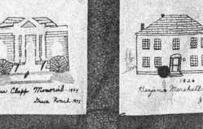


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## CALENDER OF EVENTS

October 7, 1974	Maxi Rally
April 9, 1975	Get-the-Spirit Meeting
April 18, 1975	250th Anniversary Commemorative Medal Auction
May 3 - 10, 1975	Beautification Conservation Week
November 11, 1975	Liberty Tree Planting, Faxon's Park
December 11, 1975	Opening of 250th Anniversary Headquarters
January 11, 1976	Bicentennial Breakfast
January 17, 1976	Bicentennial Concert
February 13 - 15, 1976	The Little Theatre Bicentennial Play
March 6, 1976	Miss Stoughton Scholarship Pageant
April 3, 1976	250th Anniversary Ball
April 25, 1976	Dedication of Bay Road Marker
April 26, 1976	250th Anniversary Proclamation, Town Meeting
May, 1976	Arts Festival
May 22, 1976	Reception for General Rafalko
May 23, 1976	250th Anniversary Parade
June 11 - 13, 1976	Country Fair
July 4, 1976	Sunday in the Park Picnic
September 5, 1976	AAU Five-Mile Road Race
September, 1976	Historic Houses Map
November 21, 1976	Old Stoughton Music Society Concert
December 22, 1976	250th Anniversary Birthday Party

## 250th ANNIVERSARY YEAR STOUGHTON, MASS. 1726 - 1976

Interest in a mammoth 250th Anniversary celebration was kindled early in 1973, as Stoughton realized that its birthday would coincide with the national celebration of the Bicentennial. Emphasis had been placed on local communities setting up their own programs, aided by state and national funds, this was ideally suited to the celebration of our town's 250th Anniversary along with the Bicentennial.

The purpose of our celebrations was to proclaim the history of the town and the country with a series of events for the entertainment of the townspeople, to demonstrate the talents of local people, to restore pride in the community, and to leave behind some lasting momuments of the Bicentennial for posterity.

On October 10, 1973, a group of volunteers met to form an anniversary committee. They met regularly, recruiting new members until the best leaders to organize a program had been chosen. The Board of Selectmen officially appointed the 250th Anniversary Committee and its sister group, the Stoughton Bicentennial Commission, on July 9, 1974. From this nucleus grew the plans for a joint Anniversary-Bicentennial venture that exceeded the committees fondest ambitions.

At the Annual Town Meeting on April 26, 1976, the following Proclamation was read:

## **Proclamation**

## TO THE CITIZENS OF STOUGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS:

WHEREAS, in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and seventy-six, the Town of Stoughton is celebrating its 250th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and seventy-six, the United States of America is celebrating its Bicentennial Birthday; and

WHEREAS, the 250th Anniversay Committee and the Stoughton Bicentennial Commission have joined together to plan a program of activities and projects to commemorate these events; and

WHEREAS, these activities and projects have been planned for the enjoyment of all the townspeople of Stoughton;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the 250th Anniversary Committee and the Stoughton Bicentennial Commission invite you, the Town Meeting Representatives, and the citizens of Stoughton to join in our dual celebration in honor of our 250th Anniversary of Stoughton and in honor of our Country's Bicentennial.



Board of Selectmen Town Clerk M. Fitzpatrick



Police Chief Gross



Supt. of Schools Joseph Gibbons



Town Manager Albert Gray, Jr.



Fire Chief Roach

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE 250th ANNIVERSARY

#### **Board Of Directors**

Earl McMann George Giddings Robert Di Matteo

Carol Manson Kathleen Murphy Richard Batchelder

Beverly Engley Dorothy Woodward Chet Cohenno Chairman

Assistant Chairman Finance Committee

Secretary

Program Coordinator

Treasurer

Social Activities Cultural Activities

Publicity and Photography

### **Activities Committees**

Finance

Robert Di Matteo, Richard Batchelder, David Benjamin

Souvenirs

Gustaf Carlson, Edward Meserve, Elsie Bernasconi, Alan Molin, Marie Sheehan, Joseph De Vito, Chris Carabatsos.

**Publicity** 

Chet Cohenno, Howard Hansen, Leonard Pinaud, Leon Saperstein.

### Social Activities Chairman

Bicentennial Breakfast Miss Stoughton Scholarship Pageant Anniversary Ball Anniversary Parade George Giddings Sunday in the Park Picnic

Aina McMann Beverly Engley, Mary Bradbury Beverly and Ralph Engley George Giddings Alice Magee

Cultural Activities Chairman
Portrait of Governor Stoughton
Beautification Program
Historic Houses Markers
Railroad Station Restoration
Old Bay Road Plaque

Phyllis Batchelder
Aina McMann
Anne Petterson and William McDonald
George Giddings
Dorothy Woodward



250th Anniversary Committee

Cultural Activities Chairman (Continued)

Stoughton Grenadiers

Anne Petterson, Dorothy Woodward, Leonard Pinaud, George

Giddings.

Anniversary Quilt Historic Calendar

Clare Nutting Helen Hansen

Anniversary Concert
The Little Theatre Play

Donald Le Grow Thomas Coyle Donald Le Grow

Arts Festival Country Fair

Charles Hainley, Frank Quertin, Edward Ivaldi.

## Coordinator Activities

Calendar of Events

"Get the Spirit Meeting" Headquarters for Souvenirs

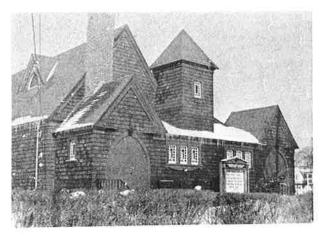
Liaison with School Department and Town Hall

250th Anniversary Birthday Party

### **Bicentennial Commission**

George Giddings Carol Manson Richard Batchelder Elsie Bernasconi Alice Magee Kathleen Murphy Alice Petruzzo Anne Petterson Dorothy Woodward

Chairman Secretary



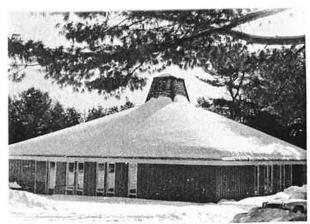
Christadelphian Church



Congregational Church



Episcopal Church



Lutheran Church



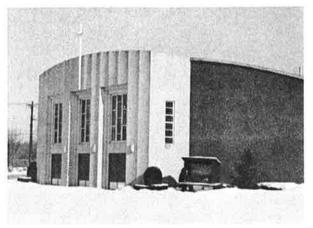
Ahavath Torah Congregation



Methodist Church



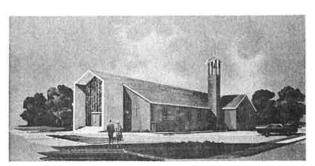
Baptist Church



Our Lady of Rosary Church



Jehovah's Witnesses Hall



Proposed Immaculate Conception Church



St. James Church



Universalist - Unitarian Church



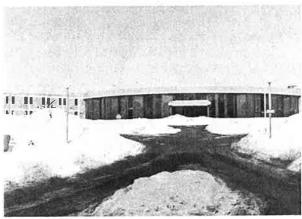
Goddard Memorial Hospital



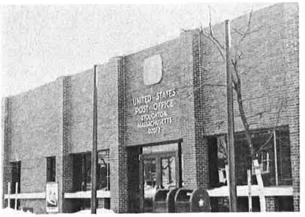
Condiminiums



Condiminium West Stoughton



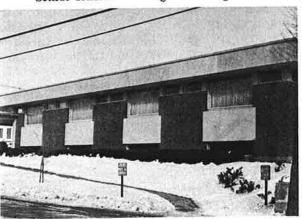
Mt. Sinai Hospital



New Post Office



Senior Citizens' Housing West Stoughton



New Public Library



LaCivita Court

## BRIEF HISTORY OF STOUGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

In 1707, territory from the "Blew Hills" to the Plymouth line was added to Dorchester in Suffolk County by royal grant. This New Grant, called the 12 Divisions, consisted of all the land now comprising the towns of Stoughton, Canton, Sharon, Avon and Foxborough, and parts of surrounding towns. The first house built in present Stoughton was erected in 1716 by Isaac Stearns. Within 10 years, the wilderness area had been lightly populated and deemed safe for families building new lives in this southernmost district of Dorchester.

On December 22, 1726, this South Precinct of Dorchester was incorporated as the town of Stoughton, named for Lt. Gov. William Stoughton, first Chief Justice of the Colonial Courts, whose family once owned considerable land in the town. It was a rural community with the usual grist mills and saw mills on the several branch rivers until the 1800's. Homes were built along its main pathways from village to village. Of the early dwellings built between 1726 and 1826, over 56 have been identified as still standing within the limits of present-day Stoughton.

Many people of Stoughton still bear the family names of ancestors who arrived in the 1700's when the Ponkapoag Plantation, one of John Eliot's Praying Towns, still provided habitation for the local Ponkapoag Indians. The southern boundary of the Indian land is marked by a granite stone on the edge of fields owned by a descendant of their original owner in early 1700.

The first meeting of the County Congress, which drafted the famed Suffolk Resolves, was held in Doty's Tavern in Old Stoughton on August 6, 1774. It was here that the principles of freedom later reflected in the Declaration of Independence were first discussed. A second and third meeting were held in Milton and Dedham to codify and approve the Suffolk Resolves before Paul Revere delivered them to Philadelphia. The meeting in Stoughton is the basis for Stoughton's motto, The Birthplace of Liberty. It was not until 1797 that this section of Stoughton was incorporated as the Town of Canton.

During the Revolutionary War, Stoughton supplied the major portion of gunpowder from one of the chief powder mills of the colonies; cast cannon; and provided food, clothing, and money for the army. There were 43 officers and men from the West Company (present-day Stoughton) who marched to Lexington and Concord on April 19,1775 along Old Bay Road, the ancient Indian path from Massachusetts Bay to Plymouth and one of the oldest transport roads in the United States. In all, 596 men from

Stoughton took part in the War for Independence before it ended in 1782. An elite militia group, the Grenadiers, was formed in 1822. This group was reactivated in 1975 as the West Company, Stoughton Militia, with 37 members, in honor of the Bicentennial.

The early industry in the town was mainly manufacturing boots and shoes, carried on in homes and small shops. The first shoe factory was established in 1815. The rural nature of the town began to change after the advent of the railroad, which arrived in 1845. Stoughton became an important center for the railroad, which brought a prosperous shoe business to town prior to the Civil War. After the War, the character of the town changed from farming to industrial, with shoes, woolens, yarns, and cotton mills important in the economy.

Stoughton is the home of the oldest musical society in the United States. The Old Stoughton Musical Society was founded in 1786 at the home of Robert Capen, where the famous composer William Billings conducted a Singing School for several years. Music had played a large role in the simple lives of the townsmen since the days when "sings" were first held at local taverns.

Stoughton has also been the home of F. Mortimer Lamb, American landscape painter; Ellis Drake, inventor of the present form of baseball cover; George T. Brewster, American sculptor; Mary Baker Eddy, founder of the Church of Christ Scientist; William Curtis, who sent the first commercial telephone message in the world for Stone and Downer, Boston; and Lehan's Ford Agency, the oldest Ford Automobile Agency in the world. The Railroad Station, which is an outstanding example of Victorian architecture and the only station remaining in Massachusetts with a distinctive clock tower, has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It represents the period of industrial prosperity enjoyed by one of the leading boot manufacturing towns of its day.

