

# Westford Recollections



This is the Wright and Fletcher Store about 1908 (more recently known as the general store in Westford Center). Teams arrived here daily to load produce for the Boston Markets, the mail and the school children into the school barge

by Mrs. Charles S. Kennedy  
'About 60 Years Ago'

News items from the  
Westford Wardsman  
Feb. 12, 1910  
Center

After February 15 the carriers on the RFD routes will not collect pennies from their customers' boxes, and with them buy and affix stamps on unstamped mail matter. The practice has grown to be a time destroying nuisance. Three million cents have been so collected and employed in a single year, requiring a service from carriers, which properly belongs to the public. So after the date named persons enjoying free delivery should see that all their letters are stamped when deposited for the carrier to collect.

Forge Village

The grammar school children of Cameropp School enjoyed a sleigh ride through the adjoining towns, Wednesday.

An Hour More of Daylight

It is an interesting idea that is proposed. To change the clock from May first to October first of each year, so that time will be advanced one hour. In other words, on May first we would all move the hands of our clocks at five o'clock in the morning, say to six o'clock and go about our day's work. We would stop work at the usual hour, say at six o'clock in the afternoon. But instead of getting dark at seven or eight o'clock, it would not become dark until nine o'clock. We would have, in other words, another hour of daylight and yet

we would have the same hours for business and sleep as now. But where we would gain is in an earlier hour in the cool of the morning for work and an additional hour of daylight in the evening. The only point at which there would be a loss is during the night of the last day of April, when we would lose an hour's sleep. One can easily figure out what this would mean to the businessman coming home, especially if he lives in the suburbs. It would make outdoor exercise possible too after the evening meal. It would certainly be an untold benefit to school children in May, June and September. The idea, at its first glance, seems foolish and impossible, but one can not study it long before the tremendous advantages gained by the change become apparent. Of course it is like cheating at solitaire; you cheat only yourself. But inasmuch as we must live by the clock, as we judge every action by it, it is certainly a pertinent question that asks: Why not change the clock, particularly as we do not actually change time?

It looks as if the British and Canadian parliaments would pass the bills for one more hour of daylight and it is an interesting question. Why shouldn't we do likewise in America?

November 19, 1910

About Town

Parkerville and rural suburbs are still without rapid transit, but the newly-installed telephone provides them with

rapid means of talking and thirteen families have gone at it on line thirty-six.

December 3, 1910

Centre

Among minor improvements noted around the common is the raking of the common itself of leaves, new planking of the platform for the scales near J. H. Fletcher's store, and new flooring of the old store piazza where the teams load for market during the summer.

December 31, 1910

Centre

Miss Gertrude Hamlin from Miss Kimball's school for girls at Worcester, Miss May Day from Mt. Holyoke College and Allister MacDougall are among our students at home for the holidays.

Dec. 11, 1909

Electric Lighting

There is some talk here of an electric power company of Lowell making arrangements for installing electric lights in the different houses in the village. This will certainly be a very good thing and a great convenience, but what is an absolute necessity is street lights and plenty of them. It was generally understood that when the new electric road was put through here that the lights would soon follow, but so far they have failed to materialize and there is not a single public street light along the whole course of the electric road in this village, which means a distance of over half a mile. Three crossings are along the route and either man or beast is going to get into trouble at these points sooner or later.

May 28, 1910

Centre

A recent real estate transfer is the sale of the farm in the west part of the town owned by George M. Brown to Edward Hunt of Forge Village. This is the historic Col. John Robinson House. The sale price is quoted at \$4,200.

May 21, 1910

A merry barge party of twenty-five grangers drove over to Acton in charge of Will E. Wright on Tuesday evening.

October 15, 1910

Graniteville

Chestnut parties are very much in evidence here at present and those who have been gathering report the supply quite plentiful this year. The chestnut woods beyond Scribner hill appear to attract the largest number of people.