

## THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN



January 1978 Vol. XIV, No. 2



## THE SOUTH BURYING GROUND

“AND TO ACCOMADATE THE SOUTH PART OF THE TOWN, MR. INCREASE LEADBETTER, being in Town-Meeting, did agree to Sell half an Acre of his field adjoining the road, the Town to make one Division wall Said to be about Ten rods, and pay him five dollars as a Consideration for the Same --- which was likewise Agreed to by the Town.” ---

Page 409 of the 1789 Town Records reporting the September 3rd adjourned meeting that was held on the “last Monday of this Instant Sept.” (See pages 4 through 7 in this issue.)

### SOCIETY'S WINTER MEETING WEDNESDAY EVENING FEBRUARY FIRST

Charles D. Childs of Stow, Massachusetts, an authority on American art, will deliver a slide lecture entitled “AMERICAN LIFE AS THE ARTIST HAS SEEN IT” at the February 1st, 1978 meeting of the Weston Historical Society which will be held in the ball room of the Josiah Smith Tavern at 8 o'clock P.M.

Mr. Childs founded the Childs Gallery of Boston in 1937 and retired from this on-going business in 1969. He has been active in the work of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, serving for many years as Director of its Museum, and Editor of its *Bulletin*. He played a leading role in organizing the great Harvard Tercentenary Exhibition in 1936. Also he has worked with the Boston Arts Festival, the Boston Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Boston Opera Company. At the present time he is Honorary Curator of Prints at the Boston Public Library. Those who know Mr. Childs from his articles in *Antiques* magazine will now have an opportunity to hear him and make his acquaintance in the social hour that follows.

## TWO NEW BOOKS ABOUT WESTON

We take great pride in heralding two fascinating new books that are centered in Weston. Published in limited editions they are: *RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS* by our own historian Brenton H. Dickson, written in his inimitable style "for my grandchildren", and *THE TAVERN AND THE TORY* by our charter member Howard Gambrill Jr. with Charles Hambrick-Stowe as co-author, published for the Golden Ball Tavern Trust in recognition of the contributions of so many in the town's most outstanding historical preservation.

These two books are welcomed as distinguished additions to the four others previously written about our town and its people:

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF WESTON, MASSACHUSETTS 1630-1890,

Col. D. S. Lamson; (1913)

WESTON: A PURITAN TOWN, Emma P. Ripley; (1961)

ONCE UPON A PUNG, Brenton H. Dickson; (1963)

ONE TOWN IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION,

Brenton H. Dickson and Homer C. Lucas; (1976).

## TWO ACTIVE AUTUMN EVENTS

Two recent examples of how the Society constantly cooperates with not only our schools but also with all other town organizations should be cited. The series of 8 lectures last fall by Allen Charles Hill on *HOW OLD IS YOUR HOUSE*, with the Weston Historical Commission as co-sponsor, was a success in every way. Likewise during the first 3 days of December, we were delighted to cooperate with the Weston Arts and Crafts Society in presenting a display of quilts, some well over a century old, made by ladies of Weston and the ancestors of many of our members. Occupying both floors of the Josiah Smith Tavern, the attractive showing was viewed by a steady stream of admirers. It made a most appropriate adjunct to the impressive exhibit of local artists and craftsmen in the Tavern's barn adjoining. A generous check received from the Arts and Crafts Association in appreciation of our co-sponsorship, reveals a cordial community relationship and fulfills one of our basic aims in the *preserving, protecting, and promoting* of Weston's rich heritage.

## ANNUAL MEETING AFTERTHOUGHTS

The Josiah Smith Tavern's ballroom floor was again put to the capacity test by the large crowd that turned out November 3rd for our annual meeting. Roland Hammond's slide lecture on old furniture was enthusiastically received, Retiring President John Bishop's report on the year's activities considerably brief and modest, and refreshments, graciously served to wind up a friendly and happy evening.

