



THE

CHRONICLE

QUARTERLY

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Weston Historical Society

THE EDITOR'S EDGE

From the inception of this Society, many people have given of their talents to make it a success over the past 24 years. Two of these people who made their mark were Geoff and Elda Bardsley, who recently moved to San Francisco. Elda worked with perseverance to track down the history of old houses and people's ancestors. Geoff was our treasurer and succeeded in increasing our annuities thru intelligent investing. We are indebted to both of them. We are sorry to see them leave Weston and wish them well.

Herb Day
Editor

WESTON'S HISTORICAL NOTEBOOK

THE REVOLUTIONARY ROAD

This is the second article on Weston's old roads. Probably most people in Weston have never been on Cavalry road and many may not even know where it is, but Cavalry road at one time was an important North-South road from Danbury to Norwalk. The story reprinted below from the December 6, 1930 issue of the Westport Herald adds to our knowledge of the raid on Danbury by the British during the Revolutionary war. You will remember that the British landed at Compo Beach to destroy the arms and ammunition that the Colonists had moved to Danbury.

ARTISTIC SIGNS PLACED TO MARK HISTORIC ROAD

Cavalry road, that historic highway which bounds Weston on the west, is now appropriately marked with a suitable sign. Where it crosses Broad street, F.W.T. Amis has erected a sign done in red and silver, which is suspended by two horseshoes dug up in the old highway during repairs.

Some criticism has been offered stating that the colors are in error, inasmuch as cavalry colors are yellow, but it must be borne in mind that red and silver were the colors of the cavalry of George III, so the sign would appear to be historically correct.

The sign marks the road over which, on April 28th, 1777, the British cavalry retreated to Danbury after their encounter with the Colonial troops at what is now State street and Compo road, Westport.

More than one hundred years ago this highway was the direct road to Westport for those whose homes were in the territory now known as Sutton's corner and Cobb's mill, but for more than fifty years has been in disuse, the traffic now using Newtown tpke.

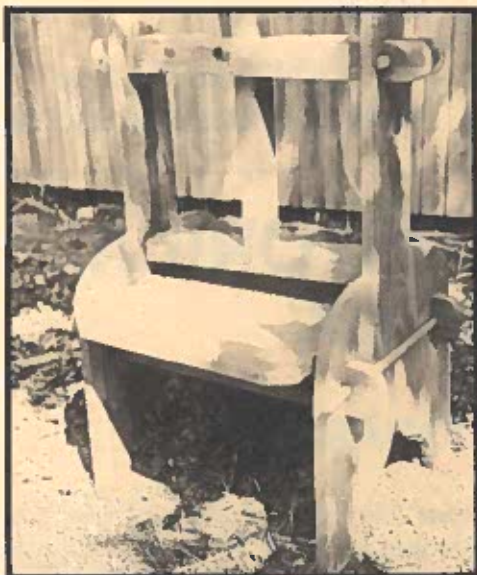
The retreat of the cavalry, so history records, was orderly and it must have been a long remembered sight to watch the richly caparisoned horses with their scarlet clad riders making their march over such a picturesque road, and also a relief to the early settlers to have the troops leave the region allowing them once more to return to their peaceful labors. Today we have a small touch of the same color when the hunt club traverses the section.

Last year Mr. Amis built a home on High Rock, situated about three hundred feet from Cavalry road. From this rock a clear view of the entire valley to the south and west may be had, and legend has it that from this spot, the colonials were able to observe the approach of the British, but that later the scouts of the torys were posted there to be on the lookout for flank attacks upon their troops.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
MAY YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON BE THE BEST EVER**

PICTURE QUIZ

Can you name this?



If you can name the item in the picture send your name to:

The Editor
The Chronicle
P.O. Box 1092
Weston, CT 06883

LAST ISSUE'S QUIZ

The item in the last picture quiz was a hay fork, used to lift hay from the wagon to the hay mow. This hay fork from the old Adams barn which was torn down to make room for the post office. Carter Beach, Ray Fitch, and Russell Greaves sent the correct answers in. Ray Fitch said "It was called a Double Harpoon. It was used to unload hay from the wagon in the barn. Hay was pulled up by a horse or oxen, later by a car or tractor. They also made a single Harpoon fork".

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THE DIRT ROADS COMMITTEE

Dirt roads were a big improvement over the old wagon trails used by the first settlers, but they required constant work to keep them in a usable condition, especially in the spring. This became more and more of a costly part of the town budget as the old town records show. Many towns felt that the state should share the cost of upkeep since many of these roads were used to travel from town to town (and eventually became state roads). The following articles from the Westport Herald of 1932 relate to this dirt road committee and the travel experiences along one of the town roads (Goodhill).

April 5, 1932

WESTON VOTERS TO CONSIDER JOINING DIRT ROADS ASSN.

There will be a meeting in the town hall on Monday, April 11, at eight o'clock for the purpose of discussing the advisability of forming a Dirt Roads Association here. There is a movement on foot throughout the state for all the towns to organize such associations, so that when the State legislature meets next January the towns will be able to secure the dirt road appropriation. It is felt by many in Weston, including the Selectmen, that such a step would be an advantageous one, and that unless Weston does form this organization there is a grave possibility that the state will fail to give the town further appropriations for dirt roads.

Iverson Fanton, formerly of this town, will be the main speaker of the evening and will represent and State organization. Mr. Fanton has been interested in this movement for some time and has already spoken at a town meeting here on the subject. It is hoped that a large number of residents will turn out.

Residents along the Georgetown road are greatly cheered by news from the State that work will start within the month. All deeds for necessary rights of way have been accepted by the State and bids will be advertised in the next few days. The road is in a deplorable condition.

