



Vol. 2 No. 2

Quincy, Massachusetts

Summer, 1975

Wealth of Material

Historical Society Library Now Open

The Society's library is now open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Thursdays from 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.; also by appointment for special research.

Next to our members, our library is our most important asset. It is our major source of information on Quincy's history, shortly to be complemented by our museum. The gathering of library material started at our founding in 1893 and continues today through gifts and purchases. Its single theme is

local history. All the material is Quincy oriented with emphasis first on Quincy, second on our area, then Massachusetts, New England and the nation.

Few local societies can match our library in the wealth of its material. Physically it includes published books, some of them

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MUSEUM DEDICATION - Several hundred guests and visitors attended the dedication of the Quincy Historical Society's museum-library facility housed in Adams Academy. Society President H. Hobart Holly addresses the gathering. At his right is Mayor Walter Hannon.

[Photo courtesy The Quincy Sun]

Campaign Rolling

Fund Raising Moves Ahead

We have a building of which we can be truly proud to show for our Building Project efforts to date; but how soon and how well we can put it to full effective use will depend to an appreciable extent on the success of our current fund-raising campaign.

The more money we have to work with, the better job we can do at 8 Adams Street. We have a great opportunity for service to our members, our community and our area; and we must make the most of it.

The campaign is now rolling under the leadership of Charles G. Peterson, chairman; Anthony

Losordo, vice chairman; and Charles Francis Adams, honorary chairman. We have received about 150 pledges for a total of more than \$40,000., including the challenge grant that adds 15 percent to every dollar you pledge; and but few nos.

The Ruth Gordon Night netted us more than \$1,000. This is gratifying progress but there is much more to do toward our goal of \$150,000. About 150 cards are now in the hands of solicitors on which we are currently awaiting reports.

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Squantum:

A Distinctive History

By GORDON F. NELSON

Squantum has a long and distinctive history. Even its name has a colorful and romantic story associated with it that dates back to the earliest colonial days.

Tradition records several origins of the name Squantum. One story relates that Squantum derives its name from an Indian God of that name.

One romantic legend tells of a despondent Indian squaw who leaped from the crag now known as Squaw Rock. A sailor from a trading vessel had promised to take her to England where they would be married. She watched for him from the top of the



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●President's Report

A Year Of Achievement

The past year has been one of achievement; the coming year will be one of continuing challenge.

We have completed phase one of our Building Project, and even now have a fine building that meets the top standards of excellence that we set for ourselves. Our membership is by far the largest in our 82-year history, more representative of Quincy than it has ever been, and containing more talents and abilities. We are also spending more money than ever before, and I think wisely; but it is more than we have income to meet.

Generally our challenges are not new but the fulfillment of goals that have been ours throughout the years that we have sought proper facilities to realize them: a place where groups can meet in a distinctive historical atmosphere; a place where our fine resources can be made useful in not just another museum, but one of the finest of its type anywhere; school programs that will pioneer new approaches in the use of local history in education. In setting these goals we have not been over-idealistic. Quincy's rich heritage and our fine collections open unique opportunities to us. I see no reason to lower our sights now.

The major limiting factors in our endeavors are now people and money. We must continue to get new members and have fuller participation from our present members. Financially the Board must make the most of available grant programs. Beyond that, under the Board's leadership, it is up to the members. Support of our fund-raising effort by work and contribution right now is most important. Income from dues, special projects, and all other means open to us must be developed to the fullest.

All that I have mentioned, WE can do.

H. HOBART HOLLY
President

A Special Exhibit

By Lawrence Yerdon

Executive Director

To celebrate Quincy's 350th Birthday, the Quincy Historical Society will devote its first special exhibit to the founding of Quincy and the celebrations of that anniversary in 1925 and 1975.

An exhibit preview for the members of the society is planned for Friday evening Oct. 24. The public is invited to the Sunday Oct. 26 show opening and reception for participants in the parade and pageant of 1925.

Our Museum Education Committee is working on the

final stages of museum-school project kits. Through the use of audio-visual materials, filmstrips, tapes, posters and photographs, and printed materials found in the kits, teachers will prepare students for visits to the Academy exhibits.

New acquisitions are coming in all the time with many finding their way into the planned fall-winter exhibits. We are very interested in acquiring or borrowing memorabilia from the Tercentenary Celebration, and local Indian artifacts. If you know of such objects, please call the office and we will make appropriate arrangements.

