

# WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

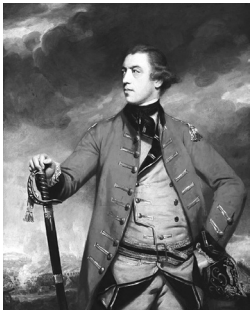
Volume XLXI, No. 2 — Fall 2020



## IT'S ZOOM TIME

This fall Weston Historical Society will sponsor two online Zoom lectures relating to British General John Burgoyne and the elm tree in Weston that once bore his name. To “attend,” watch for the email announcement and link, to be sent in November. If you do not get WHS emails, please send your email address to [info@westonhistory.org](mailto:info@westonhistory.org). **The November 19 lecture will be preceded by a short annual meeting and election.**

***On November 19 at 7:30 pm, Robert Lewis will speak on  
“The Battle of Saratoga”***



The American victory in 1777 is considered a turning point in the Revolutionary War. Not only were the British under General John Burgoyne unable to cut off New England from the rest of the colonies, but also the victory convinced France to enter the conflict, providing critical support. This lecture was supposed to have been held last spring, and complete information can be found in the Spring WHS newsletter (go to [westonhistory.org](http://westonhistory.org) and click on Bulletins).

Robert Lewis researches and lectures on the American Revolution. A retired Navy captain and MITRE engineer, he has lived in Weston since 1980.

***On December 3 at 7:30 pm,  
Pam Fox will speak on***

***“Weston’s Burgoyne Elm:  
Do We Still Care?”***



The battle of Saratoga and its aftermath are part of Weston’s history as well. The defeated General Burgoyne and his troops were escorted to Cambridge along what is now Boston Post Road. Continental soldiers and their British enlisted (continued on page 8)

### Farm Town to Suburb

THE HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE OF  
WESTON, MASSACHUSETTS · 1830–2020

SECOND EDITION  
revised and expanded



Pamela W. Fox  
with Sarah B. Gilman, Photo Editor



***Coming in November!***

***Revised and Expanded Edition of  
Farm Town to Suburb***

**\$10 discount to WHS members**  
for orders through November 30. Use the  
form included with this newsletter mailing.

The Weston Historical Society is sponsoring the second edition of Pam Fox’s book *Farm Town to Suburb: The History and Architecture of Weston, Massachusetts, 1830 to 2020*. A new 24-page chapter, with color photographs, brings the book up to date, highlighting changes to the physical environment—such as new buildings and town center improvements—as well as recent town history and events such as Weston 300. The original 30 chapters have been revised to reflect new discoveries, correct errors, and record changes. The 736-page book includes 1075 images, 62 of which are new to this edition. (continued on page 8)

## NEW ACQUISITIONS

**From Judy Barclay**, photographs and memorabilia from plays directed by John Barclay between 1962 and 1985. The donation is notable for the professional color photographs of Barclay productions, which were known for beautiful costumes, distinctive scenery, dramatic lighting, and great music. Weston High School, Weston Drama Workshop, and Friendly Society productions are included. Barclay, who passed away in 2007, began his Weston career in 1961 as a student teacher. He taught English, speech, and theater at Weston High School; directed 20 productions for the Friendly Society; and served as Executive Director of the Weston Drama Workshop for many years. This gift adds to the extensive Weston Historical Society collection of Friendly Society posters, programs, photographs, musical scores, scripts, souvenir tiles, and memorabilia.

**From Jane Coburn and her family**, a large collection of Coburn family items from her long-time home at 161 North Avenue. The c.1820 house has been in the Coburn family since 1881. Thomas Coburn ran a dairy farm here, and items donated include milk bottles and a bottle carrier. Thomas had four children: Edward, Harold W. Sr., Raymond, and Mildred. Jane's late husband Harold "Chubb" Coburn Jr. was a member of the historical society board in the early 2000s. Also donated are tools, books, and a trove of memorabilia. Anne Haarmann and Denise Hixon, Jane Coburn's daughters, facilitated the donation.

**From Emily Nash Hunnewell**, photographs, early Town Reports, a pristine copy of Lamson's *History of the Town of Weston*, and memorabilia from the estate of William and Marion Nash, who lived at 368 Highland Street from about 1936 to 1945. The property was not a farm, but the Nashes kept many animals in the large barn. Photographs show their two children, John and Katherine, riding in a pony cart and bareback on a goat. Memorabilia from the World War II



years includes Victory Garden awards and extra gas ration slips that William Nash needed to get to his job in Milton.

