

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN



March 1980

Vol. XVI, No. 3



“WESTON BRIDGE”

Reproduced above is a line drawing of the old bridge that spanned the Charles River at the Newton line of what we know most familiarly as *South Avenue* but which, in earlier days was called The South County Road. Full information is available in the Society's “*ONE TOWN IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: WESTON MASSACHUSETTS*” by Dickson-Lucas not only on Page 10 but also, through its “NOTES” section on Page 180 an abundance of additional detail is to be found in *Massachusetts Archives*, in the *Journal of the House of Representatives*, and in *Province Laws 1743-44*.

This drawing by one H. O. Rider appeared in a booklet entitled “*EARLY DAYS IN AUBURNDALE*” presented to us by our fellow townsman, A. Bruce Downes. It describes itself as “*A Village Chronicle of Two Centuries: 1665-1870*”, and was published under the auspices of the Auburndale Woman's Club in the early part of the current century.

Attention is called to the fact that Newton's portion of the structure was of stone while Weston's was of wood. The landing at the bottom of the steps on the Weston side was in the vicinity of what today and for at least the past half century has been known as the “Duck Feeding Area.”

A MEETING OF MOST TIMELY IMPORT SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 20TH

See next page for details of the meeting and exhibits prepared for us by some of our outstanding school students to show what they've found out about our town.

“HOW WESTON’S HISTORY IS TAUGHT IN THE WESTON SCHOOLS”

A real treat is coming to us at our next members’ meeting on Thursday evening, March 20th, at 8 o’clock in the Ballroom of the Josiah Smith Tavern. Some of our outstanding teachers and selected students will tell us how they have gone about to study the history of the town, some of the interesting information they have turned up, and how much encouragement and help they have received from the Society, and possibly suggesting ways in which we can point them to interesting facts and people of yesteryear. For example, at the high school level under the direction of fellow-member, Marylee Marsh, as their teacher and guide, students will describe the research they have done, based on Weston’s tax records of the 1770’s. Exhibits will supplement presentations. Limited to approximately an hour, the program will be fun and fact-packed.

We have come a long, long way since that panel discussion we had on April 12, 1966 with members of the history (Social Science) faculty. When it developed that not a single one of the teachers had grown up in Weston, it was quite understandable that our children were not getting much indoctrination into the fascinating history that is Weston’s. Almost immediately our Society established a relationship that has grown closer through the years. We met the challenge of supplying them with all data we had available which, except for Lamson’s History, town records, and tax lists, were not accessible in many places or as abundant as they shortly became.

Talks and walks, first with 3rd graders, grew quickly. Bus trips were conducted over the whole town for Junior High and continued into High School. Weston’s own History Trail from one end of the Post Road to the other became a reality. A booklet “Windows on Weston” was published for schools, newcomers, and visitors. How proud we were of our school children during the Nation’s Bicentennial and of the impressive exhibits and pageants produced at various elementary, intermediate, Junior and Senior High and private school levels, all proving to be amazing tributes to the initiative, hard work, and enthusiasm of students and faculty in their love and respect for town and country.

Don’t forget the date: March 20th and the time, 8 P.M. sharp, at the Josiah Smith Tavern. We predict it will be an eye-opener to many members and a real inspiration not to ourselves alone by any means, but especially to the school officials, student participants, and their parents and friends. With encouragement and appreciation from us, they too have “just started!”

A LETTER FROM OUR OLDEST LIVING CHARTER MEMBER

A letter from our 97 year old charter member, Mrs. Elizabeth Campbell quickly followed her receipt of our January issue that quoted a letter from her great uncle, J. F. B. Marshall, on how Kendal Green came to get its name and its spelling (one “l” please!) Her grandson, Franklin E. Campbell, Ph.D., lives on Bainbridge Island and is writing a book on her great uncle, his great, great, great uncle’s life on what was then called The Sandwich Islands (now Hawaii), and . . . “he will be interested in our BULLETIN articles as we are direct descendants of Rev. Samuel Kendal. I grew up in Weston under the care of my grandmother, ‘E.B.M. Knox’ as she always signed her name. I was married there in 1904 to Dr. Franklin E. Campbell, U.S.N., in the house which, now the home of Theodore Rand, was formerly known as ‘The Teacher’s Lodge.’ I never went back there to live as I ‘followed the ship’ as the Navy saying goes, until his resignation from the Navy to establish private practice in medicine. I spent many happy days in the home of General Marshall in Kendal Green, and I believe I am the oldest member of the Society as I was born Jan. 25, 1883. I did get out to visit my grandson two years ago and plan to visit them in April on their island. I am well mentally and physically.” We salute you, Mrs. Campbell!