April 12, 1932

THE DIRT ROADS ASSOCIATION

A very enthusiastic group met in the town hall Monday night to discuss the rural road problem. The weather was very bad and kept many at home, but those present made up in enthusiasm for the lack in numbers.

Representative Willis Banks presided and Miss Sarah Treadwell acted as secretary of the meeting. The speakers of the evening were Iverson Fanton, representing the State Dirt Road association, and J. Arthur Sherwood, representing the State Grange, both of Easton.

(Continued on page 5.)

NO FREE CHRONICLE THIS YEAR

In past years we have sent a copy of the December Chronicle to each town residence in an attempt to interest more people in becoming members of the Society and to inform Westonites about some of Weston's history.

While we did obtain some new members, this proved more costly than we could afford and last summer the board of trustees voted to eliminate this generous deed. In the future the Chronicle will be sent to Society members, to the Library, and to several town Historical Societies in Fairfield county.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS? (WAS)? WE DO — NOW

We ran a picture of this in the last issue, asked the same question, and received nary a response. Well, we found out what it is or was on our own. While visiting the Shelburne museum in Shelburne, Vt. this fall, we saw several in good condition. It is a sausage (or meat) grinder and was probably used by the Adams' when they ran the country store. When all the parts are present, there is a drum inside that forced the meat past the knife-like projections, cutting the meat into small pieces. A funnel attached to the top accepted the meat. The top was fastened shut using the clasp shown in the picture. The ground sausage was forced out the hole in the bottom end into a pan or into a casing.



HELP AGAIN

Does anyone know who these people are? This picture was taken in 1907 in Weston (as far as we know).



QUILT SHOW

Weston Historical Society
104 WESTON RD. WESTON CT.



QUILT SHOW
Open House • Bake Sale • Luncheon • Crafts
SEPT. 13-14-15 10:00-4:00
★ \$1.00 DONATION ★

The quilt show was a spectacular success. The quilts on display were individual pieces of art—some over 100 years old, some less than one year old. The pictures shown here do not give credit to the colors used in the various quilts. Over 300 people visited the Coley Homestead to see this display.

In addition to the quilts, there was a food and bake shop, an outdoors basket shop featuring baskets hand-made in Weston, and a dry flower and fragrance shop run by Nadine Tichy.

Sylvia Bowles and Lu Harper were responsible for this great event, helped by a bunch of helpers including: Marion Stoff, Barbara Van Suetendail, Dorie Rickerick, Marge Schneider, Marie Golden, Ruth Lockwood, Mary Lou Perry, Karen Giannitti, Nadine Tichy, Jane Lees.

We hope that this was the first of many such events we can sponsor in future years. Many people who attended were not aware we existed or did not know we had a museum area. A number joined the Society and/or purchased our book, which helps make all this effort worthwhile. Thanks to all who participated and to all who came.



(Continued from page 2.)

Mr. Fanton told what had been accomplished throughout the state in the way of improvement and those present felt the results of forming an association in Weston would be well worth the effort.

It is hoped to secure one hundred members for the Weston Rural road Improvement association, of which Willis Banks was elected president. Other officers elected were; vice-president, Joseph Buckley; secretary, Mrs. Bertram Lambert; treasurer, John Hartmann, members of the executive board, Frank W. T. Amis, George Waterbury and David Wahlquist.

It was voted to hold another meeting in the town hall Monday, April 18, at which time the bylaws will be drawn up and a delegate to attend the state meeting in Hartford on April 27.

June 7, 1953

Traveling over Goodhill road is so precarious that three men are stationed at intervals along the road to stop cars that are proceeding faster than 15 miles an hour. Residents understood this road was to be put in first class condition last fall, but it was not until pressure was brought to bear by the Weston Rural roads association that any work was done this spring.

NEW TRUSTEES NAMED AT ANNUAL MEETING

Dr. Tom Farnam, the author of our history of Weston book, was the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Society held on October 23 at the Norfield Parish hall. He discussed the transition of Weston from Puritans to Yankees and presented an interesting discussion of the tragic relationship between Rev. John Noyes and his son Benjamin, who committed suicide in 1815.

The board of trustees of the Weston Historical Society for 1986 are:

Lou Bregy, President	Ruth Lockwood
Sylvia Bowles, Vice-President	Gene O'Hare
Dan Sanders, Treasurer	Joe Spetly
Ralph Greenwood, Secretary	Herb Day
Linda Guidera	Doris Rickerich
Peggy Sanford	Gary Samuelson
Nadine Tichy	Marge Schneider
Marie Golden	

FIFTY YEARS AGO (or more)

Rule #20 Adopted by town Aug. 2, 1897. All persons engaged in the business of boiling or rendering of fat or animal matter shall cause the scrape or residue to be so dried or otherwise prepared as to effectively deprive such material of all offensive odor and to preserve the same entirely inoffensive immediately after the removal thereof from the receptical in which the rendering process maybe conducted.

Frank Gorham, M.D.
Town Health Officer

POST OFFICE UPDATE

We have two important news items to report on the post office: Number one is that it is on its new foundation, thanks to the efforts of Gary Samuelson, a builder and one of our trustees, George Schneider, the mason, the Vening Co., the movers, and last but not least, our First selectman, Helen Specht, who contributed the spark to keep things moving. The second important item is that Helen Specht has appointed Sylvia Bowles as chairperson of the Post Office Committee. Sylvia is a bundle of energy and enthusiasm (she was behind the quilt show) who will keep the project rolling.

We should point out that the Post Office renovation is a town project sponsored first by the town of Weston and secondly by the Historical Society. The agreement between the town and the Society is that the town will handle the moving and the renovation and the Historical Society will maintain the post office and general store as a museum.

NEXT ISSUE

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THE

CHRONICLE

QUARTERLY

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