



*Painting of a World War I soldier by artist Gertrude Fiske given to the Weston Historical Society by Artemis Willis.*

### ***With Grateful Thanks***

The Weston Historical Society has received a very special gift from Weston resident Dr. Artemis Willis: an oil painting of a World War I soldier painted by noted Weston artist Gertrude Fiske. The face of the unidentified soldier is shown in

shadow, and the painting has a quiet, contemplative air. Gertrude Horsford Fiske (1878 - 1961), daughter of a prominent and well-to-do Weston family, studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, where she began training about 1904 under such well-known Boston artists as Edmund Tarbell and Frank Benson. Her early work was strongly influenced by the Boston academic tradition, which embraced light, color, and attention to detail. Fiske went beyond these conventions and was praised by contemporary critics for her "largeness and serenity of vision." By her late 30's, she was considered the leading woman painter of Boston; and, in more recent years, she has been described as "a major figure of the Boston School." Fiske won many prestigious awards and is represented in major museums nationwide. She was a founding member of many art associations including the one in Ogunquit, where she had a second home.

The painting may have been inspired by Fiske's younger brother Gardiner, who served in World War I, had the same tall, lean frame, and was a cigarette and occasional pipe smoker. Willis's late husband, Harold "Bus" Willis Jr., was a nephew of the artist.

The painting will be featured in the historical society's upcoming exhibition *The Farmers' Precinct: Three Centuries of Weston History* at the Weston Public Library (January 5 to 29, 2013).