

All information for the Town Hill and Town Center area was obtained from the Massachusetts Historical Commission, recorded by Kathleen Kelly Broomer for the Norfolk Historical Commission, 2005 and 2006 as well as the Norfolk Historical Commission's website. Further individual site information was taken from "*History on the Hill, Collection of the Series of Talks on Local History 2009-2011*" by Norfolk Historical Commission Researcher, Barbara Bartholomew, and the 1970 book, *The Federated Church, Bicentennial History*, by A. Nicodemus, E. Nicodemus and P. Payne. Information regarding all sites on Rockwood Road came from an application to the National Register of Historic Places for the Rockwood Road ("Railroad Street") district, compiled by Kathleen Kelly Broomer, 2015.

TOWN HILL: A BROAD BUT IN-DEPTH, INTERTWINED OVERVIEW:

Town Hill was the site of the first Meeting House (1796) pictured on Norfolk's Town Seal (see pamphlet cover). After the Town incorporated in 1870 the Meeting House on the site was donated and refurbished as a Town Hall. Unfortunately, the Hall burned to the ground in 1922. The present Norfolk Town Offices, 1 Liberty Lane, were constructed in 1998 on the southeast of the hill. (Before you begin your walking tour, see the historical display panel on Town Hill directly facing Main Street. Please note that "Old North Street" defined the "back" edge of Town Hill.)

The Town Hill area, Norfolk's historic town center, is defined today as a 3.4 acre of land bordered on the north by Main St., on the east by Union St., on the south by North St. (now called Liberty Lane) and west by Independence Drive. This area is considered Norfolk's town common with the highest point being the north corner at the intersection of Main St. and Union St. The Town Hill area has experienced noticeable change throughout the years with several buildings having been demolished and an entire block on Main Street redeveloped and reused for office and commercial purposes. Some adjacent streets have been reconfigured to form what are now Liberty Lane and Independence Drive. In 2005, the northeast section of Town Hill was remade with the construction of a small rotary at the juncture of Union, Main and North Streets. In 2004-2005 the Norfolk Public Library expanded significantly to include an abundantly large facility complete with parking areas. In 2014 the two rotaries in Town Center were named Ware Circle and Avery Circle.

Town Hill, Norfolk's historic meetinghouse location, was the primary site of institutional activities from the late 1700s to the present. The Ware family, one of the original settlers of Norfolk, is significantly connected to this area. The Wares owned land in North Wrentham (Norfolk) from the late 1600s to the 1960s. In 1750, at the time of his death, Ebenezer Ware directed his family to give four acres of his farm land to "the use of the North part of Wrentham to set a meeting house if need be." Town Hill is this area of land gifted by the Wares. An additional 4 acres of wooded land were also conveyed by deed to the same inhabitants "for use of a ministry there." In order to accomplish this, the children of Ebenezer Ware: Ebenezer, Eliphalet, Elisha and Jonathan and their sisters: Bethia Ware Day, Ruth Ware and Dinah Ware Clark gave up any and all claims to their parcels. In addition, their mother, Bethia Ware, surrendered "all right of dower."

We must be reminded here that the church was the center of life in the early days in New England. Simply put: so developed the church, so developed many of the lives of the congregation. Norfolk's Town Hill area evolved and changed as religious life developed in North Wrentham, later named the Town of Norfolk.

