

Westford Wanderings

By Gordon B Seavey

Ice Break-up The gang around Forge Pond especially those who enjoy the sport of ice fishing, this time of the year like to wager as to the time the ice will break up on the 212 acre pond one of the largest in this area

It happened on April Fool's day which was warm and very windy. The wind pressure soon sent the waters into large waves quickly breaking up the ice sheet into smaller and smaller floes.

By noon the judges, Fire Chief George Rogers and Postmaster Bob Connell, deemed that the person who guessed nearest to that time was Roger Godfroy.

It was not the earliest nor the latest time the ice has left the pond, of which one-third lies in Littleton. According to Bob the earliest date was March 7, 1974 and on four occasions the event occurred on April 13 with the most recent one was last year. He has been keeping records for 22 years.

Is the weather pattern changing? The late Annie Precious whose veracity was unquestioned, remembered skating on the outlet of Forge Pond (mistakenly called Mattawanakee by some) on Thanksgiving Day of the year 1905.

Forge froze completely by Christmas and the thickest the ice became was 28 inches in the coves about 24 in mid lake. The first snow fell on December 6 and

remained until April 1. What a long winter!

No Reunion Elaborate plans were made in 1942 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Westford Academy in 1792 one of the earliest secondary schools in the country. But World War II came along and the committee all grads of the old school concluded that it was not the time to do much celebrating. With great reluctance the idea was dropped.

Old timers will recall those on the committee and the chairman George A. Drew the apple grower Attorney Edward A. Fisher former town clerk Harold W. Harrington and Mrs. Henry W. (Harriet Sargent) Hildreth were other members.

Also working with the group were Allister F. MacDougall, Mrs. Daisy Precious Perry and Mrs. Carroll J. Rollins the veteran secretary of the Alumni Association.

Other members were the retired principal for 25 years William C. Roudenbush, Gordon B. Seavey, Class of 1929 and William R. Taylor, Herbert E. Fletcher a member of the Board of Trustees for 55 years was the honorary chairman.

After waiting another 25 years, the alumni gathered at the Academy now the Abbott Middle School for its 175th observance. Ex-Senator Lev Saltonstall was the principal speaker and MacDougall was the committee chairman.