

Fisher Family, long prominent in town affairs

By GORDON B. SEAVEY

WESTFORD — The town, now preparing for the 250th anniversary of its formal establishment, will honor some of its old families.

Among these will be the nine sons and daughters of Alvan and Amanda Fisher who grew up in the old Craft homestead (circa 1730) at 3 Depot Street. All were graduated from Westford Academy.

The homestead, now known as the Running Fox Farm, is now owned by Eston S. Fox, Jr..

The eldest was Frederick A., a graduate of Bowdoin College in 1881 who later became judge of the Lowell District Court and who also practiced law in that city. A younger brother, Edward, maintained a law office with his brother. He was also a town clerk and state representative.

The oldest girl, Adeline, was a director of the town library. After the death of her husband, William Kittredge who operated the Old Homestead Farm on Depot Street, she married Rev. Louis H. Buckshorn, a Unitarian minister.

John left home at sixteen, later attended M.I.T. and became chief engineer of the Hartford Street Railroad. He retired as chief engineer of the General Electric River Works at Lynn. His son, Fred, is the only descendant of the family now living in Westford. Until his retirement in 1968, he was clerk for the Westford selectmen and town accountant, a post he held for ten years.

Lila taught in the district school at Minot's Corner and later moved on to Boston English High. She was an avid traveler.

Thomas graduated from Worcester Polytech Institute and finally was head of the Lowell Trade School.

Clara, who had a summer home at Forge Pond, became librarian at the Lowell Court House. Ruth, who shared the cottage at Forge, was the youngest and died last year at the age of 102. After graduation from Lowell Normal, in 1900 she became the eighth grade teacher at the Center School (now Tadmuck Club on Boston Road) at a salary of \$450 per year.

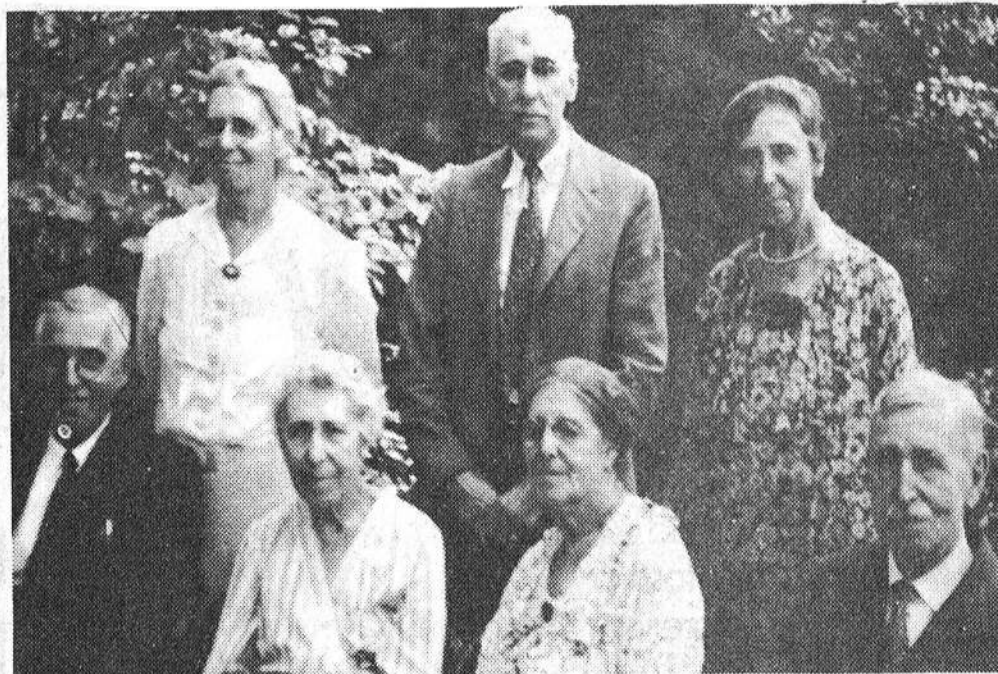
When the four-room elementary school across the street from her birthplace was built in 1907, she became its first principal. At her suggestion, it was named the William E. Frost School, in

honor of the principal of Westford Academy for 32 years who had recently died.

She then moved on to Providence where she taught English and history in the high school. She always remained in touch with Westford and built a retirement home on Depot Street.

Aleck was a beloved town character, who chose to remain on the family farm. He ran a slaughter-house for the area and before automobiles became popular, drove about various farms, picking up calves for veal. He brought them back to Westford tied in grain sacks. Later, John Feeney, John Greig and Ed Clement drove his Reo Speed Wagon as Aleck never obtained a license. He was a stalwart member of the Edward M. Abbot Hose Co. No. 1. He married Frances Bannister, a member of another old Westford family in later life.

Over the years, the Fishers held many positions in the town government and were a highly respected family, as old residents will attest.



Older Westford residents who were around in the mid 1950's well remember the Alvan Fisher family of five boys and four girls, all of whom made significant contributions to society. A family gathering about 1930 found, left to right: John, Ruth, Clara, Edward, Adeline, Lila and Fred on hand. Tom and Aleck missed the photographic event. (File of Austin D. Fletcher)