A CENTURY AGO
May 1915

The Westford Wardsman, May 1, 1915

Center. Mrs. Perley E. Wright has recently made several trips to Hudson, N.H., called there by the serious illness of her mother.

Frank Shea and family have moved from the house on Graniteville road owned by Mrs. Graves to the so-called Blood place on the Flagg road.

Mrs. Amy Johnson, who has been suffering with a badly disabled right arm, is much better.

The walks and shrubbery at Whitney playground have been put in good condition for the season. The cheerful yellow forsythia, one of the earliest of the blooming shrubs, is especially luxuriant this season.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Y. Gunter, who have been spending a very pleasant winter at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Arthur E. Day, returned this week to their home in Coe Hill, Ontario.

While there have been some practice games of baseball at Whitney playground, the first real game of the season took place on Wednesday afternoon between Westford academy and Littleton high school, the latter winning by the score of 6 to 4. It was an eleven-inning game, closely contested and plenty of interested spectators for both sides.

Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Sutherland are building an addition to their home, giving more room upstairs and down.

Friday of last week was Mr. and Mrs. John Feeney’s silver wedding anniversary which they quietly observed until evening, when a group of friends gave them a very pleasant surprise party. Refreshments and a merry social time were enjoyed and some choice gifts of silver, etc., were presented. The party dispersed at a seasonable hour, wishing their host and hostess many happy returns of the day. Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Greig and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Fletcher were instrumental in arranging this pleasant affair.

At the next meeting of the Grange, May 6, Mrs. E. O. Marshall, of New Salem, will give an address on “Birds.” Mrs. Marshall is an authority on birds, especially our New England birds, and is a most attractive and instructive speaker, and should have a good-sized audience.

At the Congregational church Sunday morning, Rev. J. E. Dinsmore, assistant pastor of the First Baptist church, Lowell, will preach, and in the evening one of the leading C.E. workers of Lowell will be present and given an address.

Tadmuck Club. The Tadmuck club luncheon and annual meeting, held at the vestry of the Congregational church on Tuesday, proved a most successful and enjoyable affair, reflecting the greatest credit upon those having the luncheon, the program and decorations in charge. The decorations consisted of a profusion of greenery effectively used, and bunches of yellow jonquils at each table. Indian baskets were appropriately brought into use and a big Indian’s picture overlooked the company, whether representing some Tadmuck brave of a by-gone day we could not say.

The menu cards were also decorated with a picturesque Indian. Luncheon was served at 1:30 and covers were laid for eighty. The progressive feature promoted much pleasant sociability and simplified the matter of service. The following delicious menu was served: Fruit cocktail, olives, nuts, chicken a la king, persillade potatoes, green string beans, carrots, rolls, Tadmuck salad, wafers, ice cream, cake, cream mints, coffee.

At the conclusion of the luncheon Mrs. Goldsmith H. Conant, toastmistress for the day, called to order and presided with gracious tact and spirit.
Mrs. Herbert D. Foss, of Cambridge, and Mrs. A. M. Sanderson, of Nashua, furnished the musical numbers. Mrs. Foss is always welcome to a Westford audience and her singing on Tuesday was delightful, her first group of songs, “Laddie,” “My garden in June” and “The bumblebee’s wooing,” being especially good. Mrs. Sanderson interspersed the speakers with brilliant piano solos.

In lieu of too many stories Mrs. Conant gave an original poem, a very bright little skit picturing the really helpful club members. Mrs. William Roudenbush responded to the toast “What the Tadmuck club may mean to a new-comer to Westford” with much originality. Miss Sarah W. Loker responded with a message of a past president to the present president which was winsome and attractive. The closing toast was by the president, Mrs. H. V. Hildreth, on “The ideal club woman,” in which the central thought that the ideal club woman and the ideal home-maker should and could be synonymous was intelligently elucidated.

Reports from the various departments were given as follows: Civics, Mrs. Walker; civil service, Miss Wilson; conservation, Mrs. Hildreth reported for Mrs. Hammett Wright, who was unable to be present on account of sickness; literature and literary extension, Mrs. H. W. Hildreth; education, Mrs. C. A. Blaney; household economics, Mrs. Knight; industrial and social conditions, Mrs. Hartford; legislative, Mrs. C. L. Hildreth; music, Miss Gertrude Fletcher; public health, Mrs. Edward Fisher; food sanitation, Mrs. Greig.

At the business meeting practically the same officers were elected for the ensuing year, with the exception of Miss Edith A. Wright as treasurer. Miss Wright has been the efficient treasurer for two years. In her place Miss Hazel B. Hartford was elected. The treasurer’s report showed all bills paid and a good balance in the treasury. The secretary reported 101 members, seventeen being added during the season. The club mourns the death during the year of Mrs. Adelaide M. Seavey and Mrs. Elizabeth Warren Kimball.

Mrs. Samuel L. Taylor was the hostess of the day for Tuesday’s affair, assisted by Mrs. Martha Taylor Howard, Mrs. William R. Taylor, Mrs. Frederick A. Snow, Mrs. Herbert E. Fletcher and Miss Rita Bickford. The decorating committee were Mrs. O. R. Spalding, Mrs. W. R. Carver, Miss Eva E. Fletcher and Miss May G. Balch.

About Town. Amos Polley, on the Prairie farm, is setting the pace by planting forty bushels of potatoes. The Old Oaken Bucket farm, adjoining it, is pacing for twenty bushels. Both are making the dust vacate as the room is wanted for potatoes.

Herbert Mills has moved into the O’Brien cottage on the Providence road.

Dr. J. N. Murray, of Littleton, was called Sunday to an indisposed horse belonging to Oliver Desjardins on Pigeon hill, Stony Brook road. The trip was by auto. After the horse had received medical treatment the auto refused to leave the premises without treatment. The doctor, not being prepared to treat, was obliged to retreat to the nearest telephone and get assistance.

The next meeting of Middlesex-North Pomona Grange will be held at Odd Fellows’ hall, Bridge street, Lowell, Friday, May 7. The forenoon will discuss “Our game laws—were they written for the farmer or for the sportsmen?” At the open meeting in the afternoon Mrs. A. T. George will present the side of anti-suffrage. This will be followed by Rev. Robert Walker, who will speak on “The modern treatment of criminals.” Westford Grange will furnish the dinner.

At the last meeting of the Grange Deputy Charles H. Brown, of Peabody, was the official visitor. After the officers had passed inspection examination in regard to the duties of their offices, he applied wholesome treatment and advice to Grange life generally. At the lecturer’s hour Mrs. A. H. Sutherland entertained with select readings; vocal quartet music, Mrs. David Wallace, Mrs. W. R. Taylor, Frank T. Johnson, Edward Robey. The next meeting will be held on May 6, and will be known as “Bird night,” the meeting to be open to the public at the conclusion of the business session.
Day Brothers, Otis and Albert, have 700 chickens picking at grasshoppers and other symptoms of warm weather. Besides chickens they have cucumbers that are creeping around with four leaves. These early happenings are at the farm located at the corner of Cold Spring and Graniteville roads.

J. L. Shea has bought the Henry O. Keyes house and land on the Cold Spring road. After improvements the family will occupy it for a home.

Miss Harriet B. Rogers, of North Billerica, formerly a beloved teacher in our academy, and her sister, Mrs. Elvira Rogers Gould, in an adjoining home, have just celebrated their birthdays. Miss Rogers was eighty-one and Mrs. Gould eighty-five. They both received the congratulations of their friends, even the children in the kindergarten and their teachers bringing their gifts of flowers to these two sisters, who have grown old gracefully and endeared themselves to everybody.

We note that in the play, “The village postoffice,” recently given in Chelmsford with such success, our former townsman, Henry Bunce, took the part of Col. Gibson, and his daughter Dorothy was one of the children in it. Mr. Bunce very cleverly arranged the stage to represent the room of a typical country store.

Miss Quereback and Miss Martin, teachers in the Lowell high school, are enjoying their spring vacation at Miss Maggie Haley’s.

A Sunday [Boston] Herald of recent date had a reproduction of the painting of [the noted architect] Ralph Adams Cram by the celebrated artist, Emil Pollax-Otendorff. Mr. Cram formerly lived here.

Miss Nina Fletcher’s violin recital will be held at the Ayer town hall on Monday evening, May 3.

The Old Oaken Bucket farm folks have finished first hoeing of peas.

Mrs. Josephine Prescott, lecturer of Westford Grange, has handed in her resignation of that office, to take effect June 1.

Eric Hedman is splitting stone for the foundation of a new barn for Amos Polley on the Prairie farm.

The Read farm [164 Main St.] folks have been setting out five acres of strawberries.

