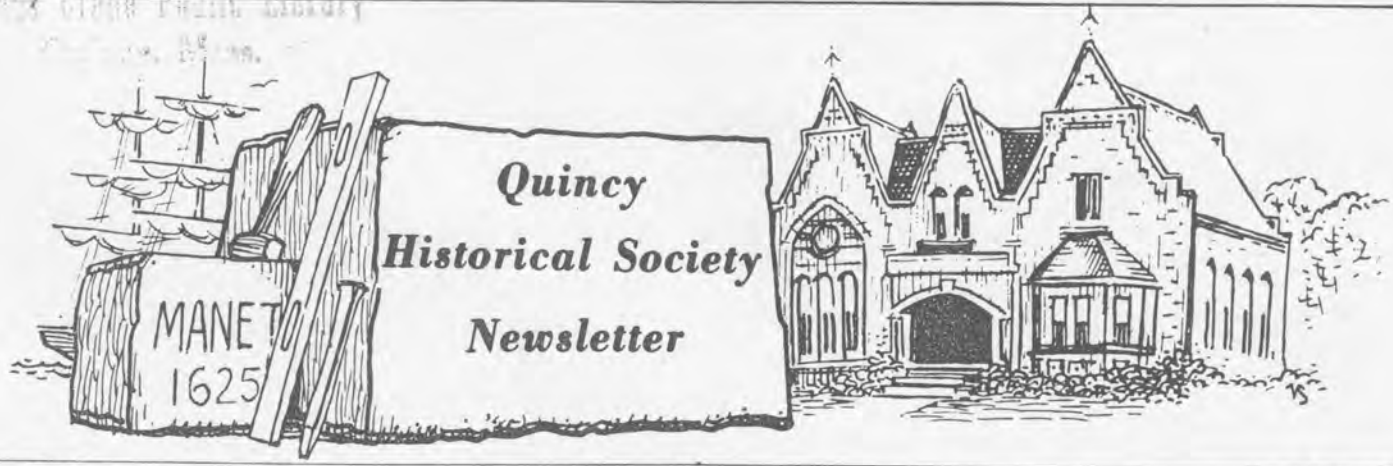


Quincy - Quincy Historical Society



Vol. 1, No. 1

Quincy, Massachusetts

Winter, 1973

### 40% Increase In Membership

There has been a 40 percent increase in membership in the last 18 months, bringing the total membership of the Quincy Historical Society to more than 775.

This represents the largest membership in the 80-year history of the society. The membership committee has been vigorously engaged in reaching a membership of 1,000 by the Revolutionary War Bicentennial in 1975.

Members of the membership committee include: Miss Lois H. Walker, Miss Mildred B. Harrison, William P. Farrar, Gordon D. Carr and Carl R. Deyeso. William A. O'Connell and G. Fred Ashworth serve as

[Cont'd on Page 2]

### Blend Of Past, Present, Future

## Plans Unveiled For New Library, Museum, Historical Center

The architectural plans for our building show a library, museum and historical center facility that will be one of the finest of its size anywhere.

The design is based on the activities that we wish to carry out here, and reflects the most modern practices. As a combination of the old integrated with the new, the building symbolizes the Society's theme of working with the past but for the present and the future.

The fine exterior of the 1872 granite and brick building will remain unchanged except for the replacement of the tower and

the closing of some windows. The 1973 building will be brick and granite, separated architecturally but connected functionally by the main entrance area.

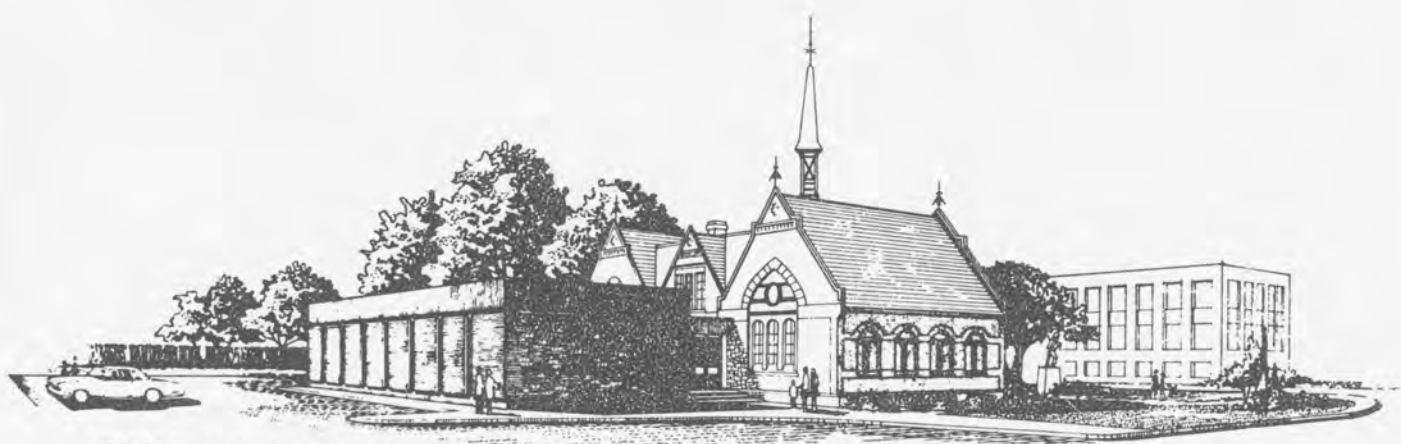
There will be spaces for meetings and school classes, and work area for various school and other projects, and for the care of various types of materials. Exhibition areas are arranged for the use of modern techniques for meaningful displays. Storage areas will be equipped for the best care of various types of objects not on continuous display. The library and associated service areas are in