In the year 1976 Stoughton Celebrates its 250th Anniversary as well as the nation's Bicentennial. Many activities have been planned for this dual celebration, but the projects of lasting value in the town, such as plaques for old houses, a bronze marker for Old Bay Road, a restoration of the Railroad Station, a foot map for the old houses, and continued research into the history of a typical New England town will remain after the year has gone.



Mary Baker Eddy House (Old Stoughton building)



Fire Station



Town Hall



Police Station



Swan's Tavern



Govenor Stoughton



Stoughton Water Works

#### Dual Celebration Events of 1975-1976

Maxi-Rally Chairmen: Anne Petterson, Dorothy Woodward.

On October 7, 1974, a Maxi-Rally was held at the High School to interest Stoughton citizens in taking part in the celebration of the Bicentennial and 250th Anniversary of the town of Stoughton during the year 1976.

Entertainment was provided in the Auditorium by a variety of groups to emphasize the many activities which could be of interest in this year's celebration and to highlight the sort of events the Committee hoped to sponsor. Chief Black Bear, an Indian from neighboring Randolph, offered a Sioux prayer which was translated into English by his son. The Needham Militia presented a Trouping of the Colors; Philip Paulson, Adjutant Major of the Bristol Brigade militia unit spoke on the Bicentennial spirit; and V. Leslie Hebert, Historian, spoke on the Liberty Tree.

John Nourse, Director of the Norfolk County Development and Tourist Council, presented the official Bicentennial flag to the town of Stoughton from Norfolk County. Earl McMann, Chairman of the 250th Anniversary Committee, elaborated on plans developed to

this date for celebrations during 1976. Some members of the Stoughton High School Chorus, under the direction of Donald Le Grow, Music co-ordinator for the Stoughton Schools, sang several Colonial songs.

A Social Hour followed in the Cafeteria, where activities were explained more fully by Chairmen of the Committees, and people were given the opportunity to sign up for any activity in which they wished to participate during the 1976 celebration.

Greeters for the Rally were Alice Magee, Carol Manson, Kathleen Murphy, Alice Petruzzo, Anne Petterson, Dorothy Woodward, and Fushia Young.

## Liberty Tree Planting Chairman: Aina McMann

"A tree for all ages," donated by the Stoughton Rotary Club, was planted in Faxon Park on November 11, 1975, in memory of all veterans with a special salute to the Revolutionary War Minutemen from Stoughton who answered the Lexington alarm more than 200 years ago. Lanterns made by the First and Second grade art students from the West Elementary School were hung on the Liberty Tree as the names of Stoughton men who died in the Lexington-Concord confrontation were called.

Groups who marched in the parade preceding the tree planting were the American Legion Post, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, the Stoughton High School Band, the Golden Rays, Stoughton Grenadiers, and town officials.

Dedication speakers were Aina McMann, James Zakas, Louis Ugo, and Selectwoman Mamie Gray.

## HISTORICAL CALENDAR Chairman: Helen Hansen

A 1976 pictorial engagement calendar with pertinent historical data printed throughout the 12 months, illustrated by photographs reproduced from a 1908 souvenir collection of George Gerard pictures and old photos in the Historical Society, was prepared as a souvenir item. The historical information was researched and compiled by Helen Hansen; Dorothy Woodward assisted in the selection of pictures, and Anne Petterson edited the calendar for printing. The calendar featured scenes from rural Stoughton and a brief history of Doty Tavern where the Suffolk Resolves began.



Needham Militia





Militia Volunteers





Chief Black Bear and sons



The 250th Anniversary Committee followed the Maxi-Rally with a "Get the Spirit" meeting on April 9, 1975, at the Public Library, which was attended by upward of 70 people, including numerous town officials. It was opened with a number of songs on a Bicentennial theme sung by members of the Brockton Choral Society. Publicity chairman Chet Cohenno presented a slide show on Stoughton, past and present.

The preparations of the school department for the upcoming celebrations were discussed by Asst. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Daniel Hughes, social studies coordinator Dr. Daniel Davis, high school history teacher Robert Lynch, student publications advisor Sumner Tapper, and junior high social studies teacher Michael Baxter.

Roger Bryant described an organization in his town of Norfolk known as the "Brothers of the Brush" and gave suggestions as to how a similar group could be organized here. The group is dedicated to the cultivation of "hirsute facial adornment" (beards) and the doing of works.

Earl McMann, Chairman of the 250th Anniversary Committee described activities for the coming year. On April 18, 1975, an auction of the 250th Anniversary Commemorative Medal to be held at 8:00 P.M. at the Historical Society in Stoughton Square, was announced as the first major event. May 3-10 would be a Conservation-Beautification Week sponsored by both the Conservation Commission and the Bicentennial Commission, when seedling for planting in Stoughton would be sold at a minimal price. The program of events was announced, through July 5th; during the summer of 1976. Continous athletic events for all ages would take place. Historical projects were outlined, and beautification projects were planned throughout the year.

Refreshments were donated by Robert Murphy of Mur-Macs.



**Brockton Music Society** 



Get the Spirit Rally

Grand Opening, 250th Headquarters at Stoughton Historical Society. Chairmen:

Kathleen Murphy and Beverly Engley

The Stoughton Historical Society graciously offered the use of the Lucius Clapp Memorial Building to serve as Headquarters for the souvenirs to be sold for the 250th Anniversary - Bicentennial celebrations. A Grand Opening was held on December 11, 1975, with an honor guard of Stoughton Grenadiers; Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Joseph Gomes and State Representative Paul Goulston were on hand for ribbon-cutting ceremonies. Louis Ugo of Dunkin' Donuts donated refreshments for the busy shoppers. A Christmas sale of souvenirs was held December11, 12, 18, 19, 20, with a lively interest in the popular items evidenced by the public.

The Souvenirs Committee, chaired by Gus Carlson, selected and marketed many souvenir items throughout the year, from this Christmas sale through the final event in December, 1976. The Historical Society, Public Library, Country Fair, many 250th Anniversary functions,

Ouellet's Pharmacy, and Wyman's Jewelers all served as centers for distribution. There were T-shirts, pens, tiles, commemorative plates, special editions of pewter spoons, bumper stickers, calendars, and a lithographic map of Stoughton in 1890 donated by the Public Library, on sale. Souvenirs helped to keep the year-long celebration of the 250th Anniversary in the public view.

A Committee for the Commemorative Medal first met in March, 1974. Chairman Edward Meserve was assisted by Elsie Bernasconi, Alan Molin, Marie Sheehan, and Estella Curtis, in researching a design, producing and marketing the coin. The design featured Doty's Tavern and the Suffolk Resolves. An auction on April 18, 1975 stirred a great deal of interest in the special silver coins numbered 1 to 250. All coins, silver and bronze, were sold through the cooperation of local banks. Bronze coins were also popular set in lucite or mounted as key chains, bracelets, and necklaces. The Historical Society and the Public Library also allowed space on a number of occasions for sales by the committee on Saturdays.

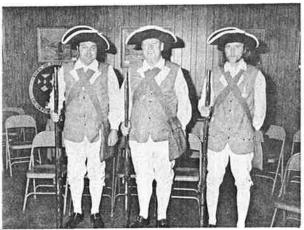




Souvenir shoppers at Historical Society



Kathy Murphy & Beverly Engley in charge



Grenadiers Honor Guard

## BRIEF HISTORY OF STOUGHTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

In the Stoughton "Sentinel" of September 7,

1895, the following notice appeared.

"Ladies and Gentlemen interested in the formation of an Historical Society in Stoughton are invited to meet in the lower Town Hall on Thursday evening, September 12 at 7:30.

(Signed) Elisha Monk"

In response to this invitation seventeen men and women assembled, and at the first meeting on October 1, 1895, officers were elected and a constitution drawn up, preceded by a "Preamble." Thus the Stoughton Historical and Antiquarian Society came into being. Meetings were held in the lower Town Hall once a month from October to May. Dues were fixed at \$1.00 a year but later reduced to \$.50 (dues are now fixed at \$3.00 annually). The members selected Patriots' Day of each year as the time to make pilgrimages to historic spots. This practice is continued to the present time but not on the same day.

The Historical Society has placed markers at varied points of historic interest throughout the Town of Stoughton. The first was a granite stone erected in 1896 to mark the southeast corner of the Ponkapoag Plantation. The first house in Stoughton (near Elm Street on West Street) is suitable marked and sites of the first meeting house and first school, both in the square, are noted with a granite stone and a

bronze plaque.

The Society took its present name in 1903 when it received its charter of incorporation from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

When the Public Library building (at 6 Park Street) was given to the Town in 1904 its donor, Lucius Clapp, expressly stated that it was his intention that a room should be reserved in it for the use of the Historical Society. It was on Monday, November 14, 1904, that the members held their first meeting in their new home.

With the removal of the Public Library to 84 Park Street in 1969 the Society was able to make use of the larger area at street level of the former library which, by act of town meeting, had been named the Lucius Clapp Memorial. In April of 1972 the Town of Stoughton, through efforts of Town Manager Albert Gray, Jr., and the Board of Selectmen, allowed occupancy of the entire building by the Historical Society and the Historical Commission. As a direct result of this move the Society now enjoys greater attendance at regular meetings, increased membership, and is better able to serve the Town.

There have been periods when the Historical Society has been dormant but there has always been a brisk revival. In this year of two great celebrations, the Town of Stoughton 250th Anniversary and the 200th Year of Our Nation's Independence, there is a great interest in the Society and membership is at a peak. The Stoughton Historical Society is a private organization in name only. In recent years it has become a community service available to all. Membership is an honor and a distinction.

Visitors are always welcome, if only to browse. The Stoughton Historical Society, located in the Lucius Clapp Memorial, is one of the Town of Stoughton's most important cultural centers and a singularly good source of

reference.



(Historical Society)

Lucius Clapp Memorial Building

On Sunday, January 11, 1976, the town of Stoughton started its 250th Anniversary and our country's Bicentennial celebration with its first official event, Stoughton's Bicentennial Breakfast, "One Nation Under God." Seated at the head table were Captain of the Grenadiers and Mrs. George A. Giddings; Mr. and Mrs. William Green; Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Joseph F. Gomes; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Welton; Rep. and Mrs. Paul Goulston; Mr. and Mrs. Earl McMann; and the Rev. Dr. Robert W. Golledge.

The Stoughton Grenadiers presented our country's colors, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Mrs. Earl D. McMann, chairman of the event, welcomed all who were present to commence a memorable year of celebration and good fellowship in the town of Stoughton, a celebration to make our country's Bicentennial and the town's 250th Anniversary a living and breathing force for good, for change, and for progress. Grace was offered by Mrs. Alfred C. Welton, committee member.

Choral selections, under the direction of David M. Benjamin, President, were offered by the Old Stoughton Musical Society, the oldest continuous singing organization in the Nation. Early works of William Billings, colonial composer and once a resident of Stoughton, were among the songs.

The guest speaker, the Rev. Dr. Robert W. Golledge, vicar of the Old North Church in Boston, prefaced his remarks by saying he had previously thought it began at Old North Church, but after listening to preceding speakers, it was quite obvious it all began in Stoughton.

Mrs. David Benjamin, having been in contact with the three Stoughtons in England, gave greetings from the various mayors of those boroughs. A complete scrapbook was received from these towns in England and played an important part in our memorial year.