Most significant to us was the election of Mr. Stephen T. Riley as our new president. His leadership cannot fail to advance the best interests of our Society and of our town. As one of our charter members, he has been all along of invaluable assistance to many of us, and only recently your directors have received a listing of many valuable manuscripts relating to Weston, that are available for reference in the Massachusetts Historical Society where, until his recent retirement, he had been the Director.

## LIST OF LIFE MEMBERS GROWS

We have gone to press before Christmas presents may swell the total further, but in this issue we do want to express appreciation to Mrs. Samuel Abbot Smith, and Messrs. Horace W. Cole and Stephen T. Riley for becoming life members. Our Endowment Fund which can be augmented also by bequests, memorial gifts, and special contributions, now approximates \$8,000. The capital amount is never used, and only a special vote of the directors can touch the income. So far there have been no such expenditures. When thus added annually, income from Endowment become untouchable principal providing ever-increasing special revenue which someday may well prove necessary and worthwhile.

“6 MEN WERE SHOT AT LEXINGTON . . . .  
WHILE THE PEOPLE ARE FIGHTING DO YOU PRAY FOR THEM!”

Below is printed through the courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society transcripts of three original letters, all written within a few anxious hours by Samuel Phillips Savage from and of Weston to “John Scollay Esq  
3 Boston”.

The latter, well known as a Patriot, was born in 1712 and died in 1790. A close friend of Sam Adams, he was a skilled brazier and merchant of Boston where he served as a Selectman from 1754 through 1764 and in 1773 and 1774.

*This morning opened the Scene in Blood. 6 Men were shot at Lexington which no doubt you know. I fear too late we shall rue the Inactivity of our wise men. 4 Regiments properly marshalled and suitably disciplined might have saved the Blood that this day may be spilt. — The Regulars have taken and I hear destroyed three fine 24 pdrs. (pounders —Ed) and disarmed some of our Troops, who want not Bravery but having no Officers of any Experience are like Sheep without a Shepard. Every moment I expect to hear the Action between the Troops, ours are collecting at a distance from the Regulars who are resting and recreating themselves with the distruction of our Canon and wast of the Bullets. O for one man of Spirit to be at the head of our Men who pant to revenge the Blood of thier Brethren.*

*Every moment is important, this is all I have yet heard — the next may raise or damp my Spirits. —*

*While the people are fighting do you pray for them.  
11 o'clock*

*Farewell ----  
a known Friend*

---

*Evening of 19 April 1775*

*Whether this will ever be delivered I know not. I have lived near 60 years and scarce ever knew till this day, what anxiety about this life meant. From an hour before day till near 9 at night, we have been in the greatest fears for ourselves, our Country, and our Brethren in the Army. Numbers this afternoon we have not wanted, Multitudes are constantly coming in from the Westward, but a few spirited sensible leaders that have been in Action would be most heartily welcome. Its amazing considering we were taken so much unawares that our men ventured so far (about 20 I believe on each side are slain) and that so little Injury in other Respects is done by the Regulars. This night after the Junction of the Artillery and Reinforcements from Boston they are encamped or rather resting themselves on a hill near where the Action first began. I do not expect much Rest this night: the Regulars are too near Neighbours to sleep much. O that the Watchman of Israel might be our Guard, then might we sleep sweetly and none make us affraid.*

*The poor men who are now lying in the open field, without Great Coats or Blanketts, need the constant fervent and united prayers of all God's people. It is a day of Jacob's Troubles and the foraging seed should wrestle for a Blessing. I hope you received a line from me wrote this morning and last Night.*

*Farewell  
a known Friend*

*Our friends, — you know who I mean, went from this Town before and at Day Break 20th at Noon*

*You now have all the news --- We have a Thousand uncertain and different Reports. Whether there has been or is like to be any Action between our Foes and us is uncertain. --- You know your own Business Best --- but it amazes me if you may that you dont leave the Town ---- Trust not the Virtue of a Soldier ---- even Gen.'l Gage's Aid de Camp, Major Small: — it is characteristic of a Soldier that he has the Art of deceiving, and I fear you will find it to be to your Cost though I believe there are some pretended Whigs in whom the people have placed the highest confidence as well furnished with that Art as they are. I wish we were well rid of such, — their bodies can't hurt us, I'm sure.*

SCALE 8' = 1"

ALL MEASUREMENTS ARE AT LEAST  $\pm 6"$

LOCATION OF HEADSTONES BY STEEL TAPE

MEASUREMENTS FROM INSIDE FACES OF STONE

WALLS ON SOUTH AND WEST SIDES OF CEMETERY.

