



THE

CHRONICLE

QUARTERLY

Price \$2.00

Volume 7 No. 2 June 1988

Published By The
Weston Historical Society

THE EDITOR'S EDGE

THE FLOWERS OF SPRING

The cool weather and ample rainfall this spring has provided us with an abundance of nature's beauty in the form of flowering trees. The dogwoods, flowering cherries and crabapples were brilliant. Even the weeds along the roads and in the fields are especially heavy with flowers. And my favorite Pink Lady's Slipper showed up with several offspring.

Connecticut is blessed with enough cold weather to provide a good apple crop and a fair maple sap run in the spring, and warm enough to enable the dogwoods to survive and flower along with other semi-hardy plants. Of course, Weston just seems to be the prettiest corner of Connecticut, at least it is from where we sit.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

OLD PICTURES
OLD LAND TITLES
THE COLEY GENEALOGY

WESTON'S HISTORICAL NOTEBOOK MEMORY LANE — GODFREY ST. MARGARET GIFFORD

A wet snow is falling here at my Vermont Island home. It seems to bring thoughts of other days on Godfrey Street, Weston. Our farm was the fourth one from Route 57 or Newtown Turnpike. The west branch of the Saugatuck River flowed thru the eighteen acre hay field across from our lovely New England colonial.

Godfrey Street was a quiet area with only five families, each raising some cows, pigs, chickens, and a couple of horses. Hay and grain and potatoes were the main crops.

Rachel Andrews, a Civil War widow lived alone up the hill from us. She tended her animals and farm, as did Mary Lib Turney, on the other side of us. She also was a Civil War widow. I remember her telling that she sobered her husband by locking him up in the hay press in the barn. The Cy Weeds lived there some years later and the Wood Cowans made a lovely home of Rachel's place.

The Lum Gould farm was sold to the Nicolai Skoloff's. They started an outdoor theater and had summer eve concerts. Mr. Gould, 'Lum', was a great fox hunter and did a good job of preparing skins and sold them thru Sears Roebuck. The other farm was owned by Harold and Maud Burritt. They were the only ones that sold milk to a large milk company in Norwalk. In later years, the farm was sold to Mr. & Mrs. LaChat. They continued the milk business for some years.

The pasture fields in this area grew great crops of wild berries, such as blueberries, huckleberries, and bellberries. Blackberries were always large and juicy. The women felt obligated to pick these fruits and usually put up a great many cans for pies and cobbler desserts. Next we had elderberries and large wild grapes. I can taste that delicious grape catsup that Eva Barnes taught me to can.

There were many private barrels of wine before Prohibition days. Perhaps some after, too. The apple crop was important to all and sweet cider became hard cider in time.

The Upper Parish school is now a home but I believe we got a good education and recall the effort those dear teachers put into their duties. Some of the eighteen students walked five miles each way and carried their lunch. Some would eat their bag of food before they ever got to school. We had to fetch a pail of water from our well and enjoyed going to a stream in the woods. Our school graduation was held in the Norfield Town Hall. It burned to the ground later. Some of us were lucky enough to go to Norwalk High School. I walked to and from Cannondale Railroad Station. Carrying my books was the hardest part of the daily trip.

Later years we sold our farm to a prominent couple; actor and actress John Cecil Holm and wife, Faith Drake. John wrote "Three Men On A Horse". It was a popular show here and in Europe.

Sarah Churchill lived there while she played on Broadway. Later, the James Rands — of typewriter fame — enjoyed the old house for some time.

My old clock has just struck the hour of twelve. It causes me to think of the great outdoor clock on Harriet Hubbard Ayers home next to Cobbs

PICTURE QUIZ

CAN YOU NAME THIS?



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

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

The item in the last quiz is a jack for a light weight wagon or buggy. The bad country roads often caused a wheel to break or come off. The jack would hold the axle up so the wheel could be replaced. This jack may not look very strong, but it was. The present day bumper jacks don't look very strong, but they do the job.

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MEMORY LANE (continued)

Mill. With the strike of twelve, the twelve Apostles appeared and moved around the outside of the time piece. I enjoyed waiting for the clock to strike.

Hope you will let me share pleasant memories with you all some other time. Kindest greetings to all in Weston.

Ed. Mrs. Gifford — We will let you share your memories with us anytime.

CURRENT EVENTS

NEW TRUSTEE NAMED

We accepted with regret, the resignation of Mrs. Ethyl Keene from the Board of Trustees.

Mrs. Pietra Knaus has agreed to serve as Trustee to replace Mrs. Keene.

