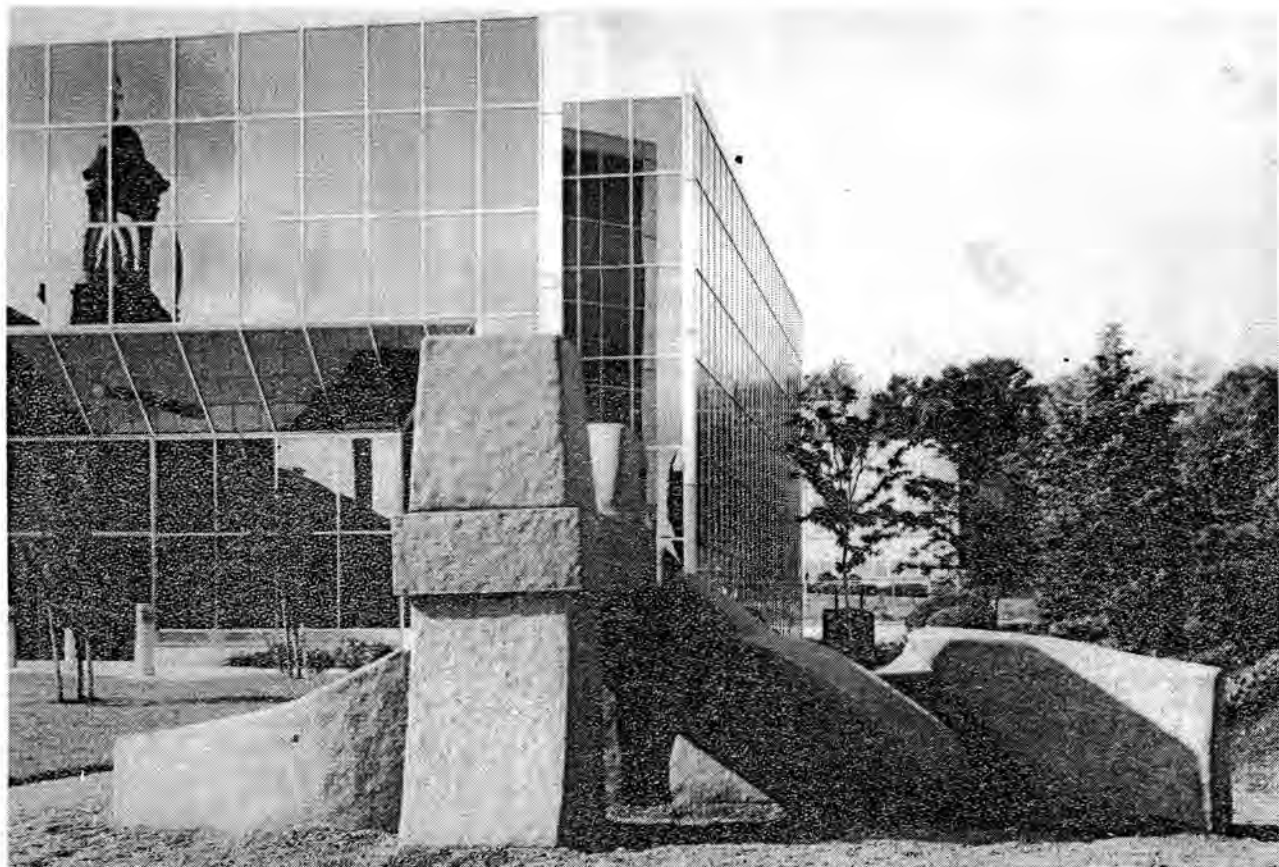


Quincy History



Quincy Historical Society, Quincy Massachusetts

Fall, 1980



Two Adams' legacies: At left the First Parish Church, built with an Adams' gift, is reflected on the glass wall of the city hall annex. In the foreground a granite monument symbolizes the Quincy origin of the Massachusetts state constitution, written largely by John Adams.

