

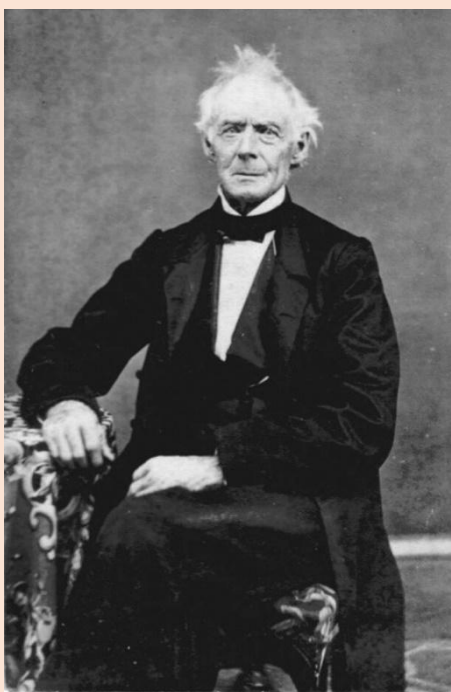
# ***Boylstonians Serve as Mayor of Worcester and Overseers of the Poor***

*An excerpt from the Early Families of Boylston, Massachusetts  
by Nancy Ann Filgate, Nadine Ekstrom, Victoria Triolo,  
Patricia Kelleher Bartram, Nathan Rollins*



**Mary Maria Harrington and Alonzo Ball**  
*BHSM Photograph Collection*

Alonzo Ball, the son of Manassah Sawyer Ball and Clarissa Andrews, was born 25 June 1840 at Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts.<sup>1</sup> He was the youngest of six children born to this couple. His siblings, all born in Boylston, were: Phineas, born 18 January 1824; Caroline Maria, born 28 September 1826; Mary Adaline, born 5 November 1828; Joseph Sawyer, born 3 March 1833; and Albert, born 7 May 1835. The family resided on the old Ball farm on Ball Hill (211 Mile Hill Road).<sup>2,3</sup>

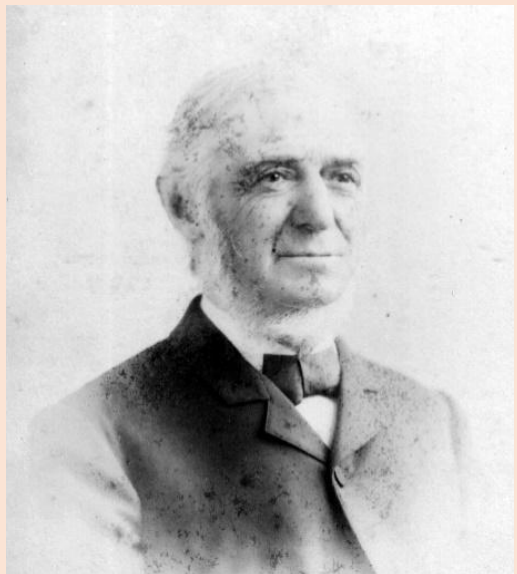


**Manassah Sawyer Ball**  
*Father of Alonzo Ball*  
*BHSM Photograph Collection*



**Clarissa Andrews Ball**  
*Mother of Alonzo Ball*  
*BHSM Photograph Collection*

Alonzo's eldest brother, Phineas, attended the Northeast School, and afterward served as its school master. Then he continued his education at Bride's Academy in Berlin, Worcester County, Massachusetts. Subsequently, he received instruction in the rudiments of surveying and leveling from his uncle, Gardner Smith. This was the foundation of his attainment in civil engineering, a profession in which he became distinguished. Phineas moved to Worcester, Worcester County, Massachusetts, where he became a member of the Worcester City Council and was elected Mayor of Worcester in 1865. Alonzo's brother, Joseph Sawyer Ball, known as "Sawyer," assisted on the farm and then learned civil engineering with Phineas who at that time was member of the firm of Boyden & Ball, architects and engineers.<sup>4</sup> In 1860 Sawyer moved west where he established the first factory manufacturing wooden eavestroughs in the State of Michigan, set up the first grist mill in Coloma, Berrien County, Michigan and additionally organized the Bank of Coloma.<sup>5</sup> His sisters, Caroline and Mary Adaline both married and lived out their lives, respectively, in Clinton, Worcester County, Massachusetts and Boylston.<sup>6</sup> Alonzo's brother, Albert Ball went to Claremont, New



*Mayor of Worcester*  
*BHSM Photograph Collection*

<sup>1</sup> Birth Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1840

<sup>2</sup> Boylston Historical Series, Bruce D. Filgate, 2012

<sup>3</sup> Birth Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1824, 1826, 1828, 1833 and 1835