GRAVESTONE LOCATIONS SHOWN AS OF 1977.

SOME STONES ARE BROKEN; FALLEN; NOT LEGIBLE.

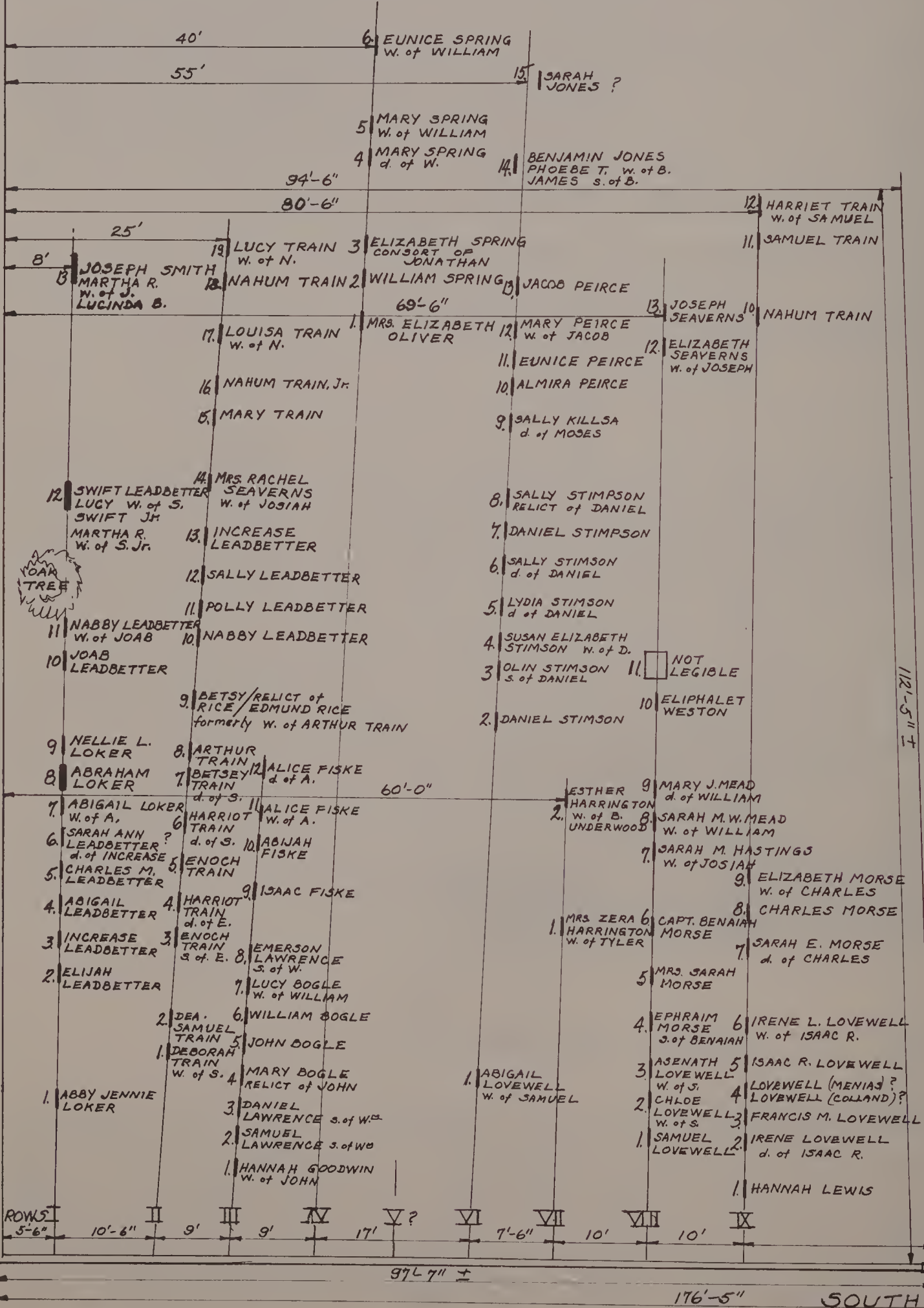
SOME GRAVES HAVE ONLY MARKERS OR FIELD STONES.

