

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

84-334-4

Billerica

284

Town Chelmsford

Place (neighborhood or village)
 Chelmsford Center

Address 23 Billerica Rd.

Historic Name Ephraim A. Stevens House

Uses: Present residence, 3 apartments

Original residence, single family

Date of Construction 1893

Source Lowell Weekly Journal
 tax/valuation records

Style/Form

Architect/Builder Charles E. Parkhurst

Exterior Material:

Foundation main house: large fieldstone, concrete
 barn: cement blocks

Wall/Trim shingles, clapboard

Roof gable

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures none

Major Alterations (with dates)

1894 shed added between house & barn
 see continuation sheet

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

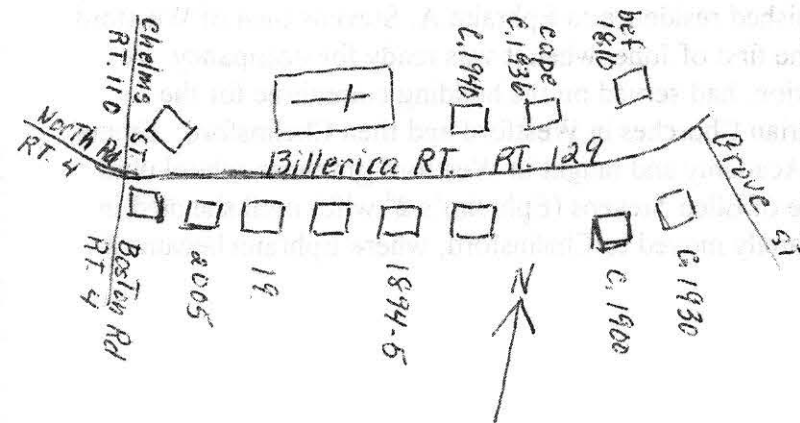
Acreage 18800 sq. ft

Setting primarily residential, on busy street; a church is located across the street. The land in the rear slopes steeply down to a swampy area.



Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



Recorded by Jane Drury

Organization for Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (month / year) April 2005

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

In 1893 this house with attached shed and barn at 23 Billerica Rd. was described as "a pleasantly located and thoroughly constructed house." A corner peaked "tower" is on the front right side of the main house. The front open porch on the front left side has an arched entrance way, and its roof is an extension of the main roof. A dormer over this entrance porch if not original, was there when the Jewetts purchased the property in 1915.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE see continuation sheet

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

shed added between house & barn

The dwelling at 23 Billerica St. was built for B. M. Fiske, who was developing part of his land to sell. Charles E. Parkhurst, a local man, was the architect. The cellar was dug in December 1892 by R.W. Dix. Mr. Fiske was then a resident of Somerville, and in May 1893 he sold the almost finished residence to Ephraim A. Stevens then of Westford. He and his two daughters moved into their new home about the first of June, when it was ready for occupancy. A widower, Ephraim Stevens, a carpenter and joiner by occupation, had served on the building committee for the Westford Town Hall. The small family was active in the Unitarian Churches in Westford and then Chelmsford. Emma, the younger daughter, graduated with honors from Westford Academy and taught in Westford grammar school until Ephraim's wife became ill. Emma left the school and took care of Ellen Stevens (Ephraim's 2^d wife) until she died in 1888. After fire destroyed their Westford home, the Stevens family moved to Chelmsford, where Ephraim became a farmer and street lamp lighter.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES see continuation sheet

Lowell Weekly Journal: 12/16/1892, 5/12/1893, 6/23/1899, 9/1/1899

Lowell Courier-Citizen: 1/15/1915

Street directories

Assessors' records: town clerk's records: building inspector's records

Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds. Bk. 244, pg. 349 Fiske to Stevens

Edwin Jewett, 11/21/1986

Clifford Choquette. Sept. 3, 1980

Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society. vol. 125, #4, pg. 292, Aug. 21, 1981. "Nettie Maria Stevens (1861-Her Life and Contributions to Cytogenetics", by Marilyn Bailey Ogilvie & Clifford Choquette.

Chelmsford Independent. Sept. 8, 1994, pg. 12

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town
CHELMSFORD

Property Address
23 BILLERICA RD.

Area(s) Form No.

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HISTORY

Ephraim Stevens older daughter, Nettie, became well known for her work in genetics. She died of cancer in 1912 at the age of 50, and perhaps if she had lived longer she might have won the Nobel Prize. In 1994, due to the efforts of Cliff Choquette of Chelmsford, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. Born in Vermont, Nettie received her early education at Westford Academy and at Westfield Normal School, returning to Westford to teach at the Academy. After coming to 23 Billerica Rd. in Chelmsford, Nettie taught in Billerica and she also served as a part-time librarian in the Chelmsford Free Public Library, a predecessor of the Adams Library. In 1897 she left Chelmsford to continue her education and work in genetics, first at Leland Stanford University and later at Bryn Mawr, Woods Hole, the Naples Zoological Station and Institute at Wurtzburg and the Carnegie Institute of Washington. The Encyclopedia Americana declared her most important discovery to be "The connection of an unequal pair of chromosomes to sex difference was first established in a beetle by the American cytologist Nettie M. Stevens in 1905. Stevens showed that males had unlike members in one chromosome pair called XY, while females had like members called XX."

