



THE
CHRONICLE
 QUARTERLY

Volume 8

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 Weston Historical Society

THE
 EDITOR'S
 EDGE

About nine years ago Mrs. Cleora Coley planted a small spruce tree on her property where a larger one had died or had suffered extensive damage in a storm. This tree had a special place in her plans for things on the Coley property and she wanted it replanted. Several years ago, Mr. Lachat on west Godfrey put new siding on his old barn, because the old siding was in bad shape and to save the barn, it had to be resided, since it is still used.

By the same token, the old Norfield Church had a serious decay problem in the sills and some timbers. The shingles had started to buckle from the old nails rusting out in the moisture trapped behind them. To keep this Church standing for another 160 or more years, an extensive renovation project is underway.

It is gratifying to see some old things being fixed up, rather than being torn down or replaced with something new and different.

Herb Day

Herb Day - Editor

CURRENT EVENTS

TWO SUCCESSFUL EVENTS AT THE COLEY HOMESTEAD

THE QUILT SHOW was held on Sept. 29-Oct. 1. In addition to the quilts, we had several antique cars on display. These cars were from collectors in Weston. A soup bar served JoAnne Seestrom's homemade soup and offered baked goods for sale.

The quilt show was organized by Karen Giannetti and Bobbie Suratt, Weston's quilting expert. A number of old quilts were on display in the barn and many others were available for sale in the Coley house.



THE SCARE FAIR was held on Oct. 21 & 22, and was chaired by Pietra Knaus and Mary Lou Perry, both board members of the Society. In addition to the scare crow contest, Weston Woods had their film caravan on site, showing films for the young people present, and Ray Fitch, ably assisted by Joe Spelty, made cider for two days. One of the winners of the scare crow contest was Emilie Knaus, shown in the picture.

CHRISTMAS AT THE COLEY HOUSE

This annual event will be held on December 9 and 10. By the time this reaches you, this happening will have taken place. We hope you did not miss it. The Coley house is decorated by several Weston Women's groups each year, and the gift shop is open. Refreshments are served.

PICTURE QUIZ



CAN YOU NAME THIS?

If you can name the item in the picture, send your answer and your name and address to:
THE EDITOR
THE CHRONICLE QUARTERLY
P.O. BOX 1092
WESTON, CT 06883

The item in the last issue is an old apple peeler. It is large enough to also cut up the apple and almost make the pie. It is called the 'BONANZA' and was made by the Goodell Co., Antrin, New Hampshire. We have not found a picture of one like it.

Season's Greetings

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

ANNUAL MEETING HELD

The 28th annual meeting of the Society was held on November 9. Nomination and election of New Trustees was held. The new Trustees elected to serve for a three year period are:

Mrs. Julia Studwell	first term
Mr. Lou Bregy	first term
Mrs. Mary Lou Perry	second term
Mr. Herb Day	second term
Mrs. Marie Golden	second term

Mrs. Jane Atkinson was elected to serve out the remaining one year of Mrs. Marjorie Schneider's term. Marjorie passed away this past fall.

The speaker at the meeting was Mr. Kevin McClellan, an Antique appraiser. As part of his presentation, he appraised several items brought to the meeting by the guests and members present.

ACCESSIONS

The Society has received several items during the past months from a few persons interested in the Society. The items are:

Three books from Eleanor Sommers
A white Ironstone 'braided' bowl and plate, and a refrigerator, from Helen Mason
A Victorian chair from Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Davis
Four wooden chairs, and a folding wooden cot used at one time in the David Coley house on River Road: five Victorian chairs, three pictures from the Hewett family, and a large, old, loom. These were given to the Society by Mr. Mike Samuelman, in the name of his mother-in-law, Edith Coley Hewett. Mike passed away last month.

A GIFT TO GIVE

REMEMBER — THE HISTORY OF WESTON MAKES A GREAT GIFT TO SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T HAVE ONE. THEY ARE AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY OR FROM THE SOCIETY FOR \$19.75.

