



# Weymouth Historical Society

P. O. BOX 56, SOUTH WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS 02190



HOLBROOK HOUSE

VOL. 17 NO. 3

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1981

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HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO ALL

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"Heap on more wood- the wind is chill;  
But let it whistle as it will,  
We'll keep our Christmas merry still."

Sir Walter Scott

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SNOW TIME: It came early this year and it is timely to print our annual weather announcement.

Should a storm arise on the day of our meeting all efforts will be made to put an announcement on station WJDA 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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IF CHRISTMAS COMES, CAN JANUARY BE FAR BEHIND? Members' nights are very popular and there is a varied program planned by the following members:

Ronald Clarke--Military War Gaming  
Frances Sylvester-- Items from the Middle East  
William Seach-- Postcards  
Dana Johnsen-- Tools of Early Trades and Crafts.

Edward Walker will have a table display from his collection and if you would like to show your hobbies or collections, please bring a card table and join the fun.

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FEBRUARY FORECAST: Back in 1973 we had the pleasure of hearing Brock Jobe. History will repeat itself but not Mr Jobe who will speak

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to us in February about "Collections Owned By The Society For Preservation Of New England Antiquities"

We first met him when he was a research assistant at the Museum of Fine Arts. He left Boston to work at Williamsburg for several years and he is now back as Chief Curator of S.P.N.E.A.

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A TIME TO BE GRATEFUL: We would like to thank the supporters of the Second Annual Bakeless Bake Sale. Your contributions will enable us to send out the Newsletter and provide fine programs for all. We do appreciate your help: Jane H. Jewell, Helen C. Bicknell, Ruth Loud, Beverly and Russell Oliver, Louise MacDonald, Vera Freeman, Josephine Ray, Wilbur and Christine Stanton, Rita and James Walsh, Ruth Tirrell, Mary McKenzie, W.B. Seach, Jennie and Harry Belcher, Margaret McGrath, Dorothea and Herbert Scott, Adrian and Frances Eckberg, Helen McIntosh, Walter Morrissey, Marion Carpenter, Carolyn Morse, Priscilla and Dana Johnson, Eleanor Cooney, Walter and Doris Gonia, Martha Robitaille, Gordon Teague, Betty and Chet Kevitt, Martha and Lester Belcher, Mary F. Kibby, Kathleen and William McGrath, Miriam Sturgeon, Michael and Ann-Marie Beckerman, Ruth Pope, Evelyn Walker, Elizabeth Hollis, Mary L. Kelley, Miriam Delahunt, Lois Smith, Mary, Joseph and Phillip Merten, Joseph and Eleanor Kolb, Eleanor and John Murphy, Mary MacKay, Joanne and James Palmieri, Dorothy McCormick, Barbara and Herbert Holmes, Dorothy Jordan, Leon and Bonnie Farrin, Phyllis and George Thompson, Shirley Clark, Helen Myers, Francis McCue, Earl and Muriel Pithie, Beatrice McLean, Doris and Doug Welsh, The Severy Family, Louise and Harold Olson, and Marilyn and Walter Briscoe.

The total amount was \$339.00.

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THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT: Let's celebrate all through the year and make our new members feel very welcome.

Constance Hill	411 Pleasant St.	S. W. 02190
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burke	81 West St.	S.W. 02190
Donald S. Gay	1210 Pleasant St.	E.W. 02189
Edith L. Semple	37 Phillips St.	W. 02188
Mr. and Mrs. David Fiske (Judy)	101 Phillips St.	W. 02188

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THE HOLLY: This plant has always been a significant part of Christmas decorations, here and in the British Isles. When the earth turns brown and cold, the holly with its shiny green leaves and bright red berry seems to lend itself naturally to Christmas decoration, as described in this traditional English carol;

"The holly and the ivy,  
When they are both full grown,  
Of all the trees that are in the woods,  
The holly bears the crown"

To the early Christians in northern Europe this plant was a symbol of the burning thorn bush of Moses, and the flaming love for God that filled Mary's heart. Its prickly points, and red berries resembling drops of blood, also reminded the faithful that the Divine Child was born to wear a crown of thorns.

Not only is holly hung at doors and windows, on tables and walls, but its green leaves and red berries have become the universal symbol of the holiday, adorning greeting cards, gift tags and labels, gift boxes, and wrapping paper at Christmas time.

Medieval superstition in England endowed holly with a special power against witchcraft; unmarried women were told to fasten a sprig of holly to their beds at Christmas, to guard them throughout the year from being turned into witches by the Evil One. In Germany, branches of holly that had been used as decorations in churches were brought home and superstitiously kept as charms against lightning. Another English superstition claimed that holly brought good luck to men, and that ivy brought it to women. The holly, therefore, is always referred to as "he" while the ivy is the distaff plant:

"Holly and his merry men they dance and sing,  
Ivy and her maidens weep, and hands wring."

"The Christmas Book"  
Francis X. Weiser

Editor's Note: That poem doesn't sound as if ivy brought much good luck to women.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR: The attendance at our meetings this year has been very good which is most gratifying to our fine speakers, we're sure. For those of you who have been missed we send this message. Keep your program card where you can see it so that you won't miss a meeting because of forgetfulness.

For those of you who would like to attend but can't because of transportation difficulties, the executive board is attempting to set up a transportation committee. Please call Candace Wright at 331-2459 if you need a ride or if you can supply a ride. Don't wait to do this just before the next meeting but do it now. From your response a survey can be made as to the need and to the fulfillment of the need and every one hopes some arrangements can be made for the future. If you have any suggestions, they are always received gratefully.

As we enter the new year please remember the old custom of "resolutions". Not the kind one breaks! Make the president happy by volunteering. Make the treasurer happy by paying dues on time! Make everybody happy by bringing in new members.

We hope it will be a good year for everyone.

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A TIME FOR REMEMBRANCE: We lost three friends during the past few months who contributed much to the society over the years and we hope you will remember their families with sympathy.

Helen Desmond

Reynold Ronci

Walter Gonia

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Betty Kevitt 5-4804  
Chris Stanton 7-8360  
Editors