Amos Polley, on the Prairie farm, has been crowding potatoes into the ground by two horse-power.

Blodgett Brothers on [Millstone Road,] Millstone hill, and the Horace Goulds [7 Gould Road], near Humhaw brook, have each bought a Ford. It is often asked “Does farming pay?” These automobiles answer in the affirmative.

Those early-sowed oats on the Prairie farm have failed to sprout and it is claimed that it was on account of being sowed too early. Nonsense, dear brethren, the writer has sowed oats in early March with success. Charge this failure up to sulphur bleached oats—they are more uncertain than when it will rain again.2

The Poland family, now and for some time living in the small cottage on the Lowell road, near the Peletiah Fletcher place, will vacate May 1, and abide in Providence R.I.

1 Harriet Burbank Rogers of North Billerica was preceptress of Westford Academy 1855-59 and 1861-63 before becoming principal of the Clark Institution for Deaf Mutes in Northampton, Mass., where she was “the first in this country to introduce a system of teaching deaf mutes to read from the lips, instead of using the sign language.” A General Catalogue of Trustees, Teachers and Students, Westford Academy, 1792-1895, p. 23.

2 Bulletin No. 725 issued by the Dept. of Agriculture in 1918, “A Preliminary Study of the Bleaching of Oats With Sulphur Dioxid,” agrees with Samuel Taylor. The bulletin indicates that this practice, used on “discolored and damaged oats, giving them the appearance of natural oats of good quality,” had increased over the past score of years. It concluded that: “The viability of oats is materially reduced by sulphur bleaching.” https://archive.org/details/preliminarystudy725bast
Francis hill is loaded for a crop of peaches if spring frost and autumn disturbances do not cause too much thinning.

Daniel H. Sheehan reports 700 acres of winter wheat on his farm in Virginia. Last year he raised 65,000 barrels of potatoes and claims a shortage of 25,000 barrels on account of the drought.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin H. Gould are parents [of Bernice Gertrude (Gould) Picking, b. April 22, 1915], which result in Mr. and Mrs. Horace E. Gould and Gilman F. Wright being grandparents.

Fires. At the noon hour last Friday, as everybody was about to surround dinner, an alarm of fire was sounded when the cottage, shed and barn on the Lowell road, near the residence of Mrs. C. R. P. Decatur, was discovered to be on fire. The Westford fire department was soon on the fire trail, but the fire was too far advanced to make any attempt to do anything but rescuing the furniture. The south breezes were busy at the time and started a grass fire across Tadmuck brook which was checked just before it spread to the grass land of S. L. Taylor and thence on to the New Stony Brook [land] of W. R. Taylor. Blazing shingles and other large embers were blown a mile to the east and the wonder of it is that the intervening forest escaped fire. Just how the fire started is not clear. It was discovered shooting from the roof of the barn and there was no fire in the stove when removed from the building. A Polish family had been living in the house, but only the grandmother was at home. Part of their furniture was saved, including a bureau with a small sum of money. The family were to move on May 1 to the Isaac Adams place near South Chelmsford. The property was taxed to Mrs. Matthew Smith, of Brookside, and insured for $500. An acre of land and Tadmuck brook remains.

Fire started Sunday afternoon at upper Nabnassett, burning over several acres on land of William C. Edwards. H. L. Nesmith, fire warden, and abundant Sunday help soon got it under control. Mr. Nesmith had no sooner arrived home that he was summoned to counter march another of those mysterious evening fires on land of Amos Polley, near the dividing line of Stony Brook valley and Nabnassett plains. Help was soon on hand and the fire was subdued before it had time to exhibit what it could do. This is the fifth fire on this land recently.

One of the worst forest fires of the season took place Tuesday forenoon on the line of the New Haven railroad near Carlisle station, covering about 300 acres in Westford and Carlisle. As it was a railroad fire a train load of help from Boston and Nashua were sent to the scene. In spite of the efforts of the Westford fire department and the extra help the fire swept on until sundown, only to break out again on Wednesday morning, eating up in flames several cords of wood, the property of Almon S. Vose. A fresh supply of help arrived from Lowell, Woburn and Burlington, but for all this the fire continued until sundown again. Several farm buildings were saved from joining the smoke with great difficulty.

One of the largest and worst woodland and grass fires in town for many seasons occurred on last week Thursday afternoon. Starting near the Nashua and Acton railroad it swept with the high wind eastward, covering 300 acres and burning 1000 cords of wood, the property of Almon S. Vose. The fire departments of Westford, Graniteville, Forge Village and Littleton were summoned, but the fire swept on as though not opposed by fire extinguishers and other damaging implements, leaping to the top of a pine forest as though no one dissented. The house of John Coyne caught fire several times and the residences of William P. Williams and Richard Yarnold were compelled to be safe guarded by plenty of help and moisture. It is estimated that 300 men were in line fighting the fires besides a large guard who were on duty all night. Fire Warden Nesmith, in a statement, said: “It was the worst fire I ever faced; large pines were burned like tinder, and the fires at times jumped hundreds of feet.” Edward M. Abbot, chief of the fire department, has been in charge of fires.

Directly after the fire Friday noon of last week, and while the fire department were on duty, they were summoned to a fire at Wayne’s bridge, near Nashobah hill, and close by the Nashua and Acton railroad. This fire, owing to the retiring disposition of the wind, was soon prostrated.
**Funeral.** Miss Maria Chamberlain died at the home of her niece, Miss Mary L. Hutchins, in North Billerica last Saturday evening in the eighty-seventh year of her life. A friend writes of her: “Always an active person the hand of time in the last few years had curtailed her scope of activity and her last years were spent in the quiet enjoyment of the afterglow well spent in ministrations to others. As late as January 8, of this year, when she enjoyed the anniversary of her birth [and] the felicitations of her many friends and neighbors, her faculties were keen and well preserved and she entered into that occasion with a spirit that seemed ever young. Age since that time left its heavy scars. She came to this town (Billerica) from her birthplace in Westford in 1907, leaving behind in that town many friends. She had established herself in the hearts of those who knew her here and in her passing many feel a deep sense of loss.”

To the older residents of Westford she will be remembered as the daughter of Phineas and Martha Chamberlain, the oldest of seven children, born at the historic Chamberlain’s Corner, all of whom attended the old Stony Brook school, and all of whom have become invisible to earthly vision except one. With her it was always an “at home” season with unlimited restrictions and outlook. She will be remembered in her earlier life as one in the large family riding in the country style of that time to church. This early church habit she maintained into mature years. Her constancy at the Unitarian church added its loyal share to the life and usefulness of this ancient meeting house. Let this brief reference to her early life suffice, more or even this is not necessary, for more briefly and more comprehensive are the words of all: “She hath done what she could.” [Mark 14:8.]

The deceased leaves one sister, Mrs. Julia B. Fletcher, of Billerica; three nieces, Mrs. Francis B. Reed of Dorchester, Mrs. Henry B. Reed of Barre, Miss May L. Hutchins of Billerica; three nephews, Albion C. Fletcher of Watertown, Henry M. Hutchins of Billerica and Charles A. Chamberlain of Boston.

The funeral took place from the home of her niece, Miss Mary L. Hutchins, at North Billerica, on Tuesday afternoon, the service being conducted by Rev. J. S. Moulton of Stow, a former minister of the Unitarian church in Westford [1876-85], and Rev. W. L. Walsh of the Unitarian church in Billerica. Mrs. George E. Burns, of Lowell, sang affectionate farewells. The bearers were relatives, Frank Reed, Henry M. Hutchins, Albion C. Fletcher and Henry B. Read. Burial was in the family lot in Fairview cemetery, Westford, where the burial service was read by Rev. Mr. Walsh.

**Graniteville.** In spite of the cool weather of last Saturday afternoon a large crowd was present at Hillside park to witness the second baseball game of the series between the Ledgemen and the Machinists. This game was not so closely contested as the first game for the machine shop boys got busy from the very start and put it all over their opponents to the tune of 19 to 3. “Tug” Bridgeford was on the mound for the shop boys and pitched his usual steady game, his wide benders keeping the opposing club guessing at all times. E. Buckingham, Mullen, Gower and Bridgeford led with the batting honors, while the fielding feature was contributed by a circus catch by Hanson in centerfield. The series now stands with one win for each club and the deciding game will be played on Saturday when a good hot game is expected.

Rev. Mr. McVicker, the new pastor of the M.E. church here, preached to large congregations at the different services on last Sunday and made a good impression. He is a young man [26 years old] and a good preacher. Mr. and Mrs. McVicker will take up their residence in the parsonage in the near future which is now being prepared for their occupancy. [Roy Harrison McVicker was pastor of the M.E. church at Graniteville from April to August 1915.]

