

NORTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 1711

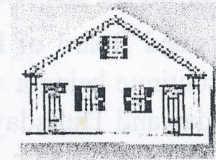
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May 21, 2013

7:00 p.m. Buffet 6:00 p.m.

Hours:

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

Thursday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Meeting Notice

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

FROM THE SCHOOLMARM'S DESK

Spring has arrived in full glory. The display of forsythia, daffodils, Bradford pears, azaleas and other flowering trees has been spectacular. Certainly has helped to diminish our memories of the past snowbound winter. It is baseball season and our high school and Wheaton College teams are having spectacular winnings. During May, 1913, the Barrowsville Bleachery organized a baseball nine and were waiting to hear from teams from other factories. Later known as the Defiance Bleachery team, the Defiance boys were champions of the Attleboro Manufacturer's League in 1927. The team had an exciting game that year against the Southern Bleachery champion team from South Carolina. The teams were tied until the last inning when the Southern team made the winning run. Throughout the years, Norton has had outstanding baseball teams.

MEETING

May is the month when the Norton Historical Society and the Land Preservation Society of Norton hold their combined meeting to be held at the Old Schoolhouse on May 21, 2013. A cold ham buffet will begin at 6 P. M. and all are welcome. The cost of the buffet is \$3.00 per person. The buffet will be followed at 7:00 P. M. by brief business meetings of both societies.

The speaker for the evening will be William S. Napolitano whose topic shall be "River Restoration: Reclaiming Heritage and Habitat." Mr. Napolitano has built his successful environmental planning career around a strong and positive partnership with communities and organizations across the SRPEDD region. His signature projects include: the document that led to the federal designation of the Taunton River as "Wild and Scenic," being a founding member of the Taunton Watershed Alliance; working on regional/interstate bike paths; and SRPEDD's many regional open space plans. Do join us for a most interesting program. Guests are always welcome.

FLEA MARKET

June 15, 2013 - Our annual flea market will be held June 15th at the Old Schoolhouse from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. We are looking for volunteers to help set up between 7:00 A.M. and 9 A.M. Any help during the hours of the sale will also be greatly appreciated. We will have a Bake Table and hope you will bake for us. If you wish to have a space at the sale, please call the Society or George Yelle at 508-285-4048. You may bring flea market items to the Schoolhouse on Wednesdays or Thursdays, **May 22 through June 13th**, during the hours we are open. Please do not bring items the night before or the day of the sale unless they are priced. The donation of good quality used books, small furniture, clean, workable small appliances, collectables, clean household items, and workable toys will be accepted. **No clothing, magazines, microwave ovens, VCRs, computers, exercise equipment or television sets please.**

SCHOOL CHILDREN

The third grade classes from the L. G. Nourse School visited the Old Schoolhouse on April 25th. They had a great time hearing about early school days, attending Norton's one-room schoolhouse, seeing some early farm tools, the high-wheel bike, and sitting on the school barge. The students also saw the interior of the Unitarian Church and heard the ringing of the Paul Revere bell. Students from Eric Paulhus's high school history class helped by being interpreters. The J. C. Solmonese third graders will visit May 23rd.

We welcome Edward P. White to the Norton Historical Society.

Do come to the Chartley Garden Club Plant Sale held at the Old Schoolhouse, May 18th from 9 A.M.-1P.M.

Plants from members' gardens will be for sale.

The Officers and Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who, in so many ways, have helped the Society to continue being a vital historical museum for our town. We especially appreciate the faithfulness of our Wednesday and Thursday volunteers who have greatly helped to organize materials for our Archives.

Since this is our last newsletter until Fall, have a happy, healthy summer. Will see you at the June flea market!

100 YEARS AGO

28 May 1913 - Shortly after midnight last night, continued blasts from the Talbot mill's whistle awakened the residents. These were taken up by the box shop alarm a glare that quickly lighted the countryside left no doubt that the "scouring" mills were burning. The fire originated from some unknown cause in the upper portion and owing to the extremely inflammable nature of the contents, quickly spread, making the interior a mass of flames in an exceedingly short time. The facilities for fighting the fire were the very best. Simultaneously with the alarm, the big steam pump at the mill was put into motion and under heavy pressure, 700 gallons per minute were delivered from the hose. The fire, as it happened, was started in the vicinity of the west wing of the factory, while the engine room is located in the east end, thus the engineer was enabled to stick to his post until the conflagration was brought under control. Help summoned from neighboring towns arrived very late; Attleboro alone responding in time to be of real service. Superintendent Dorety from the college was on hand with all the aid at his command and the bleachery sent down its hose equipment and when the entire fighting equipment was massed, five heavy streams were directed against the building while the many adjoining structures were well protected from the clouds of burning brands that continually settled over them. Of the burning mills, the engine room wing and the extreme west end were saved. The large storehouses right across the street, filled to the doors with bags of wool were unharmed. The combing plant and the boarding houses to the north west leading to the Italian help colony were all preserved, thanks to the fire fighting facilities and partly to the fortunate atmospheric condition. The scouring mill was a large, four-story structure framed of heavy hard pine, replacing a smaller factory burned 20 or more years ago. It was filled with the best machinery for the purpose intended that money could buy. The matter of fire fighting is new to Norton for this is the only blaze of moment since the installation of the town water; so the night was full of episode. The town fire truck started out bravely, but was stalled ingloriously near Jerome L'Amoreux's residence, and remained balking until the danger was past. The hose also formed a habit of squirming out of hands unaccustomed to holding it and several times the holders were bowled over and drenched to the skin. Volunteer help, however, was plentiful and willing so no serious accidents occurred. The loss, it is stated, will be well met by insurance, but the blow to the town is severe for quite a number will be out of employment.

29 May 1913 - The loss of Talbot Wool Coddling Company by fire on Wednesday morning has been estimated at \$100,000, covered by insurance. The scene of the fire was visited yesterday by hundreds of people.

MAY - CIVIL WAR TABLET - 1913

As you enter the first floor of our present town hall from the back entrance, you will observe an old bronze tablet on the wall by the window. The tablet reads: In memory of the men of Norton who served in the War of the Rebellion - 1861-1865. It lists the names of the Norton men who served in the Civil War. At the March 6, 1911 town meeting, it was decided to place a Memorial Tablet in some suitable place to recognize the services of the Norton men who enlisted during the years 1861-1865. Lewis A. Lauriat, with the selectmen, formed a committee to attend to it and to appropriate \$150.00.



15 May 1913 - Considerable interest is manifested at the display of a beautiful bronze tablet commemorating the services of men of Norton who served in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865. It was designed by T. F. McGarm & Sons and is at present in the window at 114 Portland Street, Boston, where crowds assemble to