MORE ABOUT THE JONAS HASTINGS HOMESTEAD

Our last two issues referred to the 1884 Enneking painting of the Hastings Homestead at 199 North Avenue diagonally opposite the residence of our oldest charter member, Miss Anna Hall, recently deceased in her 102nd year. Almost immediately we were treated with an outpouring of fascinating comments, a sample of which is described below.

Shortly after she and her husband became members of our Society almost eight years ago, Dorothy Ellis joined our volunteers in assisting the Weston Historical Commission to trace the histories of old houses along the principal old roads of Weston. Her first assignment was 199 North Avenue. Later she was appointed by the Selectmen as a member of the Commission, and today is its chairman. So it is apropos to quote below an interesting deed which, among others, she submitted on June 1, 1973 to the Survey Committee.

Before doing so, we would like to quote from supplementary information she submitted with the completed standard form we all used in the giant survey that still continues. These few excerpts emphasize that there is still more "digging" to do. (One of our readers, perhaps, may want to undertake it so that we all may know more in detail about "the old house which had to be taken down before the new one could be built upon a foundation . . . to receive the sills . . .")

"... Mary Giddings, granddaughter of Jonas Hastings, . . . recorded in 1893 that the house taken down, known as the old Budge Place, was formerly the summer residence of Deacon Samuel Barrett. Nancy Budge, an old negro slave or servant, generally referred to as Elizabeth in the town tax records, was allowed to make it her home for some years. The town voted to pay her taxes."

Now here is the "*Agreement to Build a House*" as found in the records of the Registry of Deeds, Middlesex County, Book 250, Pages 67 and 68. We consider it a significant addition to town history in general and to this picturesque section of North Avenue (Route 117).

"Jonas Hastings with Phinehas Conant, agreed.

"This indenture made on the twenty second day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eighteen hundred and twenty-three between Phinehas Conant of Stow in the County of Middlesex, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Gentleman, of the one part and Jonas Hastings of Weston in the County and Commonwealth aforesaid, cordwainer, of the other part, witnesseth that the said Phinehas Conant for and in consideration of the Covenants and Agreements hereafter contained on the part of the said Jonas Hastings to be done, performed and paid, covenants and agrees to build a dwelling house upon a foundation or underpinning to be prepared to receive the sills by said Hastings whenever the said Conant may be ready to raise the frame where the said Hastings now lives, of the following dimensions viz. forty Feet long and eighteen feet wide, seventeen feet posts comprising two stories, with a level roof, to be boarded with straight edged board, shingled and the external far side and two ends clapboarded, the projection to be cased and water corner, weather and saddle boards one outside door and twenty one board window frames, twelve panes each 12 by 9 Boston glass to finish the east front room and chamber over the same, the lower room to be sealed as high as the bottom of the windows, doors, and cased there with a single archative, to finish the front entry and stairs and chamber entry and a bed-chamber and one bedroom, the entrys, chamber and bedroom to be plastered to a mop board, the aforesaid room and entry to be finished with floors and plastering, but not to lay any other floor in the house, to finish two closets without shelves in the chamber and one in the lower room under the stairs with shelves, to have nine inside inch four panel doors, to have one chimney with three fire places and an oven to begin at the bottom of the cellar, to have the brick in the old chimney but to put new brick in the jams and top of the chimney, the said Conant to have all the boards in the old house that are suitable to shingle on or for under floors, said Conant to furnish two hands to help take down the old house, but then Hastings to board them, said Conant to furnish all the materials for the building as aforesaid, excepting hinges, latches. locks and the lead for the chimney and the expense of raising the frame, said house to be finished as aforesaid by the first day of November next ensuing the date

Continued on page 7

WESTON'S THREE RAILROADS

Brenton H. Dickson III

PART 2: THE FITCHBURG

Editor's Note: Part I of Mr. Dickson's speech at our annual meeting in the crowded ballroom of the Josiah Smith Tavern appeared in our January issue. Part 2, as promised, is printed below. The final installment, Part 3, is scheduled to appear in the May BULLETIN.

