

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

JANUARY 1965, Vol. 1, No. 2

Charter Anniversary Dinner, February 10, 1965

On Wednesday, February 10th at 6:45 p.m. the Weston Historical Society will hold its first Charter Anniversary Dinner. Like the Charter Dinner a year ago the festive event will be held in the cafeteria of the Weston High School on Wellesley Street. Mrs. E. Paul Floyd, the Hospitality chairman, and her committee are working hard at plans for a historical decorative theme. Each table will have a hostess, however no seats will be reserved beforehand at any of the tables, and all members are urged to mingle freely. A tear-off-form is provided for reservations.

The featured speaker on the occasion of this charter anniversary dinner will be Mr. Roland Wells Robbins of Lincoln, Massachusetts, consultant on colonial and early American landmarks and their restoration. Known as a "pick and shovel" historian, Mr. Robbins specializes in locating the "lost" sites of early American settlements, pioneer industries and historic landmarks. In the course of his activities Mr. Robbins has unearthed the site of John and Priscilla Alden's first home in Duxbury, Massachusetts; Thomas Jefferson's birthplace; Thoreau's cabin site at Walden Pond; the 1646 Saugus Ironworks; a 17th - 18th century Dutch settlement at Tarrytown, New York; the 1644 John Winthrop Jr. Ironworks; Colonial Military Installations at Crown Point on Lake Champlain, New York, and many other historic sites. His discoveries are the basis for many nationally known restorations.

Mr. Robbins has frequently appeared on the television screen and on lecture platforms, presenting his colorful and entertaining illustrated lectures.

Research Meeting January 17th

GENEALOGICAL SEMINARS ARE PLANNED

Erlund Field, chairman of our Research Committee, announces a meeting in the Jones House at 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon on January 17th, for all members interested in taking part in various studies involving the history of the Harrington (Blaney) House, the Hooks & Hastings Organ Factory at Kendal Green, the Jericho area, the ivory tusks allegedly buried on the Paine Estate, the furniture and screen factories on Crescent Street, the Weston Water Works on Warren Avenue, the Sibley Mills at Stoney Brook, etc. Volunteers are needed who are anxious and willing to unearth the facts regarding these relics of yesteryear.

Another activity planned by this committee is a series of seminars on genealogical techniques. Instruction as to how to trace old families, structures, roads, etc. will be given by experts. If you are interested in being trained in this field, send your name to our secretary, Mrs. C. Vinal Cooke, 277 North Avenue, Weston 02193 so that you may be notified as to the time and place of such meetings.

A New Genealogical Book

The Society is proud of the latest achievement of one of its most active charter members, Vanetta Hosford (Mrs. McKinley H.) Warren. After 4 years of labor Mrs. Warren has just completed her latest genealogical work, *Adriel Warren of Berwick, Maine: His Forbears and Descendants*, a neatly printed and attractive volume of more than 200 pages. From the landing of James Warren at Kittery, Maine in 1652 to the "newest babies", Mrs. Warren's book is a fascinating story of westward migrations embracing ox teams along the Mohawk, canal boats, wagon trains, the Gold Rush, and Oklahoma Runs. Collaterally, as is true of so many Weston families, "ties that bind" are noted with old Watertown of which Weston was a part through 1712.

In "A Personal Note" at the end of this human and historical book, the author aptly writes: "I feel that I have been to a family reunion. A genealogy is just that, — a friendly get-together on somebody's farm under the apple trees where we eat each other's best cooking and get acquainted . . . Oh, we are all young and hearty without aches and pains at my family reunion". How accurately she has anticipated the reaction of her readers!!

The book is privately printed by the Pinkham Press for members of the Warren family.

Preservation of Landmarks

Periodically, in a town like ours, the question comes up what to do about some ancient structure which no longer suits its original purpose and which would require extensive and costly alterations to make it suitable for some new purpose. On such occasions our sense of the historical should urge us to make every possible effort to prevent the demolition of the ancient structure by disseminating the prospects of this happening among people who might be willing and able to purchase and restore, or move to another site that which is about to make way for the new. When we speak of ancient structures we mean construction which is more than 100 years old. Anyone who hears of the prospects, that such a vintage structure is about to be sold or torn down, should notify our Secretary Mrs. C. Vinal Cooke (TW 3-0950).

A way may be found through such vigilance to save and preserve a building of increasing historical importance.

Once Upon a Time

To those who annually receive Real Estate Tax Notices from the Town of Weston, it may be of interest that in the Archives of the Weston Historical Society there is a framed Tax Notice, issued by the Honorable Harrison Gray, Esq., Treasurer and Receiver-General of His Majesty's said Province, informing the Selectmen or Assessors of the Town or District of WESTON IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX as follows:

"In observance of an Act of the Great and General Court of Assembly of the said Province, begun and held at Concord, on Wednesday the Thirtieth Day of May, 1764, and in the Fourth Year of the Reign of his Majesty King George the Third, entitled, An Act for apportioning and assessing the Sum of Fifty Thousand Pounds, etc.