Two years after Nettie left Chelmsford, her father sold the residence at 23 Billerica Rd. and moved with his other daughter, Emma, to California, where they joined Nettie. They were greatly missed in Chelmsford, where they had been "conspicuous for good works and public spirit in the various channels of community enterprise." Ephraim Stevens died in Riverside, CA in 1914, aged 81 years.

Anadore Bosca of Lowell moved into the house at 23 Billerica Rd. about Sept. 1, 1899. Mr. Bosca worked as an overseer in Lowell. That family remained here eight years before selling to Robert E. Murphy, a dyer. He too only remained a few years before moving to Tewksbury and selling to the Jewett family. Walter and Blanche Jewett and their family remained here for 34 years.

Walter Jewett was a plumber, who eventually became plumbing examiner/inspector. He & Blanche had at least four children who grew up in the house, Edwin, Helen, Gertrude and Walter E. The senior Walter's parents, William & Julia Hall, moved into 23 Billerica Rd. soon after the Jewetts purchased it. The residence was made into a two family house, and Edwin and Helen lived upstairs. Edwin wasn't there long before he went into the Navy, and after that he and his wife moved to Dalton Rd., where they lived for the rest of their lives. Helen became a nurse, and Walter was a repairman. Gertrude was a bookkeeper in 1929, when she married Percy Rowe. Julia (Perham) Hall came from an old Chelmsford family, but her husband, William Hall, was a retired merchant who came from Belchertown. In August 1919 Julia was found dead in her bed, but William lived almost twenty more years with William and Blanche Jewett before he died at age 84. Blanche died, age 68, in May 1949, and the house was sold that December to Harry & Lillian Lewis.

The Lewis family resided here for 26 years, and they were the first to rent out an apartment in the house. It remained a two family house until 1987, when the barn was converted to an apartment, making the property a 3 family residence. Harry Lewis was a barber, and he and Lillian had a son Roger, who lived here with them until he graduated from school. Harry had died by 1975, when Lillian Lewis sold the property to Bradford & Judith Emerson. They were father and daughter, and he didn't live there. However, Lillian Lewis remained in the house for a few years with Judy.

The next and last of long term owners/residents was the McClure family, which owned it between 1987 to 1999. It was that family with made extensive alterations to the rear of the house, including the barn to a third apartment. In 1986 both the previous owner, Thomas Salowski, and Richard & James, the prospective owners, applied to "convert existing barn attached to two family dwelling into a dwelling until making a total of three dwelling units", but it was denied by the building inspector. However, following various appeals, etc., permission was given for the conversion and to build a deck at the rear of the barn. Several of the McClure family did reside at 23 Billerica Rd., including Richard, father and son. The younger Richard McClure is an attorney, still residing in Chelmsford and active in politics. The present owners, Richard and Karine Marino have lived in the house since 2000.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
CHELMSFORD

Property Address
23 BILLERICA

ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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HISTORY



Ephraim A. Stevens



Nettie Stevens

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
CHELMSFORD

Property Address
23 BILLERICA RD.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

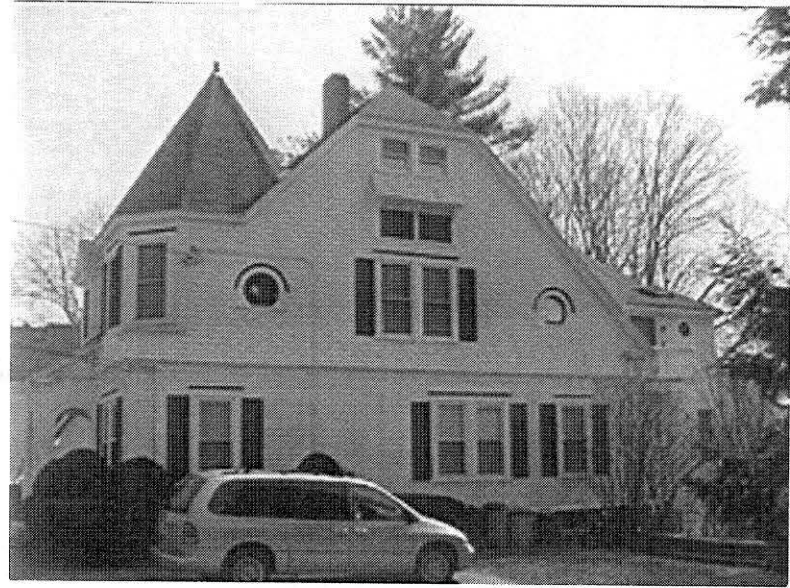
Area(s) Form No.

