



THE

# CHRONICLE

QUARTERLY

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Weston Historical Society

## THE EDITOR'S EDGE

The genealogy chart of the Coley family mentioned elsewhere in this issue shows 130 (more or less) male members of the family who carried on the Coley name from about 1600 until about 1950. I am sure we missed a few. And there were at least as many female members of the family who had offspring who could claim roots in this family. I guess you could say that they made Weston what it is today; well, maybe up till yesterday. We would not want to blame them for any current problems. Since so many of them were named David throughout the years, I guess we really could say: ATTA BOY, DAVE!

HERB DAY

## DUES ARE DUE

A reminder that your dues are due for 1989. We thank all members who have paid their dues and urge all who have not done so yet to send theirs in and continue to support the Society. Your dues go a long way toward covering our yearly expenses, including the publishing of the Chronicle.

## WESTON MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION

The printing of this issue of the Chronicle has been supported, in part, by a grant from the Weston Merchant's Association. This support is greatly appreciated.

## CURRENT EVENTS

### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members of the Society:

- Mr. Hubbard Cobb, Honorary member
- Mrs. Antoinette Duval Fromson, Life member
- Mr. & Mrs. Frank Seestrom, Sustaining member
- Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Hughes, Sustaining member
- Mrs. Claire Foster, Regular member
- Mr. & Mrs. John Alden, Regular member
- Mrs. Richard Beck, Regular member
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bochinski, Regular member
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard Briet, Regular member
- Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Carter, Regular member
- Mr. & Mrs. Edward Frey, Regular member
- Mr. & Mrs. Mark Harper, Regular member
- Mr. & Mrs. Dan Suratt, Regular member
- Mr. & Mrs. Ted White, Regular member
- Mr. & Mrs. Horace Shipman, Senior member
- Mrs. Helen Vetromile, Senior member

### SUNDAY AT THE MUSEUM

The Coley Barn Museum and the old Post Office have been open on Sunday afternoons during July, August, September, and part of October, from two to four. We have been encouraged by the attendance at both museums and plan to improve the displays of artifacts to help visitors learn more about Weston as it was.

### ANNUAL MEETING

The 27th Annual Meeting of the Weston Historical Society will be held on November 10, 1988. Nomination and election of new Trustees will be conducted. A special program is planned, and will be announced through the newspapers.

### QUILT SHOW

The quilt show planned for this fall, has been put off until spring.

### CHRISTMAS AT THE COLEY HOUSE

The annual "CHRISTMAS AT THE COLEY HOUSE" will be held in early December. Please watch for publicity about this wonderful event.



# PICTURE QUIZ

## WHERE WAS THIS PICTURE TAKEN?



If you know where this building is located, (now a home) 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 flax hatchel or hackle. It was used to comb the flax into long threads, while the short threads were combed out. To make fine linen fabric, the flax might be hackled as many as half dozen times before it was ready for the spinning wheel.

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## ELECTION DAY CAKE

From the mid 17th century, Election Day was considered a great holiday in New England. At that time, Connecticut and New Haven were separate colonies. The sessions of the General Assembly were held alternately between Hartford and New Haven and both towns would try to outdo each other in its festivities.

The Governor was sworn in on the first Wednesday of May when the new gubernatorial term began, no matter when re-elected, and this day was termed Election Day or 'Lecture Day. There would always be a big parade. The Governor would be met at the outskirts of the city by Civil and Military Officers with troops and citizens and escorted to the State House to be sworn into office.

Accounts of later years said that picnics would be held by the citizens, children would be given 'Lecture Day oranges, men would have a cup of eggnog (or whatever) and the women would always make the famous 'Lecture cake.

The following is a recipe I found in the "Westport Advertiser" of May, 1868. I have found reference to this Hartford or Election Day cake in colonial records in 1668.

### Hartford 'Lecture Cake

Take a pint of lukewarm milk, a pound of sifted wheat flour, and a small teacup of yeast. Stir gradually together, and set it where it will rise quick. Take a pound of butter, a pound and a quarter of nice sugar; stir them to a cream, and when the sponge is light, work them into it with the hand. Beat four eggs to a froth (the whites and yolk separately) mix the eggs with the sponge, adding (if you can afford it) a wine glass of brandy or wine, and grating in one nutmeg with a little cinnamon. Add another pound of flour, and knead the whole together for fifteen or twenty minutes. The more and better the kneading, the more delicate the cake. Let the dough rise again, and when perfectly light, beat it a few minutes with the hand, and then add one pound of seeded rasins; divide the whole into three loaves, put them into common sized cake pans, well buttered, and set them in a warm place half an hour before they go into the oven. Bake in a quick, but not furious oven, from seventy-five to ninety minutes, according to the heat of the oven using a cover of thick paper if the cake browns too fast.