A SPECIAL THANKS

We extend a special THANK YOU to members and friends who helped us put on a very successful tour of Weston, followed by a luncheon at the Coley House for the Norfield Women's Fellowship and their guests from Brooklyn:

Ann Chapman
Gayle Garrison
Marie Golden
Lillian Graveline
Linda Guidera

Pietra Knaus
Diane La Grands
Linda Martin
MaryLou Perry
Ceil Renzulli

Peggy Sanford
Marge Schneider
Joe Spetly
Bobbie Suratt
Connie Waymer

Also, a special thanks to Mrs. Connie Waymer for not only donating fifteen-twenty rose bushes to the Historical Society for the rose garden, but for preparing the garden and planting the roses with help from her son and his friends. Connie has vowed that she will take loving care of this garden.

POST OFFICE UPDATE

Actually, we should say, 'THE ADAMS-SCRIBNER MUSEUM' UPDATE because this is the name for this complex of the post office and the remaining Adams barn. As reported in the local papers, the 1987 Bicentennial Committee has recommended to the Selectmen that they appropriate half of the monies earned by the Bicentennial activities to the renovation of the Adams-Scribner buildings. Since the barn needs the foundation partially rebuilt, we have tentatively decided to use the funds mentioned to restore the barn, before it deteriorates further. We hope that additional monies will be found this summer to fix the windows on the post office and replace the siding.

We still have some of the rear post office boxes available for sale. You don't get to take them home, but we will put your name on a plaque, signifying that you are the owner of one of the boxes. The plaque will be placed on the front of the post office area in the store. The cost of post office box including your name on the plaque (two lines with 25 characters per line) is \$50.00. Please call Mrs. Linda Martin — 226-6256 — and she will send you a form.

FIFTY YEARS (OR SO) AGO

We could have retyped the article below, however, we thought it would be more interesting if we printed it as it appeared in the Westport Herald, January, 1903. The more things change, the more they stay the same.



SUMMER HOURS AT THE MUSEUMS

Both the Coley Homestead Museum and the Adams-Scribner Museum will be open on Sundays in July, August, September, and October from 2 to 4 pm. If we have enough guides, we will try to be open one other day in each week. This information will be publicized in area papers.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Four oak Victorian chairs — *Mr. & Mrs. William Thompson*

A small microfiche viewer — *Weston Public Library*

A Victorian-era dress — *Mr. Irving White, in memory of his wife, Constance*

Copies of several land titles from the Coley family dating back to 1768 and 1771 — *Mr. Don Coley, Southport*

THROUGH A BRIDGE

**John Williams Met With
a Peculiar Accident at
Weston**

**Together With His Oxen
and Load of Lumber He
Went Through Bridge**

**Oxen Badly Injured. He
Escaped With a Few
Bruises**

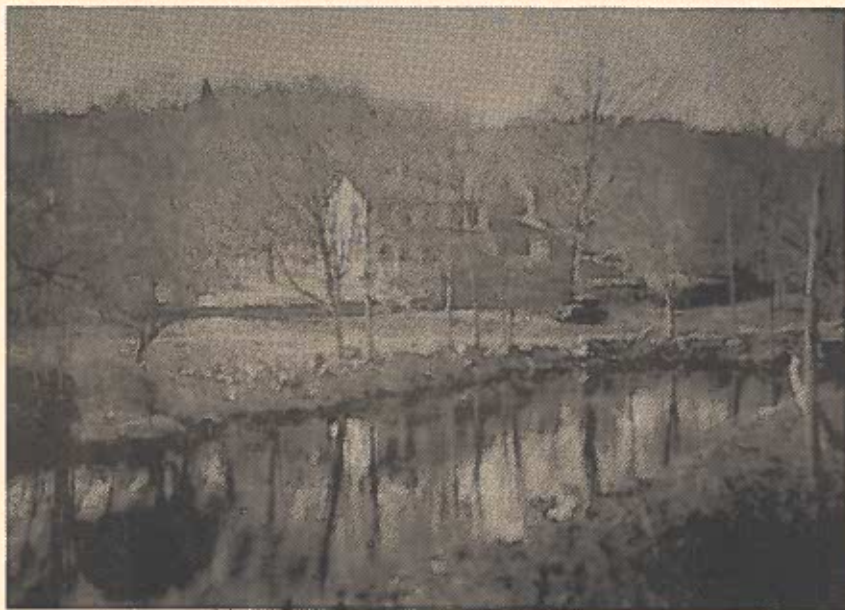
That delays are dangerous was evidenced on Wednesday of this week when John Williams of Weston went through what is known as the Forge bridge with a yoke of oxen and a load of lumber.

The drop was about ten feet. The oxen were badly injured and Mr. Williams received many bruises.

