



ISSUE 33

The Village News Published by the North Falmouth Village Association



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NFVA QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER

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North Falmouth, MA.02556

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President's Corner



I began this new term as President of the North Falmouth Village Association with enthusiasm for the future and yet am humbled by the impressive work of those who preceded me. Knowing that I have big shoes to fill, I promise to work diligently to continue the standards set by the past presidents! Being the fourth generation in my family to live in North Falmouth I feel that my obligation has deeper roots and my ambition is to maintain these wonderful village traditions for our future generations.

Remember to take a moment and thank all of the volunteers of your Village Association. The following is just a small example of the work they accomplish every year:

- Repair and maintain the Village Junction, your meeting headquarters!
- Beautify the village entrances and clean our coastlines and byways!
- Remove graffiti from the railroad bridge!
- Display the crèche on four corners and store it every year!
- Organize and run what is fast becoming the world famous Paul White Road Race!
- Award thousands of dollars in scholarships to students!
- Organize outings and cultural events for our senior citizens!
- Organize dinners and educational events for all of us!
- Co-ordinate and support village events with North Falmouth Elementary School and other organizations in the Village!

You too, can help make the Village a better place to live by volunteering when and where you can. If you have the time and energy, please feel free to ask! You can also make a difference by doing something as simple as greet your neighbor while you walk the village or support the local businesses. We live in a very special neighborhood filled with the characters who live here, our rich historical significance, our scenic byways and our precious natural resources.

Happy 2012!

Priscilla (Rand Hildreth Case) Geraghty

SENIOR CORNER



The month of December was very busy. On December 6 we went to visit the Falmouth Art Center for a quilt show. The quilts were beautiful! After the show we went to Friendly's for an ice cream. Yum!! On December 13th we went to the Silver Lounge for our Christmas luncheon, then back to the Junction for dessert and a Yankee Swap. Many laughs.

On December 20th we celebrated all the birthdays of the month. Happy Birthday to Skip Head and yours truly, Chris Baggarella. Barbara Hampson gave a talk and demonstration about Christmas around the world. Thanks Barbara. We always enjoy your talks. Our next meeting will be on January 17, 2012. I hope to see more seniors join us in the coming year.

Have a happy and healthy New Year front the Seniors of the North Falmouth Village Association.

Chris Baggarelli.



Mid-Winter Dinner at Royal Megansett

Susan Baur is back! She will be keeping us up-to-date on the turtle sisters of Cape Cod and sharing again with us why memories are such an important part of our lives. Also, she will tell us how important it is to tape or record stories from our old-timers for future generations.

Please join us on February 3rd 2012 at 6:30 pm at Royal Megansett when they will prepare another wonderful dinner for us.

Call Barbara Hampson at 508-563-2375 by January 30th.

If you need to cancel please let her know, as there is usually a waiting list.

In Memory

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of a few of our very dear neighbors:

**Harry Hummer
Betty Lou Fraser
John Meade
Tom Smith**

Thank You !

ROCKLAND TRUST

For your many years of sponsorship of the Paul White Road Race. Rockland Trust Independent Corporation is a Massachusetts bank with 68 branches throughout the state. It had been in business for 105 years and continues to provide personal service to its many customers. Manager, Joann Kurdilla feels that Rockland Trust is a community oriented bank that will continue to support neighborhood activities.

**Hours: Mon -Thur 8:30 to 4:00
Fri 8:30 to 5:00
Sat 8:30 to 1:00**



Early Blacksmith Shops in North Falmouth

Back in the 18th and 19th centuries, there were no hardware stores anywhere in the new world, so any hardware items, such as nails, hinges, handles, horse-shoes and brackets had to be hand made by a blacksmith. Because transportation wasn't easy, these items had to be found locally. Hardware needed in the 17th century had to be imported from England or other countries.

A typical village blacksmith shop for the two hundred year era from 1700 to 1899 was usually a small, three sided shed, for example 12 feet deep by 20 feet long, with the front side left completely open to the elements so that the heat of the fire could escape and the blacksmith could work fairly comfortably. (Note: Old Sturbridge Village has a working blacksmith shop.) Usually every village had its own blacksmith back in this period of time. Sometimes a village would have more than one, depending on the size of the village, etc. I've learned that our own village of North Falmouth had three blacksmiths! They may not have all been operating at the same time. It would be very difficult to find records of this.

A long time village resident (see list of credits at the end of this article) informed me that one of our village blacksmith shops was located on the present day County Road, behind Tedeschi Food Mart, just to the west of Warwick Engineering Co. No further information is available about this. The same old timer went on to say that another blacksmith shop was located between #249 and #251 Old Main Road on the east side of the street and may have been operated by a member of the Cahoon family who lived at #249 for many years. The third blacksmith shop in North Falmouth was located in a more southerly part of the village by my maternal great grandfather, Joseph D. Wing (1805-1899), whose shop was located at #32 Wing Road. He and his wife lived across the street at #29 Wing Road in the big colonial house still there.

Early in the 20th century this blacksmith shop was no longer needed and it was converted into a seasonal cottage. My great grandmother lost the property in the Great Depression. A wealthy lawyer from Boston, a Mr. Wardner, bought the property, settled into the colonial house and his nurse, a Mrs. Fowler, took up residence in the old blacksmith shop/cottage. As a boy, I actually remember the cottage. Back in the late 1940s and early 1950s, my father Walter J. Small, Sr., who was a farmer, rented most of the farmland and a fruit orchard there behind the main house from Mr. Wardner. As I remember, Mrs. Fowler had hollyhocks and roses blooming in front of the cottage. It was a very attractive spot with Wing Pond behind. (Today, the home of Linda and Bruce Simmons of #8 Millstone Street off of Curley Boulevard, reminds me of the old blacksmith shop turned into a cottage. It is of the same design.) By the way, when the old cottage at #32 was torn down (at this point it was falling apart) some of its old boards were purchased by Edward F. Roskovichs of #233 North Falmouth Highway and are now the interior walls of his kitchen pantry. Today a newer Cape Cod style house sits just to the east of the site of the old shop/cottage at #32 Wing Road.

Today, some remnants of a West Falmouth blacksmith shop can still be seen at #20 West Falmouth Highway (Route 28A). Just north of the Bourne Farm on the same side of the highway sits the Arthur Burke place. On the north end of the barn you can see a fireplace left over from the blacksmith shop that was there earlier. It had been updated in the 20th century when a young blacksmith worked there with old Mr. Burke. Many blacksmith shops were turned into auto repair shops with the invention of the automobile.

I would like to thank the following for information on this subject:
Edward F. Roskovichs, Louise Jennings Small (dec.) and Walter J. Small, Sr. (dec.).

By Dan Small, NFVA Historian

**Membership in the North Falmouth Village Association
Fiscal Year October 2011 to October 2012**

**Mail Payment to NFVA PO Box 762 North Falmouth MA 02556
Additional information from Evie Michon 508-563-9449**

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