

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN



May 1981

Vol. XVII, No. 4



Photograph by Victor C. Harnish

OUR SOCIETY RECEIVES NOTABLE AND PRECIOUS GIFT

During most of the past two years, our fellow charter member, Miss Joan Warren, has been photographing and charting each of the 173 tombstones which stand in the oldest of the Town's four cemeteries - The Farmers' Burying Ground. Here at our annual Charter Anniversary Dinner on May 8th we see her presenting to The Weston Historical Society her neatly bound, charted, and indexed "PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF FARMERS' BURYING GROUND IN WESTON MASSACHUSETTS". Our current president, Mr. Stephen T. Riley, is accepting it for the Society whose first president (1963-1971) and longtime editor of its BULLETIN stands enthusiastically beside him.

The Society's original volume will be brought out for inspection by qualified persons on special occasions from its security location, known to only a few. At the conclusion of her presentation, Miss Warren announced that she now is hard at work in preparing a copy thereof for the Town with the stipulation that it be available at the Town Library for easier and steadier access by qualified residents and researchers. As the Library immediately adjoins the Josiah Smith Tavern and its barn, this is an ideal set-up. Beside the donor are Mrs. Dorothy Ellis and Mr. Philip D. Bassett, Chairman and Secretary, respectively, of the Weston Historical Commission through which she plans to entrust it for the Town.

Think of all the physical exertion, patience, skill, and stamina that went into just the photographing of those 173 stones, many of which had first to be cleaned and rubbed to be readable! Then when we contemplate the colossal artistry, arranging, expense, and

time that went into the compilation of such a complete and attractive volume, words are inadequate. To us it is an excellent example of the Society at its best whose townwide membership embraces outstanding talent in all directions. In this case, one of its members took the initiative to choose her project and to do it with enjoyment and indefatigable zeal.

Adding it all up, how appropriate it is that Miss Warren should be the direct descendant of John Warren “The Immigrant” and of his grandson, Ensign John Warren, whose gravestone, located in almost the exact center of Farmers’ Burying Ground marks the earliest burial, July 14, 1703, in the Town of Weston!

MORE ABOUT “THE FARMERS’ BURYING GROUND” ALBUM
TWO EXAMPLES OF ITS RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Arranged alphabetically, 56 separate families are represented among the 181 names that appear. We have shown them here with parentheses containing the number of times each appears if more than once. Allen, Allin, Baldwin (2), Barnes, Bigelow (9), Bond, Boynton, Brackett, Brown (5), Bullard (5), Chadwick, Coburn (5), Felch (2), Fisk (2), Fulham, Fullam (2), Gearfield (4), Goldthwait (2), Gowen (2), Hadley, Hagar (6), Harrington (11), Hasting (2), Herrington, Hubbart, Hobbs (2), Jones (12), Lamson (9), Livermore (6), Marshall, Mirick (4), Nels, Parkhurst (2), Parks (2), Pratt, Rand (3), Russell, Smith (3), Stanup, Starr (3), Savage (2), Stedman, Stone, Stimson, Swift, Underwood, Upham (15), Walker (2), Warren (10), Wesson, Whitney (4), Whittemore (6), Williams (2), Woodward (8), Woolson (4), and Wright.

The two oldest persons were ladies, both 95 — Mrs. Lydia Jones, born in 1648, died on September 18, 1743 while the other was Hannah Gowen (said to have been kissed by President Washington while a mere child), did not die until May 23, 1870. The most recent burial was that on December 29, 1871 (almost 110 years ago) of Silas Upham, aged 88. The following summary may also be of interest.

Age Group	Male	Female	Not named	Total
0-5 inclusive	6	5	1	12
6-12	6	9		15
13-20	7	7		14
21-30	7	10		17
31-40	4	9		13
41-50	12	7		19
51-60	15	6		21
61-70	8	4		12
71-80	13	10		23
81-90	7	8		15
90+	3	5		8

NEW MEMBERS OF WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We welcome Frederic A. Crafts, III; Mr. and Mrs. James N. Georgeady; Mrs. Marion E. Hines; and Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Morgan - all of Weston - and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond A. Dousseau of Palm Beach, Florida.

