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by: Mary Crescenzi

Next February will mark the second anniversary of the establishment of the Ardsley Historical Society, and the second year of ARLINE WESTON'S presidency. It was in February 1982 that the first meeting was held at the Captain Honeywell House, which appropriately, was recently granted a historic marker as one of Ardsley's oldest homes by the Westchester Tricentennial Committee. The society was honored as well. It received a provisional charter by the State of New York, recognizing it as its official historical society for three years. At the end of this time, in showing its ability to preserve the articles of historical value, the society received a full charter.

Forming a historical society has been a dream of Weston's ever since she worked as an interpreter, giving tours of the historic J. Gould Estate at Lyndhurst in Tarrytown. "That's where I learned about preservation, and realized the importance of it. I wanted the village to have a society where people could preserve their lives and their

past. Something that would bring the people of Ardsley together for a better appreciation of our American heritage.”

She read Arthur Silliman’s local history and set about organizing a group committed to preserving that history. The Ardsley Historical Society meets twice a year, the directors and officers, every other month. Once a year a public meeting is held. This year that meeting took the form of a day fair that was held on June 11 in Macy Park, in honor of the Westchester County Tricentennial.

“It was a great success,” says Weston, “the first major function sponsored by the Historical Society. We were expecting 1500 people 3000 showed up.” The Society’s next event is scheduled for May.

The laborious task of recording Ardsley’s history for posterity is presently being tackled by a group of over 25 people, who have formed committees to work on different aspects of historical preservation. The jobs range from library and museum cataloging of items of historical interest such as maps and photographs, to oral and videotaping of senior citizens recollections of the past.

History is an important part of Weston’s life. Her hobby is stamp collecting and, for the national bicentennial in 1976, she designed a special quilt, commemorating historic sites in Ardsley. She and her husband HARVEY

have lived in the village for 20 years. They have three children, BARBARA ANN, BOB and ALLISON.*

*After living nearly 60 years in Ardsley, in 2021, Arline moved to Ohio to be closer to her children. An article about Arline is featured in the Spring 2021 edition of *The Beacon*.