



## Fund Drive Started

The opening of the fund raising to restore and modify the Adams Academy for its use by the Historical Society is announced by Chairman Gordon D. Carr.

The goal is \$150,000. H. Hobart Holly, president of the society, is vice-chairman, Brooks Robbie, leadership gifts, Roger Hamel, organizations, a team from State Street South, business, and Miss Joanne Pelton, public relations.

It is essential that every member give this effort complete support. To attain this goal, giving should be on a pledged basis over a three year period to allow for the most substantial giving.

## Membership Reaches 930

Membership in the Quincy Historical Society has reached a new high of 930 - an increase of 155 since the first newsletter was mailed in January.

Our membership drive is ahead of schedule, and expectations are to reach the goal of 1000 this year. Original plans called for this total by the beginning of the Revolutionary War Bicentennial celebrations.

Team members are enthusiastic about results. The Speakers Bureau of the Historical Society has been most effective.

Membership is distributed throughout the United States as

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**HISTORIC SIGNING.** Members of the Board of Curators met with William Lofgren and Sons contractors and Edgar Wood Associates, architects to sign the agreement for the restoration of the Adams Academy. Left to right, [seated] Paul Harold, curator; Anthony Losordo, building committee chairman; Ivar Lofgren of Lofgren and Sons; H. Hobart Holly, society president. Back row, Brad Lofgren of Lofgren and Sons; William Flavin, curator; Mrs. Rudolf Oberg, librarian; Mrs. Alfred Knaption, curator; Miss Helene Johnson, secretary; Frank Holzer, curator; Mrs. Nelson Bernier, curator; Alfred Skirius of Edgar Wood Associates; and Gordon Nelson, society vice president. [Laban Whittaker Photo]

## Repair & Restoration, Phase One Building Project Well Underway

The first construction phase of our Building Project is under way.

The contractor, William R. Lofgren & Sons is now at work on the repair and restoration of the Adams Academy Building, plus modifications such as a new electrical system and modern protective systems to suit our functions.

The exposure of the some Gothic beamed ceilings in the main rooms has been the most exciting development to date, but the possibilities of the beautiful

building loom greater every day. Although this is but the first big step toward our ultimate goal, we will have a very fine museum and library facility when this work is completed.

Our reasons for proceeding in this manner are two fold. After waiting so long, we wish to make a start on our planned activities to show what we can do and the great opportunities that are ours. Waiting for means to undertake the full project at one time could well have meant further delay.

We hope to be operating in

the Academy Building before the end of the year. Secondly we feel that construction work in progress will stimulate interest in the fund-raising effort that we are now starting. Seeing scaffolding and ladders at the Building will make everyone know that we mean business.

Since the appearance of the conceptual rendering of the total building, old and new, in our previous NEWSLETTER, we have received a number of comments that are most appreciated. Pro or con, your

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## Seat Of Chicatabot

# Moswetuset or Massachusetts Hummock

By JAMES R. CAMERON

A small hillock rises from the salt marsh which separates Quincy Bay from the Neponset River.

Moswetuset or Massachusetts Hummock was the seat of Chicatabot, sachem or sagamore of the Massachusetts Indians, at the time of the settlement of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. It is the only important relic of the Indians from whom the Commonwealth derived its name.

Moswetuset retains its original form and character, appearing today much as it did when Captain John Smith visited New England in 1614 or when Miles Standish came to Squantum in 1621. It is still bounded by the sea from which the Indians secured food and the marshes that were its protection. It is close to the Massachusetts Fields, the Indian planting grounds.

From the time of the earliest visitors and settlers from Great Britain to the present, this site has been recognized for its unique historical importance. Moswetuset Hummock is one of the oldest recognized historical sites in the nation as well as in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Though the Commonwealth secured title to this property in 1930 from the Harold T.

Dennisons,\*1, Moswetuset Hummock has remained primarily a place of local historical interest. The purpose of this article is to marshal evidence for the historic significance of this hummock and to recall the recognition which it has received from historians during the past three and a half centuries. It is my hope that Moswetuset Hummock might receive the wider recognition which it deserves, and thus be spared from either destruction or desecration as well as serve its potential historical and educational role in the future.

Captain John Smith was the first writer to use the title Massachusetts in reference to a part of the area which now bears that name. Six years before the Pilgrims came to Plymouth, Smith sailed along the New England Coast. He made a map of the land and wrote a Description of New England which was first published in 1616. In the first edition, he used Indian place names which in later editions were replaced by English names.