The second railroad through Weston was *The Fitchburg*. Construction began in 1843 and was completed to Fitchburg in 1845. Later, service was extended westward to Troy, New York* and northward into New Hampshire and Vermont. There were three stations in Weston: Stony Brook, Kendal Green, and Silver Hill. A fourth station - Hastings - was added when the organ factory moved in 1888 from Boston to Kendal Green.

This line boasted important trains with Pullman and dining cars. It became one of three lines operating between Boston and Montreal, and for a number of years the "Minute Man" came through town on its Boston to Chicago run.

Henry Thoreau, the author and naturalist, built a cabin on Lake Walden where he could commune with nature and record his observations. As for his opinion of the railroad, I will quote a few selected passages from his book, "*Walden*".

"The Fitchburg Railroad," he wrote, touches the pond about a hundred yards south of where I dwell. I usually go to the village along its causeway, and am, as it were, related to society by this link. The men on the freight trains who go over the whole length of the road, bow to me as to an old acquaintance. . .The whistle of the locomotive penetrates my woods summer and winter, sounding like the scream of a hawk. . .Here come your groceries, country: your rations, countrymen! Nor is there any man so independent on his farm he can say them nay. . .Up comes the cotton, down goes the

*Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad from Fitchburg to Greenfield; Troy and Greenfield from Greenfield to Troy. All three became a part of the Boston and Maine system.

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No. 21.