A CALL FOR ANOTHER CONFUCIUS

Since this legendary figure declared that a picture is worth a thousand words, we wonder how many historical researchers have wished that, in his terse way he could have added the admonition “but unless identified, its value completely disappears.”

Beginning at once, won’t you please label your own photographs by date, names, significance, or other salient detail that will tell its story a century from now?

BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE

A REVIEW OF ITS EVENTS AND SERVICES

NEXT MEETING JUNE 13th AT LEOMINSTER

The summer (and annual) meeting of the Bay State Historical League will be held June 13th in Leominster, another attractive New England town within easy reach of Weston. To save energy and promote Weston participation, why not get together with us for a poolcar ride? Details are available from official representatives of our Society, particularly Mrs. Fraser, our Curator, 894-2872. She and her faithful committee members are personally available in our Josiah Smith Tavern rooms from 2 to 4 each Wednesday afternoon.

AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP MIGHT HELP YOU FURTHER

As soon as the Town's Historical Commission was formed it quickly joined in that classification as an association member too. In addition, also fellow members of our Society, Mmes. F. C. Dumaine and M. Kirkbride Patterson with Messrs. George F. Amadon, Roy L. Dickson, Homer C. Lucas, Edward W. Marshall, Samuel R. Payson, Stephen T. Riley, and Harold G. Travis (Mrs. Barbara Gorely Teller, Mr. Charles P. Thomas, both of Wellesley, and probably others too) have long been faithful individual members of the Bay State Historical League in one or another of each membership category. They thus singly enjoy receiving the quarterly BULLETIN, monthly CALENDAR, and the advantage of getting notices in advance of all meetings, programs, and exhibits of member societies throughout the State; in addition to schedules of various panel discussions, workshops and League services. Whatever your individual interests may be, you will be helped by knowing in advance all details of what's happening, where, and when.

The League's April CALENDAR gave fullest details of the Wellesley meeting whose program is described elsewhere herein. The CALENDAR also gave prominence to The Waltham Museum at 194 Charles Street, Waltham. In this house, James Baker, Waltham Watch Company's first employee worked on the first watch produced there. Among many exhibits are Metz cars, Orient bicycles, a Bleriot monoplane, and an early steam engine. May's CALENDAR, received in mid-April, filled three of its eight pages with details of fifty-four May events throughout the state, including our own Charter Anniversary Dinner on May 8th.

The League deserves your support. Its categories of membership put it within reach of all of us. Our Society's president was, for many years, its vice president, and your editor (followed for three years by Mrs. F. Leslie Ford) was long a member of the Board of Directors and several committees.

To become a member send check to Bay State Historical League, Room 51, The State House, Boston, Mass. 02133. Categories are: Member \$10 - Sustaining \$25 - Patron \$50 - Benefactor \$100 - Life \$150. Don't wait for a formal application blank. Just state with your check, your full name and complete address with phone number. Though as a Weston Historical Society member, you have been and are automatically entitled to attend League meetings, details of which are available by calling us, it is more efficient for you to join your eleven colleagues listed at the beginning of this article in helping this worthy cause.

SPECIAL NOTICE Use the Enclosed Envelope

The enclosed addressed envelope is an application blank to facilitate getting *your* new member. A surprisingly large number of new neighbors and even old friends - we know from countless experiences - will have been wondering why they haven't been "asked" before now! You don't need to make a special solicitation call: just carry the envelope in your purse or wallet. Then you can say, "I have an application blank right here - sign it and I'll be glad to enclose your check, mail, and put a stamp on too." (If they say, "I don't have my checkbook with me so give it to me and I'll mail it myself right away," you might feel like saying, "That's great - here, let *me* supply the stamp." This same envelope has a double use. When mailing the application, you can enclose your own check for another year, special contribution as a memorial or gift membership.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ON JEFFERSON

After the successful performance last year of Mrs. Lee Marsh's high school students who had researched the Weston tax records of the 1770's, (see Weston Historical Society Bulletin, page 3, Vol. XVI No. 4) we looked forward to another guest appearance of the Weston High School team. This time at our meeting on April 14, 1981 we were treated to a panel on a national rather than local topic: *Jefferson - A Man of Vision*. The following students participated:

Douglas Linde
Stacey Kanados
Cathy Jacobs
Janet McGarry
Sue McCahan

Mike Wolfe
David Patraiko
Stephanie MacDonald
Chris Zannetos
John Zabriskie

All of these students are members of Mr. John Williams' advanced placement class in United States history. They had studied Jefferson last fall for a month. Among the books they read were Gore Vidal's *Burr*, Dawn Brodie's *Thomas Jefferson - An Intimate History*, and Barbara Ribaud's *Sally Hemings*, three rather sensational entries on Jefferson, which to a degree colored some presentations. The other sources were from among the more standard scholarly works on our third president.