accordance with the latest library practices.

Construction will be of the best quality; the protection and atmospheric control systems throughout will be of the best type for maximum security and preservation; it will contain over 15,000 sq. ft. of useful space and will be built with possible future expansion in mind.

Incorporated will be ideas of eight subcommittees that studied the care and display of various special types of collections; also the advice of top experts in the library and museum fields obtained through

[Cont'd on Page 2]



MUSEUM AND LIBRARY FOR THE

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## A Fine Private Schoolhouse

# Adams Academy - An Architectural Landmark

The history of the Adams Academy starts with the establishment of the school and the selection of the site by John Adams.

The building was erected in fulfillment of his wishes.

The building stands today virtually unchanged from the days when it housed the small school for boys, and is a fine example of the private schoolhouse of 100 years ago.

It is basically two rooms 24 feet by 48 feet with corridors and auxiliary space between. Each of the end rooms has a handsome vaulted ceiling with exposed decorated timbers. The room to the south was the school room in which the school master presided. The north room originally housed the town library but later became a school room as the school grew and the faculty increased to three.

The school stressed the

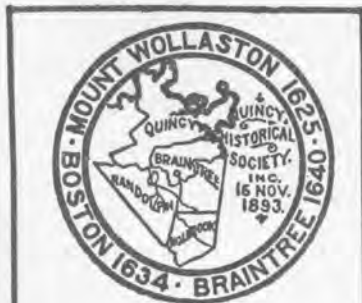
## Membership Hike

[Cont'd from Page 1

co-chairmen for the committee.

Membership is made up not only of Quincy residents, but residents of surrounding towns, as well as from 12 states.

The committee's slogan says Mr. O'Connell is, "The Historical Society, where everyone belongs".



Vol. 1

No. 1

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Paul D. Harold  
Editor

William A. O'Connell  
Advertising

classics and preparation for Harvard, and the building reflects the personal instruction type of school that was more English than American in form. Most other schools of the type and period have changed to the modern type preparatory school, and their facilities have grown with them. Thus this building is significant as one that has not been enlarged, and little changed.

Architecturally, the Adams Academy building is a fine example of its style and period. It is of Quincy granite, coursed, rough-faced ashlar masonry, which reveals, string-courses and cornices of brick. The roof is slate.

The architects were Messrs. Ware and Van Brunt who had their offices at 2 Pemberton Square in Boston. Other buildings by this prominent firm included:

Memorial Hall, Weld Hall, and the east wing of the college

library at Harvard; the Episcopal Seminary in Cambridge, Mass.; the First Unitarian (later Congregational) Church in Boston; Mudge Memorial Church in Swampscott, Mass.; Grace Church in New Bedford, Mass.; and the Union Station at Worcester, Mass. with its tall clock tower. They received the contract to design the Adams Academy Building in January of 1870. The school opened in September 1872.

William Robert Ware [1832-1915] was one of the foremost figures in American architecture. He was the first Professor of Architecture in the United States. He organized the first School of Architecture in this country in 1866 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston. In 1881 he founded the Columbia School of Architecture in New York. He was a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, and a member of the Architectural

League.

Henry Van Brunt (1832-1903) was no less distinguished than his partner. After the end of their association in 1881, he formed the firm of Van Brunt and Howe with Frank M. Howe whose name appears on the rendering of the Adams Academy Building. They designed the Harvard Medical School building in Boston, public libraries in Cambridge and Dedham, and buildings on the Wellesley campus before moving their practice to Kansas City, Mo. in 1886. There they designed many famous structures including the Court of Honor at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. He was one of the organizers of the Boston Society of Architects, and one of the earliest members of the American Institute of Architects. He was Secretary of the A. I. A. in 1861, became a Fellow in 1864, and was President in 1899.

