IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

A MID-WINTER DINNER MEETING

For the first time in many, many years the Society is pleased to announce that a mid-winter dinner meeting has been planned. The event, "A Night on the Life and Adventures of Thomas W. Lawson", will take place on Saturday, March 2 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, corner Route 3-A and First Parish Road, Scituate. The dinner, catered by the ladies of St. Luke's will be at 6:30 sharp and reservations are required and those interested are urged to make reservations early as dining facilities are limited. $2.00 per person will cover the dinner and checks and reservations must be received by Monday, February 26. Checks may be made out to: The Scituate Historical Society. Stapled within this Bulletin you will find a reservation blank; detach, fill out and return with check or cash to:

Mrs Robert Tilden 147 Wilden Road, Scituate, 02066 Mass OR,
Mrs Ellsworth Kent 70 Brock Street, Scituate, 02066, Mass.

The program will be in two parts:

PICTURES AND DESCRIBTIONS OF DREAMFOLD
Mr and Mrs Carl Chessia

HIGHLIGHTS OF LAWSON'S LIFE

by: Edith Young, Nathaniel Tilden, William Muller and "Teak" Sherman.
This issue of the Bulletin usually comes out right after Christmas, but due to the planning of the meeting coming up it was delayed as the announcement had to go on the front page. Well, it gets pretty dull this time of year so what better time to wade through several pages or print?

JUNE MEETING

The 51st annual meeting of the Society was held on a stifling hot afternoon with a very good attendance. The June 17 meeting in the Old Sloop Room of the First Parish Church was opened by Rev. Raymond Lov., of St. Luke's Church. The usual reports were given and the annual election of officers was held. Elected were: President, Mrs Elliot C. Laidlaw; Vice-President, Nathaniel Tilden; Clark, Mrs Edwin A. Sullivan; Treasurer, Mrs Edith Agnew Young. Fifty new members had joined the society during the preceding year to date. (Many more have joined since and will be listed in the next Bulletin) Mrs Laidlaw announced that plans for the preservation and maintenance of the Mon of Kent Cemetery include appropriate fencing, and that repairs to the Scituate Lighthouse would be initiated this summer.

Following the business meeting, Mrs John Proctor of the Scituate Beautification committee spoke on beautification plans for the Harbor area including landscaping Jericho Rd, parking lot and showed the hand carved signs to be placed on buildings next to streets in the Harbor. Also in the Harbor area are window boxes on Front St, and trash barrels.

Mr. William Maller spoke on early shipbuilding yards in Scituate. There were three shipyards in the Harbor and Briggs shipyard on the North River. After a very interesting meeting, refreshments were served by Mrs Ellisworth Kent and her committee at the Cudworth House. On display were Rose medallion, export china and early pewter.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The 51st Anniversary meeting of the Society was held September 16 at the Central Elementary School behind the historic Lawson Tower. It was a good thing that the society booked that hall because 225 persons turned out to hear Edward Rowe Snow speak on "New England Light houses and Shipwrecks". Mr. Snow had displays of old coins etc and part of his "show" was the wreck of the Etrusco on Cedar Plant in 1956. After this interesting meeting, over 100 persons went over to the Cudworth House for light refreshments and to see displays pertaining to our own Scituate Lighthouse. Included were a scale model, documents and pictures.

The days was perfect and a good time was had by all.

The Scituate Garden Club again deserves thanks for the care of the Cudworth House and grounds again this past year. Mrs George Michaud was in charge of the flower gardens, Mrs Harold Croebie was in charge of the herb garden and Mrs Albert Holcomb was in charge of the beautiful arrangements in the house.

The Society would like to thank the various newspapers for their news coverage of the various activities and especially one of our members, Lowell Ames Norris who mentioned us in his South Shore Byline.

The Columbus, the first American vessel to go around the world, was launched from the Briggs shipyard in 1775. Her voyage in 1785 led to the navigation of the Columbia River, the Lewis and Clark expedition and finally the opening of the Northwest Territory.
At a recent meeting of the officers and trustees of the Society, the president of the Society was directed to insert in the warrant for the 1968 annual town meeting of Scituate the following article:— To see if the Town will transfer the custodianship and administration of the lighthouse at Cedar Point to the Scituate Historical Society. All revenues resulting from rentals of the lighthouse to be turned over to the town by the Historical Society.

