



1971 **The Potpourri** BOYLSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM 2020  
"Preserving the Past for the Future"

**NOVEMBER 2020**

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***Can you Identify the  
Current Location of  
this homestead?***



Answer on page 7

## Curator's Corner

As we enter into the 8<sup>th</sup> month of the 2020 pandemic with continued restrictions on safe space usage and social distancing, Boylston Historical Society and Museum, goes virtual through the launching of a new look for its website! *Please see:* [www.BoylstonHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.BoylstonHistoricalSociety.org) A team of remarkable volunteers are busy researching the antiquity of our Boylston artifacts and are now sharing the new found history each Friday through emails to our members and through online website publications of the "Friday's Fascinating Finds" and a "Then and Now" articles. Watch for these and other upcoming website additions including some great Boylston genealogy links along with more historical information on Boylston and its townspeople. Although we are not yet open for Public events and Museum visits, our high school intern, Oliver Milbauer, under the guidance of our curator, Nancy Filgate and director Judy Haynes, has been adding photographs of the artifacts in an effort to share our collections with researchers, historians, genealogists and townspeople of Boylston, Massachusetts. This endeavor is financially co-sponsored by the Boylston Historical Commission. A thank you to all for implementing this strategic vision!

~ Nancy Filgate

## Tribute to our past Director Martha "Muffie" Bigelow

It is with sadness that we share the news of the passing of Muffie on 6 October 2020 who had served as a member of our Board of Directors for over 12 years and as member of our Society for many more. Muffie was always on hand to support the Boylston Historical Society at every Memorial Day event and fundraiser; and was always the first to quietly offer financial support for the publications of historical books for our townspeople. All of the Directors, staff, and members of the Boylston Historical Society present their sincerest condolences to her family. She will be missed by one and all.



## Volunteers uncover “New Discoveries”

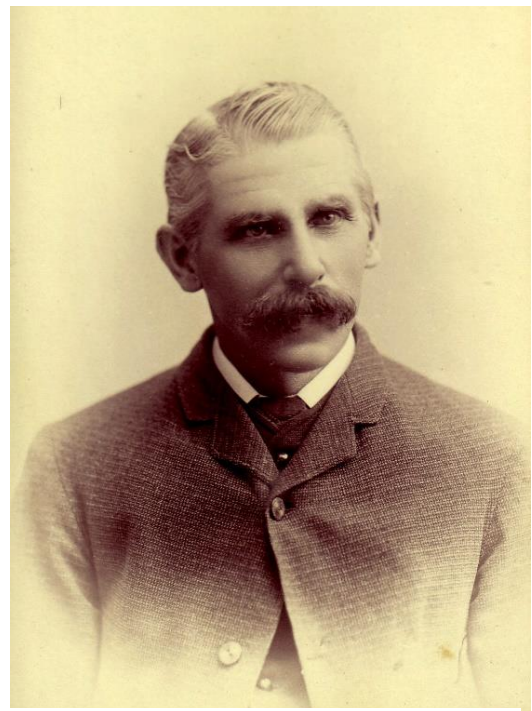
The Research Consortium formed in September by the Boylston Historical Society & Museum, the Boylston Historical Commission and the Boylston Public Library has undertaken to identify the names of individuals in Album #2 and Album #5 whose photographs date to the mid 1800's. The volunteer teams are hard at work uncovering the genealogical history of these townspeople and their historical significance to the town of Boylston's development and growth. Watch for updates from this group in our next Newsletter on their strategic future publications!

## Veterans Research Project

*By Leah Withers*

*Leah Withers, a Tahanto Regional High School junior and researcher for Boylston Historical Society has embarked on an exciting genealogical quest to determine more about the veterans of our town and their impact on the town's development. Her enthusiastic love of history comes alive in this reflection on the life of Henry Alonzo Bigelow and in each of her narratives where she demonstrates stellar research techniques and a strong literary prowess ~ Nancy Filgate*

**Henry Alonzo Bigelow** was born in Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts on 4 January 1834 to Solomon Bigelow and Rebekah Parker.<sup>1</sup> His family resided in that part of Boylston known as “Straw Hollow.” His father, Solomon was a blacksmith and had a shop and foundry on the family homestead.<sup>2</sup> Henry was the last born of five siblings: having had two older sisters as well as two older brothers. There was a significant age gap between Henry and his siblings, with the closest to his age, Charles-Parker, being just over six years older than Henry. His other three siblings, Maria, Solomon-Slater, and Caroline, were all over a decade older, and thus had married and moved out of the family household by the time Henry was 16 years old. In 1850 he was attending school while his father worked as a blacksmith to support the family. For the few more years Charles remained in the household,