(Oberg photo)

The "Most Important Historical Event"

"In the law office at his home in what is today the City of Quincy, John Adams, together with Samuel Adams and James Bowdoin, drafted the Massachusetts Constitution of 1780. The oldest democratic constitution in use today, it has served as the pattern for our Federal Constitution, for those of the other states, and for those of most other democracies.

This common is dedicated to the

privileges and responsibilities that are enjoyed under these constitutions; and in honor of John Adams, the chief author of the Constitution of Massachusetts."

This is the inscription on the plaque at Quincy's Constitution Common. These words are followed by quotations from the Massachusetts Constitution that illustrate the fundamental principles of democratic government that it contains. Finally,

there is a description of the symbolism of the sculpture that represents the drafting of the Constitution. Three major pieces represent the three men. The interplay of form and space represents the interchange of movement of ideas that created the Constitution, the strength and force of which is represented by the dominant pieces. It also states that:

"The sculpture is of Quincy granite

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Constitution Common

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cut by the thermal burning process. It is the first free form sculpture of this magnitude so sculptured.

*Jerome N. Reicher, Designer
Edward P. Monti, Sculptor"*

The dedication on September 6th culminated an effort of over ten years to properly recognize in Historic Quincy the most important historical event to have taken place here. The Society has been proud to have had a part in this endeavor, and congratulates Mr. McIntyre's committee and the City on its achievement. As a historical project, this meets the highest criteria: educational benefits for present and future generations through an appreciation of our heritage and a better understanding of our past. Another historical feature for Historic Quincy.

Quincy Family Reunion

Another notable event took place on September 5th as part of the City's Massachusetts Constitution Bicentennial commemoration: a Quincy family reunion. The idea of a reunion originated with the Quincy family, and the City handled the arrangements through the Bicentennial Committee.

About 100 descendants of the original Edmund Quincy attended, ranging in age from three months up. A social time and dinner were enjoyed at the Josiah Quincy House, followed by an open house with music and refreshments at the Quincy Homestead.

The enthusiasm of the occasion was such that it was voted to form a Quincy Family Association. Elected president and secretary respectively were our good friends and members Frank B. Quincy, Jr. of Lynn and Mrs. John Quincy of Milton. The Society is assisting the Family in getting their organization started, and 8 Adams Street will serve as their official headquarters and mailing address.

It was a happy event to have the Quincy descendants gather at their ancestral homes in the community where their ancestors were leaders for many generations. We welcome this increasing association with the Quincy family. -(H.H.H.)



Nancy Alvord, Academy Aides director, and Mary Kamel, volunteer, pause in an Aides' task for Photographer Doris Oberg.

Academy Aides: "Can Do" Group

If you ever wondered how that hot coffee and home-made cake miraculously appears at the end of the monthly meetings, wonder no more -- just thank the Academy Aides.

Refreshments are one of their easier tasks. Each year the group of twenty-five to thirty volunteers (mostly women, with a few men) runs money-making events that are essential to fund the maintenance of Academy building and the functions of the Society.

Usually these events begin with a plant sale in May (omitted this year), followed by a craft sale in June and a Rumtique in September (changed to an antiques sale this year). The Aides also provide a snack bar for these and other events.

In addition the Aides prepare special exhibits, such as the Christmas Tree display in December, run social events such as the Christmas party, and provide a dependable supply of volunteer workers for housekeeping tasks, such as painting.

All of these tasks are the responsibility of an unusually industrious member, Nancy Alvord, who took over the leadership of the Aides in 1977. It was a group that began without the name in 1975 when a member who was active on the Ladies Committee of the Museum of Fine Arts suggested that the Quincy Historical Society should have a similar organization. Mrs. Virginia Holly led the group for the first two years when it assisted in the combination rummage-yard-antique sale that was dubbed Rumtique.

