



# Weymouth Historical Society

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



HOLBROOK HOUSE

VOL. 19 NO. 1

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1983

A GALA EVENING: Our annual dinner meeting was a huge success and everyone enjoyed a fine evening of turkey and companionship. The following officers will guide us through another year and we hope you will give them your full support.

President:	Donald Cormack
Vice-president:	Sharon Cassani-Clarke
Rec. Secretary	Candace Wright
Treasurer:	Eleanor Cormack
Corr.-Secretary:	Joanne Palmieri

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## IN MEMORIAM

Olive Sylvester

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IT'S NICE TO KNOW YOU: We are happy to welcome the following new members and hope they will be able to attend all the meetings.

Charles and Barbara Baldwin	98 Summit St. W. 02188
Marion Cole	51 B Shaw St. Braintree 02184
Virginia F. Higgins	170 Mediterranean Dr. S.W.02190

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SOCIABILITY IS THEIR NAME: It is always pleasant to share our thoughts after each program and we certainly appreciate the work our members do for us. We want to thank our hostesses for this year: Eleanor Cormack, Chris Stanton, Louise Clarke, Sharon Clarke, Regina Sackmary, Marilyn Briscoe, Rita Walsh, Eleanor Murphy, Doris Welsh, Betty Kevitt, Eleanore Montgomery, Norma Tirrell.

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A NOTE TO OUR NEW MEMBERS: Our program card for 1983-4 will be enclosed with the next newsletter which will be issued in September.

(over)



A note to everyone. Extra program cards are always available in September if you wish some for friends. Please encourage them to join us.

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THE MONTH OF ROSES: June is the month most associated with this beautiful flower although now we can enjoy them far more extensively. We thought you might like a bit of information of its history.

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

The archaeologists provide us with our first knowledge of the rose side by side with man. It was Sir Leonard Woolley who found the famous royal groves of Ur in Chaldea in the Euphrates-Tigris region and who showed, amongst other things, that the Sumerian King Sargon (2648-2630 B.C.) returned from a campaign bringing "vines, figs and roses to his country". That was some 5000 years ago!

After this discovery there is an immense gap in our knowledge. We must, however, assume that roses were first brought to Crete and Greece by road. Caravans also wandered from the rivers of Babylonia, taking their culture with them right across Egypt to north Africa.

Extremely little is known about roses in the Egypt of the Pharaohs. There is scarcely any evidence of them before about 300 B.C. In 1888 a small wreath with nine roses embossed on it was found in an Egyptian grave from about 400-200 B.C. This was what the Romans later named "Rosa sancta"- a variety of "R. gallica", which the Egyptians are supposed to have obtained from the Hebrews.

The Bible mentions the Rose of Sharon. There has been doubt about whether the translators picked on the correct flower name; but it is thought that Babylonia had several species of rose which were collected from Persia, a country known for its wealth of these plants. The holy script of the Persians, the Avasta, used the rose as a religious symbol.

Remains of a rose cult have been found both in India and in Syria- and a rose is stamped on one of the oldest coins which has been unearthed in the Middle East.

"The Concise Handbook of Roses"  
Eigel Kiaer and Verner Hancke

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A SUCCESSFUL YEAR AT THE MUSEUM: The evening visits ended in May and there were many appreciative visitors as usual. We will bring you a complete report of all the activities in the September newsletter.

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Chris Stanton 7-8360  
Betty Kevitt 5-4804  
Editors