**From Sterling Kierstead**, a photograph of the Cedar Hill Dairy, sent from his home in Dorset, England. The dairy was located on North Avenue until it was destroyed in a massive fire in 1949. Kierstead wrote that he was going through his late mother's photo albums and came across the photo, which fortunately was identified on the front. His mother, a Canadian from a rural village in New Brunswick, was at the time a nursing student at a teaching hospital in the area. On the back is written: "This is Lionel & Everett & the dairy." Kierstead found WHS on the internet and contacted us by email.

**From Dee Freiberg**, a six-foot tall clown that she created in 2013 for the Weston 300 celebration. The clown made two appearances on the town green, to announce the June Field Day and October Founders Day Parade.

**The society would like to thank these donors and the many others who seek an appropriate home for photos, objects, and memorabilia relating to Weston history.**

*From the top: John Barclay directed Weston High School Students in the musical Take Me Along in 1972; Nash children and their pony cart in the late 1930s; Cedar Hill Dairy on North Avenue, before 1949; and Dee Freiberg with the Weston 300 clown, 2013.*



## FIELD DAY AWARD PLAQUE RESCUED

You never know what treasures may turn up at the dump. Last spring, David Hutcheson noticed a wooden plaque propped up against the dumpster designated for metal recycling. Few people would have known what it was, but David and his wife Emily [Lombard] were members of the Weston High School Class of 1966, and the plaque displays the winners of the annual Field Days that took place between 1958 and 1969.

The day-long Field Day took place near the end of the school year and was totally organized by the students themselves. The four high school classes competed with each other in different events, and the class with the highest overall score was the winner. Students wore white shirts with shorts of their class color (bright red for the Class of 1966). In addition to girls' and boys' running events, throwing footballs for distance, and the Tug of War, everyone in the class performed together in an exercise routine, with the goal of being totally synchronized. The Class of 1966 had the distinction of being the only class to win the Field Day in all four of their high school years.

In an interview in July, Emily Hutcheson observed: "The thing I liked most was that the Field Day included everyone, regardless of athletic ability. Everyone had to cooperate, and we encouraged each other. We wanted to bring along those not as strong to achieve the group goal." When the Class of 1966 won as freshmen, "No one had ever done that. It was such a high. We had the experience of being part of a big, happy, successful group."

The Class of 1970 also won in their freshman year, as well as their sophomore and junior years, but there was no Field Day in 1970 or thereafter. Times had changed.



Emily and David Hutcheson display the Weston High School Field Day Awards plaque that David found at the transfer station. The Weston Historical Society would like to thank them for donating the plaque to the society. (Photo by Pamela Fox)

## RECOLLECTIONS OF SOCIAL CHANGE: WESTON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1978



Cindy Bates, WHS Class of 1978 (photo at left from 1978 yearbook), asked friends to email their thoughts on changes that took place during their school years in Weston. (More on page 4)

### ***Wearing Pants to School***

[Cindy Bates] "Girls had to wear skirts or dresses until we were in the 4th grade, in the fall of 1969. I recall Miss Tapley, Woodland School principal, making the announcement that girls could wear nice pants (no jeans, etc). I remember the Danskin pants outfit my mom bought me, with a matching one for my sister . . . thick apple-green stretchy pants with a white t-shirt top with daisy-like yellow and orange flowers outlined with thin black lines. I remember having a sense of how big a deal this was—that we were making history. I don't remember when people started wearing jeans . . . I suppose there must have been a fuss."

### ***Smoking***

[Cindy Bates] "I suppose we all remember [in ninth grade, 1974-75], the smoking area in the courtyard of the high school next to the glass walled hallway that led to the back of the school. Was it new when we were there? And, of course, teachers had their own place to smoke. . . And none of us at the Field School for 6<sup>th</sup> grade can forget Mrs. McNally's smoking unit where we puffed the cigarettes with black squeeze bulbs on yellowing rubber tubing and captured the smoke on paper filters."

[Cindy Hoehler-Fatton] "I remember the 'smoking machines' looking exactly as Cindy describes them. I honestly credit those yellowish tobacco-stained disks/filters we took out of the machines with deterring me from ever smoking."