More volunteers are needed as Aides who meet on the first Tuesday of alternate months. The next meeting is January 6, 1981.

Mrs. Alvord, who has already done more than her share of the planning and supervising, looks forward to the day when she can turn the leadership over to others. She sees a continuing need for the Aides and is seeking new ideas on ways the Aides can raise money for Academy projects.

An Interscholastic Beginning in Quincy

By H. HOBART HOLLY

In the records of the Adams Academy the only mention of athletic activities is a statement in the 1873 catalog that there was a play yard, and in the basement a play room with gymnastic apparatus. A wooden dumbbell has survived to indicate the nature of this facility. It is therefore a surprise to discover that the Academy had a very notable sports history.

The lack of sports activity records was not peculiar to Adams Academy. Contemporary schools contacted also had meagre if any records of their early sports. Thus the local newspaper became our principal source of information. Unfortunately these

accounts are very incomplete with few away-from-home games being reported. Accordingly we have not attempted to record all games reported, but rather to gain a general idea of the competitions in which the school engaged. Some team photographs, some track medals, and a game baseball today constitute the mementoes of this activity.

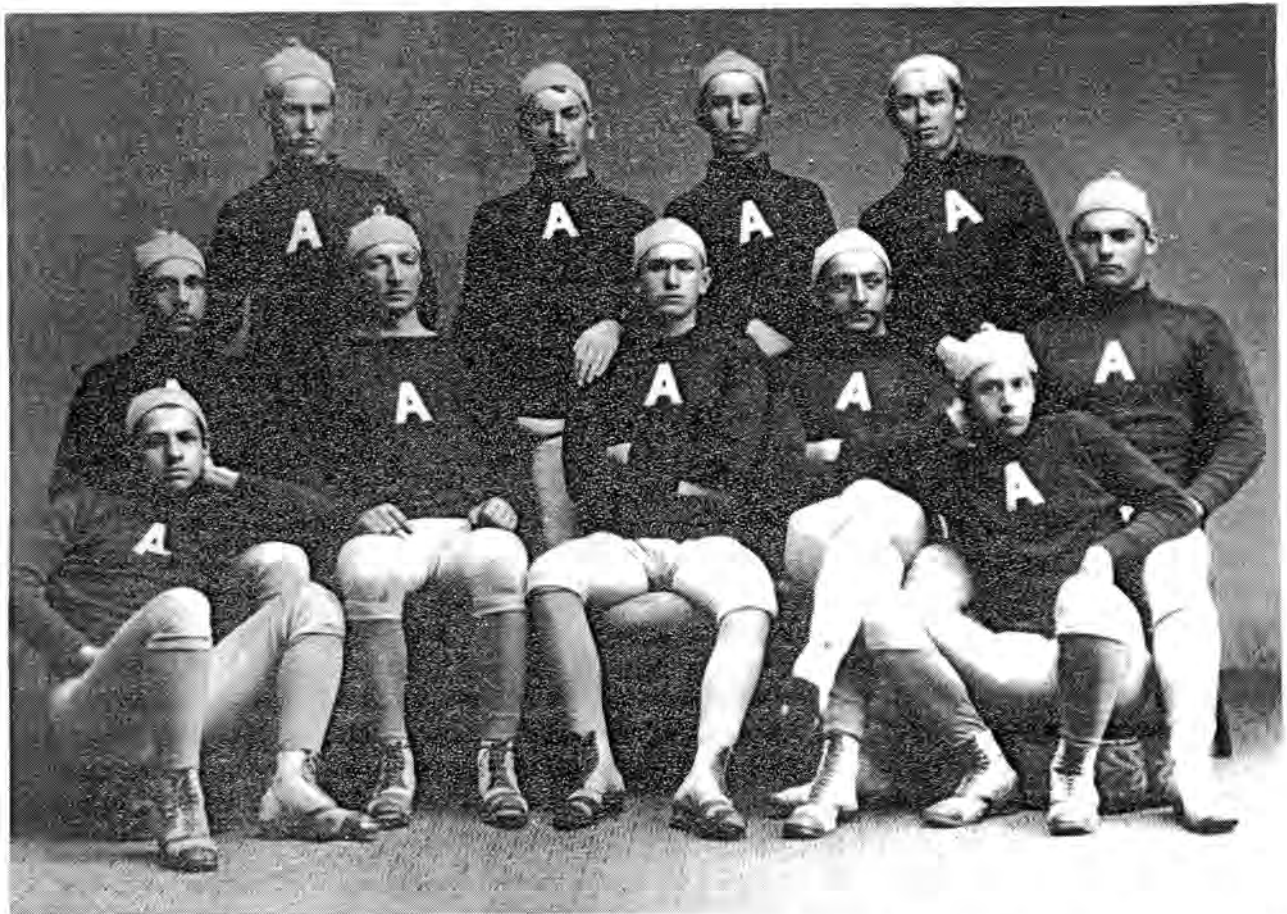
It should be noted that while the playing fields of England had long been important factors in the life of that country, sports had just begun to be a part of American life at the time the Adams Academy opened in 1872. Intercollegiate sports were in their infancy, and interscholastic sports were

