



July 25, 1976: Day To Remember

Library, Museum Open, First Exhibits On Display

July 25, 1976 was a proud day for our Society.

With renovations complete on our 104 year old Adams Academy building and exhibits attractively arranged we are now able to record and display events in our city's history for the benefit of our members, visitors and future generations.

The second floor room is arranged as a library with books, pamphlets, maps, papers, photographs and other memorabilia relating to our local heritage. Owen della Lucca, librarian for the Society, is available to serve the needs of researchers, both amateur and professional, on Wednesday and Saturday from 10:00-4:30 and on Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:30 p.m.

On the first floor, the North Room features a special exhibit of wedding gowns and accessories which will be displayed through September.

Among the dresses included are: A short dress from the 1920's worn by Mrs. W. Robert Kilbourn, the dress worn by Mrs. H. Hobart Holly and also by her grandmother, Isabel Cozgil when she married Stephen Nash in 1875, the groom's vest worn at the Holly wedding and the gown worn by the mother of Frank Remick and Miss Margaret Remick is also on display.

We are grateful to Mrs. Frank Wiot who served as chairman for the exhibit which is entitled, "Something Borrowed, Something Blue". Mrs. Wiot was

[Cont'd on Page 3]



WEDDING DRESS worn by their grandmother, Isabel Cozgil, when she wed Stephen Nash in 1875 was also worn at weddings of Mrs. Ruth Nash McKittrick [left] in 1941 and Mrs. Virginia Nash Holly in 1942.
[Doris Oberg Photo]

The Ship BETHEL Comes Home

An important bit of Quincy's historical heritage has been restored and will henceforth be seen in the Quincy Historical Society's museum at the Adams Academy Building, the painting of the ship BETHEL.

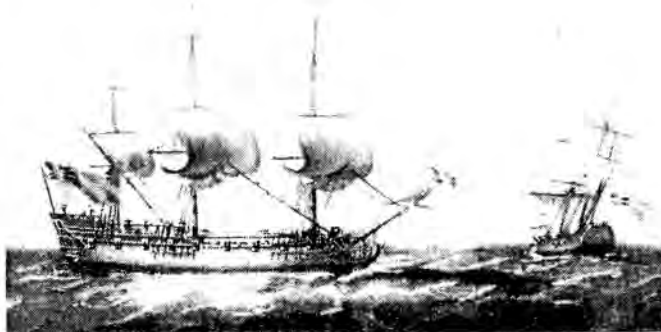
The restoration work was accomplished by the Society with financial assistance provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities from funds appropriated by the Massachusetts General Court.

The picture is of great general interest as a marine painting

since it depicts a typical New England vessel of the larger class of the pre-Revolutionary War period; but the interesting story of the BETHEL and its place in Quincy's history are of far greater importance.

The ship BETHEL was built at Portsmouth, N.H. in 1746 and was owned by the Quincys - Edmund Quincy [1703-1788], Josiah Quincy [1710-1784], and their brother-in-law Edward Jackson who married their sister, the original Dorothy Q. It was named for Slingsby Bethel who

[Cont'd on Page 4]



The Ship BETHEL



WILLIAM A. O'CONNELL [left] new president of the Quincy Historical Society is congratulated by outgoing president, H. Hobart Holly.

William A. O'Connell Elected Society President

William A. O'Connell has succeeded H. Hobart Holly as president of the Society. Mr. Holly, president for over 20 years has stepped down in order to devote more time to research.

Our new president has assumed the leadership of the society during an extremely active summer. July 5th marked the dedication of Freedom Park which was quickly followed by the Annual Tea at the Birthplaces. The month of July ended with the grand opening of our Library Museum.

On Sept. 11 the society will sponsor a bus trip to Battleship Cove. A reception in honor of Mr. Holly will be held at the Academy on Sept. 19 and a very full monthly meeting and museum program is in the final planning stages. This certainly will be a banner year for the Society.