<sup>4</sup> Boylston Historical Series, Bruce D. Filgate, 2012

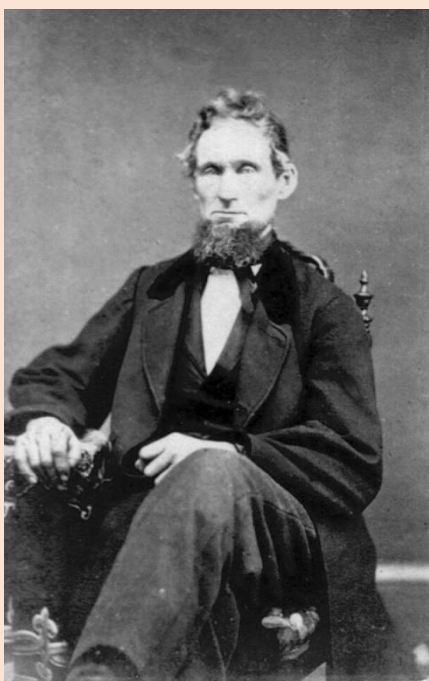
<sup>5</sup> Obituary, Coloma Courier, Coloma, Berrien County, Michigan, 1901

<sup>6</sup> Marriage Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1841 and 1850

Hampshire where he was a mechanical engineer.<sup>7</sup> Alonzo, the youngest remained on the family farm throughout his life.<sup>8</sup>

Alonzo Ball's ancestors were the second family to settle in the area that would later be known as the Town of Boylston from Watertown, Massachusetts. The earliest was John Ball, who would suffer much tragedy. John had settled in nearby South Lancaster where he with his second wife, Elizabeth (Fox), and their young six-year-old son, Joseph, were slain by Native Americans in the massacre of 10 February 1676. Their daughters Esther, born 1655 and Abigail, born 1858 were carried into captivity.<sup>9</sup> The Ball settlement was actually the portion of South Lancaster that would be annexed to become part of the Shrewsbury North Precinct on 23 June 1780. It was Alonzo's grandfather, Elijah Ball operating the farm on Ball Hill, who served as one of the petitioners to the Town of Lancaster to request that these lands in South Lancaster become part of the Shrewsbury North Precinct. The Shrewsbury North Precinct would be incorporated as the Town of Boylston, Massachusetts in 1786.<sup>10</sup>

On 30 April 1863 at Clinton, Worcester County, Massachusetts, Alonzo Ball, a 23-year-old farmer of Boylston, married Mary Maria Harrington, the daughter of Horace Harrington and Maria Stone. C.M. Bowen, a Baptist pastor, officiated at the marriage.<sup>11</sup> Mary had been born 24 August 1843 at Boylston. She was just 2 years of age when her mother died on 11 September 1845 from consumption at age 27 years, 6 months in Sterling, Worcester County, Massachusetts.<sup>12</sup> Mary and her siblings were thereafter living in Boylston's Alms House, from where she was removed on 8 May 1846, at age 2 years, 9 months by Ephraim R. Hastings.<sup>13</sup> She lived in Boylston with Ephraim, a farmer, and his wife Mary until at least 16 years of age.<sup>14</sup> Mary's father, Horace, died 19 October 1850 in Boylston at age 35 years from consumption. He had been living as a pauper in Boylston's Town Farm.<sup>15,16</sup>



**Ephraim Hastings**  
*Guardian of Mary Harrington Ball*  
*BHSM Photograph Collection*



**Mary Cutting Hastings**  
*Guardian of Mary Harrington Ball*  
*BHSM Photograph Collection*

After their marriage, Alonzo and Mary resided on the Ball family farm with Alonzo's parents.<sup>17</sup> In March 1866 Alonzo was appointed to the town's Overseer of the Poor.<sup>18</sup>

Alonzo's father, Manasseh Ball, died at the age of 70 years from paralysis on 13 December 1870 at Boylston and was interred in Pine Grove Cemetery in Boylston. Alonzo's mother, Clarissa, survived her husband by 19 years, dying 17 April 1896 and being laid to rest with her husband in the family plot in Pine Grove Cemetery.<sup>19,20</sup>

On 10 August 1879 the records of the Overseers of the Poor reflected that \$23.25 was received from the Town of Winchendon for Charles W. Kendall. The funds were paid to Alonzo Ball for the boarding and nursing that had been provided to Kendall by the Town of Boylston.<sup>21</sup> A Civil War veteran of Company B, 15<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Massachusetts Infantry, Charles W. Kendall was a maternal first cousin of Alonzo.<sup>22</sup> On 28 May 1879, Charles, age 45 years, was admitted to the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Togus, Kennebec County, Maine, with a lung disease and died there on 13 June 1880.<sup>23</sup>

