

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN



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Nineteenth Century 25-inch doll at the Weston Museum. Photo by Andrew J. Laska

HISTORICAL DOLLS AT THE WESTON MUSEUM

There are four dolls in the collection of the Weston Historical Society Museum. Oh, how I wish that they could talk and tell me about their lives as beloved companions of some little girl of long ago! But they are sitting or reclining silently, their past a mystery never to be revealed.

They intrigued me sufficiently to repair to the library and investigate the origins of dolls in general; as it is par for the course, research disclosed some interesting facts about them.

If I could not discover the owners of these dolls that came from Weston families, at least I found out about their general provenance.

Dolls are children's toys modeled on the human form, mostly, although not exclusively, female. Some were found in ancient graves, perhaps the oldest in a Babylonian one; it was just a fragment, and it had movable arms. Others were unearthed from children's graves in Egypt, Greece, Rome and even from early Christian burials in the catacombs. Most likely, they had a religious connection, to serve the dead in their afterlife. The Encyclopedia Britannica tells us that in classical times "marriageable" girls consecrated their discarded dolls to Diana and Venus. As far back as the year 2000 B.C., the Egyptians created "paddle dolls," made of painted flat wood, without legs. Strangely, I found a similar flat wooden doll among the Indians of Brazil in Amazonia; it does have legs and a fur skirt.

Some of the oldest female figurines found in archeological excavations are referred to as Venuses, and they have been excavated in many locations from France and the Czech Republic to Malta and Pakistan. We call them dolls, but they are not toys but fertility symbols. The word "doll" as we use it today, dates only to the beginning of the 18th century; it was derived most likely from the word "idol" or the girl's name of Dorothy.

The oldest American dolls are those of the Aztecs and the Mayas. Indians are known for their Kachina or spirit dolls, which are highly praised and elaborate. You can find them today in their modern transfiguration in the American South-West. Colonial and early America followed the European trends in dolls. We know of 15th century German dolls from Nuremberg, which later became the center of doll and toy manufacturing. Dolls' bodies were made of various materials, wood, stone, bone, ivory, fur or cloth. The heads were of alabaster, wood or wax. In the early 18th century in Dresden, Germany, they started to make doll heads from ceramics and porcelain. Then 19th century France contributed the swivel neck head on dolls made of kid covered wood or leather stuffed with sawdust.

Our grandmothers have known dolls with movable eyes and joints, while our mothers played with dolls whose heads and bodies were molded of plastic. Most of us remember the Kewpie dolls (1903) or the Betsy-Wetsy dolls (1937), and the still popular Barbie dolls (1959), with their friend Ken and their luxurious outfits that made their inventor rich and famous. One of the very first American imports into liberated Prague in the early 1990s was a collection of Barbie dolls, mink cape and all! In spite of the high price, it was selling like hot cakes.

There is quite a bibliography on the subject of dolls, including The Collector's Encyclopedia of Dolls (2 vols., New York: Crown, 1986), edited by Dorothy S. Coleman et al. that tells you everything you ever wanted to know about dolls and more.

As to our own dolls in the Weston Museum, we were fortunate to have a visit from a doll expert, representing the federation of doll collectors, Ms. Nancy A. Smith, who gave us the benefit of her expertise and a highly appreciated evaluation of our dolls in residence.

One doll of 12 inches has a solid dome china head and limbs and cloth body. Her type of dolls were first made in Germany around 1850. She wears a blond mohair wig. She must have come from a fine family, for she has elegant clothing, including a white ribbed cotton dress and a wonderful hat. The other 12 inch doll has a china head and a crude, homemade body. Her hairstyle is from the 1860s. Her dress looks like it was stitched by a child. While the first doll would be valued at about \$300 mostly because of her fancy outfit, this doll has only historical value.

The third doll, of the same size as the two above, has a Parian head, made of soft marble-like china, cloth body and leather arms. She has light brown hair, coiffed in a simple style dating from the 1870s. She was born in Germany. She is dressed in old underwear and a blue skirt; she is missing one shoe; would there be somewhere a prince with the missing shoe looking for her?