The matter of rebuilding this bridge has been under consideration for some time, bids being secured for its construction, the selectmen endeavoring to get it done as cheaply as possible. While waiting for a low bidder, the bridge collapsed and now the town may have to pay many times the cost in a damage suit.

THE WAY WESTON WAS — IN PICTURES

The following pictures were sent to us by Mr. Hubbard Cobb, whose father and mother ran Cobbs Mill Inn. They also lived in the farm house down the road from the Inn (across from the bridge). He writes that most were taken in 1913-1914. Mr. Cobb sent us fourteen pictures, which we will have on view at the Coley House when we have a photo exhibit.



Picture of bridge on right and the Mill Pond with the Cobb House in back.



From the bridge, looking toward the Cobb Farm House



Looking east across the bridge with The Adams Farmhouse in background.



Bridge by Cobb's Mill, looking south. Routes 53 and 57 divide to left of bridge. Mill Pond is beyond bridge.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEES FOR 1988

Lou Bregy
Herb Day
Marie Golden
Linda Guidera
Evelyn Kerin
Pietra Knaus
Linda Martin
Gene O'Hare

MaryLou Perry
Gary Samuelson
Dan Sanders
Peggy Sanford
Marge Schneider
Joe Spetly
Nadine Tichy

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

This month marks the end of Rev. Robert Greene's thirty-one year tenure at Norfield Congregational Church. He is retiring at the end of June. Norfield Church had many Ministers in its 200 year history, but Rev. Greene's stay was the second longest of all of them, only being exceeded by Rev. Noyes, the second Minister at Norfield.

We are reminded of the old saying "he must of done something right, to have stayed here that long." Well, he did a lot right, and he provided a stabilizing influence at the old Church on the hill. He and his wife — Joyce, made many friends; friends who wish them well in their retirement from Norfield, and who are saddened to see them go.

By the time this issue has gone to press, the informal reception for Bob and Joyce will have been held on the Church grounds. We hope you were able to attend and wish the Greene's 'all the best' in their new life in Florida.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The following letter was received in response to our article in the December, 1987 issue regarding Weston, one hundred years from now. We did not have room in the last issue to print it, so are doing it now.

Jim Hoe wrote:

Weston did have a seaport, down there on the Saugatuck River. It's called Westport now. They used to ship 100,000 bushels of farm produce out of that river, Weston shipping its share. During the onion farming days, they shipped up to 100,000 bushels of onions out of Southport also. Look at the fine houses down there, that the ship owners built.

An industry that survived! Gilbert and Bennett is still there. It was founded in Weston, its first expanded shop was in Weston. It stayed open all during the depression and never missed a payroll. It has provided jobs for

Weston and other local residents for over 170 years. It is not just a little company either. It has branches in Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Georgia.

City folk had "unbelievably hard times" during the depression, not farmers. Ask any older resident, who lived on a farm in those days, as I did. Cash money was in short supply, but we didn't need it. We had a good life and all we could eat. It was when the war came along that the farms had trouble — good farm laborers disappeared.

Very truly yours,

WISH LIST

In the last issue we mentioned that we would be publishing a wish list in this issue. A wish list of things we need for the museum, either for the display areas or for the office and library. While the list is not complete we have listed a few things we would like to have.

OUR POLICY ON ACCEPTING GIFTS IS THAT IF WE HAVE NO FURTHER USE FOR THE ITEM, WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO SELL THE ITEM OR EXCHANGE IT FOR AN ITEM WE CAN USE. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE WILL ACCEPT ANY AND ALL THINGS WHICH ARE OFFERED TO US, HOWEVER, IF WE ARE OFFERED AN ITEM WHICH IS BETTER THAN AN ITEM WE ACCEPTED PREVIOUSLY, WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DISPOSE OF THE FIRST ITEM, THRU A SALE OR EXCHANGE.

1. **For the downstairs rooms of the Coley house:**
Victorian furniture or items of the period which would be used in a parlor or dining room.
2. **For the Barn Museum:**
Woodworking tools, including an old belt-driven lathe
Farm tools for planting, harvesting, etc.
3. **For our photo collection:**
Any old photo's of Weston as it used to be (we can make copies and return the original photos to you).
4. **For the office and library:**
Book shelves or cases.
A microfilm viewer.
A portable P A system (public address) for bus tours and meetings.
File cabinets.
5. **For the old Post Office:**
Any items that would have been in an old store: wooden barrels, lanterns, jars, etc.
6. **Last but not least:**
The services of a trained museum curator to help us set up our exhibits to show our items properly.

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A PUBLICATION OF THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOUNDED IN 1961

JUNE 1988

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