



Academy Project Nearing Completion

The work on the Adams Academy Building is nearing completion and we are starting to move in.

The carpenters, the painters, the electricians, and the floor-finishers are down to clean-up jobs. We are proceeding on the basis of a revised design for the side window finish that has been agreed upon and approved.

This work will take a while to accomplish, and most work on the grounds must wait until spring, but these items will not delay developments indoors. The building becomes more impressive as each finishing step is completed.

The society now has the fine building that it has sought so long, one that will be our home for at least the next one hundred years. The responsibility to use it well is now ours and ours alone. Our long-term lease from the Adams Temple and School Fund restricts our use of the property only to Society purposes, and exterior

alterations and additions are subject only to the Supervisors' approval as proper for the property. Thus both the present and the future at the Adams Academy property is entirely in our hands. This is a responsibility that we willingly accept.

Just having a building, however handsome it may be, would be a hollow achievement. The building project from the outset has been planned around educational and cultural activities, and by the success of these will it be judged. Therefore, the implementation and the financing of our building operations and financing are the challenges that now face us.

Our general planning has been thorough. It is now time to develop these plans and put them into effect. We must furnish and equip the building, reorganize our fine library and collections, and utilize all our assets to the best advantage. In this we will continue to use the best of professional advice, but we must do the job; and "we" means every member according to what he can contribute. We need your ideas, your time and your talents.

When we are in operation we plan to have a professional staff as required and as our means will permit. But like all institutions of our type, even the largest, we will always depend heavily on volunteers. Now especially we look to our members for their

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THE EXCAVATION at the site of the Hancock well is being closed for the winter. Assisting in this phase of the project, from left to right, is Edmund Yee, Terry O'Brien, Richard Riley and Diane Mathieson.

Archaeological Dig Closes For Season

The archaeological dig on the front lawn of the academy property has closed down for the winter after successfully locating the site of the Hancock well.

"We're definitely certain," said Richard Riley, "that we've located the site of John Hancock's father's well."

Riley, an anthropology teacher at North Quincy High School, has been director of the

project, assisted by Quincy High School teacher Dan Lutts. Society archaeologist, Dr. George Horner, serves as supervisor of the dig, which has involved a total of forty students from QHS, NQHS, Atlantic JHS and the Squantum School.

Twenty-seven inches of fill has been carefully removed, exposing what is believed to be the original Hancock House ground level.

John Hancock was born in the house, which was subsequently purchased by Col. Josiah Quincy. It burned in 1759 and in 1872 the Adams Academy was built on the site.

To date, articles found at the excavation include, a gold collar button, an 1876 penny, 1882 nickel, 1888 quarter, clay pipe stems, and some pieces of glass.

Work on the dig is expected to continue in the spring.

Moswetuset Hummock - - Part III

Report On The Birthplaces

By DR. JAMES R. CAMERON

[In this concluding chapter, Dr. Cameron cites historical records maintaining the significance of the hummock.]

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. All three of these writers maintain the significance of Moswetuset Hummock. Since none adds a new dimension to our understanding, let us read Hutchinson's affirmation:

*The tradition is, that this sachem had his principal seat upon a small hill on rising upland, in the midst of a body of saltmarsh in the Township of Dorchester, near to a place called Squantum, and it is known by the name of Massachusetts hill, or Mount Massachusetts to this day.*16*

After an exhaustive search of the sources which treat this subject, I found none that challenged the historical significance of Moswetuset Hummock for the history of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Beyond a point, mere number of authorities adds little to the weight of an argument. Let me conclude this list, by citing three scholars from

the nineteenth century: Samuel G. Drake, Justin Winsor, and Charles Francis Adams.

Drake quotes Wood and Josselyn to support his statement that the Massachusetts Indians lived on Massachusetts Fields along Quincy Bay before the great plague.*17. After explaining the restricted application of the term Massachusetts Bay in the early seventeenth century, Winsor went on to explain that the word Massachusetts was originally borrowed "from a hillock on the shore" and was later applied by Captain John Smith to the Blue Hills.*18

Perhaps the most authoritative writer upon this subject was a man whose family lived for many generations within walking distance of Moswetuset Hummock. Charles Francis Adams wrote about his town, his state and even on national topics. It was Adams who told us that it was neither yellow fever nor smallpox which "swept the islands in the harbor wholly clear of inhabitants, and drove the sachem, Chicatabot from his plantation..."

It was Adams who informs us that it was Chickatabot who had the trees cleared from the Massachusetts Fields before the time of the great pestilence.*19. It is to Charles Francis Adams that most twentieth century historians have turned for an authoritative account of the details related to these events.

Although the evidence does

not warrant the claim that Massachusetts owes its name to Moswetuset or Massachusetts Hummock, such an assertion may in fact be true. The linguistic evidence, which is not conclusive, would indicate that the name of the Massachusetts Indians originated from their occupation of territory which included the Blue Hills.

