

# THE WELD ENTERPRISE



*"Its aim is always to instruct, elevate and amuse its readers. All objectionable matter is rigidly excluded from its columns."*

**The Weld Historical Society Newsletter**

**Summer 2025**

## President's Letter

Greetings:

This summer, the Weld Historical Society will be celebrating 50 years as an incorporated organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of local history. We have, over the past five decades, accomplished a great deal. Our annual meeting in August will be a celebration of these past fifty years of focused Weld history.

Our success is due primarily to the support of the many hundreds of people who over the years saw (and continue to see) the importance of small town historical societies such as ours. Since 1975, generous individuals who love Weld have sustained and grown the WHS in many ways. In our early days, supporters bought charter memberships and donated to the purchase and restoration of the Edith Merchant Jackson home in the center of the village. That initial enthusiasm has never abated. We today have a campus with five distinct structures that contain thousands of Weld-centric items. Our large paid membership is the envy of societies based in much larger towns. The multiple publications (newsletters and books) that we have produced help interested parties see the scope of our varied collections. Three major art shows have honored those who have captured the beauty of Weld in various mediums. For forty years, we have sponsored Heritage Day, a large-scale family reunion of sorts that brings hundreds of people to the center of Weld each July. And since our founding fifty years

ago, we have, every summer, held five monthly meetings that focus solely on the history of our town. Imagine, almost 250 separate programs dedicated to a wide range of subjects but always having something to do with Weld history.

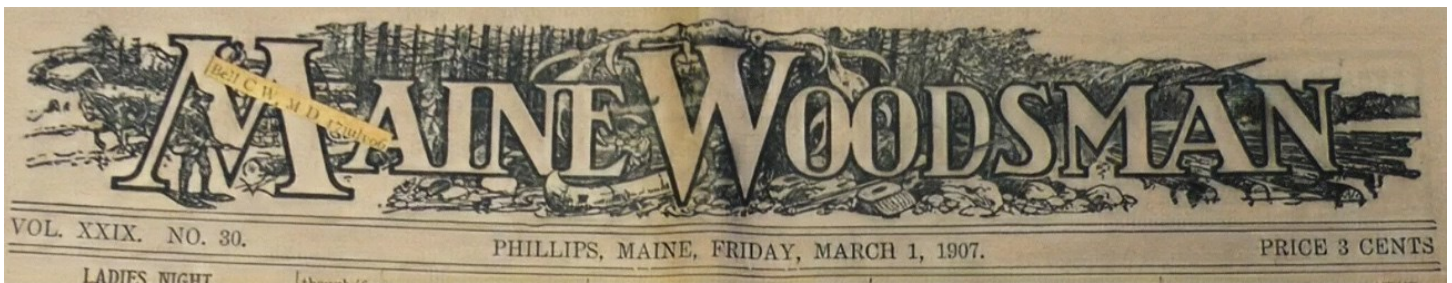
We hope to see you at one....or all....of our May through September meetings this year. Those who have been regular attendees at our program meetings will tell you that we keep business matters to a minimum and instead focus on history and Weld stories presented in an informative and light manner. We look forward to having you join in the fun.

Sean



## WHS Bumper Sticker

In celebration of our fifty years of incorporation, we are including in this newsletter a complimentary WHS car decal. Back in 2016, many Weld vehicles were adorned with the Weld Bicentennial sticker. Weather and vehicle trades have lessened the number of those seen lately but here is a new way to display your Weld pride. And yes, we have (limited) extras available for purchase!



## In Memory

Thomas Aquilla Skolfield was born in 1878. Before his passing in December of 1975, he had joined the newly organized Weld Historical Society. His life-long connections and contributions to this town are remembered by many. Old Tom, as he was sometimes known, instilled in his family a deep respect for community service and love of Weld. Each year in this letter we take note of other individuals who have called Weld home and have passed on since last spring. Some, like T.A. Skolfield, were members of this Society. Others contributed to our town in various other ways. All will be missed.

