

Westford scholarship fund benefits from \$10,000 Wright family donation

By GORDON B. SEAVEY
Sun Correspondent

WESTFORD - Honoring their father, a native of Westford, and the heritage of the Wright name of over 250 years of local history, the four children of Dr. Clarence D. Wright have established a scholarship fund of \$10,000 in his name to aid Westford Academy students who intend to pursue further education in the sciences.

The late Dr. Wright, a U.S. government career man, was graduated from Westford Academy in 1904 in a class of five boys and nine girls, one of whom was the late Charlotte Prescott Greig, town treasurer for 33 years. His was the classical course.

Upon graduation he entered Clark College in Worcester where he received three degrees: a BA, master's and a doctorate. His field was chemistry.

He entered the business world in 1911 with General Electric. After a year he joined the Bureau of Chemistry, Department of Agriculture (now the Food and Drug Administration) in Washington. It was in this region where he and

his wife, the former Leslie B. Flenner, brought up three boys and a girl.

After 44 years in government service, he retired. He died in Maryland in 1979. He is buried with his wife in Wright Cemetery alongside his parents.

Dr. Wright's parents were among the town's earliest settlers. His father, Hammet Delette Wright, was married to Emma May Chandler of the North End and Clarence was their only son.

Old-timers will recall that Hammett Wright operated a sizeable quarry for many years on Snake Meadow Hill. This was in the rear of the family homestead on North Street in the Graniteville section of town.

Always came home

Clarence maintained an apartment in the home for many years and often the family would spend summers in this vicinity.

His children, the donors of the fund, are: Richard B. Wright, a retired colonel in the U.S. Army, now living in Sunriver, Oregon, with his wife, the former Mary Elizabeth Perrins of Westford;

John H. Wright of Keyser, W. Va.; Captain Clarence Chandler Wright (USN-Ret.) of Walnut Creek, Calif., and Mrs. Elizabeth Wright Nimitz of Virginia Beach, Va.

The Wrights were among the earliest settlers in Westford, clearing farmlands particularly in the north and east sections where it took a lot of grit to till the hilly, rocky soil.

On March 1, 1753, a committee "voted to Except of the Land on Tarklin hill for a Burying Place as it was laid out." This, the Hillside Cemetery at Depot Street and Nutting Road, is the second oldest in town and consists of about an acre.

It was the gift of Ebenezer and Thomas Wright. Thirty years ago a descendant, William L. Wright, left \$5,000 for cemetery care.

The Wright Cemetery on Groton Road (Route 40, near Keyes Pond) was a private graveyard established by the family in 1836. It was taken over by the town several years ago at the family's request.

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