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ALTERATIONS

- 1894
- c. 1940 conversion from single family to a 2-family residence
- 1987 conversion of barn to dwelling, making the residence a 3-family dwelling
- 1987 deck added to rear, roof removed & replaced with a dormer on top of remaining deck area
- 1988 shed area between main house & barn: open ceiling, skylights, dormer, 36" stairwell, windows on left side added/
removed
- 1992 barn: stone foundation replaced with concrete block

Very few changes To front of house



Apr. 6, 2005



23 Billerica Road
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

- Bk. 10503, pg. 081 Nov. 03, 1999 Martha McClure, Tyngsboro, to
Richard M & Karine? Marino, 23 Billerica Rd.
362,000
23 Billerica Road
18,000 sq. ft & buildings, south side of Billerica Rd.
including rights of driveway on west & south side, Bk. 8499, pg 2
subject: taking, Bk. 4450, pg. 98
same: McClure 1996 deed, Bk. 7856, pg. 36
- Bk. 7856, pg. 36 Jan. 25, 1996 Richard P. & Martha McClure to
Martha McClure
\$1
18,000 sq. ft & buildings, south side of Billerica Rd.
including rights of driveway on west & south side, Bk. 8499, pg 2
subject: taking, Bk. 4450, pg. 98
same: confirmatory deed, Bk. 7341, pg. 58
- Bk. 7341, pg. 058 Dec. 23, 1994
confirmatory Martha McClure to
Richard P. & Martha McClure
18,000 sq. ft & buildings, south side of Billerica Rd.
including rights of driveway on west & south side, Bk. 8499, pg 2
subject: taking, Bk. 4450, pg. 98
same: confirming McClure 1993 deed, Bk. 6684, pg. 253
- Bk. 6684, pg. 253 Sept. 23, 1993 Martha McClure to
Richard P. & Martha McClure
love & affection
23 Billerica Rd.; property description in Bk. 5055, pg 131
- Bk. 5055, pg. 131 Oct. 30, 1989 James J. & Gail McClure, & Martha McClure to
James J. & Gail McClure 33 1/3 part; & Martha McClure 66 2/3 to
\$1
23 Billerica Rd.
18,000 sq. ft & buildings, south side of Billerica Rd.
including rights of driveway on west & south side, Bk. 8499, pg 2
subject: 1987 mortgage \$225,000 Document #55906
same: to grantors' 1987 deed, Bk. 4253, pg. 58
- Bk. Sept. 23, 1987 Richard E., Joan F., James, Martha McClure to
James & Gail McClure 50%; Martha McClure 50%
18,000 sq. ft & buildings, south side of Billerica Rd.
including rights of driveway on west & south side
subject: 1987 mortgage \$225,000, Document #55906
same: Bk. 3920, pg. 35; Bk. 3975, pg. 123; & Sept. 16, 1987 to be
recorded
- Bk. 3975, pg. 123 Mar. 18, 1987
confirmatory Thomas M. Salowsky, Steven R. Peal, David F. Reese to
James J. McClure & Gail P. Thursby, husb. & wife, 196 Mill Rd., 50%;
Martha McClure, 44 Seveneth Ave., Lowell, 50% interest
\$1
18,000 sq. ft & buildings, south side of Billerica Rd.
including rights of driveway on west & south side
Confirming interests of grantees incorrectly stated in Bk. 3920, pg. 35
same: 1985 Vienneau deed, Bk. 3293, pg. 141

Bk. 3920	Feb. 13, 1987	Thomas M. Salowsky, Steven R. Peal, David F. Reese to James J. McClure & Gail P. Thursby, husb. & wife, 196 Mill Rd., ½%; Martha McClure, 44 Seveneth Ave., Lowell, ½% interest \$225,000 18,000 sq. ft & buildings, south side of Billerica Rd. including rights of driveway on west & south side same: 1985 Vienneau deed, bk. v3293, pg. 141
Bk. 3293, 141	Dec. 20, 1985	Bruce D. & Donna Vienneau (FKA Donna DiLorenzo) to Thomas M. Salowsky, Steven R. Peal, David F. Rease, 23 Billerica Rd. \$180,000 18,000 sq. ft & buildings, south side of Billerica Rd. including rights of driveway on west & south side same: Emerson deed, Bk. 2422, pg. 435
Bk. 2422, pg. 435	May 30, 1980	Judith D. & Bradford D. Emerson, unmarried, to Bruce D. & Donna Vienneau (FKA Donna DiLorenza) \$64,000 18,000 sq. ft & buildings, south side of Billerica Rd. including rights of driveway on west & south side same: 1975 Lewis deed, Bk. 2169, pg. 266
Bk. 2169, pg. 266	Oct. 16, 1975	Lillian F. Lewis, unmarried, to Bradford O. & Judith D. Emerson, both of 23 Billerica Rd. \$36,000 18,000 sq.ft. & buildings, south side Billerica Rd. including: all rights to driveway on west & south sides same: Lewis 1949 deed, Bk. 1131, pg. 336
Bk. 1131, pg. 336	12 29, 1949	Walter Jewett, unmarried, to Harry S. & Lillian F. Lewis consideration paid 18,000 sq.ft. & buildings, south side Billerica Rd. including: all rights to driveway on west & south sides same: Lewis 1949 deed, Bk. 1114, pg. 179
Bk. 1114, pg. 179	May 02, 1949	Doris Stevens, Lowell, to Walter & Blanche E. Jewett 18,000 sq.ft. & buildings, south side Billerica Rd. including: all rights to driveway on west & south sides same: Jewett deed, Bk. 1114, pg. 179
Bk. 1114, pg. 179	May 02, 1949	Blanche E. Jewett to Doris Stevens, Lowell 18,000 sq.ft. & buildings, south side Billerica Rd. including: all rights to driveway on west & south sides same: Hill, trustee, deed, bk. 785, pg. 295
Bk. 785, pg. 295	Dec. 20, 1929	Estate of Perley P. Perham, late of Chelmsford, to Blanche E. Jewett 18,000 sq.ft. & buildings, south side Billerica Rd. including: all rights to driveway on west & south sides same: Murphy 1915 deed, Bk. 548, pg. 31
Bk. 548, pg. 31	Dec. 04, 1915	Robert E. Murphy to Louisa E. Fowle, Chelmsford, Charles F. Perham, Lowell. trustees under will of Perley P. Perham
Middlesex Probate Document #88639	1911 Will	Estate of Perley P. Perham