Looking back: In 1796 a new church was established by Reverend David Avery's (1746-1817) dedicated and committed followers who had left the Congregationalist Church in Wrentham Center after a tumultuous theological split. This new group called itself the North Parish Association. They constructed the previously referenced meetinghouse on the northern corner of the present Town Hill. Having arrived in North Wrentham in 1795, Rev. Avery lived in the vicinity of present day Village Green and Cleveland Streets. While the Meetinghouse was under construction he preached regularly to his congregation in his home. In the end, surprisingly, David Avery was not chosen to formally lead the congregation. Instead, after a special committee was formed to select a minister, on June 6, 1798 Reverend John Cleaveland was chosen and proceeded to lead the established North Parish Association. Interestingly, things did not always run smoothly for Rev. Cleaveland for several reasons, including his rather serious oratory style as compared to Avery's charisma. Cleaveland's lack of formal education as well as some issues in his personal life added to his difficulties. However, Cleaveland's calm demeanor "provided stability" to a congregation which had undergone much change and upheaval and he continued leading the Parish through to its dedication of the completed Meetinghouse church building in 1801. Notably, he purchased the Parsonage from Josiah Ware in 1810. In 1815, however, Reverend John Cleaveland's career was brought to an end by his death from consumption. Over the next eight years the church hired interim ministers. In 1823, the North Parish Association hired Moses Thacher who, with his followers, later formed the Cleaveland Religious Society (in honor of deceased Rev. John Cleaveland in North Wrentham). Broomer has described this group as "Orthodox Congregationalists"---Reverend Thacher's ministry being defined by his Anti-Masonry and Anti-slavery stand and "rigidly Puritan principals and dynamic speaking skills". As a matter of fact, historical writings have stated that "Thacher's published renunciation of Masonry began one of the most bitter public feuds ever to take hold in Wrentham and North Wrentham." (*Federated Church Bicentennial History*).

In 1832 Reverend Thacher and a majority of the female and a minority of male Anti-Mason parishioners, deemed it necessary to leave: to build and move to a 2nd Meeting House across Union Street (later to become The Federated Church) to house the newly formed Cleaveland Religious Society. For its own church, in 1833, the "Society" acquired "from a group of thirteen church members, a building site of one-quarter acre being part of the farm commonly called the parsonage." Bertha Fales has referenced that the "parsonage" back then was the house "next to the Center School", the dwelling now known as #5 Union Street. Reverend Moses Thacher, however, eventually *again* ended up in a personal, tumultuous situation within his own congregation and ultimately left the church later in 1833. A long list of pastors then preached at the meeting house. Ultimately, many years later, The Federated Church of Norfolk, #1 Union St. was formed in 1918 when the Baptists and the *reunited* (1850) North Parish Association and

Cleaveland Religious Society (aka “Congregationalists”) merged. A long, complicated, intertwined history marked by divisions, splits and reunion, at last came together as one congregation: The Federated Church.

The North Parish Meetinghouse used on Town Hill by the Unitarians, was completely vacated by the Congregationalists within the span of ten years, although the North Parish Assoc. still retained title to the property. From 1842 to approximately 1863 the meetinghouse was rented and utilized by the Baptist Society (before and during construction of their own building) and they, too, vacated the Meetinghouse in 1863 and moved down the street to Rockwood Road and took up use of their own church building (which is now the Grange Hall). Samuel P. Blake and Lewis G. Miller, deacons of the First Baptist Society of North Wrentham, had purchased the half-acre parcel of land in 1860 from a Stephen Campbell.

The Town of Norfolk was incorporated in 1870, having obtained its independence from Wrentham. At this time, town meetings were held in what was called Lyceum Hall, the lower room of the North Parish Meetinghouse. The Town originally rented this space but in 1879-1880, the Parish permanently deeded the building to the Town of Norfolk, appropriate renovations took place and the building became municipal for the first time as the “Norfolk Town House”. Total cost of the town building: \$3,594.20. The Town Hall functioned within this original North Parish Meetinghouse until 1922 at which time it burned to the ground on December 5. The cause of the fire has never been determined. From 1922 to 1949 town business including Town Meeting, took place at the Grange Hall (28 Rockwood Rd.) which had been purchased by the Grange in 1921. For 34 years (1922-1956), the public library was located in the rear room of the Grange Hall. In 1930, Laura Murphy McClure (Rockwood Road family) became the town’s official librarian and functioned as head librarian until 1969. Mrs. McClure stayed on with the library until 1976.

This section addresses each Town Center Walking Tour site individually. Information is repetitive because buildings were linked together as the religious life of North Wrentham evolved:

The **Town Hill Panel** which sits on the approximate site of the First Meeting House, is to the right of the Library on Town Hill, facing Main street and next to the United States flag and Veterans’ Memorials. The panel shows the physical layout of the town’s center “then” and “now”. The Panel’s location allows the viewer an expansive view and photographs give the Walking Tour participants added visual and written information. The viewer can map out the walking route before setting out on foot. Take a moment to look to your right, across rte. 115, Union St., and see the beautiful gold-leaf **eagle weather vane** which was installed atop the Federated Church steeple in 1998.

