Progress Report On Building

Having reached the nadir of mess and unsightliness, the Academy Building is beginning to show a semblance of the fine Historical Museum and Library that will soon be our permanent home.

We hope to start moving in within a few months; and can already start visualizing how we will utilize our great wealth of historical material and information to better tell the story of Historic Quincy—the exhibition of many items never before seen by the public, again holding school classes in the old schoolhouse, and undertaking other educational and cultural programs for children and adults; all things that used to be just dreams.

The roof has been made tight and serviceable for many years to come. An entirely new electrical system has been installed that will be safe and provide the best of lighting for our uses.

Fire protection features have been added that exceed the regulation requirements. The most modern fire and entry detection systems are being installed. Carpentry work has been in progress, and plastering has started. Then will follow the painting, cleaning and refurbishing that will again reveal the original beauty of the fine woodwork and other interior features.

Outside, pointing, cleaning

[Cont'd on Page 4]
Moswetuset Hummock - Part II

By DR. JAMES R. CAMERON

Dr. Cameron is professor of history and head of the History Department of Eastern Nazarene College, and our Historian.

Continued from last issue.

Linguists have tried to determine what the word Moswetuset may have meant to the Indians. Daniel Neal, writing in 1720, stated that the Indians meant hill in the shape of an arrow head.*7 In the Igounquin Language, Massachusetts means great hill or cople of the great hill. It has also been claimed on Etymological grounds that Moswetuset meant “site of the great house” or “site of the great chief’s house”.*8

Most authorities have attributed the name of this group of Indians to their occupation of the area which included the Blue Hills rather than to the fact that their sachem held council at Moswetuset Hummock. It is also true, however, that through the years the hummock was usually referred to as Massachusetts Hill, Rock, or Hummock, rather than as Moswetuset.

Chicatabot was sachem of the Massachusetts Indians from the time of the arrival of the first English settlers until his death in 1633. During the last years of his life, he lived on the Neponset River. On a map drawn by William Wood and published in London in 1634, “Chicatabot Sagamor” is indicated by three triangles located at the beginning of the neck of land that connects the peninsula now called Squantum with the mainland. Wood’s symbols are located on the south side of the “Neponset River” at precisely the point where Wollaston Bay reaches its farthest inlet at Moswetuset Hummock. This is the earliest exact reference to this historic site.*9

In the Dorchester Town Records, there is a crude map stated to have been made not later than 1637 which shows the meddows beyond the Naponset river and how yet is allotted out.” The map is now faded beyond ability to read even with the most advanced techniques of infrared photography. A copy of this map was printed in 1883 on which Moswetuses is labeled as “matachusets Rock”. H. Hobart Holly has traced the title to this property from the Dorchester Town Records of March 1634/5 to the present time. With variations of title, its identity has been maintained in the land records for about three and a half centuries. The land record is one of the most conclusive arguments for the historical significance of this particular piece of land.*10

The other important argument for the preservation of Moswetuset Hummock as an historic site is the fact that scholars have recognized it as such in every age. I have already referred to Captain John Smith and William Wood who both noted Moswetuset Hummock early in the seventeenth century. John Winthrop records in his Journal several visits from Chicatabot, “sagamore of the Naponsett”, and it is from Winthrop that we learn that Chicatabot died from smallpox.*11

In March, 1631, Thomas Dudley, Deputy Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, wrote a letter to “The Lady

[Cont’d on Page 4]
**President's Annual Report**

New Tasks, Decisions

One year ago on this occasion, I noted that, along with many notable achievements in growth and activity [which have continued this year], we had reached a milestone in our building project; a point that made all the past planning and preparation prologue to the realization of a long-held dream.

We have now left that milestone behind us. We have crossed the one-way bridge, and are on our way toward our objective. Decisions of the past are now being implemented. We now face further decisions and new tasks to carry us on to our goal.

Our immediate challenge is to raise the money necessary to pay for the construction work now in progress. This is absolutely necessary if we are to conserve and increase our capital funds to provide income to carry out activities in the building. Our aim is a first class operation in a first class building. The latter without the former would indeed be a hollow victory. We ask your full support in our fund-raising effort.

Secondly, we must advance our planning for the use of the building, and start dealing in specifics rather than generalities. On technical matters such as equipment, staffing, and project planning, we will seek the best professional advice available - as has been our practice in the past.

