

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work could not have been completed without the valuable assistance of many individuals. I owe a debt of gratitude to John J. DeMareo, chairman of the Avon Board of Selectmen, whose idea it was to commission a scholarly history of the town. His steady help and encouragement are gratefully acknowledged. So too is the assistance of Verne Cannon, who not only read the manuscript and offered good advice, but also agreed to be interviewed about his memories of Avon. Also extremely helpful in this regard were Madolyn and Everett Graham. Virginia Buckley, Helen Kuehn, Pearl Keamey, Erma Ballum, Roger Tracy and Bill Clark.

Thanks also go to Margaret Babbin, for making available records of the Avon Baptist Church, and to Flora Zablocki and her son Joseph, who generously loaned the Goeres family material. Barbara Beck-Ramsay offered good professional advice, and Dr. Richard Weiss of the Blanchard Trust was very helpful. My good friend Dr. Jordan Fiore, professor of history at Bridgewater State College, was helpful throughout the work. Also to be thanked are Carl Lundgren and the members of his Avon Centennial Committee.

No one successfully writes local history without the help of town clerks, and I was extremely fortunate in this regard. Lorraine E. Meninno, Avon Town Clerk, spared no effort to pleasantly answer every request, and she has my gratitude. So too does Jeanne M. Fleming, Stoughton Town Clerk.

I also owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Louis Tucker of the Massachusetts Historical Society, as well as to the staffs of the Massachusetts State Archives and the State Library. Both the Avon Public Library and the Stoughton Public Library offered excellent service, indeed I never encountered an unfriendly face in either of these fine institutions. Closer to home, Lisa Compton and June Strojny, of the Old Colony

Historical Society, helped follow-up leads and find material. Elizabeth Bernier, also on the staff at the Old Colony, typed the manuscript.

There are two friends whose assistance proved invaluable. Howard Hansen, of the Stoughton Historical Society, took both a personal and professional interest in this work. Little did he know that he would become its unofficial editor, and this experience will probably cause him to rethink his friendly approach toward strangers. His advice was always good and I relied on his judgment a great deal. Likewise, Rev. Arvid Anderson of the Blanchard House Museum not only opened his records to me, but also more important he gave liberally of his time and good counsel. His encyclopedic knowledge of Avon and its history was a critical factor in the writing of this volume.

Finally, like all writers, I owe a large debt of gratitude to my family. My wife Carol, and our sons Bill and Andrew, offered patience, encouragement and good humor throughout this project.