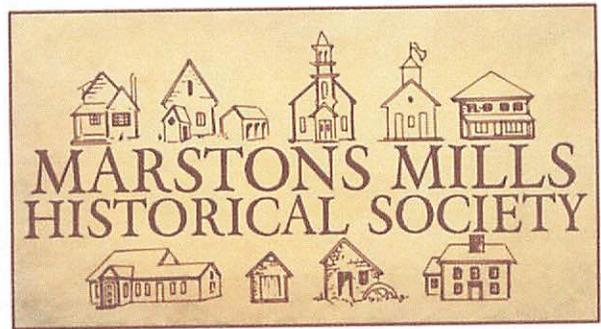


Marstons Mills Historical Society
Interview with Barbara Fuller
(Jim Gould & David Martin)
August 6, 2012



P.O. Box 1375 Marstons Mills, MA 02648
marstonsmillshistorical.org

An interview took place with Barbara (Weeks) Fuller, Route 149, assisted by her son Harold Fuller and her cousin Justine Squaglia about memories of the village.

When she first met Al, he was a tall redhead. She recalled going to meetings at the Santuit Grange, where whist parties, dances, and clambakes were held. Her Aunt Maude told young girls that they should not go to the dances because "The girls there are hussies." She was also active in leading 4-H Clubs, teaching sewing. Joanne Budd Cunningham, daughter of Camp Alpine owners Mark and Lillian Budd nearby the Fuller property, recalls that Barbara's husband Al gave Joanne rides as a five-year-old on his farm tractor.

"Elizabeth's Island"—a peninsula dividing Middle Pond and Mystic Lake--was given to Elizabeth Fuller in the 1800's; this piece of land is actually a glacial esker, formed by the receding glacier. There was a family cottage on the south side of Race Lane across from the airport, perhaps an old army barracks. It burned down in 2005. Al would take a wagon over to Willow Street in West Barnstable to pick up boys who would squeal when they came riding down the moraine onto the Plains.

Barbara recalls rowing out on Middle Pond in a rowboat in order to avoid doing her house chores as a child. Gramma Rose, born Roselle Carter, was an orphan from Boston Children's Home, who first lived at the Fuller house as hired help. One night she survived a lightning strike which came in one window and out another, without any damage.

The Fullers had 15 milking cows, which were sold in 1958 or 1959 when the new state health regulations required milking in one place rather than carrying it from the barn to the shed as they had done. The milk from the cows was sent every day to the Hord Dairy at Mystic Lake Farm. The family made butter, but only for their own use; they also made ice cream from time to time. Al Fuller made dandelion wine from greens picked in early spring; dandelions and beach plums were picked for the Fullers by their grandchildren from a field in South Yarmouth. On the west side of this house was a family garden where they grew grapes, peaches, raspberries, strawberries, asparagus, and occasionally producing beach plums.

Barbara cared for numerous children in the area as a babysitter, including her cousins Alice and Dickie Cross of Osterville. Her mother and Nancy Cross were sisters. Barbara shared a treasure trove of old photographs, some of which are planned to appear in the Arcadia Publication about the history of Marstons Mills.



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