"Massachusett" and "Massachewset" are variant spellings of the word used by Smith to describe the land. He added a final s to the word to designate the people. This word was used to indicate three specific places; a river, a mount and a high mountain. The river was renamed the Charles in honor of his prince. Although it can not be established conclusively, it has always been understood that "Massachusett Mount" was his designation for Moswetuset Hummock and the "high mountain of Massachusett" referred to Big Blue in the Blue Hills of Milton.\*2

The Massachusetts Indians lived along the coast in the area between Cape Ann and Scituate. Their territory extended about as far inland as Worcester. "Massachusetts Bay" was first used to describe what is now Quincy Bay; only later was all of Boston Harbor included.

At an even later date the term was used to encompass the body of water to which it is now applied.\*3. The number of the

Massachusetts Indians at the beginning of the seventeenth century has been variously estimated at between three and fifteen thousand.\*4. At about this time, the great sagamore of the Massachusetts had the land along the coast south of the Neponset River cleared of trees. This clearing has been known ever since as the Massachusetts Fields. The sagamore held his councils at Moswetuset Hummock.

In the years between the visit of Captain Smith and the

coming of settlers to Plymouth and to Wessagusset a great plague devastated the Indians. In the years 1616 and 1617 an unknown disease carried off as many as ninety-five percent of the Massachusetts Indians. This outbreak did not seem to have affected other New England Indians. Charles Francis Adams has argued that the plague was neither smallpox nor yellow fever. Cotton Mather interpreted this catastrophe as the judgment of God upon the Indians because

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## Membership Reaches 930

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follows - Quincy and the District of Columbia, and the following states: Massachusetts, Virginia, Florida, Illinois, New York, New Jersey, Maine, Rhode Island, Washington and Pennsylvania. The Committee expects to gain members from every corner of the country, as well as the provinces of Canada.

Our quarterly newsletter, together with forthcoming publications, will provide opportunities for new members to be informed on historical events in Quincy.

In order to further expand our membership, the Committee would like to obtain the names and addresses of all Quincyites, at home and abroad, who might be likely prospective members. Please communicate with William A. O'Connell, Vice-President, 109 Putnam Quincy 02169.

History is ongoing and is not confined to a particular period.

Our slogan is, "The Quincy Historical Society - Where Everyone Belongs."

## Building Project Well Underway

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ideas are very welcome. Before we are ready to proceed with the new construction phase of our Building Project, there will be plenty of time for everyone to know what we are planning, and to incorporate all constructive ideas. We apologize that the sketch was not more informative; some even thought that the new construction was shown in front of the Academy Building.

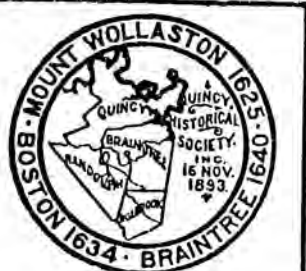
In explanation, the architectural design on which we are basing our ultimate planning is for a handsome 1970 period building to be located in the parking area at the rear, and constructed of brick with granite trim to be compatible with the granite and brick of the 1870 period building.

The two units will be

separated architecturally but integrated functionally by a common entrance from the parking area. Detail design of the new construction is still in the future; and that is why we want your ideas.

In the meantime, and always, we will have in the Adams Academy Building a handsome old landmark restored and put into service, not as a static period piece, but as a living building that reflects both an historic past and a new and useful future. At the same time, it will be a proud old schoolhouse, and a fine modern historical center.

Any week day, stop in at the Academy Building and see it being restored to its former beauty, and your Society's home becoming a reality.



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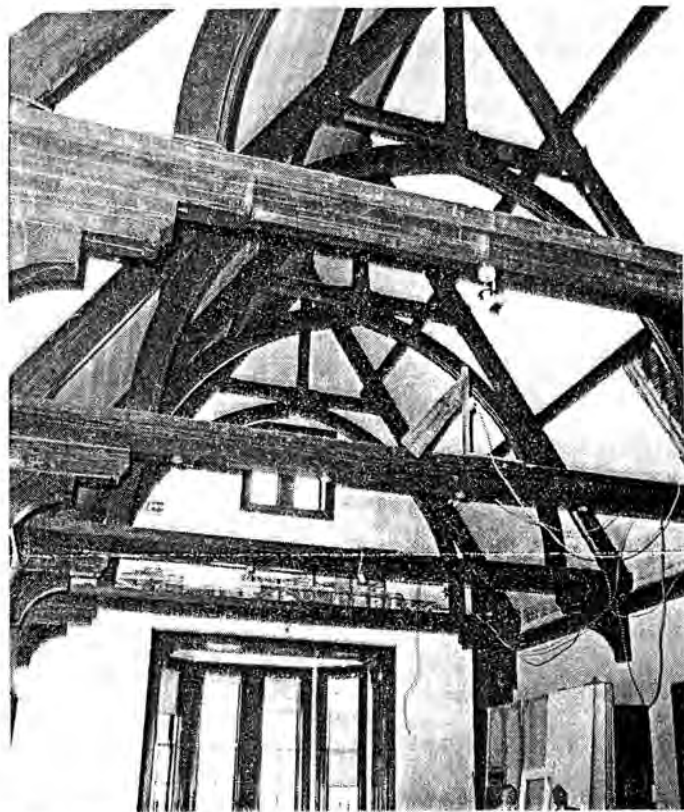
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Paul D. Harold  
Editor

