

LYONS PLAIN vs. LYONS PLAINS

We recently received an email from Lou Br-egy who lives on Lyons Plains in Weston and has for many years. Lou at one time was also a trustee of the Historical Society and has a vast



knowledge about old homes and their construction. Lou has sent us this information for use in the Chronicle and we are grateful for his taking the time to educate us on this matter.

“Lyons Plains vs. Lyons Plain Rd. – The part of Lyons Plains Road south of the Cartbridge / Fanton Hill intersection was originally a short section of the turnpike chartered to G. W. Bradley et al and mis-named by the legislator’s clerk as Northfield Tpk. (rather than Norfield) in the official Private Acts and Resolutions of the State of Ct. The charter is appended to the report of #167 Lyons Plains Rd. Weston residents called it Bradley Street up to the 1920’s when the state improved and paved the road and re-named the entire road Lyons Plains Rd. running from the intersection of Rt. 57, Weston Rd., to the Davis Hill, Valley Forge, Kellogg Hill intersection. (It had a state route number which Lou could not remember). Bradley Street extended only from Coleytown Road North, to the Cartbridge / Fanton Hill intersection. North of the intersection, the road was part of the 3rd cross highway and

only this section was called Lyons Plains Road before the state highway work. “Disagreement as to whether the name was “Plains” or Plain has been going on for over a hundred years and should be left to personal preference. The post-mark on the mid 19th century post office used “Plain.” Beers Atlas used “Plains.” The Treadwell family who donated land for the Episcopal Church ca. 1850 firmly said Plains. The matter was specifically addressed by Scott Hill in Ruth Treadwell Fox’s oral history after she or her sister used the word “Plains.” Some find the abrupt ending of “plain” awkward, not euphonious. Other old families do not and use “Plain.” A Fairfield deed dated 1768 cites land “near Lyons Farms and bounded...,” usage similar to “Green’s Farms.” Over the last several decades one person, not one of the old Weston or Connecticut families, devoted great effort to enforcing the “Plain” name as the only permissible correct use. There were frequent letters to the editors of newspapers and government agen-



cies were notified. Signs were even changed. The “Plains” faction has no such champion and just quietly continues their usage.”

Thanks Lou. It is nice to know that we can use our preference, and *still be right*.