



THE CHRONICLE QUARTERLY

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THE SPOKEN WORD RECORDED

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Of all the historical items in the custody of this society, I am convinced that the most interesting are the tapes we have of long time residents of Weston talking to several members of our society. These tapes were painstakingly transcribed by Miss Ruth Lockwood, one of our trustees and a descendent of an old family of Weston.

These tapes are also important to Weston because they describe people, places, and life in the late 1890's and early 1900's by the people who lived it.

We will bring these stories to you starting with the next issue. The people who have given us these stories may not say that they were the good old days, but they were memorable, and we agree. We hope you enjoy them as much as we do.

BARN UPDATE

The Zoning Board of Appeals has yet to render a decision on our appeal for variances to the building codes to permit the Historical Society to continue to operate our Museum. The board was in partial recess for the summer and could not properly address the barn museum question. We hope a decision will be made in November, thereby allowing the building committee to proceed with the renovation.

The committee has not been idle, however. We had a bird problem at the barn because the birds were able to nest in the cupola. A set of screens were made and placed inside the cupola to prevent birds from getting in.

THE DAY WESTON WAS DIVIDED

The area from Weston and Westport to Fairfield was settled in 1639. This area was named Fairfield in 1645. Weston, being far removed from the small settlements around what is known as Fairfield Center, was set apart as Weston in 1787.

In 1835 part of Weston and Fairfield were set aside and combined to form the Town of Westport.

In Weston, several areas became great town tracts or parishes. Some of these names are still retained: Norfield, Georgetown, Lyons Plains, Valley Forge, Goodhill, and Kettle Creek.

Weston was still a large town and the eastern most part had its own settlements which were a considerable distance from Norfield Center. Therefore, in 1845, this eastern part was set off and called Easton.

The day it was divided there was a large gathering at the Norfield Congregational Church. After all the speeches, the people formed a line and marched to the woods below near the Norfield Corners, singing, as they marched, the following words:

*Old Weston is no longer one
the town has been divided
the people asked — the deed was done
the law has so decided.*

In the woods a long table loaded with the good old style cooking provided plenty of food for the happy people.

SPECIAL NOTE

Weston's history book, *The Forging of a Connecticut Town*, makes an excellent Christmas present. Order your copy now. Available at the Weston Library for \$13.50 or by mail for \$14.50 from the Weston Historical Society, P.O. Box 1092, Weston, CT 06883.

HISTORICAL BRIEF

C. Linsley Corsa, a local dairyman, always kept two or three coonhounds. On moonlight nights he and his friends used to hunt in Devils Den. The dogs' baying could be heard for miles around. He belonged to a club in Norwalk. For two or three years they held field trials on the ridge where September Lane and November Trail are now. Once a hound became too excited that he climbed an old apple tree to get at the burlap bag they had used to drag to mark the trail with the raccoon scent. It was a big day for the children as there was always a truck selling crackerjack, soda and ice cream.



Devil's Den

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We neglected to state that the historical brief in the last issue was sent in by Ruth Lockwood as was this interesting one.

PLEASE NOTE

The annual meeting will be held on October 27th at Norfield Parish Hall and a tour of historical houses and sites will be conducted in mid November. Watch for dates.

PICTURE QUIZ

Can You Name This?



If you can name the item in the picture, send your answer and your name and address to the Editor;

THE CHRONICLE
P. O. Box 1092
Weston, CT 06883

The answer will appear in the next issue.

LAST ISSUE'S QUIZ

The item in the last issue of the chronicle was a candle mold, used by housewives for many years to make candles which were the only source of light in early homes.

You all knew that, but the following people sent in the correct answer:

Mrs. N. Lawrence Herrick
Ruth L. Hickcox
Connie La Pointe
Dan Offutt
Cliff Smith

Thankyou.

NEXT ISSUE

- *Beginning Genealogy*
- *New Trustees Elected*
- *Barn Update*
- *Programs Planned for 1983*
- *Christmas in Old Weston*
- *Weston's Historical Notebook*

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Weston's Historical Notebook

In this issue we offer general information on how you can start to trace the history of an old house. While this information relates to Weston houses, the general procedures can be applied to the researching of old houses in almost any town.

TRACING THE HISTORY OF AN OLD HOUSE

Should the owner of an old house wish to obtain one of the wooden plaques offered by the Weston Historical Society for houses over one hundred years old, a careful search of the land records is required. Documentation of the age of a house consists of a sequential list showing the deeds transferring the property, from the most recent owner to the earliest, ending with the transfer of the land without a house. A deed concerns land only unless it includes the word building, dwelling, house, home or homestead. The house style and the title search conclusion should agree; there is no point in tracing an 1830 house to 1710, nor assigning a late date to an early house because the deeds could not be traced.

