

A. T. FRASER

# THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## BULLETIN

MAY 1968, VOL. IV, No. 4



### RESTORATION VOLUNTEERS

Standing: l. to r. Harold G. Travis, Mrs. Ruth Murkland, Mr. J. E. Fraser, Mrs. F. William Aseltine, Jr. and Mr. Alan Campbell. 2nd Row: George J. Pink, Richard Albrecht, Mrs. Harold G. Travis, F. Leslie Ford. 1st Row: Roy L. Dickson, Mrs. Robert F. McLeod, Mrs. F. Leslie Ford, Miss Joan Simpson.

Other "scrapers, scrubbers and strippers, plasterers and plumbers" not shown in the picture taken during this "coffee break" April 27th are: Mrs. Richard Albrecht, C. G. Ball, Edward Briggs, Murray Burke, George Downs, Dudley B. Dumaine, Edward Edmunds, Erlund Field, Mrs. Edward H. Hall, Mrs. Leander Rafuse and George K. Saurwein.

## OPEN HOUSE

Saturday May 25th, 2-5 P.M.

ISAAC FISKE LAW OFFICE

626 Boston Post Road

JOSIAH SMITH TAVERN

358 Boston Post Road

Refreshments will be served

## **Isaac Fiske Law Office**

All members and prospective members are cordially invited to drop in at 626 Boston Post Road, Saturday afternoon, May 25th, to see what miracles have been wrought through the hard and faithful work of our volunteers who, beginning last fall, and through the winter, gave unselfishly and enthusiastically of their time, talents and energy. With the advent of spring, the pace has quickened and whereas the tedious early stages seemed endless and showed few tangible results, now suddenly the glorious transition has come into full view. From dingy gloom to bright cheerfulness, each room has taken on new life.

We want you to see how much has been accomplished, and how much more is needed before we can rest our oars and open our new headquarters to members and visitors.

## **Josiah Smith Tavern**

The exhibit at the ballroom of the Jones House (Josiah Smith Tavern) will consist of new acquisitions by the Society, costumes and other gifts, quilts, pewter and china.

"Thank you" to Mrs. J. Wesley Jones for many nice additions to our costume collection. Mrs. Helen Wells has donated water color pictures of Stony Brook and Sibley Mills as well as skeins of yarn from the latter which were displayed at the recent Charter Anniversary Dinner.

Members who would like to display quilts should contact Barbara Hall (Mrs. Edward H.) 899-0887. Mrs. Roy Dickson and Mrs. Gordon Littlehale will be in charge of the costume display. Please call Mrs. Robert McLeod 893-0406 or Mrs. James Fraser 894-2872 if you have china or pewter you would like to display.

## **Committee Plans Townwide Membership Expansion**

At the May 8th meeting of Directors and Officers, the recommendations of our dynamic, new Membership Committee as presented by Mrs. Reginald B. Elwell, Chairman, were enthusiastically approved. A letter is being mailed to all Weston residents who have not yet joined in the significant work of our Society. The Committee consists of Mrs. Elwell as Chairman, and Mesdames Dudley B. Dumaine, Julia Kellogg Ellis, Richard B. Hodges, Edward E. Phillips, Frederic C. Talbot and Andrew F. Willis.

Aiming to include the youth of our town in its membership, the Society, effective September 1, 1968 will offer annual family memberships at \$5.00 each, under which minor children are entitled to all privileges except voting. A family is considered to be the husband, wife and their children under 21. The Society's year runs from September 1st to August 31st. Single memberships of \$3.00 and life memberships of \$200 will also be available. All members are urged to cooperate with our committee in our desire to have all Weston residents join in supporting our work and thus preserve, protect and promote our rich historical heritage.

## Charter Anniversary Dinner a Great Success

On April 23rd, members of the Society filled the High School Cafeteria to enjoy a sumptuous dinner and sparkling program. Donations at each table reflected the artistry of our Hospitality Committee headed by Mrs. Reginald D. Wells. Daffodils from the garden of the Isaac Fiske Law Office were most appropriate as were the antique candlesticks supplied through the initiative of our Curator, Mrs. Robert F. McLeod.

Mrs. Wells' Committee comprised Mesdames Charles G. Ball, Frederick D. Bonner, Parker Harrison, Greene Fitzhugh, Robert F. McLeod, John H. Stewart and Joseph Stubbs. Hostesses were Miss Helen Johnson and Mesdames Philip F. Coburn, J. Kenneth Bennett, Edward H. Dickson, E. Paul Floyd, James E. Fraser, Charles P. Gorely, Leopold Gruener, Richard B. Lombard, Edward W. Marshall, Thomas H. McFarlin, Alexander Mackintosh, John W. Scott, Allan T. Wheeler, Wilmot Whitney and Alfred R. Wypler, Jr.

