

# THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN



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JOSIAH SMITH'S BICENTENNIAL BARN HOLDS "OPEN HOUSE"  
AS OLDTIMER EXAMINES UNLOCKED STALL.

## AN APPRECIATION

The 18th Century smell of grain and hay, harness and horses, is gone,—supplanted by the clean atmosphere of a modern living room. Josiah Smith, his son Joel, and their Liberty men patrons would be grateful. The Women's Community League of Weston deserves the thanks of us all for the remarkably authentic project of renovation, restoration, and preservation it conceived and accomplished on the barn of the 1757 Josiah Smith Tavern as its contribution to the Town's commemoration of the American Revolutionary War Bicentennial. To be appreciated it must be seen firsthand, for only then can one feel the degree of skill, care, and yes "love" that went into the costly undertaking which in one bold stroke maintained the true character of the old in the undisturbed stalls and hand-hewn beams while still providing the efficiency, comfort, and convenience of modern plumbing and wall-to-wall carpet. It houses the League's Clothing Exchange, and provides a comfortable meeting place for community groups.

Congratulations ladies on an imaginative, ingenious, and inspiring accomplishment! In your motif we detect that same respect and reverence that characterized last year's Weston Rotary Bicentennial project on the bole of the 1740-1967 Burgoyne Elm just half a mile westward on the Boston Post Road. Again westward by another half mile we equally treasure the 1768 Golden Ball Tavern around whose "liberation" and preservation have the people of Weston and beyond so generously and wholesomely rallied.

In this year of our country's Bicentennial it is well to observe that few other villages, towns, or cities can more fittingly mark and exemplify the truly democratic character of America. Here within a mile on the same historic road stand landmarks distinctively different in the sense that one tavern welcomed and harbored Liberty men and the other was known to be a friendly Tory habitat while halfway between them on October 17, 1777 were quartered under a stately elm the captured (mostly Hessian) soldiers of British General Burgoyne. Today we rejoice that we live in a town and nation where liberty and justice for all, regardless of race, color, or creed will forever keep us strong.

## IN MEMORIAM

It is with the deepest sense of civic and personal loss that we record the passing of one of our oldest charter members, Mrs. Charles O. Richardson, who with her late husband, chairman of Weston's Bicentennial Celebration in 1913, was a constant and generous supporter of our heritage.

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### NEXT MEETING FEATURES HEWS POTTERY

On Tuesday evening, January 13th, at 8 P.M. in the ball room of the Josiah Smith Tavern, the Society will be privileged to have as its guest, Mr. William T. Brandon of Boxboro who, as mentioned by Mrs. Teller in our last issue, conducted a private "dig" in 1973 on the Boston Post Road former Abraham Hews, Jr. property. As stated in that article, he plans to present to our Society some of the sherds he unearthed here. These should be helpful in the research on records which she has been discussing. His talk will be illustrated with slides and his topic is "Recent Research on Hews Pottery." Refreshments will follow what we're certain can be a most interesting and enlightening discussion. On hand for inspection will be the Xerox copies from the Society's archives of the century-old catalogue which was described also in our last issue. Come and learn more about pottery on Tuesday evening, January 13th at 8 in the Josiah Smith Tavern.

### SOCIETY HOSTS KNOX TRAIL RECEPTION JANUARY 25TH AFTER MACKENZIE BICENTENNIAL PIANO RECITAL

Sunday afternoon, January 25th, holds two successive events that deserve the fullest support of our members as part of the Bicentennial program. At 2 P.M. in the High School Auditorium, Weston's own Arthur Mackenzie, whose keyboard talent the New York Times calls "major" and whom the Music Journal brands "A major Artist", will play selections from Beethoven, Chopin, Czerny, Gottschalk, Gershwin, Joplin, and Benjamin Franklin. It will duplicate a similar concert of the previous Thursday evening, January 22nd, in the same place. The proceeds from both performances are designed to cover expenses of the all-family day being planned for June 12th by our Weston Bicentennial Committee with cooperation of Weston Boosters, Inc. and practically every other civic organization of the community. If unable to attend either the January 22nd or 25th concert, your sponsorship in the form of contributions will be most worthwhile. Tickets may be purchased at either drugstore, at "Triple A", and the Newton-Waltham Bank and Trust Company (adults \$5, students \$2.50).

On or about five o'clock, the sound of horses and wagon along the Post Road will herald the approach from Ticonderoga of some 35 rugged men with 16 sturdy steeds as they re-enact the hauling of cannon to General Washington in Cambridge exactly 200 years before. They will be welcomed by the Bicentennial Committee at the Knox Memorial Monument on the western end of the Town Green facing the Fire Station, and promptly escorted to the Josiah Smith Tavern in whose barn, courtesy of Women's Community League, they will be housed overnight, sleeping bags and all. A reception in the Tavern for these travelers, weary and cold, will be hosted by our Society. Come and help us give them a warm and spontaneous welcome to Weston. It will give you an opportunity to meet each person informally and hear, perhaps, of some of their realistic experiences.