The largest of our dolls measures 25 inches. She has a china head, cloth body, leather arms, blue eyes and black hair in the so called flat top style. Such dolls originated also in Germany around 1860-1880. Alas, she is missing one hand. She has beautiful clothing, an elaborate plaid wool dress and blue leather shoes. She is our pride and joy, sitting on the sofa in the former living room of the Jones sisters at the Josiah Smith Tavern, ready to welcome visitors to our Museum.

If you have orphaned dolls in your attic, please consider having them join their Weston forebears, who would welcome them with open arms to be adopted by the Museum.

Vera Laska

DIDYOU KNOW that \$20.7 billion was spent in the United States in 1996 for toys? That is an estimated \$350 per child per year; 80% of the toys sold in the United States are imported, and that is about one third of all toys manufactured internationally. Sorry, I could not dig up the figures for dolls only. Source: Toy Manufacturers of America, as reported in Time, 12/22/97. p.19.

TRACING THE HISTORY OF THE NATHANIEL JENNISON HOUSE

The Nathaniel Jennison House was built in 1732. In 1924 it was moved across the road to its present location at 266 Glen Road, where it is the residence of the author. This is the first of two parts of its history. Ed.

The history of this house begins with a William Jennison who came from Colchester, England to New England in 1630 with John Winthrop, the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

The Massachusetts Bay Colony purchased the land from a line three miles north of the Merrimack River to a line three miles south of the Charles River, extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, from the Plymouth Company in March of 1628.

Sir Richard Saltonstall also came with Winthrop in 1630 and on July 30, 1630 formally organized a settlement on the Charles River near what is now Watertown Square. This settlement was names Watertown.

William Jennison was one of the original settlers of Watertown. The first few generations of the Jennison family in New England spelled their names "Jenison". Since later generations have adopted the spelling "Jennison," the latter spelling has been used throughout this history. William Jennison became a prominent citizen of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He was admitted as a freeman to the town of Watertown on May 18, 1631. A freeman was a member of the church and had the right to vote and hold office. These rights were restricted

to males who were at least 21 years old. A freeman had to be a permanent member of the community and as such was usually a landowner.

Jennison was a selectman of Watertown from 1634 to 1642 and again in 1644. He was one of the first three commissioners of Watertown whose duty it was "to end small causes." He served on numerous committees, often as chairman, dealing with the determination of boundaries between towns, laying out of new towns, taxation, Indian affairs and contested land claims. He was a deputy to the General Court from 1635 to 1642 and also in 1645. William Jennison became an Ensign in the Watertown Train-band (militia) on August 16, 1631 and in 1636 was chosen its Captain.

In 1633, he made a trip to Bermuda as a pilot on the ship Thunder. In 1636, he was in charge of the Watertown Company of militia that went to Block Island to avenge the murder of John Oldham by the Pequot Indians. William Jennison lived on a 50 acre parcel of land, called a homestall, on the north side of what is now Mount Auburn Street in Watertown.

According to the early records of Watertown, he was granted several tracts of land. Among these grants was a farm of 150 acres which he received in 1642. This farm was to become the site of the house which is the subject of this history.

In 1645, William Jennison sold his homestall to Rev. John Knowles and he probably returned to Cohchester, England, shortly thereafter. He died there; his will was signed on July 17, 1667. There was no mention in his will of the 150 acres of farm land in Watertown. Nor is there any record that he ever sold the 150 acres of farm land in Watertown. However, it seems clear that he either gave or sold this 150 acre parcel to his younger brother, Robert Jennison.

Robert was also one of the early settlers of Watertown. He had a daughter, Elizabeth, born there in 1637. He was admitted as a freeman in Watertown in May, 1645. He possessed a six acre homestall on what is now Mount Auburn Street, just east of the Mill Bridge.

The following trivial, but quaint, excerpt appears in the Watertown Records: "At a meeting of ye select men at ye house of Decon Bright ye: 14: of Decem: 1680: old Father Jenison requesting an old three that is decaied yt stands alitle way from ye said Jenisons: ye select men left ye matter to William Bond senior to act in it: so yt if ye said tree be ef no use to ye Towne yt then ye said Jenison may have it." Robert Jennison died on July 4, 1690. In his will he left "unto my grandchild William Jenison forty acres of my farme, which was my brother's formerly: granted unto him by this Towne." Also in his will "unto my grandson Robert Jenison I give thirty acres of my within mentioned farme that was formerly my Brother William Jenison's." The remainder of his land and presumably the remainder of this farm was bequeathed to Robert's son, Samuel. This farm seems to be the same as the 150 acre farm that was granted to William Jennison in 1642.