LOCATION AND IDENTIFICATION BY H.M. FORBES & H.G. TRAVIS.

DRAWN AND LETTERED BY V.E.I. DICKSON (Mrs. Roy L.)



SOUTH  
WESTON  
PURCHASED FROM



PATH

14 ABIGAIL LEADBETTER  
13 ADELING LEADBETTER  
12 EDWARD LEADBETTER  
11 LUCY LEADBETTER  
10 ANN LEADBETTER  
9 HORACE LEADBETTER  
8 FRANK LOKER  
7 TIMOTHY D. LOKER  
6 MORDECAI LEADBETTER  
5 DEAN LOKER  
4 CLARA LOKER  
3 TYLER LOKER  
2 MARY LOKER  
1 EDWARD LOKER

2 MARY LOKER  
1 EDWARD LOKER

1 EDWARD LOKER

X - 1 2	PORTER:	Edward A. 1812-1890 *Mary Lucinda, his wife d. July 27, 1898	78
II - 9	RICE:	Betsy (Relict of Edmund) also wife of Arthur Train d. Nov. 21, 1855	80
XI - 4 XI - 4	RILEY:	*Emily Walton 1896-1922 **Ethel A. d. Dec. 4, 1922	
VIII - 13 12	SEAVERN:	Joseph d. April 4, 1833 Elizabeth, his wife, d. Mar. 12, 1835	80 78
II - 14		Mrs. Rachel, wife of Josiah d. Jan. 31, 1808	62
	SMITH:	**Anne W. d. May 14, 1899 **Betsey M. d. Dec. 15, 1902 Caroline L. 1871-1894 **David C. d. April 25, 1907 **Ellen C. d. 1931 **George d. 1933	66
I - 13 13		Joseph d. June 19, 1922 Martha Rebecker, his wife d. July 7, 1865	23/8/11
13		*Lemuel Alpheus d. Mar. 24, 1908 *Lorenzo d. Nov. 21, 1914 *Lucinda B.	
	SPOFFORD:	**Moses d. June 17, 1898	
IV - 3	SPRING:	Elizabeth, consort of Jonathan d. Jan. 21, 1821	83
2		William d. Dec. 17, 1843	65
5		Mary, his wife d. Aug. 28, 1814	29
4		Mary C., their dau. d. Oct. 23, 1814	4 mos.
6		Eunice, his 2nd wife d. April 12, 1823	36
VI - 7	STIMPSON:	Daniel d. Aug. 2, 1843	69
8		Sally, his relict d. Aug. 31, 1851	77
5		Lydia, their dau. d. Oct. 16, 1831	19
6		Sally, their dau. d. Oct. 14, 1825	18
VI - 2	STIMSON:	Daniel 1805-1875	70/4/22
4		Susan Elizabeth, his wife d. Aug. 28, 1846	22
3		Olin, son of Daniel and Anna d. Sept. 1, 1853	2 mos./11
II - 8	TRAIN:	Arthur d. Oct. 31, 1811	40
5		Enoch d. Nov. 24, 1805	43
3		Enoch, his and Hannah's son d. Oct. 22, 1796	1
4		Harriot, his and Hannah's dau. d. Feb. 6, 1797	3
15		Mary d. Oct. 14, 1821	33
18		Nahum d. Dec. 2, 1808	49
17		Louisa, his wife d. Sept. 12, 1800	33
19		Lucy, his 2nd wife d. March 6, 1836	72
16		Nahum, son of Nathan & Louisa d. Apr. 15, 1810	11
2		Samuel (Deacon) d. Oct. 3, 1838	93
1		Deborah, his wife d. Mar. 4, 1825	81
7		Betsey, their dau. d. Feb. 10, 1797	9
IX - 11		Samuel d. Aug. 25, 1845	60
12		Harriet, his wife d. Mar. 4, 1842	52
II - 6		Harriot, their dau. d. Jan. 7, 1815	2
IX - 10		Nahum d. Aug. 24, 1840	29
	TRAVIS:	**Infant d. Oct. 22, 1905 **Hosea Dec. 7, 1930	1 day
VII - 2	UNDERWOOD:	Esther Harrington, wife of Benjamin, d. Jan. 30, 1865	93
XII - 2	WALCOTT:	*Etta d. Oct. 26, 1946	
XI - 6	WALTON:	*James L. 1867 - Jan. 17, 1946 (maybe "Jennie L.")	
VIII - 10	WESTON:	Eliphalet d. May 23, 1950	55
near n.e. corner	WHITCOMB:	Levi d. Nov. 1859 Anna, his wife d. Dec. 2, 1856	57 57
XI - 1	WRIGHT:	*Florence E. d. Sept. 4, 1968	