## “MILLIONAIRES’ LOCAL”

During the spring of 1904 Weston was in the headlines daily. Mabel Page had been murdered for no apparent reason and the guilt of the suspected assassin was not yet proved. Suddenly, in the middle of April, Weston became doubly featured in the press. This second bit of news was greatly overplayed on account of all the Page publicity; such an unimportant item would ordinarily rate space well within the paper but now with Weston very much on the map, anything happening there deserved to make the headlines. The Boston Post for April 13th carried the following:

“MILLIONAIRES’ LOCAL IN WRECK - Five people injured, scores of passengers shaken up from fear and fright, and a property loss of more than \$10,000 for the Central Massachusetts road.”

At 6:30 the previous evening an eastbound train from Marlboro known as the “Theatre Train” because it took passengers to Boston for that purpose, backed into a siding near Weston Station to let the westbound *Millionaires’ Local* pass. Unfortunately, it hadn’t backed in far enough to escape being hit. The force of the collision threw the inbound locomotive and some cars off the track causing havoc among the passengers. Several women fainted and “three or four more were stunned when thrown against the iron framework of the seats, (while others were) greatly agitated in hearing the noise of escaping steam from the wrecked locomotive as it lay on its side halfway down the steep embankment”.<sup>\*</sup> Women were “huddled together in one end of the car in mortal terror,” while the men tried to allay their fears with calm words of reassurance. The fireman who had jumped out of the cab to escape injury was discovered at the bottom of the embankment, twenty feet below the railroad bed. No one was seriously injured—just a few bruises that were treated by Dr. Frederick Hyde, the local physician.

This, according to the article, was the fourth wreck that the Marlboro train had “figured in”. Two years earlier it had run into a freight train in Waltham, killing two; six months before the wreck in question it had collided with a freight train in Wayland.

With the engine righted and the track repaired, things got back to normal and Mabel Page once again monopolized the headlines.

B.H.D.

<sup>\*</sup>Questionable

## “WINDOWS ON WESTON” USEFUL TOUR-GUIDE OF LOCAL HISTORY

In mid December all members received gratis a copy of *WINDOWS ON WESTON*. Adding results of latest research, it follows the pattern and style of many walks and rides we have conducted over the past dozen years for the benefit of school children, scouts and visitors. First conceived as a supplement to the current issue of the *BULLETIN*, it grew to such a point where it deserved a special format of its own. The attractive booklet that developed is a credit to the Town and to the Society that has made it available to the public as another of our Bicentennial projects.

So that the public and our visitors may be able to see within a short space of time the historic sites that have thus far been uncovered, *WINDOWS ON WESTON* will guide them quickly to many of Weston’s landmarks and to much of its lore. It is the hope of our directors, too, that through it, many owners and other interested parties will be stimulated to *dig* more deeply themselves into facts and artifacts hitherto unearthed so that future editions in later years may be all the more informative and complete.

Extra copies of *WINDOWS ON WESTON* may be obtained for a dollar each at The Village Bookstall, Richardson’s Drugstore, and The Weston Pharmacy. Perhaps many members will take pride in mailing copies to out of town friends, giving them added insight into why Weston is a town that is cherished by all who have ever lived here.

## NOTES FROM ANNUAL MEETING

The ballroom of the 1757 Josiah Smith Tavern was again the scene on November 11th of our annual meeting which as usual was well attended. Elected to the Board of Directors for 3 years were Mrs. Dudley B. Dumaine, and Messrs. Brenton H. Dickson, Roy L. Dickson, and Harold G. Travis. To fill the term of Mrs. Marshall Dwinell expiring in 1977, John H. Bishop was the unanimous choice, as was E. Olson Field for secretary to succeed John G. Brooks who has served so capably beginning with the Society's incorporation in 1963. Reports of the secretary, treasurer, and president as well as all acts of the Board for the preceding year were approved.

During a brief intermission, the Board elected Edward W. Marshall president for the ensuing year, John W. Bishop vice president, Samuel R. Payson treasurer, and Mrs. David V. Harmon recording secretary. The president expressed appreciation for the faithful work of officers and committee members with a special accolade to Roy L. Dickson for his six years of conscientious service as treasurer. He noted the steady growth in our membership which now has passed the 800 mark, and hailed the last Charter Anniversary Dinner in St. Peter's Church as "the largest and best since the original Charter Dinner in April 1964." Thanks were also expressed to the hundreds of members who had contributed to the financial and social success of last May's BARGAIN BONANZA which brought us all together and paved the way for underwriting the expense of a limited reprinting of *ONCE UPON A PUNG* and the original printing of *WINDOWS ON WESTON*.

After voicing appreciation of the BULLETIN, Mr. Marshall enumerated the various ways in which the Society is coordinating with the Weston Historical Commission and the Revolutionary War Bicentennial Committee all of whose members, of course, are active members of Weston Historical Society. The meeting closed with a slide lecture on the Knox Trail after which the Hospitality Committee served refreshments.

