



The Scituate Historical Society

BULLETIN

Cudworth House file

VOLUME XVII

SCITUATE, MASS JUNE, 1965

NUMBER 1

WILLIAM H. EATON, EDITOR

59 Gilson Road, Scituate, Mass.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST OR HISTORIC VALUE ALWAYS WELCOME

IN MEMORIAM

ADDIE CUSHING COLMAN
1887-1964

Mrs. Addie Cushing Colman, wife of President, Frank Horton Colman, passed away November 23, 1964 after a short illness. At the time of her death, she was one of the Curators of the Cudworth House and had nearly completed the gigantic task of inventoring the entire contents of the House and Barn. This was something that had not been done for many years, and as the project neared two years, it was obvious that it was a job that was long overdue in doing. Out of chaos came a neat well cataloged museum. Interested in genealogy as well as history Mrs Colman was a member of The New England Historical and Genealogical Society. She was the author of "Captain Moses Rich Colman- Letters of a Yankee Clipper Ship Captain".

Personally, Mrs Colman was always "good company" and a visit to the Colman home was always a pleasant one. The sympathy of the Society is extended to her husband of over 50 years and their daughter.

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The 48th Anniversary meeting of the Society was held September 12, 1964 in the Old Sloop Room of the Unitarian Church and was well attended. The most enjoyable and informative program was presented by Mr. Edison F. Lohr, Historian of the National Seashore Park on Cape Cod. Mrs Ethel Brown was the soloist for the meeting accompanied by Mr. LeRoy Fuller. Preceding the meeting the Cudworth House was open for the usual social hour. The invocation and benediction were pronounced by Rev. Samuel Young of the Congregational Church. Mr. Richard Burt favored the gathering with a concert on the Lawson Chimes.

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COME TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Scituate Historical Society will be held on Saturday, June 19 at the Cudworth House. The House will be open at 1 p.m. for the usual social hour and the business meeting which included the election of officers, will take place at 2 p.m. At 2:30 Mrs Gilbert Dean, president of the Braintree Historical Society and chairman of the school program connected with the Thayer House of that town will present an illustrated program on the restoration and use of the Thayer House. This promises to be an interesting program so come and bring a friend. The Society is always ready to welcome into its membership any resident of the South Shore, and even beyond, who is interested in the History of Scituate.

Dues are payable to the Treasurer, Mrs Moun, at the Annual Meeting.

The Society has lost two other members by death this past year beside Mrs Colman;

Augustus L. Abbott aged 86 of Scituate Centre

Miss Blanche Clark aged 87. She was a former hostess of the Cudworth House.

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A list of new members since the last bulletin came out will appear in the next issue.

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NEW HOSTESSES APPOINTED

The Society is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Dorothy Shoemaker of North Scituate as Hostess of the Cudworth House for the season. The House will be open Wednesday thru Saturday 2-5 p.m. starting the Wednesday after the annual meeting. (June 23) Mrs Shoemaker worked in Welch's prior to her retirement and is well known, having lived in North Scituate for quite a few years.

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Mrs Charles Wagner, our Hostess for a number of years, declined to take the position this year as she is undergoing surgery. All of her friends wish her well.

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This spring, two groups of boy scouts and four groups of girl scouts were conducted through the Cudworth House.

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Historical displays were on exhibition last summer and fall at the Peirce Memorial Library.

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Excerpts from two 1886 issues of the Scituate Weekly Herald owned by the Editor:

"The Lyceum celebrated the anniversary of Spiritualism at Mrs Litchfield's. Outsiders were admitted free. It was a grand time."

"Silas Peirce Esq is soon to build a large barn on his place."

"The Bossers Union held a meeting at their headquarters April 1!"

"The remains of John Bates aged 77 who died in East Boston were brought for interment in Union Cemetery."

"Benj. Wilder holds an auction at his residence Saturday, April 17. For particulars, see posters."

"As George Newcomb and Joseph Marsh were driving home from the party at Oscar Litchfield's last Wed. night, the horse stepped into a deep rut and broke its ankle. It was dispatched on the spot."

"Another express will probably be run between the station and H.S. Beach by Smith Richardson, this coming season. "Let her go, Smith!"

"H.T. Bailey is home for a short vacation."

"Mr. W.H. Sampson has just received a carload of corn."

"Miss Annie Edson gave a whist party at Edson Cottage last last Thursday evening. The first prize was awarded to Miss Flossie Sinmons. Ben R. Turner capturing second."

