

What a difference 100 years can make

Sketch of Westford Center was made just a century ago by an unknown artist, and long before Kodak began pouring out its famous cameras.

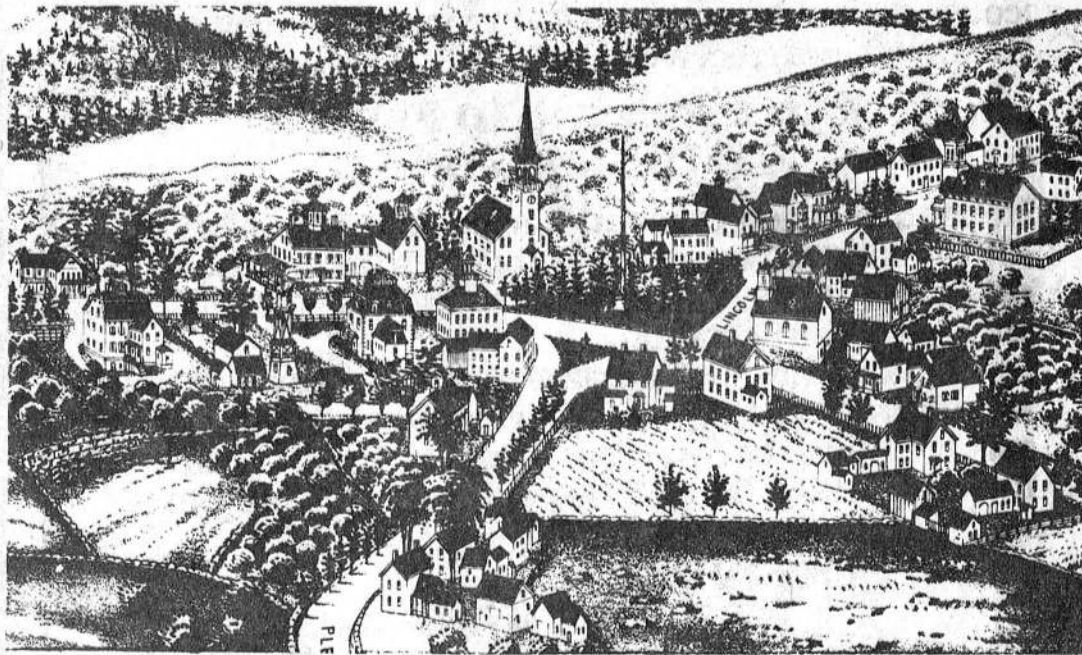
Hildreth Street was Pleasant Street, School Street has been changed to Boston Road. The town hall was new and the old colonial home across the street, for many years the local telephone exchange, still stands.

The country store (upper left) still faces the Cameron mansion, now the Westford Nursing Home, but the Abbot mansions next to them and on both sides of the street are long gone — one burned; the other became the site of the post office.

At the head of the Common the original Academy stood, now moved behind the parish hall of the First Church, once the Congregational Church.

The dignified and graceful old meeting house, built in 1794, is a focal point. To its right is the Kneeland House, now the site of the J.V. Fletcher Library, soon to be enlarged. Stray cows and horses no longer graze on the Common, purchased in 1748 from Joe Underwood for 20 pounds for a spot for the Colonial soldiers to show off their skills with the musket. Later Academy students used it for their ball field, but girls stayed with their knitting.

Gordon B. Seavey



WESTFORD, MASS.

1886.