The lanterns displayed around the room were made by the second graders at the West School under the supervision of Stanley Folsom, art director. These lanterns were hung from the Stoughton Liberty Tree in Faxon's Park on Veteran's Day, 1975. They were later hung during several events of our celebration and also at the Old North Church.

And so our Anniversary Year began.



Aina McMann, Chairman Bicentennial Breakfast



Bicentennial Breakfast



Rev. Mr. Golladge Speaker, Bicentennial Breakfast



Head table, Bicentennial Breakfast



Old Stoughton Musical Society entertains Bicentennial Breakfast



Grenadiers at Bicentennial Breakfast

Chairman: Donald Le Grow

The Anniversary Concert was sponsored by the Massachusetts Music Educators Association on January 17, 1976. This annual concert was held in Stoughton to commemorate the town's 250th Anniversary, through the efforts of Donald Le Grow, Music Coordinator for the Stoughton Public Schools. The concert features the best high school musical talents carefully selected from the southeastern district of Massachusetts, for orchestra, chorus, and concert band.

Distinguished guest conductors performed at this concert. Dr. Donald Portnoy, of West Virginia University, Professor of Music and Conductor of leading symphony orchestras, conducted the 60 piece Orchestra in five selections. The Chorus, featuring early American choral music led by an 18th Century piece by William Billings, was conducted by the world-famous Lorna Cooke de Varon, who has been Chairman of the Choral Department of the New England Conservatory for over 25 years. Dr. Lee Christman, popular director of the Department of Music Education at Boston University, was the conductor of the over-100 member Concert Band.

Stoughton was proud to start its Anniversary celebrations as host to these talented musicians at the High School Auditorium and to have Stoughton students participating on stage. The Committee was assisted in this effort by Ronald Christianson, Jeanne Faunce, Richard Stott, Mrs. Theresa Drinau's Cafeteria staff, Peter O'Donnell and the custodians, and a host of parents. Refreshments were served in the Cafeteria following the concert.

#### ROAD RACE

Chairman: Michael Baxter

On September 5, 1976 the Town of Stoughton was host to a 5 Mile Roadrace which was sanctioned by the AAU. This event was organized for the enjoyment of the townspeople of Stoughton as well as the surrounding towns by Michael Baxter, Chairman, along with Harry Mettler, Henry Chipman, and Phil Drugge. This is always a successful event with the participants and in 1976 the 250th Anniversary Committee was happy to contribute many of the trophies and prizes awarded to the winners and runners-up as part of the athletic activities of our 250th Anniversary-Bicentennial celebration.

In support of the Bicentennial and 250th Anniversary celebrations, The Little Theatre presented two plays with a colonial theme. On November 7 and 8, 1975, George M. Cohan's "The Tavern" was given at the High School, to get people into the jovial celebration spirit. "The Tavern," directed by Thomas Coyle, was performed by an all-star cast which played their colonial roles to the hilt - stormy night, mysterious stranger, bucolic hero, simple maid, the Governor and his daughter: all the elements of hilarious melodrama were there.

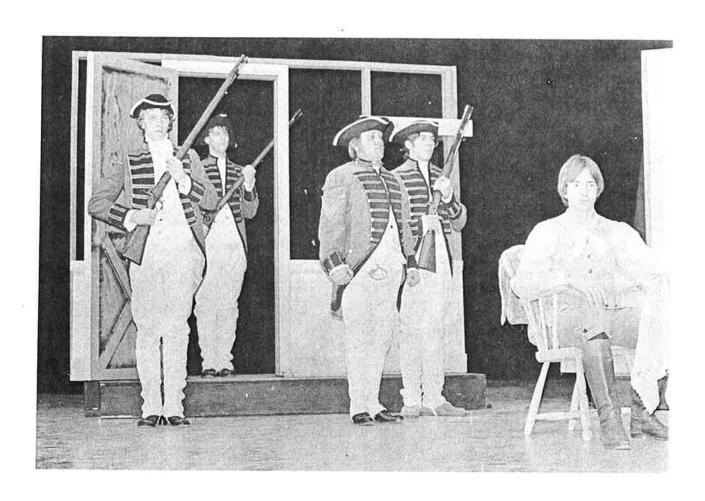
The major Bicentennial production was on a grander scale. The play was George Bernard Shaw's only American comedy, "The Devil's Disciple." The director, again versatile Mr. Coyle, showed great imagination in drawing the community into the production. As the scene is laid in New England, the newly-formed Stoughton

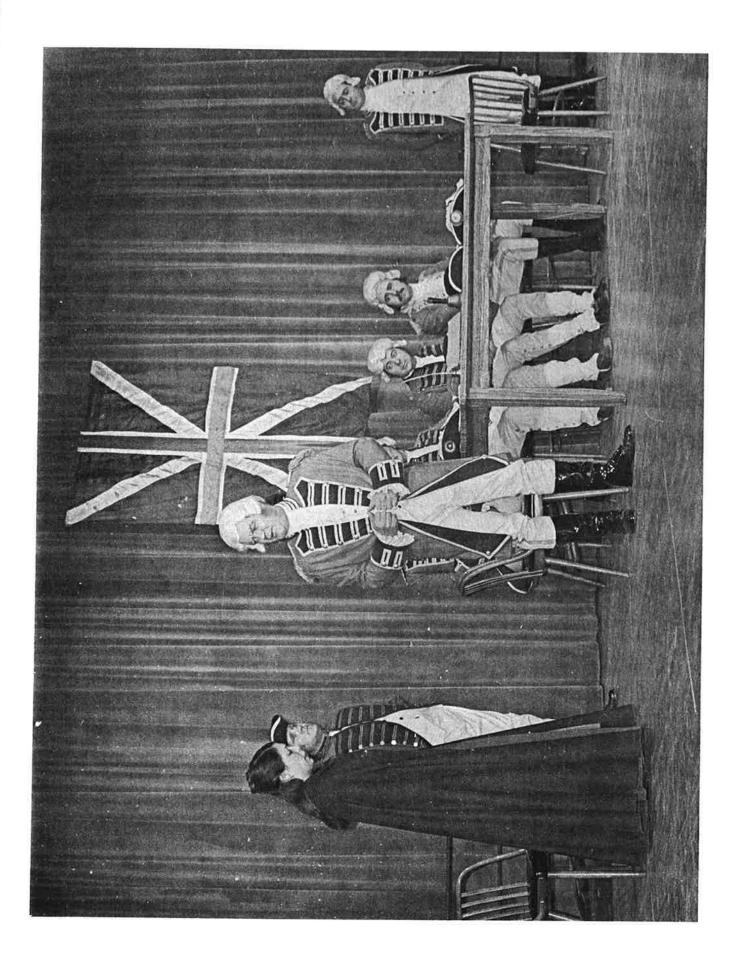
Grenadiers played themselves as the local Militia "to the rescue." Their families readily made up the "townspeople" in the last scene, along with members of The Little Theatre.

The cast, led by Walt Cummings, Joy Finer,

The cast, led by Walt Cummings, Joy Finer, Michael Hassan, Judy Sandler, Mickey Doherty, Robert Horn, and Charles Large, was rounded out by British officers and soldiers, a family of farmers, and the local lawyer. It was a colorful production, costumed authentically in colonial outfits, (many of which were made especially for the Bicentennial), and dressed up considerable by the brilliant uniforms of the British and the homespun blue and white of the Stoughton Grenadiers.

This Bicentennial event was performed on three nights at the High School, Feb. 13, 14, and 15, 1976. The community responded with enthusiasm to the efforts of its own theatre group, The Little Theatre of Stoughton.





#### THE LITTLE THEATRE

The Stoughton Little Theatre was founded in 1957, the direct result of a need for some sort of entertainment in the community which would bring a higher set of standards to the efforts of local groups. Since the days after the Civil War, when the townspeople often sought some simple entertainment after a long working day, music and amateur shows had been popular diversions. Church and school groups frequently used a dramatic presentation as the highlight of their year's program. An old program from 1885 lists some of Stoughtons' leading citizens as members of the cast in a play presented on Thanksgiving Night, in spite of a heavy snowfall, by the "Stoughton Dramatic Co."

Joseph J. Celi, a life-long resident of Stoughton, was well-known in the area for his expertise in directing and acting, from his days in Theatre School through his active participation in the local business world. Joe directed hundreds of church, school, and professional productions during his career. A born teacher, he had been particularly active in school dramatics long before Stoughton High School boosted a Drama Department or an Auditorium. During the 1950's, he was aided in his efforts by Dorothy Woodward, also trained in the production of plays. After many months of daydreams, they decided to form a drama group and share the fun with others.

The early organization was aimed at giving the teen-aged youth a chance for self-expression and training in speech and interpretation, but it was soon apparent that the adults in the community were the ones most interested in the activity. Charter members of The Little Theatre numbered 35, between the ages of 13 and 50. After the group was in full swing, the community recognized the lasting value of dramatics with the development of a proper department of drama in the High School, which soon took over the education of the young people. The Little Theatre raised its age limit to 16 years, and became a fully adult organization.

In the 20 years of its existence, The Little Theatre membership has more than doubled, with a list of hundreds of subscribing patrons who guarantee an audience for the productions. The standards of excellence established by the early directors are based on the simple credo of being as professional as possible in every aspect of theatre, from scenery to program. The Little Theatre is known for the technical proficiency of its productions; the group builds and paints its own scenery, often makes costumes for its actors, does its own make-up, and demands hard work in return for the pleasure of creating a make-believe world. The Little

Theatre is entirely self-supporting, accepting no subsidies from clubs or town.

Membership in The Little Theatre is open to residents of surrounding communities as well as Stoughton. Experience in stage craft or acting is not necessary but welcomed; the main requisite is an interest in improving the standards of entertainment coupled with a desire to participate actively in any of the many facets of theatre and a capacity for hard work without pay. Directors, actors, scene-builders, and business managers all give freely of their energies.

The Little Theatre fills a cultural need in the community, where adults may continue to use knowledge acquired in school, or gain some they had no time for in their busy school careers. It was honored by the opportunity to present the official Bicentennial-250th Anniversary drama production, for which the Board chose G. B. Shaw's eminently suitable "The Devil's Disciple."



### MISS STOUGHTON SCHOLARSHIP

CHAIRMEN: Beverly Engley and Mary Bradbury

The Miss Stoughton Scholarship Pageant was held on Saturday evening, March 6, 1976 at the Stoughton High School Auditorium. A capacity crowd of almost 1000 persons enjoyed this official Miss America Preliminary Pageant, sponsored by the Stoughton Chamber of Commerce and dedicated to the memory of Dr. Appleton C. Woodward.

Twelve lovely, talented young women competed for the title of "Miss Stoughton" and the opportunity to represent our community in the Miss Massachusetts Pageant. On the afternoon of the pageant, each girl was required to be present for a personal interview with the panel of five judges. In the evening, the girls participated in talent, swim suit and evening gown competition.

Ms. Deborah Ann O'Brien, former Miss Massachusetts and second runner-up to Miss America in 1972, was Mistress of Ceremonies; the Stoughton Grenadiers acted as honor guards for the contestants; and Mr. Joseph H. Gibbons, Supt. of Stoughton Public Schools, presented the awards.

