

Tewksbury Historical Society
P.O. Box 522
Tewksbury, MA 01876

TEWKSBURY GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER:

FEBRUARY 2025

TEWKSBURY'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

Remembering: **Rogers' Farm** **- Corner of Whipple Rd. and Rogers St.**

1744-1972



Rogers' Farm, West Tewksbury - ca. 1925

(Courtesy of Donald and Karen Ramsay)

Photo and excerpt are from:

"JUST ONE ROOM BUT MANY MEMORIES, The West School, West Tewksbury, MA"

by

Marie Georgia Ruckledge, 2004

A copy of this booklet is available for review in Tewksbury Public Library's Local History Room

The Timothy Rogers Homestead was built in 1744 at the corner of Whipple Road and Rogers Street. Melvin Rogers, a well known Tewksbury resident, lived here in his youth. The long cow barn was attached to the main barn and Whipple Road separated the house and barn. Rogers Street crossed Whipple Road in front of the house.

Harold Patten's 1964 History of Tewksbury (page 129) noted that Melvin G. Rogers was born in this homestead. "Educated in the little old schoolhouse in West Tewksbury, graduating at the age of 10, he then graduated from the Tewksbury High School at the age of 14." He then went to Lowell High School for two years before entering the University of Pennsylvania where he graduated from law school..."and practiced law in Lowell until his death" (in 1964).

"...In Tewksbury, as Town Moderator for forty years. At the last Town Meeting he served, he requested the people to remain so that he could come down to the floor and greet them and say good-bye to his many friends."



DAVID ROGERS

David Rogers, father of Melvin G. Rogers was born in 1840 and died in 1921. David Roger's great-grandfather, built on his own land, now called Fairlawn, A Sabba-Day House. Here neighbors and friends could gather between the forenoon and afternoon services in the Meetinghouse. In the oven at the fireplace they could warm their dinner, share with each other and hear the local gossip, discuss the sermon and learn of things happening in New Town (Cambridge) and Boston Town.

Miss Elizabeth Rogers, sister of David Rogers, speaks of them from memory "In those times there was no fire in the church and intermission was short, not sufficient time to go home so far, as the old house was opposite that of Mr. David Rogers. Therefore his great-grandfather built him what was called a Sabba-Day house on his own land, where they could go and warm by a fire, and in the oven was their dinner. Others were often invited with the family. Some think lightly of these houses, but I have a great reverence and respect for them. The cellar hole is on my land in Tewksbury, although fires have several times burnt around and in it. There an oak tree came up years ago, and lived through it all. Probably there the sermon and services were discussed, and I have no doubt that good arose from that place."



MELVIN GUY ROGERS

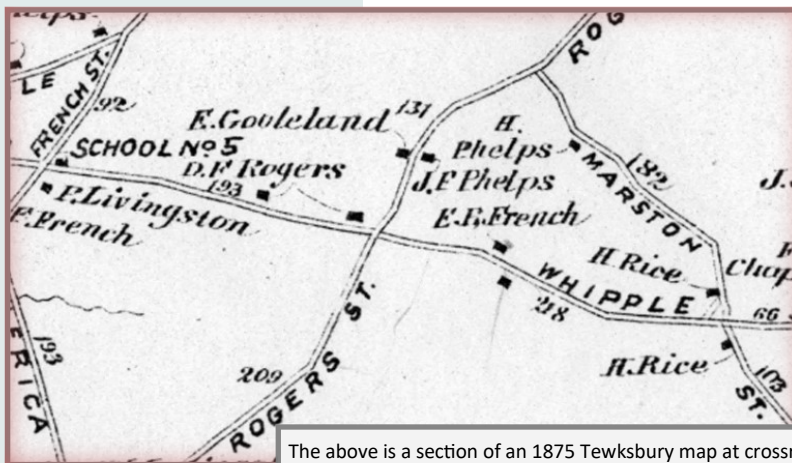
April 14, 1882 - April 8, 1964

Melvin G. Rogers was born in the Timothy Rogers Homestead on Whipple Road, a descendant of John Rogers, who was a freeman in Watertown in 1639. John Rogers received a grant of land in Billerica in 1656.

Mr. Rogers was the last of five generations to come from the old homestead. The Rogers name has appeared on Tewksbury Town Records since the early days of Tewksbury, but will appear no more, as Melvin was the last male in the family to bear the family name of Rogers. Educated in the little old schoolhouse in West Tewksbury, graduating at the age of 10, he then graduated from the Tewksbury High school at the age of 14. Attended Lowell High School for two years preparatory to entering the University of Pennsylvania. After graduating from the law school he returned and practiced law in Lowell until his death.