some years behind them. Sports competitions were viewed as gentlemanly endeavors to show and build character. Sports were most certainly a part of the educational process for which Adams Academy became noted.

Competitive sports at the Adams Academy consisted of football, baseball, and track. In the earlier days the home events were held on the Academy field on Greenleaf Street, probably the old muster field east of Edgemere Road. When this area was developed around 1890, the activity was moved to Merrymount Park.

What part Dr. Dimmock, the first

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The winning team in the first interscholastic football game played in New England. This serious group, proudly displaying their A's, is the Adams Academy team that defeated Phillips Academy at Andover on November 20, 1875. The young man seated on the

cushion, front right, is Albert E. Avery, Class of 1886 who later became Judge Avery. Identifications of the other players is invited.

(Photo copied from original by Doris Oberg).

An Interscholastic Beginning in Quincy

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headmaster, played in the program is unknown; but the interest of his two assistants who followed him as headmasters, was noteworthy. The Harvard Class of 1874 book states that William Royall Tyler became one of the most active football players when the game was introduced at Harvard early in his college career, and that he played in the game between Harvard and McGill that was probably the first intercollegiate game played in this country under the Rugby rules. Dr. William Everett, along with his scholarly and theological writings, published a novel in which he stressed the importance of baseball in a boy's life. This might have seemed odd of character for the scholarly gentleman, but it must be remembered that athletic activities were part of the culture of the ancient users of the Greek and Latin languages that he taught.

Founder's Day

Track was an intramural sport. "Athletic games" were held by the Adams Academy Athletic Association in the spring around Memorial Day, and in the fall on Founder's Day, October 30th, the anniversary of John Adams' birth. The fall event of 1877 was fully reported with the winning times and distances given. The events were; broad jump, high jump, mile run, one hundred yard dash, two mile walk, baseball throw, football throw and three-legged race. There were five officials including Brooks Adams and W.R. Tyler as Judges, and the Hon. J.Q. Adams as Referee. That afternoon there was a football game.

The following item appears in The Quincy Patriot of Saturday, November 27, 1875. "FOOTBALL. A match game of football was played on the Phillips Academy grounds, at Andover, Saturday, between the Elevens of Phillips Academy of that town, and the Adams Academy of Quincy. The latter obtained one goal and two touch-downs, and the former one touch-down." The game thus described was Andover's first football game, it appears

to have been Adams' first, and, as far as is known, it was the first interscholastic football game played in New England. It predated the start of the Andover-Exeter series which is today recognized as the oldest schoolboy rivalry in the country. The Adams-Andover series ended in 1882, by which date Adams Academy had settled back to an enrolment of 56 boys, less than half its size during its early football years. Adams won in 1875, '77, '78 and '79; Andover in 1876, '81 and '82. There was no game in 1880.

