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Alice Collins turns 96 tracing family to 1680

By Gordon B. Seavey

One of the oldest persons in Westford will celebrate her 96th birthday on December 2 with special honors.

She is Mrs. Alice (Luella) Prescott Collins who, for the past four years, has made her residence at the Westford Nursing Home at the Center.

She has spent much of her life in the impressive brick-end colonial at the corner of Forge Village and Town Farm Roads. It was built by her great-grand-grandfather, Jonas Prescott, in 1780.

She traces her Westford ancestry to John Prescott who came from England in 1640 to settle in Boston. He then moved on to Watertown and Lancaster.

Son Jonas, a blacksmith by trade, came to what is now Westford to build a sawmill at the outlet of what is now known as Forge Pond. He made a deal with Andrew the Indian to dam the outlet for water power which became the head of Stony Brook.

In later years many mills were established along this stream,

which enters the Merrimac River at North Chelmsford.

Jonas later established a forge near the original site and the area soon became known as Forge Village.

Mrs. Collins also claims relationship to Colonel John Robinson, Westford's Revolutionary War hero, who fought in many encounters, including Concord and Bunker Hill.

All through the years, the Prescotts were most prominent in this area, holding many town and church offices. Mrs. Collins now is among the last members of this family residing in Westford.

Her husband, Frank, was a U.S. Government employee until his death many years ago. A son, Dr. Raymond Collins, lives at 978 Overlook Road in Berkeley California.

The nurses at the home are planning a special party for Mrs. Collins on her birthday. They report that she is one of their favorites, has a good appetite and enjoys the friendship of others as they gather daily in the recreation room.



Alice Prescott Collins, whose roots go deep into Westford's past, soon will be celebrating her 96th birthday at the Westford Nursing Home. (Photo by Gail Ferney)