

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

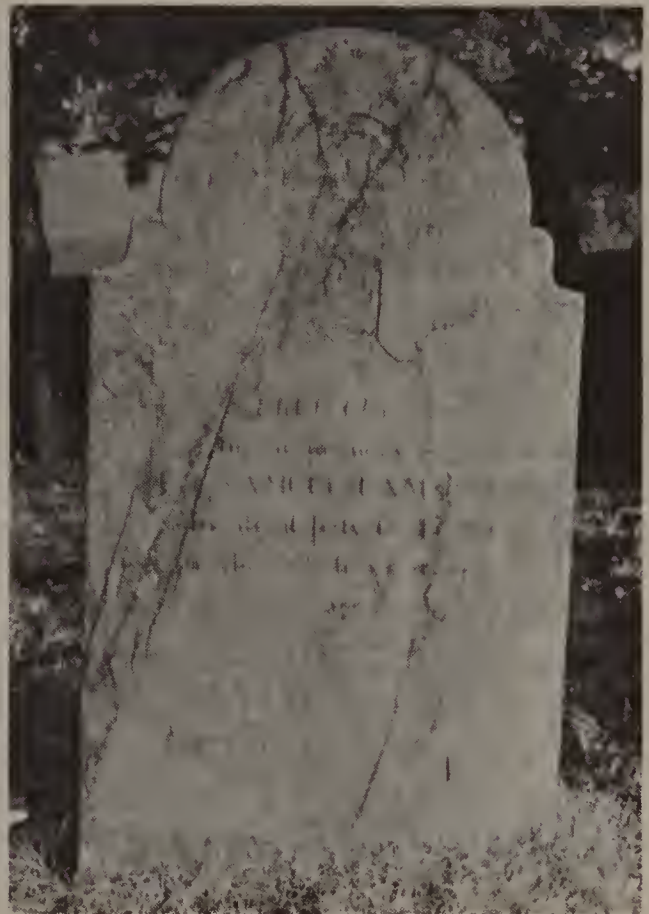


March 1981

Vol. XVII, No. 3



**SAMUEL PHILLIPS SAVAGE
PATRIOT**



**SAMUEL LAMSON
SOLDIER**

On the same side through Revolutionary War times, Weston's most prominent champions in the cause of independence shared the same first name and now most fittingly their gravestones stand side by side in *FARMERS' BURIAL GROUND*, the town's oldest.

Pictures: Joan Warren

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 14th HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY CLASS PRESENTS "JEFFERSON: A MAN OF VISION"

On Tuesday evening, April 14th, at 8 o'clock in the ballroom of the 1757 Josiah Smith Tavern, selected members of last year's Sophomore History Class, now all Juniors, will summarize their current research into the life and times of Thomas Jefferson. After last year's program, we heartily agreed with Dr. Laska's summation - "A heartwarming evening" (Page 3, Weston Historical Society BULLETIN, May 1980, Vol. XVI, No. 4), and we welcome them back. Now "next year's Seniors," they are pupils in the "Advanced Placement Course"* under Mr. John Williams, head of the History Department. As is their last year's teacher, Mrs. Marylee Marsh, he is our fellow member.

Exhibits and handout material accompany the oral presentation. As were we a year ago, you will be impressed with how history is being studied in Weston's schools. Here, to carry on our work, are tomorrow's historians. Your presence on April 14th as they present "*Jefferson: A Man of Vision*" should prove mutually inspiring.

* At its conclusion, most of the class will take the special test given by the College Board's Placement Department. Those who pass are given extra credit when they enter college.

MEMBERSHIP KEEPS GROWING

Since our last issue, we have had the pleasure of welcoming the following new members:

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel S. Cheever, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Corwin, Mr. and Mrs. Victor C. Dugal, Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Harding, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph H. Hinckley, Mr. and Mrs. James R. Nichols, Mr. and Mrs. Hanson Reynolds, and Mrs. Albin Webber. The support of this substantial group of citizens gives us great encouragement as we all do our part in keeping the character and traditions of the Town at top priority to guide us on our way toward a new century, now less than a score of years away.

