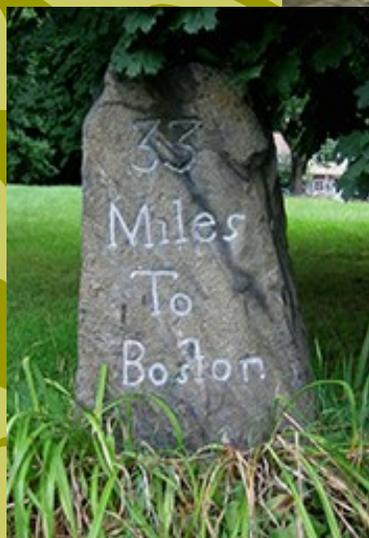




FINDING NORTHBOROUGH

A GUIDE FOR THE INQUISITIVE

The Town of Northborough, originally part of the Town of Marlborough, then Westborough, was incorporated in 1766 and became a town on its own in 1775. It will celebrate its 250th Anniversary in 2016.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CONTACT

ROBERT MARCHETTA
marchetr@simmons.edu



SCOPE

THIS PATHFINDER WAS ASSEMBLED TO ASSIST THE INQUISITIVE, NORTHBOROUGH NATIVE OR NOT, IN FINDING INFORMATION ON THE HISTORY OF NORTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS AND IS INTENTIONALLY BROAD IN SCOPE, HOPING TO SERVE AS A STARTING POINT FOR THOSE WITH AN INTEREST IN THE GENERAL TOWN HISTORY OF NORTHBOROUGH, NOTABLE RESIDENTS AND GENEALOGICAL SOURCES.

INTERESTING EVENT

MASTODON DISCOVERY

On 17 November, 1884, Workmen digging a trench on the farm on William Maynard, near the Shrewsbury line, uncovered teeth and bones of what turned out to be the fossilized remains of a Mastodon, the first to be found in Massachusetts.

Rice, F. (1885). *An account of the discovery of a mastodon's remains in Northborough, Worcester County, Massachusetts.* Worcester, MA : Worcester Natural History Society.

A digital copy can be accessed at:

<https://archive.org/details/accountofdiscove00rice>



Courtesy of the Northborough Historical Society



TOWN HISTORY

Allen, J. (1826). *Topographical and historical sketches of the town of Northborough, with the early history of Marlborough*. Worcester: W. Lincoln & C. C. Baldwin

A digital copy may be assessed at: <https://archive.org/details/topographicalan00allegoog>



Hudson, C. (1862). *History of the town of Marlborough, Middlesex County, Massachusetts: From its first settlement in 1657 to 1861; with a brief sketch of the town of Northborough, genealogy of the families in Marlborough to 1800, and an account of the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the town*. Boston: T.R. Marvin & Son.

Pages 293–302 pertain to Northborough. A digital copy may be assessed at: <https://archive.org/stream/historyoftownofm00huds#page/n5/mode/2up>



Kent, J. (1921). *Northborough history*. Newton, Mass.: Garden City Press.

A digital copy can be assessed at: <http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id-33433081832200;view=1up;seq=5>



Mullgan, W. (1981). *Northborough: A town and its people, 1638-1975*. Northborough: Northborough American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1981.

A copy is available at the Northboro Historical Society



Northboro Historical Society, (1966). *Two hundredth anniversary, town of Northborough, 1766-1966*. Northborough, MA: Northboro Historical Society.

