

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

MARCH 1968, VOL. IV, No. 3



The Law Office

Pictured above is an unusual picture of the fireplace in the Law Office taken the morning after early January's heavy snowfall. In olden times when a constant log fire was the only means of heating a house in cold weather, the snow melted as it fell. Thus when the fireplaces were opened up in the process of our restoration, and before the chimney could be capped or otherwise protected, the snow "beat us to it" as the picture so dramatically reveals!

The upper portion of the photograph confirms the happy result of hours of scraping and sandpapering by our volunteers, and the patching of the plaster. Join us some weekend or evening on arrangement with Mr. F. Leslie Ford, 899-8171.

The Directors are planning to have an open house in mid-May to give all members and friends an opportunity to see what will have been accomplished and what is still necessary before the opening of our new headquarters to visitors and the public.

Next Meeting Tuesday, March 5, 1968 — 8 p.m.

First Parish Hall

"LOWER NEWTON STREET — An Architectural Perspective"

Illustrated Lecture by Mrs. William B. Floyd

On March 5th Mrs. William B. Floyd, Architectural Consultant, will address the Weston Historical Society. She is a resident of Weston and a member of our Society, a graduate of Wellesley College and holds a Master's Degree from the University of New Mexico in the field of the History of Art in Architecture.

Stressing in particular the importance of historical and architectural inventory in America today, Mrs. Floyd has selected the Hubbard Estate in Weston as illustrative material.* She will discuss the buildings which now exist in this crucial area of the town in the light of their historic meaning as a group and the architectural streetscape which they create. The buildings will also be discussed in relation to the growth of Boston and the evolution of American architectural styles.

In addition, Mrs. Floyd will explain national legislation for historic preservation, the National Register and the role of the Massachusetts Historic Commission and the local historic commissions in the planning and development of towns today.

This meeting is open to all members and their guests.

**The specific area of "The Hubbard Estate" covers Orchard Avenue (including Ridgeway Road and Park Road as they abut it), Nash Lane, Young Road, Cutters Corner and parts of South Avenue.*

Charter Anniversary Dinner — April 23, 1968

Weston High School Cafeteria — 6:30

Col. Edward Pierce Hamilton to speak on

"Old Mills Along the Charles River"

The annual Charter Anniversary Dinner, social highlight of the year, will again be held at the Senior High School Cafeteria, attractively decorated for the occasion. However, "There'll be some changes made" in that it will be a sit-down dinner, served by pretty waitresses, and entertainment will be an added feature during the dinner hour. Our avid researchers have discovered that the membership includes people who have a talent for singing as well as one for seeking and preserving historical facts that have made Weston the town it is today.

Following dinner, Col. Edward Hamilton of Milton, Massachusetts will address the Society. Recommended by Mr. Stephen Riley, a fellow member and Director of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Col. Hamilton is the Director of Fort Ticonderoga. Author of many books on pre-Revolutionary history including "French and Indian Wars," "Fort Ticonderoga" and "Adventure in the Wilderness" — the American Journals of Louis de Bougainville, 1756-1760, he is in demand as lecturer and consultant on early mills and the military history of our country. For his talk to us, he agreed to engage in additional research, giving special emphasis to the old mills along the Charles River.

As record attendance is expected, be sure to fill out and mail the reservation slip on the back page *TODAY*. This is your only notice and the Committee needs to know how many places to guarantee.

The Importance of a Weston Historical Commission

At its January meeting, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to request the Selectmen to insert an article in the Warrant of the annual Town Meeting March 25th to establish a Weston Historical Commission. All members of the Weston Historical Society are urged to attend this meeting and support the motion that will be presented to establish an Historical Commission as authorized under Section 8D, Chapter 697 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

This was enacted into law in 1963 and both Wayland and Sudbury promptly established Historical Commissions for their towns. After their enactment of seven man Historical Commissions and initiating an inventory of historic sites and buildings, these towns then each established an Historical District Commission because their surveys showed the presence of entire areas that they wished to protect under the above and Public Law 89665 whereby such districts were registered. Before contemplating whether or not an Historical District Commission is actually needed in Weston, the Board feels that the Town should first have its Historical Commission determine the location of all the buildings and sites that should be protected. Then, if these fall into districts, a Historical District Commission could be established. If what we need can be accomplished in one single step, so much the better.

With widenings of Routes 30, 20 and 117 under constant consideration and with "The Stadium Scare" still a matter of serious concern, it behooves the Town to guard against takings by eminent domain that would destroy any of our historic landmarks. State and Federal highway engineers and local planning boards would benefit from knowing ahead of time what areas should be avoided in their planings, thereby saving time and expense in the formulation of their proposals.