Miss Kathy Sidebottom was chosen "Miss Stoughton" and was presented an \$800 scholarship award, a dozen roses, and a beautiful trophy. Following the local pageant, Kathy was

a contestant in the Miss Massachusetts Pageant and made the Town of Stoughton very proud when she was chosen as one of the ten finalists. Kathy is a vivacious blue-eyed blond who is 19 years old, 5 feet 6 inches, and weighs 125 lbs. She is enrolled at Boston University, majoring in theatre arts, seeking a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree. She was named to the Dean's List, and was recently accepted as a member of the B.U. President's Hosts, an honor society of 28 students dedicated to the service of Boston University. Kathy would like to combine her interest in repertory theatre with her fondness for children by working with a children's repertory theatre troupe.

Miss Maureen Lynch was chosen first runnerup; Miss Alberta Silva, second runner-up; Miss Patricia Tobin, third runner-up; and Miss Mona McKinnon, fourth runner-up. Other contestants were Patricia Gaffney, Virginia Gooley, Denise Musial, Laura Noren, Denise Packard, Linda Powers and Marcia Romanuck.

Each contestant was provided with her own chaperone; these generous ladies were Joan DiMatteo, Patricia Dino, Sheila Grant, Jean Inman, Rosana Molinari, and Lois Trocki. A great deal of the success of the Pageant is credited to Samuel Eager, President of the Stoughton Chamber of Commerce.



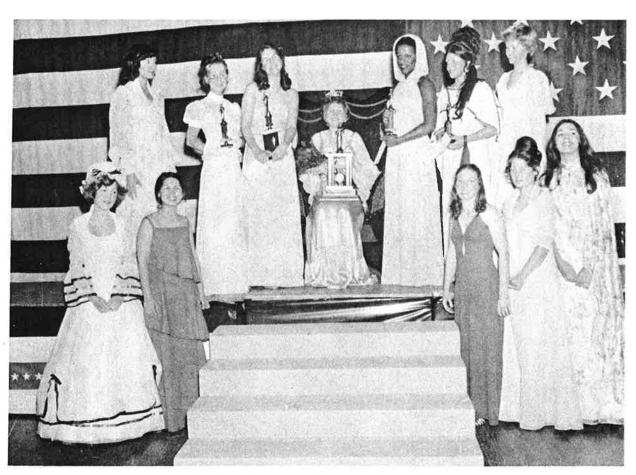
Miss Stoughton Pageant
Winners
Kathy Sidebottom - Miss Stoughton



Kathy's Talent winner



Miss Stoughton Pageant Finalists



Miss Stoughton Scholarship Pageant Contestants

## 250th ANNIVERSARY BALL Chairmen: Beverly and Ralph Engley

The 250th Anniversary Ball was held in the Ballroom of the Chateau de Ville in Randolph

on Saturday evening, April 3,1976.

Cocktails and Hors D'Oeuvres preceded a Prime Rib of Beef dinner, highlighted by a flaming dessert, Rainbow Fudge Fantasy. A colonial atmosphere prevailed as the majority of 900 guests were attired in authentic colonial costumes of the Revolutionary Era. It was truly a representative gathering of the people of Stoughton, as all ages, from teen-ager to senior citizen, were together on this special evening. Miss Kathy Sidebottom, Miss Stoughton, and her escort were honored guests.

Entertainment was provided by Roy and Jeanine Kelley, a talented young couple from Stoughton, who sang a selection of musical numbers popular through the years. The Stoughton Grenadiers presented a smart flag ceremony and marched and maneuvered to the delight of all. Dancing followed until 1:00 a.m. to the big band sound of the 17 piece Chateau

de Ville Orchestra.

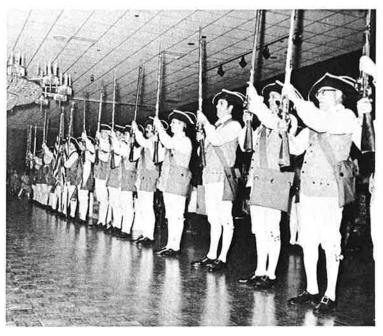
The Chairmen for this highly successful social event of the 250th Anniversary celebration were assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bousquet, Mr. and Mrs. Robert DiMatteo, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Dino, Mr. and Mrs. James Donnelly, Mr. and Mrs. John Inman, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Klim, and Mr. and Mrs. Leo Mellyn.



Chariman of Ball Miss Stoughton and escort



250th Anniversary Ball Committee



Anniversary Ball Grenadiers drill



Jeannine and Roy Kelley entertain at Anniversary Ball





Mrs. Dimond presents Grenadiers' banner

Anniversary Ball Chairman of 250th Committee Bud McMann

## DEDICATION OF OLD BAY ROAD PLAQUE Chairman: Dorothy Woodward

As part of the Bicentennial activity, a bronze tablet was placed on the old section of Bay Road at the corner of Highland St. on April 25, 1976. The Stoughton Rotary Club donated the plaque as their contribution to the Dual Celebration. The dedication acknowledged Bay Road's historic significance as an ancient pathway from Boston to Plymouth; Norton, Easton, Sharon, and Canton have already marked the road in some way within their boundaries. The Committee sent a report on Stoughton's Bay Road, which stretches from Plain Street to Easton, to the Massachusetts Historical Commission which is interested in placing more of the road on the National Register of Historic Places.

Despite a down pour of April showers, Louis Ugo of the Rotary Club, read a speech dedicating the bronze plaque, while the Stoughton Grenadiers lined the road at attention. Captain George Giddings also participated, thanking the

loyal crowd who braved the rains. Representatives of neighboring Historical Societies and local officials helped make it a memorable occasion.

The plaque reads:

"Historic Old Bay Road through Stoughton-An Indian Trail 1000 years; foot trail for early settlers; post riders' route; stagecoach road to Taunton and Rhode Island from Boston Bay. 1000 Minutemen marched its trail to the Lexington Alarm on April 19, 1775.

Stoughton Bicentennial Commission, 1976
Placed by Stoughton Rotary Club"
Members who researched the Bay road were
Elsie Bernasconi, Alice Petruzzo, Anne Petterson

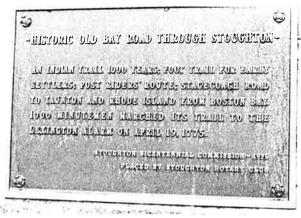
and George Giddings.



Dedication of Old Bay Rd. Marker
l. to r. J. Gomes, G. Winrothe, D. Woodward,
G. Giddings, P. Goulston, L. Ugo



Stoughton Grenadiers at Old Bay Rd. Marker







Dedication, Bay Rd. Marker

Sponsored by the Randolph-Holbrook Rotary Club, the Stoughton Rotary Club was organized May 21, 1940; Almon M. Fredericks was installed as the first president of the 16 member club. In the spirit of the Rotary, the Stoughton Club is strictly a Service Club for all mankind. The four areas of service are Club Service, Community Service, Vocational Services, and International Service.

The Stoughton Rotary "Pennies for Peace" project collects money which is added to the Rotary Foundations of Rotary International, or other special needs. The Rotary Foundation is an international project which has given several million dollars since 1947 in grants and fellowships to promote understanding and friendly relations between peoples of different nations. The "Million-Dollar Meal" is a million-dollar idea for raising funds for the Foundation; Stoughton's member Fred Lipsky sparked the idea of an austerity luncheon in the Stoughton Rotary to contribute the cost of the luncheon to the Foundation. The Foundation's principal program awards Fellowships to graduate students for study abroad each year.

Donations are made annually to local and national drives for charitable funds. Part of the cost of transportation for swimming lessons for children; for outings for children of the Massahcusetts School for Crippled children; for fresh milk, eyeglasses, and dental work for under privileged children have been provided.

Most recently the Rotary Club has sponsored an annual Pancake Festival to raise scholarship and other funds.

Stoughton Grange was organized in March of 1893. It is a fraternal organization, non-partisan and non-sectarian and whole families can belong. The emblem is seven sided, representing the seven founders; it has a "P of H"on it which means "Patrons of Husbandry" the official name of the organization; and the sheaf of wheat in the center which shows our belief in the importance of agriculture in our lives.

The Grange first met in the Sons of Temperance Hall on Railroad Ave. for a few meetings and then moved to Grand Army Hall for two years. In 1895 it moved into the 100F Hall where they are at the present time. The first Master was Henry F. Maxwell and was organized by Wm. M. Howard of North Easton. Through the years we have had many members who have gone on to hold offices in the Pomona and State Grange. We also have had many leading persons in Stoughton that has belonged to our Grange.

Stoughton Grange through the years has contributed much to the welfare of the community, given to charities, hospitals, to individuals and families in time of need. The Educational Aid Committee has done much toward furthering the education of the Youth by giving them scholarships and loans. The Agricultural Committee has exhibited in the major fairs in our area. We have contests open to all ages and sex: handwork, sewing and needlework; wood making; cooking; essays; plays; and bowling.

The Grange is looking toward the Future, ever working toward a better tomorrow.

#### ARTS FESTIVAL Chairman: Donald Le Grow

The month of May was set aside as Arts Festival month, where the school children and townspeople could display their talents. Each elementary school participated in art contests, held Bicentennial musical activities or otherwise exercised their artistic talents. Prizes were awarded, and each school earned a trophy of merit.

The most widely publicized art event was a photography contest, open to any amateur photographer in Massachusetts. A large response culminated in an outstanding exhibit of both color and black and white photos, which was on

display at the Public Library. Professional judges chose award winners in both categories. Donald Le Grow and Francis Maioli were responsible for organizing the photography contest and exhibit.

The award winners were John F. McCarthy of Stoughton, Grand Prize; Robert Klein of Easton, First Prize, black and white; Marcia Romanuck of Stoughton, First Prize, color; Richard Palie of Norwood, Second Prize, black and white; and David Turnbull, Second Prize, color.

# THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATION 250th ANNIVERSARY-BICENTENNIAL Chairman: Dr. Daniel Hughes

During the 1975-1976 school year, the Stoughton Public Schools engaged in numerous activities in observance of the town's 250th anniversary and the bicentennial of the United States.

At the elementary level, a number of projects were developed which proved to be highly successful in engaging students' interest in the observance of the two anniversaries. At the Chemung Hill School, for example, the annual three-week interdisciplinary unit entitled "Focus" took as its theme "The Spirit of 1776." A wide variety of activities, including arts and crafts, plays, artifacts from colonial times, and their annual picnic, were part of this program. There was also an exchange program which sent four students and two teachers from the Chemung Hill School for a week-long visit to the Yahara School in Stoughton, Wisconsin, while two students and two teachers from Yahara were guests at the Chemung Hill School. The Chemung Hill School also presented a bicentennial musical entitled "Let George Do It."

An all elementary schools project – "Bicentennial Junior Committees of Correspondence: 1776-1976" – was established to foster communications among Stoughton children and children in other communities in the United States. Each elementary school formed a set of bicentennial themes as part of a traveling exhibition throughout the school year. The movie "1776" was shown at the Stoughton Cinema for all students in grades 4-6.

At the secondary level, a summer workshop in journalism focused on creating a living history of Stoughton under the direction of Mr. Sumner Tapper. Each student wrote a feature article about an individual prominent in the history of Stoughton. Interviews with elderly Stoughton residents were taped and bibliographies and lists of suggested topics were developed and presented to teachers in the high school American Studies class. As a final class activity, the students submitted a written history of Stoughton to the Town Anniversary Committee. In the spring of 1976, the Stoughton High School social studies department collaborated with the Stoughton Historical Society in conducting a contest for original historical work done by a Stoughton High School student. Miss Marlene Solito of the Class of 1976 was awarded a prize of \$250 for an essay based on her interview of an elderly Stoughton resident.