The presentations were interesting, some not lacking humor, and showed that the students had proper guidance and thorough preparation. They did a good job of summarizing each in five minutes their contributions to the mosaic that was the personality of Jefferson. They brought out Jefferson's forte: a man of vision, a man with a much more widespread line of interests than most men of his or even later times. His intellectual curiosity ranged far and wide, from philosophy and politics to farming and cooking. He did have a roving eye for the ladies, and that is NOT anything new to the historians.

Perhaps the only criticism that could be pointed out is the omission of Jefferson's mistakes: the infamous embargo, and his lack of understanding of Hamilton's foreseeing and farsighted economic policies.

It was a memorable evening for the students and for the audience. It is always a rewarding experience to see the developing minds of our youth. If this group is an indication, our students are certainly in good hands. Mr. Williams should be congratulated.

Dr. Vera Laska

ADAMS AND JEFFERSON AN UP AND DOWN FRIENDSHIP

This was the title of a most revealing and entertaining lecture by Robert J. Taylor, Editor in Chief of the Adams Papers at the Massachusetts Historical Society, at the Annual Charter Anniversary Dinner of the Weston Historical Society on Friday, May 8th, 1981. Mr. Taylor is the former head of the Department of History at Tufts University, author of *Western Massachusetts in the Revolution*, and editor of *Massachusetts: Documents on the Formation of Its Constitution, 1775-1780* — among others. He is a distinguished alumnus of Brown University, where he received his doctorate.

First of all, congratulations are in order to "Steve" Riley, our peerless president, for making such fortunate selections of speakers for this annual affair. Thomas Boylston Adams, Andrew Oliver, and now Robert J. Taylor — all are men of high prestige, erudition and a sense of humor. They all confirm that history can be made even more palatable with a dash of mirth!

John Adams and Thomas Jefferson — two more unlikely candidates for mutual friendship could be hard to find among our founding fathers. (Perhaps the duo of John Adams and Franklin could give them some competition.) In looks, background, temperament — they differed. John Adams was a pessimist, Jefferson the optimist; or was it rather a realist versus the idealist? An Anglophile versus a Francophile, a conservative versus a revolutionary. Adams was vain but tried to keep his ego under cover from the outside world; Jefferson gave in to his weaknesses, be it a shopping spree in London or a desirable woman.

But there were common grounds upon which this historical on and off friendship was based. They both loved the land, they both claimed that they preferred to be farmers before anything else, although neither of them actually tilled the soil. They both had an insatiable curiosity and loved books and travel. Above all, they both honestly worked for the creation of a republic in the New World, a dream that for the European theoreticians had remained a utopia.

Adams and Jefferson met in Philadelphia in 1775, at the second Continental Congress. They served on nine committees together, including the one charged with the drafting of the Declaration of Independence.

Friendship in the real sense blossomed between them when they met in Paris, both diplomats of a new country, trying to establish a place for the United States in the family of nations. Adams was eight years Jefferson's senior, and had additional seniority in the intriguing and often frustrating world of European diplomacy. Jefferson deferred to Adams' experience, and that no doubt pleased Adams. Jefferson found a warm welcome in the Adams ménage; John's wife Abigail, his children Nabby and Johnny (John Quincy) all thought a world of this lanky Virginian with his charming manners and sharp mind.

Jefferson was Franklin's successor as U.S. Minister to France; Adams soon took up the same position at the Court of St. James. The exchange of correspondence between Jefferson and Abigail Adams from this period is worth diamonds (to borrow an expression from Adams' opinion of Jefferson's writing) — but that is still another story.