Gale of Wind

A long series with Roxbury Latin School started in 1877. There is a detailed account of the game on October 22, 1884, at the Greenleaf Street grounds in a gale of wind. Adams won 15-6, but it was noted that "The gentlemanly demeanor with which the Roxbury boys carried themselves throughout the game, was much commented upon both by spectators and Adams Academy boys." Also in 1884, Adams defeated a combined team from Boston Latin and Boston English high schools. In 1878 and 1879, Adams defeated the Harvard Freshmen, and in 1882 the MIT Freshmen. A long series with St. Mark's School started in 1883, and with Milton Academy in 1896. In 1877, the Adams Academy second team defeated the first team from Cambridge High School. Brockton is among the high schools played in later years. Since most of the games reported were home victories, it is interesting that we know one season's record: in 1884 it was won 3, tied 4, and lost 1.

Baseball was a very popular sport in this area. Thus, in addition to private and high schools, Adams Academy played such teams as the Blue Ribbons of the Young People's Temperance Union, the Howlers of Dorchester, a nine from Harvard, the Quincys, and the Pelicans of Harvard. Roxbury Latin and St. Mark's were long-time early rivals. Games with Thayer Academy started in 1889 and with Milton Academy in 1895. In May of 1884, Adams Academy's second team lost

Quincy History

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Dr. James R. Cameron
President
Richard W. Carlisle
Editor

The Quincy Historical Society, incorporated November 16, 1893, maintains the Adams Academy Building as a museum, library, visitor information center and place of meeting. The purposes of the Society are: to represent historical interests in the community, to preserve materials and information related to Quincy history, to promote interest in local history through exhibits, programs and educational activities, and to publish materials of historical significance.

two games to the first team of Quincy High School. In 1877 there is an account of a game with the Academy's third team, showing clearly the part that sports participation played in the life of the school.

Flying the Banner

To baseball went the honor of carrying Adams Academy sports to their emotional peak. Of all victories the sweetest were those over Adams' big local neighbor, Quincy High School. On April 29, 1901, the baseball team of Adams Academy, that year a school of eighty boys, defeated Quincy High School by a score of 53 to 3. That evening a blue banner bearing that score in white letters flew from the tower of the Academy building.

In the specifications for the curriculum of his school, John Adams made no mention of athletics; scholastic and collegiate sports were unknown in his day. John Adams had once stated, however, that: "The Meeting House, the Schoolhouse and Training Field are the scenes where New England men are formed." By the time of the Adams Academy, the athletic field has succeeded the training field of John Adams' day in the forming of New England men. There is no question that the Academy's notable sports activities helped carry out John Adams' purposes for his school.

(Mr. Holly, author of this article, is the society's historian and served as its president for two decades.)

Growing Pains and Attainable Goals

By **JAMES R. CAMERON**

President of the Society

The Quincy Historical Society, though nearly a century old, is nevertheless experiencing growing pains. At our September meeting, we announced that for the first time membership has topped twelve hundred. Included in this total are thirty corporate members with dues ranging from fifty to five hundred dollars a year. We had no corporate members five years ago. Over the next three years we must increase our membership significantly--our goals are two thousand individual and family memberships and two hundred corporate members. I have challenged each member of the Board of Directors to secure ten new members this year. I now challenge each of you to secure one new member for next year.

As our activities multiply, so does our need for people to work in our programs. There are thirty members of the Academy Aides who bear major responsibility for special events such as the Christmas exhibit, the crafts fair and the auction. May their numbers increase! We need more people to accept leadership positions. This fall I have been unable to find anyone willing to become chairperson of the Academy Aides. After months of fruitless searching for a co-ordinator for our annual auction, the event had to be postponed. John Harrington volunteered for the assignment when the impact of this event on our finances was dramatically presented to the Board of Directors. When the president was unable to find anyone to accept responsibility for the open House on September 7 (our part in the city's celebration of the Bicentennial of the Massachusetts Constitution), he volunteered for the assignment himself.

