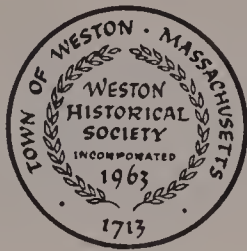


THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN



May 1977 Vol. XIII, No. 4



HALLMARKS AND LANDMARKS OF WESTON

For three and two tenths miles from Stony Brook at Route 128 on the edge of Waltham to the Wayland line, the old Boston Post Road, with two noticeable exceptions, follows quite accurately its original course. The scene above, almost equidistant from those two town lines, shows the Burgoyne Elm's preserved bole with the George Washington Memorial Highway marker which was placed there in 1932 at dedicatory exercises that are recalled beginning on Page 3.

Within a quarter of a mile, much of Weston's early history evolved and centered. Across the street is the site of our earliest-recorded tavern which belonged to Thomas Woolson and later to Samuel Baldwin. Diagonally to the right and left respectively from the elm may be seen today the homes of Parson Woodward and Isaac Fiske, both in the best of hands. As we look toward Boston on the south side of the road, we see Farmers' Burial Ground. Just out of the range of this picture's right are our headquarters, the Isaac Fiske Law Office, and Central Cemetery.

Half a mile apart on the same side of the road, and flanking this spot by approximately the same distance, are two well-known taverns, The Josiah Smith Tavern facing the Town Green and now owned by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, was the Liberty Men's favorite hangout. The Golden Ball Tavern, two tenths of a mile west of the elm, was an hospitable and popular haven for Tories during the Revolution and is nationally famous for its authentic preservation.

Truly the above picture, taken in the heart of Weston's very own *History Trail*, reminds us that we owe unceasing diligence to protecting the rich heritage for which, through good fortune and equally the good planning of our forefathers, we are today's grateful custodians.

THE MEETING HOUSE

The only known picture of the 1721 Meeting House as shown on the front page of The BULLETIN'S last issue, was drawn by a weathervane maker who has obviously over-emphasized the importance of his craft. A belfry was added to the building in 1801 to accommodate a bell made by Paul Revere, but on no such grandiose scale as the weathervane maker would have us believe. In 1841 a Greek Revival church was built to replace the 1721 Meeting House.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You will notice on Page 8 the list of committees that have been appointed and are actively at work. It is expected that our next issue in October will contain a full schedule for the fall-winter season of 1977-1978. A new committee, to be known as "Activities-Research" is being organized. It will investigate and determine ideas and projects which hopefully will have broad interest for the members. Your own suggestions will be most gratefully received.

Weston Historical Society will of course be cooperating with the local "Family Day" that is scheduled for June 11th. The Isaac Fiske 1805 Law Office and the Josiah Smith 1757 Tavern will be open that afternoon. Our Curator, Mrs. Fraser, is arranging a "Fashion Show", male and female, featuring costumes that are owned by the Society. If you would like to volunteer as a model, please contact her at 894-2872.

Our Charter Anniversary Dinner on April 27th marked another high spot in the Society's history. The opportunity to meet our guest of honor, Louis L. Tucker, and to hear him recall his experiences during the recent Bicentennial activities in New York and other states, turned out to be a real privilege. The fact that he lives next door in Wellesley and has succeeded our own fellow charter member, Stephen T. Riley, as Director of the Massachusetts Historical Society, oldest in America, added to the significance of his address.

The innovative Sherry Reception to new members which preceded the dinner gave all of us an opportunity to greet them and each other in a warm and neighborly manner. We should particularly welcome into *Life* Membership little Alison Vaughan who was born four days before *Bicentennial Family Day 1976!* May she be able, after a long and happy life, to report to the Society on what is current today when the Nation celebrates its 300th birthday in 2076.

John H. Bishop

PEDESTRIAN IDENTIFIED

The picture on Page 3 of the last BULLETIN is a copy of a 76-year-old photograph in a Fiske Family album, and bears the inscription " 'GUZZY' January 1901". "Guzzy" was the family nickname for Mr. George Fiske who, with his brothers Charles, Edward, and Andrew Fiske, all Weston residents, was a grandson of Isaac Fiske. George Fiske died March 5, 1902.

What a pity that all old photographs and drawings are not so carefully identified. For the sake of posterity it would be well to draw a lesson from this, and label all yours before it is too late.