Mrs. Fred Farrow and her mother, Mrs. Lake, who have been seriously ill with pneumonia, have passed the dangerous stage and hopes are now being entertained for their recovery.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. P. Henry Harrington are now out of quarantine, Harold and Edward, the two boys, having full recovered from the effects of scarlet fever.

The Graniteville bowlers were entertained at supper that was provided by the losing Westford aggregation at the Harrisonia hotel in Lowell [17-21 Central St.] on last week Wednesday night. This proved to be a very interesting affair.
Miss Ellen Couture [Couture] and David Tousignant, two well-known people of this village, were married at the parochial residence of St. John’s church in North Chelmsford on Monday, April 26. The pastor, Rev. Edmund T. Schofield, performed the marriage ceremony. The sponsors were William Tousignant, brother of the groom, and Charles Couture, father of the bride.

The members of Cameron Circle C.F. of A. held a well attended and interesting meeting in their rooms on last Tuesday night with Miss Marion Lord, presiding. Much business of importance was transacted and at the conclusion of the meeting a social hour was enjoyed.

The Westford Wardsman, May 8, 1915

Center. Miss Hazel B. Hartford has been spending this week with relatives in Melrose.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Elliott have been beautifying the grounds around their sightly summer home, [on Hildreth St.] opposite Prospect hill with trees, shrubs, etc.

Sunday at the Congregational church Rev. J. E. Dinsmore of the First Baptist church, Lowell, occupied the pulpit in the morning and preached an earnest sermon. Miss May Atwood was at the organ and has resumed supervision of the girls’ vested choir. At the evening service L. E. Sweatt of Lowell was present and addressed the meeting, speaking on the work and aims of the Lowell C.E. union. H. G. Osgood conducted the praise service.

Mr. and Mrs. John P. Wright attended the funeral of a relative in Malden Saturday of last week.

Edmund Baker has been grading the grounds about the house [on Depot St. near Main St.] occupied by him most attractively.

The Ladies’ Aid society of the Congregational church will meet next Thursday at the vestry. A full attendance is desired.

George H. Burke at the north part of the town is reported as the latest purchaser of an automobile, a Ford.

Next Tuesday afternoon at the Congregational church the closing meeting of the season will be held and will be a reception to the retiring officers of the club. The Ladies’ Titania orchestra will play and there will also be a soloist. Club tea will be served and the arrangements for the afternoon are in charge of the reception committee of the club—Miss Edith Forster, Mrs. V. C. B. Wetmore, Miss Ella F. Hildreth, Mrs. Julian Cameron and Mrs. William R. Carver.

A telephone has been installed at J. Henry Colburn’s this week, 16-3.

Conductor Clement had a sudden and severe attack of indigestion Wednesday morning and Clarence Spalding substituted for him on the car.

The Westford Veterans, Sons and Daughters of Veterans are requested to meet a the Cavalry association building [20 Boston Road] this Saturday afternoon at two o’clock to plan for the Memorial day dinner. Dinner will be served the same as last year to the Veterans and their wives and sons and daughters of veterans and their wives, members of the band, the speakers and entertainers of the day. A good response to the call for this meeting is earnestly desired.

The regular monthly meeting of Edward M. Abbot Hose Co. was held Tuesday evening. A try out at 6:30 was held, opening hydrants near the residences of Willis Hildreth [7 Main St.], Edward Fisher [Depot St. near Main St.] and Miss Ella F. Hildreth [10 Hildreth St.]. The engineers tried out their plan of attaching the hose wagon to the motor truck of Wm. E. Wright [7 Depot St.] with good result. Later at the company’s headquarters the annual business meeting and election was held and the same list of officers were reelected.
A purse of gold has been presented to Miss Hazel B. Hartford as a token of appreciation for the efficient work she has done with the church organ at the Congregational church this winter.

The C.E. society will present the play they are preparing, “Up to Freddie,” the evening of May 15. [Up to Freddie, A Farce in Two Acts” was published by Frances S. Kenyon in 1903 and was “especially designed for girls’ schools.”]

The Board of Trade will hold a public meeting at the town hall Monday evening, May 10, to discuss the fare on the branch line from Brookside to the Center. It is apparent that the seven cent fare now charged by the company does not bring in sufficient revenue to pay running expenses and necessary repairs to the road bed, etc., notwithstanding additional private subscriptions from the townspeople. As the running of the cars concerns the ladies of the town, the members of the board cordially invite them to be present on Monday evening, when all matters concerning the branch line will be brought up for consideration.

The teachers and pupils of the Frost school will present the operetta “Cinderilla [sic] in Flowerland” next Friday evening, May 14, at the town hall. A late car has been arranged for that evening, leaving Brookside at seven o’clock and leaving the Westford town hall in time to connect with the nine o’clock car at Brookside.

Mrs. Carrie Toombs, who has made such an excellent housekeeper for Mr. Seavey and children since the death of Mrs. Seavey, left this last week for her native town in Prince Edwards Island, where she is soon to be married again.

Mrs. Porter Wright has been in town several days this week visiting former friends.

**About Town.** The next meeting of West Chelmsford Grange will be held on Thursday evening, May 13, at Historic hall. The third and fourth degrees will be conferred and the following left-over subject will be discussed: “What more can the Grange do for the farmer, the family and the community?”

The W.C.T.U. held its monthly meeting with Mrs. Robert Walker. The usual number were present and some visitors. On Saturday, May 29, they have accepted an invitation to visit the New Bedford endowment home.

At the Unitarian church last Sunday Rev. J. R. Pennington gave an illuminating address on “The religion of Arabia,” and continued it over into the adult class in the Sunday school, and to Sunday, May 9.

For real, alive earliness, just cast your eyesight over the wall on the Lowell road at the Banister farm and know what management means at facing such ahead of everybody lettuce and cabbages. [sic]

There will be a special meeting of the Westford Board of Trade at the town hall on Monday evening, May 10. The public are invited to this meeting, which will be a wisdom meeting on “ways and means” as it relates to the branch line of the Lowell and Fitchburg electric road from Westford to Brookside.

The next meeting of the Branch Alliance of the Unitarian church, Thursday, May 13, is on the calendar as neighborhood meeting.

Mrs. George Taylor Howard and George Taylor Howard are at the Howards in South Bound Brook, N.J., and the Old Oaken Bucket farm folks are lonesome, missing some youthful climbing and tumbling aspirations.

Miss Roberts, of New Brunswick, is visiting her sister, Mrs. C. R. P. Decatur, and attended the Unitarian church on Sunday.

The apple blossom does not promise as large a crop as last year, but prices should promise larger than last year. If so, the financial balance will encourage the settling of more trees of which there has been a large acreage this year in town, Rev. Louis H. Buckshorn being chief acreage man.

Raspberries have uncovered badly and look as though they haven’t any interest in prolonging life.
Preparations are being advanced for some popcorn acreage in the Stony Brook valley. It will stand more weather variations than other corn and delights at hear.

Cameron park was the scene last Saturday of the first ball game of the season, when a large crowd gathered to witness the game between the English Lions and the French Tigers. The Lions were victorious. Philip Lord acted as umpire.

The following members of Westford Grange attended the hospitality of Littleton Grange on Wednesday evening: Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Sutherland, Miss Sutherland, Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Nesmith, Henry O. McDonald, Mrs. Sidney B. Wright, Willey M. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel L. Taylor and others. This banquet feast of intellect and eatables was by the generosity of those lovable individualities, Past Master and Mrs. Richard J. Barrow, of Littleton Grange.

Mary O’Brien is ill at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James H. O’Brien, on the Stony Brook road, Pigeon hill.

Charles W. Whitney has purchased another new horse of value and speed, which makes the fifth horse that turns the furrows of spring and makes the farm look as though somebody was renewing the face of the earth.

Graniteville. Owing to the cool weather of last Saturday the baseball game scheduled between the Machinists and the Ledgemen failed to materialize, but the “rubber” game will surely be played off in the near future.

The new minister, Rev. Mr. [Roy H.] McVicker, with his wife [Florence], are now living in the M.E. church parsonage here. The various services held at the church on last Sunday were all largely attended.

William Welsh has recently disposed of his poultry business here and will devote his spare time to the raising of garden truck this summer.

Miss Bessie Larkin, of North Chelmsford, has been a recent visitor here.

Miss Mary Dow and Miss Georgia Dion, of Laconia, N.H., have been recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Charlton.

The cold weather is retarding spring planting to a great extent here.

The members of the A. R. Choate hose company held their regular meeting in the firehouse on last Monday evening. Business of a routine order was transacted and at the close of the session a social hour was enjoyed.

