

NOW!



## 250 Shrewsbury Street Boylston, Massachusetts

The property was originally Lot #28 granted to John Wheeler in the Shrewsbury Land Grants on 30 December 1718. In 1729, Thomas Keyes acquired the property from John Wheeler, and would then deed the said property to his son, Jonathan Keyes in 1734.

Jonathan Keyes proceeded to build a house at what would now be 250 Shrewsbury Street, Boylston, Massachusetts from where he would run the Keyes Tavern. According to the Sessions Court Records, Jonathan Keyes held a Taverner's License from 1734 to 1735. The late George L. Wright, Town Historian, maintained that the Keyes Tavern was in operation until the building accidentally burned in 1777.

Holding the office of Selectman in the Mother Town of Shrewsbury, Keyes played a leading role in the establishment of the North Parish of Shrewsbury, part of the area which would be incorporated as the Town of Boylston in 1786. Jonathan Keyes had been succeeded in ownership in 1773 by his son, Benjamin Keyes, who, presuming the tavern was indeed open for business became the proprietor, and remained so until the destruction of the building.

### Keyes Tavern Rebuilt

After the fire in 1777, Benjamin Keyes rebuilt the burned-out dwelling and re-opened the Keyes Tavern. The Sessions Court Records confirm that for the years 1781 and 1782, Benjamin Keyes was granted a Taverner's License.



**The Levi Lincoln Flagg Family Homestead**

*Built about 1779 by Benjamin Keyes who operated it as the Keyes Tavern  
after fire had destroyed the original Keyes Tavern at this location in 1777  
BHSM Photograph Collection*

Benjamin Keyes was a veteran of the Revolutionary War, and served in Captain Ezra Bea-man's Company, joining on June 6, 1777. He died on November 13, 1805, having sold his property to Benjamin Flagg in 1792. It remained in the Flagg family for many generations. During the Civil War, it was the property of Levi Lincoln Flagg (1818-1907). The last owner of the property was Miss Jennie Flagg. As part of the new 19<sup>th</sup> Century Exhibition opening Memorial Day, The Historical Society Museum will feature many interesting Flagg family, artifacts, photographs and letters. Stop by for a visit any Sunday 2-4 p.m. or on Memorial Day!



**Jennie Flagg – 16 yrs old  
(1859-1951)**

*daughter of Levi Lincoln Flagg  
BHSM Photograph Collection*



**John Lundgren, laborer on farm of Jennie Flagg  
haying wagon with oxen**  
*BHSM Photograph Collection*



**Barn of Jennie Flagg (above)  
Farmhouse and Farm Buildings (left)**  
*Location 250 Shrewsbury Street  
Boylston, Massachusetts  
(Buildings torn down in the 1950's)  
BHSM Photograph Collection*