A copy is available at the Northboro Historical Society



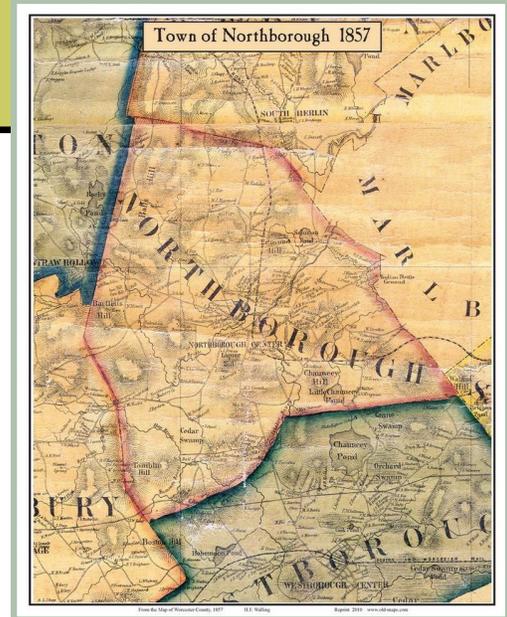
Northboro Historical Society, (2000). *Images of America: Northborough*. Charleston, SC : Arcadia Press.

Provides a photographic record of 218 images to give a sampling of familiar town sights in an earlier guise and of some that only now exist in recollection. The focus is the century between the 1860s and 1960s. Images compiled by Ellen Racine, introductions and captions by Robert P. Ellis. ISBN: 9780738504230.



Whitney, P. (1793). *The history of the county of Worcester in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*. Worcester, MA : Isaiah Thomas.

Pages 272-280 pertain to Northborough. Includes a list of ministers by town and number of inhabitants as of the census taken in 1791.





THE DRUMS OF WAR

Ellis, R. (2007). *Northborough in the Civil War: Citizen soldiering and sacrifice*. Charleston, SC : History Press.

Northborough sent over half of its eligible population into the civil war. Many of these men never returned and at least three were held in the infamous Confederate prison at Andersonville. This book attempts to tell the soldiers stories through photographs, letters and narrative. Appendix in the rear of the book lists all known Northborough residents who served in the war as well as others who had ties to, or enlisted from the town.



Mulligan W. (1975). *Northboro during the American Revolution*. Northborough, MA: Northborough American Revolution Bicentennial Commission.

Worcester Public Library (Main Branch) Call Number: WORC ROOM 974.43N872zm



Sons of the American Revolution (1901). *Soldiers and sailors whose graves have been designated by the marker of the society*. Boston, MA: Massachusetts Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

A digital copy can be found at: <https://archive.org/details/soldiersailorsw00sons>



Courtesy of the Northborough Historical Society



OTHER OFFERINGS

Allen, J. (1846). *The day of small things: A centennial discourse*. Boston, MA: W.M. Crosby and H.P. Nichols.

A digital copy can be accessed at:

<http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=loc.ark:/13960/t05x2gr6z;view=1up;seq=3>

Digitized from an original copy at the Library of Congress, Call number F 74.N9 A28



Allen, J. (1866). *The centennial celebration of the town of Northborough, Massachusetts. August 22, 1866*. Northborough, MA: Publisher Unknown

A digital copy can be assessed at:

<http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=hvd.32044089935431;View=1up;seq=5>



Ellis, R., (2005). *To celebrate our town: The first one hundred years of the Northborough Historical Society*. Northborough: Northborough Historical Society.

A brief yet comprehensive history of the Northborough Historical Society. The story of the societies efforts to preserve and chronicle the towns past is very nicely presented.



Houghton, W. (1883). *Semi-centennial of the Evangelical Congregational Church and Society in Northborough, Dec. 19th, 1882*. Clinton, MA: W.J. Coulter.

This pamphlet is a copy of the sermon preached by William A. Houghton at the dedication of the Evangelical Congregational Church. Houghton was the minister of the Evangelical Congregational Church from 1843 - 1851. Upon leaving Northborough he went to Berlin, Massachusetts and in time wrote the *History of Berlin*.



GENEALOGY & FAMILY HISTORY

Brigham, W. (1927). *The history of the Brigham family: A record of several thousand descendants of thomas brigham the emigrant, 1603-1653*. New York, NY: Grafton Press.

A genealogical history for the family of one of the original settlers of the town of Northborough.



Ward, A. (1858). *A genealogical history of the Rice family*. Boston, MA: C. Benjamin Richardson.

A genealogical history of the Rice family; descendants of Deacon Edmund Rice, who came from Berkhamstead, England, and settled at Sudbury, Massachusetts, in 1638 or 1639.



