

September in Boylston

Over the Years

By Judy Haynes



Center School

1850's-1904

Main Street, Boylston, Massachusetts

Located at the current Boylston Public Library site

BHSM Photograph Collections

Every September for years dating back as far as we can remember the Fall term begins and students of all ages head to school.

Boylston. September 5, 1885

"The Centre School, here, will commence its fall term on Monday September 7. Miss Vinton of Southbridge has been appointed teacher."

No School Report showed her name the following year; thus, Miss Vinton may have taught for only one term. That was not unusual as the reports showed different names over many terms with but a few exceptions.

Entertainment & Enlightenment News

Social news, events, even the weather were subjects all covered in news of yesteryear. Following is news of a lecture given by the well-known temperance orator of that time, John B. Gough. His was a time when there was no social media and one went to lectures and local events for entertainment and enlightenment. Gough resided at Hillside in Boylston at the time.

Boylston. September 14, 1885

"Mr. John B. Gough delivered his lecture on '*Peculiar People*,' in the church here, Tuesday night. It was one of his best efforts. The building was crowded. Everything was done to accommodate the throng, but after settees had been placed in the aisles, many had to stand. Worcester, Clinton, Shrewsbury and other towns were well represented. The proceeds of the lecture and supper amounted to about \$150."



For comparison in dollars of today, the purchasing power of the Gough lecture proceeds would be estimated at \$4,700.

John B. Gough
Temperance Orator
Boylston, Massachusetts
BHSM Photograph Collections

The *News* in September, 1918, would reflect the supportive spirit of the United States citizens at home as the First World War was being fought on foreign lands.

Fourth Liberty Loan Bonds

Boylston, Mass., Sept. 24, 1918

Dear Friends:

The sale of the "FIGHTING FOURTH LIBERTY LOAN BONDS" will open in Boylston on Saturday, Sept. 28th, 1918.

There is no safer investment in the world than U. S. Government Bonds.

Between 30 and 40 of our boys are now in the United States service, many of them are "SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE," and it is probable that more must soon be called.

SHALL WE BACK AND SUSTAIN OUR BOYS until this war is ended?

Boylston's quota will be nearly, if not quite, *twice as large* as in the last Loan, and we are urged to secure the subscription for that amount during the *first week* of the sale. If you are employed in Worcester or elsewhere, won't you kindly hand your subscription to some member of the Bond Committee of your home town during the first week of the sale? By showing your receipt for the subscription to your employers we feel sure that it ought to prove satisfactory to them. *Be sure to sign the rider* on the application blank, giving credit to Boylston for your subscription.

BOYLSTON MUST SUBSCRIBE ITS QUOTA, or depend upon other towns to oversubscribe enough to care for our boys. WHICH SHALL IT BE? Our town made its answer in the "Third Liberty Loan."

Will you kindly BUY A BOND and help our town do its duty by its soldier boys? Let's all pull together and put our quota "OVER THE TOP."

BOYLSTON LIBERTY LOAN COMMITTEE
George A. Hastings, Chairman

Liberty Bond Sale Announcement 1918

BHSM Newspaper Collections

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There was a quota each town was expected to 'subscribe' so not to depend on other towns to oversubscribe. Each town should provide 'enough to care for our boys' defending the United States cause. The notice was signed by Woodrow Wilson who

was president of the United States. at the time. President Wilson had tried to keep the United States neutral, but in the end, had to go to the Congress and declare war on Germany.



President Woodrow Wilson

*Wikipedia Commons
Artist Frank G. Cootes*

Society News

News typical for many years included the social life, visiting relatives, marriages, births, and deaths.

Boylston, September 17, 1920

"Miss Martha Catherine Lund, oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Lund of Glazer Street, Morningdale, was married September 8, to Arthur Francis Boston of Dover, New Hampshire, in Dover, where they plan to live."

Boylston, September 14, 1920

"The announcement of the engagement of Miss Dorothy Garfield, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Burtis J. Garfield, to Donald C. South of Worcester."

Invited guests were listed. This was a time when we were not afraid to let the public know our names and daily activities.

Weather News

Weather of note made the print as in:

Boylston, September 1920

"The severe electrical storm, at midnight Saturday night [September 11, 1920] put all of the telephone lines partly out of commission, but a crank for emergency was used to help out until that gave out Tuesday. Then the repair man quickly fixed part of them. During that storm the lightning is believed to have struck in at least two places in town, one near the home of Loring G. Fuller, and the other in an elm tree near the former home of the late George Brigham in East Woods."

Women's Christian Temperance Movement in the News

Prohibition arrived in 1918 and lasted until 1933, but the Women's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.) actively sought to prohibit the sale and indulgence in alcohol. It's clear they still felt it was not erased even in 1920 if they were constantly "fighting" against any liquor bill which came up for discussion.

Boylston, September 1920

The W.C.T.U. met recently and were encouraged to "fight against the 2 percent liquor bill, which is an issue coming up at the state election, and wishing to have a rally in Boylston at 2:30 Monday afternoon, October 4."

HEADLINE NEWS - Post Office Fire!

Boylston, September 29, 1929

"Suspicious Fire Badly Damages Boylston Post Office. Second Mysterious Blaze Within Year causes \$5000 damage."



Boylston Post Office & Center Store

Destroyed by Fire on May 31, 1929

1810-1929

Corner of Central and Main Street in Boylston Center

BHSM Photograph Collections

The first had been May 31, 1929 and it had totally burned the historic building [ca. 1810] that included the post office and its "entire contents, an estimated loss of \$20,000." The post office and general store at the corner of Main and Central Streets was then owned by Frank B. Vinton,

proprietor, who had been postmaster since December of 1915. After the May fire, Mr. Vinton had erected a new building as a 'seven-room house, with combined store building and post office. Since the mail had not yet been delivered that September morning, little mail was lost during this second fire. Still, it was ruled suspicious. Boylston, West Boylston, and Shrewsbury Fire Departments all assisted in putting out the fire. The new building was just about ready for occupancy when this happened. 1929 was not a happy year for Mr. Vinton.

Boylston Newspaper Scrapbook Donor in the News



Mary E (Andrews) French
1863-1949
BHSM Photograph Collections

Boylston, Saturday, September 5, 1942

“Mrs. Mary E. French has moved to her former home on Scar Hill Road, her birthplace. Mrs. French, a former Boylston telephone Operator, is an honorary and 50-year member of Boylston Grange.”

Mary Elizabeth French, was born 22 July 1863 in Boylston, the daughter of John J. Andrews, a farmer and his wife, Henrietta Brigham. She married Herbert H. French, a blacksmith on 25 November 1891 at Boylston.

The French family has been generous contributors to the Historical Society donating many French family and Andrews family artifacts for Boylston’s future generations.

The Andrews and French families have frequently held public offices in the Town of Boylston and their names often appeared in town news and activities.

It is to Mrs. French we owe generous thanks for clipping and collecting Boylston’s oldest newsclips. The extensive 20th century Boylston newspaper collection at the Boylston History Society Museum would not exist without the scrapbooks she created and graciously donated to preserve Boylston’s history.

Acknowledgements

Editor, Nancy O’Loughlin Filgate, Director, Boylston Historical Society & Museum, Inc., 7 Central Street, Boylston, Massachusetts

Photograph Collections, Boylston Historical Society & Museum, Inc., 7 Central Street, Boylston, Massachusetts

Newspaper Collections, Mary E. French Scrapbooks, Boylston Historical Society & Museum, Inc., 7 Central Street, Boylston, Massachusetts

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