



THE

# CHRONICLE

QUARTERLY

Volume 8

No. 1

March 1989

Published By The  
Weston Historical Society

THE  
EDITOR'S  
EDGE

## THE PRODUCT

A Historical Society's main function is to package a product (in our case, the History of Weston) so that it will be interesting to all who have an interest in that slice of history that the Society is promoting. How this gets done is a combination of: Dedication by COMMITTED people; and a source of funds to keep the whole thing afloat.

In the business world, a product gets to market thru advertising and distribution. If a product sells, the company gets healthier, and can come out with more and better products.

In the case of Weston Historical Society, we are providing a good product, thru a newsletter, and more and better programs for the people of Weston. We just need more of Weston's residents, and others, to show more interest in the product. To do this, we need more of you to become members of the Society. There is so much more we could do with increased income from new members, and from contributions to capital fund drives.

Herb Day - Editor

## CURRENT EVENTS

### 1989 PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED BY MRS. LINDA MARTIN, PROGRAM CHM

At the February Board of Trustees Meeting, the trustees outlined the following programs for 1989.

February 22nd, 1:00 A "Thank You" Tea was held at the Coley House in honor of all those who helped decorate and/or served as hostesses and food preparers for the Christmas At The Coley House. A festive exhibit was a highlight for the tea.

March 20th, 10:00 am to 3:00 p.m. A Crafts Workshop featuring the teaching of three different crafts by experts in their fields. For a nominal fee, one may take a mini-course in quilting, rug hooking, or embroidery. The classes will be open to 8 people per course. Watch for more information in your local papers.

April 2nd, 4:00 pm — 6 pm. — Member/Guest Cocktail Party.

May (date to be decided) A Tag Sale on the grounds of the Coley Homestead

July (date to be decided) Senior Citizens Picnic

September 28th, 29th, 30th and October 1st — A Quilt Show/Antique Auto Show.

October 14th & 15th. A Scarecrow contest, pumpkins for sale. Pumpkin decorating, Apple cider making demonstration.

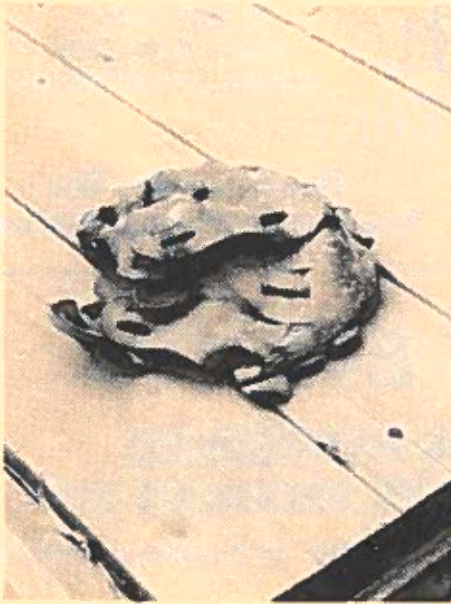
November (Dates to be decided) Open Hearth Cooking Demonstration.

December (dates to be decided) "Christmas at the Coley House"

Though some of these dates are still tentative, the plans are to carry them out and much help will be needed. Our membership drive is in April and we hope to double the membership. Without the help of our members, it is difficult to offer all these exciting events. So, our first goal is to increase the membership. The second goal is to raise the necessary funds to continue bringing outstanding exhibits, and programs to all Westonites about the history of early Weston.

All are welcome and we'd like to hear from you. Please call the Weston Historical Society at 226-1804, or Linda Martin, Program Chairman at 226-6256.

# 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

The item in the last picture quiz is an auger. It was used to make round holes in wood (a tap auger) or to enlarge holes that were made with a brace and bit.

We did not receive any answers to this quiz.

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

# DAVE COLEY REMEMBERED

David L. Coley died on the day the last issue of the Chronicle was mailed. We had talked to him several weeks before about the old Coley mill and foundry on River Road, which we featured in that last issue of 1988. We don't know for sure, because we weren't there, but if all the Dave Coley's who lived in Weston were as friendly, as hard working, and as honest as this David Coley was, it is no wonder that Weston became the great little town that it is, with all these great men (and their families) helping it grow.