A nationally known collector of illuminating memorabilia, frontier artifacts and toys, Mr. O'Connell has collaborated in the publication of two books related to these topics.

In addition to being former

executive Vice President of the Quincy-South Shore Chamber of Commerce, Mr. O'Connell is a director and past president of the Quincy YMCA, a director of the Quincy Cooperative Bank, a member of the Quincy Kiwanis Club, Quincy Council of the Knights of Columbus and a past instructor of the Dale Carnegie Institute of Public Speaking.

We wish Mr. O'Connell success in his new position. Other officers of the Society include:

First Vice President Dr. James Cameron, Second Vice President David R. Day, Treasurer William P. Farrar, Recording Secretary Mrs. Hall B. Carpenter, Corresponding Secretary Bertha Troisfontaine, Registrar Mrs. Rudolph Oberg, Historian H. Hobart Holly and Archaeologist Dr. George R. Horner. New directors include George S. Bennett, Harold S. Crowley Jr., Mr. Holly, Mrs. Robert W. Justis who is corresponding secretary emeritus, and Lawrence Yerdon the executive director.

NOTES FROM THE ACADEMY

[Editors Note: Plans are being made to inform society members of events and programs at the Library Museum via a monthly bulletin which will be entitled "Notes from the Academy". This service is being introduced to you in this newsletter and will appear as a separate monthly mailing starting in the Fall. Once this is underway the quarterly newsletter will take the form of a journal with more articles of historical interest and perhaps a photographic essay highlighting recent society events.]

★
Plans are underway for a number of interesting programs at the Academy in addition to our regularly scheduled monthly dinner meetings to be held at the First Parish Church.

★
Mr. Dean Roberts, president of the Hamilton Historical Society will present a ten-week course, "American Homes" which features the American decorative arts from 1607-1910. This first instructional offering will be made available to Society members at reasonable cost and for non-members at an additional fee. Look for further information in early September.

★
On October 19, Doris Oberg will present an illustrated lecture, "Mercy Thornton's Diary" based on a fictional character growing up during the Revolutionary War. The program features slides of Quincy's historic sites. We look forward to Doris' presentation.

★
On November 28 there will be a "Members' Preview" of our winter holiday exhibit. Although currently in the planning stages, we hope to present a Christmas Tree Forest which will consist of trees decorated by various Quincy ethnic groups. The Ladies' Committee under the direction of Mrs. H. Hobart Holly and Mrs. W. Robert Kilbourn is planning to decorate a tree in the bay window of the North Room with original ornaments, which will be hand-made by the committee, in the style of the nineteenth century. As a first fund-raising activity of this committee, these ornaments will be available for sale during the winter exhibit.

★
On March 13, the Society will present a fashion show of nineteenth century clothing from our collection.

★
One last note. Volunteer help is always welcome at the Academy. If you would be interested in working on the fund-raising committee or would be interested in helping at the library museum please call Larry Yerdon at 773-1144 during museum hours.

Complimentary Memberships

Complimentary memberships for the year 1976-1977 have been awarded to the following high school students who have shown outstanding interest and ability in local history.

They are Miss Patricia Sullivan of Woodward School for Girls, Ian Sheridan of North Quincy High School, and Timothy J. Perkins of Quincy High School.

We congratulate these students and hope that membership in the Society will expand their knowledge and interest in history and that they will participate in our many activities and programs.

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Kathleen T. Mitchell
Editor

William A. O'Connell
Advertising



WEDDING DRESS display, one of first exhibits at museum.
[Quincy Sun Photo by Jack Tolson]



ATTENDING annual tea at Adams Birthplace were Mrs. William O'Connell, Mrs. Lawrence Baker, chairman of House Committee for the Birthplaces, Mrs. W. Robert Kilbourn, tea chairman, Miss Patricia Sullivan of Woodward School for Girls, winner of the society's historical award, and John Sullivan, her father and member of Quincy School Committee.

