



Homestead's Current Address

15 School Street

Boylston Roots

Andrew Bigelow, the son of Andrew Bigelow Sr. and Lydia Sawyer, was born 13 December 1809 in Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts. He graduated from Amherst College in 1838 and received his Doctorate of Divinity from Roanoke College, Virginia. He was ordained a minister and settled in a church in South Dartmouth, Bristol County, Massachusetts in 1841. In was in Dartmouth where he married Emily Louisa Blackler of Marblehead, Essex County, Massachusetts, on 14 September 1841. She died from consumption on 4 July 1857 in Medfield leaving two young daughters Elizabeth, age 14 years and Emily, age 12 years. Rev. Andrew Bigelow of Medfield, age 48 years, married second Nancy J. Wilder, age 33 years on 28 December 1858 at Dorchester, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, with the Rev. James H. Means officiating.



BOYLSTON HOME OF REVEREND ANDREW BIGELOW

Address in 2025: 15 School Street, Boylston, Massachusetts

Note: Congregational Church steeple in background

Church and School Affiliation

Rev. Dr. Andrew Bigelow served as acting pastor of the Boylston Congregational Church from January 1866 until April 1873. A native of Boylston, he took a great interest in the welfare of the young people of his parish, and an active role in the educational process of the community serving as the chairman of the Boylston School Committee. During his pastorate the interior of the church was renovated, and the first pipe organ installed.



**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
THIRD MEETING HOUSE**

Rev. Dr. Andrew Bigelow - Pastor 1866-1873

Boylston's Goldmine

Reverend Bigelow's ministerial work left a positive mark on the churches he served in Massachusetts and yet another more light hearted event plays a role in remembering this man. According to William Dupuis, past Boylston historian, "The discovery of gold in May, 1880, brought Boylston a measure of fame. The precious ore was found on a piece of land on Linden Street by the Rev. Dr. Andrew Bigelow, former pastor of the Congregational Church. The gold assayed out at between \$70.00 and \$100.00 per ton, and with financial support, both from town and from Boston, Rev. Bigelow began his mining operation. A 40 shaft was sunk into a 12' to 20' wide milky bull quartz dike. This dike was injected concordantly into the surrounding country rock. The strike attracted hundreds of sightseers, and newspaper accounts tell of huge crowds coming to the site on Sunday afternoons to gape with amazement and envy at this 'fortuitous phenomenon.' A rather small amount of ore was actually extracted from the mine, but when Dr. Bigelow died in 1882, the entire operation closed down. The opening of the mine can still be seen today, and curious gold seekers will find only traces of 'fool's gold' in the remains of Boylston's Gold Mine!"¹

Later Years

Reverend Andrew Bigelow, age 72 years 9 months and 10 days, died from bronchitis on 23 September 1882 in Southborough, Worcester County, Massachusetts and he was interred in Forest Hills Cemetery and Crematory, Jamaica Plain, Suffolk County, Massachusetts. His wife, Nancy, died 26 years later on 15 April 1918 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts and was laid to rest next to him.

¹ Boylston Historical Series, Bruce Filgate, "History of Boylston, 1786-1886", William O. Dupuis, Boylston Historical Society & Museum, Inc., Boylston, Massachusetts