B. H. D.

A WELCOME MESSAGE FROM BUFFALO, WYOMING

"The BULLETIN sent out by the Society is just great! . . . Life out here is busy and I am content to be a busy retiree. . . . I look across a wide stretch of field where horses graze to the mountains, ever changing in their beauty,—a peaceful scene which quite suits me." — (s) Emily.

(Charter member Mrs. Pierpont Blair, longtime Wayland resident.)

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BICENTENNIAL REENACTMENT IN WESTON 45 YEARS AGO

On Thursday morning, June 9, 1932, the people of Weston turned out en masse to welcome at the Burgoyne Elm on the Boston Post Road, a colorful Cavalcade, headed by Laurence H. Hart of Boston who took the part of George Washington. It was on the last leg of a 3 day—115 mile—journey that had started at Agawam on the west bank of the Connecticut River, passing through Springfield, Worcester, Sudbury, Weston, Waltham, and Watertown, en route to Boston. The following excerpts from local papers seem to exude the spirit of "Family Day 1976" when the oldfashioned and genuine Weston tradition rose once more to the occasion, as of yore.

First let us quote from the Waltham News Tribune of June 10, 1932 as follows:

"WESTON GREETES CAVALCADE IN SHADE OF THE BURGOYNE ELM

"Beneath the Burgoyne Elm and beside the little old office once owned and used by Squire Isaac Fiske, Washington stopped yesterday to greet the townspeople who were gathered to meet him. Here the tablet to mark the route of the Washington Memorial Highway is attached to a huge boulder, making one of the most natural and attractive settings on the route. At shortly after 11 o'clock, a company of Colonial gentlemen with long velvet coats with lace ruffles and wearing three-cornered hats on their powdered wigs, rode up the road to greet Washington as he entered the town from Wayland.

"In the group were L. Manlius Sargent, Gardiner Fiske, Harold B. Willis, Charles M. Squibb, Arthur Moore, and William Remick. A little maid, Frances Audrey Kenney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Horace S. Kenney, dressed in quaint costume of the early days, presented Washington with a rose bud, as in the long ago Hannah Gowen had presented a like flower to General Washington when he passed through town. In the group in Colonial costumes, standing beneath the Burgoyne Elm were Mr. David Lane and his daughter Betty Lane Whittemore, Mr. Edward B. Field, who improvised Parson Woodward, Miss Anna Hall, Mr. Joseph Seabury, Mrs. Louis M. Briggs, Mrs. Carolyn E. Burrage, the Misses Case, Mrs. John Boyd, Miss Mary Burrage, and Miss Mabel Burrage, Mrs. Edward P. Ripley, Mrs. Harry Warren, Mrs. Erlund Field, and Mrs. Emma Travis Carey.

"After Washington had gone, the Cavalcade with Governor Ely drove up and Hon. B. Loring Young presented the tablet in the name of the town, which was accepted by the Governor. 500 school children, accompanied by the school orchestra, sang songs which Washington knew. One pleasing feature was the marine and soldier standing on guard on each side of the boulder. A Boy Scout and a Girl Scout in costume unveiled the tablet . . . Among the young people in attendance on horseback were Miss Polly Brewer, Miss Hope Hubbard, Miss Martha Seabury, Miss Edith Seabury, and Miss Nancy Pushee."

Equally long was the article that appeared in the Boston Evening Transcript of June 9, 1932 and noted:

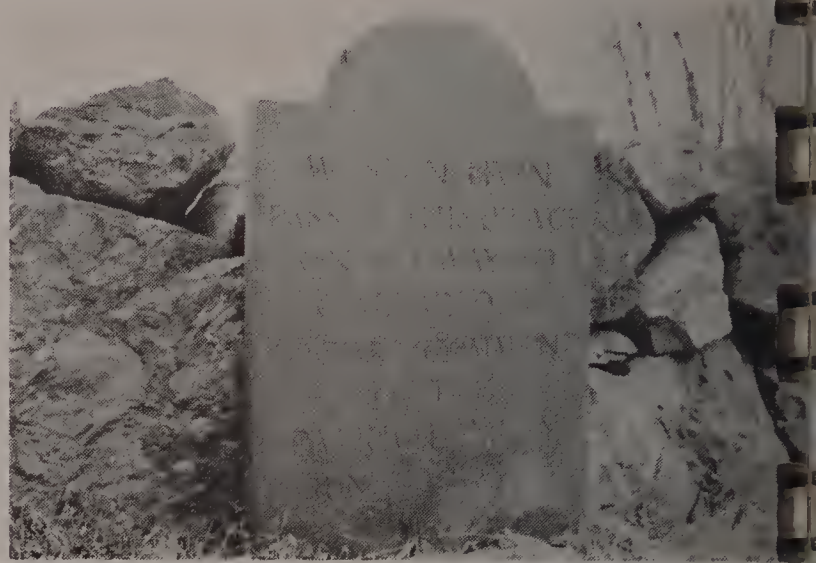
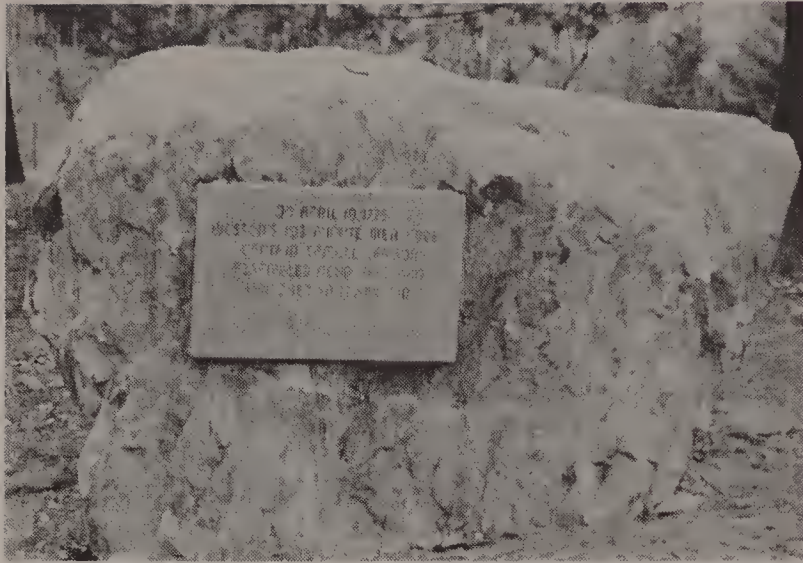
"It is George Washington's last day on his presidential tour through Massachusetts, riding on his white horse with an official party. Clocks were striking 11 as he came galloping into the town of Weston. . . . Under the huge elm which has historic Revolutionary connection, he stopped in the middle of the road and saluted the Selectmen. . . . Under the great elm which throws its long branches over the road, General Burgoyne's captured army camped while on its way as prisoners after the Battle of Saratoga Oct. 17, 1777. Because of this it has been christened 'The Burgoyne Elm' and here today a stone tablet was unveiled in honor of George Washington, marking the Weston section of the George Washington Memorial Highway which is being dedicated by the three day tour through the State.

"Following President Washington was a troop of mounted Indians, and a long line of horsemen in colonial uniforms, also numerous automobiles carrying the official party which included representatives of the governor, American Legion men, Lexington Minute Men, and many Colonial dames.

"Hon. B. Loring Young, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, stood in the middle of the road, under the Burgoyne Elm, to receive Washington in behalf of the Selectmen. Washington dipped his sword to him; school children, massed along the road, sang 'Speed our Republic, Oh Father on high', which is a hymn written especially for the

(Continued on Page 6)

HISTORIC MONUMENTS OF



Above, left to right:

“The April 19th” Boulder, entering at Josiah Smith Tavern facing the *Memorial* at Base of Town Hall Fl. Concord Road, and Fiske Lane, given

Left:

Knox Trail Monument at the southw

Right:

Norsemen’s Tower at Norumbega,—see

Below, left to right:

