

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

October 1972, Vol. IX, No. 1

ANNUAL MEETING AND LECTURE NOVEMBER 2ND

On Thursday evening, November second, at 8 o'clock in the ball room of the Josiah Smith Tavern, the Society will hold its annual meeting. Brief reports from committees and officers will be heard and the Nominating Committee will propose the names of four members as directors to serve until the annual meeting in 1975. The terms of the following are expiring: Brenton H. Dickson, IIIrd, Grant M. Palmer, Jr., Harold G. Travis, and the late Mrs. D. Stephen Thrall. Continuing for one more year are Erlund Field, Edward W. Marshall, and Mrs. Arthur A. Nichols, and for two more years, Donald D. Douglass, Mrs. Marshall Dwinnell, and Mrs. Stanley G. French.

At the conclusion of the short business meeting, members will be treated to the famous lecture "Doctors in New England: 1790-1840" by Mr. Barnes Riznik who is vice president of Old Sturbridge Village. He is also a Trustee of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities and is an excellent speaker. His description of the tools and methods of the medical profession in the late 18th and first half of the 19th centuries cannot fail to evoke admiration for oldtime Yankee ingenuity, and gratitude for the improvements that have since been made for the benefit and comfort of mankind.

MEMBERSHIP STEADILY GROWING

Since our last issue, we have welcomed into our membership Mr. Richard P. Berry (to join Mrs. Berry, a charter member), Dr. and Mrs. John R. Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Dreary, Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Greene, Dr. and Mrs. Carl C. Johnson, and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kuypers.

We again remind members old and young, new and old, to get their neighbors and friends to support the great work of our Society and to become members by sending their checks, payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc. to Box 343, Weston.

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IN MEMORIAM

MARION GREEN • HELEN JOHNSON • FRANCIS POOLER
ADELE SQUIBB • CHANNING SWAN • HELEN THRALL

Since the beginning of the year our hearts have been saddened by the deaths of the six charter members named above. Their friendship, their devotion to our Society and to all of Weston will never be forgotten.

THOMAS LASKA

Early in the summer, — a few days following graduation from Duke University, — Tom Laska was killed while riding as a passenger in an automobile. At Weston High School, he had endeared himself to all by his citizenship, his concern, and his integrity. He was the only son of our distinguished colleague and member, Dr. Vera Laska, and of her husband, Andy. They must know that in this trying hour not only we but the entire community mourn the loss of their only son.

BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE

COME WITH US TO PITTSFIELD OCTOBER 21ST

All members of Weston Historical Society are cordially invited to attend the annual fall meeting of the Bay State Historical League in Pittsfield Saturday, October 21st, beginning at 10 o'clock. The League comprises over 200 local Massachusetts historical societies.

A special feature is a combination fall meeting-foliage tour package trip by comfortable bus from MTA Station at Route 128 where the first 49 persons to sign up will leave for Pittsfield at 8 o'clock Saturday morning, Oct. 21. The brief meeting starts promptly at 10:30 and the rest of the morning and all afternoon will involve visits to the picturesque and historic museums and sites of Pittsfield. Toward afternoon's close, we are guests of the Crane Paper Museum at a wine and cheese tasting reception.

We shall stay overnight in the center of Pittsfield at the Conrad Hilton Hotel-Motel. Arrival back in Boston (Riverside MTA Station) is planned for 4 P.M. the following (Sunday) afternoon by way of a meandering "back country" route through such lovely towns as Stockbridge, Great Barrington, New Boston, Southwick, Wilbraham, and Brimfield at a time when the colors in the foliage should be at the height of their spectacular beauty.

We hope many Weston members will take this tour with us. The cost of \$35 per person double, \$40 single, covers not only the whole trip but also Saturday's luncheon and nice accommodations at the Conrad Hilton overnight. To relax and enjoy the luxury of seeing the heart of New England in its fall glory, in addition to finding yourself in the company of very worthwhile people who are doing their part to preserve the best of our history, is an opportunity for fellowship and fun that seldom is so attractively and economically combined into one package. If you would like to go, call the Tour chairman at 891-8110 or your own editor at 899-4515.

WESTON'S REVOLUTIONARY WAR BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Last spring the Selectmen appointed the following members of our Society to comprise the Town's Committee for the observance of the Revolutionary War's Bicentennial: Mrs. Dudley Dumaine, Dr. Vera Laska, Messrs. Donald D. Douglass, Richard B. Lombard, and Harold G. Travis, with Mr. Douglass as chairman. Two orientation meetings have already been held. The Committee has also met with representatives of nearby communities in this region. Various Weston organizations will be asked to attend a November meeting at which time suggestions will be invited and certain guide lines established.

