



THE

CHRONICLE

QUARTERLY

Volume 11

No. 1

March 1992

Published By The
Weston Historical Society

THE EDITOR'S EDGE

AGRICULTURE— A WAY OF LIFE

Several recent articles in North Eastern Farm publications have discussed the ways the various states are trying to protect farm land from going into malls and ribbons of asphalt. What they are really saying is that farming as our ancestors knew it is disappearing from our scene. And to save some of the land, they are providing incentives to land owners to continue to farm without worrying about non-farming business encroaching on their way of life. But, even this is not enough to help many farmers to succeed, and they are slowly selling out and finding other employment. Some of the land is being used for nurseries and sod farms.

Fortunately, there are several museums in the North East which have developed into living museums to keep the old farming ways active for present and future generations to see and, we hope, appreciate. Our Coley Homestead Museum will never be this inclusive, but we do have some of the tools and implements used by Weston's farmers for all to see. We hope you visit the museum often so the history of Weston's farming does not fade from your mind.

It is funny that you should ask, but, yes, we are still looking for an EDITOR for the Chronicle; I have agreed to stay on for a few more issues until someone steps forward.

Herb Day - Editor

CURRENT EVENTS

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP HELD

Mrs. Judy Darby, our resident genealogist, gave an interesting two session workshop on how to research your family roots. Ten people attended the workshops. Those attending received instructions in how to fill out the family-tree forms, where to look for help, and how to access the US CENSUS and other records for leads on your ancestors.

ANNUAL MEETING

The ANNUAL MEETING of the Society will be held on Thursday, March 26, at the Norfield Church Parish Hall, at 7:30 p.m. After a short business meeting, Dr. Nick Bellatoni, the Connecticut State Archaeologist, will talk to us on the archaeology of the early settlers of Weston and the surrounding area. Refreshments will be served. We hope you are planning to attend.

SPRING BUS TOUR OF WESTON

A HISTORICAL TOUR of Weston, by bus, will be held on Sunday, April 26, 1:30 to 3:30. The buses will leave from the high school parking lot. A donation of \$3.00 per adult (\$1.00 for children) is asked to pay for the use of the buses. Reservations are requested. Call MARYLOU PERRY 227-5579; or HERB DAY 227-6130.

The tour will visit old school sites, old houses, mill and factory sites, and other interesting areas. Weather permitting, several stops are planned.

IMPORTANT!!! MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE THIS MONTH. A letter has been sent to all members and also to other residents of Weston, encouraging them to join the Society.

CIDER PRESS SHED

We are in the process of moving the old cider press onto the shed foundation. In the last issue we promised to print a diagram of the press as it will appear on the foundation. If we get it done in time for this issue, it will appear below; if not, we will attempt to get an article in the paper. We don't want to draw the diagram until we know where each part of the press will go. The picture of the foundation and the cider



press on it will give you some idea of the final location. The press is in about it's final resting place. The engine is close to where it will be when it is connected by

Continued on page 2

PICTURE QUIZ



CAN YOU NAME THIS?

If you can, please send your name and address to:

THE EDITOR
THE CHRONICLE QUARTERLY
P.O. BOX 1092
WESTON, CT 06883

The item in the last issue is a set of pulley wheels on one axle. The small set behind has a transfer gear on the bottom which transferred the power from a vertical axis to a horizontal axis so it could be used to run various machines.

We think that this was used by the Coleys in their windmill to transfer the wind power to the various uses they needed power for. The different sized pulley wheels were to change the speed of the item using the power.

THE PASSING PARADE

While being interviewed recently for an article, I was asked if I thought I was old-fashioned in some of my ways. I replied that maybe I was in some things. But it really came home to roost when, at a recent committee meeting, the chairman asked all of the members to put their phone and FAX numbers down on the list he passed around. I was the only member without a FAX NUMBER.

THE CHRONICLE QUARTERLY
PUBLISHED BY THE
WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1092
WESTON, CT 06883

Continued from front cover

a belt to the press. Between the two, will be the pulley wheels on the axle, suspended from the beams above. The wheels will be connected to both the engine and the press by the eight-inch wide belts.

BARN MUSEUM

The old farm tool and implement section of the barn museum will be renovated for the spring opening. We have added several panels explaining something about farming in Weston and information on the various items in this part of the museum. Watch for local papers for the date of this opening.

RAYMOND H. FITCH 1906-1992

I guess, that of all the Weston-born senior citizens I know, I was probably closer to Ray than most of the rest. He was a gem. He always had a twinkle in his eye when he first greeted you. And in most chats he was kind and gentle. Oh, when he disagreed with you, he could explain his viewpoint with a firm response. And with a large measure of 'common sense', as most Connecticut Yankees can.

Ray was a charter member of the Historical Society, and served on the Board of Trustees for several years. He gave of his time for many projects including making cider with his cider press and one of his beloved one-lung engines. Ray was the son and grandson of Weston farmers, and, when the time came, he gave the Society some of the farm tools and implements used by the Fitches.

Ray; we know where you are, and as you gaze down on us, please remember that we miss you, and will never forget you.

So long, Ray.