The **Veterans’ Memorials** honoring WWI, WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans from Norfolk are placed on Town Hill beneath the American flag. You can observe “**Ware Circle**” (Main St./Rockwood Rd.) and “**Avery Circle**” (North St./ Union

St./Liberty Lane) traffic rotaries, which were named in 2014 by the Norfolk Historical Commission/Selectmen and are indicated on the Walking Tour map. The gazebo, called “The Bandstand”, was removed from Town Hill in 1995 and taken to the Highway Dept. Garage. A **New Gazebo** was built in 1996 and placed on the Hill and stands there today surrounded by inscribed bricks bearing the names of donors. Continuing toward the Tramp House, see the 6 foot ¼” **One World United for Peace Memorial** monument installed in 2003 in memory of those lost in the 9/1/1 tragedy. Also seen are the **George A. Carr Memorial Rock**, honoring the former fireman and selectman, the **Sundial Memorial** and the **Town Hill Tablet**. Continuing down the stone steps you can now observe on the sidewalk the **Rev. Avery Square plaque** honoring Reverend David Avery who founded the new church which would lead, eventually, to the founding of the Town of Norfolk. The **“Big Clock”** next to Avery’s plaque, was installed in 2005. This clock has become a well-observed landmark in the center of town! As you proceed away from Town Hill on your walk, at the Ware Circle Rotary, a stone wall adorned by **Norfolk’s Town Seal** gives a stately welcome to hundreds of travelers every day.

The **Ware Crypt**, (built ca. 1730) is the oldest structure behind (the original Old North St.) Town Hill. In (ca.) 1750, Ebenezer Ware donated to the town the land on which the adjacent Library now stands. The burial chamber was used as a receiving tomb by the Ware family, as far back as 1730, and later by the Town during the winter months when frozen ground prevented immediate burials. While observing the exterior of the crypt one sees a small mound of earth with an irregularly cut granite face. The iron door is encased within a granite “post-and-lintel surround”. There are no markings and no date is displayed. To the present day observer who sees the historic tomb and heavy iron door within a mound of crude grassy land standing right next to a neat, modern, clapboarded, expansive building with bricks, steps, and inviting paned double glass doors, the Ware Crypt looks so out of place one would almost believe that it had been moved there. It was not! The contour of the hill has changed drastically throughout the many, many years and the small North School Library building has grown and engulfed this spot on Town Hill, crypt and all, making the old Ware Crypt look out of place. But in its original place it still does stand. Long ago, Old North St. ran by the Crypt and through where the Library lobby is now located, to Main St. The Norfolk Public Library sees hundreds of patrons per day who walk by the Ware Crypt and read its historical signage. They are reminded of the generous family who gifted many acres of land to the town, which included Town Hill.

North Schoolhouse/Fire House/Library (a “3 in 1” history) North School, now part of the public library, was built in 1845 It was a one-room schoolhouse located originally at the intersection of Cleveland and Fruit Streets, serving students in the northeast section of North Wrentham (prior to 1870). In 1880, the town “library” was founded by a gift of approximately two hundred volumes from the Norfolk Farmers’ Club to the Norfolk Library Association. Originally, the town’s library was located in the lower level of the first “Town House” on Town Hill.

During the 1890s the school population had decreased and Norfolk consolidated schools resulting in the North School district merging with the Center School district in 1898.

The former North School was moved to the back side of Town Hill in 1899 where it was used to store the new truck of the Hook & Ladder Company; hence, its name “the Truck House.” By 1904, the volunteer Fire Department had grown to two hook & ladder trucks and a “chemical wagon”. That year, the first Engineer, Francis Murphy, provided the first annual report of the fire department.

In 1922 the Town Hall was destroyed by fire and not replaced. The library was then located for a time in part of Center School before it moved once again. The Norfolk Grange, having purchased the former Baptist Church building on Rockwood Rd. in 1921, opened its doors to the Norfolk Library in 1922, and it settled into the rear, or the vestry of the former Baptist Church, now known as the Grange Hall.