Many members recall how overwhelmingly successful was town-wide participation in commemorating nine years ago the 250th Anniversary of Weston's incorporation. Memories of the Society's Pagaent, led by Dr. Robert J. McMillan, that dramatized in 1965 the 190th anniversary of the immortal nineteenth of April, 1775, are still vivid. Indeed several hundred citizens marched through four inches of newly-fallen snow to follow the trail over Lamson's Hill that Weston's 103 Minute Men had taken on that eventful day. The "Brown Bess" rifles, tricorn hats, and costumes that were made for the occasion are still available.

Other successful hits from the Society's past programs include the amusing skit "Around The Cracker Barrel", the beginnings of a Weston Historical Trail, and the publication of an historical map of the Town. Should a new book be undertaken to describe, as has never been adequately done, the part Weston people played in the Revolution? Should our Historical Map be revised, amplified, and reprinted? Where and what sort of a plaque, long overdue, should be placed in recognition of Weston's Minute Men, just as veterans of subsequent wars through World War II were promptly memorialized on the walls of Town Hall and Library?

These and many other questions will be carefully discussed. Additional suggestions will have the Committee's fullest consideration, and no specific plans will be made until the whole Town will have had ample opportunity to make its wishes and perspective known. Much no doubt will hinge on what programs may be developed for the State as a whole, particularly in the nearby Concord-Lexington regional area. Decision should then be made as to what Weston, for its own, should itself undertake. We must make the most of our opportunity to perpetuate and strengthen the ideals that have made our country and our community so worthwhile during the past two centuries.

THOSE LATE 18TH and EARLY 19TH CENTURY LAW OFFICES HOW MANY ARE LEFT? WHERE ARE THEY?

BY HAROLD G. TRAVIS

Riding through New England is always a treat. Many and diverse are the thoughts that come to mind as we pass through village and town. Coming back home via the Old Boston Post Road one day, it suddenly occurred to us that here within a mile or so of each other on this historic highway are three unique and rare little buildings, the law offices of Fiske 1805, Bigelow 1811, and Mellen 1826. With clapboard siding painted white, hipped roof, and central chimney, they would seem to have been designed and perhaps built by the same man. How many more little buildings like these three are still left in New England, we wondered. The more we thought about it, the more eager we became to find out. So here's what we've gleaned after a summer of exploration and widespread inquiry.

Only two other white, hip-roofed law offices with central chimneys are still standing, — one at Sandwich on Cape Cod, the other in Woodstock, Vermont. That makes five, but there are 10 others who qualify through age and general characteristics, from the 1754 Governor Fitch Law Office in Norwalk, Connecticut to the 1809 one at Paris, Maine and the one that Daniel Webster had built on his Marshfield, Massachusetts farm in 1842. Look at the photographs which accompany this article and you'll observe that though their roofs are usually gabled and not hipped, the pitch in the case of eight is too steep to permit an upstairs room while one has a shallow rounded roof and another one that's almost flat. In the following thumbnail sketches you will see that, including our three (two in Weston and one in Wayland), ten were two room affairs and five comprised but one single room.

Taking the oldest (1754) first and graduating to the least old (though it has stood for 130 years), you are invited to read some of the interesting facts and features of these historically unique buildings of long ago, and of accomplishments that brought prominence to their owners and occupants.

THE 1740 GOVERNOR THOMAS FITCH LAW OFFICE AT NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

A most demanding undertaking, a challenge to the architect, this unique restoration, completed last November, stands proudly on the Mill Hill Historic Site, Norwalk, Connecticut. If alive today, Thomas Fitch V, 14th governor of the Connecticut Colony from 1754 to 1766 inclusive, would easily recognize the little 27' 7" x 16' 5" two room building that he once used for a law office and other business. He was one of the pioneers in utilizing certain small buildings, convenient to his home, for privacy and efficiency.

Mr. John Cuneo headed the Mayor of Norwalk's Historical Sites Committee, architect John Gaydosh contacted us and visited us at length in 1970 to see how well we had restored the Isaac Fiske 1805 Law Office here in Weston, and Mr. Ralph Bloom, Curator of Historic Buildings and Superintendent of Historic Sites for the City of Norwalk helped us tremendously with this article. Among its greatest assets, the latter emphasizes, is a copy of the original library owned by the Governor. All books are listed *by title*, — a most unusual thing. Many of the governor's papers signed by him in this very office, still exist and several laminated copies of them are on hand for examination.

After the British raid in 1779, the office building was made part of the main Fitch residence to replace the burnt kitchen wing. Eventually that house was replaced by a Victorian one and until the 1971 restoration, the office building lost its separate identity. At that time several lean-tos were also rescued and removed. The early dimensions of the original framing, sill, and roof supports were still in place. The Fitch estate remained in the family until the mid-1940's and there were then only two brief ownerships until the property was taken in 1955 for the construction of the Connecticut Through-Way.

Born at Norwalk in 1700, Thomas Fitch graduated from Yale in 1721. Though actually never a law student, he nonetheless was seated by 1724 in the front row of Norwalk's only church with justices and lawyers. In 1742 the Connecticut Assembly appointed him "to inspect and revise the laws". He brought forth "The Code of 1750", acclaimed as a model of clarity in both the colonies and England as "the best code of Plantation Laws that was ever published". He died on July 18, 1774.