"Miss Abbie J. Abbott has returned from a fortnight's sojourn at Baker's Island!"

Continued.....

"George F. Brown discovered a bee's nest in a hole in his front banking one day, last week. He succeeded in distroying the whole swarm and without a sting."

"C.T. Chubbuck has cut down several half dead apple trees in his orchard near his house, greatly improving the looks of the place."

"In the District Court at Abington August 20, Moses Sargent was fined \$15 and costs for keeping an unlicenced Dog."

"George Dailly while riding his bicycle near the depot last Friday was suddenly dropped gently to the ground owing to the backbone of the machine breaking in the middle. Fortunately he was not injured."

"Merritt's barge Seabreeze conveyed a party to Mantasket last Friday night."

"A.H. Newton is having his cycle enamelled."

"Two whips were stolen from the carriages at the Baptist Church during Sunday School last Sunday. Any information regarding the whereabouts of the thieves will be thankfully recieved by the trustees of the church. "

"The new line of telegraph between the depot, A.H.Litchfield's and W.F. Bates' is up and works like a charm."

"Prohibition Caucus at Town Hall Monday night. Particulars next week."

"Died in Scituate Sept 22. Olive L. Barnes."

The paper was advertised as selling for 50 cents a year subscription.

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Couple of items from Sally Brown.

Nathaniel Tilden must have been quite a guy. In his will dated February 1731 he left "pounds 726;11;2"- excluding 103 ounces of silver" which was quite a sum in a y man's day. Also, "A muletto slave. Abr hon" valued at 105 pounds.

If you are going to tell anything about anybody be sure your information "cum straight". Johnny nott was a fine upstanding young man back in the 80's but he had T.B.. He told someone that he wasn't going to live very long. "It cum straight". -- Gus told Liz and Liz told Cal and Cal told me and Dr. Harvey told Gus" that I probably wouldn't live much longer". Well, the poor man didn't, although the news did come fairly straight.

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A minister ancestor of the Editor is reported as being in such poor health that was unable to perform the duties of his vocation. instead, he recuperated in Lunada, (didn't do him any good) and wrote poetry. Oh yes! He was married three times, outlived two wives sired eight children the last one when he was over sixty and died at the age of seventy-four!!

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Donations to the Society

Antique fodder chopper and corn sheller given by Miss Edith Damon. Used back when her father did farming before the turn of the century.

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The following was copied from a book of old clippings loaned to the Editor by Clarence Waite. The dates are around 1916.

CLAPP'S ICE HOUSE SAVED FROM FIRE
Men and Women Form Bucket Brigade
While Much Idolized Hose Reel Remains
Snugly In Its Quarters

Sunday morning at 5 a.m., steam and vapor were seen issuing from Clapp Brothers' Ice House, near the Old Oaken Bucket Pond in Greenbush.

The steam, which resembled volumns of smoke, was first discovered by P eleg Ford, who is a light sleeper, and he hastily dressed and ran across the street to the residence of Elijah Clapp, one of the brothers, whom he succeeded in rousing from a deep slumber.

Other neighbors were soon startled from their sleep by the clamor of the bells on the hose house and they immediately left their warm and downy beds and ran to the scene.

The members of hose #4 were soon at the hose house, but the chief engineer, Mr Seaverns could not be reached by telephone, (asleep probably) and the chairman of the board of Selectman was also sleeping the sleep of the just, and could not be got over the wire no one had any authority to order out the apparatus, and it looked as if the ice house and its contents were doomed.

Tommy Jenkins was early on the scene followed by John Weatherbee, Henry Towne, Lill Pelrine, Frank Litchfield, George Hatch, Pete Clapp, Mrs. Margaret Gillis's husband and others, and the women eagerly poured out to lend them assistance. A Bucket Brigade was formed and soon water from the pond was being deluged upon the building.

Finally Caleb Prouty was called and informed as to the catastrophe. He at once started for thr Harbor and the "Highly Idolized Hose Reel", but as the custodian refused to let it go from its place of confinement Caleb was forced to proceed to the scene of excitement, breathing vengeance upon the Town Fathers and the Fire Department and declaring that he would put out the fire himself even if he would be obliged to extinguish it by blowing upon it, and Caleb can blow some.

As it was Sunday morning, and Frank Barry's gossip shop was closed, the gossiping assistant engineers could not be placed, and so Caleb could find no one to authorize the taking out the Sacred Reel.

A peculiar feature in connection with the fire, was that no flames could be discovered, and altho' the volumns of supposed smoke issuing from the house indicated that the building was in flames, no trace of a blaze was visible.

