Winter is on its way at the Weeks Brick House. In the view at left from a recent winter, the setting sun in the west leads one to contemplate the many generations of Weeks family occupants, from very young to very old, who nestled together close to the several fireplaces to stay warm on chill New England winter nights. (Then we can also contemplate the generations of energetic and restless types who instead keep warm by bundling up, going outside, and shoveling all that snow.)

Winter in the 1950s at the Weeks Brick House.
The view at right shows the Weeks Brick House in the 1950s, sometime before the re-routing of Rte. 101 and the construction of Rte. 33 in 1957. In the foreground is Weeks Avenue, which was subsequently abbreviated and cut off from Rte. 33. Also no longer part of the landscape are the circular looping driveway and the multi-car garage that was built after the 1938 fire that destroyed the farm outbuildings.

Annual Meeting Weekend Sept. 15-16 combined exploration & learning

The Weeks Brick House Annual Meeting Weekend on September 15 & 16, 2018 attracted a small but enthusiastic core of Weeks family descendants to enjoy two days of exploration, history, genealogy networking, and social fun at the ancestral home in Greenland, N.H.

Tours of the house, grounds, and gardens, plus wooded walks on our nature trails helped visitors old and new discover the man-made nooks and nature-made crannies of the 1710 house and 1656 family farmstead.

Early arrivals browsed the Weeks Brick House gift shop and the Silent Auction offerings on display in the Great Room of the house before gathering for guided tours – and self-directed meanderings – of the house, grounds, gardens, and trails.

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It’s a shaky balance at the Weeks Brick House … or … ‘If it’s not one thing, it’s another!’

Emergency repairs prompt plea for more membership & support

When you are charged with maintaining a 1710 house, as the the late Gilda Radner’s character Roseanne Roseannadonna used to say, “It’s always something.”

Just about one year ago in the fall 2017 News of the Weeks Brick House & Gardens, we reported on some much-needed plumbing repairs, replacements, and upgrades that were accomplished while the house was unoccupied and between tenants. The goal of the work, which amounted to about $2,500, was to elevate the “modern conveniences” in the 1710 house to meet any reasonable tenant’s basic expectations of 21st-century living.

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Renew & Contribute Today! — 2019 DUES ARE DUE — See Page 3
From the President: Happy tenants, stable board, weeds at bay, trails clear, ...and membership up 30%

By Tom Ayres, President

Weeks Brick House & Gardens

The past year has been another fairly quiet year at the Weeks Brick House & Gardens.

Cynthia Smith continues to provide on-site management of our historic house and grounds. Our tenants seem to enjoy quietly living in the house, which is nice for us. Additionally, Cynthia performs the critical role as our treasurer. She deserves our profound thanks for her dedication to our organization.

Steve Pike provides excellent service in managing the maintenance of the house, grounds and trails. Steve also managed and supplied materials for this year’s annual spring clean-up day at the Weeks Brick House grounds and trails. There were a number of willing workers, including Amanda Nelson, Cynthia Smith, Reg Bacon, Skip Weeks, Marcia Ayres, and myself.

The trails required a new bridge that was built by Skip and Reg under Steve’s excellent management.

The garden and flower bed weeds were removed by Amanda, Cynthia, and Marcia. Additionally, the fruit trees were trimmed.

Additionally, the fruit trees were trimmed removed by Amanda, Cynthia, and Marcia.

Cathy Wescott, who along with Amanda Nelson, manages our Facebook page, is pleased to report that we now have 241 friends on Facebook.

and mulch was spread around the flower beads along the rear walkway to keep down this season’s weeds.

Amanda Nelson provides our legal service as needed, and reviews preservation grants to help fund necessary repairs to our house.

Reg Bacon provides much appreciated support in three critical areas of the Weeks Brick House & Gardens, including the www.weeksbrickhouse.org website, our spring and fall newsletters, and our Annual Meeting Weekend notice.

Mary Groebner continues to provide her excellent work in handling our numerous administrative responsibilities, including regular mail, email, phone calls, and the mailing of our newsletters.

Cathy Wescott, who, along with Amanda Nelson, manages our Weeks Brick House Facebook page, is pleased to report that we now have 241 friends on Facebook.

Cynthia Weeks reports that Weeks Brick House membership has increased this past year. We now have 72 members, up from 55 last year. Additional members are most welcome. Earlier this year, Tom and Marcia Ayres, picked up Gay Neale’s donation of four antique side chairs from her home at Brodnax, Virginia. These chairs, with rush seats and the original paint and stencil design, belonged to Deacon Satchel Weeks (1828-1915), of Wakefield, N.H. They are now proudly on display in our Great Room.

So, in summary, this past year has been a very good one at the Weeks Brick House & Gardens.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas D. Ayres

Janet Ireland Delorey contributed immensely to our knowledge of the life of Leonard Weeks

This news is more than five years late to readers of the Weeks Brick House & Gardens newsletter, but this late mention will prove informative to ardent researchers of Weeks family genealogy.