JUDGE TAPPING REEVE'S 1784 LITCHFIELD LAW OFFICE

Twenty-five years before the 19th Century, Tapping Reeve started to practise law in his Litchfield, Connecticut home. Within nine years he was so popular as practitioner and teacher that he built a separate building. Thus began America's first law school with his office the first building. How fitting it is that 188 years later, this landmark stands on its original South Street site alongside the Reeve House, having weathered four distinct moves.

One of Reeve's first pupils was his brother-in-law Aaron Burr, followed by over a thousand students including such giants as John C. Calhoun, Horace Mann, and Oliver Wolcott, Jr. From this little office rose two of our country's vice presidents, three U.S. Supreme Court Justices, 116 U.S. Senators and Congressmen, and 6 Connecticut governors. Becoming Justice of Connecticut's Supreme Court in 1798 Reeve took as partner a former pupil, James Gould, Yale 1790. These two ran the school until Judge Reeve retired in 1820. Three years later he died at 79 and Gould continued alone until the school closed in 1833.

This small, gable-ended structure, 20' wide and 21' long, was about 15' tall, facing east on South Street. Like the meeting houses of those early days, it had no heat except for foot warmers. Not until its move to West Street in 1849 for use as a dwelling was any attempt made to heat it by adding a partition down the middle with a stack built up through the peak.

The building had one door at the front northeast corner with two windows alongside and on each of the other sides. Its roof pitched too sharply for any kind of a room upstairs. Its ceiling and walls were of board. During the Civil War it was incorporated in a new house of Gothic design but in 1900 it regained its identity and stood beside the house for a dozen years when it was moved next to the Wolcott Library. Here it hosted a gift shop and then, on being acquired by the Litchfield Historical Society in 1929, it was moved back onto the Reeve property and restored.

Let us salute the Litchfield Historical Society on preserving Tapping Reeve's law office, —the country's first law school!

JUDGE WOOD'S 1794 LAW OFFICE IN MIDDLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Today on the spacious Jackson Street grounds of the Middleboro Historical Society's Museum stands the neat little law office built in 1794 by Judge Wilkes Wood one year after his graduation from Brown University. Originally it was built on the Woods family estate on South Main Street where the Middleboro Trust Company is now located. Wilkes Wood was a judge of the Probate Court, an early president of the Plymouth County Bar Association, and a State Senator. He died at the age of 73 in 1843, survived by his widow, Lucy Nichols Cushing Wood, whom he had married 16 years before.

The building, 12' wide and 16' deep, was moved to the Museum grounds in 1966 largely through the leadership and motivation of the late Lawrence B. Romaine, many of whose books and papers are on display there as a memorial. Restoration has not been fully completed, but it is obvious that the small structure consisted of a front waiting room and a rear room for the Judge's practise and teaching, separated by a central chimney beside whose fireplaces were shelves for books and cupboards for supplies.

Mr. Romaine's widow is curator of the Museum which is well worth visiting. Among many attractive features its display of General and Mrs. Tom Thumb, the latter a native of Middleboro, in model forms with wearing apparel and other memorabilia is most unusual and noteworthy. These illustrious dwarves were made internationally famous by that great showman of all time, Phineas T. Barnum.

JOHN MCCLELLAN'S 1796 LAW OFFICE: A SIGNIFICANT RESTORATION

One of the many authentic and quaint components of Old Sturbridge Village, less than an hour's drive from Weston, is the little law office that, some half dozen years or so ago, was moved from Woodstock, Connecticut, restored, and appropriately equipped and furnished. As a description of it would be inadequate, readers are urged to spend a day at Old Sturbridge Village where, at first hand, the story of this building can best be told and its quaint charm adequately felt.

After he graduated from Yale in 1785, John McClellan entered the Norwich, Connecticut office of Samuel Huntington. He returned to his native Woodstock a year later to enter the office of Charles Church Chandler. Here his father built a house for him on the main street and John himself, at a cost just under \$100, erected this little one story, one room building. A chimney at the rear provided a cheerful fireplace and the interior was painted white. Go to Old Sturbridge Village near the junctions of Routes 15 and 20, and see, hear, and feel the fascinating story of this historical building.

THE CHARLES P. MARSH 1797 LAW OFFICE IN WOODSTOCK, VERMONT

The Hon. Charles P. Marsh's 1797 hip-roofed, one story, two room building with central chimney for the two fireplaces, had wide floor boards and first stood on Elm Street, Woodstock. Its original sign hangs today in the office of the Woodstock Historical Society. Marsh was born at Lebanon, Connecticut July 10, 1765 but his folks moved to Hartford, Vermont in 1773. He graduated from Dartmouth in 1786 and two years later, from America's first Law School—that of Tapping Reeve—in Litchfield, Connecticut. In 1789 he married a Litchfield girl, Nancy Collins, who died 4 years later just 8 days after the birth of their second child, Ann Collins Marsh. Their son, Charles, became a lawyer but died when only 27. Marsh's second wife Susan Arnold of St. Johnsbury, whom he married on June 3, 1798, bore him three sons, the first two of whom studied law under him. The youngest became a doctor of medicine.

