

# THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## BULLETIN

OCTOBER 1968, VOL. V, No. 1

The Weston Historical Society announces the program schedule for 1968 - 1969. Mark the dates on your calendar and plan to join us for these stimulating events:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20 — 4:00 P.M.

SMITH TAVERN BALLROOM

"The Blacksmith and His Art," a lecture by Mr. Hallock S. Marsh, and an exhibition of early tools, followed by a Candlelight reception.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21-26 — 2:00-4:00 P.M.

SMITH TAVERN BARN

"Grandpa's Tools," an exhibit for non-members, dedicated to Mr. Joseph Sherman, blacksmith of Watertown Farmes, and his grandson, the Honorable Roger Sherman, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution of the United States. The collection is made available to the Society through the courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Hallock S. Marsh.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22 — 8:30 P.M.

TOWN HALL

SPECIAL BENEFIT: "Around the Cracker Barrel," an original three-act play about Weston life during the years 1770-1781.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 — 8:00 P.M.

COUNTRY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

"New England in Song and Story," a singing history program on the New England "character," by Mr. Arthur E. Schrader, the Music Associate and Ballad Singer at Old Sturbridge Village.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15 — 6:30 P.M.

WESTON HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Fifth Charter Anniversary Dinner.

*We are pleased to welcome the sixty-seven new members who have joined the Society since our last BULLETIN:*

Mr. and Mrs. Howard R. Anderson.....	40	Arrowhead Road
Mr. and Mrs. Henri B. Atkins.....	90	Kings Grant Road
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Crawford.....	55	Newton Street
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Davis Jr. ....	168	Conant Road
Mr. and Mrs. E. G. DeChristopher.....	48	Ledgewood Road
Mrs. David D. Donaldson.....	128	Rolling Lane
Mrs. Russell L. Dorrance.....	311	Boston Post Road
Mrs. Newell O. Ellis.....	177	Boston Post Road
Dr. and Mrs. David J. Farrell.....	25	Church Street
Mr. and Mrs. William Ferguson.....	37	Deer Path Lane
Mrs. Peter E. Flint.....	260	Merriam Street
Mr. and Mrs. John Forte.....	47	School Street
Allison M. Furness.....	16	Jones Road
Mr. and Mrs. J. Donald Geiger.....	119	Radcliffe Road
Miss Florence P. Gould.....	260	Merriam Street
Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Hiatt.....	45	Bogle Street
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph P. Hussey.....	175	Lexington Street
Mr. and Mrs. Sumner M. Howard.....	29	Radcliffe Road
Mr. and Mrs. L. Everett Johnson.....	44	Byron Road
Rena Johnson.....	320	Conant Road
Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Jones.....	185	Merriam Street
Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Kazanjian.....	19	Wood Ridge Road
Mr. and Mrs. Richard I. Keeler.....	30	Windsor Way
Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Keeley.....	16	Woodchester Drive
Mr. and Mrs. Julius Kendall.....	57	Colchester Road
Mr. G. Ronald Kesinger.....	240	Ridgeway Road
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Marsden.....	30	Kendall Common
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh W. McLeod.....	56	Arrowhead Road
Miss Beatrice P. Miller.....	46	North Avenue
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Pechilis.....	101	Ash Street
Dr. Henry P. Pendergrass.....	195	Meadowbrook Road
Mrs. Hugh M. Pyle.....	60	Bradford Road
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur F. Seiler.....	14	Laurel Road
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Silverman.....	31	Holly Circle
Mrs. Joseph Stubbs.....	210	Newton Street
Mr. and Mrs. Everett M. Studley.....	22	Bullard Road
Mr. and Mrs. Edw. P. VerPlanck.....	40	Indian Hill Road
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin F. Weidig.....	15	Lexington Street
Dr. and Mrs. Lionelle D. Wells.....	73	Rolling Lane
Mrs. Otto E. Wolff.....	2030	Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington



## October 20th features

### "THE BLACKSMITH AND HIS ART"

Members will be treated to a lecture, "The Blacksmith and His Art," by Mr. Hallock Marsh of Rockport on Sunday afternoon, October 20th at 4:00 P.M. in The Josiah Smith Tavern. In Puritan days the art of building demanded a great deal of skill and ingenuity in fashioning a variety of the simple, sometimes clumsy, tools that were used by our ancestors. A candlelight reception will follow Mr. Marsh's lecture.

In conjunction with his lecture, Mr. and Mrs. Marsh will display an exhibit of "Grandpa's Tools" in the Josiah Smith Tavern Barn the ensuing six days from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. The exhibit, which will be open to members and the general public, is dedicated to Mr. Joseph Sherman, the first blacksmith of Watertown Farmes, and to his grandson, the Honorable Roger Sherman, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution of the United States. Our curator, Mrs. Robert F. McLeod, and Mrs. A. Bruce Downes will be in charge of the exhibit.

Although the position of village blacksmith is, today, virtually non-existent, the "smithie" of earlier times was a colorful, indispensable, and respected member of the community. Farmers who were self-sufficient in all other ways, depended for the proper tools upon the skilled blacksmith for their cutting tools and implements.