After the smoke(?) had subsided, Tommy Jenkins, more courageous than the rest, entered the house, where he found, instead a fire, Clapp Brothers' entire ice crop in a liquid state. Upon investigation he found that myriads of fire flies filled the building and had caused all the excitement. It is offered as an opinion, that last summer during the lightning bug season the parent flies laid their eggs on the shallow waters of the pond. that the cold weather came so quick that the eggs became frozen in the ice, and that with the first warm days they hatched out and that the heat from their bodies melted the ice and the steam and vapor arising therefrom gave the appearance of the building being afire.

The foregoing story was copied from a newspaper clipping and if it sounds like too tall a tale to be believed, it may have been written with tongue-in-cheek. W.H.D.

I was going to type another story, (true) but I would not have sufficient room on this stencil, so watch for it in the next issue.



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NUMBER 2

WILLIAM H. EATON, EDITOR

59 GILSON RD., SCITUATE, MASS.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST OR HISTORIC VALUE ALWAYS WELCOME: ADDRESS THE EDITOR.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING TO BE SEPTEMBER 11

The 49th Anniversary meeting of the Scituate Historical Society will be held this year on Saturday, September 11. The Cudworth House will be open at one o'clock and again after the meeting. The meeting this year will be at the Junior High School, (directly in back of the house) as the Unitarian Church and Grand Army Hall are both spoken for. The time of the meeting will be earlier, 2 p.m. and the social hour and collation will follow. Thru the kindness of our Vice President Mathaniel Tilden, the speaker of the day will be Dr. Richard W. Hale Archivist of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He will speak on, "Historical preservation in Massachusetts". This promises to be a very interesting program so come and bring someone with you.

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PROCEEDS OF THE JUNE BUSINESS MEETING

The annual business meeting of the Society was held June 19th at the Unitarian Church. There was very little business before the house this year except the Clerk's and Treasurer's reports and the election of officers. Re-elected were: President, F. Merton Colman; Vice president, Mathaniel Tilden; Clerk, Mrs Edwin Sullivan; Honorary Clerk, Mrs Harry Stenbeck; and Treasurer, Mrs Edith Young. No Trustees were due for election this year. Appointed were: Curators, Mrs Elliott Laidlaw and Miss Avis L. Colman who is succeeding her late mother, Mrs Addie Colman. About 42 persons attended the meeting in perfect weather. The program of the day was put on by Mr and Mrs Gilbert Bean of Braintree. She is the president of the Braintree Historical Society and chairman of the school program connected with the Thayer House in that town. Together, they gave an illustrated program on the life of General Sylvanus Thayer, the Father of West Point and the restoration of the Thayer House. The program was enjoyed by everyone. A collation in charge of Mrs Edith Young was served afterwards with Mrs Bertha Wight and Mrs Ralph Clapp pouring.

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The Cudworth House will be open at the regular hours for an additional two weeks making the closing day Saturday September 25. With many tourists in this area thruout September it was felt that it would be worth trying.

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At the annual meeting, the Editor was granted permission to eliminate the June issue of the Bulletin and instead, publish a larger one mid-winter, the end of February or the first of march.

We have a number of new members Since the June 1964 Bulletin.

June '64- June '65

Life members:

Mr and Mrs Paul T. Litchfield
Miss Fanny H, Phillips

Annual members:

Mr and Mrs Robert Allen	Mr and Mrs Ellsworth Kent
Mr and Mrs William Atwell (should be Life Member.)	Mr Lowell Ames Norris
Mrs Donna F. Berkery	Mrs Marjorie R. Robertson
Mrs Ronald Crisman	Mrs Grace W. Vines
Mrs Lillian Johndrow	Mrs LeRoy B. Witcher
Mrs Arthur C, Kern, Jr.	

June 1965 to date.

Life:

Mrs Elliott Laidlaw, transferred from annual

Annual:

Mrs Jane Cudworth Cudworth Kean
 Mrs E. Gertrude Conant
 Mrs John Gagnon (She resides in the Abigail and Rebecca Bates House)
 Mrs Carleton M. Ruiter
 Miss Gladys Roberts

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Will readers having corrections and change of addresses please direct the notification of same to the Treasurer, Mrs Young instead of the Editor? Her address is 748 Country Way, North Scituate, Mass.

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The Society would like to thank the Scituate Garden Club and particularly Mrs Paul Jenney for the beautiful flowers supplied for the house all summer long. The flowers came from the garden of Mrs Paul Young.