## MORE RECOLLECTIONS OF SOCIAL CHANGE: GIRLS' SPORTS

*The following accounts of girls' sports were emailed to Cindy Bates from members of the Weston High School Class of 1978. Title IX is a federal civil rights law passed as part of the Education Amendments of 1972, protecting people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. Although the law did not specifically mention sports, it led to major increases in women's participation in sports at the high school and college level.*

[Jeanine Doyle] "My biggest memory from high school as it relates to girls/women/social change, is Ms. Cosgrove (gym teacher) explaining Title IX to our gym class during the first week of school freshman year. . . . Title IX was passed in June 1972, when our class graduated from 6th grade. . . . When we entered high school in the fall of 1974, . . . many girls' teams [were] being offered for the first time — JV and varsity soccer, cross country, winter track, etc.

"Back to Ms. Cosgrove . . . she thought the addition of several new sports for WHS girls was the greatest thing going and encouraged all of us to take advantage of the new teams. To make sure she was getting through to us, she lined the class up on the chalk line of the field hockey field, and one-by-one, we each had to say the sport we were playing in the fall. The first person was Marie Wood, the superintendent's daughter, who announced 'cheerleading', to which Ms. Cosgrove responded, 'That is not a sport, and why do you want to be on the sidelines cheering on the boys when you can be on the field playing.' Joan Brooke Moore was next, and she explained that she wasn't going out for a sport because her family had just moved to Weston, and she needed a few months to sort things out. Ms. Cosgrove said that joining a sport was the best way to feel like part of the community. I was third in line and was too frightened to admit that I didn't intend to go out for a sport, so I said 'soccer.' Miss Cosgrove coached field hockey, so I felt safe with this white lie. She responded, 'Did you go to yesterday's practice?' When I said 'no,' she told me to start going to practice and that she'd ask me about it in the next class. We didn't have gym until early the next week, so off I went to soccer practice for three days.

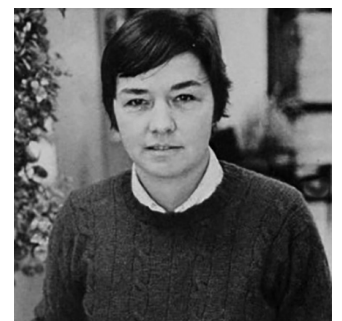
"Ms. Cosgrove never asked me about soccer practice again, and she didn't have to. By three practices, I was hooked. I ended up playing soccer every fall (WHS) and spring (BAYS) [Boston Area Youth Soccer] during high school, and I played all four years of college. Many of my friends in high school were soccer players; it truly was a defining activity for me. I wonder how many other girls in our class started their athletic careers with Ms. Cosgrove's somewhat unorthodox recruitment strategy.

"The contribution of the 'King's Grant Moms' cannot be overlooked. Title IX compliance for girls' sports was early at WHS. I remember that there were few/any(?) high schools in our athletic league with girls' soccer teams in the fall of 1974. We played mostly private schools, including a really long bus ride to Lawrence Academy [Groton], and some out-of-league public high schools. We played Lexington three times that fall. By senior year, most/all(?) of the schools in our league had girls' soccer teams."

[Andrea Fish] "I played soccer in high school because I tried out for field hockey in 7th grade and did not make the team. A 7th grade math teacher was starting a soccer team and so I did that instead. Best failure in my life not to make field hockey because I then played spring/fall in middle school and high school, in college for 4 years, and thereafter off and on as an adult."



*From the top: Jeanine "Nini" Doyle, Jeanne Wrean, and Andrea Fish, Class of 1978. Below, Elie Cosgrove, field hockey coach. Photos from Weston High School Yearbook, 1978.*





[Cindy Bates] "It was the fall of 1977 when some moms did some behind the scenes work to trigger the first ever pep rally for a girls team. . . . I remember the noise in the gym easily out rivaled the annual football pep rally before the Thanksgiving game, and as with the pants policy, having a clear feeling of pride that we were making history. . . . After the girls' field hockey team won the state championships that year, the moms further organized . . . an evening reception for the team and their families. They got special patches for their letter jackets, among other special recognitions.

