

# THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## BULLETIN

OCTOBER, 1965, VOL. II, No. 1.

### **"Around The Cracker Barrel"**

The annual meeting of the Weston Historical Society, Incorporated is scheduled for Tuesday evening, November 9th at the Town House, followed by an original and sparkling one act play "Around the Cracker Barrel" by Henry W. Patterson and H. Patterson Wheeler. We expect that this is but the forerunner of many more plays by members as a result of fascinating material constantly being unearthed by Research Committee workers.

The stage for the play is the local country store and trading post in March, 1770. A rider has just arrived from Boston with startling news, the reaction to which is instantaneous and heated. Come and see what happened!

The committee is busy recruiting the cast and, through the Bulletin, wants to find 14 men of all ages to try out for the various parts, none of which are difficult. In addition to the "tried and true" actors, we know we will discover new talent among our 600 active members. Also, the scenery needs an old stove and any other items one would find in the country store of Colonial times. Most of all it needs costumes appropriate to the year 1770. If you have talent or such objects to volunteer, please phone Mrs. Wheeler today at 893-2132.

### **Annual Meeting: November 9 – 8 P.M.**

Business to be transacted includes the election of three new directors, a summary of the year's activities, and a forecast of plans for the coming year. Present officers are: Mr. Harold G. Travis, President; Mr. Harold B. Willis, Jr., Vice-President; Mr. Charles P. Gorely, Jr., Second Vice President; Mrs. C. Vinal Cooke, Secretary, and Mr. Harry B. Jones, Treasurer.

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

Committee chairmen for the current season are: Mrs James E. Fraser, Curator; Miss Rebecca McKenna, Archivist; Mr. Brenton H. Dickson III, Historian; Mr. Erlund Field, Research; Mr. Harold B. Willis, Jr., House; Mrs. Boardman Bump, Program; Mrs. Julio Correa, Hospitality; Mrs. H. Eugene Jones, Information; Mrs. F. Leslie Ford, Liaison; Mr. Wilmot Whitney, Membership, and Mr. Leonard Dowse, Finance.

## **Coming Events**

Mrs. Boardman Bump, chairman of the Program Committee, announces that at our traditional Charter Anniversary Dinner at the High School Cafeteria and Auditorium on Friday evening, January 28th, Mr. Robert E. Pike, author and lecturer, will speak on early New England logging. Our fellow member, Mr. Stephen T. Riley has recommended Mr. Pike most highly.

Subsequently on Tuesday evening, April 12th, a panel discussion on how history is being taught in the Weston Public Schools will occur. Mr. Ernest L. Hunter, Principal of the Brooks School, is cooperating with other faculty members and local historians.

## **"Tour of Jericho"**

As soon as the leaves are off the trees and bushes, the Directors are planning a tour of Jericho, Weston's lost settlement, to be headed by Messrs. Brenton H. Dickson, Charles P. Gorely, Jr., and Harold B. Willis, Jr. If you are interested, please notify one of the above. The Research Committee has a careful study on its agenda, and it is possible that as a result of this tour, some archaeological probings such as suggested last year by our Lincoln neighbor, Mr. Roland Wells Robbins, "The Pick and Shovel Historian," may be undertaken.

## **"Always on Wednesday"**

More members should get in the habit of dropping in at the Society's rooms on Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Jones House (The Josiah Smith Tavern). Mrs. Fraser and her committee have tabulated a lot of valuable information in respect to the priceless relics that are on display. Come and bring your friends.

## **A Priceless Keepsake**

While there's still time, only a few copies of "Once Upon a Pung" are obtainable at the Village Book Stall, 494 Boston Post Road. It would make a most acceptable birthday or Christmas gift to a relative, friend, or new neighbor. In it are word pictures of our quaint old town and its people in the gay nineties and early hundreds. It will be a treasure for all time, and no plans were made for a second printing. Make sure that you have enough copies of the limited edition that was a feature of the town's 250th Anniversary Celebration in 1963.

## **A Reminder**

We are proud to say that we are one of the largest historical societies in the country. Even so, we emphasize that new members are always welcome. Dues are kept at a nominal figure. Wilmot Whitney (894-3007) is Membership Chairman. If your neighbor has not joined, suggest that he do so. We are members of the Bay State Historical League and under the direction of Mrs. F. Leslie Ford, Chairman of our Liaison Committee, visits are arranged to other societies. Last year various members attended meetings and exhibits in such places as Andover, Boston, Sandwich, and Worcester. This interchange of information, technique, and ideas is most stimulating and helpful.

## **“A Contented Life”**

The Waltham Historical Society has given us a complete set of the “Waltham Sentinel” published during the mid-nineteenth century. One of the amusing items found by our Research Committee in the paper dated August 10, 1860 is the following:

(At Thirty):

Five hundred dollars I have saved,  
A rather moderate store;  
No matter — I shall be content  
When I’ve a little more.