Samuel, son of Robert Jennison, was born in 1645 in Watertown. He was admitted as a freeman on October 12, 1682. Thereafter he served the town in many capacities. He was a county commissioner in 1683 and 1690 and he was "chosen to kepe the Town Book" (town clerk) in 1691. In 1692, he was the moderator of the town meeting. On March 24, 1692/3, he was chosen to be a selectman and a constable for one year. [Until 1752, the Julian calendar was used. The Julian year began on what is now March 25th on the present Gregorian calendar. On the Julian calendar, March was the first month of the year. Consequently prior

to 1752, dates from January 1st through March 24th are usually written as above, 1692/3, meaning 1692 by the Julian system and 1693 by the Gregorian system.]

Samuel married Judith Macomber on October 30, 1666 and they had ten children. Their oldest son, Samuel, was born on October 12, 1673. Among their other children were William, born on October 17, 1676, and Robert, born on July 24, 1684. The author has referred to William and Robert above as having inherited part of the farm from their grandfather, Robert Jennison.

Samuel senior, the son of Robert Jennison, died in October 1701. His inventory refers to him as "Ensign Samuel Jenison," so in addition to his other positions mentioned above, he must have also served in the militia. In his will, there is no specific mention of the balance of the 150 acre farm which he had inherited from his father. However, there is the following statement: "Secondly I give and bequeath to my eldest son Samuell Jenison besides what I have allredy given him..." It can be inferred from this statement that he had already given his interest in the 150 acre farm to his son, Samuel. No record has been found that he disposed of this land in any other way. Subsequently Samuel Junior bought the remainder of this farm from his brothers, William and Robert, on June 2, 1708 for 35 pounds in silver. The deed for this transaction between the brothers referred to the sale of an interest in 150 acres of land which had belonged to their uncle Capt. William Jennison of Watertown. The land was described as being bounded on the south by the Dedham town line. This part of Dedham became Needham in 1711 and later this part of Needham became Wellesley in 1881. Thus in 1708, Samuel Jennison became the sole owner of the 150 acre farm in Watertown that was granted to William Jennison in 1642.

Samuel Jennison (Junior) served the Town of Watertown in various capacities which included constable, surveyor and tything man. On March 1, 1720/1 he became a selectman. He and his wife, Mary, had 11 children. Among them were Samuel, born on September 26, 1704, William, born on February 9, 1706/7, Nathaniel, born on April 5, 1709, and John, born on February 19, 1710/11.

Samuel Jennison (Junior) died intestate on December 2, 1730, and his real estate was divided among his heirs on March 30, 1732. The 150 acre farm in question was described as being in Weston (originally part of Watertown, Weston was incorporated as a separate town in 1713) and "Bounded Southerly upon Nedham Line," and containing 164 acres 31 rods, probably as determined by a more accurate survey at that time. The farm was valued at 738 pounds. This parcel was set off in three equal parts to his sons, to Nathaniel the east part, to John the middle part, and to Samuel the west part. Each part contained 54 1/2 acres and 37 rods. In the inventory there is reference to the "Home Lot" and "Dwelling House" in Watertown. There is no mention of any buildings on the farm in Weston, so it can be concluded that the house had not been built as of March 30, 1732.

Nathaniel, son of Samuel Jennison, was born in Watertown on April 5, 1709. He married Abigail Mead of Lexington, Massachusetts on October 23, 1729. As mentioned above, he inherited the east part of a farm in Weston on March 30, 1732 at the age of 22. There was no mention of any buildings on the Weston land at that time. According to the Watertown records, the first three children of Nathaniel and Abigail Mead Jennison were born in Watertown. Their third child was named Nathaniel and he was born on December 5, 1732; in the records of Weston it is recorded that Nathaniel was baptised in Weston on December

10, 1732. The births of their following children are all recorded in Weston. Because of these records, it can be concluded that Nathaniel Jennison probably moved to Weston in 1732 and that he probably built his house during that same year.

There was little mention of Nathaniel in the early records of Weston. In May of 1734, Nathaniel and his brother, John, were enjoined by law to work at the highway in their district. In 1746, Nathaniel signed a petition to have the church (meeting house) moved to the south side of Weston (this petition was not successful). Finally, in 1757, Nathaniel was listed as being one of the "Alarm Men."