Bk. 407, pg. 511	July 06, 1907	Anadore B. Bosca, Lowell, to Robert E. Murphy, Lowell 18,000 sq.ft. & buildings, south side Billerica Rd. same: Stevens 1899 deed, Bk. 309, pg. 115
Bk. 309, pg. 115	June 20, 1899	Ephraim A. Stevens to Anadore B. Bosca, Lowell #1 18,000 sq.ft. & buildings, south side Billerica Rd. including: screens, shutters & all other fixtures & appliances premises: to be vacated by Stevens on or before Sept. 20, 1899 same: Fiske 1893 deed, Bk. 244, pg. 349
Bk. 244, pg. 349	May 19, 1883	Benjamin M. Fiske, Someville, to Ephraim A. Stevens, Westford 18,000 sq.ft. & buildings, south side Billerica Rd. portion: premises inherited by he & brothers from mother Eliza W. Fiske

Compiled by J. B. Drury April 2005

Lowell Weekly Journal:

Dec. 16, 1892 - R.W. Dix is just finishing a cellar for a house which Charles E. Parkhurst is to build for B.M. Fiske on Billerica street. Although Mr. Fiske's present home is in Somerville he is not unmindful of the material interests of Chelmsford, where his earlier years were passed, and is constantly making improvements upon his property here, which add substantially to the appearance and prosperity of the village.

May 12, 1893 - B.M. Fiske, through the agency of E.K. Parkhurst, has sold his new dwelling house on Billerica street to E.A. Stevens, a well known resident of Westford, who will take possession about the first of June, at which time the building will be ready for occupancy. It is a pleasantly-located and thoroughly-constructed house, and its tenants will constitute a very welcome addition to our growing community.

June 23, 1899 - Mr. Ephraim A. Stevens has sold his desirable premises in Billerica street to A.B. Bosca of Lowell, who will take possession about the first of September. Mr. Bosca is the father of Mrs. Edgar F. Parkhurst of this village. It is understood that Mr. Stevens and daughter will remove to California, joining another daughter, who has been taking an advanced course at the Leland Stanford university. Mr. & Miss Stevens will be greatly missed in this village, where they have been conspicuous for good works and public spirit in the various channels of community enterprise.

Sept. 1, 1899 - Mr. E.A. Stevens and daughter, Miss Emma J. Stevens, who will remove to California this fall, where Mr. Stevens has purchased an estate, will previously spend a few weeks in visiting Mr. Stevens' brother in North Chester, Vermont, and friends in this vicinity.

Lowell Courier-Citizen:

Jan. 15, 1915 - Ephraim A. Stevens, formerly of Westford and Chelmsford, died at his home in Mountain View, California, December 27, 1914, aged 81 years, 9 months and 3 days.

A FAMOUS LADY - ONCE A CHELMSFORD LIBRARIAN

One of the first American women to achieve recognition for her contributions to scientific research was Nettie Maria Stevens, born 1861 in Cavendish, Vermont, died of cancer in Baltimore 1912. What's this got to do with Chelmsford? Read on. Nettie was a direct descendant of a long line of ancestors in Chelmsford. Carrie Stevens, a family historian wrote in her Family Scrapbook that "in 1635, Henry Stevens, then a young man, came from Chelmsford, England to Boston and settled in what is now Brookline. Among his children was a son John who settled here in Chelmsford about 1663. John had a son Richard, who had Samuel, who had Simeon, who had Sampson, who had Asa, who had Ephraim, who had among his children Nettie and her sister Emma. Three brothers died very young. Ephraim had moved from Westford to Cavendish where his wife and two boys died then moved back to Westford and married again.

Nettie received her early education in the public schools of Westford, a model student. She graduated from Westford Academy 1880. She then attended Westfield State Normal School, then returned to Westford and taught school at Minot's Corner. A School Committee report stated "The school made rapid progress under the able tuition of Miss Stevens." For a short time she was a Trustee of the library in Westford.