New Memorial Endowment Fund

The Historical Society is pleased to announce that a new endowment fund has been established in memory of Walter T. and Frederica C. Babcock, the parents of Thorpe Babcock.

It was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Thorpe Babcock of Pasadena, Cal.

Mr. Walter T. Babcock was prominent in Quincy affairs and served for many years as a member of the Board of Supervisors of the Adams Temple and School Fund during the time that the Academy was

in operation. Mr. Thorpe Babcock was graduated from Adams Academy in the Class of 1902. His reminiscences of his days here are contained in a biography that he wrote and of which he has given us a copy.

Memorials of this type are very important to our Society, because they provide a permanent link between Quincy people of the past who have made our history, and our activities for those of the present and future; the very essence of a historical society's purpose.

Fund Raising Moves Ahead

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There are still many prospects - members, non-members and businesses to be contacted; so please come forward and lend a hand. We know that there is wide interest in our project, and that the money is there - but we must ask for it.

This fund-raising effort is

1975-76 Program Season Opens

The summer season closed and the 1975-76 program season opened on Saturday, Sept. 20, with the bus trip to Newport, R.I.

A full bus load of 45 persons left the Adams Academy on schedule, returned home on time, and had a very enjoyable day, thanks to Mrs. Day's fine arrangements.

very important to us; so let's bring it to a successful conclusion without delay, and get on with the business of running an outstanding historical museum, library and activity center in Quincy. Everybody please pitch in with your contribution and your help.

The fog in Newport disappointed those who had taken their cameras, but that cannot be blamed on the Program Committee. The entire party visited two of the magnificent summer "cottages" and had a special tour of beautiful Trinity Church.



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A Memorable Evening With Ruth Gordon



RUTH GORDON waves as she receives a standing ovation at "An Evening With Ruth Gordon" for Quincy Historical Society at Eastern Nazarene College Auditorium in June.



COMMEMORATIVE Abigail Adams bottle presented to her at Quincy Historical Society reception will be given place of honor at her Martha's Vineyard home, Ruth Gordon tells those present. From left are Mrs. W. Robert Kilbourn, chairman; Mrs. Frank Holzer, Mrs. Hall Carpenter and Mrs. Kay LaBeau, her long-time friend.



ANTHONY LOSORDO, member of the Board of Directors, points out to Ruth Gordon renovation work done at the Quincy Historical Society's museum at Adams Academy. With them are Mrs. Kay LaBeau and Lawrence Yerdon, director. Miss Gordon is a member of the society.



"**YOUR FATHER** is going to be in the new book I'm writing," Ruth Gordon tells William C. Edwards Jr., son of late City Historian William C. Edwards Sr. At the left is Mrs. Edwards and center rear, Mrs. Kay LaBeau, Miss Gordon's long-time friend.



AUDIENCE OF NEARLY 400 was smiling like this most of the evening as Ruth Gordon recalled growing up in Wollaston. Among those shown here are, right to left, Mrs. Annabelle MacLean, Mrs. Doris Oberg, Quincy Historical librarian and Mrs. John Birnie.



RUTH GORDON thanks Mrs. W. Robert Kilbourne, chairman, "for one of the most wonderful evenings of my life."

[Photos Courtesy The Quincy Sun]

Squantum: A Long And Distinctive History

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Rock and saw his ship leave the harbor. As it faded from her sight the dejected girl leaped to her death on the rocks below. So "Squaw's Tumble" became Squantum. In 1699, Benjamin Lynd wrote a poem about the Indian maiden falling to her death from the great rock, as follows:

*"Close, on the south, a Cliff
lifts up its brow,
High, prominent o'er the
parting stream below:
From whence the Native's
fate-predicting squaw
Their ruin, and the Briton's
Rise foresaw;
That Heaven's swift plagues
shall quickly sweep away
The Indians 'round the
Massachusetts Bay.
But she (while they her rage
prophetic mock)
Flings headlong down from
the steep craggy rock;
Mu-Squantum! from her
dying murmurs fell,
And thence call'd Squantum
Neck (as ancients tell).
A narrow gut, deep, swift,
and curling tide,
This spacious neck from
Thompson's Isle divide."*

It is generally believed, however, that Squantum was named in honor of the Indian guide, Tisquantum (called Squanto) who was a very

important factor in the success of the Pilgrim colony. This Indian who guided Captain Miles Standish and his Pilgrim crew to Squantum in 1621 was of the Pokanoket Indian tribe that occupied the territory between the Narragansett and Massachusetts Indians.