The school house continued to serve as the Fire Department headquarters until a new building was built at 100 Main Street in 1926. After the Fire Department moved over to its new Main Street location, classes resumed in the school house and community gatherings were held at this versatile, former North School. By 1930, however, it had become so evident it was necessary to “fit up another room to accommodate the children”, the “old fire house” was altered, improved and became the “Old Firehouse School” while at the same time accommodating the overflow of students from Center School. In 1939, overflow needs being down again, it was possible to abandon using the Firehouse School as a regular classroom and its use was turned to housing the Manual Training class for boys of grades 7 and 8. By 1941, war looming on the horizon and school enrollment down, the Manual Training program (today’s “Industrial Arts”) operated only one day a week, on Fridays. The teacher, Mr. Twombly, was called to serve his country in 1942 and a Mr. William Jones filled the vacancy until Twombly’s return in 1946. By 1947 it was obvious that a larger school was needed. Construction of a new central school on Boardman St. began and the Manual Arts program relocated to the library in 1951.

In 1950, after the Old Fire House School was no longer used by the school department, it was voted that it be remodeled for use by the public library. Additional renovations were made to form the new library building in 1957 and it actually expanded around the original North School House (aka. Truck House, School House, Fire Station) and with additions constructed in 1961-62 and 1984-85 became the library’s present day Meeting Room. The library collection left its temporary home at the Grange Hall, and relocated to its final home, our “new” library. The North School and the present Norfolk Public Library have a long, intertwined, historical path. Expansive renovations and additions completed in 2004-05 finalized its very impressive appearance today complete with spacious rooms for collections, computers, meetings, displays and presentations.

The North School or “Schoolroom” is now part of the larger Norfolk Public Library. The Schoolroom is used to house a multitude of historical materials and documents which are available at all times for the public to scrutinize. The room is furnished partly as an old schoolroom, with period desks and “blackboards”, books, artifacts and papers. An ample space provides a large table with chairs at which groups may comfortably gather for meetings. A pair of easy chairs separate the two sections of the room and invite

visitors to quietly sit and read.

Town Hill grew and developed with several buildings and sites: The **Tramp House** was built in 1886 to “lodge and feed poor travelers”. Prior to 1886, private citizens fed and sheltered transients and were then reimbursed by the Town. (Incidentally, #94 Union St. had a Tramp House at one time, and vagrants would log and cut wood as payment for their keep.) An 1886 Atlas Map shows the Tramp House’s first location to be very close to its present site on the south side of Town Hill. (The panel map shows its three locations.) It is a rectangular, one-story clapboard-sided, asphalt shingled roof with a brick chimney. The building was used to give temporary shelter to tramps and vagrants who ventured into town, often by railroad, well over a century ago. They traveled in and out of many towns throughout Massachusetts. As of 2014, only five Tramp Houses were still in existence with 2 of them still municipally owned. A Tramp House was a simple structure, small and sparsely furnished with little more than mattresses, blankets, a wood stove and rations of crackers and water. They could be found near rail lines which we already know were used by tramps looking for odd jobs. In general, the town would lock vagrants up at night and expect them to be on their way in the morning. Tramp Houses were not a community’s pride and joy but a necessity to keep “tramps” from knocking on people’s doors in search of shelter and food.

By 1918, the Tramp House in Norfolk had been taken over by the school department. It was used for teaching skills called “sloyd” or carpentry without the use of power tools. By 1933, the building was moved due to street widening, back closer to the “Fire House School” which itself eventually became the Norfolk Public Library. Classes continued to be held at the so-called “Old Manual Training Room”. As Manual Arts classes were moved out of the Tramp House in 1940, it became a sewing and cooking room called the “Domestic Science Building”. In turn, this program relocated in 1950 to the new elementary school on Boardman Street and the Tramp House was then used by the VFW for various gatherings. Eventually, police used it for storage of police material and reportedly, later in time, the small building was even used as a barber shop!

Presently the Tramp House holds various historical artifacts and the Norfolk Historical Commission occasionally conducts a special event such as a lecture or book sharing. The building has been refurbished with a new door and fresh paint (work donated by the Norfolk Lions). Its identifying sign, which replaced the original sign lost to theft, was permanently affixed to the building in 2015.

