy machine? How about on our scanner? We have articles that need to be cut from old newspapers, filing, some computer work, setting up museum exhibits, small carpentry projects, painting, a little yard work, etc. A few hours would help us very much.

HARRY BURBANK GENEALOGY CORNER

We are starting to organize Harry's Genealogy Corner. If you have genealogy work that you have completed on any family in Norton, would you be willing to donate a copy to the Historical Society? You would be surprised how many e-mails we receive asking about Norton families. We could make a copy if you don't have one and could also scan your pictures.

MERRY CHRISTMAS NORTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The cost of heating and lighting the Old Schoolhouse as well as providing materials for our many projects has increased every year. Our dues have not. We can no longer survive on the interest in our accounts. On the other hand, times are difficult and we would not want to prevent someone from belonging to the Society because they could not afford an increase in the dues. We would like you to think about our situation however, and if you can afford to make an additional contribution we would be profoundly thankful. Perhaps you would consider adding us to your Christmas list. Even the smallest amount would be appreciated.

A FEW THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

To write with a broken pencil is pointless.
When fish are in schools they sometimes take debate.
A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
When the smog lifts in Los Angeles , U.C.L.A.
The professor discovered that her theory of earthquakes was on shaky ground.
The batteries were given out free of charge.
A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
A will is a dead giveaway.
If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.
With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft and I'll show you A-flat miner.
You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
Local Area Network in Australia : The LAN down under.
A boiled egg is hard to beat.
Police were called to a day care where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

LAWRENCE STANDISH "LANKY" REINHART



Lawrence Standish "Lanky" Reinhart was a well known, cherished resident of the Winnecunnet Village. He was born in 1909 and at the age of 15, he came to live on Bay Road across from the lake. His mother bought him an axe which began his life as a wood cutter and an expert arborist.

Through the years, this tall man with his charming wit and wisdom, was well loved by our townspeople. Lanky was proclaimed Norton's mayor during our country's 1976 bicentennial. He served as Norton's tree warden from 1955-1979 at which time he retired. He was the top vote getter in every election in which he ran. It was well-known about town that when the annual town reports were distributed, people would eagerly turn to Lanky's report to read because "he called 'em as he saw 'em."

Here's a sampling of his wit and Yankee wisdom found in some of his tree warden reports.
"Your tree warden attended six county and state tree warden meetings. I keep learning things; it ain't all goofing off time."

"In my 1974 report I said we were finally eyeball to eyeball with the gypsy moth. This year I blinked."

"We mashed and replaced a mailbox while taking off a big limb. The limb was suppose to zig but it zagged."

"Christmas we had three inches of no snow."

"It took me a few years to learn how to determine which to work on and which to whop off."

When a supply bid came in higher than expected he said, **"I swallowed my gum at the price."**

He once commented, "President Calvin Coolidge said, 'Use it up. Wear it out. Make it do.' My Old Dad said, 'I've been doing mechanical experimental work all my life, and now they call it RESEARCH.' He also said, 'Boy, you got to learn to save.' I think we all got to save. Now they call it RECYCLE."

Lanky's sense of humor followed him to his grave. His tombstone at Timothy Plain Cemetery has the following epitaph: "Here lies the shell. The nut is gone."