

News of the Weeks Brick House & Gardens



1710 HISTORIC HOUSE • GARDENS • TRAILS • CONSERVATION LAND
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603-436-8147 • www.WeeksBrickHouse.org

FALL 2019

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.

Weeks Brick House Annual Meeting Weekend brings together local friends and distant cousins

The Weeks Brick House Annual Meeting Weekend, on September 14 & 15, 2019, was once again the setting for greeting old friends and making new ones.

Members, descendants, and friends that arrived on Saturday first enjoyed tours of the house, gardens, and trails. After an optional afternoon tour of the Woodman Museum in Dover, N.H., attendees sipped wine in the Great Room and bid on the array of items offered at our silent auction.

On Sunday, September 15, the Great Room was packed for “Taverns, Travelers, & Tanbark: The Roots of Popular Culture in New England,” an illustrated lecture presentation – with real-time performance examples – by historian/author R.W. Bacon that took a lively look at the role of taverns, “long rooms,” and early popular entertainment in the region.


After a convivial lunch and gabfest, members attending the business meeting on Sunday afternoon elected Amanda Nelson as the new president of Leonard Weeks and Descendants in America, Inc. She replaces Tom Ayres, who chose to step down after nine years of extraordinarily committed leadership. He will continue to serve on the WBH board of directors. (See his annual president’s report on page 2.)

Our incoming president, who began her career as a museum professional, is now a practicing attorney with a specialty in museum and arts law. She has served on the board of directors since 2003, including as the organization’s president from 2005 through the 2010 Tercentennial year. (See

the interview with our incoming president on page 3 of this issue.)

If you missed this year’s Annual Meeting Weekend for whatever reason, and this report sounds like a veritable Piscataqua-gundalow-load-of-fun, make sure to join us next September. ■

Greenland New Hotel.



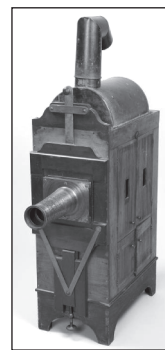
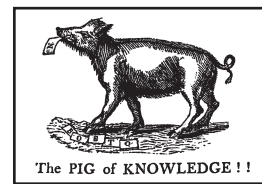
THE subscriber takes this opportunity to inform his friends and the public in general, that he has taken possession of the new, elegant, and commodious Hotel on the strand which he formerly occupied, fronting the three post roads to Portsmouth, Boston, & Exeter. —All those who are pleased to honor him with custom may rest assured that no pains nor attention will be spared to give them the most perfect satisfaction.

He would also inform, that he has a spacious Hall, elegantly fitted up for the accommodation of parties, who will be served in the best manner, at the shortest notice.

STEPHEN HUSE.

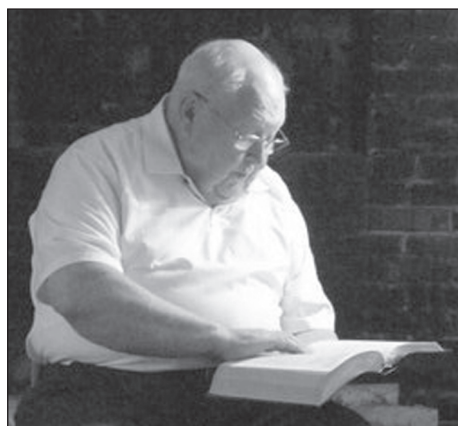
Greenland, Nov. 26, 1810.

Taverns, Travelers, & Tanbark: The Roots of Popular Culture in New England



Author/historian R.W. Bacon managed to keep the crowd awake on Sunday morning with this presentation in the Great Room.

Rev. Frank H. Weeks (1930-2019): The keeper of Weeks family history ... and longtime friend of the Weeks Brick House



Above is Rev. Frank H. Weeks at the Weeks Brick House Great Room during the annual meeting in 2012.

Rev. Frank H. Weeks, longtime member and friend of the Weeks Brick House, and tireless genealogist of the Weeks family, died October 5, 2019 in Cranston, R.I. at age 89.