In 1894 the family moved to Chelmsford and resided on Billerica Road. Nettie took a job as a Librarian, at that time the Free Public Library in the old Town Hall, Chelmsford. Her part-time salary was \$50. per annum. For a time, she was engaged in moving the book collection from the town hall library to the new Adams Library in Central Square. She also taught at the Howe School in Billerica. From here she went to the new Stanford University in California, her sister and father joining her at home three years later. Armed with a Master's Degree she returned East to study at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. With a graduate scholarship and being there only six months she did such brilliant work that gave her a fellowship to study abroad in biology research work, namely Germany and Italy

NETTIE MARIA STEVENS

TEACHER --- CHELMSFORD LIBRARIAN --- WORLD FAMOUS SCIENTIST

Although Nettie Maria Stevens was born in Cavendish Vermont, she had strong ancestral ties with Chelmsford. Her ancestor, John Stevens, settled in Chelmsford in 1663. The following year, he married Elizabeth Hildreth and built the Stevens homestead on Stoney Brook Way [now Old Westford Road] near the corner of School Street where five generations of John Stevens' descendants grew up.

Nettie was born on July 7, 1861, her parents having been married in Cavendish in 1854. Her mother died shortly after the birth of her sister, Emma Julia, and her father remarried. The family then moved to the Forge Village section of Westford

Nettie received her early education in the Westford public schools and at Westford Academy, graduating in 1880 as valedictorian of her class.

Soon after graduation, Nettie accepted a position as teacher of Latin, English, mathematics, physiology, and zoology in the high school at Lebanon, New Hampshire. But after three terms at Lebanon, she decided, at the age of 31, to continue her education by enrolling at Westfield Normal School where she distinguished herself academically.

It is reported that she passed a four-year course in only two years in spite of the fact that she carried a rather heavy program, including physics, botany, zoology, geography, astronomy, chemistry, and physiology.

She returned to Westford following her graduation and accepted a teaching position in the District School at Minot's Corner for a brief period before becoming a preceptress, (or teacher) at Westford Academy.

In 1893, Nettie, her sister Emma, and their father (her stepmother and a baby brother having died) moved to Chelmsford where Nettie was appointed librarian of the Free Public Library [predecessor of



the Adams Library.] She resumed her teaching career at the Howe School in Billerica in 1895.

Leland Stanford University, with its reputation as a youthful, innovative school with opportunities for individuals to pursue their own scholastic interests, lured Nettie to California in September, 1896. Her father and sister followed her three years later and established a home in the town of Mountain View, near Palo Alto.

Nettie earned her BA and master's degree at Stanford, concentrating on her studies and ignoring all extra-curricular activities. She then moved to Bryn Mawr, near Philadelphia, with a graduate scholarship in biology but,

after six months, her brilliant work was rewarded with a fellowship to study and do research abroad.

In 1901-02, she studied at the Naples Zoological Station and the Zoological Institute at Wurzburg, Germany. Her fellowship work was applied to her Ph.D. degree which she earned in 1903 from Bryn Mawr. She was given financial assistance for her work in the form of a \$1,000 grant from the Carnegie Institution.

Nettie Stevens carried out extensive biological and genetic research and published at least 38 scientific papers during her career. It was one of these which assured her of international fame in the scientific world.

The Encyclopedia Americana states: "The connection of an unequal pair of chromosomes to sex difference was first established in a beetle by the American cytologist Nettie M. Stevens in 1905. Stevens showed that males had unlike members in one chromosome pair called XY, while females had like members called XX."

Although another cytologist, working independently, made a similar discovery, Nettie Stevens was the first

Continued on page 4

to publish this important observation

Nettie died of breast cancer at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore on May 4 1912, her outstanding career cut short at the age of 50. Her funeral was held in Westford, followed by burial in Fairview Cemetery. Her grave and those of other members of her family are marked by five white stones a few feet from Main Street, nearly opposite Bob Hicks' tennis court.

It is quite conceivable that, had she lived longer, she might have received a Nobel Prize.

The proceedings of the American Philosophical Society of August 1981 contain a lengthy article entitled "Nettie Maria Stevens (1861-1912): Her Life and Contributions to Cytogenetics." The authors were Marilyn Bailey Ogilvie of Oklahoma Baptist University and Clifford J. Choquette of Chelmsford.

The present writer has a particular interest in Nettie Stevens because of a kinship, though rather distant - Nettie was a fourth cousin of my father.

* * * * *

REMEMBER THESE DATES -----

November 1st --- Fall Meeting

December 4th and 6th --- Olde Fashion Christmas Party

Catherine Goodwin, one of the Society's enthusiastic members, has recently written and put on the market a history of the Lowell Cemetery with the title, *Mourning Glory*. It sells for \$5.95 (plus tax) and is available at the Lowell Historical Society headquarters in the Boot Mill complex and at the Lowell Cemetery office on Lawrence Street. We feel sure that Catherine will be happy to help you find a copy, if you ask her.

* * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENT

Historical Society members are invited to the opening of the exhibit, "Two Centuries of Germans in Lowell" on December 10, 1992. Sample German cookies, enjoy live recorder music and a German Christmas tree. You will be surprised to find out about German glassblowers in the early eighteen hundreds and everything you want to know about the German community which gave the Harvard Brewery its flavor. So do come to the German Christmas party at the Patrick J. Mogan Cultural Center, 40 French Street, Lowell from 7 to 9 p.m. on December 10th.

The Chelmsford Historical Society

40 Byam Road
Chelmsford, MA 01824



Miss Eleanor Parkhurst
51 Acton Road
Chelmsford, MA. 01824

LIFE.