**Figure 1 Henry Alonzo Bigelow**

1834-1898

BHSM Photograph Collection

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<sup>1</sup> Birth Records, Boylston, Massachusetts

<sup>2</sup> Boylston Historical Series, edited by Bruce Filgate, 2012

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he worked as a shoemaker, something which may have inspired Henry to take up this profession later in life when it would become his life's career.<sup>3</sup>

Sadly, his mother Rebekah passed away on 14 August 1855, leaving Henry and his father on their own for three years until Henry married.<sup>4</sup> He was wed to Mary Esther Wilson, age 20 years, of Goshen, Litchfield County, Connecticut on 17 November 1858 at West Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts. The Minister J. B. Bigelow officiated at the ceremony. Mary was the daughter of James Wilson and Esther Hall who had married in Plainfield, Litchfield County, Connecticut in 1830. Henry was a cordwainer (shoemaker) at the time and continued to do this work while living with his new wife in his hometown.<sup>5</sup> Henry and Mary's first child, Genevieve, was born on 24 October 1859.<sup>6</sup> A few years later came Oscar on 12 August 1861.<sup>7</sup> Though he did have a third son, William Alonzo, on 13 November 1862, he was not present for his birth due to his enlistment in the Civil War just a few months before his son's birth.

On 29 July 1862, Henry enlisted as a private in Company C Massachusetts 34th Infantry. He spent about 3 years fighting for the Union in Virginia. Some of the places he was involved in battles against the Confederacy include New Market, Shenandoah County, Virginia, Lynchburg, Virginia, Williamsburg, Virginia and Winchester, Virginia. It was at the third Battle of Winchester known as the Battle of Opequon which was fought just outside Winchester, Virginia on 19 September 1864 that the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry lost the lives of 7 men and had 97 men wounded, several mortally, including young Henry who was shot in the hip. The intensity of the battle resulted in casualties that were heavy on both sides and the Confederate line was driven back towards the town with the Confederacy never again controlling Winchester. Many historians consider this the most important conflict of the Shenandoah Valley. Henry was left at Winchester and brought to McClellan U.S.A. General Hospital in Philadelphia from which he was mustered out on 3 May 1865 to return home to his wife and three children, one of which he was to meet for the first time.<sup>8,9</sup>

For the next five years Henry, his wife Mary, three children, and father Solomon resided in Boylston, Massachusetts. Mary cared for the children, who were at the time all attending school, while Henry continued working as a cordwainer and his father Solomon operated his foundry and blacksmith shop.<sup>10</sup> This continued until Solomon's death on 24 August 1870 after he had contracted a lung disease known as Consumption (tuberculosis). He was 75 years old at the time

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<sup>3</sup> U.S. Federal Census Records, Boylston, Massachusetts

<sup>4</sup> Death Records, Boylston, Massachusetts

<sup>5</sup> Marriage Records, West Boylston, Massachusetts, ancestry.com, digital image

<sup>6</sup> Birth Records, West Boylston, Massachusetts, 1859, ancestry.com, digital image

<sup>7</sup> Birth Records, Boylston, Massachusetts, 1861

<sup>8</sup> Military Civil War Union Soldier Service Record, Massachusetts, Henry A. Bigelow, fold3.com, digital image

<sup>9</sup> Records of Soldiers and Officers, Boylston, Massachusetts

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Federal Census, Boylston, Massachusetts, 1870, ancestry.com, digital image

and was buried in the Pine Grove Cemetery in Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, alongside his wife Rebekah.<sup>11,12</sup>

Shortly after the death of his father, Henry and Mary had three more children: Cora in 1873 at Boylston, Archie on 16 June 1875 at Worcester and Lila Belle, on 7 March 1879 at Worcester.<sup>13,14</sup> Unfortunately, Lilla Belle died of cholera infantum on 2 August 1879 at Worcester.<sup>15</sup> By 1875 the



Figure 2 **Gravestone**  
Hope Cemetery

Photograph by Patricia M. St. Marie

family had relocated to Worcester, Worcester County, Massachusetts and then although Henry Alonzo continued to work in Worcester, he relocated the family residence to Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts by 1889. Henry spent the rest of his life with his family, until eventually the older children began to get married and move out. His son Archie remained with Henry. At the time of his death, Charlton, Worcester County, Massachusetts was listed as his residence. Henry Alonzo died in Charlton City, on 28 February 1898 of chronic bronchitis.<sup>16</sup> He was 64 years old at the time. He was buried in Worcester's Hope Cemetery where his wife would later join him in 1907 and their young daughter, Lila Belle had been buried in 1879.

