

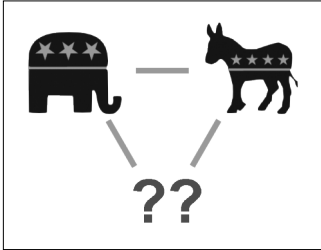
# THE HOURGLASS

NORTHBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

CCCIV

Northborough Historical Society  
www.NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org

April 2022



### Next Meeting & Program: Friday, April 22, 2022

**Third Parties in America: 1860 to 2016.** John Northgraves, a professor of American History, will present the historical instances when third parties gained enough momentum to be on the ballot, and either became a nuance to the two “regular” parties or changed the results of an election.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Society building, 52 Main Street, Northborough. The event is free and open to the public. Masks will be available, but mask wearing will be optional.



## History Corner

by Kathy Pierce

### The British Are Coming - But They Won't Stay Long

On October 17, 1777, Americans won the Battle of Saratoga. The victory was to be the turning point of the Revolution for the Patriots. On that day, British Lt. Gen. John Burgoyne conceded defeat and his 5,700-man army was ordered to abandon its arms on the battlefield.

What happened to Burgoyne's army after that day holds a small place in Northborough history. The Articles of Convention, the surrender agreement between American Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates and Burgoyne, granted his troops “free passage” back to Great Britain on the condition “of not serving again in North America during the present contest.”

The agreement named the port of Boston as the departure point for the Convention army, which Burgoyne's captured troops were called. But how would those prisoners of war get to Boston to embark on their sea voyage home? They would walk, of course.

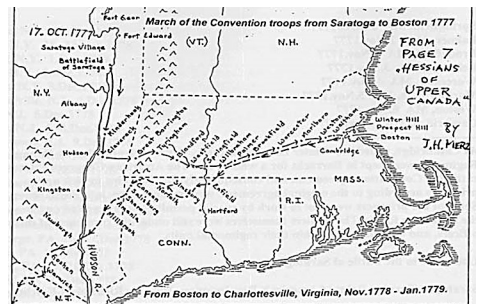
Promptly after its surrender, the entire defeated army set

off on foot. About 1,100 of the soldiers were Canadian and were repatriated to Canada by way of “the first British Port” on Lake George. That left 2,442 British troops and 2,198 German soldiers. This remaining 4,400 headed off to Boston on a long and arduous three-week march.

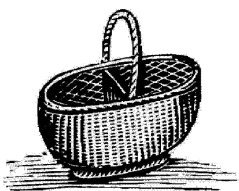
Though some of the troops were split off and marched into Connecticut, the main body went from New York into and across Massachusetts. Here they were partitioned again.

“I divided them into two divisions, the British by Williamstown and Northampton, the Germans by Kinderhook and Springfield,” Brig. Gen. John Glover of Massachusetts wrote later in a letter to George Washington. It was Glover's duty to get the Convention troops from Saratoga to Boston.

Several websites on the subject detail the route of the march, including maps of the trek and the numerous stops along the way where the hundreds of captives camped over-



(continued on page 4)



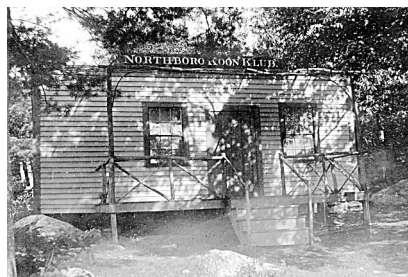
## Curator's News

by Ellen Racine

This month we received two donations of great historical value to our Collection. From Jean Dargie, through the estate of her mother Rita Walsh Snell, we received WWI and WWII mementos of her brother and father.

Matthew J. Walsh fought in France during WWI and his son, Walter "Joe" Walsh served in the Navy and survived the Kamikaze attack while on duty on the U.S.S. Birmingham.

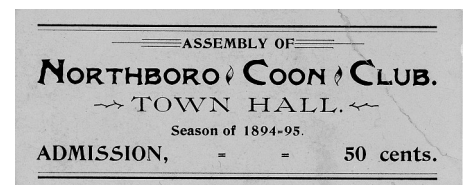
A large lot of early photographs were donated by Cindy Fawcett



Webb. One curious photo from c.1894-95 was of the Northboro Coon Klub camp. A photo of the members was published in our Images of America book.