The lady who cannot make this cake will never be the wife of a governor; and he who does not love it, will never be the husband of a governor's wife.

By Mrs. Evelyn Kerin

Editors note. Mrs. Kerin is a Trustee of your Society. She handles our research work on genealogy and old houses, as well as doing the same for the Westport Historical Society. We welcome Evelyn as a new contributing writer to the Chronicle.

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## NEEDED — A VOLUNTEER TREASURER FOR THE SOCIETY

The Society's trustees are looking for a person who can manage the financial books for the Society. Our current treasurer is resigning after doing a great job. The duties include keeping track of income and outgo, write checks, prepare financial statements for the board, and correspond with the IRS. A person with financial training is preferred. Call Herb Day, 227-6130, or any of our trustees.

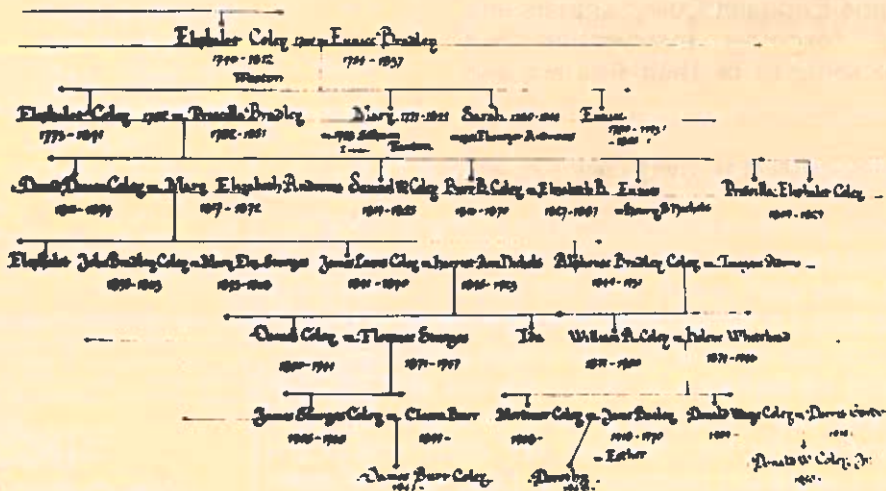
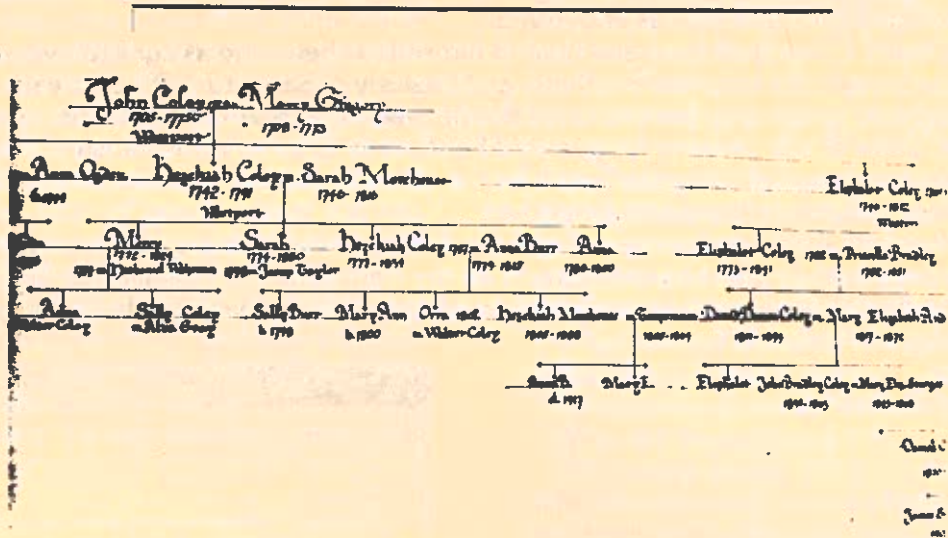


# WESTON'S HISTORICAL NOTEBOOK

## THE COLEY GENEALOGY

We have reproduced only a small part of the Coley genealogy chart researched by Mr. Peter Hanson, a history teacher at Staples High School. His classes at Coleytown School where he taught before going to Staples helped in the research. Mrs. Hanson did the calligraphy. We were given permission by the Westport Historical Society, who own the charts, to copy them. We will have them on display at a future meeting. This part of the chart shows the genealogy of the David Dimon Coley side of the family, including his father, grandfather, and greatgrandfather (John). David Dimon Coley built the Coley Homestead, the home of the Weston Historical Society.

