

SUMMER BEGINS IN JUNE

NEWS FROM BOYLSTON'S PAST

By Judy Haynes

With summer and heat, we find June, 1919, 1883, and 1885 newsclips as evidence that some activities were similar to the present.

“The schools all close next week [June 20, 1885].”



Cora Bailey, teacher and students of East School

*Located corner of Central and Rocky Pond Roads
BHSM Photograph Collection*

Vacations begin with visiting as the norm for summer days. Social columns name people visiting and vacationing, even divulging where they might go out of town.

“Mrs. Katrine A. Closson of Cook Street is a guest for part of the summer Of her cousins, Misses Annie and Elizabeth Samuel in Riverpoint, R.I. “ [June, 1919]

“Mrs. Charles Glazier and son of Fitchburg are visiting her brother, Mr. J.N. Flagg.” [June, 1885]

“Mrs. J.B. Goodale has gone to the Wachusett House for the summer.” [June, 1885]

Wachusett House, aka The Summit House, sat atop Mt. Wachusett in the nearby town of Princeton and was considered a summer resort and a wonderful place to keep cool in the 1800s and early 1900s.

Today we value our privacy and we would not likely advertise that we were away from home fearing potential thieves may glean information they might find useful.



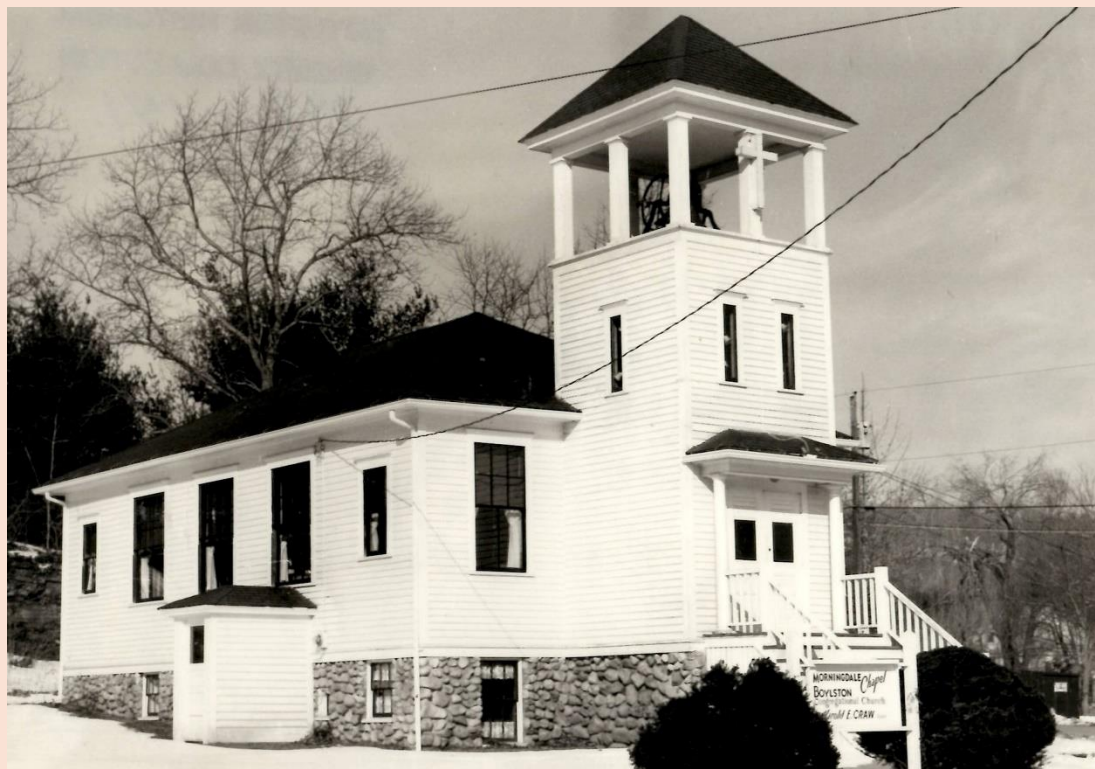
Mr. J. Nelson Flagg

*Brother of Mrs. Charles Glazier
BHSM Photograph Collection*

Sunday in June the Congregational Church still holds a Children’s Day; a news clip indicates this annual occurrence went as far back as 1885:

“June 8 is Children’s Day in the Congregational Church and all desiring to Have little ones presented to the Lord on that day are requested to inform S[unday] S[chool] Superintendent George I. Adams.” [June 8, 1919]

“Recently the Congregational Church held two good Children’s Day programs on Sunday, June 8, one at the Center church and one at night in the Chapel by the Morningdale Sunday School.” [June 8, 1919]



Morningdale Chapel

*Congregational Church
BHSM Photograph Collection*

“Children’s Day was observed with an address to the children by the pastor, and a Sunday School concert, in the evening, which was quite interesting. There was a large attendance.” [June, 1885]

With no TV or computers to entertain in the evenings long ago, outdoor parties and fundraising activities were frequently planned.

