

It is Picture Day!

A Peek into the Historical Society Photograph Archives

By Inga Milbauer

Soon after the technology of photography became main stream, school photos became a regular occurrence at schools in America. The following photographs from the archives of the Boylston Historical Society & Museum give an impression of past school photos from the town of Boylston, Massachusetts. The photographs in this article were taken in the late 1800s through 1915.

Six Nations School Students

According to the provenance note, this is a photograph of the North East School. This school, located in School District II, was also known as the Six Nations School.¹ This school house, that replaced the one built in 1790, was built in 1809. It was used until 1899 when the property was taken by the Metropolitan Water Works for the construction of the Wachusett Reservoir.²



North East School
School Children with teacher, Mrs. Loring H. Reed
c. 1890-1899

Boylston Historical Society is seeking the names of these Boylston children, if you recognize anyone, please email us at info@boylstonhistory.org or call 508-869-2720

*Donor Norman French
BHSM Photograph Collection #1986.136.f*

Centre School Students

This photograph is the Centre School, located on the site of the present Boylston Public Library. This school was built in 1850 and served the student in the School District I until 1904. The teacher (on the right) is Carrie L. Ball. She began her work as a teacher in the South School in 1865, and later taught in the Northeast and Centre Schools.³⁴

A note with the photograph identifies the students as follows.

Boys from left to right: Charlie E. Cutter (holding the bat club), Algie Converse, Will Bigelow, Elsworth Wright, Walter Temple, Oscar Bigelow (cap over head), Henry Glazier, Thurber Seaver (white stockings), Frank Hazard, Solon Bartlett (cap in hand), Walter Winchester (cap in hand), Frank Bartlett (in front of door), John Wood (in front of his sister Carrie Wood).

Girls from left to right: Mary Barnes and Lizzie Wright (in doorway), Lilla Johnson, Jennie Wood, Ida Dearth, Florence and Mamie Andrews, Malona Cutter, Jennie Bigelow, Laura March, Clare Brewer, Mary Prior (standing under the window).

First row of girls: Jennie Wright, Nettie Tucker, Eliza Warner, Blanche Johnson (white apron), Lillian Tucker, Abbie Marsh, Mary Winchester, Minnie Dearth, Effie Hyde (hat in hand), Carrie Marsh, Julia Bartlett (besides John Wood), Carrie Wood, Annie Money, Edna Dearth (in front of teacher), Hattie White and Mary Wood (locked arms).



Centre School
1873
BHSM Photograph Collection
#1984.522



Centre School Students and Teacher
1873
BHSM Photograph Collection #1984.522

¹ Photograph Collections, Boylston Historical Society & Museum, Inc., Boylston, Massachusetts

² Filgate, Bruce, Boylston Historical Series, Boylston Historical Society & Museum, Inc., Boylston, Massachusetts, 2012

³ Boylston Historical Series, Bruce Filgate, 2012, p.174

⁴ Photograph Collections, Boylston Historical Society & Museum, Inc., Boylston, Massachusetts

East School Students

The following photographs were taken in front of the East School. This brick school building dates back to 1851 when it replaced the original East School which was located at the corner of Stiles Road and the Old Road which ran to Rocky Pond.⁵ The brick school house was located on the new road to Northborough (Central Street), near the current The Haven Country Club.



East School
Date unknown
Boylston Historical Society is seeking the names of these Boylston children, if you recognize anyone, please email us at info@boylstonhistory.org or call 508-869-2720
BHSM Photograph Collection

These two photographs are taken in front of the East District School, also called the “Little Red School House”. The teacher is Cora Bailey. The students are as identified on the back of the photograph are:

Lee Hastings (born November 1887),
Earl Hastings (born November 1889),
Charlotte Brigham (born September 1888),
Walter B [Brigham] (born January 1890),
Clifford Winchester (born September 1887),
Howard Cutler (born February 1894),
Leon Winchester (born July 1892),
Frank F. [Falby] (born November 1891),
Lloyd Brigham (born July 1894),
Harry Winchester (born May 1894),
Bertha Winchester (born August 1895),
Lena Wright (born November 1895),
Maude Wright (born March 1894),
Lillian M. Falby (born March 1890)^{6,7, 8}



East School
c. 1900
BHSM Photograph Collection
#1980.169.a

The photograph below shows the East School students in grades 1 through 6 and their teacher, Miss Cora Bailey.