### SOPHIA KENDAL'S PENMANSHIP AND WHERE WAS "MISS TUFTS SCHOOL?"

At the close of our annual meeting we received from one of our oldest charter members, Mrs. Franklin E. Campbell, now of Wolfboro, New Hampshire, a handsomely framed sample of her great grandmother Sophia Kendal Marshall's handwriting of 1805 vintage. It is now on permanent display at the Society's rooms in the Josiah Smith Tavern, and poses a mystery because halfway between its two balanced parts are the words "MISS TUFTS SCHOOL". None of the oldtimers we have thus far contacted can identify that school. Can any reader do so?

Sophia was the granddaughter of Mrs. Campbell's great great great grandparents, Rev. Samuel Woodward and Abigail Williams Woodward.\* In turn she was the great grandmother of Mrs. Campbell who was married in Weston 71 years ago. The framed picture of Sophia's handwriting at age 17 came from the family home at 334 Boston Post Road\*\* when Mrs. Campbell's grandmother, Elizabeth Baxter Marshall Knox,\*\*\* died in 1905.

Prized by Mrs. Campbell are "a lovely sampler done by Sophia in 1801," framed pictures of her and her husband, Thomas Marshall of Boston, whom she married in 1813, many sermons by Rev. Samuel Woodward and his son-in-law, Rev. Samuel Kendal\*\*\*\*, the latter's Phi Beta Kappa key, and the diaries kept for many years by both Sophia and her daughter, Elizabeth Marshall Knox which Mrs. Campbell's daughter, Mrs. Kenneth Wood, also a charter member and a resident of Wolfboro says she hopes to live long enough to read!

Members are urged to visit the Smith Tavern any Wednesday afternoon and see the framed specimen of Sophia Kendal's handwriting which after 7 decades is back once more in Weston.

\*Granddaughter of Rev. John Williams, the Redeemed Captive of Deerfield.

\*\*Known for so many years as "The Teachers' Lodge". Now again a private residence.

\*\*\*Daughter of Thomas and Sophia Kendal Marshall.

\*\*\*\*Married Abigail Woodward. Sophia was one of their 7 children.



## MORE ABOUT “ONCE UPON A PUNG”

We have been surprised that many owners of the original 1963 hard-cover edition of this historical and humorous book did not realize that the ERRATA AND CORRECTIONS sheet which was enclosed with our compliments in the last issue of The BULLETIN, is impregnated on its reverse side with an adhesive substance. We suggest Page 85 as the most appropriate location for permanent insertion.

Now that the first printing of 2,000 copies has been completely sold, a second printing with attractive paper cover is now on sale at the Village Book Stall (and the Society's rooms in the Josiah Smith Tavern on Wednesday afternoons). The price for these 250 copies, as long as the supply lasts, is \$3.95. It makes an ideal Bicentennial gift for family and visiting friends.

### “SMITHS IN WESTON” A FAVORITE STOPPING PLACE

While reading the “Diary of Israel Litchfield” of Scituate in the latest issue of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, we were interested to note in his “Journal of a Journey to Chesterfield” that on May 24, 1775 “About ½ an hour before Sunrise Amos and I Sat out for Chesterfield. The first Stop that we made was at Browns in milton. There we fed our horses out of our bags and bought a half a mug of W. I. todde £0-2s-0 ten. We went from there to Smiths in Weston. Our horses Eat hay an hour £0-4-0. We bought half a mug of West India todde there. It Cost us £0-2-6. We Went from there to Sipping Hows in Marlbor. . . .”

This same Litchfield diary for the prior month clearly records the wet and heavy snowstorm which came as far east as Scituate early in the previous month when according to John Howe's Journal he slipped and fell from the rear roof of Squire Barnes' house in Marlboro. He landed soundly on his back in six inches of newly fallen snow while Liberty Men, armed with tar and feathers, stormed into the house from the front door.

### COMING EVENTS

- Tuesday, January 13: 8 P.M. Brandon Lecture on Hews Pottery: Josiah Smith Tavern Ballroom.
- Thursday, January 22: 8 P.M. MacKenzie Bicentennial Concert: High School (Auditorium).
- Sunday, January 25: 2 P.M. Repeat performance of above.  
5 P.M. Reception (informal) to Knox Trail Re-enactors: Josiah Smith Tavern and grounds
- Saturday, June 12: Bicentennial All-Family Weston Day from morn till midnight. Details later.

Note: Also in April/May the annual *Charter Anniversary Dinner* at place and time to be announced.

R.D. 11/2/76

# WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

## OFFICERS

*President:* Edward W. Marshall

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*Law Office:* Mesdames Harold G. Travis and Homer C. Lucas

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*Program:* President and Directors

*Publicity:* Donald D. Douglass



Annual Dues: \$5.00 per person, \$8 per family

Life Memberships \$200

Gift Memberships are suggested

Contributions to the Society are always welcome.

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc.  
and mailed to P. O. Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193

President: Mr. Edward W. Marshall 893-7388

Editor of the "Bulletin": Mr. Harold G. Travis 899-4515

## SPECIAL BULLETIN NOTICE

Due to advanced costs of printing and postage, the price for additional copies is now 50 cents each, obtainable by phoning Mrs. Bonner at 893-4346.