### A VETERANS DAY TRIBUTE TO ALL OUR VETERANS



<sup>11</sup> Death Records, Boylston, Massachusetts, 1870

<sup>12</sup> Bigelow Gravestone, Pine Grove Cemetery, Boylston, Massachusetts

<sup>13</sup> Birth Records, Boylston, Massachusetts, 1971

<sup>14</sup> Birth Records, Worcester, Massachusetts, 1875 & 1879, ancestry.com, digital image

<sup>15</sup> Death Records, Worcester, Massachusetts, 1879, ancestry.com, digital image

<sup>16</sup> Death Records for Charlton, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1898, ancestry.com, digital image



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## Message from Gordon Hastings

*I looked forward to coming home to Boylston to share my book **Rocky Road to Dublin**. Since COVID 19 forced a postponement I hope that these excerpts will kindle memories of growing up in Boylston during the 1950s. I hope we can meet in person soon.*

*Gordon Hastings*

### ***They'll Be Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight***

Harry Souci, Walter Flagg with Joyce and Russell Fuller volunteered their time and talent to create a two-hour variety show called *The Review*. Harry Souci, a retired professional vaudevillian and the operator of the Boylston Center Store designed the show to include anyone from town who wanted to perform. No one was left out. There were comedy skits, musical solos, acrobats, and groups singing patriotic songs.

Harry Souci directed the show, produced the choreography, selected the acts, and together with Joyce and Russell coached the talent. My father always worked backstage handling the props, lights and the curtain. Other parents volunteered to create costumes, build props, handle the make-up and take tickets at the door.



“No, No, No, sing it like this,” Harry Souci said.

Harry would then break into song directing the cast by example. The performers embraced his coaching as Harry pranced around the stage.

“Now you’ve got it,” Harry Souci said.

*The Review of 1952* was scheduled for a Friday and Saturday in May. During intermission the Volunteer Fire Department sold soda and hot dogs on the Town House porch. The Boylston Town House could seat three hundred fifty people and it was standing room only every night. I was in the opening chorus. Fifty members of the cast ranging in age from ten to eighty years old nervously lined up behind the maroon curtain lighted with bright footlights that rose from the front of the Town House stage.

“Everyone quiet now and good luck. Break a leg,” Russell Fuller said. Russ Fuller had explained many times what he meant by *Break a leg*.

Downstairs a group of mothers, aunts and non-performing sisters had meticulously applied make-up to our faces. Makeup seemed odd to the boys, but we stood in line for our turn with great

excitement. Libbey refused to perform when he heard about the makeup but was happy when my Dad gave him a job helping move props between the acts.

From out in front of the curtain came applause as Joyce Fuller, entering from the side of the stage, took her place at the upright Marcellus Roper piano. She began playing the overture. The audience hushed.

“O.K. Cal, cut the house lights and open the curtain,” Russ Fuller said.

With a flourish my Dad pulled the rope in a brisk downward motion. The maroon curtain swept open to thundering applause. The cast took a choreographed step forward and burst into a full-throated singing of *They'll Be Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight* and then rolled right into *There's No Business-Like Show Business*. Three hundred and fifty familiar faces, all seated on wooden folding chairs stood and cheered as Dad slowly pulled the curtain closed after the opening act. The applause seemed never to stop as one act followed another and each performer had their moment in the glowing spotlight of the town's affection. Harry Souci had coached shy teenager David Warren into a starring role singing in a Swedish dialect a rewritten version of *Davey Crockett*, titled *Ole-Ole-Swenson, King of the Great North Woods*. Carolyn Nelson, an accomplished gymnast, performed on a unicycle then jumped to the stage and executed three running hand springs landing on her feet to the cheering of the audience.