In 1806 Mr. Marsh moved his Elm Street building to one corner of "The Meeting House Lot". He died on January 11, 1849 at the age of 84 and it was used until 1874 as a fire insurance office and as a probate office. The following year it was moved and became a grain store for five years next to the railroad depot on Pleasant Street. It was moved again in 1880 to Hartland Hill, its present location, at the east end of Pleasant Street. Since then it has been used as a residence, though following World War II, it doubled as a dress shop for fifteen years. Thus after over half a century as a law office, this historic building knew 26 years as an insurance and probate office, 15 as a dress shop, and 92 as a pleasant home that still, though almost two centuries old, is excellently preserved and is in the hands of those who cherish its charm and history.

Marsh spent his entire professional career of 61 years in Woodstock. Basically a respected country lawyer, he rendered conspicuous public service through appointment as Vermont District Attorney by President Washington. At the dawn of the 19th Century he became a trustee of his Alma Mater, Dartmouth, and in 1814 won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

THE 1805 ISAAC FISKE LAW OFFICE IN WESTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Isaac Fiske (1778-1861), graduate of Harvard in the Class of 1798, was often called "The leading lawyer of Middlesex Circuit". His contributions to church, community, and state were numberless. He served for 24 years as Town Clerk, six as Selectman, and six as representative to the General Court. It is most appropriate that his 1805 law office, restored so well by our members six years ago should be our headquarters.

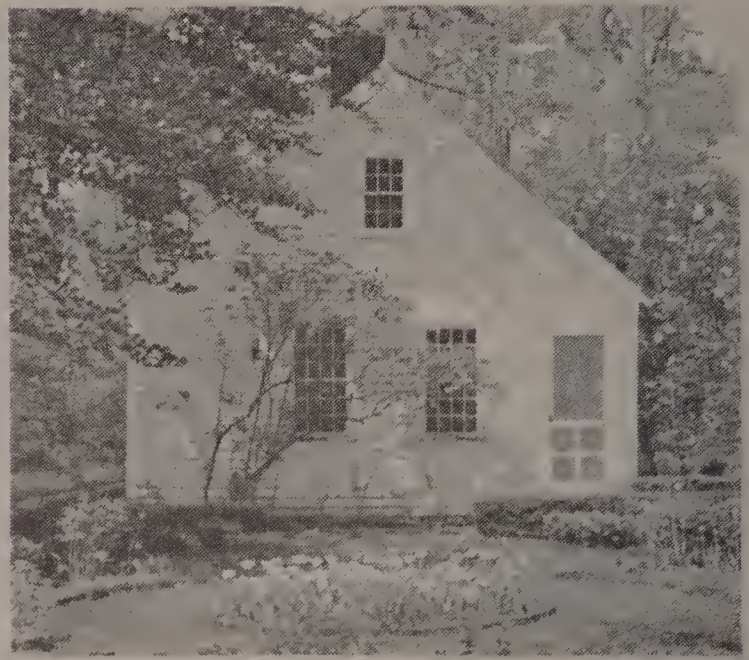
About 20' wide and 12' deep, it was first built for Artemus Ward whose father of the same name had served on General Washington's staff. Almost simultaneously young Fiske's house, diagonally across the old Boston Post Road, was built and it too remains one of the showplaces of Weston. Fiske went into partnership with Ward and when very shortly the latter left Weston, Fiske became sole owner. It stayed in the Fiske family until sold to the Town in 1928 with a "buy-back" proviso. Early in the present century when the large Fiske barn was moved down the street to become first an upholstery shop and now comprises stores and offices, its shed was annexed to the rear of the tiny law office. After World War II the Town converted it into a residence for veterans, but by the early 60's the need had passed and the Historical Society, leasing it from the Town, restored it.

On its west is the old Central Cemetery. Southward it looks out past its old-fashioned bulb garden over an open field to Linwood Cemetery. 20 feet to its east is the trunk, almost 18' in diameter, of the historic Burgoyne Elm which almost 200 years ago sheltered overnight half of Burgoyne's men who, captured at Saratoga, were being escorted to Boston by General Glover. The building looks northward toward the site of Baldwin's Tavern, now gone, and to Soldiers' Park on which a monument to one of Isaac's descendants was placed after World War I.

The two rooms of this hip-roofed building with its central chimney have individual fireplaces. Furnishings include Isaac's portrait ("A Gentleman of the Old School"), his stand-up desk, many books, pictures, and other items of early 19th Century character. The front of the building is clapboarded and the rest of the exterior, all painted white with dark green shutters, are of sturdy Vermont shakes.