The following is paraphrased from his obituary as published in the *Providence Journal* on October 9, 2019:

He was the husband of Madelyn V. (Penney) Weeks for 66 years. Frank was born February 9, 1930 in Revere, Mass., son of Elmer and Annie Mae (Treat) Weeks.

Rev. Frank Weeks was a beloved husband, dad, grandfather, great-grandfather and

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2019 PRESIDENT'S REPORT**Enthusiastic fund-raising support for window project and 12% membership growth are highlights of 2019**

By **Thomas D. Ayres, President,**
Weeks Brick House & Gardens

This past year has been another fairly quiet year at the Weeks Brick House & Gardens.

Our number-one priority this year was a major house preservation project. The "Grandpa Sam Weeks Needs You" spring newsletter (thanks Reg!), Window Replacement Fund Phase I, resulted in a very encouraging response. We were able to raise \$11,000 and we took \$2,000 from our checking account. This will cover the \$13,000 cost for the following: (1) repair 10 first floor window frames and sashes; (2) replace 10 aluminum storm windows; (3) repair two exterior entrance doors and frames; and (4) repair of the front and rear wooden gutters. We thank all of you who contributed to this successful project.

Next year we will need to raise approximately \$12,000 for Phase 2 of the Window Replacement Project, which will include the following: (1) repair 11 second floor window frames and sashes; and (2) replace 11 aluminum storm windows.

Hopefully, we may qualify for grant funds to cover a portion of this cost.

Cynthia Smith continues to provide on-site management of our historic house and gardens. In her role as our treasurer, she has been very busy receiving donations for our Window Replacement Fund.

Steve Pike provides excellent service in managing the maintenance of the house, grounds, and trails. There were a number of willing workers at our clean-up day this past June, including: Amanda, Cynthia, Reg, and Skip. The trails required the usual removal of fallen tree limbs. The garden and flower bed weeds were removed by Cynthia and Amanda. The split rail fence around the garden was replaced over the past year, with the able assistance of our tenant, Steve, Reg, and Skip.

Amanda Nelson provides our legal service and has researched preservation grants that may assist in paying for necessary window replacement expenses.

Reg Bacon provides his usual support in three critical areas: the Weeks Brick House website (www.weeksbrickhouse.org), our spring and fall newsletters; plus our Annual Meeting Weekend notice.

Mary Groebner continues to handle our numerous administrative responsibilities, including regular mail, e-mail, phone calls, and the mailing of our newsletters.

Cathy Wescott, who, along with Amanda, manages our Weeks Brick House Facebook page, is pleased to report that we now have 263 "friends" on Facebook, up from 200 last year.

Our treasurer Cynthia Weeks reports that Weeks Brick House membership has increased this past year. We now have 81 members, up from 72 last year. Additional members are always welcome.

In summary, this past year, though quiet, has been a busy one at the Weeks Brick House & Gardens.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas D. Ayres, President

News Fall 2019
of the
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Please send articles, letters, news items, and corrections to the editor:
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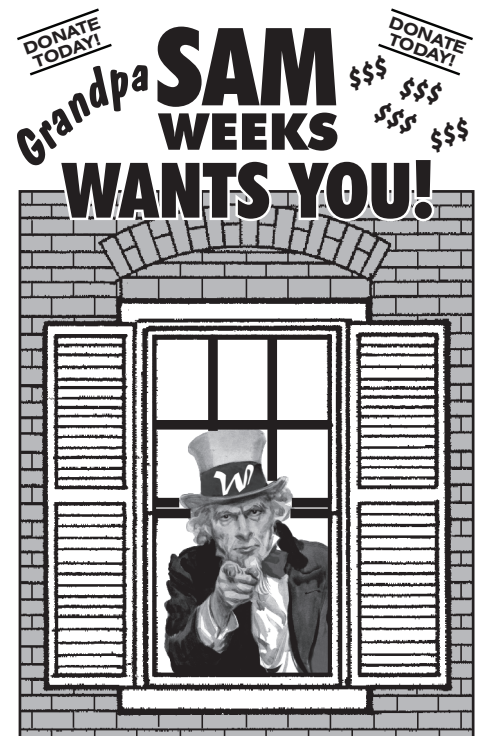
'Grandpa Sam Weeks'
led the fund-raising,
and you responded ...
but he's not done yet

The spring 2019 Weeks Brick House newsletter sounded the alarm about the urgency of window preservation work at our 1710 house. The \$25,000 project addresses the repair-and-paint needs of all 25 window frames and sashes, replacement of 21 storm windows, repair-and-paint of exterior doors and frames, and conservation and painting of the wooden gutters.