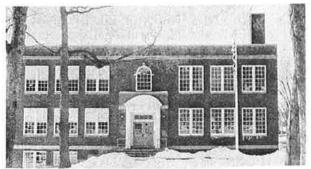
The American Studies program celebrated the bicentennial with the assistance of an NHF grant. A number of distinguished guests in the fields of literature, science, and social studies were present at various points in the year to advise the faculty on ways in which to enrich the study of American Civilization at the high school level. Students in the American Studies class examined the archives at the Town Hall and the Historical Society to discern the growth of the community from a rural agricultural town to its present status as a suburban residential community. Class visits were made to significant historical sites such as the Plymouth Settlement, Sturbridge Village, and Salem, Lexington, and Concord. In April the American Studies students visited their counterparts at McCaskey High School in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Students in the McCaskey American Studies program visited Stoughton the following month.

The Music Department throughout the Stoughton Public Schools participated in many Bicentennial events during the past year. All of the concerts, both instrumental and choral, reflected Americana. Collaboration between the Drama and Music Departments at the Senior High level produced the Broadway musical "The Music Man." An instrumental exchange concert was presented by the Stoughton High Band and the Millis High Band. In cooperation with the 250th Anniversary Committee of the Town of Stoughton, the Music Department sponsored the eighteenth Annual Southeast Music Educators Concert Festival in which over 500 student musicians participated from school systems all over the southeastern district of Massachusetts.

In the parade held in May, the School Department was represented with floats prepared by the elementary schools and the Junior High School and by the Stoughton High School Band. Numerous other activities were conducted during the year in recognition of the anniversary and the bicentennial.



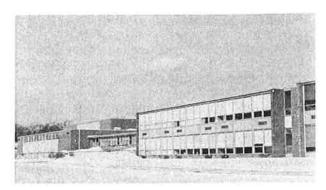
Clapp Elementary



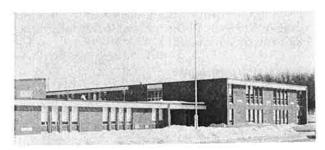
Jones Elementary



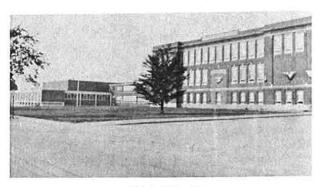
Chemung Hill Elementary



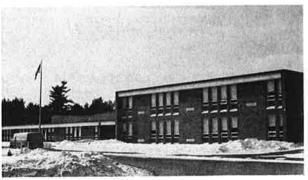
Junior High School



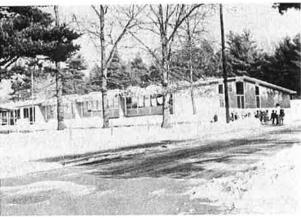
North Elementary



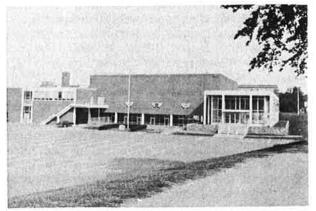
High School



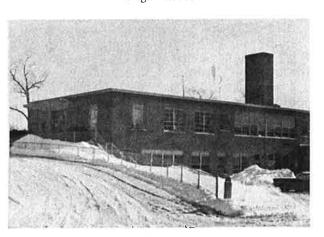
Gibbons Elementary



South Elementary



High School



West Elementary

The usual July 4th Parade was advanced to May 23, 1976, to celebrate the 250th Anniversary. The parade committee members, well versed in organizing this event, were Eileen Dunlay, Secretary; Earl McMann, Fred Dimond, Gordon Lynch, Joseph De Vito, William Green, and William McLaughlin. They succeeded in assembling the largest parade ever seen in Stoughton; clear skies and bright sunshine brought a record crowd to line the parade route which took four hours to cover.

The Grand Marshal of the parade was a native of Stoughton, Major General Edmund Rafalko, who came from the U.S. Air Force Base in Ogden, Utah to take part in the parade. The night before the parade, the Veterans of Foreign Wars held a dinner and reception in his honor at their headquarters. William Harrington was in charge of the activities, with Natalie Meadows serving as chief hostess. A portrait was presented to General Rafalko, who attended with his wife and mother. Town officials and invited guests were entertained by the Golden Rays, speeches from dignitaries, and music for dancing.

The parade itself began about 1:00 P.M. with three divisions led by fire engines from Stoughton and surrounding towns. In the 16 musical units, there were elite high school bands, drum and bugle corps, military bands, and some fife and drum colonial units. The 15 to 20

marching units included American Legions, V.F.W.'s, military units from several posts, scouts, and nine units of Massachusetts Colonial Militia including Stoughton's own handsome Grenadiers. Interspersed among the groups were about 75 antique cars, one of which carried an antique printing press stamping out flyers for the crowd.

Local organizations were invited to enter floats to compete for prizes on the theme of either Stoughton's Anniversary or the nation's birthday. Over 30 floats appeared in the parade, depicting many aspects of Stoughton's history or national events, as well as some purely local interests. First prize was won by the First Parish Universalist Unitarian Church's float displaying a replica of the first meeting house of 1744, complete with minister and parish. Second prize went to the Portugese National Club whose float represented George Washington refusing a crown; third, to the Junior High School's Little Red School house; and fourth, to the Edward McNamaras for their barnyard float of Mc-Namaras Farm, the oldest farm in Stoughton.

The grand finale in the parade was the appearance of the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdale horses and their brewery truck, which drew admiration from old and young alike

It was agreed that the months of preparation for the 250th Anniversary Parade were well rewarded.



General Rafalko's wife receives portrait
VFW Dinner



250th Anniversary Board General Rafalko's Dinner, VFW





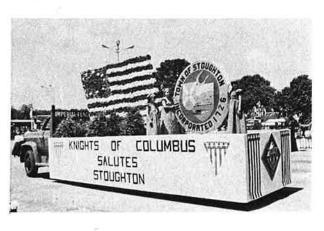




Anniversary Parade Grand Marshall

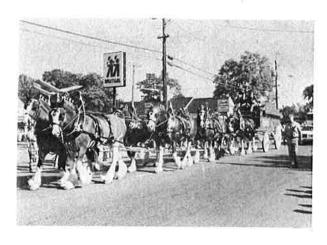




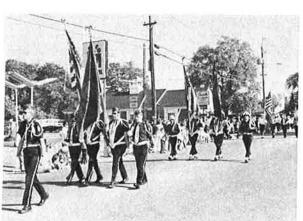


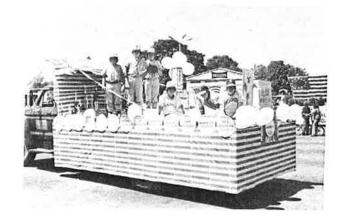


Little Theatre presents Miss Stoughton and Court













Anniversary Parade Committee

### COUNTRY FAIR Chairmen: Charles Hainley, Frank Guertin, Edward Ivaldi

One of the major events of the Anniversary year was a gigantic Country Fair, held on June 11, 12, 13, 1976 at the High School grounds. The Country Fair was conceived as a giant effort to promote a project for as many groups and individuals as possible to develop together to celebrate Stoughton's 250th birthday. It was eminently successful in this attempt. A large and active committee worked for a year, planning the affair to the least detail. The involvement of local people was widespread, from church groups to individual craftsmen. The expertise uncovered was amazing as engineers, electricians, public works employees, business men, housewives, and professionals pitched in to create a country fair under some 20 tents, with an outdoor stage, its own power system and a total

security system.

It would be difficult to name the hundreds of people who helped make the Fair a success, but mention should be made of Victor Fezio, Warren Piper, and Edward Ivaldi, for arranging the tent facilities and security. Jesselyn Bartlett and Linda Woodward secured the professional and amateur craftsmen who displayed and demonstrated their colonial crafts. Among the special craft demonstrations, the Fieldbrook Club created a great deal of interest as they demonstrated the art of hand quilting, under the supervision of Emily Guertin and Nicole Maioli. The two quilts worked at the Fair were raffled off later in the summer. Janet Clough organized the local church groups for bazaar booths. An animal exhibit was provided through John Sidebottom's contact with Leonard Silvia of Norton. Ronald Fraser helped procure entertainment which was programmed by Samuel Keslin. Posters were designed by Rino Conte, to add to the general publicity issued by Charles Hainley and Dorothy Woodward, who served as liaison member to the 250th Board of Directors. David Benjamin was the finance officer for the entire Fair.

The Stoughton School Committe, Supt. Joseph H. Gibbons, Thomas McKnight, Herbert Staples and the tireless custodial staff of Peter O'Donnell are to be especially commended for making all the High School facilities available for the Country Fair and lending invaluable assistance throughout the Fair.

The Fair grounds were open Friday evening, and all day Saturday and Sunday until 10:00 p.m. Besides four tents of craft displays which were demonstrated repeatedly, there were several tents of bazaars held by local organizations, booths serving ethnic foods, and snack bars all day. The Stoughton Grange arranged an Agricultural Fair; the Barnyard of Animals was located in its own tent on the perimeter of the grounds. The children's activities almost continuously, under the supervision of John O'Meara and Joseph Zapustas. The Jaycees ran their Good Sports program on Saturday.

A complete schedule of dance events was arranged by Gus and Elsie Otto, well- known in Square dancing circles of New England. Children's dance groups, adult Italian and Portugese troupes, square dancing, and a demonstration of belly dancing were provided in the gymnasium. An open square dance with well-known callers

was held on Saturday.

The Arena Stage was the scene of a variety of entertainment. The Barber Shop Quartets of Brockton gave a concert on Friday Night, which was well attended under the stars. On Saturday, Joan O'Hare, assisted by Patricia McLaughlin, presented a stunning fashion show of colonial gowns made by local ladies to celebrate the Bicentennial. The fashions were narrated by Joanne Blomstrom, with the Grenadiers escorting the belles who appeared in ball gowns. Kathy Sidebottom, Miss Stoughton, was also in attendance, as she presided over many Anniversary events.

Musical entertainment in the Arena was provided by the High School stage band, directed by Ronald Christianson. The Old Stoughton Musical Society gave a concert of colonial music with all members in colonial costumes. The Bell Ringers of Brockton presented a unique concert of excellent music. The Stoughton Grenadiers were on hand to give one of their precision drills, firing their muskets with zest.

Families returned several times during the three days to enjoy all the entertainment, sample Portugese barbecues, Italian pizzas, home fried bread, Lithuanian Kielbasi, and American hot dogs. This was the spirit of Stoughton's Country Fair, where the whole town gathered and had

an old-fashioned good time.



Kathy Sidebottom; Miss Stoughton



Country Fair Committee



Fair Square Dancers



Bell Ringers



Old Stoughton Musical Society



Historical Society Booth The Country Fair

























### THE STOUGHTON WOMAN'S CLUB

The Stoughton Woman's Club was organized on October 14, 1926, when the Town of Stoughton celebrated its 200th Anniversary.

The object of this organization is to unite all women for the purpose of mutual benefit and for the promotion of their common interest in educational; legislative; philanthropic; literary; artistic and scientific culture; to unite our efforts and to marshall our talents and resources as volunteer; to meet and to respond to the needs of our community, our state and our country.