**Leslie W. Adams 1952-2024**

**Gregory J. Austin 1955-2025**

**John Derouche, Jr. 1950-2024**

**Frederick E. England 1943-2025**

**Linda Jean Healey 1962-2024**

**Steve E. Lee 1959-2024**

**Michael A. Pagliuca 1962-2024**

**Kay A. Serino 1944-2025**

**Dorothy R. Skolfield 1924-2024**

**Lynn "Joe" Sterry 1942-2025**

**Douglas G. Swan 1936-2024**

**Bernard R. Vining 1925-2025**



## PHILLIPS, MAINE, August-1907

### ***Weld Fair Successful***

### ***Excellent Display, And Large Crowds, New Building Next Year***

### ***Weld Defeated Strong, Their Old Rivals, Harding Seamon's Oxen The Star Performers, List of Premiums***

The second annual fair of the Weld Agricultural Association on Wednesday and Thursday of last week was a great success from every standpoint. The exhibits were particularly fine. Now they are talking of building a hall on the grounds for next year.

One would not ask to see a finer display of apples anywhere. Mr. Newman and Mr. Russell showed fourteen or fifteen different kinds all of which were nearly perfect. Mr. Hardy showed forty-five varieties although the apples were not all perfect they showed up well.



Mr. Plummer's potatoes were splendid, large perfect ones and Mr. Sargent's squash a great curiosity. The display of fancy articles, it would be hard to beat anywhere. There were over forty sofa pillows of different kinds all of which were very pretty and attractive. Mrs. Mid Brown's drawn work pillows certainly deserve the first prize as they were done very beautifully. Among the solid embroidered articles Miss Angie Swett's centerpiece was very attractive and Mrs. H. B. Trask's burnt leather panel is worthy of mention.

On Thursday evening four of the ladies gave a dance at Conant's Pavilion which was very much

enjoyed by all. It is estimated that there were between eight and nine hundred at the fairgrounds on Thursday.

The ball game between Weld and Strong on Thursday afternoon was very interesting as they always are. The score was 8 to 2 in favor of Weld. We played our first game of the season with Strong and this was the last and we have come out victorious nearly every time.



## The WHS Heritage Fund

After Weld native Peter Schofield's death in 2020, a major gift from his estate was bequeathed to the Weld Historical Society. Per Peter's request, the gift was invested with the Maine Community Foundation in several different accounts. The largest income producing account, the WHS Heritage Fund, is solely intended to assist organized Weld non-profit entities. A sub-committee of the WHS reviews each application and has granted assistance funds for a variety of projects that benefit our town. What follows is a list of just several of the projects that we have provided funds for over the past several years. For more information about the criteria for requesting funds, please contact Sean.

The new sign was professionally restored by Richard Profenno. The Robertson Cemetery is maintained by Robert and Lisa Jackson

## Grant Awards for 2024

1. The rebuilding and restoration of the Robertson Cemetery sign.
2. Painting of doors and window trim at the Weld Free Public Library.
3. Purchase of a new snowmobile drag for the Weld Winter Wildcats snowmobile club.
4. A new speaker system for the Weld Town Hall.
5. Two AEDs for the Weld Fire Dept.
6. A new sign for the Weld Town office recognizing the Weld veterans of both the War of 1812 and the Civil War.
7. Eight new flowering crabapple trees for Mountain View Cemetery.
8. An engineering study to help the Weld Congregational Church assess structural needs for the building.
9. Support for the Weld Masonic Lodge in its Books for Children Program.



# The War of 1812 & the American Civil War

Monuments in front of the Weld Free Public Library recognize the involvement of many individuals from Weld who served during World Wars 1 and 2, the Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf Conflicts.

This memorial recognizes those from this community who served in either the War of 1812 or the American Civil War.

## The War of 1812

1812 - 1815

Ten men from what was then known as Webb's Pond Plantation fought in the War of 1812: David Barrett, John Davis, Joel Ireland, Jonas Ireland, Hezekiah McLaughlin (died in service), John McLaughlin, Phineas McLaughlin, Silas McLaughlin, Bartholomew Reed and Elijah Stearns.