William A. O'Connell  
Advertising



ROWIN JACOBSON begins repair of the stairway under the watchful eyes of Eleanor Brown, Helen Morris and Edith Howlett. [Photo by Doris Oberg]



NOW YOU SEE IT -- Cathedral ceiling at Adams Academy is seen for the first time in over 40 years as false ceiling is removed by the Quincy Historical Society which is converting the old academy into a museum. The false ceiling was installed to contain fuel heat when building was used for offices. [Photo courtesy Quincy Sun]

## Newsletter Makes Hit With Ruth Gordon, Others

Our first issue of the newsletter made quite a hit and we've received a number of comments and letters of congratulations.

Society member Mrs. Kay LeBeau mailed a copy to Wollaston-born actress Ruth Gordon who joined the society to keep up with the activities of her "hometown" historical

society.

Lyman H. Butterfield, editor of the Adams Papers, wrote that he was "delighted to see the appearance of a newsletter". And Peabody Museum [Salem] director, Ernest S. Dodge sent his congratulations.

Perhaps one of the most interesting stories involving our newsletter comes from

## Anniversary Brochures

California. Thorpe Babcock, now a California resident, received a copy third hand. A member had mailed his copy to a relative in the mid-west who in turn mailed it to Mr. Babcock, who is a member of the Class of 1902 from the Adams Academy. As a result, Mr. Babcock contacted the society to relate his years at the academy.

Each year anniversaries of their founding are celebrated by churches, businesses, clubs and other institutions in the City. Celebrating institutions generally prepare historic material. We would be happy to help in this preparation in any way we can - with material from our library, suggestions of procedures and possible sources of information, etc.

And, we ask all those having anniversaries that we receive for our library copies of brochure programs, historical papers, and other material of historic interest that they produce.

## Many Suggestions For Newsletter Name

We've received a number of suggestions for a name for our newsletter that we'd like to share with you. Let us know what you think of these names or send us one of your own. We'll begin with the new name starting with the summer issue.

The suggestions submitted to date include: from Capt. A. A. Swanson [M.D.C. Historian], QUINCY GRANITE QUILL, THE GRANITE QUILL or THE QUINCY QUILL; from Stephen S. Willard, QUINCY'S HERITAGE; from Mrs. H.

Hobart Holly, GRANITE LIGHT; from J. Whitney Hall, THE PATRIOT or HERITAGE; from Rep. Joseph E. Brett, THE QUINCY ALMANAC; from Mrs. Irene M. Larrington, CONTACT; and from John R. Herbert, PROLOGUE.

## Meetings Now Held In First Parish Sanctuary

Membership in the society has reached an all time high and it recently became apparent that we had outgrown our meeting place.

Starting with the March meeting the society moved from

the parish hall at the First Parish Church to the sanctuary.

The society has met regularly at the First Parish Church since World War II, with a dinner preceding in the lower church hall. Average attendance has

jumped to 150; half attending the dinner and the other half coming in for the program.

Refreshments following the program have also recently become a regular part of the meetings.

## Donor List

With the Adams Academy renovations well underway, library chairman Doris Ober reports that donations of books, historical items and costumes continue to increase.

To keep our members up to date on new acquisitions, we will begin to list donors in the next issue of the newsletter.

## Massachusetts Hummock

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of their blasphemy.\*5. Chicabot buried his mother, a victim of the plague, at Passonagusset which was near the later Merry Mount and fled from the area.

By the time that Miles Standish visited Massachusetts Bay in 1621, there were probably fewer than five hundred Indians remaining and most of these did not live near the shore. Thomas Morton visited the lands of the Massachusetts Indians in the summer of 1622. He found only one Indian to describe what had happened. The plague had struck with such fury that the dead lay unburied in their houses where the living had left them and run away.