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S TRUSTEES FOR 1990

Mary Alden	Jane Atkinson
Lou Bregy	Ann Chapman
Marie Golden	Linda Guidera
Evelyn Kerin	Pietra Knaus
Glenn Major	Linda Martin
Mary Lou Perry	Joe Spelty
Julia Studwell	Barbara Van Suetendahl
	Herb Day

WESTON'S HISTORICAL NOTEBOOK

DAVID PLATT'S LEDGER

David Platt bought the house at the NE corner of Norfield Rd., and Newtown Turnpike from his father Justus in 1843. Justus had bought the property as part of 21 acres and several buildings from Jonathan Taylor in 1796. David's foundry and mill were on Newtown Turnpike, just north of this intersection, along the river. We do not know if Justus started the foundry or whether it was started by David. We think Justus may have had a grist mill along the river in the same area. This ledger book was started in 1835, so David may have been living at home with his folks, for a few years, at No. 4 Norfield road while operating the foundry. The cover of this ledger states that it is book number one.

The list of names and numbers below refers to the customers he had and the page on which the transactions started. While many of his customers were from Weston, he had many from Westport, Wilton, Norwalk, Ridgefield, and several towns in New York.

P. M. for Norfield April 19th 1842

David Platt

Nathan Pennstock 55	Wm. A. Stages — 33	Charles Williams 66
J. S. Ormstead — 54	Albert Lockwood — 32	Charles Sistrup 64
G. F. Bailey — 53	Lewis H. Russell — 31	Baron Bastram 65
Wm. Bradley 52	John Adams — 30	Samuel 58
Isaac Hullbutt 51	Squire Adams — 30	Link & Brown 41
Harry Lockwood — 50	Baldwin & Beers — 29	Blanchard Stages 63
D. H. Finch 46 — 24	Sullivan & Jeffrey — 28	Jamuel Smith 16
Calvin Betts — 48	David & Richard — 28	
Daniel Rich — 48	William Hullbutt — 27	
Daniel Andrews 48	John Hullbutt — 27	
David D. Coley — 46	Platt & Richards — 27	
Isaac Lockwood 45	John Hayes — 23	
Nathan Nichols — 50	Wm. Hayes — 22	
Hunt & Close — 45	Dimon Finch — 21	
A. Perry & Co. 42	Richd. Chapman — 20	
Sprague & Platt 41	Thomas Abbott — 17	
Stanley & Bailey — 40	William Jones — 14	
Keeler & Smith — 39	Wm. Hayes Jr. — 19	
Geo. W. Middlebrook 39	Elizabeth T. Smith — 9	
David Johnson 38	J. H. Whiteley — 4	
Edmund Lockwood 37	William Leonard 37	
Thilo S. Hudson 36	Daniel Platt — 36	
Charles Isaac 60	Staples & Sanford — 47	
Charles Hicks 54	Squire Smith Brady — 47	
	Nathan Conchley — 62	
	Hanford Stages — 63	

We do not have a copy of his catalog, if he had one, but we can see from his ledger, some of the items he made. These included axes, shovels, knives, hinges, latches, nail hammers, stone hammers, chains and several other items. He also repaired many items including wagon parts.

Two entries are of special interest. David Dimon Coley built his house on Weston road in 1841. The ledger page (page 46) in David Platt's book for David Coley's purchases show items used in finishing off a house, such as hinges, screw bolts, a latch and fixtures, hooks, hammers, and a draw knife, among other items were purchased over a period of time from 1840 to 1846.