The trustees and officers of the Historical Society wish to emphasize that if the proposed article is adopted by the town meeting the lighthouse property will continue to be owned by the town. The Historical Society does not seek ownership, it wishes only to care and preserve the lighthouse so that it may be enjoyed by the people.

The Cudworth House has been cared for and operated on this basis ever since 1917 when it was turned over to the Historical Society by the town approving a similar article at that time. The town still retains ownership of the Cudworth House.

AN ARTICLE OF INTEREST

Scituate Light House

Town Meeting March 5, 1917

Article 12

Voted. That the town raise and appropriate the sum of $1500 for the purchase from the United States Government of all the land and beachland that lies southeasterly of a line beginning on the easterly side of Cedar Point at a place that bears south 49° west from the "Old Sow", so called, and that bears north 4° east from the willow tree on the First Cliff, and from said place running 74° west across Cedar Point to the Harbor, together with the right of way and shore privilege, including the buildings, lighthouse and improvements thereon, and to repair said lighthouse and buildings.

Purchase of the Lighthouse property

<table>
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<th>Appropriation</th>
<th>$1500.00</th>
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<td>Received from individual</td>
<td>$1.75</td>
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Payments:
- Chamber of Commerce: $1,000.00
- S.A. Nourse: $168.00
- William Bates: $165.20
- Walter S. Harrub: $9.50
- William W. Damon: $44.00
- The George F. Welch Co: $167.05

$2,087.75

Town Report for 1917

Mrs Laidlaw Reports:

That the last six months have been very successful and exciting.

At the Cudworth House, Mrs Shoemaker our hostess, reports we had over 1,000 visitors from all over the country and she passed on to me many complimentary remarks about the exhibits in the Cudworth House and Barn. More people have used our early records to look up their families than ever before. We are happy to report that several of our guests sent us genealogies of their families so we can increase the records we have. We are very grateful for these records and pleased so many people are using them.

We opened the Cudworth House and Barn as usual for the Scituate Art Festival.
Mrs Laidlaw's Report, Continued

This year for the first time we opened the Old Stockbridge Grist Mill on a regular basis. Built in 1640, it is the oldest water driven grist mill in the Old Colony. It was opened for four Saturdays from 2 to 5 and the day from 10 to 4 and we had between 5 to 600 interested persons visit the mill. It was so successful we will continue the program next year. I wish to thank all the men who gave up a Saturday afternoon to be hosts at the mill. We could not have carried out this program without them.

The most exciting and successful project has been the restoration of the lightkeepers cottage at the Old Scituate Lighthouse. I am proud of the part the Historical Society has had in securing the money, planning the restoration and seeing that the work was carried out and completed. Mr. Frederic Dorr, a member of our society and his son Robert who agreed to take on this most difficult job are to be commended on their fine workmanship as well as their interest. The Society wishes to thank them both for the extra time and effort they have put in. 1500 people visited the open house that the Historical Society held on Nov. 18 at the restored lighthouse. Everyone seemed happy with the work that had been done restoring, the old beams upstairs, sanding and refinishing the lovely old pine floors, opening two fireplaces and painting the interior woodwork with colonial colors. A pine paneled kitchen was put in to make this lovely lighthouse a comfortable place to live in. The heat was changed from a gravity system to forced hot water. We now have an historic landmark to be proud of and next summer it will be opened on a regular schedule of 4 or 5 dates to be announced later. We expect to have the right tenant who will appreciate this interesting situation very soon.

This summer the Historical Society placed a memorial tablet on the large evergreen tree that was planted on the lawn of the town hall in memory of Mr. Wilmet Brown, President of the Scituate Historical Society from 1945 to 1963.

The following article was written by Mrs. Melvin Atherton a member of our society and a reporter for the Quincy (Mass.) Patriot Ledger from Scituate. The Society thanks her for her continued interest. (ed.)