There is little doubt that Moswetuset Hummock was the seat of the great sachem of the Massachusetts Indians and remains today as the only important relic of those Indians. Land records from the times of the earliest settlers have clearly described and identified this site. Historians of all ages have accepted the evidence for ascribing special historical significance to this spot.

We have the opportunity to safeguard from encroachment an historic site which after three centuries of protection by private citizens is now entrusted to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to preserve in trust for future generations.

*16 Hutchinson, *op. cit.*, vol. I, p. 387, n.

*17 Samuel G. Drake, *The History and Antiquities of Boston* [Boston: Luther Stevens, 1856], p. 44.

*18 Winsor, *The Memorial History of Boston*, *loc. cit.*

*19 Adams, *loc. cit.* Adams has also given a full account in his introduction to the Prince Society's edition of Morton's *The New English Canaan*.

The House Committee reports that during the past season the Birthplaces had 5,380 registered visitors from 48 states, 129 from 30 foreign countries, 41 from Canada, and 1,524 children and groups.

The total of 7,074 was down appreciably from 1973 in contrast to a steady annual increase in recent years. The latter part of the season was normal, but the early part was off. This was the experience at many historic places including a tourist attraction like Sturbridge Village.

It is generally felt that the uncertainty generated by the energy crisis was primarily responsible. Geographical distribution showed little change, but it is the impression that we had appreciably fewer children this year. In place of the usual break-even, the society incurred an appreciable expense this year from the House operation.

It is still expected that the Bicentennial will bring a significant increase in visitors to New England and to Quincy in 1975. To better accommodate next season's visitors, the Houses will be open from 9 to 5, seven days a week, in place of 10 to 5 six days a week. The admission fees will be raised slightly which together with an increase in the number of visitors, is expected to rectify the past year's operating loss.

The additional hours will mean that we will need more Assisting Hostesses than in the past, and also have more occasional need for volunteers to help at the Birthplaces. Should you be interested in being an Assisting Hostess next season, or being a volunteer helper, or know someone who would, please contact the House Committee.

Co-chairmen of the committee are Mrs. Alfred Knapton and Mrs. H. Hobart Holly, assisted by Mrs. Frank Holzer and Mrs. William O'Connell.

Yerdon Named Director

Lawrence J. Yerdon has been hired as director of the library-museum by the Board of Curators. He has previously worked at Plimoth Plantation and the Adams' National Historic Site.

A native of New York, Yerdon has lived in Quincy for the past eight years. He is a graduate of Eastern Nazarene College, where he majored in history, and is currently an instructor at the Woodward School.

An experienced teacher, a professional musician and an accomplished director of dramatic productions, Yerdon brings a wide variety of

experience and skills to his new assignment. He will begin work on a part-time basis as soon as the building is ready for occupancy.

His first task will be to prepare the exhibits for the grand opening of the library-museum. He is already familiarizing himself with the society's collections, volunteer staff and the new facilities.

Many volunteers will be needed to help our part-time director develop programs for our new building. Presently, the society is looking for a volunteer part-time secretary to assist Yerdon,



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● President's Report

Opening Of Building To Mark New Era

The opening of our building will mark a new era for our 81-year old society - new activities, new problems, new parameters, new opportunities.

In recognition of this fact, our Board of Curators is assessing our future operations, and examining our organization and current policies and practices, and preparing to make changes where change is deemed necessary or advantageous.

Earlier this year, an ad hoc committee was established to look into these matters. Among other activities was the engaging as a professional consultant of Paul E. Molitor, Jr., Director of the American China Trade Museum. These services were provided through a grant from the Massachusetts Arts and Humanities Foundation, Inc. Mr. Molitor held meetings and interviews to learn about our society, and presented a report that is being used as a basis for committee recommendations. Basically his study covered our organization, building operation, and needed professional staff.

Meanwhile other authorities in the historical, museum, and library fields have been consulted by board members. Other committees too have developed recommendations for new procedures to meet new conditions. As a result of these various efforts, new means are even now being put into effect to handle new situations.

To better handle rapid developments, and to expedite preparation of proposals for board action, an Executive Committee has been established. Although the board now meets monthly, an executive committee will provide more effective administration. Also appointed is a special committee to check into possible need for by-law revisions.

With the realization that we must continue to grow if we are to truly represent the varied interests of historic Quincy, and also realize maximum revenue from dues, contributions, a special subcommittee of the Membership Committee presented recommendations for changes in our membership categories and dues schedule. As a result, changes to the membership by-law article were voted at our Nov. 21st meeting whereby, in place of the single Sustaining Membership category by which members could make a contribution toward our operating expenses above the basic dues, new categories have been established for both individuals and businesses. The new dues schedule adopted by the board provides for a slight increase in the basic dues, and sets the rates for the new categories of membership.