46 David D. Dr		Coley Cr of Weston	
1840 Jan 18 th	To a drawing knife	\$ 1.00	
	To work on horse sled	0.63	
Sept 9	To printing Cross Bar	0.25	
	To a stone auger	0.50	
Nov 26	To ironing Cast	1.25	
	2 pair hinges	11.00	
	3 screw bolts	0.33	
	Sixtures for door	1.12	
	Latch & fixtures	1.10	
	18 Finets	0.18	
	1 screw bolt	0.17	
April 15	Pick - 50 June 1 st half iron 24 July 15 th 112	1.63	
June 15	Sharpening tools & 602 nd 7 th 112	.46	
Sept 2 nd	To 3 pair hinges & Finets \$1.18 - 4 Hooks 26	1.46	
	To a Crane 15% to @ 10 - \$1.55 - pair hinges	1.86	
28 th	To 2 small hammers & 2 hods 75	0.75	
		\$13.60	
1842 Nov 25	To a Stifle 5 th 63 May 7 th 7 th by Winslow 50	1.13	
Sept 6 th	To 1 Pair hinges 14 7/8 @ 9.67 16 Hods 46 cts 50	7.57	
Nov 15 th	To making pair hinges	.48	
		\$23.18	
1840 May 20 th	By Cash pd by Saml. McKeanan	\$ 0.63	
1841 Sept 17 th	By Cash pd	5.00	
1842 Oct 21 st	By Cash pd \$1.48	1.48	
1842 July 23	By Cash pd \$6.5	77.18	
1842 May 21	By Cash pd 2 f. 112	7.00	
1842 July 15 th	By 1 bu corn @ 4	.75	
1842 July 29	By 80 th to Buck Wheat 112 1 st place 1.81	1.81	
1842 May 2 nd	By carting 15 iron to 200 Hds & 500 f. 112	16.66	
	To 1500 Iron 1.50	1.50	
	To 1500 Iron 1.50	1.50	
	Footings brought up	\$23.18	
1842 Jan 26	To iron 112 5 th @ 5	.46	
3 rd	To 112 5 th @ 5	.75	
Oct 2 nd	To 5 th to 112 & 10	54	
4 th	To 8 th for Gate 56 screws & nuts 0.60	0.60	
1842 May 25	To drawing steel 75	75	
Oct 14 th	To 2 Augers 3 rd @ 22 making 4	70	
1842 Nov 15	To 2 pair hinges & nails	1.00	
1842 Sept 27	To 1 Pair hinges 14 7/8 @ 9.67 16 Hods 46 cts 50	\$24.03	
1842 May 25	To 1 Pair hinges 14 7/8 @ 9.67 16 Hods 46 cts 50	1.13	
		\$29.15	
	The above account carried to		
	1842 9-24 Page 86 Book 2 nd		

David Coley paid for these items primarily with cash, but also by giving Platt corn, buckwheat, and by carting steel and wood for him. Most of the items sold by Platt were paid for with barter. The most interesting exchange was with Mathew Buckley. Mathew Buckley was the owner of a private school which became the Jarvis Military Academy at the corner of Norfield road and Weston road. (Mr. Jarvis married Buckley's daughter). On October 20, 1842, Buckley bought 2 pair of hinges and 22 nails for hinges for \$1.70. He paid Platt on Feb. 28, 1843 with book on philosophy, a geography book, and an atlas, which were valued at \$1.25. I guess that is what he had to offer, being a schoolmaster. Additional work by Platt for Buckley was paid for with cash, including the \$.25 still owed on the hinges and nails.

Since Platt lived along the Norwalk-Newtown Turnpike road, he was asked to work on the building of the road. For this he was paid in cash; in some cases, with the toll money collected by Warren Nichols, a principal in the Norwalk and Newtown Turnpike Co.

We do not know if Platt had a store, but he was talked into buying a quantity of Doc. Chapman's 'croup(?) Surrup.' The ledger doesn't say how big the bottles were, but they sold for \$.50 each and he did a brisk trade. It must of been good stuff; however, he did have eight bottles burst, for which he received full credit. His first customer listed in the ledger was the Rev. George Hall of the Norfield Congregational church, who was the third Minister of this church.

While most of his customers paid their bills within a reasonable time, several had difficulty in settling up. Silliman Godfrey brought some steel poles and steel axes on Nov. 30, 1839 for \$16.00. He paid \$10.00 on August 17, 1840 and the remaining \$6.00 on Oct. 8, 1840.

The last entry in the book states that all accounts in this book were settled or posted (in book No. 2).