**FITCH 1740
NORWALK, CONN.**



**REEVE 1784
LITCHFIELD, CONN.**



**BIGELOW 1811
WESTON, MASS.**



**WOOD 1794
MIDDLEBORO, MASS.**



**McCLELLAN 1796
STURBRIDGE, MASS.**

THE 1809 PARRIS LAW OFFICE AT PARIS, MAINE

Paris, Maine is just an hour's drive from Portland. From its hill a thrilling view of Mt. Washington and the Presidential Range unfolds. In 1809 two great events occurred on Paris Hill. Hannibal Hamlin, later Lincoln's first term vice president, was born there on August 27th, and Albion Keith Parris, Dartmouth 1806, became the town's third lawyer. He built his law office next to the 1808 Hubbard House on the Main Street. It was only 20' broad, 15' deep and one story high with two tiny rooms and a friendly porch.

Four years later he was elected to the Massachusetts legislature, in 1814 to its Senate, then quickly to the U. S. House of Representatives. Declining a second term he became Justice of the U. S. Circuit Court. Once Maine won separate statehood in 1820, Parris became its second governor and was reelected four times! In 1828 after a year in the U.S. Senate, he resigned to become Justice of the Supreme Court of Maine, and five years before he died at 69 in 1857 he was elected Mayor of Portland.

Whoever said "Great oaks from little acorns grow" might well have been speaking of the Parris Law Office. Enoch Lincoln who leased it in 1817 was later a Maine governor and one of his pupils, T. Jarvis Carter, served in the 25th Congress. Another pupil, later Judge Joseph Cole, bought the building in 1836, followed by Attorney N. M. Marble and U. S. Congressman Rufus K. Goodenow.

When the railroad finally came to Maine in the 1850's, business and government drifted downhill and gradually Paris Hill went back to residential character. The Parris Law Office did not forsake the law until Judge Cole's protégé, General Kimball, went off to war in 1861. Then Samuel Carter used it for a mineral collection, later leasing it to Elmer Giles for a candy shop. When Carter died, his estate sold the building in 1893 to Edward L. Parris.

It remained in the Parris family until 1940 when purchased by Arvilla Peabody Ross and her husband, Rear Admiral Ross, who own and occupy the Hubbard House next door. They have restored the historic gem of yesteryear and retain it as a symbol of the meaningful past.

THE 1810 ZACHARIAH EDDY LAW OFFICE

Zachariah Eddy, born December 6, 1780, was the great-great-great grandson of Samuel Eddy, the Pilgrim. Graduating from Brown University in 1799, he was for consecutive years preceptor of Connecticut's Plainfield Academy and of Bridgewater (Massachusetts) Academy. Then he felt called to the legal profession and started study under Judge Thomas of Plymouth. In 1803 as a wedding present to Zachariah and his bride, Sarah Edson, the former's father, Captain Joshua Eddy, built a spacious home for them on land that has continuously remained in the family since its acquisition from the Indians in 1661. This house, well-known now as "The Eddy Homestead", was restored in 1962 and stands on its original site at the corner of Cedar and Plympton Streets in the Eddyville section of Middleboro, Massachusetts.

In 1810 Zachariah built close to the street and next to his house, a little round-roofed law office building about 12' square and high, with a chimney of old bricks at the rear. The one-room structure was heated by a fireplace that faced toward the door with each side having shelving for books and closed cupboards at the bottom. From its ceiling still hangs a tin chandelier for candles. It is now electrified.

Zachariah Eddy's law practise encompassed 41 active years, the last 37 of which found him headquartered in this little building. He was often associated with Daniel Webster when the latter retired to nearby Marshfield, and during his lifetime he appeared in over 300 cases before the Supreme Court of Massachusetts. The leading lawyer in his community, Zachariah was friend and revered counsellor to its citizens. All told, some 20 students "read law" under him in that office.

No record exists of the uses to which the building was put after his death in 1860. Finding it idle and unused in 1929, Mrs. James J. Storrow of Boston and Lincoln purchased it and had it moved the following year to The Storrowton Village Museum on the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield. Here its charm and dignity impress thousands of visitors who come annually to this attractively restored village.



**TYLER 1822
BROOKLYN, CONN.**



**HALL 1822
SHEFFIELD, MASS.**



**MELLEN 1826
WAYLAND, MASS.**



**BROOKS 1830
PETERSHAM, MASS.**



**DANIEL WEBSTER 1842
MARSHFIELD, MASS.**



**MARSH 1797
WOODSTOCK, VT.**



**PARRIS 1809
PARIS, MAINE**



**ISAAC FISKE 1805
WESTON, MASS.**



**EDDY 1810
STORROWTON, MASS.**



**NYE 1820
SANDWICH, MASS.**

THE 1811 BIGELOW LAW OFFICE IN WESTON AT THE TOWN LINE

Alpheus Bigelow Jr. was born in Weston in 1784, the son of Captain Alpheus Bigelow, one of Weston's 103 "Minute Men", a subsequent veteran of the Revolutionary War, and a servant of the Town for half a century in various capacities, including Selectman, Tythingman, Surveyor of Highways, Captain of the Weston Light Infantry, and even a member of a committee "to control Town expenditures for the encouragement of Singing." The son graduated as a promising young lawyer from Harvard in 1810 and married Mary Ann Hubbard Townsend the following year. First associated with Isaac Fiske, he soon set up separate practise in a building of his own that was erected about a mile west on the Post Road at the very Wayland line, quite similar in style and design to that of Fiske's.

