

News of the Weeks



1710 HISTORIC HOUSE • GARDENS • TRAILS • CONSERVATION LAND
Weeks Ave. (off Rte. 33) • P. O. Box 93, Greenland, NH 03840
603-436-8147 • www.WeeksBrickHouse.org

Weeks Brick House & Gardens

A publication of Leonard Weeks & Descendants in America, Inc., a non-profit organization formed in 1975 to preserve the historic Weeks family house and farmstead.

Geographically-scattered board faces the challenge of keeping up with spring-and-summer “to-do” list

House in good shape, but grounds, gardens, & trails need attention – and able volunteers

At a recent board meeting, as the spring season finally broke in New England, the year’s status report and “to-do” list was presented. Fortunately for the small handful of board member stewards of the Weeks Brick House & Gardens, the list was comprehensive, but not overwhelming.

The status report was prepared by board member Steve Pike, a preservation-specialty carpenter by profession whose involvement in all manner of WBH maintenance and preservation projects over the last 20 years has resulted in a knowledge of the house that is both broad and deep.

The house. The house, which continues to be occupied, enjoyed, and cared for by tenants, is in acceptable weather-tight shape at the moment. The west chimney work has been postponed, but there have been no water problems reported. Front and rear gutters have small areas that need scraping and painting. The rear deck and

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From the Archives. This 1974 photo of the Weeks Brick House is one of two from the archives of the U.S. Department of the Interior, part of the submission received on May 5, 1975 to nominate the house to the National Register of Historic Places. Long gone are (1) the evergreen tree, (2) the white shutters, (3) the garage to the left and rear of the house, and (4) the Buck Rogers space-age television antenna. The photo was taken by **G. Newton Weeks** (1906-1992), one of the founders of the descendants group that saved the house and farmstead from development.

As the 40th anniversary of WBH&G approaches (2015), a panel discussion on the early days of the organization is under study for this year’s Annual Meeting.



Annual Meeting weekend set for Sept. 13 & 14; panel discussion among ideas in planning stages

The Weeks Brick House & Gardens 2014 Annual Meeting weekend will be Saturday & Sunday, September 13 & 14, 2014. As in recent years, events will be held at both the Weeks Brick House site and the Great Bay Estuarine Research Reserve and Discovery Center.

Featured will be tours of the house and grounds, guided trail walks, genealogy networking, socializing with friends old-and-new, and a special Sunday program – still in the planning stages – prior to the business meeting and lunch. Weeks descendants, longtime members, new members, non-members, community friends, architectural preservationists, and history enthusiasts are all welcome to explore the farmstead and walk in the footsteps of progenitor Leonard Weeks (1633-1707).

House tours and garden tours begin on Saturday afternoon, and early arrivals can also get first choice of our coveted Weeks Brick House gift shop offerings.

Attendees are welcome to join the WBH board at the popular informal wine & cheese reception at the house and gardens beginning at 5 p.m.

As the WBH&G board of directors looks toward 2015, and the 40th anniversary of the founding of Leonard Weeks and Descendants in America, Inc., it is clear that discussions about saving the house and farmstead from development were buzzing for several years prior to 1975. In the planning stages – *for this year’s Annual Meeting* – is a panel discussion bringing together some of the remaining participants in those triumphant efforts. Stay tuned! ■

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Have your custom engraved brick in place this year on our Memorial Brick Walkway

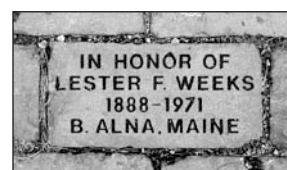
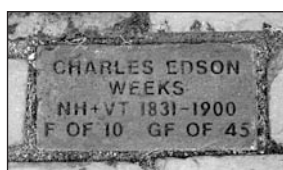
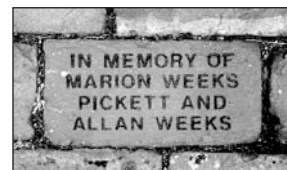
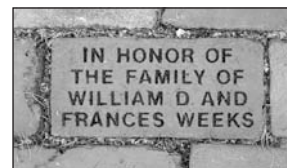
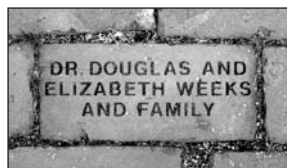
Once again this year, the Memorial Brick Walkway project at the 1710 Weeks Brick House invites Weeks family descendants and friends to honor ancestors and family members with a commemorative brick.

The program began in 2010, and since then, descendants of Leonard Weeks (1633-1707) from near and far have been memorialized on our brick walkway.