Those with less solo talent, myself included, were grouped together in a chorus supported by a few strong voices singing such songs, as *You Gotta Be a Football Hero to get Along With A Beautiful Girl*, and *There's Nothing Like a Dame*.

Janet Reed was a beautiful and tall teenage girl who was cast perfectly by Harry Souci to sing, *Whatever Lola wants, Lola Gets*. As Janet belted out the song every man in the audience believed Lola wanted him.

My brother Sonny, who would become a professional singer, left the audience breathless performing *On The Street where You Live* from *My Fair Lady*. Carol French, another future professional, sang *You'll Never Walk Alone* from *Carousel*. The show ended with the entire ensemble singing a reprise of *There Is No Business-Like Show Business*. Joyce Fuller played the piano with such fortissimo that her hands flew two feet above the keyboard. The aged upright appeared to elevate off the floor as the entire audience jumped to its feet and join in the singing of a reprise. For those who couldn't sing it didn't matter. They cheered themselves hoarse.

Harry Souci stepped forward to center stage and with a tip of his ever-present straw hat recognized the Fullers and then with a broad sweeping gesture he turned to the entire cast. With hands clasped we made a bow, then another and another as the audience stood and cheered, clapping hands and stamping feet. Proud parents rushed the stage to hug their sons and daughters.

“What a night! Harry made the kids feel special. He always found the right spot for everybody. Made them look their best,” Dad said.

There were numerous photos in the *Worcester Sunday Telegram* the next morning under the headline: “*Vaudevillian Souci Makes Boylston Kids Stars.*”

Watch for more fascinating stories about “Growing Up in Boylston” from Gordon in our next Newsletter!

Answer  
from page 1

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### 701 Main Street



Located near the town Common in Boylston, this structure is a Federal style building constructed with bricks made at the Boylston brickyard of Captain John Howe. The building was built in 1818 by Silas Hastings (1780-1833). It was operated as an inn and tavern. The ground floor housed the tavern, along with a grain bin for travelers to buy feed for their horses. The second floor had a ballroom with a wooden chandelier and two fireplaces. The ballroom held many events including a formal ball and reception for the laying of the cornerstone of the Historic Town Hall in 1830. After the death of Silas Hastings in 1833, the tavern was run by Hastings son-in-law, Elmer Loring, until his death in 1839.



## Congratulations to Our Scholarship Winners!

*The Greater Worcester Community Foundation who manages our scholarship funds have notified us of the past two year's recipients*

### Mary Falby Scholarship awarded to:

- Kayleigh Darwin – attending UMASS, Boston (year 2020)
- Alyssa Porter – attending Mass College of Liberal Arts (year 2019).

### Robert P. Goulet Scholarship awarded to:

- Livia Skende – attending WPI, Worcester (year 2020)
- Suzanne Martiska – attending University of Pennsylvania (year 2019)

## A 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

by Judy Haynes



November arrives with an *Election Day*, a *Veterans Day*, and a *Thanksgiving Day*; and with each of these special events, a great deal of history is associated. This year we recall the anniversary of another special historic event that impacted the lives of future generations.

Most females today take for granted that they have the right to vote in an election, but how many realize that this year marks one hundred years since women fought for that right and finally were granted suffrage. August 18, 1920 marked the date when the law was finally ratified so that gender was no longer specified as a qualification to vote.<sup>17</sup> For years many women worked hard and lobbied the men in their communities and districts. Some even went to jail and on hunger strikes to show how serious they were about wanting to change the U.S. Constitution to allow this privilege.

As early as 1848 Susan B. Anthony and Lucretia Mott, Massachusetts women, held a convention on Women's Rights in Seneca Falls, New York. In 1850 Worcester, Massachusetts was the site of a National Women's Rights Convention where men and women from across the country were in attendance. In 1866 the first petition to the Massachusetts Legislature asked that women be allowed to serve on school boards, and this would be one of the earliest elected offices a woman could hold.<sup>18</sup> F.M. Whitcomb is listed on the Boylston School Committee in 1882, and Fannie M. Whitcomb became the first woman to serve on the School Committee for the Town of Boylston. Fannie's full name showed on the School report in 1884.<sup>19,20</sup>



Figure 3 Lucretia Mott

Our Town Clerk records from 1892 -1906 name eleven women registered to vote for School Committee, and nearly all, with a few changes over the years, were still registering to vote for School Committee in 1906.<sup>21</sup> Between 1907 and 1919 even some of the same names appear: Eliza Fuller, Mary Kendall, Lydia Warner and Martha Warner, so when the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was finally activated, I fully expected to see those names also on the women's federal voter registration lists, and I did.