FITCHBURG

FITCHBURG

TIME-TABLE NO. 21, FOR EMPLOYEES ONLY.
OUTWARD TRAINS ON TRUNK ROAD,
WILL RUN

STATIONS.	Ayer Junc. Ice Train.	Ice & Brick Train limited Tueson WatBr	Fitchburg Passenger.	Wat. & Wal. Freight and Passenger.	Greenfield & Ches. R. R. Express Pass.	Tunnel Express Passenger.	Wat. & Wal. Passenger.	Waltham Passenger.	Fitchburg Local Freight.	Wat. & Wal. Freight.	Ice & Brick Train.	Wat. & Wal. Passenger.	Fitchburg Passenger.	Fitchburg Local Freight.	Extra Through Freight.	Troy, N. Y. & Western Freight.	Wat. & Wal. Passenger.	Marlb. Br & P. & S. R. R. Freight.	Rail. & Bar. and C. Vt. Freight.	Tunnel and Ches. R. R. Express Pass.	Extra Through Freight.	Troy, N. Y. & Western Freight.	Marlb. Br. & P. & S. Br. Freight.	Troy, N. Y.
No. Train.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Leave	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.	A. M.	M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.
BOSTON.....			6 15	6 30	6 45	7 00	7 15	7 30	7 45	8 00	8 15	8 30	8 45	9 00	9 15	9 30	9 45	10 00	10 15	10 30	10 45	11 00	11 15	11 30
Charlestown....	4 30	4 45	6 18	6 33	6 48	7 03	7 18	7 33	7 48	8 03	8 18	8 33	8 48	9 03	9 18	9 33	9 48	10 03	10 18	10 33	10 48	11 03	11 18	11 33
Union Square..		4 47	6 23	6 38	6 53	7 08	7 23	7 38	7 53	8 08	8 23	8 38	8 53	9 08	9 23	9 38	9 53	10 08	10 23	10 38	10 53	11 08	11 23	11 38
Somerville.....		4 51	6 25	6 40	6 55	7 10	7 25	7 40	7 55	8 10	8 25	8 40	8 55	9 10	9 25	9 40	9 55	10 10	10 25	10 40	10 55	11 10	11 25	11 40
Cambridge.....	8 59	4 55	6 28	6 43	6 58	7 13	7 28	7 43	7 58	8 13	8 28	8 43	8 58	9 13	9 28	9 43	9 58	10 13	10 28	10 43	10 58	11 13	11 28	11 43
Wat. Junc.....	4 03	5 00	6 31	6 46	7 01	7 16	7 31	7 46	8 01	8 16	8 31	8 46	9 01	9 16	9 31	9 46	10 01	10 16	10 31	10 46	11 01	11 16	11 31	11 46
Hill's Crossing.			6 33		6 48	7 03	7 18	7 33	7 48	8 03	8 18	8 33	8 48	9 03	9 18	9 33	9 48	10 03	10 18	10 33	10 48	11 03	11 18	11 33
Belmont.....	4 14		6 36		6 51	7 06	7 21	7 36	7 51	8 06	8 21	8 36	8 51	9 06	9 21	9 36	9 51	10 06	10 21	10 36	10 51	11 06	11 21	11 36
Waverley.....			6 39	Via.																				
Clematis Brook			6 42	Wat.																				
Beaver Brook..			6 45	Br.																				
Waltham.....	4 31		6 48	7 45	7 54	8 48	9 16	9 20	9 55	10 40		11 32	11 42		12 11	12 31	12 42	12 55	1 51	2 04				
Roberts.....			6 52																					
Stony Brook ...	4 43		6 55		7 58	8 51			10 12				11 48		12 23	12 43		1 03		2 08				
Weston.....			6 58										11 51							2 10				
Silver Hill.....			7 02																					
Lincoln.....	5 05		7 07		8 07	8 59			10 43				12 00		12 45	1 05		1 26		2 16				
Concord.....	5 22		7 16		8 13	9 04			11 09				12 08		1 02	1 22		1 40		2 22				
Concord Junc..	5 34		7 21		8 17	9 08			11 27				12 13		1 14	1 34		1 51		2 27				
South Acton...	6 00		7 32		8 27	9 15			11 52				12 22		1 38	1 58		2 14		2 33				
West Acton....	6 09		7 36		8 30	9 18			12 05				12 26		1 47	2 07		2 21		2 37				12 39
Littleton.....	6 32		7 47		8 39	9 25			12 26				12 37	12 40	2 09	2 30				2 46		12 48	3 02	
Ayer Junc.....	6 55		8 00		8 51	9 35							12 50	1 18	2 36					2 57		3 11	3 21	
Shirley.....			8 08		8 58	9 40							12 58	1 35	2 52					3 04	3 06			
Lunenburg....			8 15										1 04							3 09				
Leominster....			8 23		9 10	9 51							1 12	2 14						3 16	3 35			
Fitchburg, ar..			8 34		9 21	10 00							1 22	2 41						3 25	4 00			
No. Train.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

woven cloth; up comes the silk, down goes the woolen; up come the books, but down goes the wit that writes them.

"When I meet the engine with its train of cars moving off with planetary motion . . . with its steam cloud like a banner streaming behind in golden and silver wreaths . . . when I hear the iron horse make the hills echo with his snort like thunder, shaking the earth with his feet, and breathing fire and smoke with his nostrils . . . it seems as if the earth has got a race now worthy to inhabit it . . .

"I watch the passage of the morning cars with the same feeling that I do the rising of the sun, which is hardly more regular,- Their train of clouds stretching far behind and rising higher and higher, going to heaven while the cars are going to Boston . . .

"The startings and arrivals of the cars are now the epochs in the village day. They go and come with much regularity and precision, and their whistles can be heard so far, that the farmers set their clocks by them . . . Have not men improved somewhat in punctuality since the railroad was invented? Do they not talk and think faster in the depot than they did in the stage office?

"What recommends commerce to me is its enterprise and bravery. It does not clasp its hands and pray to Jupiter . . . I am refreshed and expanded when the freight train rattles past me, and I smell the stores which go dispensing their odors all the way from Long Wharf to Lake Champlain. . .

"And hark! Here comes the cattle train bearing the cattle of a thousand hills . . . The air is filled with the bleating of calves and sheep, and the hustling of oxen as if a pastoral valley were going by . . . a carload of drovers too . . . their vocation gone, but still clinging to their useless sticks as their badge of office. But the dogs, where are they? Methinks I hear them barking behind the Peterboro hills, or panting up the western slope of the Green Mountains . . . their vocation too is gone . . . they will slink back to their kennels in disgrace, or perchance run wild and strike a league with the wolf or the fox.