Mr. and Mrs. Marsh in their collection have preserved numerous examples of "Yankee Ingenuity" to show how grandpa and the blacksmith combined to think over their problems and to work together, thus improving American design with unparalleled skill. We are certain that our members will most thoroughly enjoy the lecture that Mr. Marsh has so graciously offered to deliver, and the exhibit that he and Mrs. Marsh have through the years assembled.

### "Around the Cracker Barrel"

Weston Historical Society members will be treated to an evening "Around the Cracker Barrel," Friday, November 22. Town Hall will be the setting for this original three-act play which depicts Weston life during the years 1770-1781. Mr. Henry W. Patterson and Mrs. H. Patterson Wheeler authored the script and the Messrs. Brenton Dickson and Erlund Field made substantial contributions to the historical documentation of the story.

A talented cast of over twenty local actors will perform under the direction of Mrs. Wheeler and Miss Florence Freeman. They will portray such colorful protagonists as Josiah Smith, Isaac Jones, Parson Woodward, Sergeant Howe, Sam Train, Nate Coolidge, Goody Russell, and Veanus, the liberated slave. In addition to its historical significance, the play has elements of suspense and romance.

This is the first fund-raising affair staged by the Society in its five-year history. Tickets will be available in the near future, the cost being \$1.00 for members and \$1.50 for guests. A closing date will be set for the purchase of tickets, to assure substantial seating. Proceeds from this function will be used to complete the Fiske Law Office Restoration project.

## **Plan to Attend Annual Meeting November 13**

Our annual meeting is called for Wednesday evening, November 13, at eight o'clock in the Josiah Smith Tavern ("The Jones House"). The meeting is intended to be a full review of the past year's accomplishments and a statement of future plans. All officers and committee chairmen will deliver their yearly reports at this time. Following adjournment, the directors will conduct a short meeting for organizational purposes.

## **Restoration Continues On Isaac Fiske Law Office**

"It's a little gem," was the enthusiastic consensus of the almost two hundred members and friends who visited the Society's future headquarters at the Fiske Law Office last May 25. The efforts of the twenty-two volunteer workers who toiled so faithfully through last winter and spring were rewarded by the success of their labor of love. But more help is needed as we enter the final stages. If you can lend a helping hand, call 899-8171 or 899-4515.

## **Membership Dues Increase As Society's Costs Mount**

Increased costs for program speakers, hall rentals, and the BULLETIN, as well as a \$700 expenditure for the Fiske Law Office restoration have resulted in an increase in membership dues, effective August 1, 1968.

Bills for annual dues, at the new rates of \$3.00 single and \$5.00 family will soon be mailed. The membership committee is planning a series of neighborhood contacts. Their goal is to gain the support of every family in Weston.

You can advance the committee's work by projecting your own enthusiasm for the Society's exciting and worthwhile programs to your friends and neighbors. In this way the Weston Historical Society can capitalize on its opportunity to protect, promote and advance the town's historical heritage.

Our treasurer reports that the Endowment Fund has now passed the \$2,000 mark and earns \$100 annual interest. This fund is made up of \$200 life memberships, an excellent means of insuring the permanent work of the Society.



## **Society Co-hosts Statewide Meeting on Patriot's Day**

Patriot's Day, April 19, marks the date that the historical societies of Weston and Wayland will co-host the spring meeting of the Bay State Historical League. Mrs. F. Leslie Ford, chairman of the Liaison Committee, hopes you will save the date to help us entertain the more than 200 Massachusetts historical societies which will be represented at the meeting.

## **First Annual Craftsmanship Awards**

President Harold G. Travis presented the first annual Weston Historical Society craftsmanship awards to the Junior High School last June 13. Christopher Arthur Larsen received a Paul Revere Bowl and the following citation from President Travis:

"In recognition of the outstanding skill and beauty exhibited by the 'Monk's Chair,' . . . created from the wood of the famous and historic Burgoyne Elm Tree, the Weston Historical Society's First Prize is hereby awarded to Christopher Arthur Larsen."

Similar citations of honorable mention were presented to William Paine Grant ("Lazy Susan"), David Joseph Farrell, Jr. ("Spoon Rack"), and Michael Paul Zirpolo ("Hanging Clock"). The Jones House Barn had previously housed an exhibit of these and other student works.

Mr. Howard M. Forbes, Mrs. Daniel F. Viles Jr., and Mr. Galen Green comprised the awards committee. They have been reappointed for the current year, with the addition of Mr. James A. Sweeney. Mr. Forbes will again act as chairman of the group.

## **Regis Girls Start Second Year Of Research into Weston History**

The history students of Dr. Vera Laska of Regis College are embarking upon the second year of research into various phases of Weston history. Thirty-eight students are involved in the researching of such topics as the Town Hall Archives, the Public Library Archives, the founding of Weston, the Republican Party beginnings in Weston, the Fire Department, the First Parish Church, Churches in Weston, Roads and Transportation, Weston Light Infantry Company, Recreation, Schools, and Summer Activities.

Each girl has one assigned topic and would be grateful for any aid that could be offered by Society members. If you have any information, please communicate *by letter* with Dr. Vera Laska, Regis College History Department.

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Bulletin  
The Weston Historical Society



Annual Dues: \$3.00 per person, \$5.00 per family

**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.