East School
Grades 1 through 6
c. 1901-1902
Donor Marian Brigham Newell
BHSM Photograph Collection
#1975.56i

The students as identified by their names on the backside are:

Lee H[Hastings] (born November 1887),
Earl H[Hastings] (born November 1889),
Charlotte Brigham (born September 1888),
Lillian Ball (born October 1902),
Walter Brigham (born January 1890),
Clifford (Winchester, born September 1887),
Howard (Cutler, (born February 1894)),
Leon (Winchester, (born July 1892),),
Frank Falby (born November 1891),
Lloyd Brigham (born July 1894),
Harry (Winchester, born May 1894),
Bertha Winchester (born August 1895),
Lena (Wright, born November 1895),
Maude Hazard (born May 1893).^{9,10,11,12}

⁵ Archives Collection, *Plan of Boylston made by F. Smith, dated 1830*, Boylston Historical Society & Museum, Inc., Boylston, Massachusetts
⁶ Birth Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts
⁷ Photograph Collections, Boylston Historical Society & Museum, Inc., Boylston, Massachusetts
⁸ United States Federal Census, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1900
⁹ The child identified as Maude Hazard was identified as Maud Wright in previous photograph. Probably Maud Wright born March 1894
¹⁰ Photograph Collections, Boylston Historical Society & Museum, Inc., Boylston, Massachusetts
¹¹ Birth Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts
¹² United States Federal Census, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1900

Boylston High School

This photograph of high school students was taken in front of the Boylston Town Hall (now our Historic Town Hall at 7 Central Street). In 1852 high school classes began in the lower level of this building.



Boylston High School Students
1852
BHSM Photograph Collection
#1984.301

Consolidated School Students

On March 2, 1903 the town approved building a new centralized school instead of the district schools in the town of Boylston. The two-story Consolidated School opened its doors on 21 December 1904 in the center of town.



Consolidated School Students and Teacher
Circa 1905
BHSM Photograph Collection

Names written on the back of this photograph identify the students as:

First row, from left to right: Jerome Van Horn, Annie Tallman, Marion Warner, Dorothy Garfield, John Hakala, James Kennedy.
Back row, from left to right: Monty Bennett, Goldy C. Prouty, Hattie Gowdie, Mrs. Albina Perman, A. Beth Walker, Loring G. Fuller, Howard Cutler.

This photograph is one of several donated by Rita Fuller. The teacher, Mrs. Albina Perman was a graduate of the Worcester Normal School and Teachers College, she taught in the Boylston grammar schools and became one of the principals of the Consolidated School. She was the founder of the Boylston Graduates Association.¹³

Wohlbrück Photograph of Consolidated School Students circa 1906-1907

The photograph shown below was taken by the Wohlbrück Studio in Worcester, Massachusetts. Theodore Clemens Wohlbrück (1879–1936) moved to Worcester from New Jersey in 1900. He started a career as a photographer. “He specialized in city views that were often turned into postcards and also took class photographs of children for schools. By 1910, T.C. Wohlbrück had grown tired of his life in Worcester and moved west; first setting up a studio in Reno, Nevada, and later permanently settling in California.”¹⁴

The names of the students as identified on the back of the photograph:

Back row: Carl Schlotron (?), Willis Fuller, Agnes Kimball, Winifred Fuller, Mildred Bigelow, Victor van Horn (female?), Philip Brigham (?).

¹³ Boylston Historical Series, Bruce Filgate, 2012, p.175
¹⁴ <https://collections.americanantiquarian.org/wohlbruckcollection/>

Middle row: Alice Saunders, Clifton Warner, *unidentified female, possibly Maud Hazard?*, Bruce Brown, Gladys Woods, Ronald Hastings, Harold French.

Front row: Carl Worden, Charles Long, Frank Falby, Mary Warner, Irene Young, Lyod Buidgam?, Ray Mead, Loring Fuller.



**Consolidated School
Circa 1906-1907**
BHSM Photograph Collection #1980.101.c

This photo shows children in a classroom at the Consolidated School, the names are not known. The photograph was taken by Albert E. Nye from Newburyport, Massachusetts.



**Consolidated School Classroom
1913**
BHSM Photograph Collection

Teachers:

In the last photograph of this article five teachers from the Consolidated School pose in front of the school building. Teachers who are named are Cora Bailey (2nd from left), Nettie Arkwell (4th from left) and Marie Doyle (5th from left).



**Consolidated School Teachers
1915**
BHSM Photograph Collection

We invite our readers to visit and have a look at these and many more school photographs in our collection. If you can identify any of the students in the photographs in this article, please let us know. The Boylston Historical Society and Museum would like to hear from you!

Acknowledgements:
Boylston Historical Series by Bruce Filgate, 2012, Boylston Historical Society, Boylston, MA
https://www.boylstonhistory.org/category/Sawyers_Mills_School/c136
<https://www.boylstonhistory.org/images/2023%20Feb%20FFF/Then%20and%20Now%2002232023%20The%20First%20East%20School%20House2.pdf>
<https://www.boylstonhistory.org/images/2023%20Jan%20FFF/Then%20and%20Now%2001272023%20consolidated%20School.pdf>
Boylston Historical Society Photograph Collection, Boylston Historical Society & Museum, Inc.
Editor, Nancy A. Filgate, Director, Boylston Historical Society & Museum, Inc., Boylston, MA