## The American Civil War

1861 - 1865

The following seventy-nine men served in Union Army during the four years of the war:

Alonzo Barrett\*, Rufus Barrett\*, Selden Billington, Jeremiah Blaisdell\*, Lewis Blaisdell\*, Thomas Blaisdell, Nathan Buker, Nathaniel Buker, George Butler\*, Xerxes Campbell \*, Charles Chase, Kimball Chase Jr., Martin Clark\*, Charles Colburn, George Corbett\*, Simeon Cushman, Adam Dyer, Sydney Dyke, Issac Frost, Harrison Greene, Samuel Green, Charles Hawes\*, William Holt\*, Daniel Houghton, Edward Houghton\*, Samuel Houghton, Elbridge Houston, Francis Howard\*, Charles Hustan, Ira Huston\*, Albert Jones, Austin Jones, Gustavus Jones, Eastman Judkins, Orville Judkins, James Kennedy\*, Abel Keyes\*, Freeman King\*, Samuel Ladd\*, James Lawrence, Edwin Lufkin, John Masterman, Joseph McLaughlin, Tyler McLaughlin, Zachery McLaughlin, Harrison Merchant\*, Henry Merchant, Edward Newell, John Newell, Albert Newman, Joseph Noyes\*, Edwin Parlin, M. Augustine Phillips, Lincoln Phinney, Spaulding Phinney\*, John Plummer, Alexander Pulsifer, Charles Rand, Ephraim Robertson, Ephraim Rollins\*, Abel Russell, Brooks Russell, James Russell, Wilford Russell, Albert Stearns\*, Gratus Stearns, David Smith, James Snowman, Cornelius Stockbridge, Stephen Storer\*, William Storer\*, John Vining, Franklin Warren, Nathaniel Warren, Orrin Wentworth, Phineas Witham, Alonzo Wright\*, David Wright, Edwin Wright.

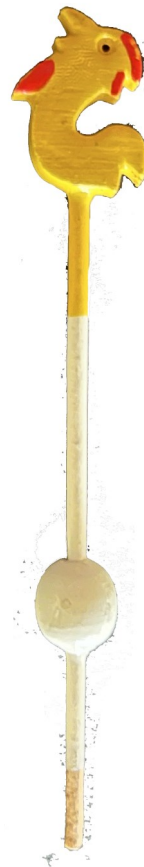
\* indicates death during term of service.

## A Brief History of Weathervanes

by *Rachelle Oblack*

A weather vane is also called a wind vane or weathercock. This is a device used to show the direction from which the wind blows. Traditionally, weather vanes are mounted on taller structures, including houses and barns. The reason weather vanes are posted in high locations is to prevent interference and to catch the purest breezes. The key piece of a weather vane is the central pivoting arrow or pointer. The pointer is usually tapered at one end to provide balance and to catch even light winds. The larger end of the pointer acts as a sort of scoop that catches the wind. Once the pointer turns, the larger end will find a balance and line up with the source of the winds.

The Ancient Romans also used weather vanes. In the ninth century A.D., the Pope



decreed that the cock, or rooster, be used as a weather vane on church domes or steeples, perhaps as a symbol of Christianity, referring to Jesus's prophecy that Peter will deny him three times before the rooster crows the morning after the Last Supper. Roosters were commonly used as weather vanes on churches in both Europe and America for hundreds of years. Roosters are useful as wind vanes because their tail is the perfect shape to catch the wind. Symbolically, the rooster is the first to see the rising sun and announce the day. It represents the victory of light over darkness while warding off evil.

Seaverns Hilton mini weathervane novelty made and painted by the Woodworkers of Weld.

George Washington's weather vane, located at the cupola on Mount Vernon, was one of his favorite instruments. He specifically asked the architect of Mount Vernon, Joseph Rakestraw, to design a unique weather vane instead of the traditional rooster vane. The weather vane was made of copper in the shape of a dove of peace, complete with olive branches in its mouth. The vane still sits at Mount Vernon. It's been covered in gold leaf to protect it from the elements.