SOCIETY ACTS TO RESTORE SCITUATE LIGHTHOUSE

by Jane Atherton

Scituate's 157-year-old lighthouse, home of the heroic Bates sisters, was restored this past year largely through the efforts of the Scituate Historical Society and its president Mrs. Elliot C. Laidlaw.

The picturesque light and keepers' cottage has been owned by the town since 1917 when an Act of Congress permitted the sale at a price of $1,500 plus a stipulation that the town maintain the light and cottage.

Although the top of the lighthouse tower was restored in 1917, only minimal maintenance was given to the rest of the property. As a result the need for major repairs became evident early last year. The subject became a recurring topic at meetings of the Selectmen, but a soaring tax rate dampened any effort to allot funds to the project.

The fact that the lighthouse was also unoccupied for the first time since the town took ownership, further heightened the need for immediate attention.
After consultation with the Historical Society, Mrs. Laidlaw, armed with a copy of the congressional act which turned the lighthouse over to the town, marched on the Board of Selectmen. She informed them that according to the town's agreement with the federal government in 1917, the lighthouse property must be maintained in good condition.

Faced with terms imposed by an Act of Congress, Selectman Chairman, the late Lester J. Gates, agreed that the board would have to include funds for the lighthouse restoration in the Department of Public Works budget.

Mrs. Laidlaw again spoke for the lighthouse at town meeting, and voters passed the budget including funds for the repairs and renovation.

The Historical Society supervised the project insuring that the renovation would be done in period, and that facilities for occupancy by a caretaker-tenant would be installed. Open house was held late in November. Wide interest in the project was evidenced by the fact that literally hundreds of visitors from the South Shore area toured the cottage and light, all reluctant to leave as the charm of an earlier, more tranquil era settled on them.

Framed on the wall of the lighthouse, is a copy of the Act of Congress, and a copy of the speech given by Representative Joseph Walsh whose introduction of the bill included an account of the historical value of the lighthouse where the Bates sisters enacted a small drama which frightened off a British landing party during the War of 1812.

The Honorable Mr. Walsh based his account on proceedings of a Massachusetts Historical Society meeting in 1879, which heard a plea to support a federal pension for the Bates sisters who were then 86 and 82 years old.

The plea for support was introduced to the Massachusetts Historical Society by Re. Dr. George E. Ellis, who had obtained signed statements from the two sisters attesting to the veracity of the story which had been told and re-told over a half-century.

Rev. Ellis was an impeccable spokesman. He was an Overseer of Harvard College, holder of the then new chair of systematic theology in the Divinity School; historian, biographer of John Mason, William Penn and Anne Hutchinson; and author of several volumes of early American History.

No record exists of what action the Massachusetts Historical Society took, but probably it gave its support to the proposed pension bill for it was introduced in Congress March 1880, read a first and second time, referred to the committee on pensions and ordered to be printed.
According to the Library of Congress, no further action was taken. It is assumed that the elderly ladies died before the pension could become a reality.

The story of the Bates sisters is still a favorite with youthful readers throughout the United States. It has appeared in school text books in Texas, Maine and Florida.

A novel for young girls, "Drumbeats Along the Shore" based on the two Bates girls' adventure, was published as recently as 1965. Author Marjorie Hall did considerable research on the Bates Family and made a genealogical chart showing the age of Abigail and Rebecca-qs 17 and 21 in 1814 when they hoodwinked the British.

Perhaps the most interesting account of the "Army of Two" appears in Rebecca's own words in an Atlantic Monthly article published in 1873. Rebecca was then 84 and Abigail 80.

Rebecca told the reporter "I knew the ship at a glance. It was the 'La Hogue'. Oh Lord, says I to my sister, that old La Hogue is off here again. What shall we do? Here are their barges and they'll burn our vessels just as they did afore. You see there were two vessels at the wharf loaded with flour, and we couldn't afford to lose that in those times when the embargo made it so hard to live we had to boil pumpkins all day to get sweetening for sugar.

