

April's Historical Calendar

By Judy Haynes

Robert Frost once wrote: "The sun was warm but the wind was chill. You know how it is with an April day."

APRIL 5, 1880

A skeleton was found at the Poor House. It would appear to be murder! You can read about it in a book available at the Society titled *Never Told Tales* by William O. Dupuis. Other Boylston tales: legends, folklore and fantasy are also included in the book. It can be purchased at the Boylston Historical Society.



Illustration by Kelly Ann Dupuis from 'The Doorstep Murder' in *Never Told Tales* by William O. Dupuis

APRIL 14, 1745

The first burial took place in Boylston's Old Burial Ground, which was located in Shrewsbury's North Precinct at that time; later to become the Town of Boylston. It held the grave of Gardner Maynard, a young child of only eleven months. Garner Maynard, the son of Elisha and Huldah Maynard, had been born on 3 May 1744. He and his family resided on Maynard's Lane on house lot #25. In 2026 this would be part of the Tower Hill property. His father, Elisha Maynard was one of the Boylston settlers associated with the separation of Boylston from Shrewsbury. When Garner was born, he lived in what was known as the Shrewsbury North Precinct which had been incorporated as such on 17 December 1743 and in 1786 would become the Town of Boylston, Massachusetts.¹



GRAVESTONE OF GARNER MAYNARD
Old Burial Ground
Boylston, Massachusetts
Photograph courtesy of Bruce Filgate

APRIL 9, 1899

Sawyers Mills factory closed its doors. The Historical Society holds a vast amount of information on Sawyers Mills – an active village and important part of Boylston up until the Wachusett Reservoir was built and the land was then entirely buried under water. Artifacts, information, and photographs are in the new Sawyers Mills Exhibition that we hope you will visit on Memorial Day. Additional articles on Sawyers Mills are also to be found in our Fridays Fascinating Finds articles and Then and Now articles.



GINGHAM MILL AT SAWYERS MILLS
Sawyers Mills
Boylston, Massachusetts
Boylston Historical Society Photograph Collections

¹ Filgate, Bruce, editor. 2012. Boylston Historical Series. Boylston Historical Collaborative Publication. Collections of the Boylston Historical Society & Museum, Inc., Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts. Page 141

APRIL 15, 1943

Boylston's Historian, George L. Wright who had been born 31 December 1856, died in 1943. William O. Dupuis notes:

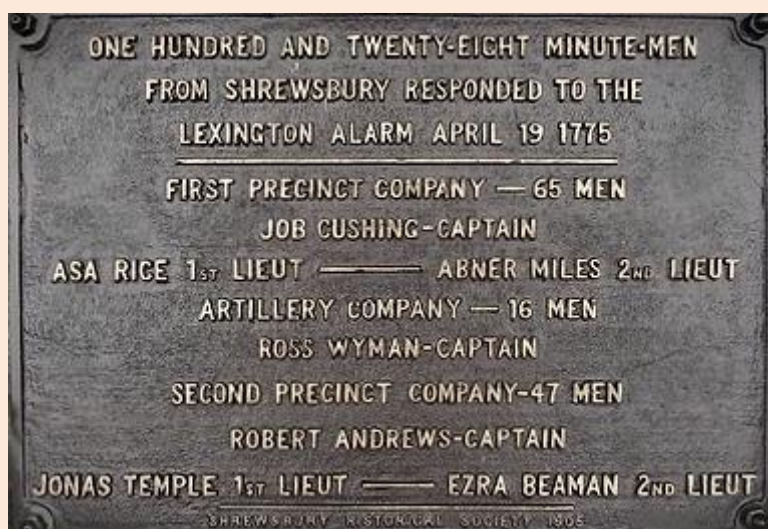
*"He had been active in all manner of Boylston government and activities. He occupied practically every civil office in town government, and was even elected a Representative to the General Court. His greatest contribution was the preservation of town history."*² The Society houses a file cabinet of Mr. Wright's hand-written notes and history, a great source for researching local history.



GEORGE LAWSON WRIGHT (on left)
HOME OF GEORGE L. WRIGHT (on right)
Boylston, Massachusetts
Boylston Historical Society Photograph Collections

APRIL 19, 1775

On this day, 47 men from Shrewsbury's North Precinct (now Boylston and West Boylston) answered the "Alarm" when the call went out that "the British are coming!" In honor of this event and to highlight this 250th year (2026) since the birth of our country, several Boylston Historical Society researchers/authors have spent years compiling and writing the narratives of these 47 men, patriots of the American Revolution. This comprehensive book with the detailed biographies of these men and their service backgrounds will be available on Memorial Day, May 25, 2026. Please visit the Society's table on the Common to obtain your copy of this amazing story of the Minute Men from Boylston.



MINUTEMEN HISTORICAL MARKER
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts
Photograph courtesy of the Shrewsbury Historical Society

The Boylston Historical Society has announced the upcoming American Revolution and Sawyers Mills exhibits to be open in May 2026. Stop by the museum located on the second floor of Boylston's Historic Town Hall. If you have never attended Boylston's Memorial Day, do it this year. The Common will have many booths with food, games, activities, crafts and homemade goods for sale. A parade is another highlight of the day. We hope to see you there.

APRIL 23, 1883

Forty members formed the Grange in April 1883.³ *"The town of Boylston has its roots in agriculture, dairy farms, and husbandry; thus, when an organization called the Grange was conceived in 1867 to speak for the farmers and to strengthen agricultural industry, it was bound to be attractive here; thus, Boylston Grange formed its own chapter on April 23, 1883."*

The Grange met monthly and on **April 9, 1885**: "...the Grange held a special meeting to confer the third and fourth degrees upon eight new members. ...At the close of the initiation all enjoyed a supper." **April 11, 1885**:

"The ladies meeting of the Grange last Friday evening was largely attended and was a success." Miss Mamie Andrews *"opened [the meeting] with instrumental music."*

Later in the meeting

"came the question on 'Woman's Rights,' which was opened with a reading by Mrs. J. G. Warner, also an essay by Mrs. N.E. Moore, after which the meeting was thrown open to anyone to discuss the subject."

One wonders if this was a 'hot topic' back then. It may very well have been as the Suffragists were becoming active as they sought for women to be able to vote.⁴ Additional information about the Grange can also be found on the Society's website at [March News from Boylston over the Years](#).

Acknowledgements:

Never Told Tales by William O. Dupuis, 1996, Old Pot Publications, Boylston Historical Society Inc., Boylston, Massachusetts
Photograph Collection, Archives of the Boylston Historical Society & Museum, Inc.
Editor, Nancy A. Filgate, Director, Boylston Historical Society & Museum, Inc., Boylston, Massachusetts

² Ibid Page 452.

³ Newsclip from "Boylston News" from our Mary French Scrapbook Collection of news articles. Collections of the Boylston Historical Society.

⁴ Newsclip from "Boylston News" from our Mary French Scrapbook Collection of news articles. Collections of the Boylston Historical Society.