We have noticed a historical error which should be pointed out. The chart shows John Coley as being from Westport. Westport was not a town until 1835. The chart should say Greens Farms instead of Westport. The same is true of references to Weston before 1787. It should be called Norfield or, before 1757, just Fairfield.





# JOHN COLEY'S LAND

To all People to whom these Presents Shall come, Greeting:

Whereas John Coley, late of Fairfield in the County of Fairfield and the Colony of Connecticut now deceased, did in and by his Last Will and Testament devise and bequeath unto his two sons Hezekiah Coley and Eliphalet Coley both of said Fairfield sundry pieces and parcels of land with the buildings hereon standing in said Fairfield in the long lots so called together with a parcel of salt meadows to be equally divided between them.

Now know ye that we the said Hezekiah Coley and Eliphalet Coley do agree to divide and partition make of said land and buildings in manner following viz: The said Hezekiah Coley shall have and hold to himself and his heirs and assigns forever in severalty all those parcels of land, lying in the long lots Southerly and Easterly of Saugatuck River so called and Westerly of the upright highway running between Bradleys and Finch's long lots let the quantity be more or less together with the buildings thereon standing. Also two small pieces of salt meadow lying in said Fairfield in Green Farms Parish which our deceased father in his life time purchased of David Morehouse and David Adams, the quantity more or less bounded as in their deed to this deed reference thereunto being had.

And I the said Eliphalet Coley do for myself and my heirs promise release, and forever quit claim unto the said Hezekiah Coley and to his heirs and assigns all my right title and interest that I have in and unto the lands and buildings apated to him as abovesaid.

And the said Eliphalet Coley shall have and hold to himself his heirs and assigns forever in Severalty all those parcels of land lying in the long lots Southerly and Easterly of Saugatuck River so called and Easterly (?) of the upright highway running up between said Bradleys and Finch's long lots let the quantity be more or less. Also a small piece of salt meadow lying in said Fairfield in Greens Farms Parish which our deceased father in his life time purchased of Solomon Couch be the quantity more or less bounded as in said Couch's deed to the said deed reference thereunto being had.

And I the said Hezekiah Coley do for my self and my heirs promise release and forever quitclaim unto the said Eliphalet Coley and to his heirs and assigns all my right title and interest that I have in and unto the lands apated to him as abovesaid. In confirmation where of the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals, the 29 day of April, 1776.

Signed Sealed and Delivered

In presence of  
David Coley  
signed: David Coley

Hezekiah Coley      mark  
Eliphalet Coley      mark

In Fairfield County on the date personally appeared Hezekiah Coley and Eliphalet Coley, signers and sealers of the forgoing instrument and acknowledge the same to be their free act and deed.

Before David Coley Justice of the Peace

*To all People to whom these Presents Shall come, Greeting:*  
*Whereas John Coley late of Fairfield in the County of Fairfield and the Colony of Connecticut now deceased, did in and by his Last Will and Testament devise and bequeath unto his two sons Hezekiah Coley and Eliphalet Coley both of said Fairfield sundry pieces and parcels of land with the buildings hereon standing in said Fairfield in the long lots so called together with a parcel of salt meadows to be equally divided between them.*  
*Now know ye that we the said Hezekiah Coley and Eliphalet Coley do agree to divide and partition make of said land and buildings in manner following viz: The said Hezekiah Coley shall have and hold to himself and his heirs and assigns forever in severalty all those parcels of land, lying in the long lots Southerly and Easterly of Saugatuck River so called and Westerly of the upright highway running between Bradleys and Finch's long lots let the quantity be more or less together with the buildings thereon standing. Also two small pieces of salt meadow lying in said Fairfield in Green Farms Parish which our deceased father in his life time purchased of David Morehouse and David Adams, the quantity more or less bounded as in their deed to this deed reference thereunto being had.*  
*And I the said Eliphalet Coley do for myself and my heirs promise release, and forever quit claim unto the said Hezekiah Coley and to his heirs and assigns all my right title and interest that I have in and unto the lands and buildings apated to him as abovesaid.*  
*And the said Eliphalet Coley shall have and hold to himself his heirs and assigns forever in Severalty all those parcels of land lying in the long lots Southerly and Easterly of Saugatuck River so called and Easterly (?) of the upright highway running up between said Bradleys and Finch's long lots let the quantity be more or less. Also a small piece of salt meadow lying in said Fairfield in Greens Farms Parish which our deceased father in his life time purchased of Solomon Couch be the quantity more or less bounded as in said Couch's deed to the said deed reference thereunto being had.*  
*And I the said Hezekiah Coley do for my self and my heirs promise release and forever quitclaim unto the said Eliphalet Coley and to his heirs and assigns all my right title and interest that I have in and unto the lands apated to him as abovesaid. In confirmation where of the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals, the 29 day of April, 1776.*  
*In presence of*  
*David Coley*  
*signed: David Coley*  
*Hezekiah Coley*  
*Eliphalet Coley*  
*In Fairfield County on the Date above*  
*personally appeared Hezekiah Coley and*  
*Eliphalet Coley signers and sealers of the forgoing*  
*instrument and acknowledge the same to be their*  
*free act and deed.*  
*Before David Coley Justice of the Peace*



# BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF

## DAVID DIMON COLEY

David D. Coley was born Oct. 30, 1811, in Weston, Conn. His father was Eliphalet Coley of the same town, and as far as is known, was descended from the early settlers of this county. His mother was Priscilla Bradley, another old family name in Fairfield County.

His youth was sickly; he did not until near his eighteenth year have ordinary good health. He had, besides the advantages of the district school, the instructions of Hawley Omstead, a noted teacher of Wilton. When young Coley's health became established, he found employment on his father's farm, and chose farming as his pursuit.

He married, in 1824, Mary E. Andrews daughter of John Andrews of Weston. Her mother was Mary Andrews. Mr. Coley worked at the home-farm some three years after his marriage. In 1840 or 1841 he bought and removed to the farm on which he now resides, in the town of Weston; the place is situated on the high ground in the southerly part of the town and commands an extensive view of Long Island Sound, and the island itself across the Sound. This farm of good natural soil has been well cultivated and industriously farmed and yielded a competency to its owner.

Mr. Coley has been a selectman of the town for many years, and during the entire Civil War discharged the duty of this onerous office. It became their duty to secure the soldiers to fill the quota of the town. This was successfully accomplished to the satisfaction of the townspeople.



D. D. COLEY.

Mr. Coley has for three years represented his town in the legislature of the State; has sympathized with the Democratic party all his life; is a strong Union man, and was a supporter of the Union in the late war. Mr. Coley has had three sons, John B., James L. and Alphonso B., the last named alone surviving. John B. died at the age of twenty-four years; James L. died at twenty-nine years. Alphonso recuperated his health by a trip to California, which entirely restored him.

Mrs. Coley died in 1872. For forty-eight years she was a faithful companion and affectionate mother; she was a farmer's daughter and became a help-mate to her industrious husband. Her monument is pointed out in the cemetery as one of its principal and most beautiful adornments. Mr. Coley for a man of his age is vigorous and strong. He is respected and trusted by his fellow-townsmen, and has before him the prospect of a comfortable old age, surrounded by all the comforts of life.

The above biographical sketch is from the "History of Fairfield County, Connecticut", with illustrations and biographical sketches of its prominent men and pioneers compiled under the supervision of D. Hamilton Hurd, Philadelphia, J.W. Lewis and Co., 1881.

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### THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEES FOR 1988

Lou Bregy  
Herb Day  
Marie Golden  
Linda Guidera  
Evelyn Kerin  
Pietra Knaus  
Linda Martin  
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MaryLou Perry  
Gary Samuelson  
Dan Sanders  
Peggy Sanford  
Marge Schneider  
Joe Spetly  
Nadine Tichy

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### NEXT ISSUE

COLEY GENEALOGY CONT.  
INDEX TO SEVEN VOLUMES  
OLD PICTURES OF WESTON

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### ADAMS-SCRIBNER MUSEUM UPDATE

The Museum Committee has been given about \$5000 from the profits of the Bicentennial programs last year to be used to continue the renovation of the barn and the post office. This work will be started this fall.

Further review of the information on the post office reveals the following:

The first official post office in Weston was opened in 1818, in what is now Easton. This was the center of activities for the town of Weston. In 1845 Easton was split off and the post office was changed to the Easton post office in Jan. 1846. The Norfield post office which was our old post office, established in 1833, was renamed the Weston post office in Jan. 1846. It continued as a post office until closed by the Post Office Dept. in 1901. The general store which was here remained open for a few years after the post office was closed.

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FOUNDED IN 1961

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