It wasn't until this time of year 18 years ago that Weston began actually to do something about forming an historical society of its own. The oral interviews of oldtimers and the questionnaires that went out all over the world to those who had lived here in the "Gay Nineties" and "Early Oughts" enabled the "I Remember When" Committee through exhibits, plays, and publications to perpetuate the enthusiasm which developed from the outstanding celebration of the Town's 250th anniversary of its separate incorporation as a town of its own. What has happened since the incorporation of Weston Historical Society in 1963 has brought us all deep and abiding satisfaction and gratitude not only for our large membership which constantly grows but also for the cooperation extended by so many other great institutions and organizations in helping create and maintain civic pride that is unsurpassed in this country. Let us keep on keeping Weston exceptional.

ANNUAL CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER

FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 8, 1981

SHERRY 6:30 DINNER 7:15

St. Peter's Episcopal Church's Undercroft

NO ADVANCE IN COST

*Large Committee headed by Mrs. Pink promises outstanding meal.
Mail your reservations in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.
Don't delay — Do It Now!*

Our speaker on May 8, Mr. Robert J. Taylor of the Massachusetts Historical Society, is a leading authority in his field. He is Editor in Chief of *The Adams Papers*, a long-term project for putting into print one of the greatest family collections of papers in the United States. Among their contents are the diaries of three Adams statesmen - John, John Quincy, and Charles Francis Adams - also family correspondence and official papers of each of these three men.

Mr. Taylor has prepared for us a fascinating account of the relationship between John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, beginning with their first acquaintance as members of the Continental Congress to the end of their lives. Very different though they were, the two men were very fond of each other. When for a time national politics left them estranged, a mutual friend brought them together again, and the result, as related by Mr. Taylor, was one of the greatest exchanges of letters in American history. The range of their common interests included philosophical topics, religion, science, history, and a host of other subjects.

Prior to his present position our popular speaker was history professor and Chairman of the Department of History at Tufts University. During his career he has published two books on New England history and has edited literally hundreds of historical documents.

Our inaugural *charter dinner* in the spring of 1964 instantly became an annual tradition. With each anniversary it grows in popularity. Without exception, committees have been outstanding - food ample and delicious, hostesses gracious, decorations tasteful, sociability predominant, and all speakers of special merit.

PHIL COBURN REMEMBERS!

The Society has recently received from charter member and former director, Philip F. Coburn, his original manuscript of "*Growing Up In Weston*". His earliest recollections reach back more than four score years to the earliest years of the present century. It is our feeling that it will make a welcome addition to our growing list of Society publications. Meanwhile excerpts will appear from time to time in issues of THE BULLETIN beginning with the one on the earliest days of the Weston Golf Club which you will find on Page 4 herein.

A HEARTWARMING LETTER

The letter we received early last month from our oldest and still consistently active charter member, Elizabeth Campbell, should be shared with our readers as an ideal example of the spirit that has kept us alive and growing since our beginning almost 18 years ago. Writing from Goodwin Farm, Wolfboro, New Hampshire 03894, she shows the same spirit of loyalty for Weston that has always kept it unique in character and charm:

"Now that the big day (Jan. 25) is over, I am really 98 years young and unless someone has caught up with me, I am now the oldest member of the Society . . . I have dropped membership in many societies . . . but Weston is where I grew up and it means much to me. (Her dues are paid ahead as usual. - Ed.)

"I am very happy here and I have delightful company and this is where I expect to live out my days. Maybe I could answer a question or two while I am still alert and remember so much. Thanks to you and Mrs. Fraser for keeping in touch with me. Most of my treasures went into storage . . . but my granddaughter knows my wishes regarding them. I not only recall the article you wrote about me but I have it here with other copies I have saved.

Sincerely

(s) Elizabeth Campbell"

The article to which she refers appeared a year ago in The Weston Historical Society BULLETIN, March 1980, Vol. XVI, No. 3, Page 2. It pointed out that as a direct descendant of Rev. Samuel Kendal, she grew up along the route of the Knox Trail under the care of her grandmother Knox at 334 Boston Post Road where she was married in 1904. Also noted was the fact that her great uncle was General J. F. B. Marshall, a grandson of Rev. Kendal.

