



# THE HOURGLASS

NORTHBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

CCCXXXVI

Northborough Historical Society  
www.NorthboroughHistoricalSociety.org

June 2026



**Next Meeting & Program: September 25, 2026. White Cliffs after the Wessons.** After the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Wesson in 1906, their "Cliffs" mansion underwent many changes of ownership. It was a private residence until 1942. After that, it opened as a private club, then a locally famous restaurant and event facility. In this program Norm Corbin will review its different uses and the cast of characters associated with the "Cliffs" over the years.

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 Revolution 250 May Events

The month of May has been a very busy one for the Northborough Revolution 250 Committee. A Colonial Concert was held on May 1<sup>st</sup> and a Colonial Faire was held on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**The Colonial Concert was held** at Trinity Church, with the internationally acclaimed *Musicians of the Old Post Road*. The seven musicians presented their new program, entitled *Ben Franklin's Musical Curiosity*. It featured guest soprano Emily Sair, winner of the 2024 National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Artist Awards. This program was inspired by the music of Franklin's social circles in both America and Paris. The Musicians of the Old Post Road ensemble specializes in using period instruments to perform music from the late 17th to the mid-19th century. The piano they brought with them was built in the early 1800s, and one of their violins was even older. It has been said that attending a Musicians of the Old Post Road concert is to be transported back in time. Considering the acoustics of the church sanctuary and the use of period instruments, I would have to agree with that statement. The musicians all attended the social after the event and enjoyed interacting with the audience.

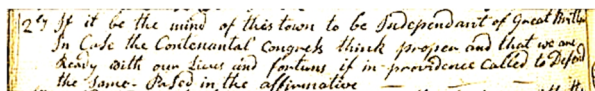


Front Row: The Seven Musicians of the *Musicians of the Old Post Road*  
Rear: Members of the Historical Society and REV250 Committee dressed in Colonial Attire

**The Colonial Faire** was held at Ellsworth-McAfee Park on Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> with beautiful weather. This was the Revolution 250 Committee's signature celebration event. It gave guests the chance to step directly into the sights, sounds, and stories of Northborough in 1776. The goal was "To help residents connect with the people and places that shaped Northborough's role in the American Revolution." The event was designed to be a fun, immersive day for families and history lovers alike.

This date was selected because it was 250 years ago on

June 3, 1776 that the Northborough Selectmen voted to support independence. This was one month before the Declaration of Independence was signed in Philadelphia. The Selectmen wrote "If it be the mind of this town to be independent of Great Britain, in case the Continental Congress think proper, and we are ready with our lives and fortunes, if in Providence called to defend the same. Passed in the affirmative." (see image)



The Faire started with a beautiful rendition of our National Anthem by Ms. Kendall Scott. It included cannon firing from three Revolutionary War re-enactor artillery organizations - the Hubbardston Militia with Ashburnham Light Artillery, John Crane's Continental Artillery, and Brown's Company of Artillery. Crane's Artillery organized a fund raiser for the Historical Society. For \$20, a guest could light off a cannon, and this resulted in raising \$760 for the Society!!

A variety of re-enactors participated. A representative of the British Military came from His Majesty's 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot. There were also representatives from the Sudbury Companies of Militia and Minutemen, and Hubbardston's Militia Company. The Hubbardston group included militia men, a doctor discussing colonial medical practices, and some youth games and writing demonstrations. The militia groups joined together for marching and musket firing.

Michele Gabrielson provided information about 18<sup>th</sup> Century Printers. Colonial dancing was provided by the New England Colonial Dance Company, accompanied by dancers from Dawn's School of Dance. Colonial Era music was provided by a duo from *Red Horse Oldtime Music*, who also played music for the dancers.

Local vendors included Timber Crafts Design, Mill Town Pottery, North Brook Alpaca Farm, Happy Hounds Soap, and Allen Face Painting. Information booths were available for the Northborough Historical Society and the Northborough Revolution 250 Committee.

Food & Beverages were supplied by the Northborough House of Pizza, Tacoborough Mexican Cuisine, Mike's Vending, Juniper Farms Ice Cream, My Cecelia Bakery, and Sir Loin Catering. Sir Loin included alcoholic beverages, the very first time this was allowed at the park.

There have been many positive comments about the event. A short video prepared by Northborough Media can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFN9v-mxiQQ>

**Officers, Boards and Committee Members  
2026 - 2027**

President	Ken Bennett	2027
Vice President	Rob Van Buren	2027
Directors	Janice Ferenchick	2027
	Mike Duchesneau	2027
	Chuck Liljestrand	2028
	Mark Bashour	2028
	Rick Ferenchick	2029
	Jack Bakstran	2029
Treasurer	Nadine Proctor	2027
Membership Secretary	Jean Langley	2027
Recording Secretary	Hilary Wilson	2027
Museum Trustees	Jane Fletcher	2027
	Kathy Pierce	2027
	Lynne Derosier	2028
	Allyn Phelps Jr	2028
	Linda Corbin	2029
	Rhonda VanBuren	2029
Publicity	Zenya Molnar	2027
	Alex Molnar	2027
	Laura Ziton	2028
Hospitality	Marcia Parsneau	2027
	Carolyn Squillante	2028
	Ingrid Molnar	2029
Program	Suzanne Williams	2027
	Arlene Marshall	2028
	Marcia Mills	2029
Property	Rob Van Buren	2027
	Peter Stone	2027
	Open	2029
Kitchen	Marcia Mills	2027
	Debra Bennett	2028
	Rebecca Shaw	2029
Legislative	Hilary Wilson	2027
	Michael Mills	2028
	Carol Bostock	2029
Nominating	Mike Duchesneau	2027
	Ellen Racine	2027
	Lois Smith	2027
Ways and Means	Marie Spence	2027
	John Northgraves	2027
	Mark Bashour	2028

# Organ Recital

## Hear Gavin Klein Play Our 1874 George Stevens Organ



Gavin is a recent organ scholar graduate from Holy Cross. He plans to continue his organ studies at Yale this autumn. Gavin is familiar with our 1874 George Stevens organ as he was artist-in-residence at the Harvard Historical Society with their organ by the same maker



**Saturday, June 27th, 1:00 p.m.**

**Northborough Historical Society 52 Main St, Northborough  
(At the corner of Main St. and School St.)**

*The recital is free and open to the public, but donations are appreciated*

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

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

### Membership Renewal

Society membership dues are due in September. Payments can be made, by cash or check, at the membership table at Friday meetings.

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)

### Membership

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

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

Scan QR code to donate via PayPal



**Next  
Board of Directors  
Meeting  
Tuesday, September 8**