Mrs. Charlotte Day has been visiting friends in Lawrence for the past few days.

Forge Village. Mr. and Mrs. George Goode of Chelsea have opened their camp Oka on the shores of the pond.

Adolphus Blowey, the eight-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Blowey, who fell and broke his arm two weeks ago, is getting along as well as can be expected.

William DeRoehn has gone to Worcester, where he will assist Rev. A. E. Kernahan, formerly pastor of the Graniteville M.E. church, and now affiliated with Grace Methodist church of Worcester. Mr. DeRoehn expects to study for the ministry and his many friends here extend best wishes for a successful career.

A number of men under the direction of Alec McDonald, superintendent of streets, are engaged in cleaning up the roads.

Miss Sarah Precious, who sprained her wrist while at work in the mill of Abbot & Co., is not able to be at her work yet.
A wedding of unusual interest to the village people occurred recently in Worcester when Miss Roxie Bennett, former resident here, was united in marriage to Andrew J. Kavanaugh, also of Worcester. The wedding took place at the church of Our Lady of the Rosary, where a nuptial mass was celebrated by the pastor. Miss Bennett is a niece of Alvin S. Bennett, our oldest resident, and made her home here a few years ago, during which time she made many friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Kavanaugh will reside in Worcester, where they have furnished a beautiful home. The well wishes of all friends go with them in their new life.

Miss Delia Connell, who was taken ill at Westford academy last week, is reported as much better.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Centerbar have removed to Framingham, where they expect to reside in [the] future.

Mrs. John Sullivan is reported to be much better, after her fall of a week ago.

Mr. and Mrs. George Messey [Nussey, per marriage record] of Lowell, formerly of this village, celebrated their twentieth anniversary at their home on last Wednesday evening. Mrs. Messey was, previous to her marriage, Miss Hannah Berry of this village, and was married to Geo. Messey in 1895, the wedding taking place here. Mr. and Mrs. Messey received many gifts, including a silver tea service, set of china, chocolate set and fruit dishes.

**Entertainment.** A most enjoyable entertainment and Balopticon lecture was given in Recreation hall last week Friday evening under the auspice of the Young People’s Social club. [The Balopticon was a projector, developed by Bausch & Lomb and patented in 1911, that utilized reflected light for projecting the images of opaque objects.] The affair provide to be very successful, both from a social as well as a business standpoint. During the early part of the evening Rev. Williston M. Ford delivered a most interesting lecture on London, England, illustrating his discourse by the Balopticon. A most delightful musical program followed which was very much enjoyed. All of the numbers were executed in a very able manner, especially the mandolin duet, which was heartily encored. The program was as follows: Piano duet, Misses Lillian Baker and Mildred Parrot; mandolin duets, Mrs. J. E. Burnett and Miss Gladys Baker; song, “Across the Dee,” Miss Annie Cherry; piano duet, Misses Marion Lord and Ethel Collins; song, “The hills of Kye,” Miss Marion Lord; piano solo, Miss Marion Blodgett. The accompanists of the evening were the Misses Lillian Baker, Ethel Collins and May Cherry.

**To the Editor:**

I have seen several articles in your paper about Eastern Washington and I take the liberty to send you a few lines upon the southwestern part. I would like to tell you of the city of Vancouver, as it is now and was seventy-five years ago; then England’s greatest stronghold was at Fort Vancouver, the chief trading post of the Hudson Bay Company, in this region…

[Long letter from Mrs. W. E. Parsons (nee Hannah Prescott), a Westford native, not transcribed here.]

**Ayer**

**District Court.** Joseph Chuski [possibly Joseph Kisly age about 31] and Peter Bisko [probably Peter Britko, age 20], both of Westford, were found guilty last Saturday morning of assault and battery, and were fined fifteen dollars each. A Polish wedding [of John Kisly and Feodora Kowalchuck on May 1, per the 1915 Westford vital records] was indirectly the cause of the assault, the victim being an unbidden guest. Under ordinary conditions this fact might be overlooked, but after consuming a quantity of the ardent [spirits,] things looked different. Trouble was at once started and judging by the condition of the man who was assaulted and the stories of the witnesses for the government there was a hot fight. The assaulted man bore mute testimony of the assault in the form of a badly battered forehead and a badly discolored eye; called by the witnesses a “blue eye.” The court had little difficulty in finding the defendants guilty. Two interpreters were necessary to extract the evidence from the witnesses. John M. Maloney appeared for the government.
Center. The Boy Scouts gave an entertainment at the town hall on last week Friday evening which was much enjoyed by an appreciative audience. The first play was entitled “Mischievous Bob,” with the following in the cast: Howard Judd, George Perkins, Fred Amesbury, Bertram Sutherland, Artemas Griffin, Alfred Sutherland; the second sketch, “The haunted house,” was given by Artemas Griffin and George Perkins, with ghosts. The plays were interspersed with readings by Miss Young, and music by Miss Moreland. Home-made candy was on sale during intermission and the young people arranged the stage settings most attractively.

Mr. and Mrs. Abiel J. Abbot are at home again after several months of enjoyable southern travel.

The Donald M. Camerons, of Lowell, who are planning to spend the summer at the Westford homestead [39 Main St.], are adding a spacious piazza to the said homestead.

Mrs. William R. Carver entertained a very pleasant bridge whist party of four tables at her home last Saturday afternoon.

Perley E. Wright is a recent purchaser of a Reo automobile.

William H. H. Burbeck, who has been in poor health for some time, was taken to the Coram hospital in Lowell recently for special care and treatment.

Mrs. H. V. Hildreth, Mrs. O. R. Spalding, Miss Julia Fletcher and Mrs. H. E. Fletcher enjoyed Havrah Hubbard’s presentation of the opera “Siegfried,” with his accompanist, Floyd Baxter, given in Colonial hall, Lowell, under the auspices of the Middlesex Woman’s club on Monday afternoon.

If anybody in town has a finer appearing home garden than Emory J. Whitney we surely do not know of them. His garden is small, but quality certainly supersedes quantity and shows what skillful and intensive management will do. Prospects are good for Mr. Whitney to score first on first pickings of peas among the gardeners and his lettuce, asparagus and many other vegetables present a very attractive appearance.

Mrs. A. M. Felch [nee Ann Maria Kendall] arrived in town on Tuesday of this week at the home of her daughter, Mrs. [Ralph] Bridgeford [nee Lizzie M. Felch], after having spent a very pleasant winter with another daughter, Mrs. Charles Hinton [nee Nellie Etta Felch], of Philadelphia.

It was victory for the Graniteville Boy Scouts over the Westford Scouts in their game at Whitney playground last Saturday afternoon.

The ladies of the Unitarian church extended their good housewifery on Wednesday to their church home and held a systematic and thorough cleaning bee.

The memorial services and sermon will be held at the Unitarian church on Sunday, May 23, and practice is going on for special music by the united choirs for that day.

Mrs. Edith Bicknell Wilcox and little son are visiting at Mr. and Mrs. Ai Bicknell’s.

Tadmuck Club. The closing meeting of the season for the Tadmuck club, which was a reception to the retiring officers, took place at the Congregational church on Tuesday afternoon. The Ladies’ Titania orchestra furnished delightful music, supplemented with groups of songs by Mrs. N. M. Leahey, of Lowell. Mrs. Leahey is a favorite with the Tadmuck club and her singing on Tuesday was especially enjoyable.

The officers in the receiving line were Mrs. H. V. Hildreth, pres.; Miss Clara A. Smith, v. p.; Mrs. L. W. Wheeler, rec. sec.; Mrs. William R. Taylor, cor. sec. and Miss Edith A. Wright, treas. Mrs. Oscar R. Spalding, Mrs. Edward Fisher and Mrs. Harry B. Prescott were the ushers. A dainty luncheon was served in charge of the reception committee, Miss Edith Forster, Mrs. V. C. B. Wetmore, Miss Ella Hildreth, Mrs. Julian Cameron and Mrs. William R. Carver. Mrs. Wetmore was the special hostess of the afternoon and her liberal and delightful hospitality was much appreciated by every member present.
The group of pictures of old houses, buildings and historic places in Westford, gathered by the committee appointed for that purpose last season, were arranged for inspection and received much interested attention. This collection promises to be of much value, especially in years to come, and the work of the committee deserves much gratitude. The club voted a sum of money to assist in continuance.

The club closes a most successful season and the president, Mrs. Hildreth in a few, well chosen words at Tuesday’s gathering, thanked everyone for their cordial and helpful support and sympathy.

About Town. William L. Woods has bought out the Joshua C. Decatur Company, produce and fruit dealers, of Boston. Mr. Woods was for several years a resident of Westford and manager of the well-known Kittredge farm [21 Depot St.].

