



700 Main Street

*Built in 1811 by Deacon Jonathan Bond, Sr, it was the second store in the Town of Boylston Originally known as the Bond Corner Store. The store operated by Raymond Tucker and his father in the 1880's would also serve as The Boylston Centre Post Office. The original structure burned in 1929 and was rebuilt. The current building now has residences on the upper floors and the quaint interior of the first floor serves Boylston's townspeople as a restaurant called the Boylston Deli.*

**Son of a Civil War Veteran runs Store and Post Office in Boylston Center**

*Excerpt from the "Boylston Veterans of the American Civil War" by Leah Withers, Patricia Kelleher Bartram, Nancy O'Loughlin Filgate, Elise Poretsky, Victoria Triolo, Julian Baldwin, Paige Money, Jordan Money, Isabella Uva.*

Charles Raymond Tucker, "Raymond," the son of John Tucker and Anna McRell, was born 17 August 1872 in Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts.<sup>1</sup> Charles' parents married 21 May 1863 in Shrewsbury, Worcester County, Massachusetts.<sup>2</sup> Charles was the youngest and only son of three children born to John and Anna. His sisters were Eliza Burnette Tucker, born 11 August 1865 in Cumberland, Providence, Rhode Island and Lillian Frances Tucker, born in Boylston on 12 August 1866.<sup>3,4</sup>



**C. Raymond Tucker**  
1872-1911

*Boylston Historical Society Photograph Collection*

**Father and Son Operate local Store**

Charles and his father, John, owned and operated the Tucker and Son General Store in Boylston where John served as the U.S. Postmaster of Boylston from September of 1886 to 1896.<sup>5</sup>



**Tucker & Son Store & Boylston Center Post Office**  
*Boylston Historical Society Photograph Collection*

His sister Lillian at age 23 years moved out of the family home upon her marriage on 20 May 1890 in Berlin, Worcester County, Massachusetts to George Albert Hastings. This couple provided Charles with a nephew and niece, both born in Boylston, Roland George Hastings in 1893, and Rosabel Lillian Hastings in 1900.<sup>6</sup>



**Tucker Homestead**  
*Sawyers Mills, Boylston, Massachusetts*  
*Digital Commonwealth Photograph Collection*

**Family Farm in Sawyers Mills**

The family farm in the Sawyers Mill area of Boylston was taken by eminent domain by the Massachusetts Metropolitan Water Works for the construction of the Wachusett Reservoir for the residents of Boston, Massachusetts in and payment was made by the Metropolitan Water Loan Fund to Anna Tucker in 1897.<sup>7</sup> With the impending construction of the reservoir, Charles and his family had relocated to Worcester where they lived in a rented property at 19 Washington Avenue in what is today known as the city's Green

<sup>1</sup> Birth Records, Boylston Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1872  
<sup>2</sup> Marriage Records, Shrewsbury, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1863, digital image, ancestry.com  
<sup>3</sup> Birth Records, Boylston Worcester County, Massachusetts, Out of Town Births, 1865  
<sup>4</sup> Birth Records, Boylston Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1866  
<sup>5</sup> Appointments of US Postmasters, Worcester County, digital image, ancestry.com  
<sup>6</sup> Birth Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1893 and 1900  
<sup>7</sup> Public Documents of Massachusetts, Auditors Report, Metropolitan Water Loan Fund, Statement IX, Trust Funds, No. 6, page 669

Island neighborhood. At this time Charles worked as a clerk and Eliza was teaching school, although by 1890 Eliza had moved to Northampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts.

Two years after selling the Tucker and Son General Store in Boylston, Raymond's father, John Tucker died from lung disease on 23 October 1898 at age 57 years, 5 months, 14 days in Worcester, Worcester County, Massachusetts.<sup>8</sup> He was buried in the Pine Grove Cemetery in Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts.<sup>9</sup>

### Store Under New Ownership

After the death of John Tucker, George Reed Hastings, would own and operate the store as G.R. Hastings and Son Groceries and Grain Store, until his death in 1912 and then it was run by his son George A. Hastings, the husband of Lillian Tucker and brother-in-law to Raymond Tucker. During the Hastings ownership the store would be expanded by adding a new store front, as well as large grain shed.



**G.R. Hastings & Son Store  
Groceries & Grain  
Boylston Center**

*Boylston Historical Society Photograph Collection*

As of 1898, Charles was employed as a driver at 37 Lincoln B, Worcester. Charles continued his occupation as a driver until he moved in 1903 to Charlton Street, Worcester, where he then worked as a grocery clerk at 58 Lincoln Street.<sup>10</sup>

Charles Tucker married Minnie Mae Smith on 11 October 1904 in Worcester.<sup>11</sup> A milliner at the time of their marriage, Minnie Mae, the daughter of Samuel Childs Smith and Pluma Ella Dillingham, was born in Worcester on 28 September 1879.<sup>12</sup> After their marriage, Charles and Minnie rented a home at 123 Paine Street, Worcester. In 1908 he was employed as clerk in a grocery and meat market at 887 Main Street, Worcester.<sup>13</sup> Charles and Minnie did not have any children; however, they continued to live at the Paine Street address until Charles' death.

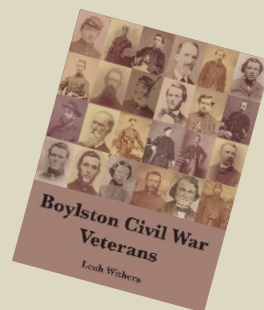


**Figure 1: Charles R. Tucker Headstone**  
*Pine Grove Cemetery*  
*Photograph Courtesy of Bruce D. Filgate*

Charles Raymond Tucker died from pneumonia on 14 February 1911 at age 38 years 5 months and 18 days, in Hahnemann Hospital, Worcester. He was interred 17 February 1911 at the Tucker Family lot in Section 3 of Pine Grove Cemetery, Boylston Worcester County, Massachusetts.<sup>14,15</sup>

Charles' widow, Minnie Mae Smith Tucker, remarried about 18 months later. She and Harry Waite Hurlburt were married in Waterbury, Washington County, Vermont on 2 September 1912. She was interred with her second husband in Worcester Rural Cemetery upon her death on 27 November 1953.<sup>16</sup>

*For an historical perspective about the lives of the men of Boylston who served in the Civil War or see the photographs of this store, stop by the Boylston Historical Society to view the Boylston Civil War Veterans publication or the Boylston Historical Society Photograph Collection any Tuesday or Saturday from 9am-12pm.*



<sup>8</sup> Death Records, Worcester, Worcester County, Massachusetts. 1898, digital image, ancestry.com

<sup>9</sup> Gravestone, Cpl John Tucker, Pine Grove Cemetery, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts

<sup>10</sup> City Directories, Worcester, Worcester County, Massachusetts, digital images, ancestry.com

<sup>11</sup> Marriage Records, Worcester, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1904, digital image, ancestry.com

<sup>12</sup> Birth Records, Worcester, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1879, digital image, ancestry.com

<sup>13</sup> United States Federal Census, Worcester, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1910, digital image, ancestry.com

<sup>14</sup> Death Records, Worcester, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1914, digital image, ancestry.com

<sup>15</sup> Gravestone, Charles Raymond Tucker, Pine Grove Cemetery, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts

<sup>16</sup> Gravestone, Minnie M. Tucker Hurlburt, Worcester Rural Cemetery, Worcester, Worcester County, Massachusetts, findagrave.com