*And the bones and skulls upon the severall places of their habitations made such a spectacle after my coming into those partes, that, as I travailed in that Forrest nere the Massachusetts, it seemed to mee a new found Gogatha.\*6*

Morton went on to comment that it was the custom of the Indians to carefully and ceremonially bury their dead.

(Continued in next issue)

\*1 *Norfolk Deed 1899 - 412, July 22, 1930.*

\*2 *Justin Winsor, Narrative and Critical History of America, 8 vols. [Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Company, 1884 - 89], vol. III, p. 342, n.2.*

\*3 *Justin Winsor, The Memorial History of Boston, 4 vols. [Boston: James R. Osgood & Company, 1881], vol. II, p. 37.*

\*4 *Charles Francis Adams, Three Episodes of Massachusetts History, 2 vols. [rev. ed.; Boston & New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Company, 1903], vol. I, passim. Daniel Gookin, "Historical Collections of the Indians of New England," Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Series 1 [Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society, 1806], vol. I, p. 148.*

\*5 *Cotton Mather, Magnalia Christi Americana or The Ecclesiastical History of New England, 2 vols. [New York: Russell & Russell, 1967], vol. I, p. 51.*

\*6 *Thomas Morton, The New England Canaan, Intro. and Notes by Charles Francis Adams, Jr. [Boston: Prince Society, 1883], pp. 132f.*

## Involved Many Individuals Project Began In 1933

Our building is historical in both background and purpose.

The Building Project itself is historical in that it has involved many individuals over many years, and forms the basis on which we are now proceeding.

The project really started with Fred B. Rice, President of the Society, who in 1933 bequeathed a building fund to the Society. In response, the Board of Curators resolved that the Society should have a permanent home. Shortly thereafter a Building Committee was formed with Delecevere King as chairman. An architect was engaged and plans drawn, but World War II caused a cessation to this activity at that time.

Around 1950, then President N. Gorham Nickerson investigated the possibility of using the Adams Academy but was advised that it was not available to us. Then in 1956 a new Building Committee was established and the present effort had its beginning. Under the chairmanship of George L. Anderson plans were developed centered on our needs and the activities for which we wanted to provide.

Mr. King provided valuable counsel based on his earlier experience and long interest. From 1958 to 1961 Edward C. Geehr headed the committee which carried the planning forward and investigated many potential sites for the building. Many historical libraries and museums were visited, and top authorities consulted for ideas.

Meetings were held with Dr. Paul Gossard, Superintendent of Schools, and others in the School Department so that we would make the most of the educational potential that our building could provide.

With this background, William E. Bullock, architect and member of the committee, drew building plans based on the activities for which we wished to provide facilities.

In 1961, D. Foster Taylor became head of the committee and served until his passing in 1969. It was his devoted leadership that carried the project forward so that the long-held dream is now to become a reality.

The real break-through came in 1962 with the purchase of the Whitwell Street property. That gave us a possible building site, enabled us to accept some large historical objects for which we previously had no facilities, and let everyone know that we now meant business.

A fund-raising campaign was organized in 1964 with headquarters at the Chamber of Commerce building, but the response was "You belong at the Adams Academy." By good fortune it was shortly after this that we were advised by the Adams Temple and School Fund that it would consider a proposal from the society for the Adams Academy property.

Negotiations then started, and Mr. Bullock made a feasibility study that showed that the Academy Building plus some new construction would provide facilities equal to those of our dream building.

The working committee, under Mr. Taylor, that handled the negotiations, and the planning committee during this period consisted of Dr. Emma S. Tousant, Joseph B. Grossman, H. Hobart Holly, Anthony Losordo, Dr. Edward S. Mann, Robert E. Pruitt, J. Everett Robbie, Hespil E. Sutherland and William O'Connell. Their efforts bore fruit when the Society took over the Adams Academy property Sept. 1, 1972.

With this milestone passed, the Building Committee's effort has concentrated on the necessary work to permit us to get into operation, and on fund-raising. Mr. Losordo succeeded Mr. Taylor as committee chairman, with Gordon D. Carr heading the fund-raising work. In this present activity, the project's history is an important factor.

Its long duration has permitted more careful planning and the involvement of more people than most efforts of this type; and there is the obligation to those who have contributed to this project in the past, to see that their dream comes true.

As in all the Society's work, our thoughts are on the past and the future.

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