Allen-Johnson Family, Papers, 1759-1992. Manuscript Collections. American Antiquarian Society, Worcester.

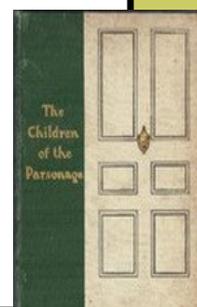
Online finding aid can be accessed at <http://www.americanantiquarian.org/Manuscripts/allenjohnson.htm>

This collection includes 37 boxes of correspondence, diaries, journals, articles, photographs, sermons, legal documents and other ephemera relating to these two families and to Northborough Massachusetts. The majority of the collection originated in the 19th Century. Individuals represented include Mary Ware Allen Johnson, Joseph Allen, Lucy Clark Allen Powers and Lucy Clark Allen.



Allen, C. (1900) *The children of the parsonage; a true story of long ago*. Boston, MA : G. H. Ellis.

Written by the granddaughters of the Reverend Joseph Allen, the memoir follows the parsons family and provides insight of a typical Victorian day in town.



New England Historic Genealogical Society

<http://www.americanancestors.org/home.html>

Though membership in the society allows access to many more records, non members can register as guests and gain access to a selection of free databases that include the Social Security Death Index, Irish Immigrant Advertisements, 1831-1920, and Index to Revolutionary War Pensioners. The library catalog of the society can also be searched.

Family Search

<https://familysearch.org/>

For over 100 years, the Genealogical Society of Utah, Organized by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has been collecting and preserving historical and genealogical records from across the world. They collaborate with other records custodians to make these records available to everyone. The records available include census, land, tax, church, probate, civil registration and military records as well as family histories, genealogies and local histories. Access is free

The Massachusetts Vital Records Project

<http://ma-vitalrecords.org/>

Presents the transcription of over 1,500,000 Massachusetts birth, marriage and death records representing the years 1600 to 1850 that were compiled by group of towns and agencies and became know collectively as the "Tan Books". Transcriptions are indexed by town and surname and the results are linked to images from the original texts. It includes the records from the volumes below.

Rice, F. (1901). *Vital records of Northborough, Massachusetts to the end of the Year 1850*. Worcester, MA : Franklin P. Rice.

Rice, F (1903). *Vital records of Westborough, Massachusetts, to the end of the Year 1849*. Worcester, MA : Franklin P. Rice.



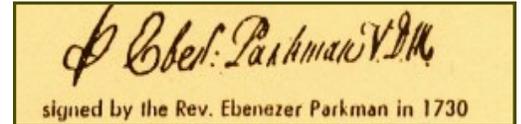
RESIDENTS OF NOTE

EBENEZER PARKMAN

Soon after graduating from Harvard College in 1721, he became the first settled minister of Westborough, of which Northborough became set off from, and served the community until his death in 1782.

Walett, F. (1974). *The diary of Ebenezer Parkman (1703-1782): First part, three volumes in one (1719-1755)*. Worcester, MA: American Antiquarian Society.

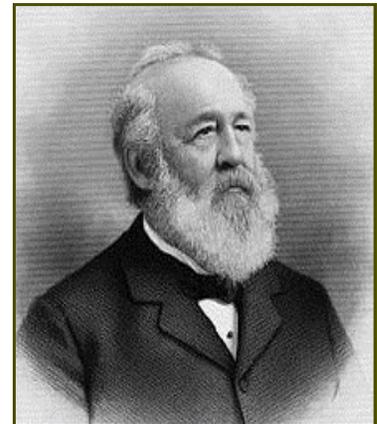
Entries in the diary detail the daily happenings of the town and gives full accounts of residents by name. Excellent insight to the history of the town of Westborough but of surrounding towns such as Northborough, Grafton and Marlborough as well.



DANIEL BAIRD WESSON

Inventor, firearms designer and co-founder of Smith & Wesson. Apprenticed with his brother Edwin in Northborough where he met his future wife, Cynthia Maria Hawes. They eloped as her parents thought he had no future. Years later, he returned and built a "Summer home" on land that had belonged to his wife's family and stood on a hill overlooking their remaining property.

