



THE

CHRONICLE

QUARTERLY

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THE EDITOR'S EDGE

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

We had great hopes that we would have the cider press working this fall; we even had some dreams that we would have David Coley's windmill built and ready to operate. But these things were not to be this year. Ben Franklin put it best:

'Cut the wings of your hens and hopes
lest they lead you to a weary
dance after them'

If we get the cider mill moved onto the foundation, we will be happy. Ben also had a saying which covers some of this:

'Blessed is he that expects nothing,
for he shall never be disappointed'

Or:

'Better is a little with content
than too much with contention'

Herb Day - Editor

CURRENT EVENTS

CIDER PRESS SHED

We are waiting for the building plans for the shed including the foundation and slab floor. We had hoped to have the floor done by this fall so we could put the cider press in place and get it working. This does not appear probable at this time. We hope the slab can be poured before winter sets in and we can get the equipment moved on to the floor this year. We will have to build the shed around the cider press because of the size. Hopefully, we will have some good news to report in the next issue.

SCARE FAIR

The second annual SCARE FAIR will be the next event sponsored by the society. It will be held on October 27 and 28 at the Coley Homestead. Pietra Knaus, chairperson, had advised that some new events will be offered, including a HAUNTED HOUSE. Ray Fitch will again be making his cider.

ANNUAL MEETING

The 29th Annual Meeting of the Weston Historical Society will be held on Thursday, November 8, at 6 p.m. at the Norfield Church Parish hall. Dinner will be served, made from recipes in a new cookbook being published by the society. A short but important business meeting will be held. The Trustees are planning to present a change in the Society's Constitution, which will require a vote by the membership. A separate letter will be sent out to the membership covering this item before the meeting.

The Weston Historical Society's COOKBOOK is at the printers and we plan to present it to the membership and have it available for sale at the annual meeting.

CHRISTMAS AT THE COLEY HOUSE

This third annual event will be held on December 7, 8, and 9. Watch for additional news about this popular 'happening.'

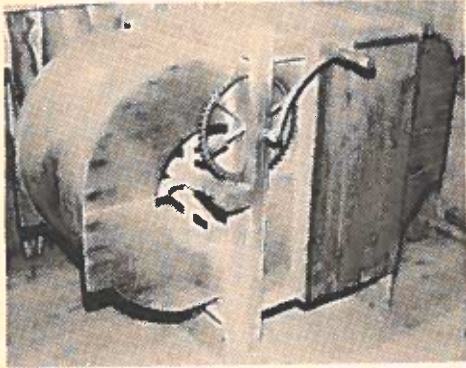
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF EASTON

On Sunday September 23, 1990 the Historical Society of Easton will sponsor a vintage fashion show entitled 'Century of Style,' Fashions from 1870 to 1970. The fashion show will showcase clothing and accessories from the Historical Society's collection as well as from private collections of local residents. An english style tea will be served at the event, which takes place from 3 pm to 5 pm, at the Jesse Lee Methodist Church on Flat Rock Road in Easton. Tickets for the event will be available after September 1. To reserve your tickets please send \$10 per person to Historical Society of Easton, P.O. BOX 121, Easton, CT 06612.

BUILDING REPAIRS

Under the supervision of Joe Spetly, three troublesome roof leaks are being repaired this month. One is over the kitchen; the second over the bay window in the parlor; and the third, the roof on the shed portion of the main barn. The first two are from the lack of flashing where the side walls meet the lower roof.

PICTURE QUIZ



CAN YOU NAME THIS?

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

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

The picture in the last issue is of a de-barker, used to take the bark off logs. No one sent in the correct answer.

In the March issue, we showed a picture of a large boulder, asking for information. We also sent pictures to a UConn geologist, but have not heard back yet.

THANKSGIVING DAY IS — WHEN??