But we need your good ideas too. This project belongs to the whole society; not to just a few. It is the duty of every member, not to merely keep informed and watch what is going on; but to be a participant, contributing both your ideas and your active assistance.

Our society is in its 82nd year. We are the fortunate ones to whom has fallen the opportunity for service to the society and its community that to our predecessors was only a dream. Let us do our job well.

H. HOBART HOLLY

More Items Donated

Within a few months, the dust and confusion caused by the renovations at the academy building will end and the library committee can begin to gather and organize the society's collection for display.

Besides fireproofing, renovations at the academy will provide the maximum protection and atmospheric conditions for preserving our valuable possessions.

Mrs. Rudolf Oberg, chairman of the Library Committee is happy to report the following donations to the society's collection since the last issue of our newsletter.

- Thorpe Babcock - Letter about Adams Academy.
- South Shore Tile - Old business records of F. H. Crane & Sons.
- Mrs. Beatrice V. Nicholas - Photo of Yacht Resolve.
- Mrs. James Coady - 3 books of war records of Mass.
- Miss Marion Rogers - Patch work quilt.
- Mr. Warren Spencer - 3 books.
- Miss Dorothea M. Hannon - Study of Thomas Morton.
- Miss Dorothy Newton - Data about West Point Cadets visit to Quincy 1821.
- Miss Gertrude Miller - Collections of letters, objects and newspapers.
- Violet B. Artis - Quincy Daily Ledger June 28, 1913.
- Robert Schurch - Booklet of Commodores Club of America, Inc.
- Miss Gertrude Miller - Copy of photos and diary of Abner Packard.
- Mrs. Hattimay Thomas - Picture and newspapers.

SOCIETY ARCHEOLOGIST, Dr. George R. Horner, supervises the excavation at the site of the Hancock Well on Adams Academy property. Director of the dig is North Quincy High School teacher Dick Riley [right] assisted by Daniel Lutts a teacher at Quincy High School [center]. Quincy students have also assisted at the dig. [Photo courtesy of The Quincy Sun]

John S. Atwood - Genealogical chart of Adams Family May 1798.
- Mrs. Edmund Ritter - Ash tray of the Dorothy Quinc Homestead.
- Mrs. Edna Nicoll - Illustrated map of Quincy framed.

Research Is Our Business

Research is an important activity of any real historical society. Whether a project be large or small, the results constitute a contribution to our historical records. All members are urged to engage in research in their own particular fields of interest and make their findings part of our library resources.

For the benefit of those who may wish to participate with others in larger society projects, we list below some historical, archeological, and genealogical, that are now in progress and the names of those heading them.

- General Palmer and Germantown - Dr. Cameron.
- The function of the southwest room in the John Quincy Adams Birthplace when John and Abigail lived there - Mrs. Knapton at Mrs. Holly.
- Some Quincy Family lines - Mrs. Holly.
- Capt. Wollaston and his expedition of 1625 - Dr. Cameron at Mr. Holly.
- The Hancock Well - Dr. Horner and Mr. Riley.
- Mount Wollaston sites - Dr. Horner.
- Yacht and small boat building in Quincy - Mr. Holly.
The Sachem or Sagamore, who governed the Indians in this Part of the Country, when the English came first hither, had his seat on a small Hill or Upland, containing perhaps an acre and a half about two Leagues to the Southward of Boston, fronting Mount Bay, and back'd with a large Tract of Salt Meadow, which Hill or Hummock is now in Possession of Capt. John Billings...*14

Harvard's great librarian of the nineteenth century, Justin Winsor, has called Thomas Hutchinson's work the first general history of Massachusetts Bay, John Stetson Barry's the second, and John Gorham Palfrey's the best.*15 All three of these writers maintain the significance of Moswetuset Hummock.


*9 New England's Prospect.

*10 See appendix for record of possession.


*12 Alexander Young, Chronicles of the First Planters of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay from 1623 to 1836 [Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown, 1846], pp. 303-341.

*13 Cambridge: Massachusetts Historical Society, 1815, p. 32.

Flavin Announces Two Programs

William T. Flavin, chairman of the Program Committee, announces the first two programs for the upcoming year.

On Oct. 24, John Graham, executive director of Quincy Heritage, will speak on projects planned for the city's 350th Anniversary and Bicentennial celebrations.

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