"There were the muskets of the guard, I was a good mind to take those out beyond the lighthouse and fire them at the barges. I might have killed one or two, but it would have done no good for they would have turned around and fired the village. 'I'll tell you what I'll do', says I to my sister, 'Look here, you take the drum I'll take the fife'. I was fond of military music and could play four tunes on the fife - Yankee Doodle was my masterpiece. I learned on the fife which the soldiers had at the Lighthouse. They kept a drum there too, so I said to her 'You take the drum and I'll take the fife. - 'What good'll that do?' says she.' 'Scare them!' says I. 'All you've got to do is to call the roll, I'll scream the fife and we must keep out of sight; if they see us they'll laugh us to scorn.'

"I showed her how to handle the sticks and we ran down behind the cedar wood.

"So we 'Put on' as the boys say, pretty soon I looked up and I could see the men in the barges resting on their oars and listening.

When I looked again I saw they had seen the flag and they turned about so quick a man fell overboard and they picked him up by the back of his neck and hauled him in.

No account of the Old Scituate Light should appear without a reference to "Jaime" Turner, first caretaker of the light after the town took possession.

It was Jaime's efforts as chairman of the Board of Solicitors in 1912 that brought the lighthouse to the attention of Rep. Walsh in the first place. Jaime was notified by town counsel Harvey Pratt one day in 1912 that the lighthouse, pitiful, even in its decay, was to be sold by the government to the highest bidder at an auction to be held the next day in Boston. He warned Mr. Turner that the town would have to act immediately if it was to preserve the landmark.

Mr. Turner, in swift and unorthodox action obtained a check for $1,000 from the town treasurer and sent it up to Boston by the next train in the care of his wife who was instructed to save the light.

Although Mrs Turner's trip could hardly be termed official in the formal sense, her efforts halted the auction proceedings; and the town gained a valuable piece of property in a transaction which was not completed until 1917, five years later when Congress passed Mrs. Walsh's bill.

The official report of the first efforts to save Scituate Light appears in the 1912 town report of the Board of Solicitors which states in part "While the appropriation of $1,000 was insufficient to purchase the lighthouse at public auction, the historic spot was saved to the town by the Lighthouse Commission who nullified the auction and leased the property to the town for five years at $50 a year, thus giving us time to present a bill to congress asking for the sale of the property to the town."
Annual June Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on June 15th at 2 p.m. at Grand Army Hall, Country Way, Scituate Centre. After the business meeting and election of officers, our program will be on the early mills and their restoration in Scituate and nearby towns. Mr. Robert Reed of Norwell, an expert on the restoration of early buildings, will speak to us on early mills, their locations and owners in Old Scituate and tell some interesting facts about them. Our second speaker will be Mr. Chester Clemens of Hingham who will give a brief talk on restoring and operating an early grist mill on his own property.

After the meeting, refreshments will be served in the Cudworth House by Mrs Ellsworth Kent and her Committee. Floral arrangements throughout the house will be provided by the Scituate Garden Club under the direction of Mrs Albert Holcomb.

During the past year, the following members of our Society have passed away:

Mrs Hattie Carpenter
Mr Frank Clapp
Col. C. Wellington Furlong
Mrs Mary K. Gegan
Dr. J. Blake Lombard
Mrs William, (Edith) Manson
Atty Vernon W. Harr.
Mrs William, (Jane) Quinn, a former Trustee
OUR MID-WINTER MEETING

The first mid-winter meeting in many years was held March 2, 1968 at St Luke's Episcopal Church. A catered dinner put on by the most excellent cooks in the parish was served to 150 persons which was the limit. An estimated 100 plus came in afterwards for the program.

"A night in the life of Thomas Lawson and his fabulous Dreamworld" was a night that will be remembered for a long time to come. The main event of the evening was the showing of slides taken from pictures of the estate by Mr and Mrs Carl Chessia. Mrs Chessia gave a biography of the Lawsons before the slides were shown as sort of a background. It was interesting to see houses then, that are still seen today and also buildings that are no longer in existence. Afterwards several members of our Society shared with us several different subjects having to do with Thomas Lawson. Mrs Edith Young spoke on one of the family weddings, Nathaniel Tilden spoke of Mr Lawson's presidency of Marshfield Fair, William T. Sherman spoke of the building of Lawson Tower, which houses an unsightly water standpipe, and Lowell Norris who gave some facts on the 7 masted schooner, "Thomas Lawson".