The cost is just \$100 per brick, which includes preparation, engraving, and placement. For complete information, visit www.WeeksBrickHouse.org. At the web site's "Donate & Shop" page, download or print the Brick Inscription Order Form. Fill in the order form, craft your inscription according to the guidelines, and send the form with your check to The Weeks Brick House & Gardens, P. O. Box 93, Greenland, NH 03840. Bricks will be in place by the Annual Meeting weekend on Sept. 13 & 14, 2014. ■



Need ideas for your custom inscription? Below are just some of the bricks already in place in our
Memorial Brick Walkway
at the Weeks Brick House & Gardens



~ More photos of inscribed bricks to come in future issues of WBH&G News. ~

News of the Weeks Brick House & Gardens Spring 2014

A publication of Leonard Weeks & Descendants in America, Inc., a non-profit organization formed in 1975 to preserve the historic Weeks family house & farmstead.

Please send articles, letters, news items, and corrections to the editor: R. W. Bacon

P. O. Box 489, Newburyport, MA 01950
rwbacon@comcast.net

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Office
 P. O. Box 93, Greenland, NH 03840
 603-436-8147
 E-mail: weeksbrickhouse@aol.com

Historic New England 'Affiliate' status evaporates; relationship continues via 'Organization' membership

In 2011 the Weeks Brick House & Gardens became an Affiliate Member of Historic New England (SPNEA), joining with 44 other history/preservation organizations in an all-new membership category.

Historic New England, founded in 1910 as the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, is the largest regional preservation organization in the U.S., with 36 historic properties, a library & archives, and a collections conservation center.

In just a few years, however, this new membership category – and its benefits –

quietly evaporated. In its place, organizations were invited to maintain an association via the "Business & Organization" membership – at lower cost, and with reduced benefits.

With benefits of HNE consultations that extend back several decades, the Weeks Brick House & Gardens board voted unanimously to maintain the relationship with Historic New England. Benefits include consultation with HNE's professional staff, attendance at the annual Historic New England Forum, and access to publications, programs, and services. ■

Two classics of New Hampshire genealogy reprinted as sturdy, affordable paperbacks

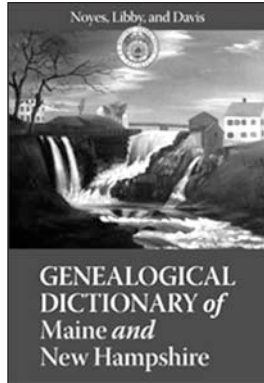
By R.W. Bacon

The *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire*, published between 1928 and 1939, has long been regarded as the go-to reference for northern New England genealogy, and it remains a staple at genealogy libraries. But thanks to the publishing program of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, this title is now available as an affordable, high-quality paperback for home libraries.

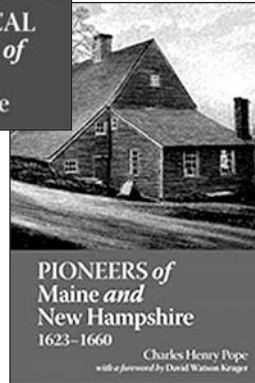
The reprinting in late 2012 was good news for those Weeks family genealogy researchers (1) who don't yet have the book in their collection; (2) who have thumbed their old copy to the point of disintegration; (3) who are frustrated by slow and clumsy digital access to the book; or (4) who feel like they are held hostage by a subscription genealogy web site.

The 795-page tome was the brainchild of Charles Thornton Libby (1861-1948) of Yarmouth, Maine, who began the project in 1920 with financial backing from Portland, Maine banker and genealogist Walter Goodwin Davis (1885-1966). Libby all but withdrew from the project after seven years, but the book was published serially (1928, 1933, 1936, 1938, & 1939) and completed by genealogist Sybil Noyes (1878-1967) of Saco, Maine.

The aim of the compilers was to document all inhabitants of New Hampshire and Maine who settled in the region before 1700, and to include information on three



At left is the cover of the NEHGS paperback reprint (2012) of the *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire*, by Sybil Noyes, Charles Thornton Libby, and Walter Goodwin Davis, which was originally published between 1928 and 1939.



At right is the cover of the NEHGS paperback reprint (2013) of *Pioneers of Maine and New Hampshire 1623-1660*, by Charles Henry Pope, which was originally published in 1908. Both books are available through the NEHGS website, at www.AmericanAncestors.org.

generations of descendants. Family surnames are listed alphabetically. Entries are dense and heavily abbreviated, but packed with information. The entry for immigrant ancestor Leonard Weeks (1633-1707) refers to Jacob Chapman's work, *Leonard Weeks of Greenland, N.H. and Descendants 1639-1888*, which has been well-studied, expanded, clarified, and corrected by later Weeks family researchers. Therefore, the real value of this book to Weeks family genealogists is in the big picture it provides

of all the intertwined families in the region in the earliest period of settlement.

