



## 211 Mile Hill Road

**NOW with a truly  
amazing story!**

### **The Man Who Lived in 3 Towns, But Never Moved**

On Friday, May 5, 1916, Carrie L. Williams who had been a teacher in Boylston's South School, and later the Northeast School as well as the Center School, stated that her great-grandfather Lieutenant Elijah Ball, had lived in three towns, but never moved from his farm. Is this a factual story or a fable? The facts herein unfold the true history of the Ball Farm. Elijah Ball, the son of Phineas Ball and Martha Bixby, was born 2 March 1748 in Holden, Massachusetts. He acquired property in Lancaster, Massachusetts where he built a house. He married Rebecca Moore on 18 October 1770 and they settled on their Ball Farm of Lancaster.

In 1780, Elijah Ball was one of the petitioners who requested to set off this section of Lancaster to become part of Shrewsbury (North Precinct). This was accepted, granted, and confirmed by Massachusetts General Court on 23 June 1780. This boundary for the dividing line between Lancaster and Shrewsbury was now marked by a heap of stones just south of the Ball Place. On 1 March 1786, Shrewsbury's North Precinct was incorporated as the Town of Boylston, Massachusetts. The Ball Farm, one of the largest farms in Boylston, was run for 150 years by the Ball family with the home located just west of what we now know as 211 Mile Hill Road, Boylston, Massachusetts. In 1858 the original home was dismantled and rebuilt; the first floor being raised and another floor built under it.

So, yes indeed, Elijah Ball who died in 1834 had lived in the towns of Lancaster, Shrewsbury and Boylston and had never left home!

Watch for future articles on the history of this farm and the Ball family's exciting frontier experiences in upcoming Friday's Fascinating Finds.