We have received two contributions to the memory of Dave Coley, which we will use to start a Dave Coley Memorial Fund. This fund will be used toward the construction of a suitable addition to the Coley homestead. We welcome any additional contributions to this Memorial Fund.

One of the contributions came from Frank and Julie DelGregg, who live on Birch Hill Rd. The letter which they sent with their donation is printed below. Part of this letter was printed in the Forum last month.

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TO THE EDITOR:

29 December 1988

## DAVE COLEY — A TRUE NEIGHBOR

Our 14 year residence in Weston may qualify us as "old timers" of sorts, but to Dave Coley we still were his "new neighbors."

He made sure in his own special, unobtrusive way that we felt at home in his beloved town of Weston. From the first time we met Dave as he brought fresh vegetables he had grown to our Birch Hill home, until the time of his death last week, Dave was a true neighbor.

We'll never forget his kindness during the construction of our daughter's house next door, when Dave and several other offered the use of their freshly gravelled private road to bring in building material. (Although our daughter's lot is accessed from Birch Hill, it backs up to Dave's property on Newtown Turnpike). House construction creates many temporary inconveniences to adjoining home-owners, but not once did Dave run around complaining and creating unnecessary problems for us and our daughter — instead, he called often, taking a genuine interest in the progress. In reply to our words of gratitude, he would always say "Weston always was the kind of town where neighbors looked after one another, why should it be different now?"

Weston's history is richer because of Dave Coley, a true neighbor. We'll miss you very much, Dave.

Signed

Frank & Julie Del Gregg  
102 Birch Hill

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## SHORT-TERM EXHIBITS NEEDED

The Society is interested in talking to anyone who might have a collection of items of some historical nature who would be interested in placing them on display in the Coley House over a weekend for the public to see. The Society would publicize it and have members present in the House during the exhibit times. Please call Linda Martin (226-6256) or call any member of the Trustees.

# FIFTY YEARS, OR SO, AGO

Well, we stretched the fifty years to more like one hundred & fifty with the FOR SALE NOTICE described below. We are not sure, but we feel that this house and land offered for sale by the Rev. John Noyes, is the house he built on Norfield Rd. where Mrs. Keator lived for many years. Rev. Noyes retired in 1835. He lived in Weston for several years after retiring, so we don't know when he decided to sell his house. The reference to Samuel B. Sherwood refers to Noyes' brother-in-law, who was the son of the first minister at Norfield. We do not know what the sale price was.

## FOR SALE

A valuable farm in Weston, Norfield Society, within a few rods of the Presbyterian Meeting House, containing about eighty acres, with a well built and very convenient two story dwelling house, 36 feet by 32 feet — a shed, sink room, and a milk room in addition — one good barn 36 feet by 24 with a carriage house, cow house, and corn house adjoining and one old barn, still in use.

Said farm is principally fenced with good stone wall, and divided into small lots, so as to render it very convenient and profitable.

The farm contains a number of perpetual springs, which accommodate almost every lot on the farm; a flourishing orchard of 120 apple trees, which affords excellent cider — a proper proportion of it is ingrafted with choice fruit; fifteen acres, or more, of very valuable wood land; a good proportion of plow and meadowland; and a few acres of low land, which yields early pasture and much feed through the season.

Said house and farm are pleasantly situated in view of the sound, five miles from Saugatuck landing, and eight miles from Norwalk town house.

The improvements which have been made on the farm cannot fail to please the purchaser.

For further particulars, apply to Rev. Jn. Noyes, living on the premises, or to Saml. B. Sherwood, Esqr., Greens Farms.

This house is now owned by Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Bruggemann.

*For sale.*

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*Said farm is principally fenced with good stone wall, and divided into small lots, so as to render it very convenient and profitable.*

*The farm contains a number of perpetual springs, which accommodate almost every lot on the farm; a flourishing orchard of 120 apple trees, which affords excellent cider — a proper proportion of it is ingrafted with choice fruit; fifteen acres, or more, of very valuable wood land; a good proportion of plow and meadow land; and a few acres of low land, which yields early pasture, and much feed through the season.*

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## THE BUDD FAMILY HELEN BUDD MASON REMEMBERS HER ANCESTORS

Helen Budd Mason was born in Weston to Oscar and Mabel Budd. She was raised on Kettle Creek Road and lives on the same road now, but in a different house. Helen has been a contributor to the Chronicle in the past, and presently handles the release of PR items for the Society, as well as from the Wilton Historical Society and the Norfield Congregational Church.