I was born in Cavendish, Vermont. My parents were Ephraim Asa Stevens and Julia Maria Stevens (née Adams). I received my early education at Westford Academy and at Westfield Normal School, Mass. After teaching for several years, I entered Leland Stanford Junior University in September, 1896, receiving the degree of A. B. in 1899 and of A. M. in 1900. During the year 1899-00 I did graduate work in Experimental Physiology under Prof. O. P. Jenkins, and in Histology and Cytology under Prof. F. M. McFarland. The four summer vacations of 1897-00 were spent at the Hopkins Laboratory, Pacific Grove, California.

In the autumn of 1900 I entered Bryn Mawr College, as Graduate Scholar in Biology. In March, 1901, I was awarded the President's European Fellowship. During the summer of 1901 I worked at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole. From Oct. 6, 1901 to April 1, 1902 I occupied the American Woman's Table at the Naples Zoological Station. During the summer semester of 1902 I studied in the laboratory of Prof. Th. Boveri at the Zoologisches Institut, Würzburg, Germany. October 1, 1902, I returned to Bryn Mawr College, as Resident Fellow in Biology, to complete my preparation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Morphology (major) under Prof. T. H. Morgan, and in Physiology (minor) under Prof. J. W. Warren. My written examinations were taken in February and March and my oral examinations on April 4, 1903.

To the professors under whom my graduate work has been done—Professors Jenkins and McFarland of Stanford University, Prof. Boveri of the University of Würzburg, and Professors Morgan and Warren of Bryn Mawr College—I desire to express my sincere appreciation of the interest which they have taken in my work, and of their efforts in my behalf.

PUBLICATIONS.

- 1—Studies on Ciliate Infusoria. Proc. of Calif. Acad. of Sciences. Vol. III, 1901.
- 2—On the Force of Contraction of the Frog's Gastrocnemius in Rigor, and on the Influence of "Chloretone" on that Process. Am. Journ. of Physiol. Vol. V, 1901.
- 3—Notes on Regeneration in *Planaria lugubris*. Archiv. f. Entwicklungsmech. Vol. XIII, 1902.
- 4—Regeneration in *Tubularia mesembryanthemum*. Ibid. Vol. XIII, 1902.
- 5—Regeneration in *Tubularia mesembryanthemum* II. Ibid. Vol. XV, 1902.
- 6—Experimental Studies on the Eggs of *Echinus microtuberculatus*. Ibid. Vol. XV, 1902.
- 7—Regeneration in *Antennularia ramosa*. Ibid. Vol. XV, 1902.
- 8—On the Oogenesis and Spermatogenesis of *Sagitta bipunctata*. Zool. Jahrb. Vol. —, 1903.
- 9—Notes on Regeneration in *Stentor coerulens*. Archiv. f. Entwicklungsmech. Vol. XVI, 1903.

Nettie: From schoolmarm to top biologist

By VIRGINIA KIMBALL
Sun Correspondent

WESTFORD - Nettie Maria Stevens never realized any fame in her lifetime. She was too absorbed in work.

But as historians look back at the annals of science, the name of this Westfordian, who published 40 papers in an eight-year scientific career, surfaces as one of the first American women to achieve recognition for her contributions to the field.

Early in the century, Nobel Prize-winning geneticist and embryologist Thomas Hunt Mor-

Westford

gan described Stevens, in her research on cell genetics as having "had a share in a discovery of importance."

"Her name will be remembered for this, when the minutiae of detailed investigations that she carried out have become incorporated in the general body of the subject," he wrote.

Nominated in 1982 for a berth in the National Women's Hall of Fame, Stevens, who died just 10 years after finishing her doctorate, is also memorialized in a scholarship fund for local students interested in environmental studies.

According to biographers Clifford Choquette and Marilyn Bailey Ogilvie, Nettie Maria Stevens grew up in the late 19th century in the quiet, rural town of Westford. Her family moved to Forge Village from Cavendish, Vt., in 1867, when Nettie was six years old.

After she graduated from Westford Academy, Nettie Stevens went right to work as a schoolmarm, teaching Latin, English, math, physiology, and zoology at a high school in Lebanon, N.H.

After three terms of teaching, Stevens entered Westfield State Normal School, where she excelled in the study of physics, astronomy, chemistry, physiology, botany, zoology and geography, receiving perfect scores in *geometry, chemistry and algebra*.

Following this blazing scientific major, Stevens returned to Westford, where she once again became a schoolmarm at the Minot's Corner School. It was during her brief service there she developed a syllabus for teaching geography, which was

later recommended for higher grades. After one year at the Minot's Corner School, Stevens moved to teaching at Westford Academy. In 1892, she left off teaching in Westford.

There is a brief gap in Stevens' personal history from 1892 until 1894. Biographers Choquette and Ogilvie believe that during this period Stevens was part-time librarian of the Free Public Library in Chelmsford.

Records show she resigned this position in May 1895, taking a teaching position in the Howe School in Billerica, a private high school. The Billerica Town Report indicated she may also have served as the principal's assistant.

