

THE BOSTON POST CANE

Boylston Honors its Eldest Citizens

By Nancy Filgate & Judith Haynes

In 1909 the Massachusetts based *Boston Post Newspaper* had 700 ebony-shafted, ornate gold capped canes made and provided them to Selectmen of towns in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, requesting that the canes be presented in a ceremony to the town's oldest living man. Women became eligible for this honor in 1930. It was originally planned as a one time offering, but the gesture to our much-respected senior citizens was so popular that it has continued for decades. In Boylston, the actual transfer of the gold headed cane was discontinued in 2019, but the ceremonial honor by the town to the eldest citizen remains a vibrant part of our community with a gold cane pin being awarded at the ceremony. The Boylston Historical Society & Museum has in its collection the gold headed cane.

At this time, we are seeking to create a list of the Boston Post Cane recipients or the oldest person in Town of Boylston over the years. The Boylston Historical Society & Museum wishes to honor these individuals and welcomes information on any of these Boston Post Cane recipient individuals or others who were honored as our oldest citizens.

NAME	DATE CANE AWARDED	DATE ELDEST CITIZEN	AGE	COMMENTS FROM NEWSPAPERS OR OTHER SOURCES
PARNEY PARKER FLAGG	<i>Ineligible</i>	1904	93 yrs	<i>Named as one of Boylston's oldest citizens</i>
AZRO E. WATERMAN	<i>unknown</i>	1910	92 yrs 6 mos	<i>Listed in a news clip as "...the oldest man in Boylston"; Born June 17, 1817; died January 7, 1910 at age 92 yrs, 6 months</i>
JOHN G. WARNER	1917	1917	82 yrs	<i>Now the oldest man in Boylston; Selectman George E. Glazier, in behalf of the town, presented the Boylston Post gold headed cane.</i>
SARAH LOUISE WHITE	<i>Ineligible female</i>	1921	91 yrs	<i>"The oldest person in Boylston" was 91 years of age today."</i>
MARTHA WARNER	<i>Ineligible female</i>	1928	90 yrs	<i>Named the "oldest citizen" at age 90</i>
HENRY L. REED	<i>unknown</i>	1931	85 yrs	<i>"Boylston's Oldest Man" born January 25, 1846; died at age 85.</i>
MARTHA J. WARNER	<i>unknown</i>	1933	94 yrs	<i>"Town's Oldest Resident Passes at age 94" on January 2, 1933.</i>
WILLIAM G. BLACKWELL	4 Jan 1948	1948	97 yrs	<i>Received "gold cane." He was 97 yrs. Boston Post Cane Recipient. December 30, 1948</i>
WILLIAM H. FALBY	<i>unknown</i>	1955	90 yrs	<i>Named the "oldest man" in Boylston; Born January 1865</i>
LILLIAN VICKERY	1972	1972	94 yrs	<i>Born 1877, age 94 in 1972 News clip dated 6 Nov 1972 Boston Post Cane recipient</i>
BESSIE CLARK	1983	1983	99 yrs	<i>Received gold cane at 99. She turned 100 years old in 1984.</i>
ED FANEUF	<i>unknown</i>	1995	105 yrs	<i>Age 105, died in December 1997.</i>
ELLEN 'NELLIE' CONLON	Oct 2002	2002	99 yrs	<i>Boston Post Cane recipient October 2002</i>
JOHN ELIS	25 May 2002	2002	99 yrs	<i>Born 24 Aug. 1903, was given the cane as the oldest man</i>
MARGARET REITZEL	25 Sep 2003	2003	99 yrs	<i>Born 1904. Awarded the cane</i>
RALPH HAGER	2007	2007	99 yrs	<i>Born Dec. 20, 1907. Town Administrator Suzanne Olson and Selectmen Roger Deal & James Stanton awarded Boston Post Cane</i>
KATHLEEN TALBOT	2007	2007	100 yrs	<i>Boston Post Cane recipient</i>
JOSEPH STARKUS	2011	2011	98 yrs	<i>Born February 5, 1913; Lived to be 101 yrs; died in 2014. Boston Post Cane recipient</i>
MARJORIE BRIGHAM	Oct 2013	2013	96 yrs	<i>October, mentioned she is 96.</i>
EDITH 'EDIE' MACDONALD	Jul 2015	2015	97 yrs	<i>Died at age 98, Oct. 3, 2016 Boston Post Cane recipient</i>
KATHERINE MIKOLOSKI	Jul 2017	2017	97 yrs	<i>Born 1920; Boston Post Cane Recipient; Awarded Boston Post Cane pin.</i>
JOHN FAUCHER	Aug 2017	2017	96 yrs	<i>Born Jan. 14, 1921; Boston Post Cane recipient; Awarded Boston Post Cane pin</i>