

PAMPHLET  
FILE



THE

# CHRONICLE

QUARTERLY

Volume 7

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Weston Historical Society

## THE EDITOR'S EDGE

This issue of the Chronicle Quarterly is dedicated to ED PHELPS, who was one of the founding fathers of the Weston Historical Society and its first President. Ed was a TRUSTEE for many years and helped shape the course the Society was to follow since 1961. We all thank you, Ed, for your years of service and wish you and Flossie many years of retired life in Vermont and Pennsylvania.



Herb Day - Editor

## CURRENT EVENTS

### ANNUAL MEETING HELD

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the Norfield Parish Hall on November 10, 1988. After a short business meeting and the election of new Trustees for 1989, Mr. Bert Rosendahl gave a very informative talk on the history of the Gilbert & Bennett company of Georgetown. He explained how the company got started and the process of making wire screening and fencing up until the present time. Photos and other historical records supplemented his talk.

### NEW TRUSTEES FOR 1989

Five new Trustees were elected at the annual meeting. They will serve for three years. These people and the other trustees of your Society are listed below: The new Trustees have a star before their name.

- |                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| * Barbara Van Suetendahl | MaryLou Perry   |
| * Mary Alden             | Pietra Knaus    |
| * Glenn Major            | Marie Golden    |
| * Linda Guidera          | Gary Samuelson  |
| Herb Day                 | Marge Schneider |
| Linda Martin             | Evelyn Kerin    |
| Joe Spetly               | * Ann Chapman   |
| Gene O'hare              |                 |

### CHRISTMAS AT THE COLEY HOUSE

The second CHRISTMAS AT THE COLEY HOUSE will be held on Dec. 11 and 12, with a preview showing on the evening of Dec. 10. Since this Chronicle is going to press before this open house, we hope you were able to attend and show your support for the Society.

The Weston Womens Garden Club and the Weston Womens Club have both contributed their talents to this open house by each decorating a room.

# PICTURE QUIZ



## CAN YOU NAME THIS?

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

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

## LAST ISSUE'S QUIZ

The picture in the last quiz was of the store house associated with the David L. Coley foundry and mill on River Road. The building was used to store lumber sawed in the saw mill which was located just to the north of this building on River Rd. Both the store house and part of the sawmill were made into a house which is standing and is the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Wiehl.

The people who gave us the correct answers were:

Mr. Wiehl (He better have)  
Mrs. Philip Brett III  
Mr. Irv Patchen

We will have more "location quizzes" in the future.

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# CURRENT EVENTS (Cont.)

## PROGRAMS FOR 1989

The program committee is planning several events at the Coley Homestead during 1989. The only one which is definite is the Quilt Show, which was postponed from this past fall. Further information on these programs and the dates will be given later, as they are finalized.

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE MUSEUM

One of the most important gifts to the Society was given this fall. It is the sign from the old Weston Toy Factory, which stood on Redding Road in Aspetuck Corners. It, and the cider press, engine and pulley wheels and shaft were given to the Society by Mr. Joseph Barata, and his daughter Evelyn Barata Lee, in remembrance of Mrs. Barata. We will have an article on Aspetuck Corners in a future issue. It is our intention to try to have the cider press working by the next apple harvest season.



*Holiday Greetings*

# WESTON'S HISTORICAL NOTEBOOK

## THE DAVID L. COLEY, JR., FOUNDRY AND MILL

This past summer we were given several old photographs of the David L. Coley foundry and mill by Mike Samuelman in remembrance of his wife's mother, Catherine Coley Hewitt, who was David L. Coley's daughter. A few weeks ago we sat down with Dave Coley, who is David L. Coley's grandson, to try and understand more about the mill and foundry buildings in the pictures. We will not try to write the history of the business, but just explain something about the buildings in the photo's and where they were located. It should be obvious after looking at the many buildings, that this foundry and mill were part of what was one of the largest companies in Weston, after the Bradley Edge Tool Factory.

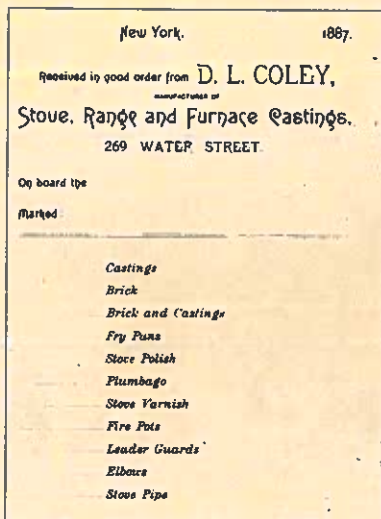
David L. Coley, Jr., (Deacon Coley) worked in his father's sawmill until he decided to open a machine shop near the same site (in the early 1880's). He was engaged in making planing mills, stove parts, flat irons, and some parts for firearms. He had a store on Water Street in Norwalk, where trading was easier than from the remote Weston area.

The complex along River Road included a foundry, a machine shop, a grinding shop, a blacksmith shop, and a sawmill. In addition to this business, the Coley's were farmers. The Coley farm extended from River Road between Goodhill and Lyons Plains Rd. west to Weston Road.

Most of these pictures were taken in 1909.



Map of the Coley foundry area along River Road. From the Beers atlas of 1867.



Weigh Bill used by D. L. Coley. Not all of the items made in the foundry are listed on the weigh bill.