There is a belief that Squanto may have been one of five Indians taken from Penobscot, Maine, to England by Captain Weymouth in 1605. This is a controversial story, but it is known that in 1614 Squanto was one of a number of Indians in the Plymouth area lured on board a ship that was sailing for Maligo, Spain, with a cargo of dried fish. In Maligo, the ship's captain, Thomas Hunt, proceeded to sell the Indians, but Squanto and several others were taken by the Friars and instructed in the Christian faith.

Eventually Squanto gained passage to Bristol, England, with the mistaken belief that he was going back to his native land. From Bristol he made his way to London and there became friendly with John Slany, a wealthy businessman and treasurer of a Newfoundland colonization company. From London, Squanto went to Newfoundland with Captain John Mason, where at a later date he met Captain Thomas Dermer, an English explorer in Sir Ferdinando Gorges' employ.

Squanto's glowing description of his homeland prompted Captain Dermer to write to Gorges, the leading man in the

Council for New England to which the King had granted most of this area, suggesting that Squanto be used as a peace ambassador to the Indians in America. The plan was approved and they sailed back to Plymouth, England in 1618, and spent the winter there preparing for the trip.

The following spring they arrived at Monhegan near Pemaquid on the coast of Maine. With Captain Dermer and several of the crew, Squanto sailed for his home in Plymouth. Upon his return to the village he had left approximately five years before, he was dismayed to find that during his long absence a pestilence had killed every member of his tribe, leaving him the lone survivor of Patuxet, or Plymouth.

Captain Dermer and his crew, along with Squanto, returned to Maine where Squanto spent the long winter at Saco. In the spring of 1620, Squanto sailed with Captain Dermer to Martha's Vineyard. Here a battle ensued, resulting in the death of practically all of Dermer's men. Dermer escaped to Virginia where he died from wounds received in the battle at Martha's Vineyard. Squanto made his way back to live with the Massachusetts Indians.

Squanto had many rich and exciting experiences during his five years away. As one of this country's first tourists, he had gone from a land of forests, fields and Indian villages, to a land possessing the oldest cities

in the old world. He lived amongst civilized people and learned several languages and was well-prepared to become a leader for the Pilgrims upon their arrival in Plymouth in December of 1620.

Squanto's value to the Colony may be found in the writings of Bradford, who wrote:

"Squanto continued with them and was their interpreter, and was a special instrument sent of God for their good beyond their expectation. He directed them how to set their corn, where to fish, and to procure other commodities, and was also their pilot to bring them to unknown places for their profit, and never left them till he dyed."

Bradford describes Squanto's death in November 1622 at Chatham on Cape Cod where he was with the Pilgrims on a trading trip:

"Desiring ye Govr to pray for him, that he might goe to ye Englishmen's God in Heaven, and bequeathed sundries of his things to sundry of his English friends as remembrances of his love; of whom they had a great loss."

The 20 months that Squanto spent with the Plymouth settlement covered the crucial period for Plymouth.

Library Offers Wealth Of Material

[Cont'd from Page 1]

by and about the Adams and Quincys; local institutions - industrial which of course includes granite and maritime, businesses, social, religious, educational, military, sports, etc.; land and property; architecture, antiquities, art, etc.

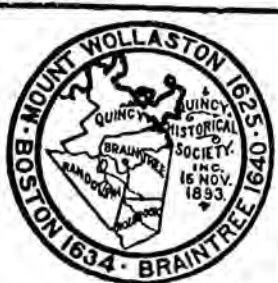
The library is now well housed in its new location. Some material is still being moved and reorganized, but the bulk of the reference material is available for use, and a librarian will be in attendance.

Projects are in progress to increase the library's usefulness in connection with school programs. In addition to its local use, it is hoped that the library may serve a regional purpose as well. Some of our South Shore neighbors feel that our library can help supplement their local resources, thus relieving to a degree their dependence on Boston. We want our library to serve as many people as practical.

And so an important bit of

Quincy's heritage is being made more useful to the present and the future.

Subjectwise it is rightfully as varied as is the history of Quincy and our area: general history, specialized subject history, genealogy, local people including rare; pamphlets; brochures; historical research papers; original manuscripts, documents and records; correspondence; mementoes; maps, charts and drawings; photographs, etc. - almost anything on paper.



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Kathleen Mitchell
Interim Editor

William A. O'Connell
Advertising