"So is your pastoral life whirled past and away . . . Now that the cars are gone by and all the restless world with them, and the fishes in the pond no longer feel the rumbling, I am more alone than ever."

RAILROAD.

No. 21.

DIVISION.

TO TAKE EFFECT ON MONDAY, MAY 14, 1877.
FROM BOSTON, (PASSENGER AND FREIGHT),
AS FOLLOWS:

Waltham Passenger	South Acton Passenger.	Wat. & Wal. Passenger.	Waltham Passenger.	Shelburne Falls Passenger.	Waltham Passenger.	Wat. & Wal. Passenger.	Concord Passenger.	Wat. & Wal. Passenger.	Tunnel and Ches. R. R. Express Pass.	Waltham Passenger.	Fitchburg Passenger.	Wat. & Wal. Passenger.	Vt. & Mass. Div. & W't'n Freight.	N. A. & B. R. R. Wor. Shiley Leon'r & Ches. R. R. Freight.	Waltham Passenger.	Wat. & Wal. Passenger. Mondays only	Wat. & Wal. Pass. Tues. & Weds. only.	Waltham Passenger. Thurs. only.						Wat. & Wal. & Mass. b. Pass. Sundays only	Pass. & Milk Train. Sundays only	Waltham Passenger. Sundays only	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39						40	41	42	
P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.						A. M.	P. M.	P. M.	
2 15	2 40	3 00	4 00	4 30	5 00	5 15	5 30	5 45	6 00	6 10	6 30	6 35	6 42	6 55	7 35	9 35	11 20	11 20						9 45	1 00	5 45	
2 18	2 43	3 02	4 03	4 33	5 03	5 13	5 33	5 48	6 02	6 13	6 33	6 38	6 42	6 55	7 37	9 38	11 22	11 23						9 48	1 03	5 48	
2 24		3 08	4 08		5 09	5 17	5 38	5 52		6 19		6 44			7 44	9 43	11 28	11 28						9 53	1 08	5 54	
2 27		3 11	4 10		5 12	5 18	5 40	5 54		6 22		6 47			7 47	9 46	11 31	11 30						9 56	1 10	5 57	
2 30	2 49	3 14	4 13	4 39	5 15	5 21	5 43	5 57	6 08	6 25	6 39	6 51	6 59	7 14	7 50	9 49	11 35	11 33						9 59	1 13	6 00	
2 33	2 51	3 17	4 15	4 41	5 18	5 23	5 45	5 59	6 10	6 28	6 41	6 54	7 03	7 18	7 52	9 52	11 38	11 36						10 02	1 17	6 03	
2 36			4 18		5 22		5 49			6 31					7 55			11 39								6 07	
2 39	2 55		4 21	4 45	5 25		5 52		6 13	6 34	6 46		7 12	7 29	7 59			11 42								6 11	
2 42	2 57		4 24	4 47	5 28		5 55		6 15	6 37	6 49				8 02			11 45								6 14	
2 45			4 27		5 30					6 40					8 05			11 47								6 17	
2 48		Br.	4 30		5 33	Br.	5 59	Br.		6 43		Br.			8 07	Br.	Br.	11 50						Br.	Br.	6 20	
2 50	3 03	3 41	4 32	4 52	5 35	5 48	6 02	6 22	6 20	6 45	6 55	7 17	7 26	7 56	8 09	10 15	12 02	11 52						10 27	1 45	6 22	
	3 08						6 05				6 58													10 30	1 49		
	3 10			4 59			6 08		6 24		7 01		7 36	8 08										10 33	1 52		
	3 13			5 01			6 10		6 26		7 04													10 35	1 55		
	3 17						6 14																	10 39	2 00		
	3 22			5 10			6 19		6 32		7 12		7 54	8 30										10 45	2 06		
	3 30			5 17			6 26		6 39		7 20		8 08	8 47										10 54	2 18		
	3 34			5 22					6 43		7 24		8 19	9 01										10 59	2 23		
	3 41			5 31					6 48		7 34		8 39	9 24										11 10	2 35		
				5 36					6 51		7 38		8 46	9 33												2 45	
				5 46					7 00		7 48		9 03	9 56												2 57	
				6 00					7 11		7 58		9 25	10 34												3 32	
				6 08					7 19		8 06		9 39	10 56												3 41	
				6 15					7 24		8 12															3 48	
				6 23					7 33		8 20		10 03	11 30												3 57	
				6 35					7 45		8 30		10 25	11 55												4 08	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39						40	41	42	