The white hip-roofed, clapboarded building, 28' 4" wide by 13' 4" deep, had a central chimney and two tiny rooms, each with fireplace. It had a front and a back door, each opening into a small entryway of its own. Its picture is among those represented in the Historic American Buildings Survey in the Library of Congress as notable examples of the development of architecture in the United States. It stands at roadside on the property of John F. and Edith C. Simpson whose daughter, Joan, is painstakingly guarding its preservation.

Following the example of his father, Alpheus Bigelow, Jr. served the Town of Weston long and well. First a Tythingman, he was a member of the school board for 30 years, a Selectman, and a representative in the General Court for 3 years. In 1814 he was made a Justice of the Peace and for many years his signature appeared on Town documents directly under that of Isaac Fiske, Town Clerk. A complaint on the condition of the Boston Post Road by the County Commissioners was settled on condition that Squire Alpheus Bigelow, Jr. be made Surveyor of Highways for the District. As did his father, he lived to be ninety years of age. Both the office he built on the Post Road in 1811 and the mansion he erected across the street a decade later are picturesque landmarks that welcome you to Weston from the west and are the last sentinels of old Weston as one heads westward from Boston.

SETH FREEMAN NYE'S 1820 LAW OFFICE AT SANDWICH, MASSACHUSETTS

Trial Justice for Barnstable County and, from 1850 to 1856 Justice of the Peace, Seth Nye lived from August 31, 1791 until September 13, 1856. He married Sally Carver in 1813 and commenced the practise of law in Sandwich on Jan. 17, 1815 when John Bassett sued Samuel Swift for an unpaid, disputed bill. The local Historical Society has Nye's meticulously handwritten record of every case and of every item of income and expense whether for legal services or for selling wood to the Boston and Sandwich Glass Company and others at \$3 to \$5 per cord while paying his men 75¢ to cut, split, and stack it. When he became trial justice, his notes, usually routine, once in a while grew quite spicy.

Page after page summarizes collections, larcenies, and various types of disturbances, but suddenly one stands out. It involves a case of slander wherein a certain lady who won't be named here, told her friend, also named but perforce anonymous here, that the "Rev. slept with just as sure as he (her friend) slept with his wife." Nye notes that since she declined to name and substantiate her source, he could not acquit her. On the other hand, he observed, had she named her source and proved it reliable, his verdict might have been different!

The younger of Seth's two sisters, Sabra, was ten years his junior. From the age of 20 until she died a spinster in her 80's, she ran a millinery shop in one of the two small rooms of her brother's hip-roofed law office, 30' wide and 15' deep. What distinguishes this building from its counterparts of the period is that it was a duplex affair. As the photograph shows, there were two central front doors side by side. Each opened into a small room with interior fireplace at the base of the central chimney.

The next time you're in Sandwich on the Cape to visit Heritage Plantation, Hoxie House, or the Glass Museum, look to the right of Town Hall where at sidewalk's edge on shaded Grove Street, you'll see the little law office building that, with wing of equal size added to its rear, has been converted long since into two comfortable and charming apartments.

THE 1822 LAW OFFICE OF DANIEL TYLER IV IN BROOKLYN, CONNECTICUT

Now in its third year, the Brooklyn, Connecticut Historical Society owns, and is plan-to restore, the 15' square, gable-roofed, one-roomed Daniel Tyler IV's 1822 law office. It stands on a spacious lawn in the very center of that ancient town. Beside the chimney at the rear of the room is a panelled area with cupboards.

Tyler's grandfather, Revolutionary War General Israel Putnam, is buried under a most impressive equestrian statue directly in front of the office. Another grandfather, Daniel Tyler II, built Brooklyn's first meeting house in 1771. Originally Congregational, it became Connecticut's first Unitarian Church in 1816.

Daniel Tyler IV was born here in 1798 and died here Nov. 6, 1875. Educated at Plainfield (Connecticut) Academy, he became a lieutenant in the U. S. Army but resigning to practise law, he was admitted to the bar in 1822. He was active in that profession until his death 53 years later, and always much in demand as an eloquent speaker. He served as clerk of the Superior and County Courts of Windham County for 15 years before becoming County Court Judge and Secretary of State. During the Reconstruction he served under President Lincoln as Collector of Internal Revenue for the State of Arkansas.