Jefferson's visit to England brought the two men even closer. They toured the countryside together. They did not admire the same sights; Jefferson was taken by the beauty of the English gardens, Adams more by historical monuments. Yet perhaps this tour more than any other occasion offered them the uninterrupted time for opening their souls to each other.

But political clouds tore the warm friendship asunder. Their divergent views on the Constitution of 1787 forecast the differences between the Federalists and the Republicans that were to tear the nation almost apart in the years to come.

"The affection that can never die," as Adams wrote to Jefferson in 1788, was at least suspended if not totally dead under the burden of national politics at home and abroad. The two men became estranged, and their partisans made the breach even deeper. Jefferson lost out in the presidential elections of 1800 to Adams by three votes. Four years later the two rivals clashed again, this time with Jefferson the winner. Adams was so bitter that he did not attend his erstwhile friend's inaugural.

The two men did not correspond for years. How shortchanged Clio must feel over this lacuna, over all those interesting letters never exchanged between two of our greatest founding fathers! After much prodding from mutual friends, the two aging men renewed their correspondence in 1812, and continued it until the end of their lives.

That end came for both on the same day - July 4th, 1826. As if fate wished to award indiscriminately to both old friends the same distinction of leaving their creation on the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence!

Mr. Taylor coming from the crucible of the Adams papers, where he must be permeated with Adamsiana, made some people in the audience wonder in what light Jefferson would emerge in comparison with this Adams of all Adamses. This reporter is happy to relate that both Jefferson and Adams received fair, understanding and critical treatment. Mr. Taylor, conforming to his above-par reputation, once again proved himself to be the true-blue scholar and gentleman, facing a challenge, meeting it head-on, and always keeping meticulously on the side of the truth.

Dr. Vera Laska

A PERSONAL NOTE

Much more goes into making up the BULLETIN than meets the eye, and in these past many years I have been most grateful for the help rendered by faithful experts, well known to you, too many to mention here. Now, however, that "old age has seared our locks" and only temporarily, please Lord, slowed me down, I must express special thanks to Dr. Laska, who despite incredible pressures, agreed for this issue to "cover" and review the last two programs which featured two of her favorites.

