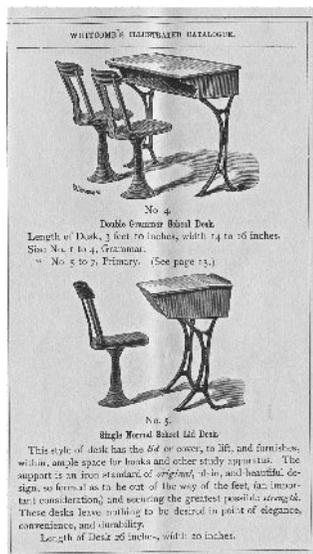


# Weston Historical Society Plans Major Tercentennial Exhibition

The Weston Historical Society will help kick off Weston's 300th Anniversary with a major exhibition *The Farmers' Precinct: Three Centuries of Weston History* at the Weston Public Library from January 5 to 29. Planning has been underway since the fall of 2011, when a committee of six volunteers began examining the society's collection, developing themes, and choosing objects. The hard-working planners, Pam Fox, Mary Gregory, Mary Marder, Tania Deary, Rebekah Gardiner, and Robin Reisman, unpacked boxes and emptied closets and in the process discovered many unusual objects.

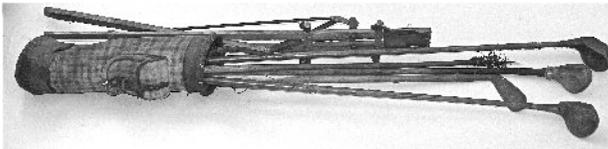
For example, they discovered a set of golf clubs probably made in Scotland and used by Weston resident William H. Coburn in the 1890s at one of the first golf courses in the state, the Weston Golf Club, located on Church Street in the vicinity of the red Coburn barn. A dilapidated double school desk and two chairs were carefully examined, revealing a stamped marking for W. G. Shattuck on Fulton Street in Boston. William Shattuck's school furniture was made in Weston at a small mill on Crescent Street operated by his brother Samuel.



*Above: 300th Exhibition Committee members Mary Marder, Pam Fox, and Robin Reisman hold a chair made in Weston at the school furniture factory on Crescent Street sometime between 1854 and about 1875, the date of Wm. Shattuck's death. At right is a page from a catalogue showing this style of chair.*



*Left: Mary Gregory and Rebekah Gardiner take apart a frame in preparation for sending the object, an 1805 penmanship example, to a paper conservator. Below: William H. Coburn's 1890s golf bag and clubs. Below: Tania Deary (forefront) and objects conservator Nina Vinogradskya, carefully clean a blacksmith sign.*



Themes were chosen to illustrate Weston's evolution from an agricultural community to a modern suburb: Agriculture, Industry, Commerce, Education, Estates, Summer Recreation, Weston in Wartime, and

Post-World War II Suburban Growth. While Weston is not generally thought of as having much industry, a wide variety of products "made in Weston" will be displayed: pots from Hews Pottery, thread from the Coolidge, Sibley, & Treat mill, a "butter and cheese drill" from a Crescent Street mill (come to the exhibit to see what it was used for), school furniture, and wooden organ pipes made at the Hook & Hastings Co. organ factory.

At the May 2012 Town Meeting, residents voted Community Preservation Act funds up to \$9500 for conservation of objects to be included in the exhibition. A paper conservator is working on an 1805 penmanship exercise done at "Miss Tufts School" in Weston, and painting conservators have cleaned important oil paintings. An objects conservator, Nina Vinogradskaya, has been working regularly with committee volunteers to clean objects using a special hepa vacuum cleaner and moistened Q-tips.



The historical society has hired exhibit designer Will Twombly of Spokeshave

Design and graphic designer Mary Orr to assist in producing a professional display. Fundraising is currently underway, and the names of sponsors will be acknowledged in the exhibition. The Weston Public Library Trustees, Friends of Weston Public Library, and Weston300 Host Committee are the first three of what the society hopes will be many sponsors helping to pay the expenses for design, graphics, and materials. Contributions can be mailed to the society at P.O. Box 343, Weston MA 02493. Sponsors will be acknowledged in the following categories: Underwriter (\$1000 and up), Patron (\$500 to \$999), Friend (\$250 to \$499) and Supporter (\$100 to \$249). The society is grateful for the help of members, Weston residents, and local businesses including Ogilvies and Florentine Frames. After its library debut, a traveling version of the exhibition will go to Weston schools and other public venues.



*Right: The 300th exhibition will include photographs, postcards (like this one of the Mass Pike), documents, memorabilia, and books, as well as objects.*

### **OFFICERS, WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2011-12**

President: Pamela W. Fox  
 Vice President: Mary Gregory  
 Co-Secretaries: Tania Deary, Beth Nolan  
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Membership dues: Individual \$25, Family \$50, Contributing \$50, Supporting \$100+, Life membership \$500. Tax deductible contributions and bequests to the Endowment Fund are welcome. Make checks payable to Weston Historical Society and mail to Box 343, Weston MA 02493. Additional copies of the *Bulletin* may be obtained for \$5 each. Statements and/or opinions articles are not necessarily those of the editor or the Weston Historical Society. ISSN 1083-9712.



*Painting of a World War I soldier by artist Gertrude Fiske given to the Weston Historical Society by Artemis Willis.*

### ***With Grateful Thanks***

The Weston Historical Society has received a very special gift from Weston resident Dr. Artemis Willis: an oil painting of a World War I soldier painted by noted Weston artist Gertrude Fiske. The face of the unidentified soldier is shown in

shadow, and the painting has a quiet, contemplative air. Gertrude Horsford Fiske (1878 - 1961), daughter of a prominent and well-to-do Weston family, studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, where she began training about 1904 under such well-known Boston artists as Edmund Tarbell and Frank Benson. Her early work was strongly influenced by the Boston academic tradition, which embraced light, color, and attention to detail. Fiske went beyond these conventions and was praised by contemporary critics for her "largeness and serenity of vision." By her late 30's, she was considered the leading woman painter of Boston; and, in more recent years, she has been described as "a major figure of the Boston School." Fiske won many prestigious awards and is represented in major museums nationwide. She was a founding member of many art associations including the one in Ogunquit, where she had a second home.

The painting may have been inspired by Fiske's younger brother Gardiner, who served in World War I, had the same tall, lean frame, and was a cigarette and occasional pipe smoker. Willis's late husband, Harold "Bus" Willis Jr., was a nephew of the artist.

The painting will be featured in the historical society's upcoming exhibition *The Farmers' Precinct: Three Centuries of Weston History* at the Weston Public Library (January 5 to 29, 2013).



*The Weston Historical Society*

*cordially invites you to attend the  
Members Opening*

*of the exhibition*

*The Farmers' Precinct:  
Three Centuries of Weston History*

*Weston Public Library  
Sunday, January 6  
2:30 to 4:30 pm*

*Refreshments*

*Exhibition will run from January 5 to 29, 2013*