The two articles printed here have appeared in the Forum; however, we felt they should be part of the Weston Historical Notebook. In addition, Helen has provided us with a genealogy chart of the Budd family, from John Budd, born in England about 1600, to Oscar Budd, born in 1869.

While the Budd family were not early settlers of Weston, they did intermarry with some of the families who were, including the Crossman's, the Fitch's, the Coley's, and the Sturges.

### OSCAR BUDD'S ORIGINS — An Interesting Story

Tracing a family's ancestry can be fascinating; it can lead to some interesting surprises. Oscar Budd's family history is one of those. He was born in Mamakating, Sullivan County, New York State, (in a pretty house way out in the country) to Caroline Crossman and Gilbert Budd. His grandfather, also Gilbert (married to Maria Devens) had a prosperous lumber business and son Gilbert worked with his father until he died in 1880 at the age of 48 of appendicitis, something that could have been taken care of today.



Oscar, the youngest of four children, and the only son, became "man of the family." His mother's brother, John Crossman of Kettle Creek, Weston, invited his sister and her family to live with him and his wife, Nancy Adams. . . they had no children. So, Oscar, at the age of

### AN EXPLANATION: WHY "THE BUDD ROOM" AT WESTON'S COLEY MUSEUM

At Weston Historical Society's Coley Museum in the north parlor there is a small plaque; printed on it is THE BUDD ROOM. The name is raising questions, unless the visitors are "old-timers." Who was Budd?

So, since I am the daughter of Oscar Budd, it is up to me to try to provide the answer, to tell about Oscar Budd and how the museum room happens to be named after him. I know a great deal about him, but during the hours of searching thru records at our Town Hall, I have found out even more! I loved, admired and respected my father as long as he lived. All this could make my description of him prejudiced, but it is my aim to give a true picture of Oscar Budd.



Not only have I checked and re-checked old Town records, but also I talked with some older residents who knew him well, and am pleased to write their responses. Gertrude Walker (who helped with checking records worked with him during his years a Second Selectman said: "In working with Oscar Budd he was always kind, and responsible; he cared about people and he cared about Weston. He was a gentle man." Ray Fitch and Irving Pat chen said much the same things: "Everybody liked Oscar

## ORIGINS cont'd. . . .

11, started a new life in Crossman/Budd house (now Sanford's) and helped his uncle with the farm work. Living in Weston in those days when there was little visiting back and forth with far distant relatives, ended his relationship with the Budds and other relatives in New York State — until much later. His grandfather died in the 1880's and left him 25 acres of land which was sold for about \$25.00 and that was that.

In Weston he attended Middle School (later Norfield) and it was he who walked up to the old Post Office once or twice a week for the mail. There was no R.F.D. then. He wasn't the least interested in his ancestry — he was far too busy for that, but one of his New York State cousins was and so was the Budd Family Association. In 1962 Oscar learned from articles in the NEW YORK TIMES and the HERALD TRIBUNE that there was a good chance that he had descended from English royalty; he was amazed and very amused. He knew only that there were many Budd families in the area where New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Long Island converge and he knew that Budd Lake had been named after his family.

The newspaper articles appeared at the time the Old House, built in 1348 by the first John Budd, became a National Historical Landmark (there's a memorial plate with a picture of this house at Weston's Historical Museum).

The Budd Family Association's book "Three Centuries of Budd's in America" tells of the first Budd family reunion in 1878; there have been several others since — always at Budd Lake. This association has done considerable research thru the years and, according to the newspaper report in 1962 the story started like this: "John Budd who migrated from England to America arrived at Boston Harbor in the ship HECTOR of London on June 26, 1637. He was in a group that made its way to New Haven, as recorded by John Winthrop's Journal I. John Budd's name appears in the records of New Haven in 1639 as 'one of the first planters of that place.' The group included John Davenport and Theophilus Eaton; they had organized and led a company to America under the sponsorship of Sir Richard Rich."