## NEW MEMBERS

We extend a hearty welcome into our membership to Mrs. Anne Bemis of 36 Church Street, Mrs. Michael Deland of 13 Hidden Road, Mrs. Thomas W. Dunn of 324 Merriam Street, Mrs. Allyn T. Gilbert at 95 Jericho Road, Mr. and Mrs. Marion Hines of 752 Wellesley Street, and Mrs. Patricia Smith of 23 Rolling Lane. Steady membership growth is stimulating, and when you invite your neighbors to join our Society, you are offering them the best kind of opportunity to know and enjoy the exceptional community of which they are a part.

## ONE MYSTERY CLOSER TO SOLUTION

In our last issue, we made reference to the "Washington Passed This Place" tablet that is a part of the low stonewall just west of the Josiah Smith Tavern on the Old Boston Post Road facing the Town Green. We heard from no one, but while parking October 10th in front of the Watertown Public Library, our eyes espied a similar tablet at the edge of the sidewalk. Unlike ours in Weston, its lower half was intact and our photograph clearly reveals the following statement thereon: "Erected by Mass. Society S. A. R.

July 2, 1914".

## THE WESTON CORNET BAND

February 6, 1876 - June 17, 1880: A Short History

"We, whose names are affixed to this paper, wishing to organize and maintain a Brass Band, and wishing also, that it may have a decided form and character, hereby do promise to attend all Band meetings, whether for practise or business, regularly and promptly, as far as may be possible; to pay all assessments which may be levied; and to obey all rules and regulations of said Band, which rules and regulations shall be voted upon, and approved, by at least two-thirds (2/3) of all the members. — Also to be responsible for our several instruments; and, in short, to do our best to make our Band a success, and a credit to ourselves, and our town."

