

# Colonial skills alive on the Common...

By Gordon B. Seavey

Skills of the early settlers will be shown Saturday Sept. 25 under the shade of ancient trees on historic Westford Common as the local Colonial Minutemen Company observes Colonel John Robinson Day.

Old crafts will be demonstrated continuously from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. by local and nearby workers, who also will offer their products. The crafts will be of the Colonial period and the workers, dressed in costume, will discuss their skills and trade.

George Sandy Shepherd will display his collection of old muskets and firearms, and the Historical Society will have a table of pertinent pictures and articles.

A collection of gravestone rubbings of Westford and other slate markers will be shown by Ray Hansell, and the ever popular art of silversmithing will be at William Wisnowski's work bench.

A trio of ladies will demonstrate cloth making, from carding and spinning of yarn to the weaving. They are Mrs. Kimball Thurston of Westford, Judy Cataldo of Concord and Sue Seidel of Chelmsford.

Mrs. Theodore W. Engel will use rush to cane chairs, and Larry A. Smith will demonstrate

tinsmith work. Mrs. Jeanne Fallier, a noted rug hooking instructor, will show samples of her art.

Other arts and crafts will include pewter work, patchwork, quilting, quilling, theorem painting, rug braiding, chair caning, and U.S. flag history.

A group from Lowell will show Indian crafts and wares and also present tribal dances. An artist working in charcoal will do portraits.

According to Lt. Col. Frederick L. Elliott of the Minutemen, the affair is to honor Westford's outstanding Colonial hero, Lt. Col. John Robinson, who led 130 local Minutemen to Concord on April 19, 1775. He marched with Major Buttrick, leading the militia to meet the British at the bridge.

It is recorded that one of the first bullets to come from the British side pierced Robinson's sleeve, then entered the head of Luther Blanchard, a drummer boy with the Acton troops, causing the latter's death that July 4.

The crafts program will be in conjunction with the antique show and sale for the benefit of the Westford League of Women Voters in the Parish Hall of the First Parish United Church facing the Common, and in the adjacent Westford Museum, the original Academy building.