Nathaniel moved to Rutland, Massachusetts shortly before his death, probably to live with his son, Nathaniel, Junior. He died there on May 18, 1769. By will he left all his real estate in Weston to his son, Nathaniel, as follows: "To my beloved son Nathaniel Jenison whom I likewise constitute make and ordain my sole executor of this my will and testament, I give and bequeath, all my estate both real and personal in Weston or else where consisting of lands, buildings, and the like."

Nathaniel Jennison (Junior) probably moved from Weston to the Rutland District in 1760. [The northwest part of Rutland was made a District in 1749, and then on June 14, 1774, it was made a separate town and given the name of Hutchinson for Thomas Hutchinson, governor of Massachusetts from 1769 to 1774. In November 1776, the name was changed to Barre in honor of the distinguished advocate of colonial rights in the British Parliament.] Nathaniel Junior was not listed as a real estate owner in Weston after 1760 and he first purchased land in the Rutland District from Nathaniel Hatch on June 30, 1760.

While living in Barre, an incident took place involving Nathaniel Jennison, Junior which was to have great significance in the history of slavery in the United States and in Massachusetts in particular. As a result of the incident, several court cases evolved which collectively are known as the "Barre Slave Case," or the "Quork Walker Case."

In 1754, a man by the name of James Caldwell in the Rutland District bought a Negro man, Mingo, his wife, Dinah, and their infant son, Quork, for 108 pounds. Caldwell died in 1763. Subsequently Caldwell's widow, Isabel, married Nathaniel Jennison, Junior on March 28, 1769. Five years later, Isabel died and because Isabel had inherited ownership of the Negro slave Quork Walker, upon her death Nathaniel Jennison became the owner of Quork.

In 1781, however, the late James Caldwell's brothers, John and Seth, approached Quork and told him that under the new constitution of Massachusetts he was a free man. In 1780 the new constitution of Massachusetts declared freedom and equality for all men. Furthermore, the Caldwells persuaded Quork to leave Jennison and come to work for their farm. About a week later, on April 30, 1781, according to court records, the following incident took place. Nathaniel Jennison, Jr. went to the Caldwell's farm and assaulted Quork Walker, threw him down and "struck him several violent blows upon his back and arm with the handle of a whip, and did and then and there imprison, and other enormities to him."

On May 1, 1781, Quork Walker sued Nathaniel Jennison, Jr. for damages for assault and imprisonment in the Superior Court of Common Pleas for the county of Worcester. The jury decided in favor of Quork Walker on the basis that Quork "is a freeman, and not the proper Negro slave of the defendant;" and they assessed damage against the defendant in the amount of 60 pounds.

Nathaniel Jennison, Jr. also sued John and Seth Caldwell in the same court claiming that they had stolen his Negro servant. That court found in favor of Jennison. The decision was appealed by the Caldwells to the Supreme Judicial Court at Worcester where it was heard in September, 1781. This court reversed the decision of the Superior Court and assessed damages against Jennison in the amount of 50 pounds.

Finally, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts sued Jennison on criminal charges for assaulting, beating and imprisoning a black man. This case was tried at the Supreme Judicial Court in 1783. It was decided in April 1783 that Jennison had no right to beat or imprison Quork Walker, and Jennison was fined 40 shillings.

These decisions culminating in 1783 helped determine that slavery no longer would be tolerated in Massachusetts. Massachusetts was the first state to abolish slavery. Nathaniel Jennison, after the above proceedings, took his remaining slaves, including Quork's brother Prince, to Connecticut where he sold them. Later Prince and other former slaves moved back to Barre where they lived as free men.

George P. Bates

This is an abbreviated form of the manuscript entitled "The Nathaniel Jennison House," on file in the Weston Public Library and in the Museum of the Weston Historical Society. Footnotes have been omitted here because the manuscript contains copies of the original sources.

George Preston Bates lives with his wife Nancy Biddle Bates in the Jennison House. He is a graduate of Harvard, class of 1954, and of the Harvard Business School, class of 1958. He is president of a contract packaging company and of a turf farming business. He is highly active in Weston town affairs as chairman of both the Conservation Commission and the Sewer Committee; he is also treasurer of the Weston Forest and Trail Association. His monograph on the Jennison House is one of the most thorough and meticulously prepared manuscripts of local history. Ed.