Jinks, R and Krein, S. (2006). *Smith & Wesson*. Charleston, SC.: Arcadia Publishing.



JUDAH MONIS

Jewish Rabbi and the first Jew to receive a college degree in the American colonies when he graduated from Harvard in 1720. In 1722, he was approved to become a Hebrew Language instructor at Harvard but was required to convert to Christianity to do so. He also authored the first Hebrew textbook in North America.

Gradwohl, D. (2004). Judah Monis's puzzling gravestone as a reflection of his enigmatic identity. *Markers*. 2004, Vol. 21, p66-97. 32p. Retrieved from <https://ezproxy.simmons.edu:2447/ehost/detail/detail?vid=3&sid=0b0d16b2-64f4-4093-a5c4-53b7caf16a47%40sessionmgr4005&hid=4106&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWwhvc3QtbtGl2ZSZzY29wZT1zaXRl#db=ahl&AN=36277195>

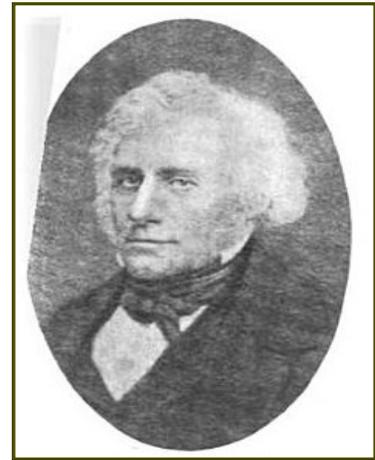


RESIDENTS OF NOTE

JOHN DAVIS

Born in Northborough in 1787. The son of Isaac Davis. He graduated from Yale in 1812 and in 1816, became a lawyer in Worcester, MA. Four time Governor of Massachusetts and three time Massachusetts Senator. He cast one of only two votes in the US Senate against declaring War with Mexico in 1846.

Estabrook, J. (1908). *Three generations of Northboro Davises 1781-1894*. Westborough, MA: The Chronotype Printing Co.



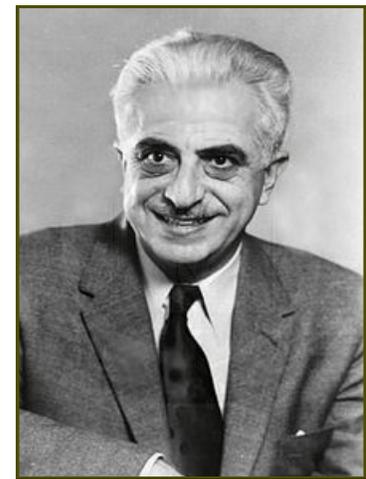
GREGORY GOODWIN PINKUS

Member of a team of three scientists that developed the birth-control pill. Author of *The Eggs of Mammals* and *The Control of Fertility*.

Speroff, L. (2009). *A good man: Gregory Goodwin Pincus: The man, his story, the birth control pill*. Portland, OR: Arnica Publishers.

Worcester Public Library (Main Branch) Call Number - LH REF B P647s

Well written comprehensive biography of the man who championed the research for the development of the birth control pill. The book details the story and life of Dr. Pincus. Research included interviews of family and friends.



FREDERICK J CHRISTENSEN JR.

WWII U.S. Army Air Corps Aviator and Aerial Ace. Credited with 21 1/2 Victories. On one mission, he scored 6 victories, an accomplishment matched by only a handful of other Aces.

Digital images of Christiansen's claim reports, all confirmed, of Nov 26, 43, Jan 5, 44, Feb 4, 44, Feb 11, 44, Mar 6, 44, Mar 15, 44, Mar 16, 44, Apr 15, 44, Jun 27, 44, and Jul 5, 44 can be found here:

<http://www.wiiaircraftperformance.org/p-47/p-47-encounter-reports.html>





RESIDENTS OF NOTE

MARK “THE BIRD” FIDRYCH

Major League Baseball pitcher. Pitched his entire career with the Detroit Tigers 1976-1980. In 1976 he led the Major League with a 2.34 ERA and won the American League Rookie of the Year award. His career ended after only 5 seasons due to injuries.

