



June 2021

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



Answer on page 19

Curator's Corner

We at the Boylston Historical Society and Museum are continuing to research artifacts and to add local histories, historical maps, genealogical resources, and articles to our website to share Boylston's history and its artifacts with the historians, genealogists, and its townspeople.

At this time, we are excited to announce that our directors are quite busy carefully structuring our museum's re-opening plan. We are currently designing and implementing an appointment system so that we can finally begin the re-opening process after the year COVID-19 shut down much of our country. Our initial goal is to be able to provide appointments for those individuals who wish to complete historical research. Watch our website for the appointment sign-up!

We have had a remarkable group of members, researchers and volunteers who have made this year a huge success! At our annual meeting on June 15th after an interesting and captivating presentation, the Civil War Veteran's Research Team announced that they and the Kendall Research Team both have online and book publications in the works. Additionally, if you have not had the opportunity to read about our Boylston artifacts, go to our website: <https://www.boylstonhistory.org> and click on the *Friday's Fascinating Finds* category to read about some of the treasures and facts uncovered about our town or try the *Then and Now* link to simply have some fun! A thank you to the many researchers and members who are graciously supporting our mission and helping to implement this strategic vision!

~ Nancy Filgate

**Tribute to Founding Member
Norman French**

It is with deepest sadness that we share the news of the passing of Norman Houghton French on June 13, 2021. Norm was one of the founding members who championed the Boylston Historical Society in 1971. Over the years, he held several officer positions and always enthusiastically

touted the value of the Historical Society and its work. Norm, ready to support the Boylston Historical Society in any way he could, was instrumental in recruiting our directors and expanding our membership. Through many generous donations of Boylston artifacts and their countless contributions, the French family legacy will continue to remain an integral and important part of the Boylston Historical Society & Museum, but most of all what we will hold close to our hearts is the wonderful charm and enthusiasm of this dear friend, founder, and community leader. All of the Directors, staff, and members of the Boylston Historical Society present their sincerest condolences to Margot and family. Norm will surely be missed by one and all.

BHSM 2021 HISTORIAN AWARDS



At the Annual 2021 Boylston Historical Society meeting on June 15th, the Directors and Officers were pleased to present Historian Awards to the following individuals: *Carolyn Crane, Judith Haynes, and Inga Milbauer*. Each of these individuals has contributed significant hours of historical research and developed historical manuscripts that directly benefited the Boylston Historical Society & Museum and the townspeople of Boylston on topics that included the History of Sawyers Mills, the early settlement of the area later to be known as Boylston, Massachusetts as well as on the artifacts of Boylston's settlers. On behalf of the Directors, the BHSM membership and the townspeople of Boylston, Massachusetts, thank you for these informative and captivating *Fascinating Finds* articles that are published weekly on our website www.boylstonhistory.org!





*Congratulations 2021
Graduates!*

Veteran's Project Discovery



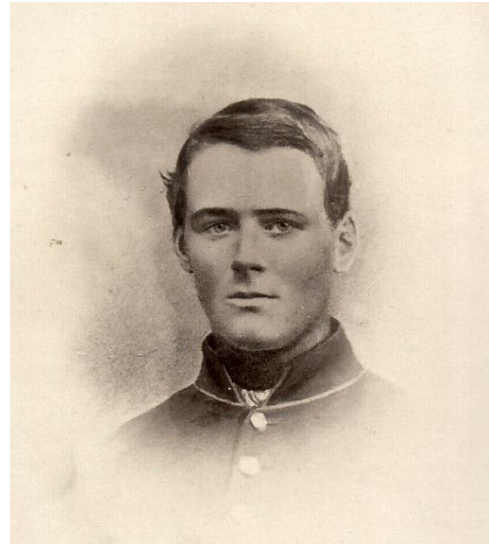
Jordan Money, a Tahanto Regional senior, is a researcher for the Boylston Historical Society- Veteran's Project. Through her exceptional research skills Boylston has discovered new facts about the capture and military service of Boylston native, John Manley Forbes.

-Nancy Filgate

John Manley Forbes, the son of George Forbes and Susan Winslow Ball, was born on the 24th of November 1839 at Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts.¹ George Forbes of Boylston and Susan Winslow Ball of Northborough had married on the 22nd January 1839 at Northborough, Worcester County, Massachusetts.² John Manley was the first of three children born to George and Susan. Five years after John's birth, George Fox was born on the 4th of February 1844.³ The youngest child, Susan Winslow was born on the 30th of September 1846.⁴