"CANONS FOR OBSERVANCE IN PRACTICAL LIFE"

A college classmate's scrapbook, "*It Was Just Yesterday*", notes that on February 21, 1825, Thomas Jefferson offered a youthful namesake, Thomas Jefferson Smith, the following "Ten Rules To Be Observed In Practical Life."

1. Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.
2. Never trouble another for what you can do yourself.
3. Never spend money before you have it.
4. Never buy what you do not want because it is cheap.
5. Pride costs us more than hunger, thirst, and the cold.
6. Never repent of having eaten too little.
7. Nothing is troublesome that we do willingly.
8. How much pain those evils cause that never happen.
9. Take things always by their smooth handle.
10. If angry, count ten before you speak — if very angry - a hundred.

In the archives of the Massachusetts Historical Society, the above are found under the heading, "Decalogue: *Canons For Observance in Practical Life*".



TEEING OFF AT WESTON GOLF CLUB
1894 Photo

GENERAL CHARLES J. PAINE of Weston is here shown driving from the first tee. The caddy house is on the right and the building behind the caddy is the Coburn's red barn that still stands on Church Street. Paine was one of the youngest generals in the Civil War, and afterwards became one of the largest landowners in Weston. He was also a noted yachtsman, being the sole backer of two successful defenders of the *America's Cup* and member of a syndicate that backed a third.

EARLY DAYS OF WESTON GOLF CLUB

The Weston Golf Club, organized in 1894, was first located on hired land in Kendal Green. A map is in the process of preparation to show how it started some distance back of the big red barn and farmhouse west of Church Street's big curve. The course itself began not too far north of the first bend on what is today's Lower Webster Road, but before getting any false impressions, wait for the map which will appear in THE BULLETIN as soon as ready, showing how the course wound over plateau and hill-sides to, and even across Viles Street. An original copy of the first yearbook (1894) has been given to the Weston Historical Society by one of our fellow members, Mr. Andrew Fiske, of Shelter Island, New York.

In "*Growing Up In Weston*" Philip Coburn tells about caddying at the Kendal Green links on Saturdays during the spring and fall. Although people expressed a strong desire to play on Sundays, the principal landowner would not permit it. Sunday, he maintained, was a day for worship and rest — not golf! As a caddy, Coburn received 20¢ a round which amounted to about 10¢ an hour since it took two hours to play 9 holes. His older brother, "Bill" (fellow member now living in Morago, California), was more fortunate because he caddied for Mr. F. W. Batchelder who was one of the better players and paid 40¢ a round. He used Spaulding "Glory Dimple" golf balls costing a dollar each, and as "Bill" had an extraordinarily good eye for following the ball, he cut Mr. Batchelder's losses to a minimum - paying the premium was well worthwhile!

Cows were pastured on the long third fairway, and one of the jobs all caddies had was to drive them out of the golfers' way. As a precaution against intruding animals, two of the greens were surrounded by iron pipe fences with narrow entrances for the golfers.

Such was the Weston Golf Club before it was moved to its present location in 1917. Its 50 original members, headed by their officers, are shown on the opposite page just as they appear in the 1894 Yearbook.

1894.
OFFICERS.

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WILLIAM E. RUSSELL

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EDWARD FISKE

GEORGE S. PERRY

B. L. YOUNG

LYMAN GALE

CHANDLER ROBBINS



THE ELISHA WARREN HOUSE 1743-1920

Pictured above is another Warren house which until it and its barn were destroyed by fire on November 9, 1920* had stood on a Lexington Street farm for 177 years just south of the Ensign John Warren homestead. A reproduction of the latter landmark, which is still standing at No. 71, appeared on Page 4 of our last issue.

The structure here shown was built in 1743 by Ensign Warren's grandson, Elisha Warren (1718-1795) who lived there the remaining 52 years of his life, passing it then to his son, Nathan, 1761-1843. Final Warren family ownership of this oft-expanded house came to *his* son, Elisha Warren's grandson, also named Nathan, who had been born in 1796 and died in 1884. The sale following his death marked the end of 141 consecutive years of Warren owning and living on Lexington Street land, although many other Warrens have since continued to bring distinction to our town through other sections of it.