John Budd was married to Katherine, daughter of Sir Hacaliah Browne of royal lineage. They had three children, John, Jane and Joseph, all born in England. John, according to resarch was a great grandson of the Earl of Warwick, the "Kingmaker." The family moved from New Haven to Southold, L.I. where John built the new famous house which was later moved to Cutchogue and was given as a wedding gift to his grand-daughter, Anne Budd. He built himself a much grander home.

In 1660 John moved, with several other families, to Westchester, N.Y. and bought 4400 acres of land at Budd's Neck (or Apawamis) from Indians there. In 1663 he was Rye's deputy to the General Court of Connecticut. Rye, at that time, was considered part of Connecticut. He died in Rye in 1670.

As children we used to love to hear my father tell stories of things he remembered as a boy "out west" in Mamakating; it was fascinating to hear about skulking wild cats, the first train whistle that his sisters thought was the

## EXPLANATION cont'd. . . .

Budd. He didn't have an enemy in the world," and Irv added "He was dependable, always."

In giving the list of offices my father held in town, it is important to know that Town officers were elected EACH year; not until October 1945 were bi-annual elections voted in.

Oscar Budd (1869-1966) lived in Weston on Kettle Creek for most of his 97 years and from 1899 until 1948 held an elected office almost continuously. The bare facts follow:

1902 — elected First Selectman; re-elected in 1903

1911 — elected First Selectman; re-elected 1912, 1913 and from 1916 thru 1919  
(he had to resign as Assessor to take his office)

1936 — 1948 he served as Second Selectman and during this period he supervised all the work in person.

1906, 1911 — 1912 elected as Auditor

1923 — elected as Tax Collector

1905 — 1907 — elected to Board of Relief (also known as Tax Review)  
— re-elected in 1911, 1913, 1916 and from 1919 thru 1923

1906, 1908, 1909, 1912 thru 1919, 1921, 1922 and 1927 — elected as Justice of Peace

1911 — Member of School Committee

1905, 1907, 1916, 1923 — elected as Grand Juror

In addition to these he was Registrar of Voters for several years, and in 1899 he was one of the six Constables.

These were the principal offices — the elected one, but in those early years he was often Moderator of Town meetings; served as Booth Tender of both Town and State Elections, plus doing many other jobs such as posting notices, driving the sick and poor to hospital, shoveling snow, replacing broken windows at the Town Hall — all examples of the many extra jobs in a farmer's busy life in the early 1900's, and jobs done by many other farmers in town as well. Everyone took part in keeping the Town running in good order.

So much for what Oscar Budd did to serve the Town, and I repeat there were many other men who may well have done as much. As for the Budd room, that came about thru the efforts of his niece, Ruth Budd Weed who lived in Norwalk. From the time Ruth was a child she thought the sun rose and set in Uncle Oscar. As a matter of fact a number of his relatives thought of him as someone completely trustworthy, and as a friend who could give reliable advice to those who requested it — about everthing from legal questions to how to buy a good horse.

At any rate, Ruth, in her early 90's (she died in 1986 at 94) knew that many of the antiques in the home where she lived most of her life, had been brought down from the Budd home on Kettle Creek when Oscar's mother moved from there to live with her daughter, Effie (Ruth's mother) in Norwalk. This was at the time of Oscar's marriage to

## ORIGINS cont'd. . . .

howling of wolves, and of the family's Summer Kitchen — outdoors!

The name Budd is common in England. On our first trip to Great Britain we found it interesting to check telephone directories for the name — pages of them! Especially common were they around London, Sussex, Essex, and it has been proved that Budds lived in Chester in the western part of this country. It is all interesting and the Old House (often called the Budd house) has windows exactly like those in the 300-year house in Surrey owned by a cousin of Oscar's wife.

Oscar Budd's mother was of English extraction, too. The first John Crossman (originally Crosman) came from Dartmouth, England. He settled in Fairfield and married Anne Allen. Oscar's uncle had extensive acreage in Weston; he owned all the land on both sides of Kettle Creek from Norfield Road on the west side and about one-quarter mile below on the east, south to Good Hill Road and including the old house now # 48 on Kettle Creek. Parcels of land were sold off thru the years. I remember when the "Lyons Land" located to the right of the very old road (now an overgrown lane) and from Kettle Creek south, was sold and when land was sold near Beaver Brook — was owned only to the stone wall this side of the brook — was sold and houses were built; this was land where my brother and I used to go searching for the perfect Christmas tree. Then in 1927 the 1940 house was sold and Oscar built another home up the street at what is now #97. Later he sold that and built a smaller home toward the woods, now #97. In his later years he bought a small cottage in Florida where he and his wife lived until they died, just three months apart, after 64 years of marriage.