At the age of 35, Stevens entered Stanford University to begin studies for a master's degree

'Her name will be remembered for this, when the minutiae of detailed investigations that she carried out have become incorporated in the general body of the subject.'

Thomas Hunt Morgan Nobel-Prize winning geneticist

in physiology and histology. In 1901 she received a graduate scholarship at Bryn Mawr College. It was there she was awarded the Bryn Mawr President's European Fellowship that enabled her to study with Professor Theodor Boveri at the University of Wurzburg and at the Naples Zoological Station.

Stevens received her doctoral degree and a resident fellowship at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania in 1902. Then, in 1904, she was awarded a grant by the Carnegie Institution of Washington as a research assistant.

In 1911, Stevens delivered what may have been her most important paper at the Annual Meeting of the American Socie-

ty of Zoologists, entitled "Super-numerary Chromosomes and Conjugation of Chromosomes in Centrophus."

A scientific contemporary of Stevens, Frank M. McFarland, stated in 1913, a year after her death: "Her place in the history of cytology (cell biology) is best assured by her work on sex determination, and especially by her discovery of the unequal chromosomes in the sperm cells of certain insects, in which one-half of all the sperms produced have a small chromosome, the other half a large chromosome, in addition to the ordinary ones."

In a paper published by The American Philosophical Society in 1981, Choquette and Ogilvie stated: "There is no doubt that Stevens made a substantial contribution to theoretical genetics. It is also evident that she contributed to the body of scientific knowledge - information which has been used to confirm or deny other theoretical proposals. The facts she presented and the experiments she chose to perform were carefully selected for their relevance to impending theoretical questions."

It was on Choquette's recommendation that Stevens was nominated to the National Women's Hall of Fame in May 1982.

A retired Chelmsford resident who volunteered at the Chelmsford Library "to do anything," Choquette ended up spending five years helping research Stevens' life for Oklahoma Baptist University Professor Marilyn Bailey Ogilvie.

Hall of Fame Executive Director Sarah Carter said this week that Nettie Stevens has been added to the pool of 300 names from which two members are taken each year for induction into the Hall of Fame.

Recognition of Nettie Stevens as an important historical figure from Westford and Chelmsford has been slow in coming.

Only when a Westford citizens' group was looking for a good name for a scholarship fund did the substantial achievements of her brief scientific career gain notice.

Phyllis Stewart, a member of Associated Westford Area Residents (AWARE), explained that when the IT Corp. was trying to site a hazardous waste facility in the town, group members donated to a fund for possible legal expenses.

"At a later town meeting," said Stewart, "the town took on the responsibilities of the legal expenses, and there was no way to give back the funds we had collected."

It was then that the group created a scholarship for a student interested in studying the environment. Westford resident Bill Collins suggested Nettie Stevens as an appropriate person to memorialize with the fund, and Cliff Choquette was contacted for more information about her.

Early this June, members of AWARE met once again, and decided to continue the scholarship for two more years with money remaining in the fund. They also pledged to organize fund-raisers to extend the scholarship into future years.

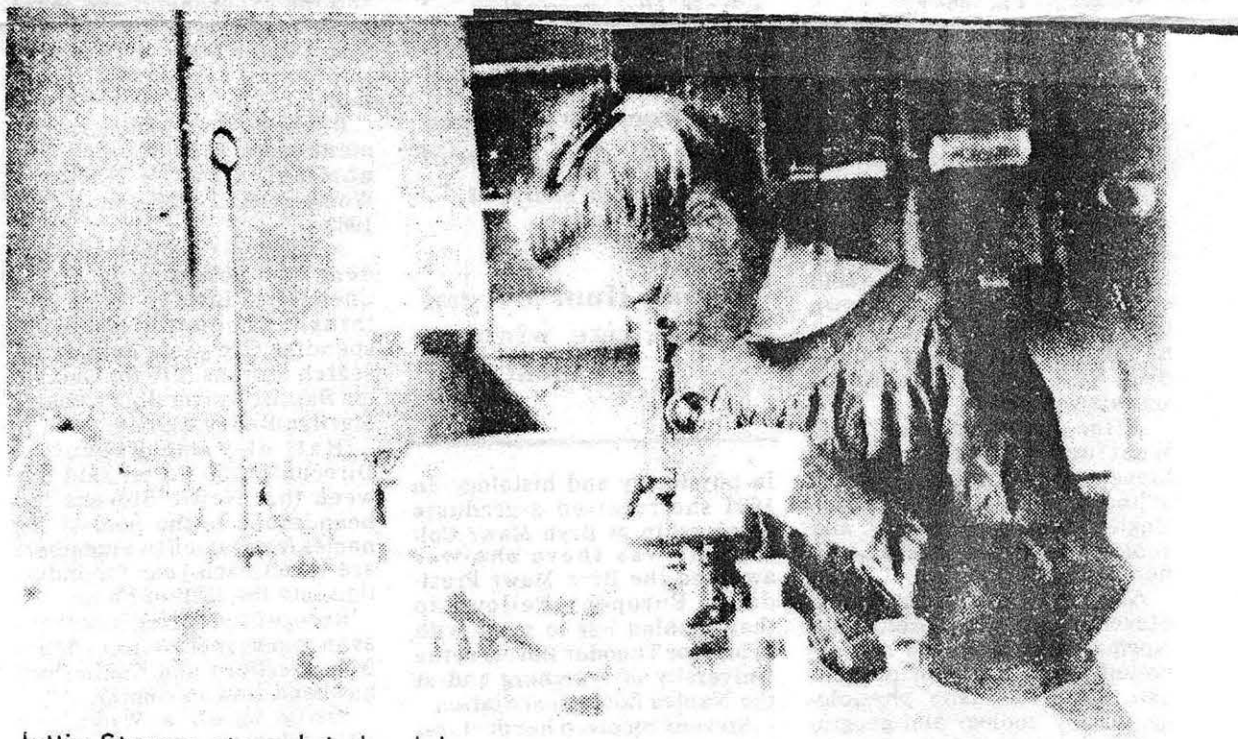
The first three winners of the Nettie Stevens scholarship are Martha Kennedy, Pamela Rathke and Rebecca Morton.