AN UNUSUAL VIEW OF THE 1757 JOSIAH SMITH TAVERN

Seven years ago while workmen were installing new shingles on the shed which is attached to the Tavern's southwest corner for storage purposes, the photographer climbed over the stone wall along the Post Road and pushed his way downhill to catch this unusual view in mid-afternoon December sunshine, of the historic building's western end (left) and its complete southern, seldom-seen side as far as, and including, the stable which is but forty feet or so from the library of which we also are so proud and grateful. It will be recalled the contribution to Weston's observance of the Nation's Bicentennial, which the Weston Community League so appropriately made when it restored the barn, stable, and shed that have been part of the Tavern for more than 2 centuries, as commended on the front page of our January 1976 issue, Vol. XII, No. 2.

Our last two issues have shown front and eastern side views of Weston's oldest downtown building. We thought this rear view would interest many.

BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE NOTES

The Weston Historical Society since its inception in 1963 has been one of more than 300 local Historical Societies that have comprised the Bay State Historical League, now in its 78th year. Many of our members have also taken out individual memberships as well, not alone to support such a worthy cause, but to ensure being advised promptly through the quarterly Bulletin and the monthly League Calendar of interesting events that are taking place all over the state every month of the year.

We heartily recommend that more of you join us in this support. Regular meetings of the League are held four seasons of the year at various towns throughout all parts of the state, at which we meet kindred souls who enjoy the stimulating friendships that result from thus getting to know some very fine people who devote a good part of their time and lives to the preservation of relics and landmarks of great historic value. Also the League holds workshops of timely topics and projects almost every month. As an individual member you would get a regular notice of each with details, well in advance of the event.

It will be recalled that we ourselves were hosts to the most worthwhile meeting last April at Regis College, just 10 years following our joint sponsorship with Wayland when Stephen T. Riley, now our president, was the chief luncheon speaker. At that time he was its vice president. Later two of our members each served consecutive three-year terms as directors.

For details of membership direct from headquarters, you may call 742-7978 which seldom answers as it does not need to be regularly manned. In the event of no answer, Professor Paul Tedesco, current president, can easily be reached at 437-3302 (Northeastern University).

EDITORIAL

New Members Swell Our Ranks and We Strengthen Weston

Our list of new members keeps growing steadily. In this issue we welcome Messrs. H. Bentley Crouch and James W. Ferrelli, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon L. Goddard, and Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Uytterhoeven. Each has already served the town conspicuously and their active support definitely strengthens our organization, bringing us closer to being the largest historical Society in the Commonwealth. If each of us would set for himself or herself an objective of securing just *one new member*, - whether family or individual, next door neighbor or friend, - we'd be surprised how appreciative practically all of them would feel to be "asked." After all, the Weston Historical Society deserves the support of every resident, bar none, - all the way from oldest inhabitant to the latest arrival.

Our out-of-town membership is close to the hundred mark. With the BULLETIN issued gratis four times yearly, former and prospective residents learn a lot about what's still happening to ensure that Weston remain what it has often been called, "the most exceptional town in New England." Most people come here for that reason. Think also of the colorful speakers we have been honored to have address us several times each year: many are nationally known specialists in their distinctive fields. Never a charge to you, except the annual Charter Anniversary Dinner which itself is partially subsidized.

You can see at the Society, at the Public Library, and in many homes, a full set of the more than five dozen separate BULLETINS that have been published since our incorporation in 1963. Here is a goldmine of Weston history. On the front of Vol. I, No. 1, our first Editorial declared . . . "Think of the history that's buried here — of the stories these old cellar holes can tell! Now, before it's too late, let us all resolve . . . to cooperate with the historian, the archivist, and the various research sub-committees in bringing back the facts and the artifacts of yesteryear. This society will be what we of today make it."

