



# 98 High Street

Newsletter of the Historical Society of Old Newbury

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## The Clouston Homecoming

Newburyport began celebrating Yankee Homecoming in 1958 together with communities throughout all six New England states. The idea originated with artist Jack Frost of Orleans, Massachusetts. Knowing that thousands of Yankees had migrated west during the 1800s, he believed that their descendants, then numbering in the millions, should return to their old homesteads. In particular, it was a plan to bring to New England more than a million additional tourists to enjoy the historical, scenic, cultural and industrial advantages of the six-state area.

In this spirit, members of the MacPherson family made a special visit to Newburyport to pay homage to their ancestor Thomas Clouston (1743-1795) who is buried in Old Hill Cemetery. On their way to Maine for a family reunion, they were interested in visiting his grave as well as viewing an exceptional artwork by Clouston in the HSON collection.

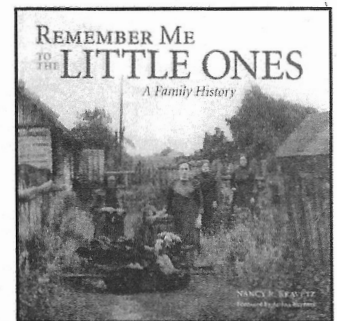
His drawing "In Memory of Jacob Knap; Aged 20 who was Lost in the Hero Commanded by J. Tracy" commemorates the loss of the privateer *Hero* in 1777. Clouston himself had been a crewman on the privateer brig *Dalton* in December 1776 when it was captured by the British ship of war *Reasonable*. He returned to Newburyport in 1777 and became an instructor at the maritime academy. After his death, his pupils erected a grave stone in memory of their "valuable instructor."



Left: Kenneth MacPherson located the gravesite of his ancestor Thomas Clouston in Old Hill Cemetery with the assistance of maps in the HSON collection.

## \* "Remember Me . . ."

An enchanting new publication is available for sale at the HSON book shop. Written by Newburyport native Nancy (Wein) Kravetz, "Remember Me to the Little Ones: A Family History" tells the story of the Wein family's journey from eastern Europe to America at the turn of the twentieth century and follows them throughout successive generations. Tales of life in Newburyport figure prominently in the narrative and are sure to resonate with readers who lived here during the same period. The lavishly illustrated volume features many photographs of Newburyport, many of which are from the Historical Society's collection.



This book is bound to please those interested in the immigrant experience as well as life in Newburyport during the twentieth century. Be sure to include this on your holiday gift list this year for someone special — perhaps yourself!

Paperback, 190 pages, \$25.00

The Origins of  
Yankee Homecoming —  
Now 53 Years Strong





*REMEMBER ME TO THE LITTLE ONES* BY NANCY KRAVETZ  
FEATURED AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF OLD NEWBURY  
NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS, FALL 2010