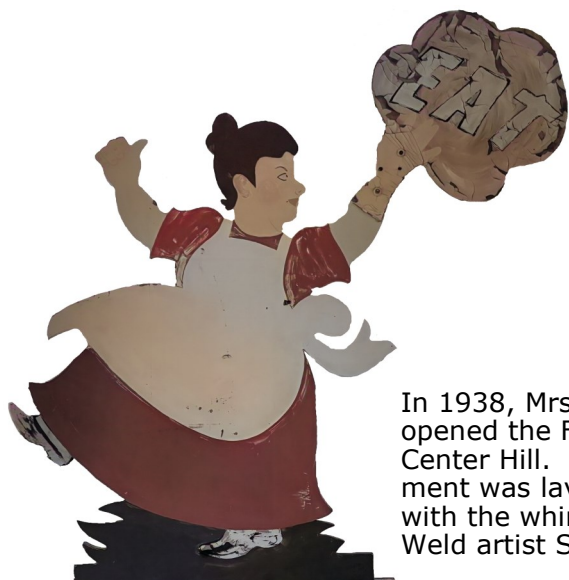


Weather vanes appeared during Colonial times and became an American tradition. Thomas Jefferson had a weather vane at his Monticello house. It was designed with a pointer that extended to a compass rose on the ceiling in the room below so that he could see the wind direction from inside his house. Weather vanes were common on churches and town halls, and on barns and houses in more rural areas.



The Union Church in Weld was built in 1865 by joint congregations of Free Will Baptists and Methodists. When the church was closed due to diminishing membership, it became home to the Weld Village Improvement Society and then a novelty mill. This "S" weather vane was recovered from the ashes when the structure burned in 1943.

As their popularity grew, people began to be more creative with the designs. People in coastal communities had weather vanes in the shape of ships, fish, whales, or mermaids, while farmers had weather vanes in the shape of racing horses, roosters, pigs, bulls, and sheep. There is even a grasshopper weather vane on top of Faneuil Hall in Boston, MA. In the 1800s, weather vanes became even more widespread and patriotic, with the Goddess of Liberty and Federal Eagle designs particularly favored.



In 1938, Mrs. Lester Lee opened the Farmer's Wife on Center Hill. The establishment was lavishly decorated with the whimsical art of Weld artist Seaverns Hilton.





Cockrell weathervane in WHS collection

## Officers and Board of Directors 2025

*(Year following name indicates term expiration)*

Sean Minear, President, 2025

Chris Wallace, Vice President, 2025

Carol Cochran, Secretary, 2025

Betty Simanek, Treasurer, 2025

Scott Isherwood, 2025

Wallis Tyler, 2025

Lise Bofinger Conant, 2026

Laurie Pratt, 2026

Diana Demers, 2026

Ron Thompson, 2026

Craig Hutchinson, 2025

Jennifer Hutchinson, 2026

Bailey Scott, 2026



## The Weld Agricultural Association 2.0 Challenge!

At our September meeting, we will be looking at the history of what was known as the Weld Fair. These fairs started in 1906 and were an opportunity for socializing and the displaying of livestock, handiwork, vegetables and preserved foods. Prizes were awarded, known as premiums. Many folks here in Weld still preserve foods and grow vegetables and flowers like our ancestors in the early 1900's. The challenge: we are asking folks to bring an item to the September meeting that they have grown or produced here in Weld during the summer of 2025. This might be a jam, a baked good, a notable vegetable or fruit or a crafted piece. Specially designed blue ribbons will be awarded to all who participate!



# **Weld Historical Society Summer Schedule, 2025...**

**...brought to you by the Letter**



**Wednesday, May 28th , 6:00 pm. Potluck Supper followed by program: Weathervanes, Whirly-gigs and Weld Weather (with a bit of Wood-workers of Weld thrown in).**

**Wednesday, June 11th , 7:00 pm. Program: Wild Animals in Weld. No lions or tigers but plenty of bears...**

**Wednesday, July 9th, 7:00 pm. Program: The Weld High School with stories from former students.**

**Friday, July 25th , 6:00 pm. The Night Before Heritage Day gathering on the back lawn of the WHS. Beverages provided, please bring an appetizer to share.**

**Saturday, July 26th , 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. WHS Heritage Day on the grounds of the Society, One School Street and the Weld Town Hall.**

**Wednesday, August 13th , 7:00 pm. Weld Historical Society 50th Annual Meeting. Beverages, food and commemoratives (first come basis) provided. An overview of five decades of historic preservation in this community.**

**Wednesday, September 3rd , 6:00 pm. Potluck supper followed by program: The Weld Agricultural Association; stories about the annual Weld Fair.**

*A summer's worth of informative programs, all held at the historic Weld Town Hall. All are welcome and all are encouraged to bring friends and family.*



PO Box 331  
Weld, ME 04285



KILLED BY ASA AND CARROLL BROWN, MAY 10, WELD, ME 1918