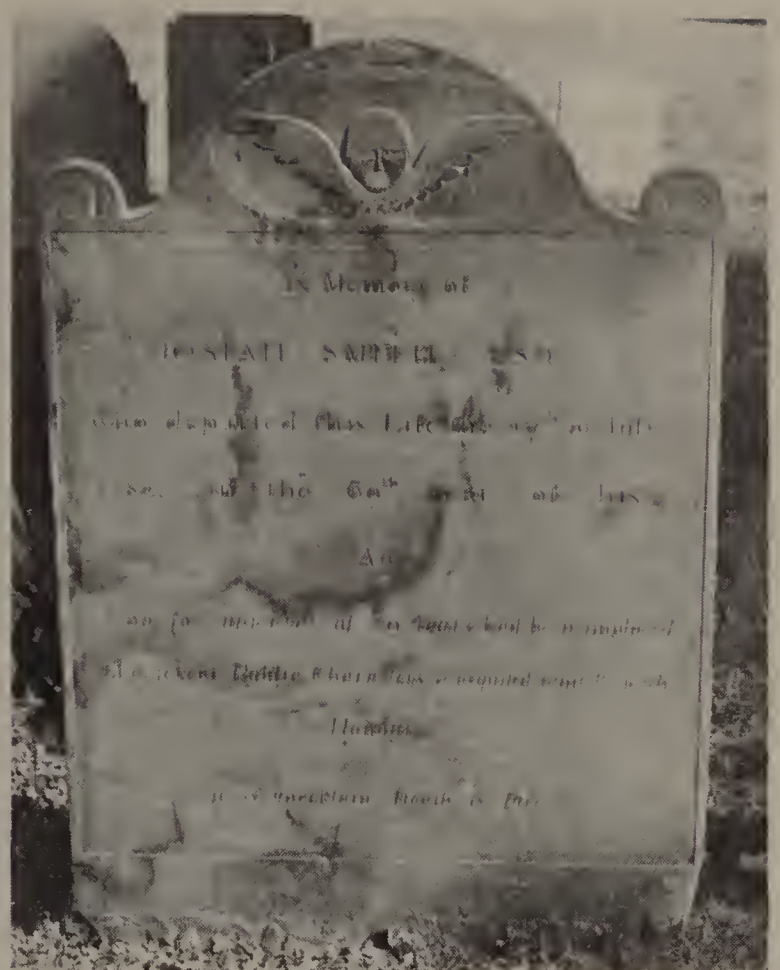
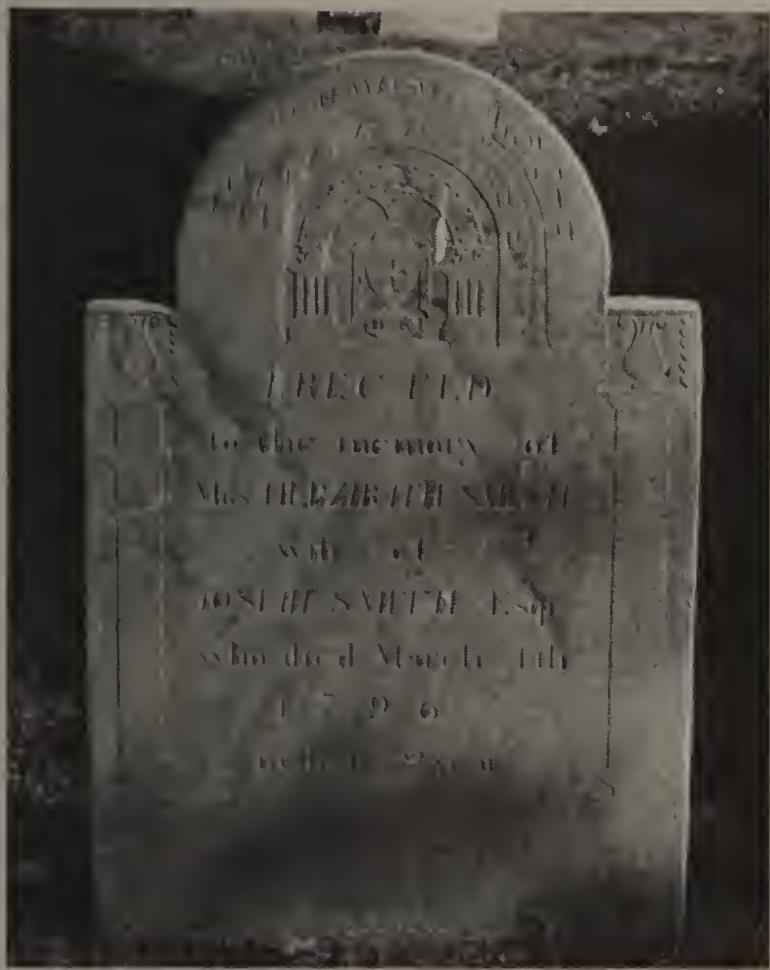
H.G.T.



LAYOUT OF WESTON'S ORIGINAL GOLF CLUB

Our last issue's article on "Early Days of Weston Golf Club" promised the above map "as soon as ready" to show the location of the nine holes. Accordingly, "The Weston Green Map", copyright 1977 by The Weston Forest and Trail Association, Inc., has been adapted by Messrs. Philip Coburn and Brenton Dickson.

Bear in mind that the above illustration contains roads and houses which, with possibly one or two exceptions, did not exist at the time our "Teeing Off" picture was taken in 1894. Even by 1917 when the Club moved to its present location on Meadowbrook Road, this same statement still would be true in most cases of any houses *and* roads marked within the golf course area between extreme No. 1 and No. 6 tees.



JOSIAH SMITH AND HEPZIBAH SMITH

199 years ago, Josiah Smith's body was buried immediately to the right of the entrance to The Farmers' Burying Ground. A dozen years later, that of his wife Hephzibah (nee Stearns), came to rest at his side. On Pages 6 and 7 of the January 1980 BULLETIN, Vol. XVI, No. 2, we noted that Josiah's younger brother, James, had married Lucy Stearns, and that they represented the 2nd of 9 successive generations of Smiths to have lived into the present in Weston. While research on the whole Smith family is endless and will be forthcoming piece by piece, we'd like to quote Mr. Lucas' letter to us during the summer of 1979 as follows: "In Lexington I learned that Josiah's older sister, Mary, married Henry Smith of Lexington on December 7, 1738. Whether Mary found a wife for Josiah and also for James we do not know but we do know that Josiah married Hephzibah Stearns on Mary's sixth wedding anniversary, December 7, 1744, and James married Lucy Stearns on February 28, 1748." In a later note Mr. Lucas wrote again: . . . Josiah and James married sisters from Lexington. Josiah married Hephzibah Stearns and James married Lucy Stearns. Their parents were Benjamin and Hephzibah Stearns of Lexington."