Due to limited maintenance funds, the WBH board decided to complete these repairs in two phases. The first phase (lower windows, entrance doors, gutters) cost \$13,000. The remaining repairs (upper windows, requiring a lift), at a cost of \$12,000, are projected for later in 2020.

We are pleased to report that WBH members responded generously to the call

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"Grandpa Sam Weeks" could have a longer-than-expected shelf-life thanks to his finger-pointing fund-raising effectiveness. His craggy mug appeared on the cover of the spring 2019 Weeks Brick House newsletter and on the WBH website.

WBH elects Amanda Nelson as president at annual meeting

At the Sunday, September 15 business meeting during this year's Annual Meeting Weekend, members of Leonard Weeks and Descendants in America, Inc. elected Amanda Nelson as its new president. A longtime museum professional as well as a practicing attorney, Amanda has served on the board of directors since 2003, and was the organization's president from 2005 through 2010. Your editor recently engaged Amanda for an "email interview" to give members an in-depth refresher on what she brings to her new term as president.

WBH News: I know everyone is thankful you have agreed to serve again as president of the Weeks Brick House & Gardens. When did you first become involved with the Weeks Brick House? And what drew you to the house and setting?

Amanda Nelson: I first became involved with the house in 2003. At the time the board was looking for new board members, and reached out to a friend of mine who is a business owner in Greenland. Historic sites are not her thing, but she knew that they were something I was very interested in (I was currently working as a curator at a historic house museum), and passed my contact information along. What drew me to the house was not only the charm of the house itself and all of the land surrounding it, but the sheer potential of the spot.

WBH News: Your interest in the Weeks Brick House dovetailed with your early museum career. Tell us about the progression of your years in museum work.

A.N.: I graduated with a master's degree in history and museum studies from the University of New Hampshire. While in graduate school I had the opportunity to intern at many historic house museums in New Hampshire. It was through those internships that I focused my career on collections care, although with a small historic site you end up learning all aspects of running a museum. I worked as a curator and then as a curatorial consultant for several years before going to law school.

WBH News: You served as president of WBH from 2005 to 2010, some of that time with a co-president, the late Adele Wick. What were the imminent challenges when you first served as president?

"I'm planning a strategic planning retreat for the board this spring to discuss long term plans, including diversifying our revenue stream, building public awareness of the site to bring in visitors, board and member development, and other ways to make the organization stronger."

— Amanda Nelson

A.N.: One of the first challenges Adele and I dealt with was discovering that the organization had been dissolved by the state for failing to file our annual reports. That was a shock! Luckily New Hampshire has a wonderful group of people over at Charitable Trusts who not only helped us get "official" again, but was willing to waive all of the penalty fees for non-filing.

WBH News: After the successful 2010 WBH Tercentennial, you reset your career course, completed law school, and are now an attorney specializing in arts-related issues. What was your motivation? And how has your law experience further informed your understanding of museums, collections, historic sites, and non-profit organizations in general?

A.N.: I was always interested in law school, but was discouraged by well-meaning people who thought the law was all about criminal cases in court, or divorce. They weren't wrong in that these are areas that hold no interest for me. But as I worked as a curator I realized there was this whole other specialty – museum law. As a curator, I was constantly dealing with ownership issues, copyright, and other legal matters. I came to learn that there are a lot of misconceptions in the nonprofit world about the law and how it applies to nonprofits. ... Before that, it never occurred to me that there might be lawyers who actually focused on museum law.

WBH News: At a site like the Weeks Brick House, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, the first preservation priority is to secure the

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www.WeeksBrickHouse.org

Weeks Brick House & Gardens Member/Donor Form

(Use this same handy form for annual renewals, new membership, or donations!)