What spices?

THE WHITTIER SUNDIAL

A while ago I catalogued a framed drawing of the Whittier sundial, done by James Muldoon, a member of the Weston Historical Society, as an artifact owned by the Society. George Amadon, a member of the museum staff, suggested that I try to obtain a photograph of this relic due to the reason that from 1855 to 1856 it stood on land owned by Dr. Henry I. Bowditch, at the junction of roadways now Newton Street and South Avenue in Weston.

Dr. Bowditch was the third son of Nathaniel Bowditch, noted mathematician of Salem, Massachusetts.

Dr. Bowditch, a Boston physician, purchased property then known as Brookside from Gilbert N. Cheney, on January 21, 1851 and used it mainly as a summer home. He loved it. He writes of Weston: "A quiet country town with little life among its inhabitants, but within its borders are some of the loveliest of nature's quiet nooks." He mentions that Brookside was over a hundred and fifty years old; the buildings had low ceilings, spacious rooms, solid oak rafters, and huge fireplaces. He describes a little brook, "sparkling like a thread of silver light."



The Whittier sundial.

Dr. Bowditch wished to have a sundial placed in front of the old homestead. After a search, he acquired one from a descendant of Dr. Waterhouse, eminent Cambridge physician, who had picked it up in England. Dr. Bowditch asked his friend, the poet John Greenleaf Whittier, to write a few lines fitting the beauties of this pleasant home. Whittier obliged, and Whittier's words are inscribed on the plate as shown in the photograph of the sundial. The words were engraved on the finest brass plate by a well known artist, Hammatt Billings, along with Whittier's initials and signs of the zodiak. The sundial was erected on the site of the homestead on July 17, 1855, where it stood for about a year, when, as Dr. Bowditch writes, fate forced him to sell this property.

He kept the sundial for a while, settling in one place then another. Upon invitation, Dr. Bowditch visited his old friend, John M. Forbes on Naushon Island on Buzzard's Bay on the Cape, and out of gratitude for his friend's kindness, presented Mr. Forbes with the sundial. As time wore on, Dr. Bowditch came to regret this impulsive action, largely on account of his friend Whittier's lines inscribed on the sundial. Was not this a personal thing between Whittier and himself? Mr. Forbes came to learn of Dr. Bowditch's discomfort and returned the sundial to the Bowditch family with the understanding that he could have a replica made of it. This was done, and this replica stands before the Forbes mansion on Naushon Island today. But what of the original? I was determined to find the present owner.

After several calls, I contacted a Bowditch descendant, Dr. James L. Bowditch, formerly a trustee of Meadowbrook School in Weston. Through the internet, he supplied me with a complete list of local Bowditch descendants. It didn't take long to locate the present owner of the Whittier sundial, a direct descendant of Dr. Henry I. Bowditch, Hoel Bowditch of Foxborough, Massachusetts.

One afternoon, my wife Laura and I paid a visit to the Hoel Bowditches. We were ushered into the living room, and the Whittier sundial was produced, as Hoel stated, a real treasure. On the brass plate, there were the lines of John Greenleaf Whittier:

With warning hand I mark time's rapid flight
From life's glad morning to its solemn night
Yet through the dear God's love I also show
There's light above me by the shade below

On the bottom is the notation:

J. G. W.
Relic from
Old England
placed here
by
H.I. and O.B.
July 17, 1855
Transferred to
Naushon
Sept. 1, 1866

The story has a sequel. In our conversation with the Bowditches, it turned out that Hoel's wife Mary attended Milton Academy Girls School, and that her father, Walter Hinchman,

taught me English in the Boys School. My class at Milton was '34; Hoel's at Moses Brown School in Rhode Island also '34. One spring afternoon long ago, there was a track meet between the two schools. While Hoel was leaping over hurdles, yours truly was running the half mile. I have added this sequel, because research can lead to something quite different, in this case, an episode from the personal past.

* * * * *



Hoel Bowditch holding the sundial.