Wilson, D. (2013). *The bird: The life and legacy of Mark Fidrych*.
New York, NY: Thomas Dunne Books.

Northboro Free Library Call Number 796.357 WIL



LUTHER RICE

Son of Captain Amos Rice. The Reverend Luther Rice, a Baptist missionary instrumental in the denominations national organization., was the founder of Columbian College in in the District of Columbia, later known as Columbian University and now as George Washington University.

Taylor, J. (1937). *Memoir of Rev. Luther Rice, one of the first American missionaries to the east*. Nashville, TN : Broadman Press.

A digital copy can be accessed at:

<https://archive.org/details/memoirofrevluthe00tayl>



Daniel Wesson Estate—courtesy of the Northborough Historical Society

LOCAL ARCHIVES

NORTHBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Photo courtesy of the Northboro Historical Society

The museum is open to the public from 2-4 p.m. Sundays in May, June, September and October, and by special arrangement. For access to the archives, contact the curator.

52 Main St, Northboro, Massachusetts 01532

Curator: Ellen Racine (508) 393-2343

Info@NorthboroHistoricalSociety.org

For questions regarding historical research and genealogy, contact the Society Historian Robert Ellis.

Historian@NorthboroHistoricalSociety.org

Society Website:

<http://northboroughhistoricalsociety.org/>

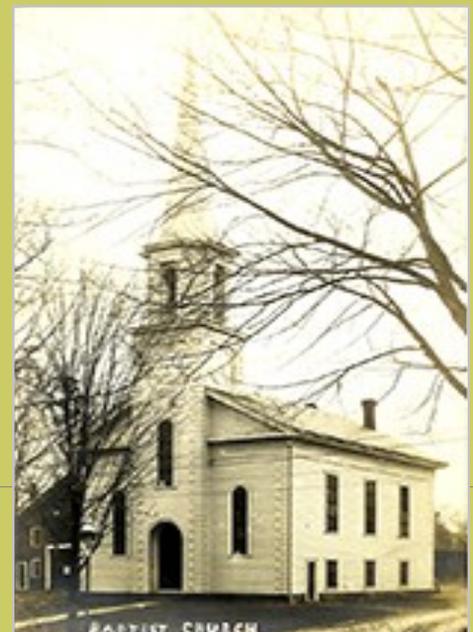
The society offers free monthly presentations at their monthly meetings September through May.

The Northborough Historical Society was founded in 1906 through the efforts of reverend Josiah C. Kent. Rev. Kent who invited a group of townspeople to meet at the Unitarian parsonage on November 7, 1906 to consider the desirability of organizing such a society. Nine men and four women responded favorably to Rev. Kent's plea that "the facts of Northborough history should be collected and thus preserved from oblivion".

Since that time, the organization has enthusiastically collected and preserved artifacts representative of the town but recorded and compiled Northborough's history in it's archive.

Some of the items in the society holdings include:

- ◇ Collection of family letters relating to Minister Joseph Allen for the years 1820-1847.
- ◇ Revolutionary War documents relating to town soldiers and families.
- ◇ Copies of family histories and genealogies.
- ◇ Original family bibles and diaries.



LOCAL ARCHIVES

NORTHBORO FREE LIBRARY

34 Main St, Northboro, Massachusetts 01532

508-393-5025

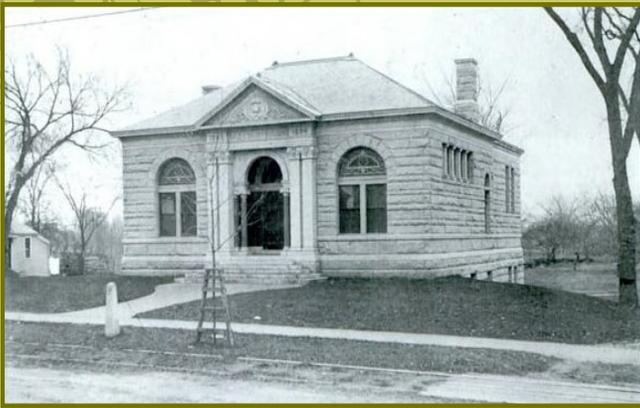
Hours

Monday 12 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Friday, & Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