During dinner courses Dr. William H. Oldach as "The Pungster Minstrel" led the group in singing old songs to the accompaniment of his guitar.

Before turning the meeting over to Mrs. Richard Albrecht, Program Chairman, the President, Harold G. Travis, asked Mrs. James E. Fraser, Archivist, to escort Miss Catherine Imbriglio of Regis College to receive the following citation: — "Be it known that: in admiration and appreciation of a thesis prepared and presented to us by Miss Catherine Imbriglio of Regis College on "The Archives of The Weston Historical Society" the directors, by unanimous vote, present to her this Award of Merit."

For the balance of the evening the audience was privileged to enjoy a most interesting and nostalgic illustrated lecture by Col. Edward P. Hamilton on "Old Mills Along the Charles." Mr. Charles P. Gorely, Jr. in accordance with his faithful custom, made a tape recording of the evening's events and the President announced plans for a series of scheduled "showings" of these tapes for the benefit of those who may have had to miss any of these affairs and of those who would like to hear the "replay."

## Town and Gown Activity

Recent issues of *The Regis College Herald* feature a series of extracts from the theses prepared last fall by Dr. Vera Laska's history class. In a surprise ceremony at the College in April, the Dean of the College presented to President Travis the original bound manuscript for which its compiler, Miss Catherine Imbriglio, was later awarded our Society's first citation.

In our public schools several hundred copies of the Weston Historical Society's historical map have been sold and are already being used in the 2nd grade of the Brook School, the 5th grade of the Woodland School and in the Senior High School. Our fellow member, Mr. William Hollman, head of Social Studies for the Weston school system, is steadily finding many ways of bringing Weston history alive to Weston students of all grades and ages. Individual copies at 50c. each, suitable for mailing, are available at the Newton-Waltham Bank and Trust Co., the Village Book Stall, the Kien Chung Tea House and the Regis College Store.

## Final Restoration of Law Office Hastens Furnishing Need

As emphasized at the Charter Anniversary Dinner, April 23rd, we want every member of the Society to share in the work of restoring this ancient landmark. In response to the President's plea "Give us two hours of *your* time," many recruits have come forward. If unable to give energy or skill, you can help in other ways through contributions. Were it not for the volunteers and the donations of paint, tools and supplies, the project to date would have cost us more than \$3000, but thanks to the above, our expenses up to now have been nominal. Certain professional work is inevitable in the final stages and will cost money. For example the floors require expert refinishing, the chimney must be capped and the cupboard doors need old hardware with "H" and "L" hinges and matching knobs.

After the work of restoring the Law Office is completed, the task of tastefully and appropriately furnishing it commences and Mrs. Ford 899-8171 and Mrs. Travis 899-4515 have already accumulated a number of attractive items. The portrait of the Burgoyne Elm and Law Office, done so expertly by Henry W. Longfellow of Concord Road, will hang in the waiting room, and the portrait of Isaac Fiske, to be donated by his descendants with the stand-up desk he used, will adorn the wall of his inner office. Mrs. Grace Warren of Webster Road has loaned the Society a beautifully framed old map of Greater Boston, and, as previously announced, Mrs. David Hudnut of Glen Road has presented us with the two mid-nineteenth century carved oak chairs used by Sir and Lady Arthur Conan Doyle, and Mrs. Frank Owen of the Boston Post Road has given us an antique Deacon's Bench and Table.

Latest gifts comprise an old pine taper-leg table, a brass trivet with copper kettle, a glass whale oil lamp, a firkin, and a brass cowbell through the generosity of Mr. Raymond B. Bidwell of Orchard Avenue.

## Burgoyne Elm Project

The first annual award of the Society will be made early next month to the student of Weston Public School Industrial Departments, who, in the opinion of the judges, has fashioned the most worthwhile souvenir from the wood of the historic elm that until last August 15th had stood for over 300 years at 626 Boston Post Road. These souvenirs will be initially displayed at the Weston Arts and Crafts exhibit in the Jones House Barn later this month and will be judged at that time.

At a special ceremony, citations and awards will be presented at the Isaac Fiske Law Office which was built underneath branches of the famous tree at the close of the 18th Century. The Committee in charge of the competition comprises Howard M. Forbes, Chairman, Mrs. Daniel Viles and Mr. Galen Green.

## Welcome to New Members

The Society is happy to welcome the following into its membership: Mr. Arthur C. Havlin, 211 Starboard Lane, Osterville; Mr. and Mrs. Allan Chapman, 15 Myles Standish Road, Weston and Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Hosterman, 325 Merriam Street, Weston.

## 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



**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 25c. Please contact Mrs.

H. Eugene Jones, Bulletin Editor, 899-0177.

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