Brookside mills are running again on a low ebb, slack-time basis, and besides a superintendent, fireman, watchman and engineer there are not many on the payroll list.

The next meeting of the Grange will be held on Thursday evening, May 20. This meeting will be in charge of O. A. Nelson, of Graniteville, who is preparing an evening of song, instrumental music and local hitting up of the town generally. The Graniteville program is always up to the desired order of the day. Supt. Henry Smith, of Graniteville, will be one of the chief accessories in collusion with what is to be befallen.

The Board of Trade met at the town hall on Monday evening, being well represented and ably represented as to the suffragettes. Capt. Sherman H. Fletcher, president of the Board of Trade, presided, and Charles L. Hildreth, secretary, acted as shorthand reporter of speeches. Hon. Edward Fisher opened the case and cleared up the case so effectively in his financial statement relating to the electric line from Westford to Brookside that money was raised at the terminal of his statement in sufficient amount to guarantee needed repairs on the road bed. Other speeches of a suggestive nature were made by Herbert V. Hildreth, Edward M. Abbot, William R. Taylor, Capt. Sherman H. Fletcher, H. M. Seavey, Charles L. Hildreth, [and] Mrs. J. Herbert Fletcher. The sentiment of the meeting favored a ten-cent fare to Brookside, subject to the approval of the public service commission.

The Woman’s Alliance of the Unitarian church will hold a meeting on Saturday afternoon, May 22, at 2:30 o’clock at the church. Mrs. Clara Bancroft Beatley of Boston, will give an address on “Morals through reverence.” Mrs. Beatley will be remembered as the daughter of the late E. Dana Bancroft, of Ayer, and a bright, entertaining speaker. The subject is non-sectarian and should receive a liberal attendance.

John Burbeck, one of the substantial and successful farmers, is seriously ill as the result of a cut on the leg with an axe while trimming apple tree limbs. He is confined to the house and blood poison is feared. He is passed his eighty-third year of industrious and temperate habits, which favor recovery.

The old John F. Banister farm, [northeast] corner of Dunstable and Tyngsboro [now Tenney] roads, and owned by Fred L. Snow, of Tyngsboro, was sold at auction on last Saturday to J. M. Book, of Outlet Fruit Company, Lowell, for $1350. He is the owner of the Hildreth farm at the head waters of Long-Sought-for pond and adjoining his recent purchase.

The West Chelmsford Benevolent society gave a social in the vestry of the village church on Wednesday evening in charge of Mrs. Herbert E. Fletcher. A supper, temptingly displayed, was served, after which Mrs. Roberts, of Lowell, entertained in song; Alvah Sturgis, of Lowell, in recitations. Both delighted the audience to call for more, and the laughable pantomime, “Wanted—a house-keeper,” hit fun to the limit.

W. R. Taylor is building a new lawn tennis court at his “Stony Brook.” This with the one at the Old Oaken Bucket farm will perhaps conform to the administration efforts at competition. Even pleasure must not be in restraint of pleasure in hours of leisure.

Union memorial services will be held at the Unitarian church on Sunday, May 23.
Automobiles at a reckless law-breaking speed still perform daily. On Wednesday evening, while the electric car stopped at Banister’s Corner [junction of Lowell and Providence Roads], an auto speeded by on a mile-a-minute basis. Passengers dodged, but “Patsy,” the Banister watchman dog, while acting as speed referee and general police lookout, was caught by the whirlwind suction of the law-violating auto and was whirled about and over and under and yonder several times, but aside from disarranging his coat and temporary digestion, and dizziness of where and who he was at, he was not bruised or broken in bone or spirit.

On last week Friday evening a fire, by legal permit, was started on the Banister pasture. Several colonies of ancient bugs were caught asleep and never awoke to find who put them in such a sleep. Several acres were burned over and the fire caused alarm to those who were not aware of its humane intentions.

The Pitkin family are to vacate as laborers at the Read farm. The John H. Decatur place is viewed as a possible location to move into.

The apple blossoms promise to out-do last year and for several years in some sections of the town.

**Graniteville.** The machine shop team [the Machinists] and the Ledgemen met in the third game of the baseball series here on last Saturday afternoon and the stonemen, being without the services of their coach and manager, “Jack” Rafferty, met with defeat at the hands of the shop boys to the tune of 10 to 5. The game brought out many particular features, among them being the fine pitching of F. Gower who fanned many of his heavy hitting opponents. The day was just right for baseball and as this was the “rubber” game, a large number were on hand to witness the sport.

Rev. Mr. McVickers [McVicker], the new pastor of the M.E. church, with Mrs. [Florence] McVickers were tendered a reception in the church parlors on last Saturday evening, the affair being largely attended. After the formal reception refreshments were served, after which a very pleasing entertainment was given. The whole affair proved to be very enjoyable and those in attendance were greatly pleased with the efforts of the committee for arranging such an opportune time to meet their new pastor.

Albert Reeves has recently fitted up what was formerly his pool room here into a fine up-to-date ice cream parlor.

Miss Isabelle Blanche Chandler, of East Billerica, has been spending the last few days here as the guest of Mrs. Clara Gray.

Mr. and Mrs. Cantfield, of Upton, have been recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Furbush.

Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Hawkes are receiving many pleasing comments on the beautiful display of tulips and hyacinths that adorn a large flower garden in their front yard. Mr. Hawke’s home and grounds now present a fine appearance and he has surely followed out to the letter the slogan of “Clean up and paint up.”

The Ladies’ Aid society of the M.E. church met with Mrs. H. N. Fletcher on last week Thursday afternoon.

Mrs. Julia B. Wall, Mrs. Lena Ledwith of this village, and Miss Moison Lord of Forge Village, attended the grand circle convention of the Companions of the Forest [Foresters] of America that was held in the Hotel Brunswick, Boston, this week. Mrs. Ledwith and Miss Lord went as delegates from Cameron Circle here, while Mrs. Wall attended as a member of the executive committee in her official capacity as chairman of the board of trustees.

**Ayer**

**District Court.** Carl Lydia, of Westford, for committing a nuisance, was fined ten dollars on Monday morning.
Frank Walson of Westford was found not guilty of two complaints of assault and battery Thursday and was discharged.

John Lumbert of the same town, charged with two like offenses, was also discharged.

Peter Elastic was found guilty of assault and battery on Frank Walson and was fined $15. For assault and battery on John Matuk, Peter Elastic was found not guilty and discharged.

These cases were the aftermath of a Polish row in Forge Village in which several are alleged to have taken part.

One of the party called “Joe” failed to appear. Walson got the worst of the fight, having received several cuts on the head alleged to have been made by a knife. The top of his head was covered with bandages. Dr. Sherman of Westford, who attended him, said that barring complications there was no danger from the wounds. John M. Maloney appeared as counsel for Elastic and Lumbert and attorney Goldman of Lowell for the others.

*The Westford Wardsman, May 22, 1915*

**Center.** Mrs. M. Elizabeth Whitney and Mr. and Mrs. Walter P. Wright have opened the Whitney summer home for the season, coming up from Brookline this week.

The Henry M. Wrights were visitors at H. L. Wright’s Sunday, motoring up from Quincy.

Mrs. Charles H. Pickering has been enjoying a two-weeks’ visit with her daughter, Mrs. Marie Pickering Smith, at the latter’s home in Portland, Me.

Ai Bicknell, who has had a serious siege with bronchitis, is reported as more comfortable. Mrs. Bicknell is also sick with a bad cold.

Mrs. Carleton [Carlos?] D. Cushing, who has been spending the winter in Miami, Fla., is visiting her daughter, Mrs. William R. Taylor.

The school committee have called for bids for the painting of the William E. Frost school, said bids to be in the hands of the school committee by June first.

The monthly meeting of the Ladies’ Missionary society of the Congregational church met with the Misses Atwood on Thursday afternoon. This closes the season’s study of “Redman’s land,” which the members have found enjoyable and profitable.

Harwood L. Wright is having electric lights installed in his home [6 Depot St.]. Electric lights have recently been added to the home of Alfred W. Hartford [Depot St.] and to the cottage house owned by John Feeney [10 Depot St.].

Miss Gertrude Hamlin completes her course at Boston university this next week and Misses Marjory Seavey and Pauline Wallace conclude their freshman year.

At the Sunday evening services at the Congregational church a series of studies of the lives and works of famous religious leaders is being held. Last Sunday evening Mr. Wallace conducted an interesting study of “John Wycliffe and the English bible.” This coming Sunday evening Mr. Rafter will give a talk on “John Wesley and Methodism.” These meetings begin at seven o’clock and everybody is cordially invited. The officers of the Sunday school are busy preparing for children’s Sunday—the second Sunday in June.