The board will continue to look critically on all aspects of the society's operations, not to make changes for the sake of change, but to make sure that we are geared to operate to the best advantage in our new role of a full-grown historical society.

H. HOBART HOLLY
President

New Directory Planned

A new, bi-centennial edition of the society's membership directory is now being compiled for publication early in 1975.

All present and new members in good standing will be included, as well as business and corporate memberships.

The society's new directory will list more than 1,100 members, an increase of 300 since the last edition was published in November 1973.

The committee preparing the directory includes William A. O'Connell, G. Fred Ashworth and William P. Farrar.



SQUANTUM SCHOOL'S BI-CENTENNIAL project, a topographical map of Squantum in the early 1900's, is viewed by students and project co-ordinators, society vice president Gordon Nelson [left] and Richard Porteus [right], art teacher for the Quincy schools. The map has been worked on since September by all grades at the school and is expected to be completed early next year.

Grant Awarded For Consultant

The Quincy Historical Society was recently awarded a technical assistance grant from the Massachusetts Arts and Humanities Foundation, Inc., to pay for the services of Paul Molitor, our library-museum consultant.

As a result, the society was able to benefit from these professional services without cost to the membership.

The grant enabled the society, under the direction of Molitor, to engage in a significant re-evaluation of the society's structure and the function of each officer in light of the society's expanding operations.

The report was submitted to the Ad Hoc Committee on society reorganization, recommending a change in the dues structure and hiring of a library-museum director, two recommendations which were subsequently adopted by the board. Other recommendations and the report of the Ad Hoc Committee have been turned over to the newly created Executive Committee and the Constitutional Review Committee.

The technical assistance grant was secured by Dr. James Cameron, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Additional Items Donated

The Library Committee, under the direction of Doris Oberg, has been continuing its careful work of gathering and preparing the society's collection for display in the new building. As the time for moving in lessens, their job increases.

Since the last newsletter, a partial list of those items donated includes the following:

Mrs. Sylvia H. Grey, Chatter box of Childrens Stories; Bernard E. McCourt, 100th anniversary book and 1974 year book of Quincy Yacht Club; Agnes E. Berry, Souvenir plate of Dorothy Quincy Homestead; Margaret Decker, Souvenir plate of Quincy High School; Mrs. Arthur Hall and Mrs. C. Stuart Payzant, Costumes and Accessories; Kenneth A. Chubbuck, Photostat of letter of Perez Chubbuck, Jr.; Marie C. Bass, Souvenir of World War One.

Membership Over 1,000

Membership in the Quincy Historical Society recently passed the one thousand mark, the largest number in our eighty-two year history.

Our 1000th member was Mrs. Elizabeth Powers of South Quincy. She is a Quincy native and lived most of her life at the Marsh Homestead on School St., the site of one of Quincy's earliest industries - the manufacturing of lace for the trimming of carriages [established in 1797].

Mrs. Powers now resides on Phipps St.



WJDA'S "COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT" focused in on the fund raising drive and activities of the society in a recent interview with Win Bettinson. Representing the society, from left to right, is president H. Hobart Holly, Paul D. Harold, publicity chairman and Gordon D. Carr of the fund raising committee.

Adams Academy On National Register

On Sept. 6 the Adams Academy Building was entered on the National Register of

Historic Places of the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior.

This honor is official

recognition that our building is one of historical significance. While its location on a historic site, and its connection with John Adams are recognized factors in the consideration, the bouquet belongs to the old schoolhouse as a structure, a good architectural example of its period and type.

We made the application for listing last spring following research that revealed the name of the architect, the builder, and other facts about the building.

What does this mean to us? No, we do not get a bronze

plaque or other physical evidence. The listing does, however, give our building additional prestige and recognition. We naturally are obligated to do nothing that would detract from the significance of the building. While the Adams Academy is certainly not an endangered building, a measure of legal protection is afforded. Also it make the building eligible for grants in some categories.

So congratulations to our Adams Academy Building.

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services in the many types of activity that our operations will involve.

The ability to offer our members opportunities for greater involvement in interesting historical work is a real asset that our building has opened to us. Please step forward and volunteer your help, whatever you bent may be.

Along with manpower and talents, available money will always be a limiting factor in our operations and services. We now have our building. Now we must pay for the work that has been

done there, and not deplete the capital funds that produce income for us.

Thus every dollar raised through our present fund-raising campaign has the dual benefit of helping to pay for the building, and contributing toward the cost of future operations and activities as well. In this effort too, our success depends on your generous support.

In having a building, a goal has been reached through the efforts of many. The opportunities and challenges that now face us call for the support of all if they too are to be met with success.

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