After his death the building was successively used until 1963 as a doctor's office, a gift shop, and an insurance office. The President of the Society is Mrs. Leslie Travis Wendel who would welcome visitors from Weston and suggestions as to the restoration and preservation of her Town's early 19th Century Law Office.

PARKER LEARNED HALL'S LAW OFFICE (Circa 1822) AT SHEFFIELD

Very little has ever been written about the tiny building 12' wide, 20' deep, and 15' high that Parker Hall, Williams 1818, had built for his law practise around 1822 in Sheffield, Massachusetts. He had come from four years of apprenticeship in the Lenox, Massachusetts office of Joseph Woodbridge, Esq., for many years Clerk of Courts for Berkshire County. A native of Pownal, Vermont, Hall prepared for college at Lenox Academy. After practising for several years in Sheffield, he moved to Pittsfield where he amassed a substantial estate and died at 53 on August 29, 1849.

The office he left behind on what is known as "Sheffield Plain" was at that time in the very heart of Sheffield. Some folks, quoting hearsay, report the possibility that it might then have been the Sheffield headquarters of Great Barrington's famous Theodore Sedgwick. After a year at Williams, Sedgwick transferred to Yale whence he graduated in 1798, subsequently rising to the Speakership of the U. S. House of Representatives and finally becoming a U. S. Senator.

What happened after that to the little building is unknown. Until interested citizens recently busied themselves to form an historical society, it almost wasted away. Now a serious move to restore it and provide for its preservation is underway. Though not hip-roofed, it once must have had a central chimney with perhaps two fireplaces that heated the two pint-sized rooms. Nothing though is left of any chimney except what could have been its base under the flooring. A hole in one wall indicates that perhaps once a Franklin stove was used to heat the front room.

The transformation that we hope will be wrought within the next year or two will be watched with interest. Those backing the restoration have been fully briefed on the fun we had in rescuing our Isaac Fiske 1805 Law Office five years ago.

JUDGE MELLEN'S 1826 LAW OFFICE AT WAYLAND, MASS.

Edward Mellen came to Wayland on the last day of November 1830. He had been born in Westborough, Mass. on September 26, 1802 and graduated from Brown in 1823. Thirty-one years later he received its LL.D. honorary degree. One of his closest friends then and for many significant years was Dr. Wayland, President of Brown. When what is now Wayland separated from the Town of Sudbury in 1835, Mellen had been a strong advocate of naming the new town after his friend. A dozen years later at a Brown Commencement, Dr. Wayland asked Mellen to convey to the Town of Wayland his willingness to donate five hundred dollars toward the establishment of a free library if the townspeople would match it. They did so, and that was the beginning of Wayland's Library.

On his arrival in Wayland (East Sudbury then) in 1830, Mellen bought the little white, two-roomed, hipped roofed law office with central chimney from Samuel H. Mann who had built it in 1826. Mann's health was failing (he died in 1838 aged only 38) and in 1831 sold his home also to Mellen. It was located a few doors to the west on the same Old Boston Post Road. In 1847 Mellen was made a Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. Twelve years later he became its Chief Justice. During these years he held court in Worcester, Springfield and Lenox. It is recalled that he refused to wear gloves while driving in his covered buggy. They "make my hands colder," he insisted.

Just during the past year, Judge Mellen's granddaughter, Mrs. Edmund H. Sears, donated this little building 25' broad and 11' deep to the Town of Wayland. As we go to press Wayland is receiving bids to move it safely away from an elm that's slowly uprooting it, and to restore it to good condition again. It will stand alone with dignity and grace under six protective elms and maples on the Town Green facing the Town Hall across the street where the Post Road crosses Cochituate Road. Weston has a close tie with this historic building. Two of the Judge's great grandsons, Brenton H. Dickson IIIrd and Edward Mellen Dickson, are among our most prominent citizens and fellow members. It will be remembered that these two, with their Weston cousins, Andrew F. and Harold B. Willis, Jr., are likewise the great great grandsons of our own Isaac Fiske.

THE 1830 AARON BROOKS LAW OFFICE IN PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Vacant and unused for the past sixty years is the Petersham law office of Aaron Brooks (1795-1845), grandson of Jonathan Grout who was a member of the General Court and Provincial Congress in 1775. Two of his great grandsons, Francis H. and Dr. John R. Brooks are residents of Weston.

An 1817 graduate of Brown and also a tutor there, Aaron studied law with Hon. Levi Lincoln in Worcester, and Hon. Lewis Bigelow, author of *Digest of the Massachusetts Reports* (1818). Returning to Petersham to practise law, he had built for him in 1830 a picturesque little building that measured 22' x 20'. The two rooms had a wide opening between them. A fireplace at the back heated them both. An 1877 interior view shows this detail, but about 1900 the partition was removed to make one large room with, — a fad at the time, — *shingled walls*.

An 1855 map contains a picture showing an ell which is probably the present back room measuring 14' x 14' where there is still a work bench and large round stove. The original furniture has been removed due to an early onslaught of post beetles. The Petersham Historical Society of which Mrs. Delight G. Haines is president, is working to repair and preserve the historic structure.

