

FIRST ACRE OF THE WALPOLE TOWN FOREST

Planted by 900 of the Boys and Girls of the Town, May 5, 1916

The exercises yesterday at the High School grounds formally opened the Walpole Town Forest. The Lieut. Governor Calvin Coolidge planted the first tree, and over 800 boys and children of the town completed the planting of the first acre. Walpole has established the first town forest in Massachusetts. There is no other city that has a forest, the city of Fitchburg, but no town. The citizens may take pride in the progressive spirit in the town which made this possible; which has provided a natural park for all time, an immediate source of profit through publicity, an immediate benefit as a fine recreation ground, and for future generations not only a wonderful park but an assured source of revenue.

The program which was planned for Friday, April 28th, was postponed due to bad weather. His Excellency Governor the Hon. Samuel W. McCall, who expressed great interest in the town forest idea, as one destined to become an important influence in community life in all parts of the country as it has abroad, was unable to attend being out of the State. His Honor, the Lieutenant Governor, Calvin Coolidge, came to represent the State of Massachusetts. Mr. Frank William Rowe, the State Forester, who had also planned to attend the exercises on April 28th was forced to attend the exercises on April 28th, was forced to go to Virginia and was represented by Mr. C. O. Bailey of the State Forest Department.

Mr. George A. Plimpton, to whose generosity the town is indebted for the first one hundred and fifty acres of land for the forest, spoke to the citizens and boys and girls assembled in a way which showed how valuable a citizen he is to the town, and how great an inspiration his public spirit has been, helping many times the citizens of the town to carry forward with courage ambitious progress of town improvement. The program of the day was arranged by Mrs. Joseph Leach and Mrs. J. Edward Plimpton of the Conservation Committee of the Women's Club with the assistance of the Superintendent of Schools, and the Park Board, under whose direction the town forest will be developed. Mr. Geo. T. Carlisle, the forester, who had general supervision of the planting, has been appointed the town forester to supervise all future development.

At 2.30 the boys and girls of the town assembled on the beautiful play field belonging to Mr. Plimpton at the back of the Geo. A. Plimpton school adjoining the High school grounds and, with the teachers, were grouped for singing on the high land at the left of the speakers' platform, erected against a background of pine trees. A large number of the citizens of the town attended standing in front and to the right of the platform. One of the features of the arrangement was the position which the Boy Scouts took standing in a semi circle immediately in front of the stand, adding dignity to the occasion. They carried two large flags which during the speaking were erected by the speaker's stand.

The officers of the town and guests numbering about thirty-five, had seats of honor on the platform.

The Walpole Band played during the exercises and were fully enjoyed. Its playing, today, is a credit to the members

who have been ready to give their time towards the organization of a town band. Its attendance was made possible by the Walpole Board of Trade.

The program opened with the singing of the boys and girls of the district schools.

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Wednesday Club

The following officers were elected to serve the Wednesday Club for the ensuing year at the annual business meeting held May 3, 1916.

President, Mrs. Anna C. Bird; first vice-president, Emily F. Lewis; second vice-president, Annie C. Bartlett; recording secretary, Mrs. Florence L. Newton; assistant secretary, Emily K. Wyman corresponding secretary, Miss Ella M. Grover, treasurer, Mrs. Maude R. Graves, chairman committee on public schools, Miss Grace Foster; chairman com. on Domestic Science, Mrs. Mary Landy; chairman com. Village Improvements, Mrs. Elizabeth Harrison.

The Friendly Aid Society are planning a whist party to increase their fund. It will be held in the club house, Wednesday evening, May 17, at 8 o'clock.

The club house is open every Friday for surgical dressing work and members and friends interested are urged to come to assist.

The Wednesday Club joined the Mass. Branch for Women of the Special Aid Society for American Preparedness April 7, 1916.

The objects and purpose of the Society are, and shall be; to encourage and promote patriotic education, sentiment, and service among the people; and to aid in the establishment and maintenance of National Defense. The aims of this society are:

To promote immediate naval and military preparedness in order to avert war.

To promote universal economic training for women.

To promote greater individual and governmental efficiency.

To promote the study of international relations that we may understand our own position among nations, and learn the true value of our past achievements uncolored by national enthusiasm.

To promote that true spirit of patriotism which accepts the responsibilities as well as the rights of democracy, to the end that our many nationalities and races may become one nation in reality as well as in name.

Men and women share equally the work and responsibilities of life. Their respective work is different, but equally important to the state. This society is organized to mobilize the women of this state and to co-operate with the women of other states throughout the Union for service to our country.

Mrs. Samuel McCall the wife of our Governor heads the list of a general committee of about ninety members.

MARY FRANCIS LEWIS

Secretary.