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The Society would like also to thank Mrs Dorothy Shoemaker who has been our gracious hostess this year. She has indicated that, on the whole, it was a fairly busy summer at the House.

The Curators are pleased to announce the following donations:

Six pieces of 19th century underwear donated by Mrs Ora Cournoyer of North Scituate.

*
"Land of Men of Kent" an historical article with illustrations given by Col. Charles Wellington Furlong, the author, of Hanover, New Hampshire.

*
2 pages from the Boston Gazette and Country Journal dated March 3, 1760.

A 200 year old knitted bedspread.

An early petticoat with handmade lace.

From the family of Mark Googins given by Mrs Arthur Williams Mordecai Lincoln Rd.

*
One horse clipper, (business end is missing, anyone have one around their barn?)

One pair old fadened ladies shoes

Given by Mrs John K. Mills formerly of Tilden Rd., Egypt and now of North Marshfield. These two articles were owned by the Albert Litchfield/ Ferguson family who owned the house prior to the Mills'.

*
Antique seed sower given by Miss Edith Damon used by her father at their Old Oaken Bucket Rd. Farm.

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Many of you members who are newer residents of Scituate might be interested to know that many of the present streets in the town didn't always carry their present names. In a 1915 Town directory owned by the editor one may find the following gleanings. Any native under 50 will be interested too.

Central Street is now First Parish Rd.

Country Way was Main Street. and 20 years previous it was divided into North and South Main Streets.

Tilden Road was formerly two streets; Starting at Brook St., It was Bay which ran to the junction of Mann Hill Rd., and Charles St (Captain Peirce Rd.) there it became Mt. Vernon St which ran to Hollett St. This is a little hard to figure out as that portion is Ann Vinal Rd.

Union St. is now Stockbridge Rd. and ran down over the tracks past Fitts' mill.

Water Street took in the present Ford Place and Driftway. Went over the tracks.

Gilson Rd. was formerly known as "The County Way" (In deed to Editor's house)

Greenfield Lane was formerly Highland Street.

Beal Place was South Shore Ave.

Beaverdam Rd. was formerly Willow Street.

Bell Neck Rd. was from Country Way northely to Marshfield line. Of course Chief Justice Cushing Way was unheard of at that time.

Pond Street was the former name of Old Oaken Bucket Rd.

Somewhere in back of Bisops Store was a Willow Ave. It is now one of four Avenues Alden, Bradford, Brewster or Winslow none which were recorded at that time.

From the Junction of Hollett St and Gannett Rd out to Great Glades was all Beach St. It is now Gannett and Glades Roads.

Blossom Street ran from the present Clapp Rd. via the Depot to the Cohasset Line.

Now Booth Hill Rd. and Country Way.

Clapp Road was High Street.

Mordecai Lincoln Rd was Blossom Street, North.

Grove Street Started at Main Stand is now Mann Lot Road. It continued over the present Grove St. to Mungo's Corner to the town forest.

TALLEST FLAG POLE IN THE STATE

It is 172 Feet Above The Ground and Was Cut From The Largest Tree Ever Taken From The State Of Oregon--- New Service Flag Thrown To Breeze.

Flaunting jauntily and proudly from the highest wooden flagpole in the state if not in New England a new service flag has been thrown to the breeze at Dreamwold, Thomas W. Lawson's well known estate at Egypt. The flag is 10 x 20 feet and has sixteen stars, representing the men from Dreamwold who have joined the colors since the war with Europe began. The flag flies just below the national colors. Located as it is on the high hills of Dreamwold, the flags can be seen for miles out to sea and along the entire countryside. The immense flagpole is 26 inches in diameter and weighs 12 tons and is set in a solid eighteen foot concrete foundation.

The big flagpole was cut from the tallest tree that ever came out of the State of Oregon. The tree was 318 feet high. On its arrival in Boston it was found that the Railroad Company had no cars large enough to carry it and the big pole had to be hauled over the roads by teams.

Flags are thrown to the breeze every day at Dreamwold and in addition to the service flag, three sets of flags are used. The storm flag, as it is known, the one that is flown every day is 20 x 30 feet. On Sundays and minor holidays the flag that is used is 40 x 60 feet. and on Memorial Day, the 4th of July and Special days the biggest flag of them all is flown. The Flag is 50 x 75 feet and cost \$600.

It is one of, if not the biggest flag in this section of the country.

The preceding story was from a book of newspaper clippings loaned by Clarence Waite.