The office was used by Aaron's sons Francis (before he moved to Boston) and James W. who retired to Petersham in 1890 where he was active in remodeling houses and persuading relatives and friends to buy them. He rebuilt the hotel after it burned at the turn of the century, supervised the building of the High School, and gave land for the Harvard Forestry School. Aaron Brooks and his wife, Martha Amelia Willson, also had two daughters, Martha and Abby. Martha never married and when her brother James died, she continued to live in the old family homestead. "Her great contribution to our Society", says Mrs. Haines, "was the copying *and* indexing of old Town Records. Our copy is much more useful than the original records: —all in one handwriting and indexed! She also gave the land for our Society's building . . ." Her sister Abby married John Fiske who adopted Petersham as home base for many of his writings. He as well as the two brothers, Francis and James W. Brooks, used the law office during this era. (See also *Petersham Sketches*, Pages 192 and 193, — and Coolidge's *History of Petersham*).

DANIEL WEBSTER'S 1842 LAW OFFICE AT MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

World renowned Daniel Webster came to settle down in Marshfield, Massachusetts in 1832 when only 49 years of age. He bought the large farm once owned by the fugitive Tory, Nathaniel Ray Thomas, from the latter's son John who stipulated that he be allowed to live out his days on the place he loved. Webster agreed to this proviso and asked for himself only that he be known henceforth as "The Farmer of Marshfield". Soon he added 1,500 acres to his already large estate.

He built his law office in 1842 and spent his mornings there writing and assembling as his hobby, a large collection of natural history. His one story, one room office was 17' wide, 25' long, and 15' tall. On each side of the fireplace at the rear were two floor-to-ceiling windows, each in three sections comprising 12 panes and running on a triple track to admit the afternoon's cheerful, warm sunlight. Of all the many structures on his estate, this building was the sole survivor of the fire that occurred in 1878, 26 years after his death. In 1966 it was moved to the grounds of the historic 1699 Winslow House. It had been located in one corner of his garden, and he would be delighted today if he could see it on the north lawn of the Winslow House overlooking the herb garden off the kitchen.

At the dedication of the newly located and restored building, on July 4, 1970, one of the speakers, Chairman of the Marshfield Historical Commission, reminded her hearers that "this small office was the scene of Webster's negotiations with Lord Asburton over the northern boundary between Canada and the United States" and that many indeed were the important political figures and statesmen who conferred with him here. In its restoration the whole building underwent the same "scraping, sanding, papering, painting, plastering, bolstering, furnishing, and landscaping" so familiar to those of us who have engaged in similar undertakings. The interior is painted in the olive green color found when layers of paint were removed to reach the original color.

Furnishings include his desk and a cane he is said to have made from one of the trees on his estate a mile up the road. The room also includes maps and relics, chairs, clothing, books, pictures, newspaper clippings, and artifacts of the colorful Webster era. Browsing here, one cannot fail to feel the presence of greatness in this picturesque, historical setting.

Acknowledgements of cooperation are gratefully made to many fine people, especially Ralph Bloom and John Gaydosh in Norwalk, William L. Warren of Litchfield, Mrs. Lawrence Romaine of Middleboro, Mrs. Raymond F. Leonard and Miss Nancy C. Campbell in Woodstock, Vermont, Mrs. Leslie T. Wendel of Brooklyn, Connecticut, Mrs. Edwin F. Rossman of Paris, Maine; Mrs. Virginia Vose of Storrowton Village Museum, and Mr. George W. Brick, president of The Eddy Family Association, Inc.; Miss Martha Green of Wayland and Bennington College; Mr. Russell A. Lovell, Jr. and William G. Bryden of Sandwich; Mrs. Kurt G. Preiss of Sheffield; Mrs. Delight G. Haines of Petersham; and (Mrs.) Cynthia Hagar Krusell of Marshfield. Without their contributions and patience and without the suggestions and encouragement of many other friends, the "dig" would have been less fruitful. And now I wonder how many additions to this list will be inspired by this beginning.

THE BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE

All organizations, associations or individuals devoted to the ideals of preserving and protecting the rich heritage of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the United States of America are eligible for membership. Over two hundred local societies and commissions are active voting members. Individuals are invited to join as associate members for \$5 per year. Such membership entitles one to all privileges except voting that his local society enjoys. To support this great work and to keep intimately in touch with all phases of the League's work and of the activities of all other societies in the Commonwealth, is most worthwhile. The mutual exchange of ideas at meetings and in the quarterly bulletin that comes to you direct, involves pleasant association with our leaders in the historical field. To become an associate member, simply send your check, payable to The Bay State Historical League, to Box 266, North Andover, Massachusetts 01845.



Annual Dues: \$3.00 per person, \$5 per family

Life Memberships \$200

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Contributions to the Society are always welcome.

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc.
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