As David Dearborn, FASG, writes in the foreword to the 2012 NEHGS reprint, the book represents "one of the most thorough and exhaustive studies of an entire population ever undertaken. . . . By looking at the whole picture and not just individual families, they were able to see patterns, make connections, and reach conclusions that had eluded their predecessors. This democratic approach to genealogy was a hallmark of the early 20th-century disciples of Donald Lines Jacobus, who shunned the biases of mere ancestor-hunting in favor of a more rigorous methodology, and that had applications to the studies of populations and of history itself."

The *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire* is available at the NEHGS website, www.AmericanAncestors.org (\$27.95), or through your favorite bookseller.

Another book of interest that served as a foundation for the *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire* was reprinted by NEHGS in late 2013. *Pioneers of Maine and New Hampshire 1623-1660*, by Charles Henry Pope, was originally published in 1908. The 252-page book does not mention Leonard Weeks, but does include biographical information on the earliest settler families gathered from town, church, and court records. This book, in its durable paperback reprinted form, is also available through the NEHGS website (\$24.95), but since the title is in the public domain, the 1908 edition is available as a free readable and downloadable PDF file from the Internet Archive (www.archive.org). ■

www.WeeksBrickHouse.org

Weeks Brick House & Gardens Membership Form

(For Renewals and New Membership)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please indicate your preference: E-mail newsletter in PDF format Hard-copy postal mail newsletter

Please return this form with payment to: Weeks Brick House & Gardens, P. O. Box 93, Greenland, NH 03840. Thank You!

Make check payable in U.S. currency to "Weeks Brick House." All gifts are tax deductible. Thank You!

Membership Dues Categories:

- \$15 Student/Senior
- \$25 Individual \$50 Family
- \$100 Contributing
- \$250 Sustaining \$500 Leader
- \$ _____ to the Chimney Fund
- \$ _____ to the Garden Fund

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

2014 'To-do' List ...

continued from page 1

railings need painting. The bricks, mortar, and exterior trim paint are in fine shape. One exterior feature does need attention: The wooden sign that marks the site as a historic house. Although the house has been included on the National Register of Historic Places since 1975, it has never had a brass plaque of the type that adorns houses of similar stature. (This could be an philanthropic opportunity for a generous friend of the Weeks Brick House.)

The trails. The trails are in need of trimming, pruning, and path-clearing. Some sections of the trail need re-marking. The bridges were replaced last year and are in fine shape. Some of the trail signs need to be straightened and re-set. (A work session to address trail maintenance is scheduled for Monday, June 2.)

The grounds. The orchard and grape vines need aggressive pruning. The bees,

which arrived with such fanfare, have apparently buzzed off to points unknown, so the hives need to be removed. Weeds need to be brought under control in the flower beds and walkways around the house. The front lamp-post is leaning, and also needs paint. The shed needs fascia boards replaced.



From the Archives. The photo above, from the fall 2012 News of the WBH&G, shows the marker dedicating the Colonial-era herb gardens to Katharine C. "Kitty" Weeks. Kitty collaborated with garden historian and author Ann Leighton to establish the herb gardens in 1977. Before the 2012 Annual Meeting, Master Gardener and board member Leslie Stevens made certain that the gardens would be in exquisite condition for the dedication.

Two years before, in our tercentenary year, the gardens were featured on the Portsmouth Pocket Garden Tour.

Can we let these gardens turn into a weed patch? It's time for volunteers to step up!

The gardens. At present, both the herb gardens and vegetable gardens need to be weeded, and are crying out for care. For a period of several years, our Colonial-era herb gardens and WWII-era vegetable gardens were at the apex of clarity and productivity, rejuvenated and nurtured by Master Gardener Leslie Stevens. Since her departure due to other commitments, the board continues to search for knowledgeable and reliable volunteers to take on the maintenance of our gardens. At the very least, we aim to keep what was a showpiece included on a prestigious garden tour from being completely overrun by weeds. Any volunteer weeders among our membership? If you can help, or if you know anyone who may be interested in being associated with the gardens designed by Kitty Weeks and acclaimed garden historian Ann Leighton (Isadore Smith), contact us by email at WeeksBrickHouse@aol.com. ■

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