## INTERVIEW WITH SUE CAPLES WHS CLASS OF 1978

*Sue Caples played on the WHS field hockey team that won the state championships in the fall of 1977. She played field hockey and lacrosse at U. Mass Amherst and field hockey on the U.S. team after graduation. For 27 years she was the field hockey coach at Harvard. Caples presently directs the Wizard Field Hockey Club, the premier development and high-performance field hockey club in New England. Pam Fox interviewed her by phone in September 2020.*

"I grew up with brothers. My Dad coached their teams. My brothers played ice hockey, Little League, soccer, basketball, and Pop Warner football. I could practice with the boys. I went to my brothers' games and got to be scorekeeper, but there were no girls' teams. The girls played outdoors and rode their bikes everywhere, but nothing was organized. I was 12 years old in 1972 when Title IX was passed, and girls were finally allowed to play on Little League teams

"I played a lot of tennis because tennis was something girls could do. Beginning in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, field hockey was available in school. Field hockey is a sport that goes way back, whereas girls' soccer teams were new. The girls who played field hockey had to buy their own gold shirt and had no warm-up suits like the boys had. There were never enough games. The girls were very competitive, but even when there was a team, there were few other teams to play. We did not play out-of-league then.

"The Class of 1978 had many athletically talented girls. Many played in Division I and III in college. I am grateful for the sports skills I learned at Weston High School and to mentors like Marie Butera and Nancy Healey, who fought for the girls."



## DUAL COUNTY LEAGUE CHAMPIONS EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAMPIONS MASSACHUSETTS STATE CHAMPIONS

The Boston Globe awarded:  
Miss Butera — Coach of the Year  
Lisa DiStefano — Most Valuable Player  
Amy Crafts — named to the All-Star Team.

WESTON	OPPONENT	
5	BEDFORD	0
4	WAYLAND	0
5	ACTON-BOXBORO	0
3	LINCOLN-SUDBURY	0
6	BROOKLINE	0
2	CONCORD-CARLISLE	0
7	NEWTON-SOUTH	0
2	BEDFORD	0
0	WAYLAND	0
3	ACTON-BOXBORO	0
1	LINCOLN-SUDBURY	2
2	NEWTON-NORTH	0
0	CONCORD-CARLISLE	0
6	NEWTON-SOUTH	0

*In the fall of 1977, the Weston High School field hockey team won the state championship. Tri-captains, pictured above, were (l-r) Jean Mollenkamp, Marilyn Noble, and Sue Caples.*

## WENDY WREAN AND IMOGENE FISH TACKLE VARSITY SPORTS

In the fall of 1976, Wendy Wrean and Imogene Fish both had daughters who decided to go out for the Weston High School varsity soccer team. Wrean later wrote about the experience:

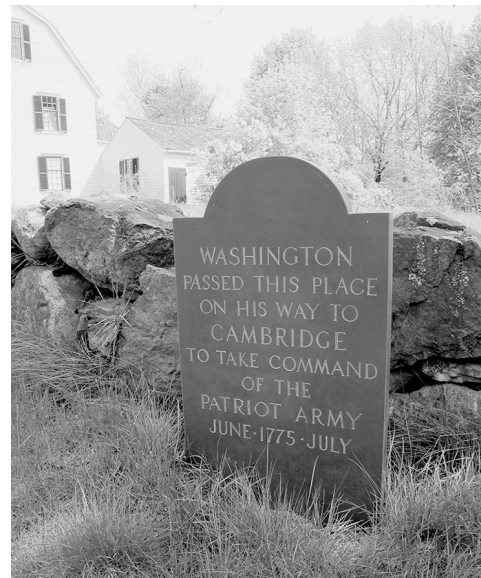
“In fact, 73 girls want to play. But, alas, there is only one coach, Betsy Jansen, to manage the soccer teams. 29 hopefuls are turned away. Even though the soccer program for girls was started three years earlier, there is confusion about schedules, officials, buses, fields to use for practice and games. The boys use the high school fields so the girls have to go elsewhere. There are not enough shorts, socks or sweatshirts. The girls are allowed to wear the boys’ sweats only after the boys’ season ends in November.”