THE LEAGUE'S SPRING MEETING AT WELLESLEY

The spring meeting of Bay State Historical League - Wellesley Historical Society as host - occurred Saturday, April 25th. Our fellow member, Charles P. Thomas, President of the Wellesley Historical Society, welcomed guests from all over the Commonwealth. The morning program consisted of a panel discussion: *Schools and Historical Organizations - Some Programs that Work*, moderated by Paul H. Tedesco, President of the Bay State Historical League. Panelists included Kathryn Hatch ("Architectural Heritage Education Program"); Henry Bolter and Paula Evans ("The Allen House Project"); Chester B. Keritt ("Weymouth Historical Commission's Project"); and Christine Harris ("Watertown's Living History Project").

Following the buffet luncheon, Edward Kingsbury presented a sound slide centennial program entitled "Wellesley Yesterday", after which enjoyable visits were also enjoyed as follows: Art Exhibit at Jewett Arts Centre, Wellesley College — theme: *The Railroad in the American Landscape*; Exhibits for the Centennial at the Dadmun-McNamara House; and (on the spacious Babson College campus) "Babson '81 Olympics", International Food and Crafts, the Roger Babson Museum, the

Newton Room, and the *Map and Globe*. A 4 o'clock reception and social hour at Babson College ended a pleasant and full day for visitors and hosts alike.

Among those members attending this thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding meeting were our second president, Edward W. Marshall, and Mrs. Marshall - also our current president, Stephen T. Riley, and Mrs. Riley - all charter members who have steadily done so much to enhance the Weston Historical Society through its eighteen years. Beginning with 1964's Volume 1, No. 1 their names appear with significant consistency in various capacities. Prominent in organizations of national stature, they and these dedicated wives have given much of themselves to our Society and other notable Weston organizations. Mr. Riley was the distinguished speaker at our first fall meeting in 1964, and as vice president of Bay State Historical League five years later when we hosted with Wayland its annual spring meeting on April 19th, he made the principal address - subject "Samuel Savage, Westonian Prominent in the American Revolution". Mr. Marshall has been active without interruption on our Board of Directors since 1970, including his 1971-1976 presidency.

IN MEMORIAM

John Pierce Larkin, retired steel executive and resident of Weston for the past 30 years, died on April 30th. He and Mrs. Larkin were both loyal members of our Society. We extend to her and their family our most sincere sympathy.



WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

President: Stephen T. Riley
Vice President: Mrs. Reginald B. Elwell
Secretary: John S. Hodges
Treasurer: Camillo F. Petri
Auditor: Victor C. Harnish
Editor of THE BULLETIN: Harold G. Travis

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Elmer O. Cappers, '82; Brenton H. Dickson '81; Roy L. Dickson '81; Mrs. Dudley B. Dumaine '81; Mrs. Reginald B. Elwell '83; Donald G. Kennedy '83; Edward W. Marshall '82; George J. Pink '82; Stephen T. Riley '83; and Harold G. Travis '81.

SCHEDULE OF DUES

Annual: \$5 per person; \$8 per family including children under 21

Life: \$250 per person

Gift memberships are suggested

(Currently the age span of our life members is from 4 to "over 80"!)

Contributions and Bequests to the Endowment and Memorial Fund are welcomed. All checks should be mailed to:

Weston Historical Society, Inc.
Box 343
Weston, Massachusetts 02193

Additional copies of THE BULLETIN may be obtained by phoning Mrs. Raymond Paynter, Jr., 899-3533, or Harold G. Travis, Editor, 899-4515; also by calling at the Josiah Smith Tavern any Wednesday afternoon during "Open House". If you have a spare copy of BULLETINS, vintage 1963-1970, our Curator, Mrs. J. E. Fraser, 894-2872 would be glad to have them.