The author thanks George Amadon for stirring him into the detective work in search of the sundial; James Muldoon for lending him The Life and Correspondence of Henry Ingersol Bowditch by Vincent Y. Bowditch (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1902); James L. Bowditch for supplying the Bowditch descendants' chart; Weston Howland, Jr., great-grandson of John M. Forbes, and Roger Gregg of Forbes & Co. for pertinent information; Theodore G. Rand, former headmaster of Meadowbrook School in Weston for advice; and mostly Hoel Bowditch for keeping the Whittier sundial with such tender loving care.

Samuel R. Payson

The editor, once a teacher always a teacher, would like to plant a large "A" on the above article and compliment the author for his patient, painstaking and persevering job tracking down a Weston artifact. May this serve as an inspiration to others. Ed.

LECTURE ON KING PHILIP'S WAR

The Weston Historical Society, with the co-sponsorship of the Weston Public Library, presented a lecture on King Philip's War on Thursday, March 26, 1998 at 7 p.m. in the Media Center of the Weston High School.

The speaker was Mr. Michael Tougias, author of a recent novel, Until I have No Country (North Attleborough, Mass.: Covered Bridge Press, 1996).

King Philip's War (1675-1676) lasted eighteen months and was the most devastating war in American history in proportion to the population of the time. More than half of the colonists' settlements were destroyed, and there was talk of simply abandoning the New England colonies. Two Indians were hung for murder, and several tribes under the leadership of Chief Metacom, a.k.a. King Philip, went on the warpath. After horrible carnage, King Philip was executed, his body quartered, hung from a tree, and his head on a pole displayed in Plymouth colony most likely for years.

Some of the fighting reached Sudbury and Weston, Mr. Tougias said, while presenting his story accompanied by slides.

While his book is a novel and offers a romantic portrayal of this savage war, a non-fiction history of the same war was published:; Jill Lepore, The Name of War: King Philip's War and the Origins of American Identity (New York: A.A. Knopf, 1997). This book has been most favorably received by critics in the press and in academia. It is based on some 400 letters of the times found in several archives in New England and — among others— the narrative of Mary Rowlandson, who was a captive of Indians for three months, and whose story became the very first American bestseller, in Lepore's words.

Vera Laska

NEW ENGLAND WEATHER FORECASTING

The Annual Dinner of the Weston Historical Society took place on Thursday, May 7, 1998 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Julia's Church new dining room. Just for the record, dinner consisted of lighted herbed chicken breasts, asparagus, curried rice, field green salad, lemon tart, strawberries, with BYOB, and cost \$20 per person (yes, times change!).

The flyer announcing the event promised a "fun evening," and indeed a fun evening it was. It could not have been otherwise, given the personality of our speaker, Judson D. Hale, Sr. This was a second and return engagement of Mr. Hale, whose humor and wit always precedes him.

He is the editor of The Old Farmer's Almanac, that classical New England institution that was started by its first editor, Robert B. Thomas, in 1792; he remained at the helm for fifty-four years. The Almanac is the oldest continuously published periodical on the North American continent.

He is also editor of Yankee Magazine, that miraculous compendium offered every month to a faithful public; it contains an interesting selection of articles, not exclusively on New England topics, but ranging from asteroids and clones to green peppers and poetry. Among its regular departments are a monthly calendar of events and a Yankee Swoppers' Column. This is also one publication that provides you with practical and often surprising advertise-

ments. Both Yankee Magazine and The Old Farmer's Almanac can be reached in Dublin, New Hampshire 03444.

It was from the Almanac that Hale proffered its audience countless vignettes, always wrapped in his traditional humor, from readers' questions to editorial answers. He concentrated on the methods of writing the essential part of the Almanac, namely the weather indications (not a forecast!) for the coming year, two pages devoted to each month. It was an unforgettable evening, informative as well as entertaining.

Vera Laska

MEMORIAL DAY 1998

The 119th Memorial Day was celebrated in front of the Town Hall on Monday, May 25, 1998, at 10 a.m. under the sponsorship of the Memorial Day Committee, George F. Amadon, Chairman. Members of his committee were Mrs. Beverly Dillaway, Max Pelsue, Rev. Susan Crane and Gary Walcott, with Henry Atkins as unofficial adviser.

The ceremonies were inaugurated by the ringing of the Paul Revere bell at the First Parish Church and musical selections by the band. Amadon led the Pledge of allegiance, followed by remarks of Elizabeth D. Nichols of the Board of Selectmen and the Rev. Stephen Melius' invocation. "America the Beautiful" was sung next, followed by more musical selections.