Oscar Budd's years in Weston from the time he was a young man and for almost 50 years, were spent serving his town in many official capacities — thus the Budd Room at the town's Museum — *not* because of this possible royal background.

Prepared for the Weston Historical Society by  
Helen Budd

## EXPLANATION cont'd. . . .

Mable Fitch Sturges of Cannondale. Ruth felt that all these "artifacts" should be returned to Weston and what better place than the newly started Coley Musuem; she knew that most of Oscar's farm tools and many other items from the family were already at the Coley Barn Museum, having been given thru the years by the family, and in particular when his last Weston home was dismantled and sold.

Ruth offered these Budd "treasures" to the Weston Historical Society — thus the Budd Room. Eventually, the furniture photos, china, glass, silver, papers, quilts, clothing and other furnishings, will be labeled so that there will be a clear picture of how an early Weston farm house was furnished and how a farmer's family lived. Meanwhile, it is a room that honors Oscar Budd who was not only a long-time servant of Weston, but was loved and respected by his family and friends. He was a good man, honest, straight forward, a friend to all and a hard worker. He was strong man; he must have been when after a hard day's work he was ready to walk his teen-age daughter to a Grange dance! He liked to dance, too (we walked because *horses had worked* all day!) He had a quiet sense of humor that was enjoyed by those of his friends who knew him well. As a father he was strict, but caring and just; these characteristics carried over into his Town work. No matter what he did he did it to the best of his ability and he expected as much from those whom he worked — and from his children.

An interesting quote came recently from his granddaughter, Elizabeth Budd MacDonnell of Florida where her family lived near the Oscar Budds: "Grandpa was always reading. Whenever I went to their house, he was reading. Even in his 90's he subscribed to three newspapers plus National Geographic, Newsweek, and Life. . . he loved to read."

Oscar Budd's record speak well from him; it shows his popularity and his many re-elections that, as well as his responsibility in his work — in his life.

It is interesting to note that when Oscar Budd was a young man he and James Coley were good friends and often enjoyed leisure time together, as well as helping each other with farm work when an extra man was needed. It was, quite possibly, at a Grange meeting that they met the Sturges girls of Cannondale (called Cannon Station then) and eventually James married Florence Marvin Sturges and Oscar married her younger sister Mabel Fitch Sturges. Naturally, the two families saw much of each other — so the BUDD ROOM seem "right at home."

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## THE COLEY GENEALOGY CHART

The last two issues of the Chronicle contained copies of part of the Coley genealogy owned by the Westport Historical Society. The copies were difficult — to impossible — to read. We have made some some copies which can be read, and will be happy to send a copy to anyone interested in receiving one.

## HOUSE PLAQUES ISSUED

Mrs. Evelyn Kerin, our Trustee who does the research on old houses, has completed the research on a house and has authorized the following plaque:

The Weston Historical Society recently issued a plaque to the owners of 94 Godfrey Road to read "Andrews B. Godfrey, 1830"

This is one of the more recently built of the Godfrey family homes which gave the road its name. Although the land on which the house stands was owned by the Godfrey family from about 1770 when its neighbor to the east was built, this house was built ca. 1830 for Andrews B. Godfrey, son of Ebenezer Godfrey. In 1834, Andrews sold the house to his brother, William O. Godfrey and it was sold again in 1843 to another brother, Daniel S. Godfrey.

In 1931 Nikolai Sokoloff bought the house. He was a conductor and very popular in this area for the outdoor concerts he gave on summer evenings.

The following is a write up on him from the Westport Herald, April, 1934; The Out-of-Door Concerts, held in July and August at Music Hall in Weston, on the estate of Nikolai Sokoloff were started in 1933 and attracted national attention. Twelve concerts were given on Tuesday and Friday nights by a symphony orchestra of 70 pieces under the direction of Mr. Sokoloff, conductor of the San Francisco, Cleveland, and New York Symphonies.

