

Remembering Fletcher

By Gordon B. Seavey

J Varnum Fletcher, whose love for his native town of Westford where he grew up as a boy on the Fletcher Cold Spring farm, never flagged

Westford Wanderings

He made a small fortune in the Faneuil Hall Market in Boston, commuting daily to the suburban town of Belmont by rail only ten miles from the North Station. Here he lived in grand style, was president of the town's first bank, etc.

When the apparent "suggestion" came in 1893 for funds to build a new library, his generosity was forthcoming immediately. The library we now know at the Common was built in 1895 mostly from funds provided by him. The building

carries his name.

He old home still exists at 483 Pleasant Street, near Belmont Center, and recently sold for \$825,000. A circular drive leads to the mansion set on three acres of scenic land and was built in 1868. Copper beeches still survive.

Features of the mansion are a double living room with two fireplaces. Three large bedrooms with fireplaces and a sewing room were on the second floor. On the third floor were tremendous storage rooms with a stairway leading to the widow's walk. The roof was slate. Fond of horses, he had a large stable nearby.

It was of the finest construction. Most of the woodwork is in black walnut. His good taste and affection for quality construction is also shown throughout "his" J. V. Fletcher Library in Westford Center.