There is a large group of volunteers who perform curatorial tasks and assist in the library. These specialized tasks need professional supervision. At present Lawrence Yerdon is doing all the supervision personally. During this year, we should appoint both a librarian and a curator to serve in a part-time capacity directing volunteers. For the present, we seek to find volunteers with professional qualifications for these positions. Eventually we should secure

funds to pay part-time professionals.

The Society has a dozen committees, each chaired by a member of the Board of Directors. We are looking for members who have special interests or abilities who would volunteer to serve on committees and begin a more active involvement in the programs of the Society. There are many special projects which require volunteers that do not fall under the direct jurisdiction of any committee. Mrs. Hall Carpenter has recently volunteered to organize our permanent files of secretarial and treasurer's reports. If you would like to become more active in the society please speak with Mr. Cameron, Mr. Yerdon or call the Society office.

Goals Renovation and Cataloging Capital Funds New Exhibits

The Society now operates on an annual budget of about \$75,000. This year we must increase our income by \$10,000 to maintain our present level of operation. Last year we secured \$5,000 from unplanned sources which enabled us to come within a thousand dollars of balancing our budget at the end of the year. We have four principal sources of income: special projects, membership parking, dues, and investment income. Mrs. Joyce I. Baker, chairman of the Finance Committee, is making an analysis of income and expenditures on a monthly basis. Since the National Park Service has taken over the Adams Birthplaces, the loss of admission fees has resulted in a shortage of cash during the summer months. This is a structural problem in our finances and is being addressed as such.

We have projected an annual income of \$16,500 from special projects. These anticipated incomes have been budgeted for. They do not address the problem of our projected deficit of \$10,000. The Board of Directors has voted on a new dues schedule for next year which is designed to generate an extra \$5,000 in income: Student Membership \$5, Individual Membership \$10, and Family Membership \$15.

If directors and members will take seriously our need for new members, we could easily secure 300-500 new members **this year**. This would generate \$3,000 to \$5,000 in dues. The membership Committee would then be able to concentrate on new corporate members. Enthusiastic support and participation in our special projects can reasonably be expected to generate the final \$2,000-\$3,000 that we need **this year**. In the meantime, we have curtailed routine maintenance expenses and are restricting postponable expenditures. We will not spend even budgeted funds that we do not have.

During the past three months, the officers and directors have been working diligently on strengthening the organizational structure, implementing the committee system, and evaluating and revising financial operations. Now that the Society has adopted the revised Bylaws, the next goal is the preparation of an organization handbook to spell out policies, procedures and internal organization responsibilities and regulations concerning the operation of the library and the museum.

There are three major goals which challenge the Society during the next year. The first is the completion of the basement renovation and the complete cataloging of all of our holdings. Second, we must raise at least \$30,000 in capital funds to pay for the basement renovation project. You will hear more of this later. Finally we must prepare and erect exhibits in the south room. Because of the renovation of the basement and the sudden arrival of two housefuls of furniture from the birthplaces, it has been necessary to close the south room which houses our permanent exhibits. We have secured a grant from the Federal Government which will help us care for our collections and underwrite the expense of redesigning our permanent exhibits. By next summer our completed exhibits will justify our charging admission to the museum. This will then be not only a source of revenue but of local pride.

(Dr. Cameron, author of this article, is president of the Society and chairman of the history department at Eastern Nazarene College in Wollaston.)

