



A GRADUATE of Westford Academy, Class of 1909, Allister F. MacDougall has served continuously on its Board of Trustees for 42 years, of which he was president 8 years. During these four decades, many of his colleagues have passed on.

The trustees are shown in this photo taken in 1957 as dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Edward M. Abbot, a name connected with the founding of the institution in 1792. They are, front row, Roger H. Hildreth, Dr. A. Warren Stearns (vice president), William R. Taylor (president), Edward M. Abbot (treasurer), and Charles L. Hildreth (secretary-auditor).

Rear row: Gordon B. Seavey, H. Arnold Wilder, John A. Kimball, Alan W. Bell, John B. Abbot (assistant treasurer), William E. Wright, Mr. MacDougall and J. Herbert Fletcher.

Returning to Westford he served for 32 years as the Middlesex County Extension Service Director. From 1925-1950 this county was one of the leading agricultural counties in the U.S. His national association in county work with contacts throughout the world has been one of his most rewarding experiences.

But the rewarding experience to the town of Westford has been the return of Mr. MacDougall - the Americana - the missing link of Westford's unwritten history (our written history ends with the year 1883). He has spent his lifetime searching, researching, collecting and sharing local history. He is often engaged as a lecturer - one of his favorite topics is Early Farm Tools - and has shared many reminiscences via the Westford Eagle. He authored Yesterdays of Westford Academy and when the missing receipts to the construction of the original Westford Academy turned up in an attic in Harvard, Massachusetts in 1967, he was the person sought out. For two months he diligently deciphered the old scripts which answered so many questions (including the fact that our Academy was patterned from the Andover Academy). As a result he wrote the more factual supplement, More Yesterdays of Westford Academy. He enjoyed it!

Letters and inquiries are often referred to Mr. MacDougall. At the 150th Anniversary of the American Revolution it was he who scouted up an old plow for the Lexington exhibit. It turned out to be the plow left in the furrow when Captain Isaac Davis of Acton was called to battle April 19, 1775. Today it resides in the Acton Town Hall, a treasure recovered.

Since 1935, Mr. MacDougall has served on the Board of Trustees of Westford Academy. He is a past president. As a Granger he still manages to win prizes and awards for farm produce. Always an apple grower - he claims he brought his whole orchard out from Lowell on the town trolley (they were seedlings), he had the honor in 1973 of planting a Baldwin apple tree at the official ground planting of the Preservation at Old Sturbridge Village. Baldwins and Roxbury Russets are favorites of his.

An active member of the Westford Historical Society, he also served a term as Chairman of the Westford Bicentennial Committee and has been instrumental in many lasting contributions which will add to the enjoyment and education of future generations. These include: original Westford Academy restoration for Town Museum, the new flag pole and granite benches on Westford common, the marker for the Westford Knight, the World War II Memorial on the Library lawn, the Minot's Corner stone and plaque in honor of Captain Jonathan Minot who led Westford Minutemen to Concord Bridge in 1775, the replacing of the granite front step to the original Academy site and the naming of the present Westford Academy library after one of the original subscribers, Zaccheus Wright.

As a member of the Westford Colonial Minutemen, it is with pride and patriotism that this octogenarian marches in our local parades and participated in the Bicentennial parades in Concord. As a Minuteman he has officiated at the dedication of Minot's Corner, the Bicentennial Post Office plaque dedication, exercises at the Old Burying Ground in Parkerville and many other events. Presently he looks forward to the 250th Anniversary of Westford which occurs in 1979.

Much devoted work has gone into preserving our Westford history. It is with much gratitude that townspeople and friends honor him. Hats off to you, Allister F. MacDougall!

The MacDougalls celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary this spring of 1977. Mrs. MacDougall, a fine artist and photographer, has preserved the character of our historic New England village in color. Their combined hobbies make them an extremely busy, popular and most interesting couple. Their three sons served in the Armed Forces during the Second World War: Gordon as a Captain in the Air Corp; Allister, Jr. as Lieutenant in the Medical Corp and Stephen, who also lives on Boston Road, was in the Navy. Their only daughter, Louise (Mrs. Dana Norris) presently lives in St. Croix. The couple is proud of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Allister F. MacDougall



ALLISTER MACDOUGALL has been instrumental in many lasting contributions to the town of Westford including the new flag pole and granite benches on Westford Common.



ALLISTER MACDOUGALL in the period dress of the 1700's holds a 1770 French musket used at the Concord Bridge against the British of Bunker Hill. The original owner, Benjamin Osgood, was a Private in Captain Jonathan Minot's Company of thirty-six men from Westford. Mr. MacDougall carried the musket as he marched in the Bicentennial parades.