The apple blossoms that have so nearly gone show promise of a good apple crop through the town.

Wright & Fletcher have installed a modern gasoline tank at their store.
The baseball team of the Westford academy felt that they were a little more than defeated by the Ayer high school team that came down to play them at Whitney playground on Wednesday afternoon. The score was 22 to 4 in favor of Ayer.

A son [Howard Richard Mills] was born [May 16, 1915.] to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Mills on Sunday.

The C.E. play, “Up to Freddie,” given at the vestry last week, proved so successful that the requests for its repetition may be realized in the near future. Much credit is due Miss Young, who coached the young people so successfully.

Entertainment. The operetta, “Cinderella in Flowerland,” which has been in preparation by the pupils of the Frost school for some time, and which took place at the town hall on Friday evening of last week, proved very much of a success and delighted the capacity audience of interested parents and friends. The pretty costumes of the children, with their fresh, young voices, made the fanciful interpretation of the play most attractive. Miss Hazel Pond impersonated Cinderella and Frederick Lhussier young Prince Charming. Both these young people have unusually good voices and carried their parts finely and were well supported by the other children representing fairies and flowers. The evening’s entertainment reflected the greatest credit upon Miss Mary B. Raynes, instructor in music, who drilled the young people, and also the efficient teaching force at the Frost school, Misses Smith, Grant, Crocker and Wright. Miss Precious, of Forge Village, was the skillful accompanist. The proceeds go for the purchase of records for the new Victrola recently purchased by the school.

About Town. Frost was very much in evidence in the [Stony Brook] valley farms on Thursday, Friday and Saturday last week. Asparagus fell down flat before it, and not being able to rise for the count, was counted out for recuperation. Potatoes got a hit and a skip here and there. Beans obeyed the danger signals and were not injured. Peas on the Prairie farm got badly scorched, so much so that the woodchucks have discontinued them as a daily diet; those on the Old Oaken Bucket farm are ready to bloom.

Charles H Bicknell has sold his farm on the Carlisle road to Mr. Baubser, of Boston, and has bought the George W. Heywood place on [#7] Main street, Westford, and is occupying it.

At the last meeting of West Chelmsford Grange several candidates received the third and fourth degrees. The lecturer’s hour was less than sixty minutes and was devoted to music, both song and instrumental, by Mrs. Harry Saxon and Mrs. Frank Edwards. The next meeting will be held on next week Thursday evening. The long overdue question, “What more can the Grange do for the farmer, the family and the community,” will be discussed by any and every one who feels like contributing some helpful provocation.

The W.C.T.U. will bunch up and trolley this week Saturday to Bedford, the mecca for cold water stimulants.

The Branch Alliance of the Unitarian church will hold a public meeting in the vestry of the church this week Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o’clock. The address will be given by Mrs. Clara Bancroft Beatley, of Boston, on “Morals through reverence.”

A large woodland fire last week in Nashobah hill district called out the fire department and considerable that was not department. This kept fire folks busy, the same day as fires in East Groton and Northwest Westford. This is what can properly be called “between fires.”

John A. Taylor writes from North Dakota of snowstorms lapping over into the lap of spring. Some farmers in this region think something besides spring is in the lap of spring and wish it would get out.

Graniteville. William Buckingham, the well-known ball player, was in the lineup for the L.M.C. [probably Lowell Manufacturing Company, possibly Lowell Monument Co.] team in their game with the Kimball-System [The Kimball System, Inc, sign painters] club on the Aiken street grounds in Lowell on last Saturday afternoon.
It is expected that the local ball club, under the management of William Ledwith, will start the season here on Saturday with some strong club from Lowell.

The Ladies’ Aid society of the M.E. church held a strawberry festival and entertainment in the church on last week Thursday evening and the affair was largely attended. The program was strengthened to a great extent by the presence of Mrs. Florence Saxon, who was heard in several pleasing songs.

Miss Anna Denahy, of Groton, has been a recent guest of Mr. and Mrs. James B. Healy.

Mrs. F. L. Furbush has been visiting with her daughter, Mrs. U. M. Layton, in Livermore Falls, Me., for the past few days.

The members of St. Catherine's church choir gave a very interesting entertainment in Forge Village hall on last week Friday evening that was largely attended.

P. Henry Harrington and Joseph Wall, delegates from Court Graniteville, F. of A., are now attending the convention of the grand court of Foresters of America that is being held in Springfield this week.

The members of the A. R. Choate hose company had a practice tryout on Tuesday evening, during which many of the hydrants throughout the village were flushed out.

The members of the Young People’s Social club of the M.E. church presented the play, “Liberty Corners,” to a crowded house in Dracut on last Monday night.

Alvin Nelson had charge of the entertainment given at the Westford Grange on Thursday night and presented a very pleasing program.

**Forge Village.** Mrs. M. A. Lowther is ill at her home on Bradford street.

Mrs. M. Keefe, of Townsend Harbor, was the guest of her sister, Mrs. J. Carmichael, Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. Uney Murphy and Mrs. M. Lewis, of Lowell, were guests Sunday of Mrs. M. A. Lowther.

John Burnett attended the convention of the Manchester Unity Odd Fellows held in Beverly on last week Wednesday. Mr. Burnett was chosen delegate from Loyal Self-Help lodge, of this village.

Little Ruth Bennett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bennett, is suffering with a broken arm as a result of a fall. Dr. O. V. Wells, of Westford, is attending her.

Miss Mary Madden, of New York city, was a recent guest of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Daly.

Miss Rose Howland, who has been visiting friends here, and who was returning to her home in Keighley, England, on the Lusitania, cabled her relatives here that she is one of the survivors. She also tells a very interesting story of how she was thrown into the water and found a little girl, whom she saved. The little girl proved to be Edith Williams, of Philadelphia, who was the only survivor of a family of seven. Mrs. Nellie Cooper, a former resident of this village, with her baby, was also a passenger on the fatal ship, about whom her friends here have worried. Mrs. Cooper and child are reported among those saved. [The Cunard Line passenger liner Lusitania was sunk by a German U-boat on May 7, 1915, off the coast of Ireland with the loss of over 1000 persons, including 128 Americans.]

Private Patrick O’Hara, mentioned in the casualty list at Ottawa, Ont., is the husband of Mrs. Catherine O’Hara, Pond street, a highly esteemed resident of the village for some years. Private O’Hara enlisted seven months ago in Canada, being a reserve. He also fought in the Boer war. Two months ago he was sent to the front and is now wounded. His son, James O’Hara, is a clerk in the provision store of Joseph Leclerc.

Miss Marion Lord spent the weekend with her sister, Miss Eva M. Lord, of Westboro.
On Sunday the services at St. Andrew’s mission will be held at 9:30 o’clock in the morning, instead of in the afternoon. Sunday school will be held at the usual hour.

The Ladies’ Sewing Circle held their regular meeting in Recreation hall on Thursday afternoon.

Mrs. William Burnett spent Thursday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Chester Blodgett, of the Groton Ridges.

Miss Emily Hartley, of Pleasant street, gave a very interesting address at the Epworth league meeting held in the M.E. church, Graniteville, on Sunday evening.

The Young People’s Social club, recently formed by the young folks of St. Andrew’s mission, has elected the following officers for the year: Miss Edith M. Foster, pres.; Mrs. Edmond Pendleberry [Pendlebury], v.p.; Miss Lottie Parrott, sec.; Albert Collins, treas. The president is preparing a very interesting and instructive course which will greatly benefit the members. Mrs. Warren Sturgis, of Groton, was to meet the club members on Tuesday evening, but owing to the serious illness of her mother she was unable to do so. Miss Rose Peabody, of Groton, was her substitute.

Charles Flanagan and John Sullivan are busy cleaning the chimney of all houses belonging to Abbot & Co.

Ayer

District Court. W. T. Read, of Westford, was found not guilty of non-support of his wife and was discharged from custody on Thursday morning.

Thomas Gibbons was arraigned on a charge of larceny at Westford to which he pleaded guilty. Gibbons is a parole man from the Concord reformatory. The court ordered Officer Gardell, of Westford, who made the arrest, to take charge of the defendant and to see that his charge was delivered to the proper authorities for his return to the reformatory for violation of the terms of his parole.

The Westford Wardsman, May 29, 1915

Center. Miss Marion Hall was a visitor in town over last Sunday, renewing former associations at the Unitarian church.

A little son was born to Mr. and Mrs. John S. Greig last Sunday [May 23] and has been named Donald Fletcher Greig.

Mrs. Effie Bennett Cann and two children are visitors at the parental [George L. & Mary L. (Nickerson) Bennett] home on Main street.