Many and gratifying as our "uncoveries" have been, it is still true that we have but scratched the surface, for the more we learn, the more we realize how much there is still to find. Each issue of the BULLETIN supplies a clue or a plea for a new and deeper search. We look to the young and to the parents of the young to supplement what so many of our older members have supplied authentically of Weston history. Let us involve youth through their parents and their inspiring teachers. As the old disappear make sure they are succeeded by the youngsters of today who have caught the fire from us, and, who as leaders of tomorrow, will work for the preservation of the Weston which has meant so much to so many. Instead of "pointing with pride", let each of us *do* a little more, however we can.

H. G. T.

More About The Jonas Hastings Homestead

Continued from page 3

hereof, in a workmanship manner of merchantable western lumber, the frame to be pine or oak timber, the said Conant to have the mantelpiece in the old chimney.-- the said Jonas Hastings agrees, covenants and promises to pay the said Conant for the said house the sum of five hundred, twenty seven dollars in the following payments, viz. two hundred dollars when the frame is raised and the remainder when the work shall be completed.-- In witness whereof the parties have hereunto interchangeably set their hands and seals the day and year first written--- Jonas Hastings, & Seal, Phinehas Conant & Seal---Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of Levi Conant, Luke Brown.

Middlesex Co. Sept. 8, 1823, Rec'd and Recorded by
Wm. F. Stone, Regr."

Editor's Note: Along the right margin on the first of the two pages, appear the following notations:

"November 21, 1823 Rec'd the contents of this contract in full"
(s) Phinehas Conant

"Middlesex s. s. February 17, 1826. Rec'd and Recorded by
(s) Wm. F. Stone, Reg."

IN MEMORIAM

It is our unhappy duty to record the passing of three outstanding members since our last issue. The deaths of Priscilla S. Dwinnell, charter and life member, former director and program chairman,- of Rev. Miles Hanson, Jr. who for 36 years was the beloved and inspiring pastor of *The First Parish in Weston*,- and of Lyman Stone Hayes, charter member and sportsman, gentleman,- public servant particularly sensitive to problems of the elderly,- followed each other in awesome succession. The Town of Weston and the Weston Historical Society never had their superiors in deep dedication to all that Weston meant to them and to us. We are grateful for their contributions, each in different ways and in somewhat different fields, but all of them genuine and generous. We shall miss them greatly and extend our deepest sympathy to their loved ones.

THREE IMPORTANT ADMONITIONS: MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

1. Keep your dues paid up. Call Treasurer Payson at 899-1802 if you want to make sure you are not overdue.
2. When your address changes, even from one part of Weston to another, be sure to notify us at Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193.
3. It becomes more difficult all the time, due to our larger membership to make sure that the BULLETIN Editor is advised of deaths of members. This delicate detail can most easily be accomplished by notifying the treasurer also, for he not only needs the information for his own records, but he also is in constant touch with us and the mailing list company. Up to now, sometimes by accident, we believe we have heard of, and recorded in our "IN MEMORIAM" section, the deaths of all members, but with the growth of the town and of our membership, even we who consider ourselves "oldtimers" find ourselves increasingly uneasy over the possibility of "missing" someone.



WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

President: Stephen T. Riley
Vice President: Mrs. Reginald B. Elwell
Secretary: Mrs. David V. Harmon
Treasurer: Samuel R. Payson
Editor of THE BULLETIN: Harold G. Travis

SCHEDULE OF DUES

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

Life: \$250 per person

Gift memberships are suggested

(Currently our youngest life member is 3 - our oldest in his 80's)

Contributions and Bequests to the Endowment and Memorial Fund are welcomed. (It has now grown into respectable five figures, due to contributions, bequests, life memberships, and interest.)

Make all checks payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc., and mail them to its Post Office address: Box 343, Weston, Massachusetts 02193.

Additional copies of THE BULLETIN may be obtained at \$1.00 each by phoning Mrs. Raymond Paynter at 899-3533, or Harold G. Travis, Editor, at 899-4515.