

# After nearly two centuries, woman heads W.A. Trustees

By Gordon B. Seavey

For nearly two centuries, the Trustees of Westford Academy have been a man's world. No woman ever served on the board until recently and no female ever served as principal.

All this has changed.

The 15-member board, at its 193rd annual meeting on May 22, unanimously named a native daughter, Barbara Hildreth Parkhurst, as its new president. She was graduated from the Academy in the Class of 1935.

Mrs. Parkhurst traces her ancestry to several of the founding families of the town as well as being the tenth generation descendant of the original Hildreth arrival. She is the daughter of the late Arthur G. Hildreth, former Academy trustee, and Bertha Norris Hildreth, a former teacher at the school.

The new president has a degree in science from Simmons College and is a member of the Corporation of that institution. She recently retired as parasitologist at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Although presently living in Chelmsford at 7 Overlook Drive, she and her husband plan to move to Westford to Hildreth Hills situated on land once owned by her forbears. She is founding president of the Chelmsford

League of Women Voters.

## Alumnae Worker

The "second in command" is also a woman as vice-president. She is Eileen O'Neill Anderson of the Class of 1953.

Long active in the Alumnae Association and a past president of that group as well as of the Westford Businessmen's Association, she is a busy member of the Nabbasset Country club.

With her husband Carl, they operate one of the last remaining large apple orchards in this area, the 170-acre spread at Chamberlin's Corner, at various times called the Read, Drew and Mormon Farm.

Re-elected for the tenth time as secretary is Bette R. Hook, retired history teacher at the Academy. She was the first woman appointed to the board.

Sole male among the officers is A. Dana Fletcher, '42, as treasurer. He is treasurer of C. G. Sargent's Corp.

To fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees, William J. Kavanaugh Jr., of 46 Depot St., town moderator for the past 11 years and a 1946 graduate of the Academy, was named. He is a graduate of Bentley College and is a certified accountant.

A native of Westford, he was chairman of the Westford Finance Committee for 10

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