Little is known about the club and Bob Ellis wrote in the book, "These lads have bagged at least four racoons. Racoons were sought for their flesh and their pelts, but their fondness for corn and melons also made them the farmers' enemy. Perhaps these young men hunted mainly for sport. More than a century later, it is difficult to know their motive." More photos will be published in future Hourglass newsletters.



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

**Underlined names are submitted to be voted on at the May 20, 2022 Annual Meeting**

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>PERSON</b>	<b>TERM ENDS</b>
President	<u>Rick Ferenchick</u>	2023
Vice President	<u>Mike Duchesneau</u>	2023
Directors	<u>Michael Mills</u>	2023*
	<u>Mark Bashour</u>	2023/2024*
	<u>Kathleen Howland</u>	2023/2024*
	<u>Karen Ruzkoski</u>	2023/2024*
	<u>Rob Van Buren</u>	2025
	<u>Paul Derosier</u>	2025
Treasurer	Dale Williams	2024
Membership Secretary	Jean Langley	2024
Recording Secretary	Hilary Wilson	2024
Museum Trustees	Nancy Harlan	2023
	Melanie Magee	2023
	Jane Fletcher	2024
	Diane Lyford	2024
	<u>Lynne Derosier</u>	2025
	<u>Allyn Phelps Jr</u>	2025
	<u>Kenneth Bennett</u>	2023
Publicity	Laura Ziton	2024
	<u>Carolyn Squillante</u>	2025
	<u>Marcia Mills</u>	2023
Hospitality	Suzanne Williams	2024
	<u>Debra Bennett</u>	2025
	<u>Suzanne Williams**</u>	2023
Program	Janice Ferenchick	2024
	<u>Cathy Duchesneau</u>	2025
Property	Chuck Krouse	2023
	Peter Stone	2024
	<u>Chuck Liljestrand</u>	2025
Kitchen	Cindy Atwood	2023
	Marcia Parsneau	2024
	<u>Rhonda Van Buren</u>	2025
Legislative	Ernie Racine	2023
	Kenneth Bennett	2024
	<u>Rob Van Buren</u>	2025
Nominating	Kenneth Bennett	2023
	<u>Jane Fletcher</u>	2023
	<u>Laura Ziton</u>	2023
Ways and Means	<u>Michael Duchesneau</u>	2023
	<u>Mark Bashour</u>	2024
	<u>Michael Mills</u>	2025

\*Term for this position changed from 2 years to 3 years at the May 2021 Annual Meeting. These individuals have agreed to extend their original 2-year terms to 3 years to help facilitate this transition.

\*\*Nominee has agreed to fill the position for one year. Original member was unable to fulfill the remainder of the term

**Nominating Committee: Carol Bostock, Lynne Derosier, Kenneth Bennett**

The Board of Directors has proposed increases to membership dues to cover the increased costs of heating oil, property taxes, water and sewer, electricity, and the cost of the new internet connection. This requires a vote on the following by-law amendment by the members at the Annual Meeting to be held on May 20, 2022.

**By-law amendment proposal**

That the following amendments be made to Article III, Section 2 of the Society by-laws.

That membership dues be increased as follows:

**Section 2. Class of Membership and Dues**

	<b>Current Dues</b>	<b>Proposed Dues</b>
A. Active Members	\$20	\$30
B. Student (with ID)	\$15	\$25
C. Seniors (over 65)	\$15	\$25
D. Family 2 adults and their children aged 18 & under	\$45	\$55
E. Life Members	\$250	\$500
F. Honorary Members	No Charge	No Charge

Only members who have paid dues for the 2021 - 2022 Society year may vote at this meeting. If you are not sure if your dues are current, please email Membership Secretary Jean Langley.

**MembershipSecretary@NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org**

**Membership 2021 - 2022**

Annual Dues:

Single — \$20  
Student/Senior — \$15  
Family — \$45  
Lifetime — \$250

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

**Donations**

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](http://www.northboroughhistoricalsociety.org/donate.html)

**Shutter Restoration**

The Society has applied for Community Preservation Funding to restore the shutters on our building. The article is on this year's Town Meeting warrant for approval by the people of the town.

