

# Barnstable town history wins award

Barnstable's town history "The Seven Villages of Barnstable" which was published during the Bicentennial year, has just been awarded a Certificate of Commendation by the American Association of State and Local History, with headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee. Since 1945 this association has given annual awards in recognition of outstanding local history work in the United States and Canada. The coveted award, which was announced at the 15th Annual Regional Meeting of New England Historical Societies held in Manchester, New Hampshire, November 5th, was the only award given to an entire town in the United States or Canada.

Professor Albert E. VanDusen of the University of Connecticut, the Regional Awards Chairman, and Dr. Patricia O'Malley, Executive Director of the Bay State Historical League, commended the committee, the authors, contributors, and the townspeople for "an outstanding achievement, well conceived, and superbly executed." The honor comes to the town on the first anniversary of the publication of the book, and a celebration is being planned, details to be announced shortly.

The Publications Committee for the project included Chairman Marion Vuillemier, West Hyannisport, author; Co-Chairman O. Herbert McKenney of Hyannis, Director of the Library Learning Resource Center at the Cape Cod Community College; Joan Bentinck-Smith of Cotuit, retired professor of history at Mount Holyoke College; Priscilla Crane of Barnstable, former owner of Crane Duplication Company; and Ex-Officio Member Louis Cataldo of Hyannis, Chairman of the Barnstable Bicentennial Commission. Forty-two residents contributed to the 556-page volume which details the history of the town from its origins in 1639 to 1976. The history was funded by the town and sales are supervised by the Barnstable Historical Commission with proceeds returned to the town. Remaining copies may be secured at local book stores or ordered at the Town Clerk's Office.