## Academy History Starts With John Adams

In his later years, John Adams, second President of the United States, conveyed certain of his properties to the Town of Quincy "in consideration of the veneration I feel for the residence of my ancestors and the place of my nativity, and of the habitual affection I bear the Inhabitants with whom I have so happily lived for more than eighty-six years, and of my sincere desire to promote their happiness, and the instruction of their posterity in religion, morality, and other useful arts and sciences . . . ."

The first purpose of the gift was that the proceeds be for the "completing and finishing of a Temple to be built of stone".

This is the present United First Parish Church in Quincy Square which was completed in 1828. The second purpose was the support of a school. On July

25, 1822, John Adams supplemented his original gift by conveying additional properties to the Town, among which was "Eight acres of land in the Town of Quincy near the Meeting House bounded . . . so as to include Mr. Hancock's ancient cellar and well."

He then provides "that when the objects mentioned in the former deed are obtained a stone school house shall be erected over the cellar which was under the House anciently built by the Rev. Mr. John Hancock the father of John Hancock, that great, generous, disinterested, bountiful benefactor of his Country, once President of Congress and afterwards Governor of this State, whose great exertions and unlimited sacrifices this nation is so deeply indebted for her Independence and present prosperity who was

born in this house and which house was afterwards purchased and inhabited by the Rev. learned ingenious and eloquent Lemuel Bryant Pastor of this Congregation which house was afterwards purchased by and inhabited by an Honorable friend of my younger years Col. Josiah Quincy and also inhabited by his Son Josiah Quincy Junior a friend of my riper years a Brother Barrister at law with whom I have been engaged in many arduous contests at the Bar, who was as ardent a patriot as any of his age and next to James Otis the greatest orator."

The purposes of John Adams' gift were carried out by the Board of Supervisors of the Adams Temple and School Fund which he established for the purpose. Sufficient funds having accrued, Messrs. Ware and Van

[Cont'd on Page 4]

## Plans Unveiled For New Historical Center

[Cont'd from Page 1]

visits to leading institutions by the committee and the architects, Edgar H. Wood &

Associates.

The basic plans are accepted and approved, detailed development is underway, and

our fund raising efforts are starting. Our big opportunity is here; we must make the most of it.

## ● President's Report

# 'The Past Is Prologue'

"The Past is Prologue."

That statement appears at the entrance to the National Archives Building in Washington. It explains why there are historical societies, and why their job is important. It describes our year just past.

As you have heard, we have recorded some notable achievements, but in few if any cases are they closed books; rather they are stepping stones toward higher ultimate goals. Of top importance, of course, is the fact that we have a building and property; but these are of little value until we put them to use. That we must now proceed to do.

Equally important is the fact that we have grown in size and stature. Through our enlarged membership, our speakers' bureau activities, our greater participation in citywide, areawide and statewide affairs, and many individual public relations activities, we are now a more viable factor in our community.

We must continue to grow in influence and in reputation so that we can do our job better, and so that we can get the support we need to put our plans into effect.

We would like to be operating in our building by the dual anniversary year of 1975. Our immediate job is clear. We must raise the necessary funds and proceed with our building plans as soon as practicable.

This is not an easy job; but I am sure that we have planned it well, and I know that we can do it. To us has fallen a great obligation, but a greater opportunity.

**H. HOBART HOLLY**  
President

## Society Publishes Index To '300 Years Of Quincy'

As a service to all persons interested in Quincy history, and as an advance contribution to Quincy's 350th, the Society has published an Index to D. M. Wilson's "Three Hundred Years of Quincy".

The Index is the work of our Historian, Dr. James R. Cameron.

Wilson's History, written in connection with Quincy's Tercentenary in 1925, has long been regarded as an interesting

and informative volume. Its reference value, however, was greatly impaired by its lack of an index. We hope that the new Index will now make it a useful reference book on Quincy history.

Copies of the Index have been distributed to historical libraries where we believe copies of Wilson would be found. Individuals may purchase the Index for \$2 by writing the Society or contacting one of our officers.

## Newsletter Banner By Vincent Sullivan

The newsletter's banner is the work of Vincent Sullivan.

In a small space, he has represented Quincy's landmark industries - granite and ship building and one of Quincy's landmark buildings -

the Adams Academy.

Mr. Sullivan is a member of the Quincy Historical Society and is past president of the Dorchester Historical Society.



**GORDON D. CARR**, a member of the speakers' bureau, is shown speaking before the Quincy Rotary Club luncheon. Mr. Carr has spoken before a number of groups, ranging from civic club meetings to a pack of Cub Scouts camped at Faxon Park.

[Doris Oberg Photo]

## Another Busy Year At Adams Birthplaces

It was another busy year at the birthplaces of John Adams and John Quincy Adams.

The 1973 season opened April 19 under the able direction of hostesses, Mrs. Esther Ames, Mrs. Florence Gamins, Miss Edith Cameron, Mrs. Penny Miller, Miss Esther Sauter, Miss Laura Cameron and Miss Esther Gizzarelli.