Date certain for construction of **The Parsonage**, or **The Old Parsonage** as it is called in the writing of Norfolk Historical Commission researcher, Barbara Bartholomew, had been unclear throughout local and state research study. But lengthy information falls into place--so bear with it!-- which involves both the building at 5 Union Street as well as the house at 16 Rockwood Road. One of Bartholomew’s Town Hill lectures from “History on the Hill” allows us to incorporate Broome’s prior research (2005) into the slightly complicated history of what we now call **The Parsonage**. As Bartholomew puts it: “The story begins in 1750 when on his deathbed, Ebenezer Ware said he wanted a parcel of

land set aside for that time in the future when the people of North Wrentham needed a Meeting House.” As we have learned from the previous description in this text entitled **Town Hill**, said Meeting House was indeed built and Reverend John Cleveland, (Reverend David Avery had been passed over), was put in place as the first Minister. As a kind gesture, in 1810, descendant Josiah Ware “offered the house he owned which was just across the street from the Meeting House on the road to Stony Brook [and] next to Josiah Ware’s house at 25 North St. of today...” to the aging Rev. Cleaveland, within which he could live. This house’s location was a portion of the *original* Ware landholdings dating back to Robert the Elder (a.k.a. Robert the Aged) 1750, on land that Robert never lived on himself, but was passed down to his sons [*Broomer*] and eventually sold to Josiah Ware by his father-in-law Elisha Ware. Hence, 1810 (date of the deed)—became the home of the first pastor of North Parish, Rev. Cleaveland and is considered the date of **The Parsonage**. Norfolk resident and antique house professional restorer Sam Zeigler determined that The Parsonage was built in three “distinctive” phases: 1) early and mid 1800s [Wares] 2) early 1900s [Ward] 3) mid 1900s [Campbells to Parsonage again].

Reverend John Cleveland occupied the house until his death in 1815 and after several interim ministers, a new pastor of North Parish, Moses Thacher was named in 1823. However, due to what could be called “political activism” (anti-Mason) on the part of Rev. Thacher and also because of his rigidly puritan style, a dissension among the North Parish Association resulted. The Cleveland Religious Society (actually named after Rev. Cleaveland) was formed which separated from the North Parish and made plans to construct a second Meetinghouse across the street, which they did. This second Meetinghouse is what we call The Federated Church today.

At the time that Reverend Cleaveland died (1815), ownership of the Old Parsonage belonged to the North Parish Association and continued to do so until it was sold to Salmon Mann in 1838 for \$200. When Reverend Thacher fell into disfavor at some point, he moved out of the Parsonage, taking up residence in the former Josiah Ware’s Tavern until he left North Wrentham. Renovations were made to the Old Parsonage while Rev. Cummings (Interim Pastor) lived there. The North Parish paid off outstanding debts (mainly to Daniel A. Cook) for renovations and, as was previously stated, the Old Parsonage was sold in 1838 for \$200. to Salmon Mann, a native of North Wrentham and the son of Moses Mann. According to Broomer’s 2006 research, Salmon Mann (sometimes spelled “Man”) was one of the parishioners in the Cleveland Religious Society of Orthodox Congregationalists. Mann’s home was actually at #16 Rockwood Road and though there is no proof, it is plausible that he may have moved into the Old Parsonage at 5 Union St. and lived there for a time. In any case, shortly before he died, Salmon Mann sold 16 Rockwood Rd. to Hubbard Gale and willed the Parsonage to his daughter, Mary Mann Ward. Descendants of the Mann family: Mary Mann Ward, Franklin Mann, Frances, Gertrude and Agnes Mann, occupied the house until 1922 at which time the Mann heirs sold the Parsonage to a John Parsons of Milford. Thus began an extended period of time wherein the structure was privately owned. The last private owner was the family of Harold Campbell (with a Boulter family living in part of the house at some point), quite a versatile Norfolk man who served as: Fire Chief, Police

Chief, Dog Officer, Truant Officer and School Bus Driver! Campbell's daughter Dorothy ("Dot") Campbell who also resided in the house, was the Town's first Dispatcher when a Dispatch Service for the Police and Fire Departments was established in the Old Parsonage. [Bartholomew]