(At Forty):

Well! I can count ten thousand now,  
That’s better than before:  
And I may well be satisfied  
When I’ve a little more.

(At Fifty):

Some fifty thousand; pretty well!  
But I have earned it sore;  
However, I shall not complain  
When I’ve a little more.

(At Sixty):

One hundred thousand! sick and old —  
Ah! life is half a bore!  
Yet, I can be content to live  
When I’ve a little more.

(At Seventy):

He dies, — and to his greedy heirs,  
He leaves, a countless store;  
His wealth has purchased him a tomb  
and very little more.

—(Home Journal).

## **Liberty Tree’s 200th Anniversary**

Two hundred years ago, near the corner of what is now Washington and Essex Streets in Boston, — ten years before the shots heard ’round the world at Lexington and Concord, — the first organized and violent resistance by a group of colonists against the mother country exploded. Whether “rough heroes” or “uncouth, murderous bullies,” the Sons of Liberty abruptly made mutterings a thunder.

A tree was involved. It was one of the elms planted in 1646, 16 years after the Massachusetts Bay Colony was established, the earliest record of shade tree planting in the New World. It thrived in what some 120 years

later was the front yard of a Boston tavern where patriots gathered. It became the place where they posted notices, hence a rallying point, and they adopted the tree as their symbol.

On August 14, 1765, effigies of Oliver and Bute were hung, the former on hand in Boston, the latter in England, both charged with enforcement of the Stamp Act. A riot followed. The tree and its ground became sacred, and it served that purpose for the next ten years. In August 1775 as a last act of violence in the evacuation, the British cut down the Liberty Tree. Some of the inhabitants were even pleased that one of the workers was killed by a falling branch, while others were apparently appeased by the fact that it yielded fourteen cords of firewood.

This year, two centuries later, many people and organizations have planted Liberty Trees. Time still remains for it to be done in Weston. Our fellow member, Dr. Donald Wyman of the Arnold Arboretum, advises that trees given generous watering and soaking can be successfully planted until early November. In view of the temptation to follow tradition, he suggests that you avoid elms advertised as "disease-resistant" and that selection be made from many other species that are shapely and long-lived. Records refer to oak, pine, and sycamore as "Liberty Trees," elsewhere in the colonies.

If you desire to learn more about the origin and significance of the "Liberty Tree," you will find much information in the Boston Globe of September 6, 1965, in Horticulture's April 1965 issue, in "Boston Ways" by George F. Weston, Jr., and in an essay by Dr. Arthur M. Schlesinger in Columbia's "The American Revolution Album."

Robert J. MacMillan

## Another Plea for Information

In our previous issue the Research Committee asked for information concerning treasured possessions whose vintage antedates the 1900s. Responses were not as large as anticipated, and before making an inventory record, one further appeal for cooperation is hereby made.

Please advise Mrs. Richard W. Albrecht (899-1320), 24 Sears Road, Weston what items you have in these categories: costumes, uniforms, insignia, deeds, wills, records, photographs, posters, price lists, advertisements, diaries, genealogies, furniture, household furnishings, tools, silverware, cutlery, old coins, old books, periodicals, or clippings.

When special occasions arise or inquiries are received, the Society would like to have as complete a record as possible as to what is available for display, references, or observation. At this time with cramped facilities, we are not yet soliciting gifts or loans of such relics, but would like to make a list of all the historical lore in the town. Weston's history must be preserved, and our young people indoctrinated in its glory.

This prompts us to urge all our members to be "self-starters" in ferretting out Weston's history. If you own an old house or have an abandoned cellar hole or a "lost road" write out all the facts pertaining thereto and send it to us. Helpful suggestions are available to you anytime by calling the Research Chairman, Erlund Field, at 237-9899.

Annual Dues: \$2.00 per person

Gift Memberships are suggested

Life Memberships (\$200) are also available

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society and sent to: Mr. H. B. Jones — 448 Concord Road, Weston.

*President*

Mr. Harold G. Travis  
899-4515

*Bulletin and  
Information Committee*

Mrs. H. Eugene Jones, Chairman  
899-0177

Mr. Henry W. Patterson  
Mrs. Raymond A. Paynter, Jr.  
Mrs. Eric Reissner



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MR. & MRS. HAROLD G. TRAVIS  
SADDLEHILL RD.  
WESTON, MASS.

October, 1965

Bulletin

The Weston Historical Society



## WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

### Calendar Highlights

(Please save the dates)

1965 - 1966

- November 9: Annual Meeting at 8 P.M., Town House  
Dramatic presentation: "Around the Cracker Barrel"
- January 28: Charter Anniversary Dinner  
Speaker: Mr. Robert E. Pike
- April 12: Panel Discussion: Teaching History in the Weston Schools.  
Every Wednesday from 2 to 4 P.M.  
Open House at the Jones House (Josiah Smith Tavern)