The first of 31 signatures, almost too faint to recognize now, was that of Joseph B. Knox who subsequently served as leader. Others in the order of their appearance were: C. F. Ellis, Clarinet; Chas. T. Hemingway, Piccolo; Geo. P. Caldwell, E. Flat Cornet; Horace E. Smith E Flat Cornet; Frank Clancy, E Flat Cornet; Chas. W. U. Ellis, B Flat Cornet; W. H. Coburn, B Flat Cornet; G. F. Williams, B Flat Cornet, E. Jennings, B Flat Cornet; J. L. Cobb, E Flat Alto; H. E. Jones, E Flat Alto; E. Schwartz, B Flat Tenor; H. P. Heard, B Flat Tenor; H. J. Jennison, B Flat Bass; Henry J. Hall, Side Drum; Edward L. Cutting, E Flat Bass; Albert E. Coburn, Cymbals; W. H. Jennings, B Flat Cornet; Theodore Jones, Bass Drum; Henry W. Caldwell, Side Drum; E. P. Upham, E Flat Tuba; L. H. Crane, Baritone; Daniel Smith; T. C. Richardson, B Flat Tenor; Horace Skelton, E Flat Alto; Charles C. Kenney, B Flat Clarinet; T. Henry Crane, B Flat Bass; W. H. Campbell, E Flat Bass; Arthur Jennison, E Flat Alto, and Milton A. Stone, B Flat Cornet.

Edward L. Cutting served as the first secretary, was first succeeded by H. E. Jones in 1877, and finally by Charles T. Hemenway whose minutes of the June 17, 1880 meeting are the final record in a neatly bound book presented to the Society recently by Mr. Harrison Ripley of Groton, son of the late Edward P. Ripley, grandson of the late "Mr. G.A.R." Francis Ripley, and nephew of the late Emma Ripley author of *Weston: A Puritan Town*".

Here are a few choice excerpts from the "Secretary's Record":

Feb. 6, 1876: "Messrs. J.S.B. Knox, Geo. P. Caldwell, and J. Frank Ellis were appointed to draw up a paper to the effect that each member shall be responsible for his part of the band property. . . ." "Returned to practice."

March 1, 1876: "Voted: to exempt the leader from all fines and assessments."

"Voted: to instruct the leader to purchase Band Books."

"Voted to allow the leader to use his own discretion about the price of books."

April 27, 1876: "Voted: that hereafter no person not a member of the band shall be admitted to the bandroom during practice hours except he or she be passed in by a member of the band and said member shall be responsible for his or her behavior."

May 19, 1876: "Mr. E. Coburn in behalf of the town invited the band to participate in decorating the soldiers' graves . . . Voted: to accept the invitation."

May 26, 1876: "Voted that a committee of three be chosen to arrange a programme for Decoration Day and appoint a competent person to act as Marshall of the Day."

June 14, 1877: "Voted; to accept the invitation of the chairman of the Selectmen of Weston to participate in the celebration of July 4, 1876." Also, "Voted: to accept the invitation of the Baptist Society to attend the Strawberry Festival in their Vestry this evening."

Sep. 7, 1876: "Voted: to buy uniforms not to exceed in cost eleven (\$11.) in case the Band got an engagement." "The sense of the meeting was taken as to the price of playing, and all were willing to play for two and one half (\$2.50) dollars per day. The majority of the band were willing to play for less than the above sum in case that could not be obtained."

Sep. 11, 1876: "Voted to have the coats trimmed with red cord and gold lace, three rows of gilt buttons on the front, and six buttons on the tail." "Voted: to adopt white belts. The sense of the meeting was that dark pants were preferable to light blue." . . . . "Voted: to have the pants trimmed with red cord on outside of leg."

"Wednesday Evening Oct. 4, 1876 the band attended a party at Gen'l. C. J. Paine's and gave a concert, after which, Gen'l Paine provided a supper."

Mon. Eve Feb. 19, 1877: "voted; that all members of the band should wear their coats buttoned to the chin while playing Feb. 22nd."

Feb. 26, 1877: "Voted: to go to Sudbury Wed. eve Mar. 7 with the Avon Dramatic Club of Wayland provided conveyances are furnished."

"Voted that any member who gets intoxicated while the band has an engagement, or while in uniform, shall be expelled."

Apr. 2, 1877: "Voted to accept ----'s resignation . . and the Secretary be authorized to consult a lawyer, provided Mr. ----- refuse to return band property." Voted: that Mr. ----- be placed on trial for one (1) month, that he be allowed to play at rehearsals but not in case of any engagement of the band."