Mrs. William C. Roudenbush entertained very pleasantly five tables of bridge whist at her home [12 Main St.] on last Saturday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Woods were in attendance at the memorial service at the Unitarian church last Sunday, coming up from Somerville in their new and larger automobile.

A good representation from the local C.E. society were in attendance at the meeting of the Lowell Union at the South Chelmsford Baptist church Monday evening and report a pleasant and profitable good time.

Next week Thursday evening will be children’s night at the grange. Mrs. A. H. Sutherland has the meeting in charge and is preparing a varied entertainment by the children. If there are children who would like to have part in the program, with music or recitation, they will please confer with Mrs. Sutherland.

The streets at the center of the town, the common and other public grounds have all been put in the most attractive condition for Memorial day so that our pretty village may look at its best.
Mrs. A. H. [Martha Luella “Mattie”] Sutherland goes this weekend for a family reunion at her sister’s, Mrs. Lewis J. [Lillian] Marden, in Campton N.H. Accompanying her are her two other sisters, Mrs. Etta W. Clark [sic] and Mrs. Florence E. Cameron, of Somerville; also, her brother, Bertram Cass. The party take the trip in Mr. Clarke’s new automobile, with Mr. Clarke as driver.

**Memorial Day Program.** Preparations are completed for an interesting program for the time-honored Memorial day, Monday. The Westford Veteran association will form a line of march at the Cavalry association building on [20] Boston road at ten o’clock and escorted by the Nashua Military band and the Sons and Daughters of Veterans will march to the soldiers’ monument where the exercises of decoration will take place, after which they will march to the town hall where the exercises for the day will be held. Hon. Frank P. Bennett, jr., of Saugus will give the address. There will be music by the band and the splendid quartet from the First Universalist church, Lowell, consisting of Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Simonds, Mr. Needham and Mr. Osborn. Dinner will be served in the lower town hall after the exercises to the veterans and their wives, the Sons and Daughters of Veterans, the wives and husbands and to the entertainers of the day.

In the morning at Whitney playground there will be a ball game between the Westford academy and Forge Village school teams and in the afternoon the much anticipated game between the married men and single men. There will be the usual band concert.

**About Town.** It was open night at Westford station on Tuesday. The telephone was smashed up into something other than the original design, more resembling determination than communication. The door to enter the station was forced open regardless of scratching the paint. After all this pry open and pry into, only sixty cents worth of cash values was obtained. This is a many time broken into station.

The Grange will hold its next meeting on Thursday evening of next week and will be observed as children’s night, in charge of Mrs. Alonzo H. Sutherland. The public is invited and may look for something worth the search.

George Smith was accidentally killed Wednesday noon near Long-Sought pond, near the brick tavern [266 Groton Rd.], by being thrown from a sulky plough. Smith was in charge of the farm owned by J. M. Book, of Lowell, and had been ploughing a piece of land, and was on the return on the road to dinner when he was thrown or fell under the plough which passed over him, fracturing the skull and breaking the right leg in two places. Medical Examiner Bulkeley of Ayer viewed the body and stated that death was due to accident and was probably instantaneous. The deceased was about fifty-five years of age and is survived by a wife.

Heavy frost was reported in some corners of the Stony Brook valley on Wednesday night, but the air breezes prevented severe freezing.

The fifty-mile-an-hour motor car on the Stony Brook railroad had a narrow escape from collision last Saturday forenoon, just east of Westford station, with the double engine freight from Ayer to Lowell.

Harry L. Nesmith tree warden, forest fire warden and moth warden, was called with his men last Saturday while working on Stony Brook road, to a forest fire at Beaver Brook, near Forge Village.

Hazel D. Smith died at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Smith, at Brookside, Sunday morning after a long illness of tuberculosis, aged 17 years, 5 months. The deceased was born in Lowell, but most of her life had been spent at Brookside. She leaves her father and mother; two sisters, Mrs. Grace Whitney and Mrs. Fanny Regmir; two brothers, Paul and Alexander, all of this village. The funeral took place at the home of her parents Tuesday afternoon, Rev. Franklin S Reeves, of North Chelmsford, conducting the services. The bearers were John Westberg, Walter Ryan, Paul Abrahamson, Vincent Papolizio. Burial was in Fairview cemetery, Westford.

The Old Oaken Bucket farm blossomed peas last Saturday. Come on all ye singers of “It was all of a Sunday morning” for these peas are on the bill of fare for dinner Saturday, June 5. Friendly notice having
thus been served as to time and place, all ye song singing competitors and other songless competitors will be wise if they stand from under.

Fire last Saturday afternoon covered about six acres on Oak hill owned by Hon. Herbert E. Fletcher. The cause of the fire is not clear. Those very close to knowing have mentioned a T. D. pipe.3

Up on the sunny heights of Francis hill are potatoes in blossom, planted in March, and new potatoes on the bill of fare for dinner June 8. This knocks all the Fourth of July calculations of some other folk’s [probably a reference to Samuel Taylor’s neighbor, Amos Polley] potato bill of fare.

The John Flynn farm folks are still carting water from Stony Brook, the farm buildings having been waterless since last September, all this on Pigeon hill Stony Brook road.

Mice stripped the bark from a young apple orchard on the Read farm last winter, including the roots near the surface. George A. Drew, the present owner, has painted and patched up the gnawed parts and has prepared a hard pan clay to pack around the trees.

Among the veterans unable to attend memorial service Sunday was Samuel S. Humiston.

Miss Madolin Whitney announces the opening of the “Harvard Tea Shop” Saturday, May 29.

**Memorial Sunday.** The old First Parish church was filled to standing room at the union memorial service last Sunday. The united choirs of the Methodist, Congregational and Unitarian churches carried out an effective part of the program, with solos by Miss Marion Moreland and Mrs. Charles D. Colburn, and “The soldier’s farewell,” by the male quartet, Messrs. Nelson, Burne, Blanchard and Smith. Rev. Julian R. Pennington, minister of the church, delivered an eloquent sermon. Southern born, besides extensive travel in the south, his viewpoint was decidedly original and refreshing. The line of march was formed at the town hall, the sons and daughters of veterans acting as escort. The following veterans were in the line: Wesley O. Hawkes, J. Everett Woods, George W. Nesmith, Wayland F. Balch, Albert Randlett, Joseph E. Knights, John Wilson. The commander of the veteran’s association, Ai Bicknell, was prevented by illness from being present. He saw severe, stirring action in the Bull Runs and the starvations of southern prisons, besides which his present illness is but a holiday. The counterpart of the exercises of this Memorial Sunday will take place on Monday, with address by Hon. Frank P. Bennett, of Saugus, and concert by the Nashua Military band and other exercises appropriate to Memorial day.

**Alliance.** The Woman’s Alliance of the Unitarian church, with generosity becoming their matinee, gave a neighborhood meeting at the parlors of the church on last Saturday afternoon. Mrs. Alma M. Richardson, president of the Westford Alliance, presided and effectively launched the following program: Hymn, scripture reading; song, Mrs. F. L. Roberts, of Lowell, always in key and inspirational; roll call, president responding with the number of guests present from Ayer, Chelmsford, Groton, Littleton, Lowell, Pepperell, Shirley; Rev. J. R. Pennington gave effective utterance to the hospitality of the meeting; song, Mrs. F. L. Roberts; address, Mrs. Clara Bancroft Beatley, of Boston, on “Morals through reverence.” Those who heard this address were unanimous in its effectiveness, and in the necessity for the application of its principles. They were delighted with the speaker and the tone of its hospitality.

---

3 “The emergence of white clay pipes with the initials ‘TD’ dates back over 200 years and by some accounts has been correlated possibly with the London pipe maker Thomas Dormer who, along with his sons, produced pipes from the mid-1750s until about 1780. Decades later, ‘TD’-marked pipes came to stand for a generic style and not for the actual pipe maker. The initials themselves became a trademark used to denote a certain brand. Today they represent a major diagnostic decorative attribute, having been excavated throughout America in contexts dating from the mid-18th century into the early 20th century.” From Odyssey’s Virtual Museum, http://odysseysvirtualmuseum.com/products/Clay-Tobacco-Pipe-%252d-TD-Style.html.
After the hospitality and cheer of song and address came the hospitality of a well balanced luncheon of ice cream, tea from Russia, Dutch cheese, salted nuts, chicken patties, hot rolls, call of all sorts. It was a bounteous bill of fare without any bill. Mrs. Edward Fisher and Mrs. William R. Carver poured. The responsibility of the meeting was in the charge of Mrs. Herbert V. Hildreth and Mrs. J. Herbert Fletcher. Mrs. [Miss] Julia H. Fletcher was pianist.