A few genealogical observations seem appropriate. For this photo of Elisha Warren's house we are indebted to fellow member Marjorie W. Childs Hunt, one of John Warren the Immigrant's many direct descendants. Her forefather, Captain John Warren (1622-1702) was the older brother of Daniel Warren, 1628-1715. (See chart on page 7.) Mrs. Childs will be remembered also as grandniece of Mary Frances Peirce, compiler almost a century ago of several books of town records and tax lists to which historians are continually indebted. See Weston Historical Society BULLETIN May 1979, Vol. XIV, No. 4.

The photographs of Ensign John Warren's tombstone and of Messrs. Lamson and Savage, also in this current issue, were loaned to us by Miss Joan Warren. She and her father, Robert A. Warren, are our fellow charter members and direct descendants of Ensign John Warren through the latter's grandson Elisha - builder of the house that vanished from the Weston scene 60 years ago. The lineage chart shown on Page 7 was prepared at our request by Mr. Robert Warren. Additional acknowledgements of assistance in preparing this article are gratefully extended to Mesdames Elsie Cooke and Dorothy Ellis, and to Messrs. Bentley Crouch and Warren Vittum, all active fellow members too.

* The house which was built subsequently on this historic ground is today's No. 39 Lexington Street. - Ed.



WESTON'S EARLIEST TOMBSTONE AS IT LOOKS TODAY ENSIGN JOHN WARREN — 1665 - 1703

Two of our charter members, father and daughter, Robert A. and Joan Warren, represent an unbroken 11 generation chain of the descendants of "John Warren The Immigrant, 1585-1667". Hence the picture she has taken of his grandson's grave in Farmers' Burial Ground creates added interest as does the genealogical chart made by her father, which is reproduced below.

John Warren: "The Immigrant"
1585-1667

Daniel Warren
1628-1715

Ensign John Warren
1665-1703

whose house still stands at 71 Lexington Street.

Deacon John Warren
1684-1745

Elisha Warren
1718-1795

Nathan Warren
1761-1843

Nehemiah Warren
1796-1885

Sarah Warren (married 3rd cousin George W. Warren who also descended from Ensign John Warren, but his family lived on North Avenue)
1835-1929

George F. Warren
1866-1948

Robert A. Warren
1892-

Joan R. Warren

IN 1893 FRANCIS HASTINGS LOOKED BACK A CENTURY

Recently much of the late Anna Hall's accumulation of Weston lore has come into the Society's possession. After cataloguing and sorting, steps are being taken to make them available to any interested person. Already some copies are in the hands of the Town's Historical Commission and Public Library. Here are a few notes made from a paper prepared in 1893 - 20 years before Lamson's History of Weston was published.

"... timbers for house were cut and hewn where they were to be used. Nails slowly hammered out on anvil one at a time ... those old fathers of ours faced homes to the south, even if backs to road ... cellars deep and frostproof ... Wood the only fuel ... farmer's woodlot his main resource - almost only article he had for sale. Persons still alive remember large ox carts and sleds carrying quantities to Boston ... long rows of cartloads standing on street waiting for purchasers.

"... old houses had open fireplaces, great baking ovens ... great loaves of brown bread - Indian pudding - Pot of beans ... cold fingers from cutting fagots on the hillside for heating that same big oven! When think of unused hidden ovens in town today, wish we had just one - a large one - in our town house as a crude sort of safe for so much of the old records and relics as might be gathered from every homestead - priceless a century hence - or even a generation."

Author: Francis H. Hastings



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SCHEDULE OF DUES

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

Life: \$250 per person

Gift memberships are suggested

(Currently the age span of our life members is from 4 to "over 80"!)

Contributions and Bequests to the Endowment and Memorial Fund are welcomed. All checks should be mailed to:

Weston Historical Society, Inc.

Box 343

Weston, Massachusetts 02193

Additional copies of THE BULLETIN may be obtained by phoning Mrs. Raymond Paynter, Jr., 899-3533, or Harold G. Travis, Editor, 899-4515; also by calling at the Josiah Smith Tavern any Wednesday afternoon during "Open House". If you have a spare copy of BULLETINS, vintage 1963-1970, our Curator, Mrs. J. E. Fraser, 894-2872 would be glad to have them.