The keynote address was given by James Lou Gorman of Weston. He is a captain of the U.S. Naval Reserve, retired, and a resident of Weston. He is a well known baseball expert and former executive consultant to the Boston Red Sox. His moving speech is on file in its entirety at the Museum of the Weston Historical Society at the Josiah Smith Tavern.

The benediction was offered by pastor Judith Ann Wesley Summer of the First Baptist Church. After a further musical selection, wreaths were laid at the Town Hall boulder. The Order of the March of the subsequent parade consisted of the Weston Police, Weston Firemen, parade automobiles, Weston Veterans, marching band, Weston Daisies, Brownies and Scouts, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Weston Soccer, Little League, Children's cars and decorated bicycles.

Vera Laska

AUTUMN MOOD IN WESTON

The shadows are longer, the trees are still,
The setting sun and the autumn chill.

A time for foreboding, yet a time of grace,
A time for reflection for the human race.

Geese low overhead, black night in the west,
Each voicing his preference of a place for rest.

George Amadon



William Martin

INTRODUCING: WILLIAM MARTIN

William Martin has lived in Weston with his family - his wife, Chris, and his children, Bill, Dan, and Elizabeth - since 1980.

Not only has he found it a place filled with interesting history, but a good place to write history, too. He's the author of six novels, including the best sellers, Back Bay and Cape Cod, Annapolis, and his new book, Citizen Washington, a biographical novel about the life of George Washington, to be published next February.

He says that he has had more than his share of research adventures writing his novels. He has helped sail three-masted schooners. He has taken the helm of a nuclear submarine four hundred feet below the surface of the sea. He has wandered the halls of Mount Vernon in the middle of the night and felt the ghosts. Of course, for every day of research adventure, he has spent fifty in library stacks and five hundred at his desk. At least, he says, his desk is in Weston, and he has a wonderful view.

Luckily, Bill Martin also finds the time to serve on the Board of Directors of the Weston Historical Society.

MUSEUM UPDATE

Curator Vera Laska finished indexing all bound BULLETINS from the first issue in 1964 to August, 1991 by titles of the articles. The next project is to prepare an index of the entire texts of the BULLETIN.

Since the Weston chapter of the American Legion ceased to function, its files have been deposited in the archives of our Museum.

We have 14 copies of the new Lamson History of the Town of Weston left; this is the re-issue with a new foreword and a much needed index. Get your copy or consider it for gift giving — Christmas comes sooner than you think!

Our library has been recently enriched by an interesting business biography that has close connections to Weston: Arthur M. Kenison, Dumaine's Amoskeag: Let the Record Stand (Manchester, NH; St. Anselm College Press, 1997). It is the history of the Manchester enterprizes that were developed in the 19th century but folded as a result of the depression. The moving forces for much of their existence were Frederick D. Dumaine Senior (1866-1951) and Junior (1902-1997), the latter a long time resident of Weston.

In the Spring, 1998 BULLETIN, in the "Museum Update" article the name of SAM PAYSON was inadvertently omitted. Sam Payson has been faithfully helping out in George Amadon's department, cataloguing our maps. He has been volunteering countless hours to our good cause. Until we start handing out diplomas to our volunteers, let it be said here officially that we are deeply grateful to Sam for his dedication and his contributions of time and energy.

REMINDER: WESTON 2000: Organizations' reports are due November 1st, preferably with photographs, possibly with a contribution.

TIME CAPSULE: Please let us have your ideas!

QUESTIONS: Call 237-1447, Laska.

WESTON HISTORY

- 1. Brenton H. Dickson: One Upon a Pung, delightful stories about Weston of yester-year; hardcover, \$7.50.
- 2. Brenton H. Dickson & Homer C. Lucas: One Town in the American Revolution, Weston, Massachusetts; hardcover, \$7.50.
- 3. Daniel S. Lamson: History of the Town of Weston, Massachusetts, 1630 -1890; 1997 reprint, with new Introduction and an INDEX; this book should be in every Weston home; hardcover, \$29.95.

All three books available at the Museum of the Weston Historical Society, Wednesdays 10a.m.-12 p.m. or by phone 237-1447. Out of town orders: please add postage & handling \$3.00.

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