The "Old Parsonage" at 5 Union St. was sold to the Federated Church in 1964 with the Campbell family's condition that Harold be allowed to live there until the end of his life. In 1967, Harold Campbell passed away and the house's ownership was transferred to the Federated Church. Extensive renovations took place and it was then that the official name became The Federated Church Parsonage. Time passed and by the beginning of the year 2000, once again, the Parsonage needed major repairs. The occupying Minister relocated and the building stood empty while Church Trustees considered their options. The building and land could be sold or the building bought and relocated. In the end, the Federated Church was able to raise necessary funds for all restoration work. The Parsonage stands today, occupied by the present pastor's family and has been beautifully restored from top to bottom. Original features have been preserved, including beehive ovens and log beams in the basement. [Bartholomew]

To recap: The **Federated Church** building was constructed in 1834, by the Cleaveland Religious Society but the Federated Church congregation did not form until 1918. It was the result of North Wrentham's multiple, intertwined and "colorful" histories which include but are not limited to: Reverend David Avery, The North Parish Association, Reverend Moses Thacher and The Cleaveland Religious Society (Congregationalists). The church's history of a congregation's birth out of dissension, challenging disagreements and eventual splits had led to a First Meeting House on what would become Town Hill and then to a Second Meeting House across the street. The First Meetinghouse was rented to the Baptists. The 2nd Meeting House, which housed the Cleaveland Religious Society eventually became The Union Congregational Church and later, when the Baptists, North Parish Association and The Cleaveland Society united, it became known as the **Federated Church of Norfolk**, the name which remains today. This Federated Church represents well over 200 rich years of religious history and in the end, a massive reconciliation of multiple religious groups.

The church building at #1 Union Street, according to Broomer, is the most prominent and distinguished building at the center of Norfolk with its Greek and Colonial-Revival styles. An unfortunate fire in 1961 had destroyed much of the church's vestry. Rebuilding included an educational wing on the south side of the church (where the old Center School once stood but had been demolished in 1950), a one-storied and flat-roofed wing. Some years later, the George F. MacGraw Christian Education Building was constructed further south and was dedicated in 1979. This building contains two Sunday School classrooms on two levels. The clock tower and steeple were added above the bell tower back in 1964. In 1976, in celebration of America's Bicentennial, a carillon (set of bells set to play and be heard outside, far and wide) was purchased and installed within the steeple and in 1998, a gilded gold-leaf rooster weather vane was installed on the steeple's top.

As was stated at the beginning of this historical narrative, “so developed the church, so developed the lives of the congregation.” *To refresh your memory: as they cannot be restated enough, see details in the beginning pages of this Walking Tour text which will begin with Reverend David Avery and his split with the Congregational Church in Wrentham Center, his relocation to North Wrentham and his role in the North Parish Association. The story leads to Reverend Moses Thacher, the establishment of The Cleaveland Religious Society and the eventual building of the Second Meetinghouse and later, the reunion of The North Parish Association and The Cleaveland Society which leads in the end, to the building of the church called **The Federated Church of Norfolk.***

Blake-Campbell House and Blacksmith Shop are located at 118 Main Street, opposite the public safety building. Kathleen Kelly Broomer has given ca.1850 as the date of construction. The oldest parts of this house, Greek Revival-style (evidenced in part by “6 over 6” wood sash windows with decorative moldings on the second floor and attic windows and a single brick chimney at the roof ridge) were seen on the 1876 and 1888 atlases. Colonial Revival-style additions appear to date to the first quarter of the 20th century (evidenced by the full-width front porch on the main block, and also the east wing.) The 1 ½ story wing is attached to the east side of the house and though it is possible that the wing was once a separate house that was moved and attached to the Blake-Campbell house in the early 20th century, no definitive research has been uncovered. At the western side of the property also facing Main Street is the blacksmith shop built by Levi Blake in 1865.

The Blake-Campbell house initially appears on the 1858 Walling atlas for North Wrentham. A blacksmith by trade, Levi Blake’s shop is depicted as a detached building west of the house. Blake was also a town officer and a member/officer in the Norfolk Farmer’s Club in its beginning days. Bertha Fales even describes a delicious, “fine supper” which Levi Blake provided at the annual reunion and festival of the Farmer’s Club, on January 12, 1875 which was held at Lyceum Hall on Town Hill. Back in 1871, Norfolk’s first town valuation documented that Levi N. Blake was taxed for: a house, barn, fifteen acres of pasture, fifteen acres of “mowing and tillage”, four acres of meadow, 32 acres of wood lot and ten acres of swamp. By 1886, however, the valuation records confirmed a significant reduction in the amount of acreage he owned: he was taxed for a house, barn, blacksmith shop, carriage house and a house lot of three-quarters of an acre.

An 1860 census report verified Blake at age 47; his wife, Louisa, age 45. By 1880 he resided with his second wife, Hannah, age 50 and his widowed mother Hannah, age 81. Levi Blake died on June 28, 1890, at the age of 77 years, 7 months. His wife continued to live in the house until at least 1902, as documented in directories.

George F. Campbell was listed in the Norfolk directory as a blacksmith and wheelwright on Main St. Actually, Campbell was the *only* blacksmith/wheelwright in town at that time. The valuation records of 1911 list Campbell as owning: a dwelling with an ell, a blacksmith shop, a carriage house, two house lots totaling 2 ¾ acres and “stock in trade”

valuing \$100. In 1912 George Campbell was appointed to the town's new Finance Commission. He served four terms on the Board of Selectmen (1913-1919) which additionally functioned as Overseers of the Poor and the Board of Health. George was also a Norfolk fireman and town clerk from 1920 to at least 1955. He was town clerk when the Town Hall burned down on December 5, 1922 and he certified to the state inspector of public records that the contents of the town clerk's safe and selectmen's safe survived the fire.

Regarding George Campbell's skill as a blacksmith: John Bennett in *Norfolk Stories*, stated "He could do anything." As an example John proceeded to describe how George rigged a hoisting mechanism so he could shoe oxen who could not stand on 3 legs (as horses can), by actually lifting them up off the ground! He was the only one around who could shoe an ox, and some of them weighed as much as 1500 lbs. and more. The Norfolk Historical Commission has in its archives a photograph dating to 1910 depicting the shop being used for blacksmithing purposes.

Ware/Dupee/Thayer/Frank Gross House

By the middle 1850s, Cyrus Ware (1826-1879) had acquired a small parcel of land from his father, Darius Ware, located next to the railroad station on Rockwood Rd., formerly called "Railroad Street". Cyrus proceeded to improve the site with construction of the building at 15 Rockwood Road. Though Cyrus Ware was a farmer, the building is described as a store on an 1858 map. Nearby Foxborough was a major center of straw bonnets and "Union Straw Works of Foxborough", founded in 1853 was an enormous manufacturing company which by 1864 employed over 3,000 workers. Also in 1854, Cyrus Ware was one of the trustees of the Union Company which set up what would be considered a satellite business in the Rockroad Road district, at 26 Rockwood Rd. Adjacent to the railroad station, Sarah A. (Ray) Dupee (1820-1906) began what amounts to an illustrious business career in her own right, in the building at 15 Rockwood Rd. which she acquired from Cyrus Ware in 1866. Following the death of her husband Nelson Dupee in 1875, Sarah ran a restaurant in the building and later, in 1890, she operated a dry goods and grocery store.

In addition to the aforementioned businesses which operated within her home, Sarah Dupee was also involved in real estate transactions of other buildings in the Rockwood Road Historic District. Information obtained from the Registry of Deeds validates that in 1887, she facilitated conveying ownership of two properties which she had acquired, herself, with "no interference or control of her present or any future husband" in 1872, i.e., in her own name! The boarding house building at 24 Rockwood Rd. went to Cornelius J. Murphy--- and a separate straw works building behind it, at 26 Rockwood Rd. {Cornelius renovated the straw works building for his son and his bride, Laura Smith Murphy (McClure) and the building stayed in the Murphy family (1971) for over 100 years. It was sold by Mrs. McClure's grandchildren in 2015.} In 1893 Sarah Dupee sold the building at 15 Rockwood Rd. to George Thayer who was a flagman for the railroad, along with his four sons and two of his boarders. The boarders held jobs such as: baggage master, baggage handler, fireman or section hand. Later still, the building at

15 Rockwood Road served as a post office as well as a real estate office. Another transaction took place in 1893, as Sarah Dupee purchased the former minister's house lot at 35 Rockwood Rd. from Elbridge W. Giles. Most likely Mrs. Dupee built the present house on that lot as an investment. She sold the property at 15 Rockwood Rd. in 1902 and died four years later in Franklin.

Much later, as of the 1970s, the George Thayer/Sarah Dupee house became the home and offices of Frank Gross, attorney and Town Moderator of the Town of Norfolk for thirty years. He and his wife, Carol, lived there for many, many years before moving out of Massachusetts.

In 1863, the North Wrentham Baptist Society built a church in a prominent location (Rockwood Road) which served the religious and social needs of its growing membership for many years. Previously, the Baptists had conducted their religious services in the old Meetinghouse which stood high on Town Hill. The church's new building was constructed under the direction of Pastor Daniel Round and for the next 54 years it flourished until a decline in church membership forced it to be sold to the **Norfolk Grange** in 1921.

The Norfolk Grange organization has maintained ownership of the building until this day, for its meetings and related Grange events. As of this writing (2016), the Hall is rented by the Providence Baptist Church for weekly services and to other private parties for a variety of social events. Because of its "integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association", it met the criteria for being recognized by the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. The Grange Hall has undergone a lengthy interior and exterior restoration program, funded largely by Community Preservation Association funds as well as donated professional services and labor. The building is under a historic preservation restriction which mandates retention of its basic historic appearance and allows alteration for the purposes of updated code requirements, only.

Specifically pertinent to Norfolk, the *United States Department of the Interior National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places* captured the essence of the history of the Norfolk Grange and it bears partial quoting:

The Norfolk Grange was formed in 1886, sixteen years after the incorporation of Norfolk. The Grange served an important function in Norfolk, a small rural community where the majority of citizens made their living on farms. The Grange provided education to the farmer on cultivation, soil conservation and the breeding and care of livestock. It provided the farmer with a forum to compare ideas and a voice to speak out politically. Equally important to its members, the Grange was a place for social gathering for families to come together and temper the isolation of rural life. The organization of the Norfolk Grange was largely an effort of the State Grange which had been organized in 1873.

In 1922 the Norfolk Town Hall burned and was not replaced. The Town Hall was

the same building where the Baptists and first Grangers had met on town hill, so the loss was felt by everyone. Activities which ordinarily would have taken place in the Town Hall were conducted at the Grange Hall from 1922 to 1949. The Grange Hall was the town meeting room, the voting place and the hall where school graduation, school plays and dances took place. Norfolk's small Roman Catholic congregation held services in the building from the summer of 1947 to 1950. The Norfolk Library, directed by Laura McClure, was housed in this building in the room in the rear from 1930 to 1956. The variety of town activities that took place here under the sign "Grange Hall" is an indication of the importance of the Grange in a small Massachusetts town and a reminder of Norfolk's agricultural heritage.

Salmon Mann House (1806) 16 Rockwood Rd.

Broomer states that the Salmon Mann house is one of the finest early 19th century Capes in Norfolk. Salmon Mann (1781-1858), son of Moses Mann (sometimes spelled "Man") married his first wife, Molly Perrigo, in 1806. From 1813 to 1814, he and Daniel Cook briefly co-owned a cotton factory at Stony Brook called Cook, Blake & Company. Salmon Mann was a founding member of the Cleaveland Religious Society which left the first Meetinghouse on Town Hill and constructed a Second Meetinghouse across the street on Union St. Salmon Mann eventually bought what was called The Old Parsonage at 5 Union St. and may very well have also lived there. According to railroad deeds, Salmon Mann conveyed at least three acres of his inherited land to the Norfolk County Railroad for railroad construction. In 1858, the house at 16 Rockwood Rd. was sold to Hubbard C. Gale, who was reportedly a "hatter" in the 1850s and later a farmer. In the 1870s, Hannah L. Gale (wife of Hubbard Gale) was one of four women living in the Rockwood Rd. historic district who was employed in a straw bonnet factory. (Straw bonnets "had the greatest value of all goods manufactured in North Wrentham"). Post-World War II, the property associated with 16 Rockwood was subdivided to create 2 additional parcels: present-day #14 and #18 Rockwood Rd.