*ARTICLE 27: Community Preservation Fund – Shutter Restoration of Historical Society Building To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000), or any other sum, from the Community Preservation Fund revenues to the Northborough Historical Society for replacement of missing building shutters and renovation of damaged building shutters for the building located at 52 Main Street, or take any other action relative thereto. – As part of a multi-phase restoration and improvement project, this Article would fund the replacement and/or renovation of thirty-three shutters for the building located at 52 Main Street*

Town Meeting will be held on Monday, April 25th, 6pm, at Algonquin Regional High School, 79 Bartlett St., Northborough.

For more information about Town Meeting, go to:

<https://www.town.northborough.ma.us/administration/pages/2022-annual-town-meeting>

**Addition to Our Website**

We now have searchable back copies of the Hourglass from 2011 onwards available on our website.  
<https://www.northboroughhistoricalsociety.org/hourglass.php>

These are all of the newsletters in electronic format that we have. If you have an **electronic** copy of any other issues, please email: **Webmaster@NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org**

**History Corner, continued**

night. Though the lists don't cite Northborough as a campsite, the journal of Lt. Israel Bartlett does note it. In his daily log of the march, Bartlett recorded the following progress from Spencer through Leicester to Worcester through Shrewsbury to Northborough:

*Nov. 2 We drew one day's provision (in Spencer) and marched thro' Leicester and halted at Worcester, 14 miles from our last quarters.*

*Nov. 3 Monday. We marched to Northborough and halted 10 miles from our last quarters.*

*Nov. 4 Tuesday Marched from Northborough to Marlborough, 8 miles and halted.*

I have not come across any actual local records of this event, but William Mulligan notes it on page 49 of his "Northborough: A Town and Its People. 1638-1975". He references Lt. Bartlett's journal as his source.

"The route the prisoners followed brought them right through Northborough and at least part of the huge force camped in town in November 1777," Mulligan wrote. He further commented on how uplifting the sight must have been to townspeople.

"What must it have meant for the colonists, who had been bearing the burden of taxes and inflation, to watch Burgoyne's army marched through their town guarded by continental soldiers and local militia?"

The Marlborough Historical Society's webpage makes note of the army's stay in that town. "A large part of this captured contingent encamped in Marlborough, nearing the end of their three-week march. Two of Burgoyne's men died in Marlborough and were interred in unmarked graves just off the Post Road in the eastern part of town."

The question remains where exactly did the British army

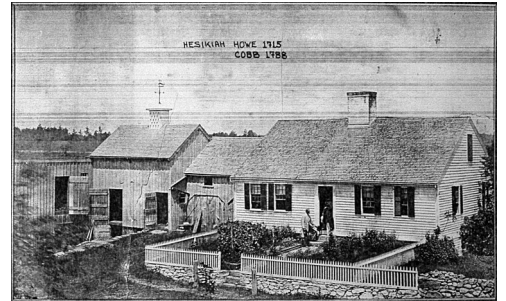
camp in Northborough? The only reference I saw to the location of that stay is a letter written in 1969 by the knowledgeable late Society member Patricia MacFarland to a then-Selectman. In the letter, she says she believed Burgoyne's army camped around Davis Street "just over the line in Westborough" near Cobb's bridge on a reputed militia training ground.

"Anyway, the Cobb house in that area contained a British uniform which was unearthed when they opened a fireplace or made some repairs,"

she recalled. That makes one wonder what happened to the soldier who owned the uniform. According to the histories, many soldiers escaped along the way and blended into the population.

Finally, the army made it to Boston on November 7 where, for various political reasons, it remained in captivity for a year and never did sail back to Britain. Instead, it was decided to send it south to Charlottesville, Va. Thus, on Nov. 9, 1778, the captives set off again on a brutal 800-mile march, retracing its first route across Massachusetts, and presumably streaming through Northborough again. Reports say the weary band was often short of provisions and was harassed along the way by locals.

The peripatetic military force stayed in Virginia until 1780 when it was once again moved north and gradually dispersed to different states and towns until the war ended in 1783.



**Next  
Board of Directors  
Meeting  
Tuesday, May 10**

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

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