

Westford Recollections

by Mrs. Charles S. Kennedy

While the name Mary Atwood comes to the attention of the public twice a year in connection with the Mary Atwood Lectures under the auspices of the J.V. Fletcher Library, few people know anything about the person herself. A native of Westford, she and her maiden sisters, Lill and Sarah, and her three brothers, William, Daniel and Dr. Edward, were raised on the Nashoba Farm located on the corner of Hildreth Street and Concord Roads. This place was also known as the Atwood place where the famous Nashoba Spring Water was sold in 5 gallon carboys. Incidentally, this farm was left vacant and both house and barn burned to the ground one night. Later, the three maiden sisters lived on Graniteville Rd., in the home now occupied by Mrs. Grace Millett, niece of Miss Atwood.

Being a public-spirited person, Miss Atwood was extremely active in the Congregational Society in Westford where she played the organ, free of charge, for many years.

On January 1, 1951, at the age of ninety years, Miss Atwood died and in her will, gave a sum of money for the purpose of conducting public lectures in the Town of Westford, two of which are held annually. In addition, this lecture fund finances "Books Sandwiched In", "Children's Story Hour" and "Children's Book Hour" so popular at the J.V. Fletcher Library.

On Wednesday, March 24, the Mary Atwood Lecture Fund will treat the public, free of charge, as is customary, to "African Safari"