Club meetings are held the second Monday of each month October through April at 1 p.m. Special club activities include the "Round Table of Books" for club members who enjoy reading for enjoyment, information or cultural interest. Members are urged to join the Epsilon Sigma Omicron chapter. Donations are made to the Stoughton Public Library of memorial books pertinent to members interests.

The Veterans Service Committee sponsors an annual cookout for over one hundred Brockton V.A. patients each year. Christmas parties are given and about one hundred gift boxes are presented yearly to hospitalized

boxes are presented yearly to hospitalized veterans. Entertainment and refreshments are provided and the wards at the hospital are visited by our members. One of our members received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Brockton V.A. Hospital for having given over 3216 hours of volunteer hours. Over on hundred afgans have been knitted by our members and donated to the veterans.

The Conservation and Garden Committee maintains The Stoughton Woman's Club's Tree farm on the grounds of the C.W. Welch Preserve. Trees from this area have been transplanted on town-owned property. The youth of the town are involved in maintaining the area. Immediate plans are to work with the town's Conservation Committee.

The Health Committee generously gives its time and talents to the nursing homes in the town at various times during the year. We held the satellite meeting in Stoughton at which time the Brockton Multi-Service Health Center was established, to be held in this town for three surrounding towns.

The Stoughton Woman's Club is proud indeed of an enviable record of achievement since its inception in 1926. Members have maintained the tradition of generosity to our community and an active interest in state and national affairs.

#### FIELDBROOK YOUNG WOMAN'S CLUB OF STOUGHTON

Fieldbrook Young Woman's Club of Stoughton, a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, an international organization of volunteer women, was organized in 1960 by four young women united by a mutual desire to serve the community of Stoughton. The club was accepted into the Massachusetts State Federation of Women's Clubs, Junior Membership at the State Annual Meeting in 1960.

The club offers the women of Stoughton and surrounding towns a program of social, educational and Philanthropic work. Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday evening of each month and membership is open to single and married women 25 years of age or over.

For 15 years the club has given an award annually to a High School Senior who plans to further their education. Members participate annually in a continuing educational reading program and have received the State Award in this department since 1972.

Service to the community of Stoughton includes volunteer work at Goddard Hospital; floodlights for skating at Mead's Meadow; sunshine baskets and weekly visits to patients at nursing homes; holiday baskets to veterans' families; volunteer program at the library; entertainment and programs at Housing for the Elderly; daily "my day" cakes for children at the summer camp for exceptional children. For the past two years the club has helped plan the Town's Bicentennial and 250th celebration events through its membership on both town committees. Members have worked at or participated as a club in all the special events commemorating our town and country's birthdays.

Membership in Fieldbrook Young Woman's Club offers young women an opportunity for self-education, greater social-awareness and service to our community - The Town of Stoughton.

A family fun day was sponsored by the Stoughton Woman's Club on July 4, 1976. Games of croquet, horse shoe pitching and hoop rolling were conducted; two bands played during the day; contests for Best Costumes of the Period for adults and children, and "Handlebar Hanks" were conducted. Awards were given in recognition of Mother Stoughton, to Nancy Chapman Ivaldi; Grandmother Stoughton, to Alice Infontino Magee; and Miss Senior Citizen,

to Bertha Capen Reynolds. Although many brought picnic baskets, the lunch bar was in service all day. Many enjoyed dancing to the peppy beat of the Bands; some enjoyed their umbrellas, chairs and blankets. Seven beautiful items were raffled off during the day as every one agreed it was a wonderful time!

The Chairman of the Woman's Club was Stella Barry; her committee women were M. Eileen Dunlay, Rose Bellay, Kay O'Donnell, and Blanche Fredericks.

#### Sunday in Park



Miss Bertha Reynolds

Miss Senior Citizen



Alice Magee chosen Stoughton Grandmother

# 250th BIRTHDAY PARTY Chairman: Kathleen Murphy

On December 22, 1976, the dual celebrations came full swing back to the Lucius Clapp Memorial Building for a party jointly sponsored by the 250th Anniversary Committee and the host Historical Society. The date of the celebration was significantly the 250th anniversary of the signing of the charter incorporating the town named for Governor Stoughton.

An open house was held from 4:00 to 9:00 P.M. with members of the Historical Society serving as hosts and hostesses, and the Stoughton Grenadiers in attendance as an honor guard. Refreshments were served, as every guest received a piece of the gigantic birthday cakes

baked by local bakeries.

At 7:00 p.m. a brief ceremony was held, with an official welcome by the Chairman, Kathleen Murphy, who introduced Earl McMann, Chairman of the 250th Anniversary Committee, and Edward Meserve, President of the Historical Society. The official 250th Birthday Cake was cut before the ceremonies took place.

The Anniversary Committee took this opportunity to express their gratitude to the over 500 townspeople who took an active part in the events which made this a townwide celebration for the people of Stoughton. A parchment certificate was presented to all the participants of the many committees who worked for two years on the dual celebrations.

1726 250th Anniversary 1976 Stoughton, Massachusetts

The 250th Anniversary Committee

of the

Town of Stoughton hereby awards this Certificate of Appreciation

nantiani" to a de independence

for your contribution

to the success of our

250th Anniversary - Bicentennial Celebration.

250th Anniversury Committee Stoughton Bicentennial Commission

Phyllis Batchelder, popular local artist, presented her portrait of Governor Stoughton, to be hung in the Historical Society. A scrapbook of all the events of the year was prepared by Carol Manson, Secretary of the 250th Anniversary Committee, and presented to the Society for its permanent files. An item from each souvenir created for the year was also presented to the Historical Society's collection by Gustaf Carlson, Chairman of the Souvenir Committee. Chet Cohenno, official photographer of the Anniversary, assembled several albums of photographs representing all the Bicentennial -250th Anniversary events, which were donated to the Society. The beautiful Anniversary Quilt supervised by Clare Nutting was presented at this time to the permanent collection of the Historical Society, where it will hold a prominent place among the local memorabilia The Stoughton Grenadiers donated special collection of Bicentennial medals earned by them during the 1975-1976 festivities.

Throughout the Lucius B. Clapp and Henry L. Pierce Rooms, appropriate exhibits were displayed by the Historical Society along with pictures of events from the 250th Anniversary calendar. Souvenir programs were distributed to

the guests.

The Birthday Party was fitting salute to the ending of Stoughton's magnificent year of celebration; the spirit of goodwill and cooperation engendered by it may serve to bring the town together for the common good of the community for years to come.



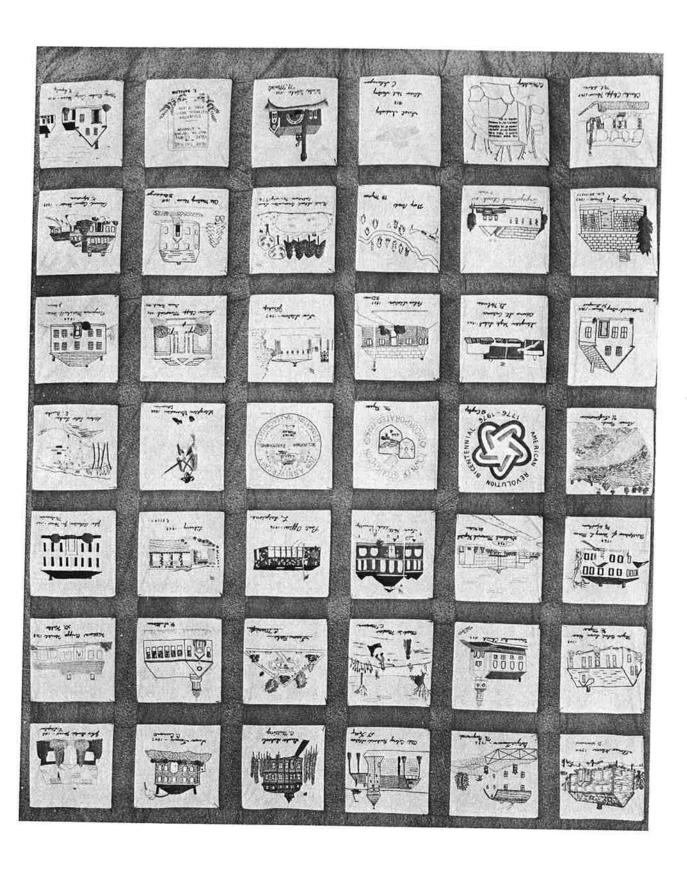
Ed Meserve and Earl McMann Commemorative Medal

### ANNIVERSARY QUILT:

The original Anniversary Quilt was designed and assembled by Clare Nutting as a commemorative example of local needlework for the Historical Society. Forty two squares representing scenes in old and new Stoughton and symbols of the Bicentennial year were embroidered by over forty local needle women, and skillfully combined in a red, white and blue motif. The greatly admired quilt was on display at the Stoughton Public Library and various other exhibits during the year before being presented to its permanent home in the Historical Society.

Scenes represented in the quilt are:

Thomas Glover House . Dorothy Wood Major Robert Swan House	Myers Idham novics
Timothy Gay House	riffett
Charles Clapp House	Silva
Doty Tavern Norma Ray	mond
Universalist ChurchHelen H	olmes
Goddard Memorial Hospital Phyllis	Kalen
National Bicentennial LogoBeverly E	Engley
Stoughton High School	olmes
Congregational Church Freida	Wade
Stone-Ponkapoag ReservationEdith Hir	ıckley
Stoughton Railroad Station	Kelly
Mead's Meadow	anson
Stoughton Town Hall	inolly
Stoughton Town Seal	Kyan
Stoughton Police Station	ineen
Old Bay Road	Myers
Straw Hat (First Business in Stoughton)	nagan
Drake School	utting
Faxon Park	anioii
Stoughton Post OfficeLouise Sci	pione
250th Anniversary Seal	Magee
Stoughton Fire Station	isnop
Bird Street Conservation Land	urpny
Stoughton Water Works	Maoli
Swan Tavern	arrant
Immaculate Conception Church	illivan
Stoughton Public Library	Clark
Stoughton Grenadier	uertin
Lucius Clapp Memorial Building	Koach
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John Guild House Virginia S	taples
William Briggs House	Kene
John Atherton, Jr. House	pearin D1
Glen Echo Lake	Durke
Benjamin Marshall House	ınman
Edward Capen House	msnu
Mary Baker Eddy House	Jgarty



## BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT Chairman: Aina McMann

The purpose of the Beautification Project was to have a continuing operation of beautification based on a townwide survey for area needs. Letters were mailed to shops and merchants requesting their assistance by the clean-up and beautification of their own sites. Townspeople were offered 1000 seedlings for planting on their own property; prizes of seedlings were also given to winners of a Conservation poster and essay contest. In the fall and spring of 1975-1976, neighborhood clean-ups were sponsored by the Committee; many groups participated in these activities along with private owners.

"Tippy's Garden Center" donated flowering bulbs to plant on town of Stoughton properties; many of these were planted through the efforts of the Girl Scouts, "Tippy's" also donated a Beautification Float of attractive plants and shrubbery in the July 4, 1975 Parade

to publicize the project.

The V.F.W. contributed plant hangers filled with flowering plants and placed them on the poles in Stoughton Square. The Committee hopes these baskets will be a permanent decora-

tion in the Square.

