

Weston Historical Society
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Weston Historical Society Welcomed Weston's 3rd Grade Students in First Field Trip in Two Years

WESTON,CT- The Weston Historical Society hosted its first in person field trip since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, two years ago. The Society welcomed Weston's third grade students from Weston Intermediate School to the historic Coley Homestead during the week of December 13, 2021. Students visited over the course of four days and explored Weston's rich history.

In connection with Weston Public School's third grade Social Studies unit on Weston history, the students toured the grounds and some of the buildings at the Weston Historical Society. They learned the history of the milk door, once used for dairy delivery, on the Coley House exterior, and the history of the milk wagon, used by a local dairyman to deliver goods around town. A visit inside the 1883 Coley Barn delighted the students as they watched an antique corn sheller in action. Historical objects from the Barn's collection were on view as the Society's archive team, including Chris Dart, Dallas Kersey and Skip Shaeffer, led a discussion about life on a farm in the late 1800s. Students practiced lifting a milk pail and worked a c1900's butter churn.

In the Society's exhibit hall, students were led by the Society's Executive Director, Samantha Kulish-Fargione, as well as the Society's President, Leigh Meccay, Vice-President, Pam Kersey and Trustee, Leslie Weiss, in a hands-on Weston map activity. Students compared and contrasted a modern-day map of Weston with the town's 1867 map. Discussion centered around Weston's former one-room schools, mills, factories, and the village of Valley Forge, which is where the Saugatuck Reservoir exists

today. Along with the map exploration, old photographs from the Society's collection were viewed and discussed.

“We were thrilled to be able to welcome Weston's 3rd grade students back on site. After missing out on hosting the field trip due to COVID-19 last year, we are happy to once again be able to have students visit the Weston Historical Society and engage with local history,” said Weston Historical Society's Executive Director, Samantha Kulish-Fargione. “We look forward to next year when the Coley House restoration will be completed and we can incorporate those exhibits into the field trip.”

Teachers were emailed a link to the Weston Historical Society's new Weston History Activity Book, which is available for download from the Society's website: www.westonhistoricalsociety.org. The activity book was written and illustrated by local Weston college student, Aidan Delgass, and Weston High School student, Abby Miles, with guidance by the Society's Executive Director, Samantha Kulish-Fargione, and former Weston resident, Joan Curran. The book highlights eight historic locations in Weston, each including activities to help a budding historian explore local history.

The Weston Historical Society would like to recognize its annual sponsors: Fairfield County Bank and KMS Partners at Compass. The Weston Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. For more information and to donate, please contact: info@westonhistoricalsociety.org, 203-226-1804 or visit www.westonhistoricalsociety.org

Image 1: Map Activity with Students.jpg

Image 1 caption: A Weston Intermediate School third grade student explores a map of Weston during the school's field trip to the Weston Historical Society the week of December 13, 2021. Students explored the Coley Homestead, learned about life on a farm in the late 1800s as well as participated in a Weston map activity.

Image 2: Student lifting milk pail.jpg

Image 2 caption: Weston Intermediate School third grade students take turns lifting a milk pail during the school's field trip to the Weston Historical Society the week of December 13, 2021. Students explored the Coley Homestead, learned about life on a farm in the late 1800s as well as participated in a Weston map activity.

Image 3: Students answering questions.jpg

Image 3 caption: Weston Intermediate School third grade students raise their hands to answer questions presented by Weston Historical Society archive volunteer, Dallas Kersey, during the school's field trip to the Weston Historical Society the week of December 13, 2021. Students explored the Coley Homestead, learned about life on a farm in the late 1800s as well as participated in a Weston map activity.

Image 4: Students explore farm tools.jpg

Image 4 caption: Skip Shaeffer, Weston Historical Society Trustee, leads a discussion about tools used on a farm in the late 1800s. Weston Intermediate School third grade students had to make educated guesses on what the tools and objects were used for, including this antique skate. Classes visited the Weston Historical Society the week of December 13, 2021 and explored the Coley Homestead, learned about life on a farm in the late 1800s as well as participated in a Weston map activity.

Image 5: Students watch farm machine.jpg

Image 5 caption: Weston Intermediate School third grade students experienced life on Coley Homestead farm by watching this antique corn sheller in action during the school's field trip to the Weston Historical Society the week of December 13, 2021. Students explored the Coley Homestead, learned about life on a farm in the late 1800s as well as participated in a Weston map activity.