In 1971, Massachusetts had passed Chapter 622, which called for a “fair distribution of athletic expenditures.” In 1972, the Federal Government had passed Title IX (see page 4). However, of the \$70,000 Weston High School varsity sports budget for 1976-77, \$50,437 was spent on boys’ teams and \$20,764 on girls’ teams. Per participant costs averaged \$116 for males and \$67 for females. (1)

Fish and Wrean (referred to in Jeanine Doyle’s account on page 4 as the “King’s Grant Moms”) interviewed school administrators, the school committee, and coaches and were told: “It’s not that nobody cares, it’s just that girls are not the priority.” But John Stayne, assistant superintendent for business, gave them all the numbers they asked for and encouraged them in every way he could. By November, they had written a report with their findings on budgeting, communication, facilities, inventory, and comparative expenditures. Fish spoke several times with Joan Wexler, head of the school committee. In November, they sent copies of the findings and recommendations to the school committee and waited to be asked to discuss the issue, particularly before the budget hearings in March. There was no response. March came and went. On April 15, 1977 they wrote each member of the school committee to say that because the committee did not appear to be acting on the issue, they were releasing their report to the *Town Crier*.

“Now the feathers flew,” Wrean wrote. They received a letter from Joan Wexler saying that the school committee agenda was set in the fall and it was too late for 1977, and “she did not like individual citizens initiating studies on their own.” Now that the topic was public knowledge, Wexler wrote, the committee would not bring it up at a future meeting. Nevertheless, according to Wrean, the two women “started a dialogue that turned into action and lasting improvements for our daughters.”

(1) “Inequalities in the Weston Varsity Sports Program,” by Imogene Fish and Wendy Wrean, November 1976. A copy will be placed in the Weston Historical Society files.



### DID YOU KNOW?

This slate marker next to the Josiah Smith Tavern commemorates the journey of George Washington from Philadelphia to Cambridge to take command of the Continental Army, in 1775. In 1914, the Sons of the American Revolution made a pilgrimage over Washington’s route, stopping at the Wayside Inn for lunch and arriving in Weston in the afternoon. The party consisted of 14 automobiles decorated with flags and bunting, escorted by detachments from the Lexington Minute Men, National Lancers, and Veteran Fusiliers. Arriving in front of the Weston Library, the party gathered for a small ceremony. Townspeople watched as custody of the marker was formally turned over to Selectman Alfred L. Cutting representing the Town of Weston. Unfortunately, the original marker was damaged in 2008 by an out-of-control motorist. The present marker is an exact replica, but without the patina of age.



Top of page: George Washington marker, a replica of the marker damaged by a motorist. Source of information for this article is the Waltham Daily Free Press Tribune, July 3, 1914. (Photos by Pamela Fox)



## Documenting Covid-19



*Albert Wu, member of the Weston High School Class of 2020, wrote this journal entry in May 2020 for the "Documenting Covid-19" senior experience class taught by Dr. Kerry Dunne, history teacher and history coordinator for the middle and high school. The journals and PowerPoint presentations produced by the class have been archived at the Weston Historical Society.*

"It is interesting how our view of coronavirus has changed so drastically in such a short amount of time. At the beginning of the pandemic, when the virus was still not in the US, I remember that our reaction to it was very mixed. I remember that my chemistry teacher, Ms. Gordon, and my physics teacher, Dr. Korsunsky, were incredibly vigilant about it before anyone else was even concerned. We had a full class dedicated to "relearning handwashing" in chem, and in physics I recall Dr. K spending over half an hour lecturing us about the disease—the day before a test. However, I would say that the majority of people really did not see coronavirus as a real threat before it reached our community.

"My classmates and I would still make lighthearted jokes about it, and I recall one classmate saying that their dad was "considering contracting coronavirus at a New York hospital to get coronavirus immunity." Personally, I was more worried about my grandparents and relatives in China rather than my friends and family at home, but even my relatives lived in safe regions of the country, far from Wuhan.

"The tone of the situation really changed for me once the reports came out that some employees at Biogen had contracted coronavirus and spread it at a conference. My dad works at Biogen, and had actually intended on going to this conference, but signed up too late. Many other parents in Weston also work at Biogen. At this moment, it was no longer an outside problem. I have immunocompromised friends at school, elderly neighbors, and grandparents living next door in Waltham. People I care about were and still are at serious danger, and I think then was when I began to seriously worry about the virus.

"In the days following the Biogen incident, my parents were frantically calling Biogen HR, in case my dad took the same bus route as one of the coronavirus-positive people. I remember

he showed me a text message his work had sent him, requesting that employees stay away from Boston hospitals. Apparently, there had been such an influx of people requesting testing that it was interfering with other patients, and they were threatening to call the police. My dad started a self-quarantine for two weeks as a precaution, even though he had no symptoms. I think school was cancelled soon after, and my entire family began working/learning from home.