This house is now owned by Mr. & Mrs. S. Jonathan Meigs.

A house plaque was also issued to the owners of 212 Weston Rd that reads; "David Adams, Jr. ca. 1788."

David Adams, Jr. built this house about the time of his second marriage, to Hannah Cummings. Their first child was baptized in Norfield Church in 1790. The house was built on land that his father David Adams, Sr., bought in 1743.

Eliphalet Coley owned the house in 1820 and left it to his daughter, Priscilla, in his will. She later married Samuel Gorham and in 1864 they contracted Horace Staples for repairs and in construction on the house.

Eugene B. Lequin bought the house in 1938. He was a veteran of World War I, a graduate of Wesleyan University and the Scoutmaster of Troop 7 in Weston for 35 years, until his death in 1975 at the age of 79. While Scoutmaster, the troop donated their time and money to create the War Memorial in front of the Weston Library. It was dedicated to Scoutmaster Lequin in 1978.

Dr. & Mrs. David Knaus are now the owners of house.

## CIDER MILL SHED PROGRESS

We are in the process of getting approval from several boards of town government to construct the shed for the cider press and related equipment. Hopefully, all approvals will be granted by early summer, and we will be able to begin.

## THE BUDD GENEALOGY

From the Budd Family's "THREE CENTURIES OF BUDDS IN AMERICA" Genealogy chart, showing that Oscar Budd was a direct descendent of the first John Budd who came from England to America (siblings are omitted).

JOHN BUDD b. ca. 1600 in England, emigrated to American aboard the ship HECTOR of London, 1637. Married to Katherine Browne, daughter of Sir Hacaliah Browne. Died 1670 in Rye, Westchester, New York.

John b. 1620 in England d. 1684  
md. Mary Horton 1653

John b. ca. 1669  
md. Sarah Underhill 10/11/1695

John b. ca. 1698  
Mary L. Strange — moved to N.J.

Elijah b. 1724 d. 4/12/1812  
md. Ursula Sine — lived in Coldspring, N.Y.

Peter b. 7/25/1761 d. 5/16/1831  
md. Phebe Phillips d. 1764 d. 12/18/1839  
from Coldspring

Gilbert b. 4/16/1796  
md. Maria Devens b. 1800 d. 1871

Gilbert b. 1832 d. 1880  
md. Caroline Crossman b. 1835  
d. 1916

Oscar b. 5/20/1869 d. 8/29/1966  
md. Mabel Fitch Sturges  
b. 10/20/1877 d. 6/30/1966

## WISH LIST FOR KITCHEN

Everytime we have a function at the Coley House, we seem to have to drag many items from home and even then we forget something. So with that in mind, we decided to ask our members to donate any of the following items. You may have extra at home of these items, or you may wish to purchase them. Our kitchen co-ordinator is Penny O'Hare. Please contact her if you can help us out. We'll be eternally grateful. Penny's phone number is 227-5040.

Trays  
Tea Kettle  
Cookie Sheets  
Electric Can Opener  
Funnel  
Pancake Turner  
Punch Bowl  
Freezing Containers  
Vacuum Cleaner  
Sauce Pans  
Non-Stick Skillets  
Cutting Boards  
Mixing Bowls

Scissors  
Long Handled Fork, Ladle  
& Mixing Spoon  
Dust Pan & Brush  
Plastic Garbage Bags  
Microwave  
Stock Pot  
Roasting Pan  
Rubber Spatulas  
Measuring Cups  
Mixing Spoons  
Plastic Storage Containers

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

THE

# CHRONICLE

QUARTERLY

## **WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEES**

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Gary Samuelson  
Marge Schnieder  
Joe Spetly

## **NEXT ISSUE**

ASPETUCK CORNERS  
CURRENT EVENTS  
PICTURE QUIZ  
HOUSE PLAQUE ISSUED

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## **IN THIS ISSUE**

THE BUDD FAMILY REMEMBERED  
DAVID L. COLEY MEMORIAL  
FIFTY YEARS OR SO AGO  
CURRENT EVENTS — PROGRAMS FOR 1989

A PUBLICATION OF THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
FOUNDED IN 1961