

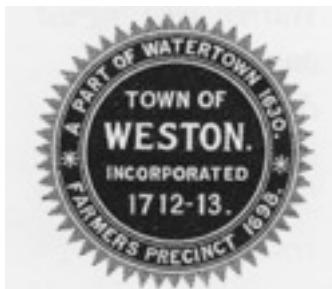
# A Weston Timeline

(Taken from *Farm Town to Suburb: the History and Architecture of Weston, Massachusetts, 1830-1980* by Pamela W. Fox, 2002)

## 18<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

**1703** Farmers' Burying Ground established

**1713** Weston incorporated as a separate town. The date was originally written as January 1, 1712; however, a change from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century changed the first month of each year from March to January. This meant that an event that occurred in January 1712 according to the Old Style (O.S.) calendar converts to January 1713 in the New Style (NS) calendar. On the Weston Town Seal, the date is written 1712-13 to reflect this calendar change.



**1721** Original meetinghouse replaced by a larger building resembling a Colonial house. A steeple with weathervane was added around 1800.



**About 1730** Hobbs Tannery established on North Avenue at Hobbs Brook. Members of the family also produce shoes, boots, harnesses, cartridge boxes, and other leather items.



*Early photographs of the Josiah Smith Tavern (above) and Golden Ball Tavern (below)*



**1772** Regular passenger stagecoach travel begins between New York and Boston. The uncomfortable journey took up to a week. Many stages passed through Weston. Boston Post Road and North Avenue were also major routes used by farmers from western Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire to transport products and livestock to Boston.

**1774** Weston residents join in protests against British rule. Protesters ransack the Golden Ball Tavern because proprietor Isaac Jones is suspected of Tory sympathies and continues to serve tea. That same year, Isaac's cousin, Elisha, is unsuccessful in organizing a Tory militia company and is forced to flee to British-controlled Boston.

**1757** Josiah Smith builds a tavern on the post road. It continues in operation until 1838.

**1765-68** Isaac Jones builds the Golden Ball Tavern, called “the most beautifully proportioned example of Georgian architecture” in Weston. It is operated as a tavern until 1793.

**1765-68** Abraham Hews establishes the Hews Pottery on Boston Post Road for the production of earthenware. After the Civil War, in 1871, the rapidly growing business moves to a large factory in North Cambridge.



65. Red earthenware from Hews pottery, Weston, Mass. (a) Custard cup, light glaze speckled with red and brushed with dark brown; ht. 3 in. (b) Jug, variegated greenish-yellow coloring; ht. 8½ in. (c) Baking cup, brown glaze on handle and interior; ht. 2 in. (d) Vase, orange-red; ht. 5½ in.

*Supplement to the American Traveller.*

## STAGE REGISTER.

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LIST OF STAGES.



*For his role in moderating the meeting that preceded the Boston Tea Party and presiding over the Massachusetts Board of War, Judge Samuel Phillips Savage has been called "Weston's most prominent patriot." He is buried in the Farmer's Burying Ground.*

**1775** On April 19, 100 men and three officers of the Weston militia march to Concord and strike the British as they retreat back to Boston. That same year, George Washington travels through Weston on his way to Cambridge to take command of troops.

**1776** Maj. Gen. Henry Knox and his soldiers pass through Weston along the post road early in the year, in winter. Their heavily loaded carts pulled by oxen carry cannons from Fort Ticonderoga to General Washington in Cambridge. These cannons are used to force the British Army to evacuate Boston.

**1776** Baptist Society established.

**1777** After the surrender of the British at Saratoga, hordes of General Burgoyne's defeated soldiers march as prisoners over the post road, camping in Weston on their way to Cambridge. The Burgoyne Elm marking the camp site became Weston's symbol of liberty. The elm towered over the Fiske Law Office until it had to be cut down in the late 1960s.

**1789** President George Washington passes through Weston on his journey through New England and spends the night at the Flagg Tavern.

**1789** Baptist church builds its first meeting house on what is now South Avenue near Wellesley Street.

**1790** Central and South Burying Grounds established.

**1794** Methodist Society established.



*Henry Knox's journey with the Fort Ticonderoga cannons is memorialized in this monument in Weston Center.*

*Drawing of Burgoyne Elm and Fiske Law Office by artist Henry Davenport*

