

Family day activities set for Westford common Sunday

By GORDON B. SEAVEY

WESTFORD — Martial music of days long gone will pour over the common Sunday when Westford Minutemen present a family day honoring the birth of Lt. Col. John Robinson, the community's revolutionary hero.

Colonial crafts will be continually demonstrated from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will include a gunsmith, carpenter, tinsmith and other craftsmen in Colonial costumes, plying their trades of a couple of cen-

turies ago.

And for the women there will be chair caning, candlemaking, spinning and weaving, needlework and scrimshaw, the engraving of small objects such as shells and ivory.

Using the J.V. Fletcher Library as well as the hall of the First Parish Church, a play along with films from Williamsburg will be presented all during the family day.

The sketch written by

Virginia Kimball for the bicentennial will be re-enacted. Entitled "A Day for Doughnuts" it covers an anecdote in the life of the Robinson family when father left hurriedly for the skirmish at North Bridge, Concord, on April 19, 1775. Curtain time is 2:45.

THE HISTORICAL films were carefully researched and produced at Colonial Williamsburg. One depicts the making of guns from the pouring of the metals to finishing the stocks and the carriages; the other is Colonial music played on instruments of that period. They will be shown at 1, 2, 3:30 and 4:30.

The historical society will have a bake sale and the Book and Thimble Club of the First Parish will serve refreshments, some of which will be concocted from old recipes.

The Minutemen will put on their own demonstrations and drills, including fife and drum parades. There will be athletic events for the children.

The man in whose memory the program is being offered was born in Topsfield in 1735, coincidentally on July 24. Robinson was nearly 30 before he married.

He brought his bride, Huldah Perley, a niece of

General Israel Putnam, the great American patriot and soldier, to Westford in 1764 to farm lands which now comprise the locations of Westford Academy and the Robinson School.

ROBINSON HAD a superb physique and had attained the rank of lieutenant colonel in the local militia, part of a regiment of Minutemen commanded by Col. William Prescott of Pepperell.

When the call came from Concord and Lexington, Robinson quickly departed but before mounting his horse his far ewell to his wife was a request to "call up the girls and hired servant and cook all the provisions they could ... and send it by the 14 year old lad on horseback to Concord."

According to his great, great granddaughter, Olive Ann Prescott, who wrote in 1896, "the boy took a goodly supply of substantial food that would bear a quick horseback ride. A bushel of doughnuts had an honorable place in that outdoor lunch in Concord." This story is the theme of the play to be presented in the parish hall.

Lt. Herbert Sallet of 29 North Hill Road heads the committee arranging the family day program.