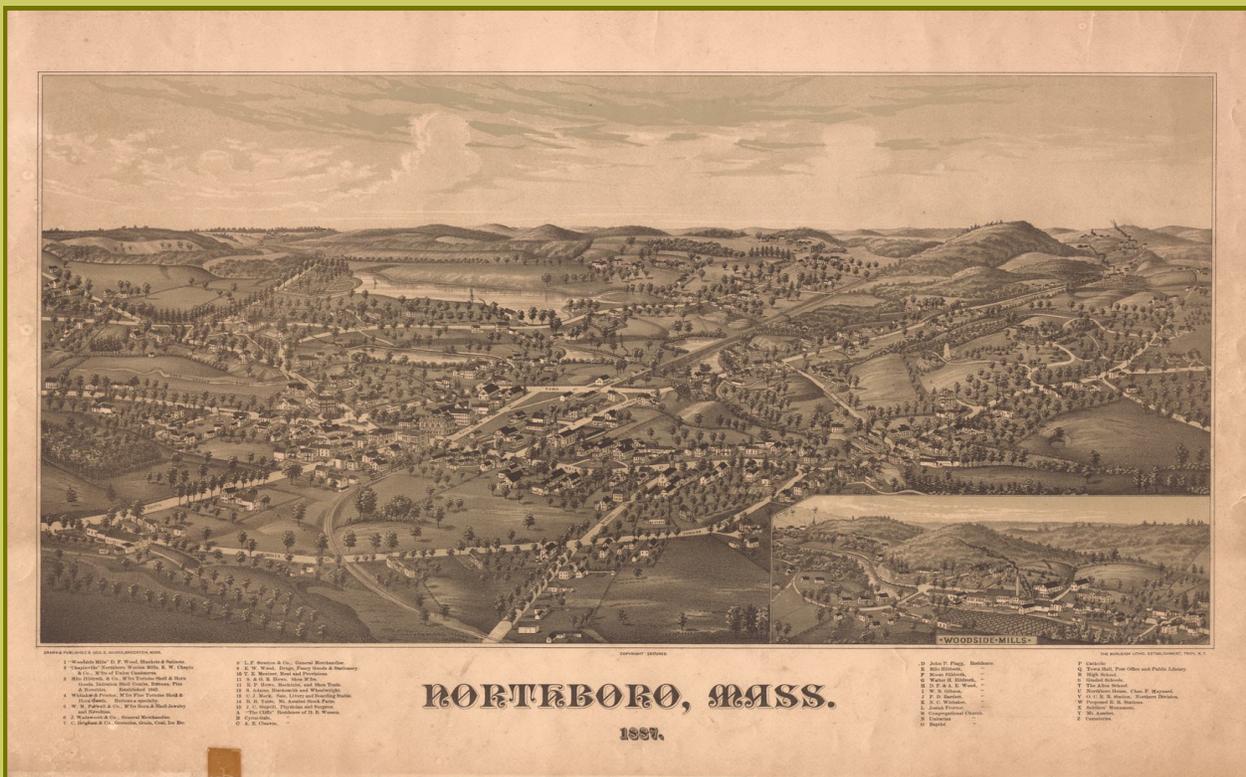
The Local History room of the library houses genealogies of local families, volumes on the history of Northborough and other towns in Massachusetts, books by local authors and town publications such as town reports, street listings and assessors lists. Materials are kept locked within the room, and appointments for viewing the items are strongly recommended



Courtesy of the Northboro Historical Society

Website:

<http://www.northboroughlibrary.org/northborough/history.asp>



Courtesy of the Northboro Historical Society