

October's Sad Affair

By Judy Haynes



The air is crisp, the pumpkins are in the field and apples are being picked. Halloween treats await the children who will come to our doors in their colorful costumes. These are the many pleasures of Fall. However, those who love the warmth and brightness of the summer season may dismay that the ice and cold of winter is just around the corner. The events of 1885 must have brought an overwhelming chilling sadness to the entire community that should never be repeated.

Newsclip from the Mary French Scrapbook collection held at Boylston Historical Society.

“Boylston, October 9, 1885, Fatal Accident:

“Late yesterday afternoon, Mrs. George H. Cadwell of Boylston, was struck by a runaway horse, in front of G.A.R. [Grand Army of the Republic] Hall, Main Street. She was thrown violently down and her skull fractured. She was carried into Shattuck’s drug store, and thence taken in the ambulance to City Hospital, where she died one hour after her arrival. Mr. Cadwell is employed by the Pond Machine Tool Company of this city [Worcester]. The family live in the Capt. Stephen Flagg place in Boylston, the farm from which John B. Gough’s estate was bought. Mrs. Cadwell was a Miss Marsh.”



HOME OF CADWELL FAMILY
Known as the Stephen Flagg House
Main Street, Boylston, Massachusetts
BHSM Photograph Collection

“A rather singular fact about the sad affair is that the team which ran and caused the accident was Mr. William Allen’s and was on the way to the City Hospital [Worcester] with flowers and fruit for a patient who was injured at the Allen Boiler Works. It [the horse] was in charge of a boy. Mr. Allen says the horse was frightened by a Norwich freight car which stood 15 feet in the street on the Madison Street Crossing. The carriage was about to cross the tracks when the approach of a truck team forced the driver to rein the horse close to the freight car. The horse shied, struck the truck team threw the driver over the fence and ran with the fatal result above mentioned”¹

Mary Elizabeth Marsh, the daughter of Daniel Merrill Marsh and Mary Ann Budding, was born on April 22, 1849 in Boylston.² She had been the granddaughter of Samuel Marsh and Persis Abbott who had lived in Boylston Center in the home to the right of the church.



HOME OF GRANDPARENTS
SAMUEL MARSH & PERSIS (ABBOT) MARSH
1856
BHSM Photograph Collection



BACKSIDE OF MARSH HOME PHOTOGRAPH
“Home of George H. Boyden, first house to right of the church going down Central Street”
“Owned by Walter Askalis, moved to Central Street near French Drive”
BHSM is seeking information about these notes



Mary Marsh, age 18 years, a resident of Boylston married to George H. Cadwell, a farmer of Worcester, in 1867. He was 20 years old at that time. At the time of Mrs. Cadwell’s death she was 36 years, 5 months and 18 days. She was the mother of four children ranging from age 10 years to 17 years: Clara, born 1868; George born 1870; Nettie born 1872; and Harry, born 1875. Mrs. Cadwell is buried in Pine Grove Cemetery. What a sad day that must have been for the Cadwell family.

Today fortunately we would find this kind of accident with a horse very rare, but once we replaced horsepower with automobile power, we found ourselves with new rules of the road to avoid accidents. Let your Fall Season be a safe one and a very happy one as we move towards the winter months. May you relax and enjoy our Friday’s Fascinating Finds from the comfort of your home.

¹ Worcester News, “Fatal Accident,” October 9, 1895.
² Town of Boylston Births, Deaths, Marriages 1786-1977.