We recently learned that Janet Ireland Delorey, a professional genealogist and Weeks descendant who cut through myth and misinformation to illuminate what can be known about family progenitor Leonard Weeks, died on May 27, 2013 at age 80.

A longtime resident of Shrewsbury, Mass., she graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a degree in sociology in 1954 and had a career in the insurance business before devoting her energies to genealogy and social history in 1977. Her research and writing was published in major genealogical journals, including numerous articles in the Register of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. NEHGS later named her an honorary trustee. She was also a member of the American Antiquarian Society.

Her research and writing on Leonard Weeks (1633-1707) and the Weeks family brought to light deeper detail on his English origins and the identity of his wives. Her two articles of greatest interest to Weeks descendants seeking accurate genealogical information were published in the New Hampshire Genealogical Record: (1) “Which Mary is the wife of Leonard Weeks of Greenland, New Hampshire” (NHGR 15, No. 4, pg. 145-51, October 1998), and (2) with Melinde Lutz Sanborn, FASG, “New Thoughts on the Family of Leonard Weeks” (NHGR 19, No. 2, pg. 41-49, & No. 3, pg. 101-113, April & July 2002). Janet Ireland Delorey was the featured speaker at the Weeks Brick House & Gardens Annual Meeting in 2002.

Janet Ireland Delorey was born Oct. 15, 1932 in Gardiner, Maine, the daughter of Donald A. Ireland and Genevieve (Weeks) Ireland. Her 2013 obituary noted she was survived by three children, two sisters, five grandchildren, and one great grandson.
Weeks Brick House
Annual Meeting
Sept. 15 & 16, 2018

Scenes from the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Weeks Brick House & Gardens include the house, garden, and trails … and also Weeks descendants from near and far that congregated at the ancestral home. Below, the sunny weather was perfect for the Wine & Cheese party on Saturday afternoon. At lower left and right, restoration mason Richard Irons had a rapt audience for his Sunday morning presentation.

Please return this form with payment to: Weeks Brick House & Gardens, P. O. Box 93, Greenland, NH 03840. Thank You!

Make check payable in U.S. currency to “Weeks Brick House.” All gifts are tax deductible. Thank You!
Annual Meeting Sept. 15-16
sparks renewed appreciation
for Weeks house & farmstead
continued from page 1

Also on the Saturday schedule this year was a guided group tour of Strawbery Banke Museum in Portsmouth, N.H., the 10-acre museum comprised of 32 historic buildings, gardens, and craft demonstrations that interprets early New England life in the New Hampshire seacoast region.

Late Saturday afternoon, the Wine & Cheese Party among the gardens and grounds was ideal for Weeks family cousins to revel in genealogy networking and family history gabbing. The winning bidders at the Silent Auction could also raise a glass or two in celebration of their winnings.

Starting off on Sunday morning was a brief but uplifting and enthusiastic presentation by Marcia McLaughlin, chairman of the Weeks Library board of trustees, and Denise Grimse, library director, on the forthcoming expansion of the Weeks Public Library in Greenland.

Our featured guest speaker Sunday morning was Richard Irons, New England’s foremost practitioner of restoration masonry (… and teacher of dozens of other craftsmen), who incidentally has direct experience working on the 17th-century brick of the Weeks Brick House. In the Great Room of the house he presented a well-received illustrated program on the conservation and restoration of antique masonry, with dozens of examples from the many historic homes and museum houses he has worked on through his long career.

Attendees then made their way across Rte. 33 to the Annual Meeting lunch at the Greenland Church Parish Hall. Following lunch was the annual business meeting, at which WBH president Tom Ayres presented his 2018 report (see pg. 2) and treasurer Cynthia Smith gave her report on the organization’s finances. Election of directors and officers concluded the official business.

‘It’s always something!’ …
continued from page 1

Soon after the work was completed and reliable non-leaking water service was restored, we secured happy tenants delighted with fluidly flowing faucets, fixtures, and functioning facilities.

But as most of us know only too well from experience, everything in life tends to balance out. In October 2018, the main drain pipe out of the Weeks Brick House self-destructed. Replacement necessitated cutting through the back wall of the basement. In addition, drywall in the first-floor bathroom had to be replaced. Five well-compensated tradesmen put in a 10-hour day to make these repairs.

Meanwhile, the proactive planning for window maintenance and storm window replacement continues. Preliminary estimates suggest that this work may cost as much as $35,000. Repairs to the west chimney follow the windows in priority. Pursuit of historic preservation grant funding for such projects is in progress, but of course funders like to “ride with a winner” and see a solid base of support.

So as we arrive at our annual December dues paying time, consider an additional contribution to the General House Preservation & Maintenance Fund. And remember that holiday gatherings with your Weeks kin are a perfect opportunity to encourage their membership support of the Weeks Brick House & Gardens.

Plumbing-wise, we’ve restored the “flow.”
Now, financially, let’s restore the “balance.”