62 Mathew Dr		Buckley Cr	
1842 Oct 20 th	To 2 Pair Hinges - c 9	\$ 1.50	
	22 Nails for hinges	.21	
1843 May 17	To work on Wagon	.73	
		\$ 2.43	
1843 By a book Philosophy		.25	
July 20	By Geography & atlas	\$ 1.00	
1844 Sept 27	By Cash to balance of	1.18	
		\$243	

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We are always happy to print letters addressed to the Society, to the Chronicle Quarterly, or to the editor. The following letter from William L. Gifford was sent in response to our article on the 'Firelands' in the last issue. We thank Mr. Gifford for this very interesting story about his family.

13 Cheyenne Drive
Montville, NJ 07045
October 2, 1989

The Chronicle Quarterly
Weston Historical Society
P.O. Box 1092
Weston, Connecticut 06883

Dear Friends:

I received my issue of **The Chronicle Quarterly** today and found it of great interest. The article on the "Firelands" was especially appreciated.

There is a "reverse" Firelands story for Weston. George D. Gifford was my grandfather and owned and operated the farm just to the north of that of James Coley. Grandfather Gifford was born on the Firelands at what was called Greenwich Station, Ohio. His family had migrated there with the Quakers who moved from Massachusetts, through upstate New York and into the Western Reserve.

Grandfather Gifford had been trained to operate a creamery in what was to become Ohio State University. He moved to New Rochelle, New York, to operate a creamery there and around 1910 moved to the Farrell House further down "Gifford Hill" and just before the outbreak of World War I moved to the Gifford Farm at the top of the Hill, opposite Kettle Creek Road. Thus there was at least some Weston migration from the Firelands.

My Grandfather died in 1940 and is buried in the Middle Patent Cemetery in Armonk, N.Y. He and my father, Rolland W. Gifford, were founders of the Weston Volunteer Fire Department. My Dad served as the chief for 18 years. The entire family was active for many years in civic and other posts in Weston.

As you know, my Mother, Margaret M. Gifford, has many great tales about Weston, some of which have been published by your publication.

Many thanks for your continuing interest in the history of Weston.

Sincerely,

William L. Gifford

IN THE NEXT ISSUE
FIFTY YEARS OR SO AGO
CURRENT EVENTS
THE PLANK ROAD

50 YEARS (OR MORE) AGO

PUBLIC RECORDS OF THE COLONY OF CONNECTICUT OCTOBER, 1751

[78] An Act in Addition to the Law of the Colony entituled An Act for the better Observation and Keeping the Sabbath or Lord's Day.

Whereas, notwithstanding in the last paragraph of said statute it stands enacted, that all and every assistant, justice of the peace, constable, grandjury-man, and tything-man, are by and statute required to take effectual care and endeavour that said act, in all the particulars thereof, be duly observed, &c., yet unnecessary travelling on said day is a growing evil: Which more effectually to prevent,

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That every assistant in this Colony, and every justice of the peace, within the limits of their authority, are hereby impowered and directed when they shall have plain view of personal knowledge thereof, either with or without a written warrant, to cause all persons unnecessarily travelling on the Sabbath or Lord's day to be apprehended, and to examine them, and if need be to command any person or persons to seize, arrest and secure any such person unnecessarily travelling on the Lord's day as aforesaid, and them to hold till judgment may be had thereon. Any every sheriff, constable, grandjuryman and tything-man are hereby impowered and directed without warrant to apprehend and carry before the next assistant or justice of the peace all persons transgressing and law as aforesaid, provided they be taken upon sight or present information of others, and to command all necessary assistance therefor.

And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every person or persons that shall refuse to obey the comand of any assistant, justice of the peace, sheriff, constable grandjury-man or tything-man, or neglect to afford his utmost assistance to apprehend and secure any person transgressing said act as aforesaid, shall be and hereby subjected to the same pains and penalties as by law persons are subject to for refusing to assist sheriffs and constables in the execution of their office.

And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That when any sheriff, constable or indifferent person, shall receive any warrant from lawful authority, to apprehend any person for transgressing said law as aforesaid, are hereby impowered and directed to pursue and apprehend such person or persons any where within the limits of the authority of the officer granting such warrant; any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.



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

IN THIS ISSUE
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