The sequence of recent owners may be known or obtainable from the attorney who handled the closing on the property. Begin the search in Weston Town Hall in the Land Records, in the grantee (buyer) index of the appropriate time period. Find the name of the last owner before the one already identified, list the volume and page number and date of warrantee deeds, of dates before the current deed. Check each deed to see if it relates to the property, from the location specified. After 1920 you may find reference to a map which should be checked in case it shows a previous larger lot and the placement on it of the house. Earlier street names when given and the names of abutting property owners must be copied and checked to make certain of dealing always with the same property. In the eighteenth century the names of long lots, and upright and cross highways help locate property. Long lots were the narrow strips into which Fairfield was divided to distribute the land. Lists of them and of the upright and cross highways are most readily available in Farnham's *Weston*. References to long lots in deeds are not always correct. Variant spellings are also a problem.

If the deed is not related to the property, make a brief note why. If it is related, enter on an index card grantee, grantor, volume, page, date and an abstract of the description, as below:

Weston, Vol. 16, p. 58
9 April 1836 War.

from Ebenezer Banks of Weston to Jehu Burr 16 A. and buildings bounded:

North by land of Ephraim Thorp

East by land of David Coley

South by third cross highway

West by land of said Banks with house, barn and fruit trees

When there are no warrantee deeds fitting the description of the property, recheck the index. It may be necessary to trace a property through mortgages and quitclaim deeds as well. Probably the most common reason for the absence of a deed is that the property passed by inheritance. Check the deeds of abutting owners to identify the prior owner. The Historical Society may have information to help from a title search on a neighboring old house. The Weston Library has *Jacobus' History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield*, which should help with family relationships, especially married names of daughters. Wills for Weston were filed in Fairfield Probate until 1832. After 1873, they are to be found in Westport. Between these dates most may be found in Bridgeport Probate. Most of the inventories are at Connecticut State Library, Hartford, and may be requested by mail, if properly identified.

Even if there was no definite conclusion to the title search, it may be possible to get a plaque, using the structural details of the house, and such sources of data as early census. The Historical Society would appreciate having any information you may collect.

Old Houses in Weston

The houses listed below have been researched by current or recent owners with the help, in some cases, of the Weston Historical Society. Each has been awarded a plaque from the society. You can see these plaques on most of these houses.

Street		Original Owner	Date	Street		Original Owner	Date
Cartbridge		Curtis Wood (barn)	1829	Lyons Plain Road	179	Henrietta Nichols	1852
Covenant Lane	12	Hezekiah Osborn	1822	(continued)	191	Moses Burr	1830
Davis Hill Road	54	Aaron Banks (barn)	1850		227	Samuel Banks	1838
	81	Ann Gilbert House	1790		265	Charles Crofut	1863
Fanton Hill Road	25	David Richmond House	1818		266	Thomas Banks	1730
	31	Lester Fanton House	1859		269	William Crofut	1851
	55	Eliphalet Coley	1805			Walter Treadwell	1845
Georgetown Road	313	Miah Perry	1864		282	Hanford Nichols	1850
	144	David Lockwood	1813	Newtown Turnpike	178	James Perry	1870
	187	Walter Perry	1830		220	Job Lockwood	1793
	228	Albert Lockwood	1810		263	Anson Beers	1825
	295	John S. Andrews	1805			Hamilton Cobbler and Toll House	1840
Goodhill Road	73	Stephen Hurlbutt	1780		296	Godfrey Barn	1734
	108	Nathan Adams	1750		446	Buckley House	1845
	121	Joseph Banks	1836	Norfield Road	2	Eliphalet Taylor	1790
	165	Hanford Nichols	1850		4	Daniel Godfrey	1760
	183	Alexandra Nichols	1813			Eliphalet Coley	1830
	195	William Bradley	1825	Old Easton Turnpike	10	Thorp-Fanton House	1750
	209	Joseph Morehouse	1790	Old Hyde Road		John Crossman Barn	
Godfrey Road West	18	John Silliman Andrews	1813	Old Redding Road	14	Redfield Wakeman	1786
	47	Upper Parish School	1841		14	Simon Couch	1749
	35	Wilbur Sturges	1841		35	Thomas Dimon	1850
	68	Jabez Lockwood	1772		98	Simeon Fanton	1815
	111	Joseph Godfrey	1820	Old Weston Road	10	Adkinson Hilton	1780
Kellogg Hill Road	1	Miles Oakley	1831			Kettle Creek School	1795
	35	Pinckney Dimon	1802	Steephill Road	2	Jonathan Cole	1774
Langner Lane	43	Jabel Sturges, Jr.	1795		15	Samuel Brown	1797
Lord's Highway	60	John Lord	1790		24	Hannah Hubbell	1810
Lyons Plain Road	110	Miles Bradley	1859		31	James Dikeman	1804
	115	Gershom W. Bradley	1832		42	Andrews-Brown	1695
	139	Samuel Lockwood	1848		46	Samual B. Sherwood	1700
	145	Curtis Wood	1845		78	Warren Nichols	1850
	167	Ebenezer Thorp	1745		89	Peter Thorp	1739
				Weston Road	104	David Dimon Coley	1841
					118	Joseph O. Sturges	1840
					132	Albert Sherwood	1850
						larvis Military Academy	1796
				Weston Road (Georgetown)	61	David Osborn House	1808
					69	David Osborn Barn	1808



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HIGHLIGHTS

- Presidents Corner
- Barn Update
- Historical Notebook
- Picture Quiz
- Old Houses of Weston
- Historical Briefs