While the East was early in actively talking about women's rights, it was the far West and Northwest who were first to allow females the right to vote in a national election. Montana, the seventh state to make this allowance, had enough votes in 1914 to elect the very first female to serve as a representative from her district in the U.S. Congress. Jeannette Rankin was there twice, first 1917 -1918 and again 1941-1942. Boylston was aware of Ms. Rankin as indicated in a

<sup>17</sup> The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Women's Right to Vote, [www.ourdocuments.gov](http://www.ourdocuments.gov)

<sup>18</sup> Massachusetts and the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, National Park Service, [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

<sup>19</sup> Annual Report, Town of Boylston, Massachusetts, 1882

<sup>20</sup> Annual Report, Town of Boylston, Massachusetts, 1884

<sup>21</sup> Town Clerk Records, Town of Boylston, Massachusetts



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Worcester Telegram & Gazette article from 1917 where Ms. Rankin was mentioned at a recent Women's Christian Temperance meeting as one who stood for "suffrage, peace, temperance and child welfare." It was Ms. Rankin who introduced the legislation that eventually became the 19<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment, "granting unrestricted voting rights to women nationwide." In 1972, at age 91, she voiced her wishes as: "If I am remembered for no other act, I want to be remembered as the only woman who ever voted to give women the right to vote."<sup>22</sup>

While females in Massachusetts were early in voicing and arguing for women's rights, the males stood firmly opposed. It was said that two strong Massachusetts senators helped defeat a 1916 plan to give women federal voting rights.<sup>23</sup> Massachusetts had a strong anti-suffrage group of women founded in 1895 known as the *Massachusetts Association Opposed to the Further Extension of Suffrage to Women*. They gave speeches and held meetings to oppose suffrage. Finally, on June 25, 1919, Massachusetts ratified the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment and fourteen months later in August, Tennessee-- the last of 36 states needed to ratify—ensured that the right to vote not be denied based on sex.<sup>24</sup>

Ballots of March 1, 1920 in Boylston were notably listed as follows: "The number of ballots given out by the Ballot Clerks was one hundred and twenty-two regular ballots and five special ballots." What was "special" about the five; they were for females running for School Committee, and indeed a Mabel McRae won a 3-year term on the School Committee with 54 votes.<sup>25</sup> Women in Massachusetts could vote in the federal election of 1920, but could not hold an office, except for School Committee or as a Library Trustee, until 1924. However, once the law was passed, post August of 1920, there were 333 people registered to vote in Boylston for the presidential election for the fall of 1920. Of that number, 138 were women, so Boylston had women ready and willing to express their choice at the ballot box. The numbers continued to climb. By 1924 there were 162 Boylston females registered.

Women in Clinton started enrolling to vote in March of 1920, but after an August, 1920, article in the local newspaper, *The Item*, urging all women to sign up before the September primary, the Clinton town clerk opened registration again on August 27, from 7–9 p.m., but the line of women wanting to enroll was so long, the clerk's door didn't close until midnight.<sup>26</sup> Unfortunately, I found no similar article on Boylston. Suffice it to say, the 1920 Boylston numbers show women wanted to vote.

A perusal of the Boylston Town Clerks Annual Town Records of 1920, held at the Boylston Historical Society, did not detail gender or names of the voters, but actual names are listed in the

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<sup>22</sup> Jeannette Rankin biography, Wikipedia

<sup>23</sup> American Experience: The Vote, Public Broadcasting Service series, September 2020

<sup>24</sup> Massachusetts and the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, National Park Service, [www.nps.gov/articles/massachusetts-and-the-19th-amendment.htm](http://www.nps.gov/articles/massachusetts-and-the-19th-amendment.htm)

<sup>25</sup> Annual Report of the Town of Boylston, Massachusetts for the year ending December 31, 1920, p. 12

<sup>26</sup> The Right to Vote-Clinton Style, Terrance Grange, September 11, 2020, p. A-6

Town Clerk's Register of Voters at Town Hall.<sup>27,28</sup> In 1924 Alice Brigham was elected at the September primary along with George Wright to be delegates to the Republican Convention so women as well as men took an active role in the federal elections.<sup>29</sup> Prior to November, 1919 the number of male voters never went above 208, but by November 2, 1920, 267 males and females cast ballots in a state election and by November 4, 1924, the number of ballots cast for state offices and electors for president was 329. That number included most of the 162 women who had registered to vote by that year.