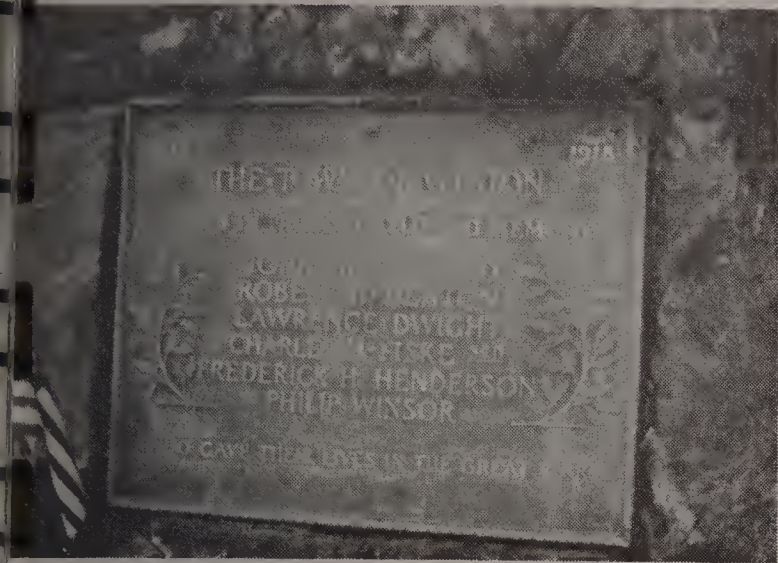
The Revolutionary War “*Beacon St. Memorial Highway*” Marker, dedicated at the Burgoyne Elm,—see story beginning “*Served Their Country . . .*”, Linwood Arboretum’s Case Estates in the Tow

Ack

The photographs herein portrayed u
Harnish, expressly for, and have been preser



WESTON MASSACHUSETTS



ark; "Washington Passed This Place" Tablet
 on the Boston Post Road; *World War I*
Soldiers' Park, bounded by the Post Road,
 s of Isaac and Augustus Henry Fiske;

f the Town Green;

S. BULLETIN, Oct. 1973, Vol. X, No. I;

Sanderson's Hill; the "George Washington
 Bicentennial of his birth, Boston Post Road
 on Page 3; "To The Memory of Those Who
 ery; *Case Memorial Park* facing the Arnold
 phical center.

ment

by our fellow charter member, Victor C.
The Weston Historical Society, Inc. —Ed.



Washington Bicentennial year. Mr. Young bade George Washington welcome . . . and Washington responded in the exact language that was used by the President on his tour of the towns in 1789.

"As he concluded his response a little girl stepped from the crowd, as little Hannah Gowen did in 1789, and George Washington dismounted and gracefully kissed her. . . . By ceremonies that followed, the town officially unveiled the road marker which was presented to the Commonwealth by Mr. Young in behalf of Weston. Adjutant General Agnew who joined the party today, accepted the marker for the Commonwealth and Herbert E. Tyler, chairman of the Weston Board of Selectmen, addressed the assembly in appreciation of generous cooperation."

In the Society's rooms at the Josiah Smith Tavern a photograph may be seen of the General heading the Cavalcade as it approached the welcoming committee and townsfolk at the Burgoyne Elm.

H. G. T.

"OUR OLDFASHIONED GARDEN AT THE LAW OFFICE" A REPRINT THAT REPEATS A PLEA

"The early daffodils, stately in glorious gold, were again resplendent at Easter, and now it's lilac time! Later varieties of daffodils are not far behind. In June the peonies will pop out, and all through Weston's summertime we'll have day lilies. In its sequestered, picturesque, and peaceful setting, the little oldfashioned garden nestles quietly just two dozen short steps below the Burgoyne Elm Bole, a hallmark of Weston history.

"Out of our thousand and one members, can we perchance find just a few,—ten would be too many,—who stay in Weston summers, who are not too *involved*, who have a few minutes once a week to render a simple service dependably, who *care enough to care for* our little gem by pulling a few weeds before they get tough, and who, when the dry spells come, could spend a few minutes tending to the sprinkler?"

The above appeared in the BULLETIN a year ago, and despite its failure to draw a single volunteer, we are prone to try again. Just dial 899-4515 if you are willing and able to help us maintain the beauty and charm of this 1969 award-winning garden in its historic and parklike setting behind our headquarters, the 1805 Isaac Fiske Law Office. Incidentally the outdoor alcove outside the south side of the Josiah Smith Tavern's colonial kitchen where we gather on Wednesdays lends itself admirably to the restoration of a simple, informal bulb or herb planting.

WHEN YOU MOVE

Be sure to notify us of any change in your address, even if you are only moving from one Weston location to another. Also remember to keep your dues paid up. You thus will ensure regular and uninterrupted receipt of all Society announcements and of all issues of the "BULLETIN".

APPRECIATION

Thanks to the generosity of our fellow member, Mrs. Robert B. McLeod, a handsome plaque now adorns the door that opens into the parlor from the kitchen of the Society's rooms in the Josiah Smith Tavern. You are invited to visit us any Wednesday afternoon from 2 to 4. The plaque reads:

"MISS ELLEN M. JONES

1858 — 1950

MISS ALICE E. JONES

1861 — 1947

MEMORIAL ROOM"

For more about the "Jones Girls" see Pages 5 and 6 of "Once Upon A Pung," copies of which may be secured at the time of your visit.