These are in His Majesty's Name to Will and Require you forthwith to assess the Sum of

TWO HUNDRED AND ONE POUNDS

set upon your Town, District, Parish, or Place, in Manner following, that is to say, To assess all rateable Polls above the Age of Sixteen Years, within your respective Town, District, Parish or Place, or next adjoining thereto, belonging to no other Town or Place, at Six Shillings and eight Pence per Poll; and proportionably in assessing the additional sum paid out of the Treasury to the Representatives: And the Incomes of all Estates, both Real and Personal, lying within the Limits of your Town, District, Parish, or Place, or next unto the same, not paying elsewhere, in whose Hands, Tenure, Occupation or Possession the same is or shall be found, and also the Incomes or Profits which any Person or Persons (except as in and by said Act is excepted) do or shall receive from any Trade, Faculty, Business or Employment whatsoever; and all Profits which shall or may arise by Money or Commissions of Profit in their Improvement according to their Understanding or Cunning, at Twelve Pence per Pound; and to abate or multiply the same, if need be, so as to make up the Sum set and ordered hereby for each Town, District, Parish, or Place, to pay: And in making the said Assessment you are to estimate Houses and Lands at six Years yearly Rent, whereat the same may be reasonably set or let for in the Place where they lye, Saving all Agreements between Landlord and Tenant, and where no Agreement is, the Landlord to reimburse one half of the Tax set upon such Houses and Lands; and to estimate Negro, Indian and Molatto Servants proportionably, as other Personal Estate, according to your sound Judgment and Discretion; as also to estimate every Ox of four Years old and upwards at Forty Shillings, every Cow or Heifer of three Years old and upwards at Thirty Shillings, and every Horse and Mare of three Years old and upwards at Forty Shillings, and every Swine of one Year old and upwards at eight Shillings, Goats and Sheep of one Year old and upwards at Three Shillings each. The several Creatures above-mentioned to be taxed to their respective Owners or Occupants. And you are likewise required to make a fair List of said Assessment, setting forth in District Columns against each particular Person's Name, how much he or she is assessed at for Polls, and how much for Houses and Lands, and how much for Personal Estate and Income by Trade or Faculty; and if as Guardians or for any Estate in his or her Improvement in Trust, to be distinctly expressed. And the List or Lists so perfected and signed by you, or the major Part of you, to commit to the Collector, Constable or Constables of your Town, District, Parish or Place; and to return a Certificate of the Name or Names of such Collector, Constable or Constables, with the Sum-Total to each of them committed, unto myself some. Time before the last Day of November next. Hereof you may not fail as you will answer your Neglect at the Peril of the Law.

Given under my Hand and Seal at Boston, the fifth Day of July 1764, in the Fourth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Third, of Great-Britain, etc. King."

It appears that in common with many other advances the passage of 200 years has resulted in a simplification of the local tax notices in our present-day Town of Weston.

Annual Meeting

The first Annual Meeting of the Society was held November 10, 1964. Brenton H. Dickson, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, offered Mrs. Homer N. Sweet, Harry Patterson and Erlund Field as nominees for three-year terms on the Board of Directors. The members present unanimously accepted the Nominating Committee's slate.

Following are the names of the Officers, Directors and Committee-Chairmen for the year 1965:

<i>President</i>	Harold G. Travis
<i>Vice-President</i>	Harold B. Willis Jr.
<i>Second Vice-President</i>	Charles P. Gorely Jr.
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	John G. Brooks
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Mrs. C. Vinal Cooke
<i>Treasurer</i>	Harry B. Jones

DIRECTORS

J. Kenneth Bennett	Henry W. Patterson
John G. Brooks	Mrs. Homer N. Sweet
Brenton H. Dickson III	Harold G. Travis
Erlund Field	Wilmot Whitney
Grant M. Palmer Jr.	Harold B. Willis Jr.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Archivist: Miss Rebecca McKenna	Information: Mrs. Eric Reissner
Curator: Mrs. James E. Fraser	Liaison: Mrs. F. Leslie Ford
Finance: Leonard H. Dowse	Membership: Wilmot Whitney
Historian: Brenton H. Dickson III	Program: Mrs. Boardman Bump
Hospitality: Mrs. E. Paul Floyd	Research: Erlund Field
House: Harold B. Willis Jr.	

Open House

Every Wednesday is Open House at the Jones House, known as the Josiah Smith Tavern. Visitors are received from 2 to 4 P.M. by hostesses, who are glad to supply information about the objects of hostorical interest displayed in this building, once a Revolutionary War Period tavern. These Open House afternoons have been held weekly since May 30, 1964. Ladies who wish to serve as hostesses are asked to telephone Mrs. James E. Fraser, TW 4-2872, or Mrs. E. Stanley Hobbs, Jr., 899-5766, who will welcome assistance in this gracious attempt to make Weston's past, and therefore its present, more meaningful.

Annual Dues: \$2.00 per person
Gift Memberships Are Suggested
Life Memberships (\$200) are also available

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

1965

February 10:

Charter Anniversary Dinner
Speaker: Mr. Roland W. Robbins

April 19:

Patriots' Day Pageant on the Town Green

Every Wednesday from 2 to 4 P.M.:

Open House at the Jones House (Josiah Smith Tavern)

Mr. Harold G. Travis
President
899-4515

Mrs. Eric Reissner
Information Chairman
TW 3-7039

Mrs. William G. Burt, Jr.
Bulletin Editor
TW 3-0804