Also, on the Boylston November 1924 ballot was A Referendum on Question No. 2, "Amendment to the Constitution to enable women to hold any state, county, or municipal office, and relative to change of names of women on account of marriage." This passed with 140 Yes votes to 65 No.<sup>30</sup> Progress was being made in that they could not only vote but, if interested could run for and, if elected, hold public office. Election Day is always an important event in November and we hope the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment will be celebrated with women voting in record numbers.

Thank you for  
your Donation!

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Historical Society

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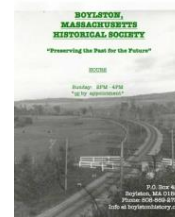
*Archival materials  
Museum Displays*

### Support Student Programs



*Student Internships  
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### Support Public Programs



*Publications  
Video programs*

<sup>27</sup> Annual Report, Town of Boylston, Massachusetts, Boylston Historical Society & Museum

<sup>28</sup> Register of Town Voters, Annual Register of Female Voters from Town of Boylston, 1920, pp66-75

<sup>29</sup> Annual Reports, Town of Boylston, Massachusetts, 1924, p. 27

<sup>30</sup> Annual Report for Boylston, Massachusetts for the Year ending December 31, 1924, p. 30

<sup>13</sup> Lucretia Mott, Engraved by G.E. Perine & Co., NY, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

## New & Renewal Membership Application

### BOYLSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

2020 – 2021

***“The mission of the Boylston Historical Society and Museum is to collect and preserve the local and general history of Boylston and the genealogy of Boylston’s families; to make antiquarian collections and to ensure the continuous adequate care of the collections and their accessibility and effective use for cultural and educational purposes.”***

Please mail to Boylston Historical Society & Museum, P.O. Box 459, Boylston, MA 01505

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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**Help Preserve Boylston’s History**  
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*Please note if your company offers matching funds: \_\_\_\_\_*

**THANK YOU!** TAX DEDUCTIBLE memberships and donations of all sizes help BHSM to provide educational programming and to aid in the preservation of artifacts to keep Boylston’s heritage and history alive! We depend on support from individuals like you to help us fulfill our mission of educating and preserving.



## Boylston and the First Thanksgiving

By Judy Standish Haynes

Thanksgiving is a holiday that many families love best. It is so popular nationwide that in most years it is considered the most traveled day of the year, with the express purpose of being with family. It is often celebrated in a traditional way though it will be difficult this pandemic year, while we are social distancing and being careful to stay home, not to host dinner with a large family gathering. Those of us who are Massachusetts born and related to the Pilgrims feel a special kin to the feasting and gathering that took place in 1621 in Plymouth. This wonderful observance continues today. Scrapbooks in Boylston's collection mention many a Thanksgiving Dinner and Fall Festival that was often held right here in our Historic Town Hall, and the purpose was, as in ancient Plymouth, an observance and time to give thanks for a bountiful harvest.

Was the day of rejoicing in Plymouth a "first Thanksgiving"? It has come to mean that, though celebrating a harvest time was not new to the English, since a day of festivities was traditionally held in the English villages in the fall, and there is no reason to believe that the Pilgrims didn't plan this event and day of thanks in the manner to which they were accustomed, a special day of gratitude for healthy crops of corn, squash, beans, barley and peas which had been harvested after a difficult first year. We don't have their exact date, but know it was harvest time. Governor Bradford ordered four men to go out "fowling" as it was a "time to rejoice together...after a special manner." There was also deer, fish and a "good store of wild turkeys" to celebrate the fruits of their labor. No pumpkin pie nor cranberry sauce is mentioned that first year, but those are crops found in this area and it is easy to believe they could have been later delicious additions to their table as it now is at ours.

The word "thanksgiving" for the Pilgrims meant a day of spiritual devotion, more commonly known as a "day of fast and prayer." It is likely they said a prayer of thanks, but they did not use that term for this joyful event. That was a name given to the day by the nineteenth century.

