



Weymouth
Historical
Newsletter
Society

DECEMBER 1977

Vol. 13

No. 3

BEST WISHES TO ALL

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Clarke (Sharon)
225 Pleasant St., S. W. 02190

Miss Vera Freeman
378 Union St., S. W. 02190

Ms Helena Joyce
109 Broad St., Apt. 410, W. 02188

Miss Carolyn Morse
55 Greentree Lane, Apt. 37, S. W. 02190

Mrs. Reginal Paulsen (Ellen)
904 Main St., S. W. 02190

Donald L. Pearson
44 Marie Ave., S. W. 02190

Miss Josephine Ray
17 Buchanan Lane, S. W. 02190

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Rober (Ruth)
445 Green St., N. W. 02191

THE SEASON OF GIVING: We gratefully acknowledge monetary gifts from Russell Peck, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Reynold Ronci and Edward J. White.

IN MEMORIAM: We are sorry to hear of the deaths of these long time members and we extend our sympathy to their families:

Mrs. Mary Tirrell
Everett J. McIntosh

We also extend our sympathy to J. Henry Pflaumer, one of our oldest members, on the loss of his son.

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100th ANNIVERSARY: In 1979 the Weymouth Historical Society will celebrate 100 years of continuous existence, a record few other societies can match. There have been ups and downs during these years but we are certainly up at present. A committee has been formed to make plans for this important future year and it held an organization meeting in November. Harry Belcher and Donald Cormack are co-chairmen and Patrick Leonard Leonard, Jr. is secretary. They are supported by Gordon Barnes, Jennie Belcher, Mary Leonard, Eleanor Cormack, Barbara MacSwan, Ruth Rober and Christine Stanton. They want help from all the members and welcome any suggestion you may have to make the year memorable.

A NEW YEAR AND AN ANNIVERSARY: The Bay State Historical League which is composed of most of the historical groups in the state will have its 75th anniversary in 1978. Quincy will be the host city for the meeting on Jan. 14 and our president hopes that many members from our society will wish to attend. All are welcome to go and Harold will give you information about the day's activities when you call and volunteer to be a delegate. It is very helpful to meet with the members of our fellow societies and we know Quincy will plan an engrossing program. The next meeting will be in Worcester on April 15.

CHRISTMAS HOPES: We know that you won't have any money at the end of this month but you will have had a jolly time. Well, we hope that the society will have a lot of money in 1978 and that you will have had a jolly time helping by joining with others to partake in projects that will pay for the newsletters, the programs and any other special features that may come along such as an anniversary celebration. Our dues are probably the lowest in the Commonwealth and you can help to keep them that way if you will call Harold Olson at 335-1185 and tell him that you will join the following people on the Ways and Means committee: Francis McCue, Albert Dutra and William McGrath.

REMEMBRANCES OF THINGS PAST: Our museum opening on October 13 was a very memorable occasion as we welcomed about 125 visitors. Guides for the afternoon were Susan and Henry Darrell, William and Astrid Rogers, Thomas and Ruth Rober, Sharon and Ronald Clarke and Chet and Betty Kevitt.

THE MUSEUM COMMITTEE: Don Cormack is chairman of the committee and Frank Dawes has joined it officially after being a busy worker on it for years. The following announcement was read at the November meeting and is repeated here:

The Museum Committee of the Weymouth Historical Society is responsible for the preservation and security of the society's historical collection of artifacts, documents, books and other memorabilia.

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The Museum Committee welcomes and invites constructive suggestions and inquiries regarding the collection.

All inquiries should be in writing and addressed to:

Mr. Donald Cormack
16 Cottage Lane
Weymouth, Mass. 02188

The Program Committee: On January 18 we know we shall see you all at the meeting as we look forward to hearing William Flavin on one of his many interests "Railroads." Mr. Flavin is well known on the South Shore as an historian, a singer and an educator so we know you will enjoy this evening.

On February 15 the committee has planned another "Members Night" because of the great interest shown last year. Marion Belcher has agreed to share her avocation of photography with us. It could be a vocation--she is an expert. Don Cormack will tell us about some of the things he has collected and Susan Darrell will share her new interest in an old musical instrument. Last year's invitation is repeated, "We would like anyone who has a collection or hobby and is willing to share it with us to bring a card table and arrange a small exhibit. If you would like to make this one of our most outstanding meetings, please call Eleanor Murphy at 335-3155 early in February.

CHRISTMAS PAST: The generally accepted first Christmas card was designed by John Calcott Horsley in 1843.

The Horsley card was drawn at the request of Sir Henry Cole, an energetic reformer and a busy man, who had the card printed to save time on his own Christmas letters but was prompted also by his interest in furthering the expansion of the postal system itself. George Buday, in his standard "The History of the Christmas Card," records that not more than a thousand copies of this card were sold at one shilling a copy; but discusses in detail the runners-up for the honor of being first, such as W.M. Egley whose design is similar in many ways to Horsley's but whose own records finally state that his was the second card, designed in 1848. Both cards showed convivial scenes set in rusticated and ivy-leaved frames, with subsidiary vignettes of charitable gifts for the poor; only Egley introduces holly.

New Year cards had been printed for many years before this. Examples such as those by Johann Endletzberger in the City Museum of Vienna show austere classical motifs and no Yulish greenery. The addition of Christmas coincides with its general early Victorian revival. Still today the written Christmas message includes the New Year and of course the two occasions were habitually thought of together. Historically Christmas Day officially began the New Year until as late as the thirteenth century; and today the twenty-fifth of December still marks in England the first

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day of the new legal quarter-year. Many Catholic countries still do not send cards with Christmas greetings, only formal good wishes for the New Year.

William Sanson "A Book of Christmas"

Christmas Gifts: One of our society's gifts to the public is the museum but without your help it would be a closed and meaningless display.

You can give Henry Darrell a Christmas gift by calling him at 335-7845 and offering your talents as a guide. Dates through January 9 are filled but he will appreciate your help in the future. Some are Sunday dates by request of our visitors and the hours are 2-5 p.m. Night hours on week nights remain the same, 7-9 p.m.

The dates are:

December	14
January	4, 9, 15, 23, 30
February	8, 16, 23
March	6, 13, 19, 27
April	5, 12, 23

*With
best wishes
for your happiness now
and in the
New Year*

Chris Stanton 7-8360
Betty Kevitt 5-4804
Editors