

# Westford Wanderings

By Gordon B. Seavey

**LAST MINUTE GIFTS** Small gifts which could be of lasting value are ready and waiting for those who are looking for last minute Christmas gifts. These are left overs from the Bicentennial and Westford's 250th anniversary celebration.

**The History of Westford** by Rev. Edwin R. Hodgman published in 1882 should be on the book shelves of every local Westfordite. The book has been reprinted by Murray Printing Co. for the Bicentennial and is a most faithful reproduction from the original. It is a real book bargain at the library from the Minutemen or the Historical Society members.

And to bring you up to date after reading this detailed history the excellent pictorial history produced by June Kennedy entitled "**Westford Recollections**" fills the gap between the date of Hodgman's history and now. In its second printing, this book has an appeal to anyone liking America. It may be purchased from the author (autographed no charge) or Booktique.

The Minutemen have a limited number of "pewter" mugs of Colonial design, also Bicentennial plates. When these are gone there'll be no more.

A new post card (the first in many years) produced for the Bicentennial and the other for the town's 250th long since have been sold out. They are now collectors' items. Proceeds from the sale of these titles

amounted to \$3,200 which goes towards restoring the two-century old original Academy building as a town museum.

A new memento has been brought out to raise badly needed funds for the proposed museum. A glass flask of Colonial design. It has the imprint of the old Academy building on one side, the map of the Commonwealth (showing Westford's location) on the reverse. The number cast was 500 before the mold was broken. It may be procured at the library or at the Roudenhush Center.

## STONE WALLS APLENTY

Westford is purported to be the largest town in area in Middlesex county which stretches from Cambridge to Ashby. Therefore in all probability it may contain more miles of stone walls than any other town or city in the country. Many of these walls have disappeared but there are plenty left. Just drive along a country road, they line both sides of the street. Now that the leaves are gone in the hardwood forest take a look for these walls. They run in every direction.

The stone walls are a monument and a tribute to the arduous efforts of the early farmers.

They were built for three reasons. 1. They make good boundary markers for fields and property lines. 2. With an assist of top wooden rails (long gone) they fenced in pastured animals. 3. When farmers cleared a field of stumps and rocks, they had a place to dump stones and small boulders. continued on page 8