It was noted that the Native Americans also came to eat, drink, and join in with the Pilgrims on this occasion. Edward Winslow wrote "many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest their greatest King Massasoit, with some nintie men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five Deere, which they brought to the Plantation and bestowed on our Governour, and upon the Captaine [Standish]

and others." This came about, thanks to Massasoit. Many had angered and alienated the Native Americans, but Massasoit offered them assistance, thus the colonists pledged their support to him and survival was assured. Winslow and Hopkins were sent to the Sowams in a diplomatic manner and the Pilgrims compensated the Nausets for the corn they took. According to Edward Winslow the natives were "very trustworthy, quick of apprehension, ripe witted, just."

And so it is today we look upon Thanksgiving in much the same way as the original day. It is still one of togetherness celebrated with a feast, and a "time to rejoice together."

### Courtney's Thanksgiving Pumpkin Butterscotch Cake

*This recipe comes from a friend in Charlottesville, Virginia, where we were in a parents' group together. Our babies are nearly twenty years old today, but I still take this cake to every potluck.*

2 cups flour	1 c melted butterscotch chips
1-¾ cups sugar	1 cup pure pumpkin puree
1 T baking powder	½ cup vegetable oil
1-½ tsp cinnamon	3 eggs
1 tsp salt	1 tsp vanilla
	Powdered sugar to dust cake

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Generously grease and flour Bundt pan.
3. Whisk together flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, & salt.
4. Mix together melted butterscotch chips, pumpkin, vegetable oil, eggs, and vanilla.
5. Whisk together wet and dry ingredients.
6. Pour into pan and bake at 350 degrees for 45-50 minutes, or until toothpick comes out clean.
7. Allow to cool for about 15 minutes, remove from pan, and cool completely on a wire rack.
8. Dust with powdered sugar just before serving.





## Apple Parers & Peelers

By Judy Haynes

Fascinating  
Find !

October starts our Fall season and with it the crisp autumn days that evoke warm fires and apple pies. It is the season when apples have ripened and are ready for picking and family fun time. From our collection, you see one of the C.E. Hudson Parer Company's apple peelers of 1882. It was known as "The Rocking Table Apple Parer" and was a popular item. It was said they manufactured as many as 50,000 apple paring machines a year. This kitchen tool of cast iron was made right here in Leominster, Massachusetts. Antique dealers today ask \$69 for such an item, assuredly six times more than the cost in 1882.



**Figure 5 Hudson Apple Parer, 1882**  
*BHSM Collection*

From the Leominster Town Reports, Leominster Historical Society, Hudson's ad states "Best machine ever put on the market for paring, slicing and coring apples." No price is mentioned. They also sold other hardware and novelties for use in the kitchen. Leominster, is also known as the birthplace of John Chapman (1774 -1845), better known as *Johnny Appleseed*, but he didn't start planting apple trees here. He learned to be an orchardist later in Ohio and began his planting nursery there. He was familiar with this nutritious fruit as they were already being grown here having been brought over from Europe by the earliest settlers. According to Boylston's historian, George L. Wright, in his 1875 unpublished manuscript, "Boylston has some of the best orchards in the County." It was the 4<sup>th</sup> largest crop that year with 20,930 barrels of apples valued at \$8,100. Only potatoes, milk, and hay came in higher as valuable agricultural products in this farming community.

The invention of an "improved" apple peeler is attributed to David Goodell, 1864, a New Hampshire man who was even their governor at one time. When he took to the road as a traveling salesman, he sold 24,000 of his "Lightning Apple Parers" in one month, thus saving the tedious task previously performed by hand and knife. From internet photos of the Goodell tool, our Hudson peeler appears to be similar in form and function and still today a similar tool is available for those preferring the speed of a machine over the paring knife. According to Debra Smith Bach, New York Historical Society, 250 apple peeler designs were patented between 1803 & 1910. Earlier ones did not appear to be as efficient or complete as the later Goodell or Hudson designs.



**Figure 6 Goodell Apple Parer**  
*Apple Parer Museum*

The apple tree originated in Kazakhstan, Central Asia, "where wild apple trees still thrive." This delicious and nutritious fruit has been around since biblical times, but while the Bible may attribute it as the "forbidden fruit," New Englanders have loved apple eating, pies, and cider since its arrival with European settlers who brought seeds and grafts with them. English cookery cookbooks (1773) had an apple pie recipe as did Fannie Farmer's Boston Cooking-School Cookbook (1896). Fannie Farmer listed no less than 20 apple recipes in her 1896 cookbook. Apples and apple pie making are New England traditions, with the baking of apple pies, a most enjoyable heritage particularly prevalent in Fall.