NOTE

We would like you to know that the second color (red), dressing up the Chronicle for December, 1991 was the gift of Dick Mann, owner of Custom Printing in Westport. We thank him for this, and for doing a fine printing job on the Chronicle.

WORDS FOR THOUGHT

'Our citizenship in the United States is our national character. Our citizenship in any particular State or Town is only our local distinction. By the latter we are known at home, by the former to the world. Our great title is AMERICANS!'

Thomas Paine

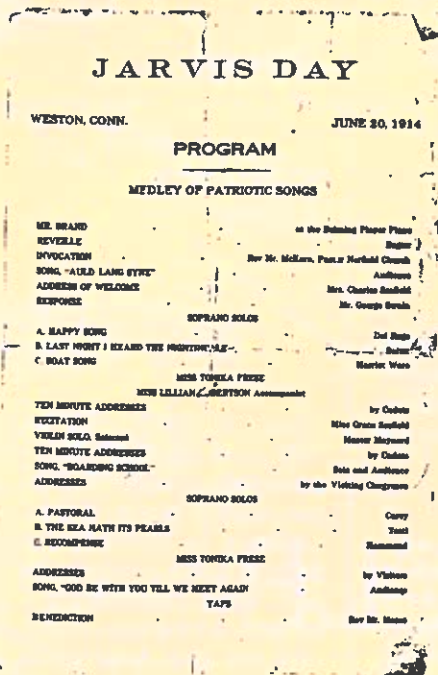
NEXT ISSUE

THE TRUSTEES FOR 1992
A REPORT FROM THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY
PHOTOS OF THE RENOVATED MUSEUM
FIFTY YEARS AGO
FROM WESTON'S PAST

A HISTORICAL BRIEF

JARVIS CUP UPDATE

In the September, 1991 issue we showed a picture of the Jarvis Cup, which was given to Phyllis Palmieri's grandmother for winning first prize in the cake baking contest held on Jarvis Day, June 20, 1914. We did not include a copy of the day's events or a copy of the cake recipe which someone had thoughtfully written on the back of the program. We have herewith included both the program and a typed copy of the recipe (since the written recipe is faint in spots).



SHORT CAKE

1½ cups sugar
½ cup butter
Yolks of 3 eggs and cream together
1 cup milk—add a little at a time—3 cups of flour
1½ teaspoonful Royal Baking powder
½ tps. salt, 1 tsp. vanilla
Fold in the whites of (3) eggs last.

FILLING

Juice of 3 large oranges
Skin of one orange run through grinder
1 tablespoon cornstarch
1 egg
½ lemon
Sweeten to taste

Since there was no baking time or temperature given, you are on your own if you decide to bake this award-winning cake. If anyone does make it, we would be interested in hearing about your results.

JARVIS DAY AT WESTON A VERY SUCCESSFUL AFFAIR

Cadets of Military School Gather for First Re-Union in Forty Years

Saturday, June 20, will long be remembered as one of the greatest days that old Weston ever knew. It was Jarvis Day and marked the first reunion of the pupils of the Weston Military Institute since it was disbanded about thirty-five years ago. It was a great day in more than one way. In the first place the weather man served up as near to ideal weather as could be imagined. Blue skies above, bright sunshine, a clear air that gave all the chance to enjoy the magnificent views of hills and shore, and an absence of dust.

GOOD FELLOWSHIP PREVAILS

It was a day of good fellowship. The people of Weston extended both hands in welcome to the old boys, and the old boys, many of them returning for the first time in over forty years, shook them hard, with smiling faces, but in many cases with moist eyes.

They brought their wives, children and some their grandchildren. Prosperous businessmen who had wandered far afield greeted staid grandfathers who had remained in the old town, with a shout of recognition and a hearty hug. Then they would lock arms and go off to hunt up comrades and swap yarns of those happy days when the world lay at their feet.

'And what about the time,' said another, 'we all wanted to skip into Westport for the night and we got as far as the cemetery and we saw what we thought was the biggest ghost in the world and we all ran back and it turned out to be Coley's white horse.'

The place had changed a lot. The main hall had burned down and the house was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. T. Amis who cordially opened their doors to all who wanted to revisit the building.

Five hundred people on Weston's green. Five hundred people ate dinner in relays of 100 each in Weston's Townhall and then filled the Norfield Congregational Church to overflowing for the reunion exercises. George Swain responded to the address of welcome given by Mrs. Charles Scofield and husky throats joined in the final hymn, 'God Be With You Till We Meet Again.' Taps sounded again over the parade ground. It was time to go. Farewells were said, and cheers given for the many members of the Norfield Improvement Society which had made the reunion possible.

(The above was taken from a newspaper story on the reunion, published shortly after the event; and from several articles written by Margaret Douglas Lylburn for the Bridgeport Post during the early 1930's).

**THE CHRONICLE
QUARTERLY
P.O. BOX 1092
WESTON, CT. 06883**

**NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Westport, CT
Permit No. 212**

THE

CHRONICLE

QUARTERLY

A PUBLICATION OF THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOUNDED IN 1961

March 1992

IN THIS ISSUE

RAY FITCH REMEMBERED
THE JARVIS DAY CAKE RECIPE
CURRENT EVENTS
PICTURE QUIZ