A number of school and Boy and Girl Scouts groups from across the state visited the sites as well as a group of Rotary Anns who were in Boston for a convention. The Mayflower Descendants of Rhode Island, a group of bicyclists from New York and New Jersey, and Adams descendants were also among the visitors.

Foreign visitors came from: Brazil, Finland, Canada, French Guiana, Puerto Rico, England, Australia, France, Italy, Switzerland, Israel, Ethiopia, Sweden and South Africa.

Perhaps the two most famous visitors were "John Adams" and "John Hancock". Actually the visitors were Don Perkins and Charles Riece, actors who were playing these characters in the play 1776 which was in the Boston area in July.

Members of the historical society serving on the House Committee this year were: Miss Margaret Hanley, Mrs. Hobart Holly, Mrs. Frank Holzer, Mrs. Robert Justis, Mrs. Alfred Knapton and Miss Maude Wheeler, chairman.

## First Function At Adams Academy

The first function held in the Adams Academy since the society took over the property as its headquarters was for 35 members of the Appalachian Mountain Climbing Club and the Sierra Club.

Members of the two organizations are frequent visitors to the West Quincy quarry area for hiking and mountain climbing trips. This specially organized trip centered on the historical aspects of the quarry area.

The group, from many places in the Greater Boston area,

gathered at the Academy where Gordon D. Carr and H. Hobart Holly gave informal talks on the granite industry and the First Railroad, respectively.

Illustrated materials were from the society's collection. The group viewed the United First Parish Church and City Hall, outstanding examples of granite construction, and also the replica of the First Railroad car which belongs to the society.

The group also visited the Bunker Hill Quarry and First Railroad sites before organizing hiking trips in the quarry area.

## Many Items Library Committee Working On Collection

The Library Committee, under the direction of Mrs. Rudolf Oberg, meets regularly every Monday and throughout the summer has been organizing materials for reference and display when the Adams Academy building is readied.

The society's extensive collection ranges from newspaper clippings, manuscripts, maps, costumes and postcards to fossils, furniture and items from archeologists' digs in Quincy. And the collection is still growing.

"An item doesn't have to be 100, 50 or even 25 years old to be of value to the collection," says Mrs. Oberg. "As a matter of fact, we have some 1970's fashions in our costume collection."

Besides organizing current materials, the committee has been setting up resources necessary to handle new acquisitions, of almost any type.

And with the assistance of a professional preservationist, members of the committee have been trained to care for the most delicate items.

Part of the committee's work also involves answering letters and helping visitors locate and obtain material. Last fall a group from Finland came to microfilm the society's papers from the Finnish Workingman's Organization.

Committee is made up of Mrs. Hall Carpenter, Miss Edith Howlett, G. Fred Ashworth, Mrs. Frank C. Wiot and Miss Eleanor Brown.

## Adams' Tribute To John Hancock

[Cont'd from Page 2]

Brunt of Boston were engaged as architects in January 1870 for the school house to be erected on the Hancock lot. As directed also it is of granite, with brick trim.

Adams Academy opened in September of 1872 and operated as a boys school until 1908. While small, it established a good reputation especially under Dr. William Everett, but changing times and newer educational methods brought about its end. From the closing of the school in 1908, until 1972, the Adams Temple and School Fund preserved the historic site and maintained the building while it was used for various civic purposes.

In 1972 the property was turned over to the Quincy Historical Society on a long-term lease basis, for use for a historical library and museum facility where historical,

educational and civic activities compatible with the purposes for which John Adams gave the property to his Town may be carried out.

Except for the absence of a small wooden tower that was removed some years ago, the exterior remains virtually unchanged, and it is intended that it shall remain so. The interior has been somewhat altered in appearance but not basically. Some changes to adapt it to its new functions are planned, and some features such as the original vaulted beamed ceilings will be restored.

It is planned that school classes will once more meet in the old school which stands on a historic site as a landmark to John Adams' community and educational interests, and as a memorial to John Hancock, Col. Josiah Quincy, and Josiah Quincy Jr.

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**YESTERDAY AND TODAY** - The Quincy Historical Society's archives links Quincy's history of yesterday and today. Here The Quincy Sun's special section on the opening of State Street South is presented for the archives. From the left, H. Hobart Holly, president Quincy Historical Society; William A. O'Connell, first vice-president; Robert Mahoney, State Street South executive and Henry Bosworth, publisher Quincy Sun.

[Photo courtesy Quincy Sun]

### WANTED: A Name For Our Newsletter

Hope you enjoy your first newsletter. It will be published quarterly to keep our members and friends up to date on the activities of the historical society.

We've called our first issue the Quincy Historical Society Newsletter, but we're open for suggestions for a more distinctive name. Got any ideas?