Alonzo and his wife, Mary Maria would have 1 child that survived infancy, although there is a question as to the number of children born to this couple. It was reported in the 1900 federal census that they had had 5 children with only 1 currently surviving; however, in the 1910 census when the family was asked the same question, it was reported there were 2 children who had been born

<sup>7</sup> Death Records, Claremont, Sullivan County, New Hampshire, 1927, digital image, ancestry.com

<sup>8</sup> United States Federal Census Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts

<sup>9</sup> Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson, Mary Rowlandson, 1682

<sup>10</sup> Boylston Historical Series, Bruce D. Filgate, 2012

<sup>11</sup> Marriage Records, Clinton, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1863, digital image, ancestry.com

<sup>12</sup> Death Records, Sterling, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1845, digital image, ancestry.com

<sup>13</sup> Paupers' Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1846, digital image, ancestry.com

<sup>14</sup> United States Federal Censuses, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1850 and 1860, digital images, ancestry.com

<sup>15</sup> Death Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1850

<sup>16</sup> United States Federal Census, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1850, digital image, ancestry.com

<sup>17</sup> United States Federal Census Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts

<sup>18</sup> National Aegis, Worcester, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 10 March 1866, digital image, genealogybank.com

<sup>19</sup> Death Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1870 and 1896

<sup>20</sup> Gravestones, Manassah Sawyer Ball and Clarissa Ball, Pine Grove Cemetery, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts

<sup>21</sup> Overseers Receipts and Expense, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts

<sup>22</sup> Charles Kendall Military Records, Fold3.com, digital image

<sup>23</sup> United States National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938, digital image, ancestry.com



to them with 1 child currently living.<sup>24</sup> A search of the Boylston birth and death records indicates the births of 3 children to this couple: a male stillborn child who was born and died on 22 May 1868; a son Edward Alonzo, born 23 May 1871; and son Allard Alonzo, born 12 September 1872.

Edward died from cholera infantum at the age of 2 months, 13 days.<sup>25,26</sup> Allard would live into adulthood and eventually take over the Ball farm of Boylston.

At age 29 years, their son Allard Alonzo Ball, a store clerk, married Elizabeth Lorraine Fowler on 24 December 1901 in Boylston. They were married by the Congregational minister Reverend Samuel B. Cooper. Age 22 years and a mill operative at the time of their marriage, Elizabeth was the daughter of John Fowler and Christine Burns.<sup>27</sup> She had been born in Sackville, Westmoreland, New Brunswick, Canada on 25 July 1881.<sup>28</sup> Her family had immigrated to the United States in either 1899 or 1900.<sup>29</sup>

Allard and Elizabeth had 6 children: Lillian Elizabeth, born 1902; Louisa Maria, born 1906; twins Alfred Alfonzo and Albert Alonso, born 1908; George Fowler, born 1910 and Lorraine Helen born 1915.<sup>30</sup> All were born in Boylston except the youngest, Lorraine, who was born in Clinton.<sup>31</sup> Two of the children died as babies, including one of the twins, Alfred Alfonzo, who lived only 5 hours.<sup>32</sup> George Fowler died on 16 August 1911 at age 1 year, 5 months, 10 days from cerebro-spinal meningitis, complicated by enterocolitis.<sup>33</sup>

Alonzo’s wife, Mary Maria Harrington Ball died 29 November 1911 at Boylston and was interred in the Ball lot in Section 3 Lot 299 in Pine Grove Cemetery, Boylston, Massachusetts. Alonzo passed from this life on 26 April 1916 at Boylston, Massachusetts and was laid to rest in the family plot in Pine Grove Cemetery on 19 April 1916.<sup>34,35</sup>



**Ball Memorial**  
*Photograph by Bruce Filgate*

*To read more about Boylston’s founding fathers, stop by the Boylston Historical Society any Tuesday or Saturday from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. to browse through the photograph and library collections. Copies of the Early Families of Boylston, Massachusetts publication are now available.*

<sup>24</sup> United States Federal Census, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1900 and 1910, digital images, ancestry.com

<sup>25</sup> Birth Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1868, 1871 and 1872

<sup>26</sup> Death Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1872

<sup>27</sup> Marriage Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts,

<sup>28</sup> New Brunswick, Canada, Births and Late Registrations, 1810-1906, 1881, digital image, ancestry.com

<sup>29</sup> United States Federal Censuses, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1910 and 1920, digital images, ancestry.com

<sup>30</sup> Birth Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1902, 1906, 1908 and 1910

<sup>31</sup> Birth Records, Clinton, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1915, digital image, ancestry.com

<sup>32</sup> Birth Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1908

<sup>33</sup> Death Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1911

<sup>34</sup> Death Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1911 and 1916

<sup>35</sup> Gravestones, Alonzo Ball and Mary Maria Ball, Pine Grove Cemetery, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts