

## About the North Reading Historical & Antiquarian Society

The North Reading Historical & Antiquarian Society, Inc. began as the North Reading Antiquarian Club in 1953, the year of the Town's Centennial. In 1963, the Club formally incorporated as a local historical society and became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, all volunteer organization. Although it was a longstanding club in town, it had no property of its own. In 1971, the Town took the Putnam property by eminent domain and an agreement was made with the Historical Society to assume responsibility for both restoration and supervision of the house and grounds.

The mission of the Historical Society is to promote interest in articles of antiquity, their preservation and history. This is accomplished through studying and preserving not only the history of North Reading, but also researching local Middlesex County families and businesses. The Society builds an awareness and an appreciation of the past through its informative public programs held throughout the year. It is the Society's Membership dues that support these programs and speakers.

On Memorial Day, the Rev. Daniel Putnam House, 27 Bow Street, opens its doors for the season with patriotic flags and bunting, and displays of military paraphernalia provided by North Reading veterans and families. Next is the Strawberry festival, a chance to have social interactions. Throughout the summer, volunteers from the Society welcome visitors during the warm season. This is an opportunity to tour the house, the garden, and other historic buildings on the property.

The annual Apple festival in September is a Town event complete with apple pie contests, apple pie and ice cream, crafter vendors, and the North Reading Company of Minit & Militia members cooking hot dogs and hamburgers. Local artists donate their paintings to benefit the Society through a silent auction and raffle. The Society offers historically themed merchandise, such as tee shirts, afghans, coffee mugs, jewelry, reprints of early town maps, and pewter ornaments that celebrate local historical buildings, for sale.

During the Christmas season, the Putnam House opens to coincide with the Town lighting of the tree on the Common. Displays in Victorian style include homemade doll houses, made by North Reading residents, to delight the children. Hayrides are provided by the Minit & Militia. For the following two weekends, the House is open for Christmas shopping.

The Society raises funds to support its endeavors by hosting the Apple Festival in September and the Strawberry Festival in June and through its sale of merchandise, available on the website [www.nreadinghistory.org](http://www.nreadinghistory.org). The Society also receives generous donations from members, local businesses, and residents.

Membership in the Society is open to everyone. If you are interested in learning about and preserving North Reading's history and sharing its story with the next and future generations, please join us!

Contact info:

Website: [www.nreadinghistory.org](http://www.nreadinghistory.org)

Email: [info@nreadinghistory.org](mailto:info@nreadinghistory.org)

Phone: 978-664-1066

See us on Facebook

The North Reading Historical & Antiquarian Society  
Preserving, Studying, and Interpreting North Reading History since 1961



The Reverend Daniel Putnam House

The North Reading Historical & Antiquarian Society was founded in 1963 to promote the local history and to assure the preservation of the historic Reverend Daniel Putnam House. Over the past decades, the Society along their work on the Putnam House has assisted others with the work on numerous preservation projects, most notably with the town's Historical Commission, the Damon Tavern ballroom with its Rufus Porter murals. The Society also assisted the North Reading Company of Minit & Militia in their preservation and/or recreation of the West Village School, the Sergeant Flint House, the Farm Museum and, most recently, the First Meeting House on the grounds of the Putnam Homestead.

### Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle your level of membership:

Individual \$20    Family/Couple \$25    Senior (65+) \$12    Junior (under 18) \$5  
Supporting \$50    Sustaining \$100    Patron \$500    Benefactor \$1,000

Mail to North Reading Historical & Antiquarian Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 354, North Reading, MA 01864