

THE HISTORY OF THE ATTLEBORO TOWN SEAL

The seal of the City of Attleboro was designed by George E. Nerney.

The official seal of the City of Attleboro was adopted December 16, 1941, "The vote for the adoption was unanimous. The seal is to be in the possession of the City Clerk."

The history of the city seal is interesting and I believe it is important for all citizens of Attleboro to know the meaning behind our City Flag. "The seal was designed to combine authentic historical material with the traditional rules of heraldry."

"The symbols above the lion represent the mark of Wamsutta, the chief of sachem of the Pokanoket tribe." After many pow wows and peace pipe smoking, chief Wamsutta finally signed the North Purchase agreement for Captain Thomas Willett on April 10, 1666. Not being able to write, Wamsutta signed his mark - 2 inverted V's and an X. These are greek letters which are the abbreviation for "Alexander." It appears Wamsutta was familiar with the conquests of 'Alexander the Great' and admired him.

The tongueless lion is the most interesting. In the 1600's many of the people who settled in this area were from Attleborough, England, after which our city is named.

One story says that a legendary member of a prominent family by the name of Albini, who lived in Attleborough, England, was said to have encountered and fought a lion during his ramblings through France. After a fierce struggle and killing the lion, he tore out his tongue and presented it to the Queen of France as a souvenir. The family being extremely proud, promptly adopted the tongueless lion as part of their coat of arms.

