



*George F. Amadon at his typewriter in 1982.  
(Photo courtesy of Weston Historical Society).*

## **In Memoriam: George Frazee Amadon (1916-2008)**

Longtime Weston Historical Society board member George Frazee Amadon passed away on November 2 at the age of 92. George's love of history was evident throughout his life. He was particularly interested in military history and lectured extensively on the subject. His book *Rise of the Ironclads* tells the story of the nation's first ironclad warship, the *U.S.S. Monitor*, and her famous naval battle in 1862 against the Confederate ship *Virginia*.

George was born in Framingham and attended Lawrence Academy and the College of William and Mary. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps shortly after Pearl Harbor and became a command gunner on an 11-man B-29 bomber. He received a Distinguished Flying Cross, four Air Medals, three Battle Stars, and the Purple Heart for 30 missions flown over Japan. After the war George moved to Weston, where he lived for 63 years and contributed much to the life of the town.

At George's memorial service, Beth Nolan, Town Clerk and a member of the WHS board, noted in her tribute: "...in the annals of Weston, there are few citizens who have given so much to the civic fabric of a community and for so long into their lives as did George." Nolan enumerated George's many volunteer activities as follows:

"He was an active veteran in the Town of Weston, he was our Grave Officer, he served as a member the Town's Memorial Day committee, he organized the annual Memorial Parade and activities, and he spoke at the Memorial Day observances;

“As a veteran, he lectured frequently at the Weston Library and in other communities. His lectures were not just about World War II; they were about citizenship. He as a very popular and frequent guest of the Weston Public Schools as a member of the Council on Aging Inter-generational Program, giving first- person accounts of the Greatest Generation. In fact, George was scheduled to speak to fourth graders at the Field School this week.

“At Merriam Village, he was repeatedly elected to the Board of Directors. The flagpole at Merriam Village was George’s initiative, and so too was the annual Fourth of July picnic, which he organized.

“George truly believed it was his civic duty to preserve our history for the future of our society. Not only was he on the Board of Directors of the Weston Historical Society, he was curator of the society’s museum for a several years. George was also an active member of the Crescent Street Historic District Commission and the Josiah Smith Tavern Committee. But for George, his civic duty was not only the preservation of the past but also the advancement of the future.

George was an active substitute teacher in Weston and other area schools until after his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. Not only was he a Salvation Army bell ringer every year; but he would also wheel and deal with his old employer, Sears and Roebuck, to help those in his community. I know of no election in the past 20 years taking place without George’s steady and enthusiastic presence as a poll worker.

Always an active member of the Council on Aging; George was never about aging—he was about being in the arena.”

Several speakers at George’s memorial service noted how appropriate it was that the memorial service was held on Veterans Day.

The Weston Historical Society has established a fund to be used for the purchase of a special item in George’s memory. Donations may be sent to P.O. Box 343, Weston, MA 02493.