## GENEALOGY CHART DAVID COLEY

- SAMUEL COLEY - 1684 MILFORD
- PETER COLEY 1641 - 1690 FAIRFIELD
- PETER COLEY 1674 - 1721 FAIRFIELD
- DAVID COLEY 1715 - 1802 WESTON
- EBENEZER COLEY 1741 - 1811 WESTON
- LEVI COLEY 1788 - 1959 WESTON
- DAVID LEVI COLEY 1816 - 1900 WESTON
- DAVID LEVI COLEY JR. 1858 - 1916 WESTON (DEACON COLEY)
- DAVID S. COLEY 1894 - 1955 WESTON
- DAVID L. COLEY 1917 - WESTON

The Coley foundry and mill site. The building is the grinding shop. The dam backed up a big mill pond, which extended up the river to what is now Keene Park. The man on the left is David L. Coley, Jr. (1858-1916) He is standing on the corner of his driveway and River Road. The power for the mill was from a water wheel at this dam along side of this building.



The building in the foreground is the grinding shop, shown after the dam went out and the foundry closed. The leanto part of this building contained a number of grinding wheels. The main part contained, among other things, the transfer gears to extend the power from the water wheel to the other buildings. The building in the left rear is the foundry and the building on the extreme right is the machine shop. Over the top of the grinding shop can be seen David L. Coley's home. This picture was taken from where the store house and sawmill were.





The old David Coley (1715-1802) Homestead. This house was built in the early 1700's and is still standing on River Road. This picture is looking northeast. River Road curves north on the left. The old oak tree has gone, and several changes have been made to the house. The slave quarters on the east side was removed (another addition has been added on since). The large central chimney extends all the way to the cellar, where some of the beams were built into the stone chimney foundation.



Storehouse. This was used to store lumber that was sawn in the sawmill (the lower building on the left of this building). At one time there was a mill wheel on this side of the building, but, in later years a shaft was run along the top of the dam from the grinding shop on the other side of the dam (from the waterwheel). This building was the subject of our picture quiz last issue. It is now the home of Mr. & Mrs. William Wiehl.



Sawmill. Logs were dropped off by farmers during the year and the the Coley's would saw them when they had a break from the farming work. The sawn lumber were put in the storehouse until picked up by the farmers.



Foundry and tool shed. Iron was melted in the furnace and poured into molds in this building. In the upper right can be seen the store house and River Road. The road in the foreground is Goodhill Rd. The grinding shop and the dam are behind this building.



The Machine shop is in background. A shaft ran from the grinding shop to run the milling equipment in this building. The buggy and wagon wheel tracks, highlighted by the snow in the foreground, show where Goodhill Road is located.



The Long House. This building was used to house the workers and probably the few slaves that the Coley's owned at one time. This building was located along Goodhill Rd. between River Rd. Ext. and the Grange hall.

# FIFTY YEARS (OR SO) AGO

FROM THE "HOUR", NORWALK, SATURDAY, AUG. 17, 1872

Mr. Jarvis of the Weston Boarding School, has a new Colonel, who, on Sunday, in the absence of Mr. Jarvis, marched the cadets to the church, keeping time to what proved to be the "beat of the alarming drum." The W.B.S.'C's were a little late. The drum frightened the horses hitched around the church, and the startled worshippers within rushed out to care for the kicking and plunging beasts. The Clergyman left the pulpet, and for time, "confusion worse confounded," ensued. The net result was several broken halters, one demolished buggy, several bruises impartially distributed among men and beasts, and one lugubriously chop-fallen Colonel.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF DR. FRANK GORHAM Health Officer of Weston

To the Selectmen:

In compliance with law, the annual report of the Health Officer of the Town of Weston, for the year ending August 31st, 1902, is hereby submitted.

Our town has been exceptionally free from the visitations of contagious diseases during the past year. From June, 1901 to June, 1902, not a single case was reported. Then, during June and July, four children in one family were attacked with a mild form of scarlet fever, supposed to have been contracted in Bridgeport. Strict quarantine was maintained and no spreading of the disease resulted. These four cases of scarlet fever, and one case of whooping cough, comprised the sum total for the year.

The attention of the Health Officer was called to one or two nuisances, but these were disposed of without any trouble.

The sanitary condition of the school houses has been looked after and found satisfactory.

Conditions regarding water, ice and milk supply, and sewage and garbage disposal, have not changed since last report.

The Health Officer earnestly calls your attention to the subject of the prevention of small pox. The indifference prevailing regarding this extremely important subject is most deplorable. Taking into consideration the fact, proven over and over again beyond all preadventure of doubt, of the easy and certain preventability of this terrible disease, it is wonderful that so many people should still neglect to avail themselves of one precious, safe and sure means of insuring themselves and their children against the ravages of this pestilence. The vital importance of the subject demands the most serious consideration on the part of every citizen.

Very respectfully,

FRANK GORHAM, M.D.

## TOWN DEBT

As reported in the same annual report, the total town debt as of Sept. 19, 1902, was \$6963.00.

IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER OF THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY and would like to join, the membership dues are:

Youth.....	\$2.00	Sustaining.....	\$50.00
Senior.....	\$5.00	Contributing.....	\$100.00
General.....	\$15.00	Life.....	\$500.00

Send your check and your name and address to:

The Weston Historical Society, Box 1092, Weston, CT 06883

## WESTON'S HISTORY BOOK

We have a limited number of Weston's history book left. If you would like to buy a copy of "Weston, the Forging of a Connecticut Town", by Dr. Thomas Farnham, send \$14.50 by mail or buy a copy at the Weston Library for \$13.50.

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PICTURE QUIZ

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NONPROFIT ORG.



MR & MRS ROBERT ATKINSON

12 LORDS HIGHWAY EAST  
WESTON CT 06883

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

THE

# CHRONICLE

QUARTERLY

A PUBLICATION OF THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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DECEMBER 1988

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