— Renew & Contribute Today! —
2020 DUES ARE DUE

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 \$1000 Visionary
- \$ _____ to the Garden Fund
- \$ _____ to the General House Preservation & Maintenance Fund

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Rev. Frank H. Weeks (1930-2019)

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pastor. He attended the New England School of Theology and was ordained as an Advent Christian Pastor in 1955. He served churches in Lynn and Fall River, Mass.; Deer Isle, Maine; Whitefield, N.H.; Galesburg, Ill.; and North Kingstown and Providence, R.I. In the late 1960s Rev. Weeks became bi-vocational and worked as the tax officer for Rhode Island Hospital Trust Bank.

In retirement he served as interim pastor at a numerous churches in New England. The strength of his ministry was his ability to connect with people of all walks of life.

Rev. Weeks cherished his family, especially his wife Madelyn. They shared in the ministry to churches as well as raising their children. He was active in many of the activities for his children and grandchildren. He also chaired the school board for Cranston Academy.

He loved to travel, and took special joy in camping and fishing trips, which took him to all 50 states, creating family memories to reflect upon for years to come.

Following a stroke, he rehabilitated himself by joining his wife in her quilting hobby. He made quilts for all of his children and many other beautiful items.

His passion for genealogy was inspired by his family's history. His mother's side of the family included a signer of the Declaration of Independence and his father's side extended back to the 1710 Weeks Brick House in Greenland, N.H. He was a founding member of Leonard Weeks & Descendants in America, Inc. He authored

the two-volume genealogy reference entitled *Descendants of Leonard Weeks 1639-2016*.

He was the husband of Madelyn Weeks; the father of Karen W. Carnevale and her husband Frank; Frank C. Weeks and his wife Sandra; Alan J. Weeks and his wife Mary Ann; the late Gary K. Weeks; and Barbara Patch; and grandfather of Dr. Sara Carnevale Fearon, Brian E. Weeks, David Carnevale, Timothy Weeks, Craig Weeks M.D., Laura Weeks, Susan Gancarz, and Scott Ovitt; and

great-grandfather of Samuel, Michael, Hannah, Leonard, Madelyn, and Luke; and brother to three late siblings, Elmer Weeks, Warren Weeks, and Doris Boyington.

The funeral service was October 10 at Carpenter-Jenks Funeral Home in West Warwick, R.I. Burial was in Quidnessett Memorial Cemetery, North Kingstown, R.I. Memorial donations may be made to Faith Baptist Church Building Fund, 765 Commonwealth Ave., Warwick, R.I. 02886. ■

An interview with Amanda Nelson

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building from the weather, and that is being addressed now with our two-phase window project. But beyond the immediate needs – which are difficult enough to meet – what do you envision as a path to sustain the property, both physically and economically, into the future?

A.N.: Our members have been extremely generous over the years as issues have arisen. I'm planning a strategic planning retreat for the board this spring to discuss long term plans, including diversifying our revenue stream, building public awareness of the site to bring in visitors, board and member development, and other ways to make the organization stronger. ■

Generous support for Phase I of window project, but Phase II awaits

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for preservation action. We extend a giant "thank you" to all who contributed. One anonymous donor stepped up to match, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$5,000 for these repairs. We are especially grateful for that donor's show of leadership, and thanks to that, Phase I is in motion.

Phase II funding, of course, is still a need, and there are multiple ways you can donate to the preservation of our 1710 Weeks family home:

- A handy hard-copy, on-paper, double-duty membership/donation form is on page 3 of this and every newsletter, so you can send a check in any amount by postal mail.

- Donations of any amount can be made online via Paypal at the "Donate & Shop" page or the "Membership" page of the WBH website, www.WeeksBrickHouse.org.

The future of the Weeks Brick House depends on the support of its members and friends. Members and friends made a great effort for Phase I. Can we count on your donation for Phase II, to preserve "Grandpa" Sam Weeks' historic house? ■

www.WeeksBrickHouse.org

2020 DUES ARE DUE
Renew & Contribute Today!
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Greenland, NH 03840

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