April 23, 1877: "A letter from Mr. --- . . . . . was read. Voted: to reconsider vote whereby it was voted to consult a lawyer, provided Mr. . . . . . refused to return band property. Voted: to lay question relating to Mr. . . . . . 's uniform on the table." "Voted not to adjourn. Voted to adjourn."

Apr. 30, 1877: "The examining committee reported favorably on Mr. . . . . . 's name and he was reinstated." . . . "The vote to compel every member to remain in the hall while band was practicing was lost."

June 18, 1877: "Voted to accept Mr. and Mrs. Edward Coburn's invitation to give a concert at their residence on Thurs. eve, June 21."

"Voted: to furnish music for Mr. Merriam's Barn Party for twenty-five dollars. Voted; to return to practice."

March 21, 1878: "Voted: that Janitor be instructed to stop card playing in the hall during Band rehearsals." . . . "Voted: to accept the invitation to play at the dedication of the new School House Saturday, April 6, 1878."

Nov. 21, 1878: "The Band attended the reception given Mr. Alonzo S. Fiske at his residence in Weston, in honor of his election to represent the town in the next Legislature."

Feb. 24, 1879: "Voted that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at the call of the Secretary of the Treasurer."

"The Band played in Weston Decoration Day for which they received (\$40) forty dollars."

September 21, 1879 the Band serenaded Mr. Benjamin Cutter at his house in Weston and were entertained in fine manner by him."

October 6, 1879: The Weston Cornet Band adjourned its meetings until further notice."

The Band played in Weston Decoration Day for which they received twenty-five dollars.

A meeting of the Band was held June 17th, 1880. It was voted at that meeting to divide the balance in the treasury making a dividend of 37 cents and adjourn the meeting to an indefinite time."

Editor's note: Though the band had its origin at virtually the outset of the nation's Centennial commemoration of the Revolutionary War no reference thereto is to be noted in the record book of its 4½ year existence.

## CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER APRIL 25TH

Mark Tuesday evening, April 25th on your new calendar right now and plan to attend the annual charter anniversary dinner, a gala event, featuring delicious food and traditional sociability in the attractive hall of St. Peter's Church. Distinguished speaker will be Mr. Walter Muir Whitehill. Details will appear in our March issue. Be sure to save the date.

## QUINCY SOCIETY HOSTS BAY STATE WINTER MEETING JANUARY 14TH

The Quincy Historical Society is preparing a warm welcome to all members of the Bay State Historical League on Saturday, January 14th. The historic museum and other world-famous homes will welcome you as a member of our Society whether or not you are an individual, or associate, member of the League. If you are interested in accompanying us, call Mrs. Dumaine at 899-1028 for details. Weston should have a large group join representatives from over 300 other historical societies of the Commonwealth in this lively and friendly occasion.

## IN MEMORIAM

With great sadness and in renewed gratitude for their lives and loyalty, we record the deaths of the following members:

Mrs. Harold A. (Rita) Allen, Mr. Paul R. Allen, Mr. Clarence D. Blake, Mr. Raymond W. Coburn, Mrs. Horace W. (Charlotte) Cole, Mr. William W. Gallagher, Jr., Mr. Patrick B. O'Toole, and Mrs. David H. (Janice) Reid. Each was a genuine friend who enriched this great little town of ours with many distinctive contributions. We shall miss them, but their spirit will continue to inspire and motivate us all.



## WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

President: Stephen T. Riley

Vice President: Mrs. Reginald B. Elwell

Secretary: Mrs. David V. Harmon

Treasurer: Samuel W. Payson

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

## SCHEDULE OF DUES

Annual: Individual \$5    Family \$8 (includes children under 21)

Life: \$250 per person

Gift memberships are suggested.

Make checks payable and mail to

Weston Historical Society, Box 343, Weston, Massachusetts 02193

Additional copies of *THE BULLETIN* at 50c each, plus postage, may be obtained by phoning Mrs. Paynter at 899-3533. Relatives and friends might find them interesting too.