Acknowledgements: [Apples.Worldatlas.com](http://Apples.Worldatlas.com), Boylston Historical Society archives, *Who Invented the Apple Peeler*, 2017, *The Virtual Apple Parer Museum* Editing & Photography by Nancy Filgate, BHSM curator

## The Year Boylston played Santa Claus

In December, 1913, the Town of Boylston provided the City of Worcester with its annual Christmas tree. The 48-year-old pine was taken from the former John B. Gough estate, and had been planted by the illustrious reformer himself. The Worcester paper labeled the tree as one of the finest to grace their Common in many a year.

[cite: Boylston Historical Series, Filgate, 2012]



## Did you know that Boylston once had its own newspaper?

In the 1930's, some enterprising citizens of Morningdale decided to create a four-page newsletter which they aptly named "*The Beacon*." At first, it sold for 3 cents an issue. Then it became a weekly, and the price soared to 10 cents. But it was considered a bargain at any price! A short time ago, the staff of Boylston Historical Society discovered ten issues of the *Beacon*. The issues are filled with lavish illustrations, the product of the late Bob Carlson of Morningdale. It featured jokes, advertising by local business people, humorous commentaries on neighbors and town events.

[cite: William Dupris, 1999]

Wyckoff  
Traditional  
Wassail



## Wassail Bowl

by Courtney Hodgdon

*My Grandma Wyckoff made wassail every Christmas, and served it in her special wassail bowl. She always made a 'kids batch', too. My grandma isn't with us anymore, but my parents still make wassail and serve it in that beautiful bowl.*

6 peeled oranges	½ cup lemon juice
⅓ cup whole cloves	2 cups vodka
10 cinnamon sticks	¾ cup brandy or rum
1-gallon apple cider	¼ cup Southern Comfort
	(more or less to taste)

- Step 1. Stick cloves into oranges and roast in shallow pan at 350 degrees for 30 mins. to 1 hour. Let cool, remove cloves, and slice.
- Step 2. Meanwhile, heat cider in large casserole or enamel kettle until bubbles have formed around edge.
- Step 3. Remove from heat. Add lemon juice, oranges, and cinnamon sticks to the cider. Cover and heat over low heat for 30 mins.
- Step 4. Add vodka, rum or brandy, & Southern Comfort. Stir well, put in punch bowl, and serve warm.



**Enjoy!**



# Here We Come A-wassailing

Here we come a-wassailing  
Among the leaves so green;  
Here we come a-wand'ring  
So fair to be seen.

(Chorus)

Love and joy come to you,  
And to you your wassail too;  
And God bless you  
And send you a Happy New Year  
And God send you a Happy New Year.

Our wassail cup is made  
Of the rosemary tree,  
And so is your beer  
Of the best barley. (Chorus)

We are not daily beggars  
That beg from door to door;  
But we are neighbours' children,  
Whom you have seen before. (Chorus)

Call up the butler of this house,  
Put on his golden ring.  
Let him bring us up a glass of beer,  
And better we shall sing. (Chorus)

We have got a little purse  
Of stretching leather skin;  
We want a little of your money  
To line it well within. (Chorus)

Bring us out a table  
And spread it with a cloth;  
Bring us out a mouldy cheese,  
And some of your Christmas loaf. (Chorus)

God bless the master of this house  
Likewise the mistress too,  
And all the little children  
That round the table go. (Chorus)

Good master and good mistress,  
While you're sitting by the fire,  
Pray think of us poor children  
Who are wandering in the mire? (Chorus)

Centuries ago this started as a festive salutation with drink with carolers going door to door wishing good health to others

*in the key of F*

Arrangement  
by Kyle Coughlin

Traditional English Carol



*We at the Boylston Historical Society and Museum would like to take this opportunity to wish our members and supporters a healthy and Joyous Holiday Season and a Happy New Year! We have taken great strides to expand our virtual presence through website upgrade, website redesign, online research volunteer efforts, online projects, and virtual collaboration with historical groups in town, during this past year and welcome new volunteers to join us in these endeavors! We are very grateful for your donations of items, time and funding to help preserve Boylston's history for future generations.*

*Thank You!*

***Board of Directors***

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