**Grange.** At the last meeting of the Grange the Alvin Nelson musical company of Graniteville furnished the entertainment. Some of the songs were original in words and music, in hit and wit, which brought forth in good natured feeling a brief history of the rules governing the raising of early peas. This original song came forth from the reserve ability of Supt. Henry Smith, of Graniteville. The following was the program: Piano duet, Helen Furbush and Nancy Healy; song, “Perfect day,” Henry Blanchard; quartet, Henry Smith, Arthur Blanchard, Charles Burne, Oscar A. Nelson; song, Frank Charlton; duet, Roy and Jennie Blanchard; song, Frank Charlton; piano duet, Miss Healy and Miss Furbush; song, quartet, “It was all of a Sunday morning.” Here was where early green peas were served. The Grange voted to have a parade and other features on the Fourth of July, and added Rev. David Wallace and Mrs. Alonzo H. Sutherland to the executive committee to charge Fourth of July up.

**W.C.T.U.** The delights of the weather and the delights of the auto ride combined to make last Saturday an especial remembrance day for twelve members of the W.C.T.U., who made the trip to the branch settlement of the Frances Willard home at Bedford Springs called “Rest Home and Industrial Center,” opened March 28, 1910. It seeks to provide rest for tired nerves and run-down finances and encourage the discouraged. At present there are about fifty persons availing this home with accommodations for seventy-five, limited in scope for women only.

Connected with the home is a farm of 100 acres, purchased at a cost of $11,000. Dairy and poultry farming are the specialties; manufactures limited to weaving rugs, mats, scarfs, belts and portieres of linen and silk. Since purchasing the farm a new dormitory has been commenced but not completed, containing forty-four rooms. The building is 83x37 feet, and will cost $15,000. This industrial center at Bedford is planned so that the residents may earn a part, if not all, of their board. To those who can, five dollars per week is charged; to those who can’t, three dollars per week is charged. The home has permanent funds of $20,000 and property values at Bedford and Boston of $100,000, upon which there is a mortgage of $13,000.

The home is doing a great work for the unfortunate tired and the unfortunate in low ebb. The home is wisely administered by an advisory board of such sane balance as Rev. Paul Revere Frothingham. The home would be glad at the present time of a donation of love in cash as exemplified in the motto of Edward Everett Hale: “Look up and not down, look out and not in, and lend a hand.”

The visitors from Westford were conveyed in two autos, T. Arthur E. Wilson and William E. Wright being at the wheels. The return trip was by historic Concord and Lake Nagog.

**Graniteville.** Next Sunday, May 30, the veterans will decorate the graves of their dead comrades in the different cemeteries in the town. Several singers will accompany the veterans on their tour and the start will be made from Westford town hall at one in the afternoon. Fairview cemetery will be the first one visited, after which the party will visit the Hillside and Wright cemeteries in the north part of the town, then St. Catherine’s cemetery in Graniteville, the last stop being at Westlawn, near the Littleton line. Appropriate and well-known hymns will be sung at all the cemeteries by the best of local singers, under the direction of Henry Smith, of Graniteville. All are cordially invited to take part in these services, and those who own automobiles and wish to loan their cars for the use of the veterans for a couple of hours on next Sunday kindly inform W. O. Hawkes and they can rest assured that the courtesy will be deeply appreciated by the veterans.

The members of Cameron Circle, C. of F. of A., held a very successful entertainment and May party in Abbot’s hall, Forge Village, on Friday night. The program consisted of songs by St. Catherine’s male
quartet, Fred Defoe, Frank Charlton, Mrs. Florence Saxon and others. Miss Veronica Lowe, of North Chelmsford, gave several pleasing readings, and the violin and piano duets given by Misses Ruth and Mildred Ward, also of North Chelmsford, scored a great success. The whole entertainment proved to be highly enjoyable and was deeply appreciated by the large audience present. Dancing followed the entertainment and refreshments were served. A late car conveyed the merry party to their homes after the dance.

J. A. Healy and F. G. Sullivan attended the M.C.O.F. convention that was held in Boston this week.

There was no baseball game here last Saturday and judging from present conditions it looks as though there will be no team to represent Graniteville the coming season. This is to be regretted, as this village is usually right up with the top-notchers when it comes to amateur baseball. Perhaps the boys will thaw out a little more when the weather gets warmer.

William Casey of Salem has been a recent visitor here.

Forge Village. Rev. W. M. Ford delivered a most interesting lecture on the present war in Europe on Tuesday evening in Abbot hall before a large audience. Mr. Ford illustrated his discourse by pictures on the Balopticon. The proceeds of the affair are for the benefit of the Y.P.S.C. of St. Andrew’s mission.

Mr. and Mrs. William Burnett are spending this week as guests of their daughter, Mrs. Ernest Longbottom, of East Lexington.

Thomas Monahan, the well known mill carpenter, is ill at the Lowell General hospital. His many friends here sincerely hope for a speedy and complete recovery.

The members of the John Edwards Hose company held their regular meeting recently and elected Fennimore Morton captain. Harry Brown has been admitted to the company. On last Tuesday evening a tryout was held by the firemen and the different hydrants were tested.

Last week Friday Parents’ day was observed in Cameron school. The work of the pupils during the year was displayed. Flowers and plants decorated the different rooms and many visitors called during the day. A short musical program was enjoyed in the afternoon, consisting of a violin solo by Miss Winnie Thompson and a piano duet by Misses Ethel Collins and Daisy Precious. Folk dancing and drills by the different grades concluded the program.

St. Catherine’s church choir presented its annual entertainment in Abbot hall on Friday evening of last week and as usual scored a great success. Several vocal and instrumental numbers and two comedies completed the program. The entire numbers were very finely given, especially the singing, and as each did his own part in such an able manner, it would be difficult to specialize. The choir is to be congratulated on the excellent work and the managers of the affair should feel well repaid for their efforts. Miss Hanley and Rachael Wall were the accompanists of the evening.

Concert. Abbot hall was the scene on Wednesday evening of one of the most delightful concerts held here for many years. The concert was in charge of Miss Mary B. Raynes, supervisor of music in the public schools, and Miss Edith M. Forster of the Cameron school, and was given for the benefit of St. Andrew’s mission choir. The Ladies’ Titania orchestra played the opening numbers, which were greatly enjoyed. Miss Marguerite Young of the teaching staff of Westford academy delighted the audience with several readings and was heartily encored. Mrs. Nano Gallagher Leahy, the well known soprano of Lowell, won new admirers here and was obliged to return with two encores. The accompanist of the evening was Miss Harriet Mansur and she received her share of the applause.

At the conclusion of the concert, dancing was enjoyed to the music of the orchestra. The members of the orchestra are well known: Miss Mildred Brennon, violinist; Miss Mary B. Raynes, cellist; Miss Harriet Mansur, pianist; Miss Grace McEvoy, cornetist.
News Item. Mrs. M. E. Buchold of Ludlow, Vt., is spending a week with her sister, Mrs. J. Herbert Fletcher.

Obituary. The community was saddened on Wednesday afternoon at the announcement of the death of Samuel G. Humiston for more than half a century a well known and esteemed resident of Westford. Mr. Humiston had been ill but a comparatively short time, his illness being diagnosed as pneumonia only the first of the week, and taking a decided turn for the worse Tuesday night he grew weaker until the end came.

Deceased was born at North Bay, N.Y., March 31, 1838. He was a veteran of the Civil War, having seen two periods of service in Company D, 53d regiment [Mass. Infantry and Battery H], Fourth Mass. Heavy Artillery. After the war he came from Fitchburg to Westford, where for many years he carried on what was known as the Flagg farm on [31] Flagg road in the east part of the town. His wife was the late Harriet Flagg Humiston. He is survived by an only son, Elliot F. Humiston, and one grandson, Elliot F. Humiston, jr., of West Chelmsford. One other son, George Humiston, died in early manhood.

The funeral service will be held this Saturday afternoon at the Congregational church at which he and his family have always been associated. The pathos of his death coming just at the Memorial day season is especially felt for his surviving comrades in the Westford Veteran association. Mr. Humiston had been treasurer of this organization for many years. Since he sold his farm and retired from active work Mr. Humiston has made his home with Mr. and Mrs. Ai Bicknell [at 2 Main St.] in this village. [On May 18 Mr. Humiston had participated as one of eleven veterans of the 53rd Mass. Infantry Regiment in the exercises for the unveiling of a granite tablet marking the site of Camp Stevens in Ayer where the 53rd had trained. One wonders if the stress of this ceremony at Ayer contributed to Mr. Humiston’s death. See Turner’s Public Spirit, Ayer, May 22, 1915.]