

# THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## BULLETIN

JUNE, 1965, VOL. I, No. 4.

### Gifts

The climbing rosebush which the Town of Weston in England sent to the Town of Weston, Massachusetts, U.S.A., for our 250th Anniversary in 1963 has been released from quarantine and the Park Commission has planted it in the Soldier's Park adjoining the Monument at the junction of the Boston Post Road and Concord Road. It will climb over the wall beside the monument. We owe a vote of thanks to Dr. Donald Wyman, under whose guidance the Arnold Arboretum capably nourished and nurtured it into vigorous health.

Thus does Weston, Massachusetts, keep faith with its sister town in England by perpetuating this living symbol of civic friendship.

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The Society wishes to thank Mrs. Edward P. Ripley, our oldest charter member, for the gift of a saber inherited by her late husband, long a servant of the Town, from his grandfather. Mrs. Ripley has also given to us a reed from the famous Hook & Hastings organ factory that stood for so many years at the corner of Viles Street and North Avenue.

### Program Planning

The plans for next years' programs for the Weston Historical Society are already taking shape. The program Committee has indicated that meetings will follow the same general pattern used during the past two years—the annual meeting in November, the Anniversary Dinner in February and a meeting or event in April.

Tentative plans call for the November program to center on talent within our own organization. Mr. Harry Patterson and Mrs. Albert Wheeler are collaborating on a dramatic portrayal of the increasing spirit of rebellion in pre-revolutionary days; for February, final arrangements are in process for a speaker who promises to be outstanding; and for April, a panel discussion is being arranged with members of the staff of the Weston public schools directed toward informing our membership of the role and teaching of history as it is presented to the children of today. We hope, too, to learn where local history fits into the curriculum and just how members of our Society might aid the efforts of the teaching staff.

## **“Cracker Barrel Conversation”**

“The scene is the general store in Weston, with a stove or fireplace and a cracker barrel. The time is early March, 1770. A group of farmers, sitting comfortably, is discussing crops, the winter’s activities, and town affairs, especially the condition of the poorhouse, toward which everyone, under England’s oppression, seems to be surely heading. Women come in now and then to buy things and to comment caustically on the laziness of menfolk.

“Suddenly a traveler from Boston enters, bringing the first news of the Boston Massacre, and the conversation immediately erupts into a vehement, table-pounding political discussion. A couple of Tories are mixed in for extra excitement.”

So begins the description of a one-act costume play that will be presented by the Society at its Fall Meeting. At this point in the script appears this note: “We have not yet figured out how the scene will end.”

How do you think the scene will end??

Watch for a detailed announcement of this dramatic production in the fall issue of this Bulletin.

## **Tax Exemption**

The Weston Historical Society is now officially tax exempt as an educational and charitable organization under the Federal income tax laws. Contributions are officially deductible by donors within the limits provided in the Internal Revenue Code with respect to such organizations. A ruling to this effect, dated April 22, 1965, has been received by the Society.

## **Authority On Old Guns Needed!**

We found out during the pageant that there is lots to be learned about the proper preservation of old guns and muskets. The Society has many of them on hand and is hopeful that its membership includes someone who is an expert on the cleaning and preserving of such historical pieces. Anyone willing to offer his services in this capacity should contact our fellow member, Dr. R. J. MacMillan at 319 Longwood Avenue, Brookline—telephone BE 2-3911.

## **“A Short Clergyman”**

The following item, culled from *The Waltham Sentinel* of September 19, 1862, has no direct connection with Weston history, but it illustrates what our forebears here were offered by the local press in the way of humor to lighten the spirit in the second year of the Civil War:

“A few miles below Poughkeepsie, N. Y., there now lives, and has lived for several years past, a worthy clergyman—a man, however, very

short in stature. Upon a certain Sunday this clergyman was invited by the pastor of a church in that village to fill the pulpit for the day. Now it happened that the pulpit was a very high one, and accordingly nearly hid the poor little clergyman from view. However, the congregation, out of respect, managed to keep their countenances, and with over-pious faces seemed religiously anxious for the text.

"They were not obliged to wait long, for a nose and two eyes suddenly appeared over the top of the pulpit, and a tremulous voice proclaimed the text: 'Be of good cheer; it is I—be not afraid.'

"Afternoon came, and the little man, standing on a footstool, had a fair view of his audience. The text was announced: 'A little while ye shall see me, and again a little while and ye shall not see me.' In the course of his sermon, he repeated his text with great earnestness and, stepping back, lost his elevated footing and disappeared."

## To Every Member of the Weston Historical Society

A Research Committee has been formed to ascertain the whereabouts of treasured possessions in the hands of our members. We are particularly interested in items prior to 1900.

At this time, we are soliciting neither gifts to our Society nor loans for exhibition purposes. Unfortunately we do not have the facilities to protect them now as they should be protected.

However, we want to know where they are and what they are.

Anything of interest to you might well be of interest to us and others. Some suggested items are:

1. Old costumes, uniforms, military insignia.
2. Deeds, wills, bills of sale, account books, service records.
3. Photographs, posters, price lists, advertisements.
4. Genealogies, diaries.
5. Furniture of historical interest and household furnishings.
6. Tools used in carpentry, farming, leatherwork, etc.
7. Silverware, cutlery, old coins.
8. Old books, periodicals, clippings.

We propose to catalogue this information. You may be in doubt regarding the authenticity, value, or period of some item. We may be able to help you to establish its place in history.

Will you return the enclosed questionnaire before you forget? Kindly mail it to the Secretary of our Research Committee, Mrs. Richard W. Albrecht, 24 Sears Road, Weston, or telephone any of these Committee members:

Miss Constance Burrage	894-0512
Mrs. Lyman S. Hayes	894-1472
Mrs. Richard W. Albrecht	899-1320
Mr. Erlund Field, Chairman of Research	237-9899



The Directors and Officers of the Weston Historical Society wish all members a happy and rewarding summer 1965. Our next Bulletin will be issued in the fall.

Annual Dues: \$2.00 per person

Gift Memberships are suggested

Life Memberships (\$200) are also available

*President*

Mr. Harold G. Travis  
899-4515

*Bulletin Editor*

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893-7039

*Information Committee*

Mrs. Eric Reissner  
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