Quincy

*A City in the Old Bay State
The Massachusetts Bay Entrance to the
New York, Brockton and Boston Canal*

The above is the title of a very interesting book recently presented to the Society for our Ezekiel Sargent Collection by Mr. Sargent's daughter, Mrs. William J. Connell. It was published in 1908 to promote Quincy in connection with a proposed canal to run from Fore River through Braintree, Randolph, Brockton, Taunton and Fall River to Narragansett Bay. Quincy's population was 30,000, Weymouth 11,585, Braintree 6,879, Brockton 48,000, Taunton 30,967, Fall River 105,762. The route would save 138 miles over the trip around the Cape. (This being before the Cape Cod Canal was built.) Among Quincy's assets as a canal entrance are listed:

Fine deep water channels.

A waterfront, largely undeveloped, where 125,000 tons of coal are discharged annually.

The Fore River Railroad connecting the waterfront with the main line of the NY, NH & H Railroad.

Handsome public buildings and important institutions.

Much history, including the Quincy Canal.

Fore River Shipbuilding Company which had recently delivered SS CREOLE, the first turbine propelled steamship contracted for in this country, and launched the battleship USS SOUTH DAKOTA. The average employment was 4,000 men, the annual payroll about \$2,000,000.

"The greatest granite center in the world. It has no equal for polish and durability." 160 separate plants engaged in quarrying and manufacturing monuments. "Pneumatic tools have greatly increased productivity." Other thriving industries and businesses are mentioned.

(P.S. The New York, Brockton and Boston Canal was never built.)

Babcock, LaBrecque Bequests

Quincy Historical Society recently received two bequests of unusual interest.

From the estate of Thorpe Babcock, late of California, has come a legacy of \$1,500 to be added to the endowment fund already established by Mr. Babcock in memory of his parents, Walter T. and Frederica C. Babcock.

Thorpe Babcock grew up on President's Hill in Quincy and was a graduate of Adams Academy. He wrote a biography for his family in which he recalled his experiences at Adams Academy and recollections of Dr. William Everett, the Headmaster. Walter T. Babcock was prominent in Quincy affairs for many years and was a member of the Board of Supervisors of the Adams Temple and School Fund.

A bequest of \$1,000 was received from the estate of Richard T. LaBrecque. In his will Mr. LaBrecque suggested that half of this amount "be used to pay membership fees for students and that \$500 be used for the awarding of prizes to students for writing essays on subjects of historical value and development of the City of Quincy."

Dick LaBrecque made a great contribution to Quincy and its historical record in the special columns that he researched and wrote during his many years with The Patriot Ledger.

The Quincy Cooperative Bank

is pleased to sponsor
this edition
of Quincy History

The bank was named for Josiah Quincy, Jr., founder of cooperative banking in Massachusetts and scion of the family for which Quincy is named. So helping to spread interest in the history of the city is something about which we can sincerely say:

"Josiah would have liked that."

Supplement to Quincy Genealogy

Supplement No. 1 to the Quincy Family genealogy was published just in time for the Quincy Family reunion held in Quincy on September 5th. This was most fitting, since "the book" was a forerunner of the reunion.

Published in 1977 by the Society, "Descendants of Edmund Quincy 1602-1637 who settled in what is now Quincy, Massachusetts, in 1635" was compiled by H. Hobart Holly, Historian of the Society.

As the first such record of the Quincy Family to be undertaken, much information, particularly for the current generations, came from family members who could be located. This was the start of the list of living Quincy descendants and the occasion for family members to learn of cousins whom they had never met. Some met for the first time at the reunion.

The 1977 volume, plus the supplement, lists over 600 persons who have borne or bear the name of Quincy by either birth or marriage. The Society has further recorded the names of many other descendants of Edmund Quincy who bear other names, but it is impractical to include these in the publication.

The 1977 volume carried the request that readers come forward with information to correct or help complete the contents of the book. Supplement No. 1 is the result of a gratifying response to this request, even down to a young Mr. Quincy born June 1, 1980. It is hoped that further information will come in to fill some of the gaps that still exist.

The Supplement is obtainable at Quincy Historical Society at a price of \$1. The book is obtainable at \$3.