This program was taped for our files and also turned over to Project Lighthouse to be used for educational purposes in their program. We hope to tape other programs in the future.

Some of the many gifts received by the Society

Buffalo robe and hayforks - Capt. Bill Vinal of Norwell.

New testament and dictionary of Abigail Bates and Bible of Simeon Bates loaned by Mrs Lena Bates. (The American Army of two were her late husband's great-aunts.)

Painting of Cudworth Barn by Paul Jenney, Scituate.

Early painting of mill- given by the Marshfield Historical Society.

Early tin bathtub for children, given by Mrs William Mays owned by Mr James Turner.

Wedding dress of the 1910 period given by Mrs Henry Maurer.

Genealogy of the Tichnor Family given by Francis B. Tichnor, Arlington, Virginia.

Genealogy of Preble Family compiled by Mrs William W. Howe, (Susan Louise Preble) of Woolwich, Maine.

Genealogy of William Branch Family given by R.E.Branch, Lake Worth, Florida.

Genealogy of the Anable Family in America given by Anthony Anable, Stamford, Conn.

Foundation plantings of junipers at the old Scituate lighthouse were given by Mrs John Proctor, Chairman of the Scituate Beautification Committee and a member of the Historical Society, in memory of her father, Edward B. Carter.

Very old brick from cellar hole on Maple Street, Scituate- given by Robert Fraser.

MORE GIFTS NEXT ISSUE.
Mrs. Laidlaw reports;

That the mid-winter dinner meeting held on March 2 was a tremendous success. In response to many requests we are planning two winter dinner meetings this year, date to be announced later, as well as our regular Annual June meeting and our anniversary meeting in September.

Since the publication of our last bulletin the Town of Scituate has turned over to your Historical Society the custody and, the responsibility for the administration of the historic Old Lighthouse at Cedar point. Under the Society's operation 'the Lighthouse will be open to the public for the first time on a regular schedule.

The dates for public inspection are as follows: July 16th, August 16th, Sept. 6th, and October 25th from 1 to 5 p.m.

Due to the interest shown by the public of Scituate and neighboring towns, the Old Stockbridge Grist Mill at Greenbush will be open to the public again this year on July 15th, July 23rd, August 10th and August 25th from 2 to 5 each afternoon.

In accordance with our custom of many years, the Cudworth House and Barn will be open 4 days each week beginning June 15th and extending to September 28th. Our hostess will again be Mrs. Dorothy Shoemaker who is well known to all.

The Cudworth House will again be included in the Scituate Arts Festival and will be open July 24-25 1-5 p.m.

This year, due to money raised at Town Meeting, the upstairs bedroom and children's room will be redecorated and the outside trim painted and the chimney repaired.

The Historical Society desires to work closely with the schools to the end that the curriculum include highlights of our rich historical heritage. Teachers and other leaders of organized groups may arrange with the society for groups to be shown through these historic buildings. Since the first of the year, around students of the Scituate Schools and scouts have taken advantage of the opportunity to visit the Cudworth house and the old mill by appointment. We are very pleased with the increase of interest shown by the schools and other organizations in town.

As a recent meeting of the Executive Board it was voted to recommend to the membership that annual dues be increased as follows: $5.00 for single membership, $15.00 a couple, $25.00 for members, $50.00 for life membership. To accomplish this, a change in Article IV of the by-laws will be necessary. Members are asked to vote on the change at the Annual meeting, June 15th.

The present annual dues of $1.00 have been in effect since 1916, a period of over 50 years. If the Society is to provide an adequate schedule of interesting and fruitful programs additional money must be provided. As an indication of how costs have risen in the past few years it is interesting to note that the cost for providing bulletin together with postage and other incidental expenses consumes the greater part of the money received as membership dues. The Society needs funds to repair and maintain its buildings, provide and obtain speakers to discuss timely and interesting historical topics. Your Board believes that the membership desires more activity along these lines and hopes that the members will adopt the amendment of Article IV of the by-laws. Too, it is necessary from time to time to print or reprint brochures and booklets recording the historical facts pertaining to our town.