A recipient of many honors, civil and fraternal; in Tewksbury, as Town Moderator for forty years, the longest tenure of office on record. At the last Town Meeting he served, he requested the people to remain so that he could come down to the floor and greet them and say good-bye to his many friends.

April 11th Melvin Guy Rogers, distinguished and beloved citizen, was buried from the church of his Forefathers, and will be gathered with the generations of Rogers who have gone before.



The above is a section of an 1875 Tewksbury map at crossroads of Whipple Rd. and Rogers St. noting 2 homes of 'D.F. Rogers' and the West 'School No. 5' at corner of French St. and Whipple Rd.

Other Notes and History:

- According to records, the Rogers had donated land next to the former town meeting house, circa 1750, in town center for the Sabba-Day house, as described above.
- In the 1960s, Melvin Rogers donated 24 acres of land to the town at Rogers St. and Marston St., now known as Rogers Park.

Timothy Rogers built the farmhouse and barn circa 1744. Timothy was a descendant of John Rogers, from Watertown, who was granted the unsettled 156 acres in what was then Billerica in 1656.

The original farm extended over both sides of Whipple Road, along Rogers St.

The 1744 farmhouse and barn, on page 1, were taken down in 1972 to make way for newer homes. This event was covered in an interesting article by the Lowell Sun, Oct. 29, 1972, where they had interviewed Melvin's wife and daughter, who spoke of earlier times living in the 1744 home with its 14 fireplaces and farm with ox-drawn wagons and cows being driven through Lowell to New Hampshire to graze in the summer months.

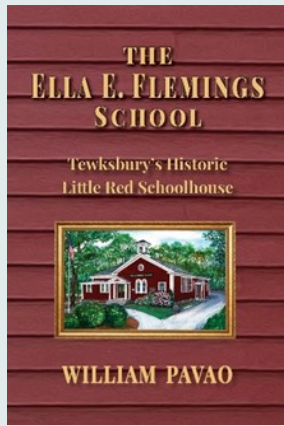
Rogers Photos and Excerpts from:

ASK NOW OF THE DAYS THAT ARE PAST,
History of Tewksbury, MA pg. 129

By Harold J. Patten 1965

Copies of this book are available at Tewksbury Public Library and,

Tewksbury Historical Society website,
Digital Archives (scanned version)



The Ella E. Flemings School Book:

by Bill Pavao

TO ORDER A COPY OF THIS 400+ PAGE BOOK:

EMAIL: vpres@tewksburyhistoricalsociety.org

*Thanks to the author, Bill Pavao,
the Tewksbury Historical Society
will receive profits on books that we sell.*

The price for the book is \$20.00. Cash or Check

Contact: vpres@tewksburyhistoricalsociety.org to order this book!

If you would like to become a Member, please return this form with your information and membership check to:

Tewksbury Historical Society
P.O. Box 522
Tewksbury, MA 01876

Please Check One and Enclose Check:

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

Phone _____

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|--|
| Junior/Student Membership | \$ 10.00 | |
| Senior Membership (Age 65+) | \$ 15.00 | |
| Individual Membership | \$ 20.00 | |
| Dual-Senior Membership (Both 65+) | \$ 25.00 | |
| Dual Membership (Spouse/Partner) | \$ 30.00 | |
| Business or Corporate Membership | \$100.00 | |
| Lifetime Membership | \$500.00 | |

T E W K S B U R Y H I S T O R I C A L S O C I E T Y

Board of Directors:

President: Douglas W. Sears, Esq. Cell: (978)-376-7390

Vice Pres. & Tres.: Nancy Reed

Secretary: Bill Wyatt

Corresponding Secretary : Rick Cummings

Rita O'Brien- Dee

Karen Favreau

Line of March Chair: Brian Cortez

Brendan Kieran

Luann O'Keefe

Patricia Stratis

Matthew Ducey

TEWKSBURYHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

FACEBOOK.COM/TEWKSBURYHISTORICALSOCIETY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The Tewksbury Historical Society is an IRS 501 (c) (3), not-for-profit corporation, founded in 1993.

Board of Directors and Members serve as volunteers.

All Donations and Membership dues go directly to maintaining the Society's collections, archive materials, storage costs, postage and stationery.

If you want to become a member, donate or merely to learn more about the Tewksbury Historical Society, please see the contacts listed on the left, send in the above form or check our websites below.