WE ALL KNOW WHEN THANKSGIVING IS; IN NOVEMBER. THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH IS FROM THE 'CONCISE COLUMBIA ENCYCLOPEDIA' WHICH HAPPENS TO BE ON MY DESK:

'THANKSGIVING DAY, national holiday in the U.S. commemorating the harvest reaped by the Plymouth Colony in 1621. The first national Thanksgiving Day was proclaimed by President Washington for November 26, 1789. President Lincoln revived the custom in 1863. In 1941 Congress decreed that Thanksgiving should fall on the fourth Thursday of November. The customary turkey dinner is a reminder of the four wild turkeys served at the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving feast.'

I can't tell you what happened between 1789 and 1863, or between 1863 and 1941. I guess it was just held in November by accepted custom, until Congress acted. But, the dates of Thanksgiving in Connecticut before 1789 are given in the colonial records. And it appears to have been a last minute declaration of the home office. HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

FROM THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF THE COLONY OF CONNECTICUT

1665 — This court doth appoint a solemne day of Thanksgiving to be kept throwout this Colony on the LAST WEDNESDAY OF NOVEMBER, to returne praise to God for his great mercy to us in the continuation of our liberties and privileges both Civil and Ecclesiastick; and for our peace and preventing those troubles that we feared by forreigne enemies; and for the blessings in the fruits of the earth and the generall health in the plantations.

1666 — The Court doth appoint a solemne day of Thanksgiving to be kept throwout this Colony, on the LAST DAY OF THIS INSTANT OCTOBER. . .

1667 — This court doth appoynt the THIRD WEDNESDAY IN NOVEMBER next to be kept throughout this colony, a publique day of Thanksgiving, . . .

1668 — This Court doth recommend it to and order the people of the several plantations throughout this Colony to keep the THIRD WEDNESDAY IN NOVEMBER next a publique day of Thanksgiving to returne thanks to God for the continuaton of his mercy to us the year past, . . . and the restoration of health in a comfortable measure (in) these townes that have been visited with sickness, and for God's blessings upon us in the fruits of the earth.

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IN THE NEXT ISSUE
NORFIELD CHURCH'S SECOND MINISTER
CURRENT EVENTS
NEW TRUSTEES
CHRISTMAS AT THE COLEY HOUSE

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WESTON'S HISTORICAL NOTEBOOK

In this issue of the Historical Notebook, pictures replace words. Following our OLD PHOTO EXHIBIT last May, we received a number of pictures from a few of our native-born citizens. We have printed a few here for your enjoyment. The others will be included in future photo exhibits.



Norfield Congregational Church, circa 1880. This photo shows the church with a railing around the second part of the steeple. This apparently was a victim of the hurricane which toppled the Church steeple about 1906, and was never replaced. The middle school is on the left. The town hall is hidden by the church.



DAVID L. COLEY'S FOUNDRY, RIVER ROAD. We do have other pictures of this building, but this one shows much more of the surrounding countryside. This makes it an important addition to our collection.

These pictures were given to the Society by Mr. Donald Coley of Southport.



NEW BOILER FOR BRADLEY'S AXE FACTORY. We were given several pictures of the new boiler being hauled to and installed in the axe factory. This picture shows the boiler being hauled by four teams of horses along a road between Westport and the factory site on Lyons Plains road.

AFTER THE FIRE. The last picture in the boiler series shows the axe factory site after the fire of 1911. Part of the boiler can be seen in the center of the picture below the smoke stack.



BRADLEY AXE FACTORY BRIDGE. This foot bridge was used by the workers to get to work from the west side of the river. This picture was taken before the boiler was installed. The mill was still operated by water power from the dam, which can be seen in the background. When the factory was converted to steam power, the dam was lowered, as can be seen in the previous picture.

The pictures of the Bradley axe factory were given to us by Mr. Donald Walsh of Westport, who is the grandson of Willard Adams, one of the owner of the axe factory after the Bradley's sold out in 1906.

TRUSTESS AND OFFICERS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR 1990

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SPECIAL PROJECTS:

GENEALOGY AND OLD HOUSE PLAQUES — JUDY DARBY 222-1727
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THANKSGIVING Cont. . .