Weston

Oh, dear old Weston! blessings rest
Upon thy borders, east and west,
Upon thy strong and rocky soil
That yields its best to honest toil,
Upon thy breezes pure and free,
That cherish laughing childhood's glee,
And send fresh life to aged hearts
Till they forget that life hath smarts.
God bless thy lily-ponds, thy hills,
Thy woods, thy clear bird-haunted rills!
God bless the lovely church, thy people,
Who built so fair — without a steeple!

Sept. 1880

A POET SINGS OF WESTON

From an old Weston barn comes a tiny booklet entitled "Songs of Age." It contains only three short poems written, we are told on the back of the \$1.00 price tag that accompanied it, by Mrs. Louisa J. Hall of Cambridge who "used to board at Mrs. Sam Clark's." Only the first poem refers to Weston and is reproduced above. Though it was written 89 years ago, we can be thankful that the charms of the Town as recited by her then have not disappeared even now. Examine "Songs of Age" any Wednesday afternoon at the Society's "Open House" in the Josiah Smith Tavern. Bring along some family memento, memoir, or relic for review and discussion with our Curator and fellow members. Invite your friends.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Since our last issue, we have been pleased to learn that the following have enrolled as active members of the Society: Mr. and Mrs. John T. Funkhouser of 68 Westland Road, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur G. MacKenzie, Jr., of 22 Arrowhead Road, and Mr. Warren E. Vittum of 87 Brook Road. Miss Alison Bryant Vaughan, daughter of Dr. M. Clay Vaughan and Dr. Deborah Whitaker Vaughan of Gun Club Lane deserves a special welcome because not only is she our youngest member but also because her parents have favored her with a life membership in the Society in honor of her having been born on June 8th of last year and thus, four days later, the youngest citizen of Weston on Bicentennial Family Day. Just as she was Weston's *Bicentennial Baby* of 1976 may she be our *Tricentennial Lady* of 2076!

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

President: John H. Bishop

Secretary: Mrs. David V. Harmon

Treasurer: Samuel W. Payson

Curator: Mrs. James E. Fraser

Historian: Brenton H. Dickson III

Editor of THE BULLETIN: Harold G. Travis 899-4515

Board of Directors

John H. Bishop '77; Brenton H. Dickson III '78; Roy L. Dickson '78; Donald D. Douglass '77; Mrs. Dudley B. Dumaine '78; Homer C. Lucas '77; Edward W. Marshall '79, Mrs. John A. Paine, Jr. '79, Mrs. M. Kirkbride Patterson '79, and Harold G. Travis '78.

Committees

Auditing: Roy L. Dickson, Ch.

Finance: Harry B. Jones, Ch., James R. Hocking, and Horace Nichols.

Hospitality: Mesdames Reginald D. Wells, Ch., Richard Albrecht, James T. Jensen, and Samuel R. Payson.

Isaac Fiske Law Office: Mesdames Harold G. Travis and Homer C. Lucas, co-ch., Messrs. Roy L. Dickson, Edward W. Marshall, Bruce Nickerson, and George J. Pink.

Liaison: Mrs. Dudley B. Dumaine, Ch., Edward W. Marshall, and Harold G. Travis.

Membership: Mesdames John A. Paine, Jr., Ch., Reginald B. Elwell, Frank O. Shaw, William A. Whittemore, and Thurston B. Wright, Jr.

Nominating: John G. Brooks, Ch., John S. Hodges, Edward W. Marshall, and Mrs. William A. Whittemore.

Program: Mesdames M. Kirkbride Patterson, Ch., Allan W. Fulkerson, James B. Greason, Jr., Lyman Stone Hayes, Edward W. Rayner, and William A. Whittemore.



SCHEDULE OF DUES

Annual: \$5 per person: \$8 per family (including children under 21)

Gift memberships are suggested.

Contributions and bequests to the Endowment fund are welcomed.

Make all checks payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc. and mail to Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193.

Additional Copies of The BULLETIN may be obtained at 50c each by phoning Mrs. Paynter at 899-3533 or Harold G. Travis, Editor, 899-4515.