



# News letter

1980

VOL. 16 NO. 3

DECEMBER 1980

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## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

It's that holly and mistletoe time of the year  
When we send special greetings for holiday cheer!

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### GREETINGS TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald N. Clarke (Louise) 42 Burton Terrace, S.W.  
Mrs. Louella B. Hawley 158 Pleasant St., S.W.  
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Mitchell (Irene) 326 Pond St., S. W.  
Gary Donadio 19 Hawkins St., E.W.  
Stephen Barrett 240 Centre St., Holbrook 20343  
(Mary Leonard is now Mrs. Barrett. Congratulations to you both.)

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HAPPY NEW YEAR: We could save this greeting until the end of the Newsletter but we want you to know that the program committee was thinking it last June.

Wed. Jan 21: We will have the pleasure of hearing William Avery Baker speak on "350 Years of Boston Harbor." Mr. Baker is an eminent historian and an expert on ships and we know we will see you all at the meeting.

A CHANGE: Please note on your calendars and program cards that the Feb. meeting has been changed to Wednesday Feb. 11 and will be held at South High School in our regular meeting room. The last time we celebrated Abraham Lincoln's birthday as a group was back in 1974. This is often a neglected date and we hope you will find it important and join us for this special program.

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IN MEMORIAM: We were sorry to hear of the death of Helen Ronci last March and we extend our sympathy to her husband Reynold. Mrs. Ronci was made an Honorary Life Member some years ago for her interest in our society and her significant contributions to the outstanding success of our exhibit during the Civil War Centennial.

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CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE YEAR: It is almost a cliché at the holiday season for people to remark that they wish the spirit could last all year but we can say with certainty that it prevailed throughout our "FIRST ANNUAL BAKELESS BAKE SALE." A total of \$355.70 was raised which will be a tremendous addition to our treasury and we want to thank our helpers who made it possible:

Louise MacDonald, Elizabeth Hollis, Chris and Wilbur Stanton, Doris and Walter Gonia, Betty and Chet Kevitt, Mary McKenzie, Jo Ray, Vera Freeman, Gordon Teague, the Severy family, Miriam Delahunt, Helen Bicknell, Ruth Tirrell, Reynold Ronci, Jane Jewell, Beverly and Russell Oliver, Ruth Loud, Mary Kibby, Kathleen and William McGrath, Catherine Bond, Barbara and Herbert Holmes, Ruth and Theron Cain, Edward Libertine, Dorothy Jordan, the David Morans, Ruth Pope, Shirley Clarke, Frances and Ronald Sylvester, Helen Myers, Lois Smith, Joanne and Jim Palmieri, Mary Kelley, Helen McIntosh, Evelyn Walker, Jennie and Harry Belcher, Ruth and Roger Campbell, Louise and Harold Olson, Mary MacKay, Marion Carpenter, Doris and Doug Welsh, Eleanor and John Murphy, Muriel and Earl Pithie, Eleanor Cooney, Dorothy McCormick, Michael Merten, Candy and Michael Wright, Olive Sylvester, Helena Joyce, Eleanor and Joseph Kolb, Beatrice McLean, Margaret McGrath, Norma and Bill Tirrell, Frances and Adrian Eckberg, Bonnie and Leon Farrin and Marilyn and Walter Briscoe.

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WINTER WONDERLAND: It does look beautiful but sometimes snow disrupts our schedule so we are repeating our annual winter announcement:

Should a storm arise on the day of our meeting all efforts will be made to put an announcement on station W J D A when it is necessary to cancel. If, however, the station is off the air before the snow and sleet really hit us, it will be left up to the members to call the officers to find out whether the meeting will be held. Their telephone numbers are on the current program card. It should also be emphasized that a school cancellation in the morning cancels all meetings at schools that day.

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MUSEUM ACTIVITIES: Murray Brannen is now our hardworking museum coordinator. His phone is 447-6078. We thank those who have been guides this fall: Joanne and Murray Brannen, Sharon and Ronald Clarke, Kevin Smith, Chet Kevitt, Kathleen and William McGrath, Louise and Harold Olson and Eleanor and John Murphy, and Shirley Clarke.

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CHRISTMAS PAST:

"Rosemary was the most prized of Christmas decorations until the mid-nineteenth century. It is a casualty, one would guess, of the

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more brightly coloured brilliance of the Christmas tree. Apart from its scent and its purple prettiness, Rosemary was "for remembrance"; it was also used to decorate and flavour the traditional boar's head. Now it has gone."

"Humorous sentiments in Christmas cards always had some popularity; a good example is an American card of the 1880's featuring an ebullient bewhiskered and angel-winged stockbroker whose verse read:

"I hope you will not think it strange,  
If I fly from the Stock Exchange,  
To bring to you the news surprising  
That all the New Year bonds are rising! "

"A Book of Christmas"  
William Sansom

Editor's Note: That's a sentiment many in the 1980's would welcome!

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BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE: The Bay State Historical League is a state-wide organization made up of historical societies, commissions and individual members. Our society belongs and if you are interested in being an individual member, call Chet Kevitt at 335-4804. It costs \$10 a year and you will receive the Bulletin and the monthly Calendar both of which have very interesting articles about what's going on at museums and other societies. Our programs are always listed. In the autumn Bulletin there is an article about Weymouth's "Historic Model Project."

There are quarterly meetings during the year and as a member of our society you are welcome to attend. The winter 1981 meeting will be held on Saturday, January 17 in Franklin, Mass. and will be hosted by the Franklin Historical Society and Dean Junior College. After a business meeting the morning session will be entitled "The Many Faces of Family History". There will be lunch and in the afternoon a tour of the historic sites in Franklin. If you would like to attend, let Earl Pithie or Chet Kevitt know and they will give you more particulars.

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SEE YOU ALL IN JANUARY.

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Betty Kevitt 335-4804  
Chris Stanton 337-8360  
Editors