Once a building or site is certified or registered under State and Federal Law as above described, only an act of the Legislature would permit the taking by eminent domain, — and the proposed Weston Historical Commission is the only body that can thus protect us. We have historic buildings and sites on and near all 3 main highways running to and from Wayland and Sudbury, so the urgency of similar safeguards by Weston is obvious.

Last "Bulletin" Until May!

Two important meetings in March and one in April are of particular significance for members of the Weston Historical Society. This present "Bulletin" is our only means of alerting you. Please read carefully the details of these meetings and put the dates down in your calendar. Newspaper publicity will precede each event but our budget does not permit special mailings — so — "this is it" — don't be one of those who say "I missed the last meeting and am so disappointed because I heard it was great — why didn't I know?"

In Memoriam

The death of Mrs. Helen E. (Warren) Cutting on February 11th is a real loss to the Society. She was born in Weston 83 years ago, educated in the Weston schools where she taught for 7 years following her graduation from Radcliffe College. She was the widow of George W. Cutting 3rd who had been treasurer and town collector for 21 years and she succeeded him in that position for 22 years, retiring in 1964. Having lived all of her life in Weston, she has contributed much to the annals of our Society which she actively, constantly and joyously served from its inception.

The Weston Historical Map

From far and near accolades are being received for this rare souvenir of old Weston. The January Bay State Historical League Bulletin devotes 3 paragraphs in its praise. State Librarian Fox calls it "a fine job." The Curator of the Andover Historical Society has recommended to her directors that they attempt to emulate it. Copies at 50¢ each are still available at the Newton-Waltham Bank and Trust Co., Village Book Stall, Kien Chung Tea House and the College Store at Regis College.

They may be mailed "as is" to any point in the United States for regular 6¢ letter mail postage. Why not buy a supply and mail them to your friends in far off places?

Acknowledgment

We are indebted to Mrs. Howard M. Forbes for the gift of colored photographs, taken by her last August 15th. These record the giant, limb-by-limb dismantling of the historic Burgoyne Elm on the Post Road, and will be preserved in the archives of the Society.



WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

Calendar Highlights

1968

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| Tuesday | Illustrated Lecture by Mrs. William B. Floyd |
| March 5 | "Lower Newton Street — An Architectural Perspective" |
| | 8:00 p.m. — First Parish Hall |
| Monday | Town Meeting |
| March 25 | 8:00 p.m. — Town Hall |
| Tuesday | 4th Annual Charter Anniversary Dinner |
| April 23 | 6:30 p.m. — Senior High School Cafeteria |
| | Speaker: Col. Edward P. Hamilton |
| | "Old Mills Along the Charles River" |

Charter Anniversary Dinner – April 23, 1968

Weston High School Cafeteria — 6:30 p.m.

Reservations \$3.50 per person, not later than April 13th.

Please enclose checks payable to The Weston Historical Society, Inc.

MR. HARRY B. JONES, Treasurer
448 Concord Road, Weston, Mass. 02193

Please reserve.....places at \$3.50 each for —

NAME

ADDRESS

Cut off and mail

Directory

For service and offers of assistance, in the fields indicated, call the following:

Mr. Leslie Ford (Law Office Restoration)	899-8171
Mrs. Reginald Elwell (Membership)	893-7361
Mrs. James Fraser (Archivist)	894-2872
Mrs. Robert McLeod (Curator)	893-0406
Mr. Erlund Field (Research)	237-9899
Mrs. Richard Albrecht (Program)	899-1320
Mrs. Reginald Wells (Hospitality)	899-1616
Mrs. H. Eugene Jones (Bulletin)	899-0177
Mrs. C. Vinal Cooke, Secretary	893-0950
Mr. Harry B. Jones, Treasurer	899-0977
Mr. Harold G. Travis, President	899-4515

MRS. RAYMOND A. PAYNTER, JR.
74 SUNSET RD.
WESTON, MASS.

MARCH 1968

Bulletin

The Weston Historical Society

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Annual Dues: \$2.00 per person

Gift Memberships are suggested

Life Memberships (\$200) are also available

Contributions to the Society are always welcome

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc.,
and sent to Mr. Harry B. Jones, 448 Concord Road, Weston 02193.

President

Mr. Harold G. Travis

899-4515

Extra copies of the "Bulletin" are available for 15c. Please contact Mrs.
H. Eugene Jones, Bulletin Editor, 899-0177.