The Anniversary Committee sponsored new signs for Stoughton, announcing this as our 250th Anniversary. Placed in strategic spots along the highways, they helped make the entrances to town more attractive. The D.P.W. deserves thanks for their assistance in placing signs, historic markers, planting trees, and decorating fire hydrants. The American Legion painted one of the largest signs ever placed in town, wishing Stoughton a happy birthday and listing the calendar of events for the coming year.

Throughout the year the Committee has tried to instill more local pride in our surroundings so that a beautification project will

not be just for an Anniversary year.



Bicentennial Committee Representatives Kathy Murphy, Carol Manson, Anne Petterson





American Legion sign painters 250th Anniversary sign

#### STOUGHTON GRENADIERS

As part of Stoughton's 250th Anniversary celebration, the Bicentennial Commission proposed that a company of militia be raised. While researching material at the Historical Society, the commission was surprised to find the Constitution of the original Stoughton Grenadiers.

In September 1974, the first meeting of volunteers was held at the Stoughton Public Library. By February 1975, the volunteers were ready to organize a proper militia and choose their officers. George Giddings was elected the first Captain and Leonard Pinaud, Lieutenant. The company at present has 37 members, with 3 officers and 5 sergeants. It was officially reactivated. by the Selectmen in April 1975.

The history of the Grenadiers goes back to 1774, when the West Company of the Stoughton Militia was organized under the command of Captain Robert Swan. On April 19, 1775, the West Company (43 strong) responded to the Lexington-Concord alarm, losing 6 men in the action.

The militia was reactivated in 1822 and were known for their neatness and precision of drill, uniformed in blue and white. The Grenadiers remained an important force in the town until 1896. They held drills and parades each year in the square and ended each season with the popular Genadiers Ball.

The present Grenadiers, uniformed as was the West Company, have been accepted into full membership in the famed Council of Minute Men, the elite group of Bicentennial Militia.

During the spring of 1975, a group of women worked feverishly to design, cut and stitch uniforms for the complete unit before the July 4th parade, when the Grenadiers were scheduled for their first appearance. Joan O'Hare organized over 30 ladies who volunteered their time and skill; on July 4, a cheer went up along the route as the snappy Grenadiers appeared in their blue and white uniform. From this day, no function was complete without the appearance of the Grenadiers, who have earned laurels for their precision drills and appearance. They were among the honor guard to receive Queen Elizabeth at the Tall Ships in July, 1976.

The Grenadiers, carrying a banner sown by Mrs. Fred Dimond, continue to perform at musters and parades. They are organized to carry on as a military unit, and hope to serve as an honor group beyond the Bicentennial activities. Each man is responsible for his own musket, ammunition, bullet pouch, knapsack, and accourtements; it is an experience in colonial living to be a member.



Grenadiers - Full Uniform



Grenadiers



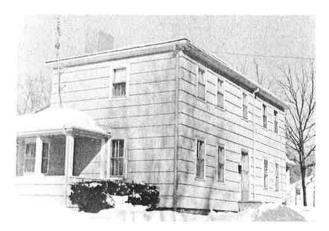
Grenadiers Sign Charter

# HISTORIC HOUSES Chairmen: Anne Petterson and William McDonald

One of the largest and most comprehensive projects developed during the year was the historic houses project. As a lasting memorial of the dual celebration of Stoughton in 1976, the committee on Historic Houses sought to identify houses constructed prior to 1826 (our first hundred years) with date built and name of original owner. Several members researched this information from material at the Historical Society which had been compiled from 1928 to 1932; the Town Hall Records of Births, Deaths, and Marriages; the Engineer's Office maps; and deeds and wills at the Registry of Deeds in Dedham.

Wooden plaques measuring 11 inches x 16 inches, painted a special weatherproof white with the name of the original owner, date built, and border painted in antique blue were placed on the 58 houses verified. The Norfolk County Development and Tourist Council assisted in funding the plaques as well as a map especially drawn to locate these houses and the streets as they were in 1826. The maps were made available to the public, so anyone could place himself back in the early days of Stoughton and locate the houses that stood here between 1726 and 1826.

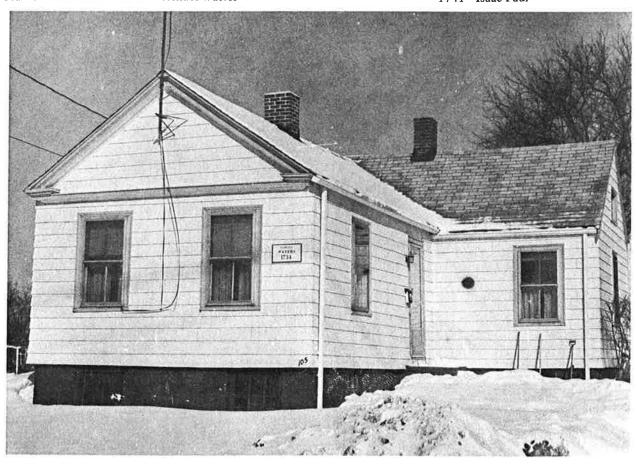
Oldest known house 1734 Samuel Waters

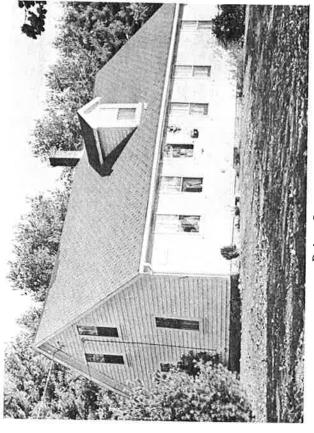


1740 - Cousider Atherton

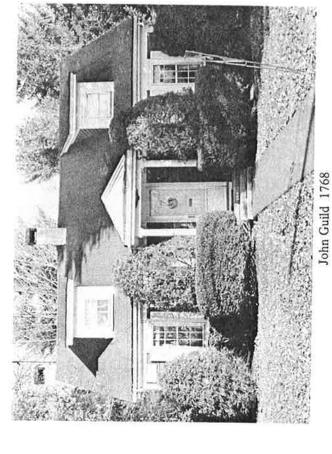


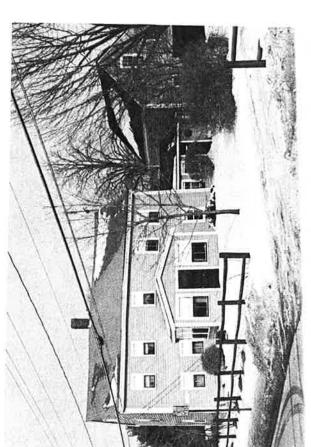
1741 - Isaac Paul





Robert Swan - 1746

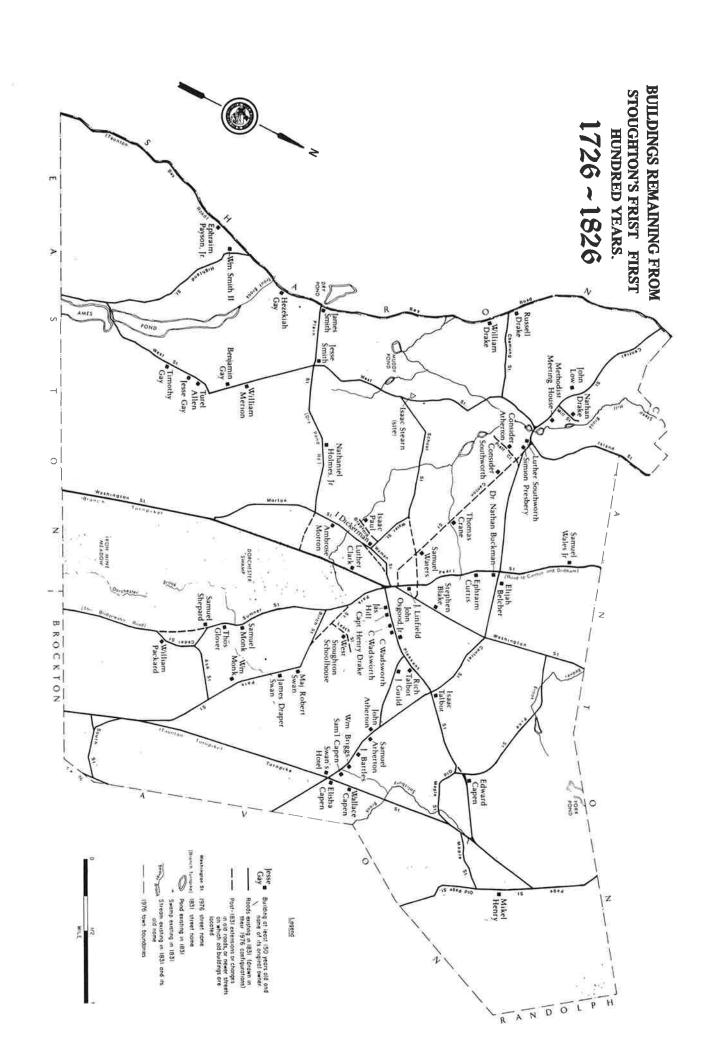




Thomas Glover 1744



1768 - William Briggs



## DIRECTORY

Address	Original Builder	Date Built	Address	Original Builder	Date Built
652-654 Bay Road	Russell Drake	1822	327 Pearl Street	Nathan Buckman	
750 Bay Road	William Drake	1775	696 Pearl Street	Samuel Wales Jr.	1752
1528 Bay Road	Hezekiah Gay Jr.	1767	423 Plain Street	Nathaniel Holmes Jr.	1795
1888 Bay Road	Ephraim Payson Jr.	1761	725 Plain Street	Jesse Smith	1756
25 Bradford Street	Isaac Paul	1741	925 Plain Street	James Smith	1769
105 Canton Street	Samuel Waters	1734	25 Pleasant Street	James Hill	1794
281 Canton Street	Thomas Crane	1771	69 Pleasant Street		1821
530 Canton Street	Consider Southworth	1801	137 Pleasant Street	Henry Drake	1821
204 Cedar Street	William Packard	1768	145 Pleasant Street	Christopher Wadsworth	
261 Central Street	Samuel Capen	1800	156 Pleasant Street	Christopher Wadsworth	1,15
333 Central Street	William Briggs	1768	301 Pleasant Street	John Osgood	1768
389 Central Street	John Battles	1790	434 Pleasant Street	Richard Talbot	1801
449 Central Street	Samuel Atherton	1814	760 Pleasant Street	Isaac Talbot	1823
470 Central Street	John Atherton	1769	35 Pratts Court	Edward Capen	1757
1233 Central Street	Elijah Belcher	1800	434 Sumner Street	Consider Atherton	1740
1678 Central Street	Simion Presbery	1814	480 Sumner Street	Samuel Monk	1815
1716 Central Street	Luther Southworth	1822	541 Sumner Street	Thomas Glover	1744
1829 Central Street	Methodist Meeting House			Samuel Shepard	1768
1960 Central Street	John Low	1809	710 Turnpike Street	Swan Tavern	1807
55 Highland Street	William Smith, 2nd	1764	719 Turnpike Street	Elisha Capen	1824
27 Leach Street	West School House	1818	767 Turnpike Street	Wallace Capen	1814
280 Lincoln Street	John Guild	1768	605 Washington Street		1807
44 Mill Street	Nathan Drake		921 Washington Street	Luther Clark	1814
270 Morton Street	Ambrose Morton	1805 1783	West Street Marker	Isaac Stearns (First Hou	se) 1716
387 Page Street	Mikel Henry		1212 West Street	William Merion	1775
540 Park Street	Robert Swan	1778	1261 West Street	Benjamin Gay	1764
550 Park Street		1746	1404 West Street	Turel Allen	1764
709 Park Street	James Swan	1795	1460 West Street	Jesse Gay	1771
23 Pearl Street	William Monk	1763	1546 West Street	Timothy Gay	1767
279 Pearl Street	Jonathan Linfield	1820	179 Wyman Street	Israel Dickerman	1821
219 reall Street	Ephraim Curtis	1817			