Nettie Stevens' years of productive scientific research were numbered. She suffered a fatal illness in 1912, only eight years after her professional work had begun.

In Fairview Cemetery in Westford, on a rounded knoll by Main Street, Nettie Stevens' grave rests among other members of her family. There is little recognition of the outstanding contributions she may have made to the world's knowledge of heredity. Back among her own, she is again just that quiet little girl from Westford.



Nettie Stevens



Nettie Stevens at work

THE
NATIONAL
WOMEN'S
HALL OF FAME

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August 5, 1994

Clifford Choquette
12 Longmeadow
Chelmsford, Massachusetts 01824

Dear Mr. Choquette:

It is my great pleasure to inform you that your 1994 nominee for induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame, Nettie Stevens, has been selected by our judging panel for induction this year.

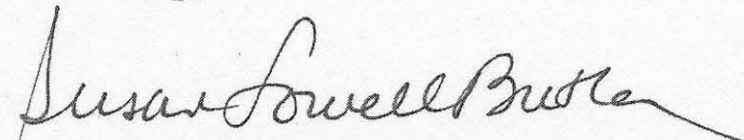
The 1994 National Honors Ceremonies will be held on Saturday, September 24, 1994 in Seneca Falls, New York, and you will receive an invitation in the next few weeks. We hope you will be able to attend.

Please keep the news of the 1994 Honorees confidential until August 20, 1994. We are still in the process of making plans with some living Honorees, and have not released the names to the media.

For your information, we have invited Mary Patterson McPherson, president of Bryn Mawr College, to accept the medallion for Stevens, and that the medal be kept at the College to which Stevens gave so many years of her life. We are also notifying Helen Redfern of Stevens' induction, and inviting her to the Ceremonies.

Please accept our thanks for your continuing support for the Hall -- and for taking the time to nominate this outstanding woman. We hope to see you at Honors 1994.

Sincerely,



Susan Lowell Butler
National Executive Director

Enclosures



CHELMSFORD

INDEPENDENT

WHAT'S

INSIDE

Ready to roll

The fall sports season kicks off this week with team previews.

See page 13



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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1994

50 CENTS

BOUQUET

Salute of the Week

As school begins again this week, the children in Delbert Kale's Judith Street neighborhood will be seeing their bus stop buddy every day, morning and afternoon. The 70-year-old widower has become a friend to the children, even offering them land to garden.

They have been working on cultivating and harvesting their land through the summer.

See page 3



Delbert Kale

If you'd like to nominate someone for the Chelmsford Bouquet of the Week, call our office at 256-7196. Bouquet provided by Feeney The Florist of Chelmsford.

Headed for the Hall of Fame

Famed scientist has local roots

By Lucille Daniel
Staff Writer

Nettie Stevens loved science more than anything. That's what a woman of her time had to do to make it in the narrow halls of turn-of-the-century academe. And make it she did.

Recognized today as one of the foremost scientific contributors of the century for her seminal theory about the existence of sex-linked chromosomes, Stevens will be inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame later this month, 100 years after she moved to Chelmsford from Westford where she had grown up.

Instrumental in liberating Stevens from

the shadow of more publicized male colleagues has been Chelmsford's Cliff Choquette, a devoted Friend of the Library, who has been tracking biographical information through local archives for several years now.

"I'm a root man," says Choquette, who has done a great deal of work in tracing family histories. "I belong to the New England Historical Society, the Chelmsford Historical Society and the Connecticut Genealogical Society," he adds, noting that "many Chelmsford residents went to Connecticut in the 17th century."

Choquette began his labor of love into See **NETTIE**, page 12



Nettie Stevens in 1904

History of Hall

Founded in 1969, the National Women's Hall of Fame is located in Seneca Falls, N.Y., where in the 1920s Alice Paul called for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. The not-for-profit educational institution is funded by membership dues, grants, corporate and individual sponsors and donations.

According to materials distributed by the Hall of Fame, women are inducted on the basis of: "the value of their contribution to society, to significant groups within society, or to the progress and freedom of women; their contributions to art, athletics, business, government, philanthropy, humanities, science and education; and the enduring value

See **HALL**, page 12





23 Billerica Road

1/19/2006 F. Merriam