In March of this year, we had a very severe rainstorm with much flooding. The Old Stockbridge Grist Mill, built in 1640 was damaged by the overflow of Old Coggin Bucket Pond. Repairs will be made this month so that we may open it on the date scheduled. It will cost the society about $400.00 to make these repairs. The opening of the old mill last year, the consequent large numbers of visitors aroused a tremendous interest in that request for, a study to determine how best to put the mill in the original operating condition. So many requests have been received thus far that your Board of Trustees has adopted the study and given it top priority for this year. A fund has been established and the first contribution has already been received. I hope that all members will attend the Annual meeting and support us in our effort to make your Historical Society a more active and interesting one.

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Many of our members under the direction of Mr. Ellsworth Kent are working throughout Scituate on a survey of the old houses over 150 years. When the facts given us are passed by a certification committee they will be placed in our files.

Mr. William Muller and committee are working and planning an historic trail throughout Scituate with appropriate signs on each historic site so our visitors will be able to find these historic places more easily.

Mrs. Jean Cuskey is putting our Indian artifacts in order.
THE OLD STOCKBRIDGE GRIST MILL - 1640

In 1640 Isaac Stedman constructed a dam across the First Herring Brook in Greenbush and built the first water driven grist mill in the Old Colony, and probably in the country. Before this, the only grist mills were a pounding mill at Plymouth, and a wind mill at Scituate, erected on Third Cliff by William Gilson in 1656. When there was no mill the task of converting the corn, which the colonists raised was accomplished laboriously by the housewives with mortar and pestle.

The mill building is about twenty feet square and has two floor levels. The upper floor, covering half the building and over the spillway, is where the millstones are located and was level with the road to make it easier for the grain to be brought in. The lower floor, covering the other half of the building, has a bin into which the meal fell after it was ground and a platform where the meal was bagged. The bagged meal was delivered at an opening in the side of the building.

Isaac Stedman sold the mill to George Russell in 1650, who operated it alone for six years, and then conveyed a half interest in it to John Stockbridge. In 1665 his son Charles purchased the half interest from George Russell, which began an ownership by the Stockbridge family which lasted over one hundred and fifty years.

Later, the mill was run for the Stockbridges by members of the Clapp family. In 1830, Elijah Clapp purchased it from the Stockbridge estate and it was operated by three generations of the Clapp family.

In 1922 William H. Clapp, then the owner of the mill, presented it to the Scituate Historical Society. It was restored and corn was ground there at the time of the meeting of the Historical Society in September, 1923, and again at the celebration of the three hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the town in 1936.

Much of the machinery now in the mill is that which was installed by Isaac Stedman in 1640. The nether mill stone, the gate wheel, the crane and large wooden screw for lifting the mill stone, and the cast iron drive lears, which are believed to have been cast in England, are all original.

Besides the fact that it is the oldest water driven grist mill, there are two other points of interest connected with the mill.

In 1676, during King Philip's war, the Indians approached the town burning many of the settler's houses in the southern part of the town. On May 20, 1676, in a day long battle that took place in front of the old mill, the Indians were stopped by a band of soldiers from the garrison near by, so that they turned back, and did not reach the center of the town on Kent Street and at the harbor.

The mill and the pond were also made famous by Samuel Woodworth in his poem "The Old Gaken Bucket", written in 1817 - "The wide spreading pond and the mill that stood by it".

In the next issue of the Bulletin, the editor is aiming for an article on existing old fashioned kitchen ranges of which quite a few, in this modern day and age, still are in use in Scituate. Anyone in this area having information on the subject, please let me know. I have already located at least a dozen without trying including one in my kitchen used for heat with a gas log in it.

This spring, your editor took a trip to Plymouth to meet a distant cousin with the same first and last name but middle initial, who wrote a letter if inquiry to the Society earlier concerning a lamp that he owns which is a replica of our light at Cedar Point. It is a cast iron base with a tube light inside lighting up the top. As far as the Society knows, no models were ever made to raise funds for the light-house. The editor also has a lamp base in the same shape, except that it carries a regular lamp socket at the top for a bulb and shade. It was rescued from some-one's cellar on its way to the dump. It pays to keep your eyes open sometimes!