[Doris Oberg Photo]



AMONG THOSE at opening of the Museum and Library were, from left, James Smith, former custodian, Mildred Harrison and David Day, second vice president

[Doris Oberg Photo]

Library, Museum Open First Exhibits On Display

[Cont'd from Page 1]

assisted by Miss Helene Johnson and Mrs. Rudolph Oberg who skillfully mended and pressed the dresses and selected accessories for the display.

A larger exhibit is featured in the Academy's South Room. This display illustrates industrial growth indigenous to Quincy. Many society members were involved in the planning and preparation of "Discover Quincy". Gordon Carr and

Mr. Holly assisted in the assembling of photographs of Quincy's seagoing vessels and also in the showing of builders' half-models, maritime tools and

a tool chest. Through Dr. George Horner's efforts we have artifacts which were excavated from the Germantown glassworks at various times. Dr. Horner also helped to assemble and interpret stone implements of the American Indians. The family of William Edwards Jr.

'Decorative Arts In America'

Series Starts Sept. 22

"Decorative Arts in America: 1607-1910", is the theme of a series of 10 Wednesday evenings to be sponsored by the Quincy Historical Society beginning Sept. 22 at the Adams Academy Building, 8 Adams St.

The illustrated talks as presented by Dean Roberts, Lecturer in American Decorative

objects Americans have had in their homes starting with the founding of the Jamestown Colony in 1607.

Upon completion of the series, participants will be able to distinguish American Decorative periods: Chippendale from Queen Anne or Federal from Empire for example, enjoy

FREEDOM PARK DEDICATED



MAYOR Joseph J. LaRaia [left] and Senator-City Council President Arthur Tobin unveil commemorative granite boulder at Freedom Park dedication ceremonies, July 5, as Councillor John Lydon [center] assists. Partially shown in background are Rep. Thomas Brownell, Congressman James Burke and Dr. Donald MacLeod, committee chairman.

[Doris Oberg Photos]



SAMPLING PUNCH at reception at Quincy Historical Society following dedication of Freedom Park are, from left, Alan Knapton, Amy MacLeod, daughter of Dr. Donald MacLeod, Lisa O'Brien, Miss Marion Rogers, Mrs. Alfred Knapton and Miss Lillian Kazanowski of Quincy High School.

The Ship BETHEL Comes Home

[Cont'd from Page 1]

was the English associate of the Quincy's firm. She hailed from the Port of Boston, and was a

trader and also a letter of marque ship to prey on the vessels of Spain with which England was at war. She carried

14 guns and 38 men on a memorable voyage in 1748. On this voyage under Captain Isaac Freeman, she left Leghorn, Italy, on April 10, took a small prize, and cleared Gibraltar on June 8.

Fayal, Azores, with his prize. It is not surprising that the owner had paintings made of the ship that had brought them a fortune.

The BETHEL's contribution to Quincy did not end there. Edmund Quincy did not invest his money well and soon lost both it and his homestead here. Josiah, however, closed out his business in Boston and returned to live in his native town where he was a leading citizen for many years. On June 27, 1752, he purchased from the Rev. Lemuel Bryant the old Hancock Parsonage that stood on the present Adams Academy site. Here he resided until the house burned in 1759. His later home still stands as a historic shrine in Wollaston.

Years later, John Adams directed that a stone schoolhouse be built over the cellar hole of the Hancock Parsonage in honor of his friend John Hancock who was born there and the Josiah Quincys, father and son who lived there. The result was the Adams Academy. So by many devious circumstances, the painting of the BETHEL will hang in the building on the site of the home of the man whom that ship caused to live there.

Around midnight BETHEL drew alongside and the Spaniard surrendered without a shot being fired. When the Spanish commander discovered that he had been taken by sheer Yankee bluff he was outraged, but it was too late. Captain Freeman too was amazed at both the size and potential strength of his prize and the wealth of the treasure she carried in specie and cargo. With his few men he put into

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