"The first week, I had time to practice cooking in anticipation for college next year, and it was nice to have a break from school. However, we had some serious problems when my mom suddenly developed a fever and "flu-like symptoms". My mom also began self-quarantining, in a different room from my dad, and suddenly my sister and I were left with a load of responsibility. Struggling to do all the household chores and make three meals a day for even another seven days, I truly began to respect what my parents have to put up with on a daily basis. Fortunately, my dad made it through quarantine without showing any coronavirus symptoms and my mom recovered fast enough that we suspect she had a regular fever.

"Some day to day things that I take for granted have completely changed. Simply visiting my grandparents is honestly terrifying. Once a week or so, I drive groceries to my grandparents and pick up a home cooked meal from my grandmother. Before we were certain that coronavirus was not in our family, (continued on Page 8)



*Help the Weston Historical Society document Covid-19. Our thanks to Beryl Jupiter for sending this photo of her husband Jesse, an orthopedic surgeon, modeling a matching surgical hat and mask made by a patient. Send your photos to [info@westonhistory.org](mailto:info@westonhistory.org).*

### *Documenting Covid-19, continued from page 7*

I was afraid to even speak with them directly for fear of being a carrier of coronavirus. Every time I dropped something off, I would watch my grandmother loading a few pounds of groceries on a pushcart and mentally weigh the risk of me breaking social distance by helping her bring it upstairs versus her potentially hurting herself.

“My interactions with friends have become completely virtual, through video games and social media. It is a little sadening to know that I will never see some of my classmates again after graduation, and that I won’t be able to say good-bye to some of them in person.

“After the second week, all of the rest have been a complete blur. I honestly don’t even know how long it has been. Time has become practically irrelevant. My daily schedule is based around when I am tired enough to sleep, when I feel motivated enough to get up from bed, and at what time I go to fencing practice—virtual fencing practice on Zoom, that is. Even my meals have become so disordered that I have found myself forgetting lunch or dinner. Motivation is a constant struggle, since I am a plan-oriented person, and all of my plans are down the drain. No senior internship, no neurosurgery observation, no fencing competitions, and no knowing what could possibly come next.

“Yet even in such a messy, disruptive time, there have been so many things that are encouraging and heartwarming to see. Our neighborhood organized weekly pot-banging at 7:00 PM on Friday to honor medical workers at the front line, inspired by similar activities in other countries. The chaotically choreographed clangs, the sight of neighbors at their driveways yelling out to each other makes it feel just a little less lonely.

“I remember looking out one day and seeing someone drive up to our lawn and plant a sign next to our mailbox. Confused about somebody doing something like that without our permission, I ran up to see that it was a congratulation for the class of 2020. Every day, I am still personally appreciative that I have parents with stable jobs, healthy and able to work from home. Although we are still not out of the storm yet, I am optimistic that we will make it through.

### *The Burgoyne Elm, continued from Page 1*

prisoners—an estimated two thousand men—camped near the juncture of Concord Road in Weston. In later years, an elm tree next to the Fiske Law Office became known as “The Burgoyne Elm.” Fox’s remarks will center on 1960s efforts to save the venerable but dying elm and later to make artifacts from the wood.



*This 1948 photo of Fred and Alice Campbell, with 301 Glen Road in the background, is one of 22 new photos added to the original book.*

### *Farm Town to Suburb, continued from page 1*

Fox will be donating 10% of the \$75 purchase price to the Weston Historical Society. The second edition will be available in mid-November. WHS members can receive \$10 off through November 30 by using the form included with this newsletter mailing. Additional information can be found at **lovelane-press.com**. Fox writes:

“I feel today, as I did when the book was first published in 2001, that understanding the town’s history helps build a sense of connection to the community and investment in its future. I hope this new edition will find an audience among new residents and those who have lived in Weston for years without being aware of clues to the past that are all around us.”

#### **OFFICERS, WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2019–20**

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Membership dues: Individual \$35, Family \$50, Sponsor \$75, Supporting \$100+, Life membership \$500. Tax deductible contributions and bequests to the Endowment Fund are welcome. Please visit our website: [www.westonhistory.org](http://www.westonhistory.org).