HISTORIC HOUSES COMMITTEE
William McDonald
Anne Petterson
Co-chairmen

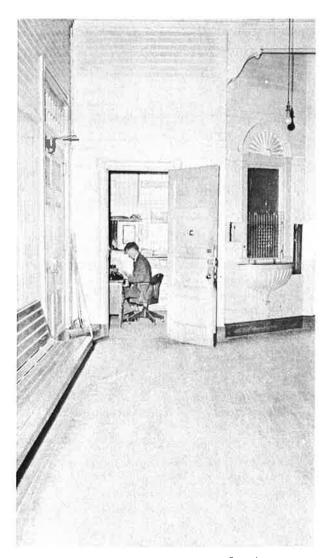
# RAILROAD RESTORATION Chairmen: George Giddings and Dorothy Woodward

One project that was suggested at the beginning of the Bicentennial organization, was the restoration of Stoughton's Railroad Station. Few people realize the unique architectural importance of this Victorian building erected in 1888, built of native granite hauled from Myron Gilbert's quarry on West Street. It is the only station remaining in Massachusetts with a clock tower, which proclaimed its importance as a railroad center.

The Historical Society had succeeded in having the station placed on the National Register of Historic Places, but funding to restore the building to its original beauty had to be sought. The Committee for the Restoration of the Railroad Station-devoted handful including Alice Petruzzo, Anne Petterson, and Marilyn Hoffman, - applied for several Grants. The Stoughton Jaycees became active supporters of the project, as well as a few experts as advisors.

Two Grants-in-aid were awarded, both contingent upon securing permission from the MBTA to begin a restoration. Bird and Sons granted a stipend to renovate the exterior of the building; the Massachusetts Historical Commission, through the National Parks Service, awarded a sum to begin a thorough research and restoration of the building.

This project is termed an "On-going Project," as at the time of printing the Town is negotiating with the MBTA, before the award from the Parks Service can be accepted. If approved, the project will be a progressive activity from year to year until the station is in satisfactory condition. The committee is hopeful that the town of Stoughton will continue its interest in our only National Landmark, long after the Bicentennial celebrations are over.



Stoughton Railroad Station Interior



Stoughton Railroad Station today

# THE STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY Librarian: Anne Petterson

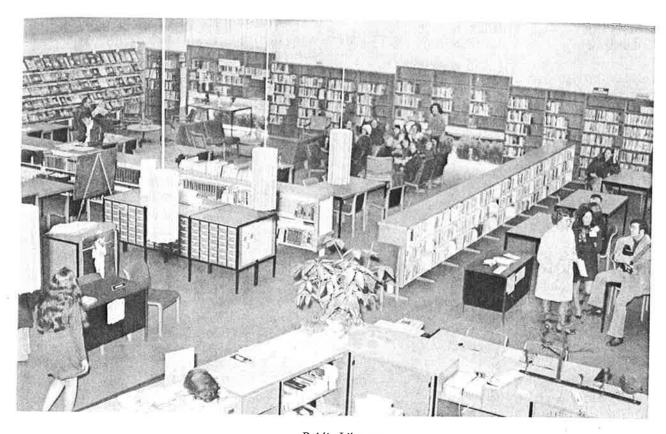
The Stoughton Public Library has been housed at several locations since its founding in 1873. From one room at Morton Square, it grew to a facility built especially for it in Stoughton Square, with the help of two loyal supporters, Lucius Clapp and Henry L. Pierce. When its home there was outgrown, the Library moved into its spacious new building farther down Park St., the "Old Library" became the home of the Historical Society. The Library has been a part of the educational progress of the community since its beginning.

In this spirit, the Public Library was one of the first offices to offer its services for the 250th Anniversary-Bicentennial activities. It served as a general clearing house of information on activities; sold Anniversary souvenirs; provided space for the Committee to sell commemorative coin jewelry; and a meeting place for the 250th Anniversary Board, Country Fair Committees, Historic Houses Committees, and a second home for the organizational meetings of the

Grenadiers. During the spring of 1975, it was the workshop for cutting and sorting Grenadier uniforms, offering a storehouse for materials and patterns.

Staff members volunteered their services in many of these activities, as well as providing standard research service for the many projects. Special mention should be made of a few who gave cheerfully and unselfishly of their time: Diane Bowman, Kathy Glick Weil, Marjorie Williams, Wayne Madan, and Anthony Walent. Librarian Anne Petterson served on several important Committees of the Bicentennial, as well.

A special project undertaken by the Library was the video taping of the Parade on May 23, the Country Fair in June, and meetings of Town Boards as a record of Stoughton in 1976. The special services of Chairman Francis M. Daly of the Board of Trustees; Joseph McDonald, Stoughton High School Media Specialist; Michael Werkowski, High School student; and Donald C. Green for the loan of equipment are acknowledged.



Public Library

### HONOR ROLL LIST

The 250th Anniversary Committee gratefully acknowledges the assistance given them throughout the year by the following people who donated generously of their time and abilities:

		- 4 -	Ronald J. Frazer
Daniel Anagnoston	Arthur Barrett	Carmela Cerro	Mrs. John Fernandez
Carmen Ando	Joanne Blomstrom	Mary Coulter	John Fernandez
Tamara Armstrong	Linda Bradley	Robert Campbell	
Monica Azevedo	Warren Blum	Kay Campbell	Raymond Fortier
George Allen	Leanne Bourgeois	Bruce Campbell	Celia Flanagan
Edward Ahr	Dianne Bowman	Arthur Carlson	Kathleen Fogarty
	Danielle Bowker	James Curran	Howard Fobes
Richard Batchelder	Timothy Bowker	Harold Curtis,Jr.	Margaret Fitzpatrick
Ruth Burnham	Ronald Buckley	Rino Conti	Blanch Fredericks
Elsie Bernasconi		Chris Carabatsos	Amos Fredericks
Dario Bernasconi		Alice Carabatsos	Victor Fezio
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Marilyn Bloom	Kathy Ann Cushing	Jean DeVito	
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Cosimo Barbato	Gustaf Carlson	Pamela DeMatteo	Barbara Giddings
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David Benjamin	Steve Carlson	Victor Dino	Mary E. Gelly
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E. Paul Bousquet	Eric Carlson	Catherine Donnelly	Joseph J. Gelly
Edward Baker	Ronald Christianson	Dr. Daniel Davis	Joseph J. Gelly, Jr.
Phyllis Batchelder	Sheila Connolly	Fred Dimond	Paul M. Gelly
Robert Bellay	Clare Currant	Joseph DeVito, Jr.	Joseph L. Giovanello
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	Thomas Coyle	Nancy Davis	Mamie C. Gray
Jacqueline Bishop Elsa Borgeson	Paul Converse	Allan Dimond	William Green
Estella Burke	Nora Cole	Sandra Ducey	Joseph H. Gibbons
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Ernest Burrill	Bonnie Jean Crozier	Francis M. Daly	Sheila Grant
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Christopher Brady	Ralph Clough		Jill Gaffney
	Janet Clough		Patricia Gaffney
Stella Barry	Philip Clough	Beverly Engley	Donna Griffin
Rose Bellay	Russell Clough	Ralph Engley	Arlene Galanis
Stephen Bellay	Catherine Coutler	Laurie Engley	Virginia Gooley
Joseph Barry	William Coutler	Stephen Engley	John Giles
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Wanda-Lee Barrett	Oscar Cabral		Donald C. Green
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Kay O'Donnell
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Angelo Quieto

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Engineering Department
Office of the
Town Manager
Fire Department
Public Library
Police Department
Public Works Department
Recreation Department
School Committee
School Department
Town Clerk's Office

Conservation Commission

Housing Authority

Auxiliary Police

Vera Trofimovics
Harry D. Thorton, Jr.
Amy Terrell
Lois Trocki
Marianne Tobin
Patricia Tobin
Sumner Tapper
Guy Tardanico
Carol Tommey
L. Ray Travis
Dominic Tessicini

Louis Ugo Walter Unda

#### Michael Valenti

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Fuschia Young Hugh Young Mike Yarmaloff Michael Yanoff Lorraine Young Shirley Young

James Zakas Allen Zelbow Thelma Zaiser Joseph Zaputas

#### STOUGHTON ORGANIZATIONS:

Stoughton Historical Society
Old Stoughton Musical Society
The Little Theatre
Stoughton Chamber of Commerce
Stoughton's Women's Club —
American Legion Post No. 89
Michael Romanuck Post, VFW
Goldan Rays
Stoughton Jaycees
Stoughton Rotary Club
Fieldbrook Club
Stoughton Grenadiers

Business and Professional listings of those who have contributed to the Success of the 250th Anniversary Celebration.

Stoughton Cooperative Bank Stoughton Sons of Italy American Legion Post # 89 Randolph Savings Bank Michael Romanuck Post V.F.W. Rowland's Television Sales & Service Brookfield Engineering Laboratories, Inc. Lowe & Powers, Inc. Brockton Public Markets, Inc. Marshall P. Field, M.D. Barry C. Abelson, Atty. Dembrowsky & Martignetti, Attys. Melwyn B. Fine, M.D. Lewis E. Fritz, M.D. Burton Gerson, O.D. David S. Greenfield, D.M.D. Robert C. Horn, D.M.D. Edward I. Modiste, Atty. Edward R. Mulcahy, M.D. Arthur P. Carriere, M.D. Park Pediatric Associates, Inc. Edmund J. Sullivan, M.D. Brad's Glass Service Cohenno, Inc. Eager Realty McDonald's Hamburgers New England Furniture Co. Parshley Realty Twin-Kee Mfg. Co. Caradonna's Liquor Stores Tippy's Garden Center J. F. Corcoran Shoe Co. Women's Apparel Shop, Inc. Edward C. Lindelof & Sons, Inc. Picker Corp.

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Stoughton Chronicle

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Malcolm & Parsons Insurance Agency, Inc.

Ruth's Bakery Unda's Bus Service Stoughton Social Club Post-O-Lite, Inc. Flowers by Celi Elen Esta, Inc.

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Joe's Gulf Service Station Atlantic Automotive, Inc. Central Nurseries & Gift Shop

Lee's Beauty Salon Kay's Beauty Salon Flora's Beauty Shop The Curling Iron

Malcolm's Home Bakery Charles and Ethyl Low Johnnie's Texaco Station

Horan Oil Corp. A-C Fabricators, Inc. Stoughton Drug Co. Francis T. Crimmins Co.

Standard Modern Printing Co., Brockton

Fenton the Florist

South Shore National Bank Bay Bank/Norfolk County Trust

If anyone has inadvertently been omitted from this list, the 250th Anniversary Committee apologizes and hereby thanks everyone for making the 250th birthday of Stoughton one to be remembered.