1669 — This Court doth appoynt the 2nd TUESDAY IN NOVEMBER next to be kept solemnly throughout this Colony, a publique day of Thanksgiving, to render our due acknowledgements of thanks and prayse to God. . . in spareing so much of our comforts both of the fruities of the feilds and of the trees as we enjoy; . . .

1670 — This Court appoyntes the THIRD WEDNESDAY IN NOVEMBER next to be solemnly kept a day of Thanksgiving throughout this Colony. . .

1671 — This Court doth order and appoynt that the FIRST WEDNESDAY IN NOVEMBER next, be solemnly kept a day of publique Thanksgiving. . .

1672 — This Court appoynts the LAST THURSDAY IN OCTOBER next to be solemnly kept a day of publique thanksgiving throughout this Colony, to prayse God. . . not onely in granting so large a blessing of the fruits of the feild unto us, but in a comfortable measure restoring the fruits of the trees againe unto us. . .!

1673 — This Court appoynts the FIRST WEDNESDAY IN NOVEMBER next to be a sub: day of Thanksgiving.

1674 — This court appoynts the LAST WEDNESDAY IN JUNE next to be kept a day of publique Thanksgiving throughout this Colony.

1674 — THE LAST WEDNESDAY IN OCTOBER is by this Court appoynted to be kept a day of publique thanksgiving throughout this Colony. . .

1676 — This Court considering the enlarged goodness of God to his people in this wilderness, in appearing so gloriously for their help in subdueing fo our enemies in so good a measure as he has done, and his mercy in removeing sickness from the land, in the comfortable and plentiful harvest that wee have received, and continuance of our priviledges and liberties, civill and ecclesiasticall, has moved this Court to nominate and appoynt the FIRST DAY OF NOVEMBER next, to be solemnly kept a day of Publique Thanksgiving throwout this Colony. . .

1677 — The Court appoynts the LAST OF OCTOBER PRESENT to be kept a day of pub: Thanksgiving throughout this Colony.

We guess you get the general idea. Each year the court decided what day should be appointed Thanksgiving, maybe based on the harvest and/or some other happening which caused them to want to especially thank God. We are sure that the public records for other years gave similar decrees. These are the only years we have records for.

While we have left out some of the things they were thankful for, you will note that in 1672 they offer thanks for 'restoring the fruits of the trees'. In the two previous years, they do not mention the fruits of the trees, possibly because of severe crop failure.

They also refer to 'preventing those troubles that we feared by forreigne enemies' in their prayers of 1665, 1666, and 1667.

In 1671 the mention 'and for the goodness of God in settling good agreement between them and the natives in our neighbour Colony. Here they refer to the skermishes that Massachusetts had with Phillip, the Indian chief, in the area around Plymouth.

We do not know why the Court, in 1674, appointed a day of Thanksgiving in June. There were no other statements made beyond what appears above.

We omitted some of the wordage (where we used the . . .) because the words were very similar to those used in 1665 and 1668.

Certainly the action by the Congress in making Thanksgiving a National Holiday served to insure that it would be observed each year. In a country where most of the population is far removed from the farm, a day of Thanksgiving for (primarily) a good harvest would not be foremost in their minds.

— 50 YEARS (OR MORE) AGO —

WESTON FIREMAN'S FROLIC JUNE 22-23, 1934

The Weston Volunteer Fire Department was founded in 1931. The need for funds was no less in the early days, than they are now. The FROLIC'S was held for fun and funds. We don't know what the Frolics were about, but we do have a program that shows the names of the sponsors of this event. We have copied some of the ads included in this program. To our knowledge, the only persons still with us are Francis Bennett, Anson Morton, and Irving Patchen. If we have placed someone in their grave before his time, we apologize.

Also, we do not know how much money the Frolics brought in; but as with most worthy causes, it was probably not quite enough.

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