

1897 Fair officials raved about the Peabody location with its large populations of Lynn, Salem and Peabody on one side and the extensive tracts of farm land to the north and west in Danvers, Beverly, Topsfield, and beyond. In the last paragraph of the President's address he speaks about the recent developments in the design of bicycles and that this might be the way that the city folks would get to the Fair in the future. This was a time when cars were coming in and the horse and carriage was on the way out, and the common affordable bike was the "straight frame bicycle" with the old high-wheeler design also on the way out.

1899 In an address to the Society regarding the growing of lettuce year round in greenhouses. It was said that the farmers of Arlington and Belmont were doing a great job at this and why can't the farmers of Essex County do the same. Today, growing lettuce in a greenhouse over winter is something that we see often.

1907 The Treasurer's report stated that there was a mortgage on the Exhibition Grounds in Peabody of \$6,000 held by the Warren Five Cent Savings Bank.

1914 A report on the Treadwell Farm, the original name of the present Fairgrounds, stated that a 4" well was drilled in the center of the old surface well, to bring enough water to the livestock. And, "The Society has continued to use the Farm for its Annual Fair, and it is the ideal location for such a purpose". So 4 years after leaving Peabody, the land that was for years used as the Society's experimental farm was now hosting the Fair.

1921 Beyond the Peabody years but inside the cover of that years Premium book was an ad from the Boston Molasses Company. Seems like a funny location for an ad about molasses. Why?? Farmers were just beginning to use silos to store livestock feed and molasses could have been part of that process many years ago. Prohibition had just begun (1920 – 1933) but I can't imagine that our temperance conscious farmers would use molasses to make rum. Also interesting to note that it was dated just 2 years after the great molasses flood in Boston 1919 when 21 people were killed. In actuality, they were using the molasses to manufacture explosives and munitions during this post WWI period. They went on to say that 1921 would be the 100th Fair and "The exhibit hall should be ready to use." It took a little while but we determined that the New Exhibit Hall is now our Beekeeping Building. Later we see an ad in that same 1921 Premium book for:

E.H. Gilford, Carpenter and Builder in
Topsfield,
"The man who erected the new Exhibit Hall."



Essex Agricultural Society

The Peabody Years

1890-1910

Exploring History



Gene Demsey