“Boylston Boy Scouts plan to have a lawn party for the Public, beginning at 7 o’clock tonight, June 13, on the Common. The proceeds they plan to save toward building a log cabin. The general Committee are Harry A. Lovell, Robert V. DeVoe, Randolph F. Stone, Matthew Hakala and Melville B. Jones. The Scouts plan to sell ice cream, Candy, frankfurts, and mysteries and to have an orchestra from Worcester and a fortune teller.” [June 13, 1919]

Did the Scouts raise enough money to begin raising a log cabin? Perhaps some of our locals may have heard from their elders if a log cabin was built and could answer that query, though this would have clearly been before their time.



Boy Scouts of 1917
BHSM Photograph Collection

Boylston’s Historical Society and the Historical Commission have been honoring our veterans over the years. Next year, 2025, marks the 250th year since the beginning of our country. A team of researchers at the Boylston Historical Society are in the process of identifying those soldiers who served from Boylston in the Revolutionary War. This follows a successful writing and book publication of Boylston’s Civil War veterans. The following news item was found relating to a Civil War veteran:



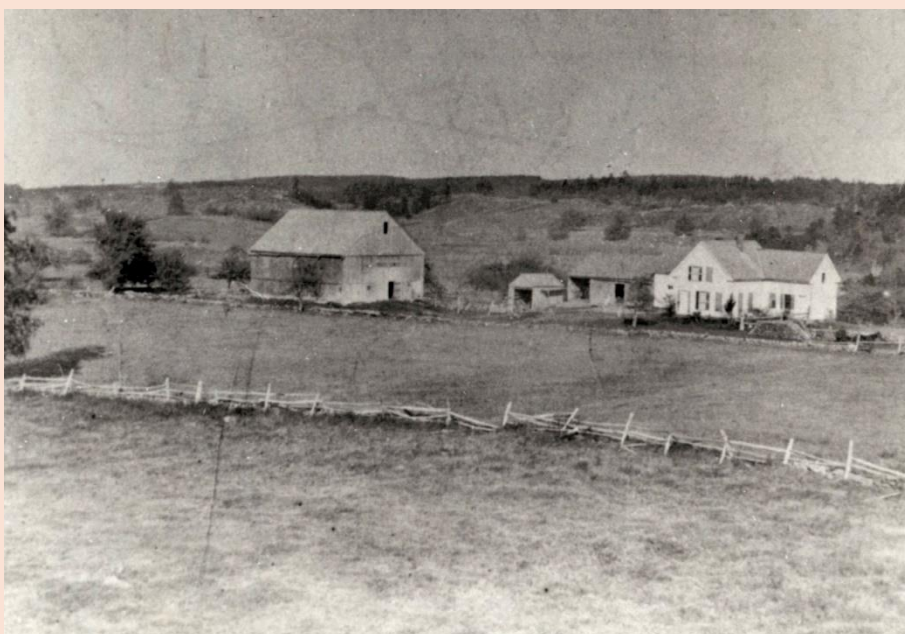
Lysander Flagg
Civil War Veteran
BHSM Photograph Collection

“Boylston [1883] – General Lysander Flagg of Riverside, East Providence, Rhode Island, died Tuesday, June 26, aged 53 years. He was a native of this town [Boylston], but had long been a resident of Rhode Island, was a Colonel of the Union Guards, and during the war of the rebellion he was Quartermaster-Sergeant of the 10th Rhode Island Regiment. He leaves a widow. [Susan Scott *Whipple* Flagg]”

Lysander, the son of Stephen Flagg and Lucretia Dodd had been born in Boylston in 1830.

Some of the news related to agriculture as Boylston was primarily a farming town.

“Farmers have commenced haying in good earnest [1815].”



Robert Hudson Farm on Cross St
House built c. 1813. In c. 1840, house remodeled and became part of the woodshed and the house now standing dates from that time.
BHSM Photograph Collection

The news clips allow us to take a look back at life from the 19th and early 20th centuries. These were captured for us in the several scrapbooks compiled by Mary French. We appreciate what this active native of Boylston did for us by leaving these important clues to our cultural history.