John's father George, was a farmer of Boylston where he owned real estate valued at \$1,200 in 1850.⁵ George had built the homestead which was located on Mile Hill Road near Rock Meadow Brook, placing it in the East School District. He was well educated and for many years served as a school teacher in and around Boylston and later served

for several years as a member of the Boylston School Committee.⁶ The children helped their father around the farm and attended school.^{7,8} John Manley was working with his father on the farm until he enlisted in the Civil War.^{9,10} John Manley enlisted at Northborough, Worcester County, Massachusetts on 18 July 1862. John mustered in at Worcester, Worcester County, Massachusetts, to serve from Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts on 25 July 1862 for 3 years, serving as a private in the 34th Regiment of the Massachusetts Infantry of Company C.¹¹ He was paid a bounty of \$25.¹²



John Forbes
1839-1865

BHSM Photograph Collection

¹ Birth Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts

² Marriage Records, Northborough, Worcester County, Massachusetts, ancestry.com, digital image

³ Birth Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts

⁴ Birth Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts

⁵ United States Federal Census Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1850

⁶ Boylston Historical Series, Filgate, 2012, pg 205

⁷ United States Federal Census Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1850

⁸ United States Federal Census Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1860

⁹ United States Federal Census Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1860

¹⁰ Boylston Rebellion Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts

¹¹ Boylston Rebellion Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts

¹² Civil War Service Records (CMSR) - Union - Massachusetts

Two years later on the 19th of October 1864 Corporal John M. Forbes of Company C, 34th Regiment of the Massachusetts Infantry was captured during the Battle of Cedar Creek, in Shenandoah County, Virginia after he advanced the boundary and was wounded.¹³ This battle was initiated when Confederate soldiers launched a surprise attack on the Union's camps. During this conflict 9 Union men were wounded and 32 went missing. John fought as a corporal during this battle after being promoted on the 11th of September 1864.¹⁴ John Forbes, private (corporal), volunteer, 34th Regiment of Massachusetts Infantry who had been captured at Cedar Creek, was brought from Lynchburg, Virginia and confined at Richmond, Virginia on 23 October 1864. He was sent to Salisbury, North Carolina on 4 November 1864. John Forbes was admitted to the hospital at Salisbury on 4 January 1865 where he died.¹⁵

There are some discrepancies and errors on his rank and date of death that have been uncovered during this research in 2021:

- 1) Corporal John M. Forbes of Company C, 34th Massachusetts Infantry, died of diarrhea as a prisoner of war in Salisbury, North Carolina, after having been wounded and taken prisoner on 19 October 1864. He was mustered out on 12 January 1865 at Salisbury, North Carolina. Also documents in his official files indicated he died 12 January 1865 and that he had served as a Private until 11 September 1864 and then as Corporal until 13 January 1865. [*Official Military Records, John M. Forbes Co C, 34 Massachusetts Infantry*]¹⁶
- 2) Corporal John M. Forbes of Company C, 34th Massachusetts Infantry, died of disease as a prisoner of war and was mustered out on 13 January 1865 at Salisbury, North Carolina and interred in Salisbury National Cemetery. [*Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors*]¹⁷
- 3) John M. Forbes, 25 years old, died on 13 January 1865 at Salisbury, North Carolina. [*Boylston, Massachusetts Death Records, Henry H. Brigham, registrar*]¹⁸
- 4) John M. Forbes, 25 years old, died on 24 September 1864 at Salisbury, North Carolina. [*Boylston, Massachusetts Death Records, Henry H. Brigham, registrar. This record was noted as an error by Henry H. Brigham, registrar, and the death date of the 13 January 1865 was later recorded*]¹⁹
- 5) Private John Forbes, Company C 34th Massachusetts Infantry, died on 14 January 1865. [*Roll of Honor, Names of Soldiers who in Défense of the American Union Suffered Martyrdom in the Prison Pens throughout the South, Quartermaster General's Office, 20 February 1868, XIV #1113*]²⁰
- 6) Private J.M. Forbes Company C, 34th Massachusetts Infantry, died at Rebel Prison in Salisbury, North Carolina. [*United States Registers of Death of Volunteers for Massachusetts*]²¹

¹³ Civil War Service Records (CMSR) - Union - Massachusetts

¹⁴ "The Battle of Cedar Creek." *National Parks Service*, U.S. Department of the Interior, www.nps.gov/cebe/learn/historyculture/the-battle-of-cedar-creek.htm.

¹⁵ Civil War Service Records (CMSR) - Union - Massachusetts

¹⁶ Official Military Records, John M. Forbes Co C, 34 Massachusetts Infantry

¹⁷ Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors Records

¹⁸ Death Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts

¹⁹ Death Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts

²⁰ United States, Congress, Quartermaster General's Office, *Roll of Honor*. www.cem.va.gov/CEM/pdf/Salisbury_NC_Roll_of_Honor.pdf.

²¹ United States Registers of Death of Volunteers for Massachusetts, ancestry.com, digital image

- 7) Sergeant John M. Forbes Company C, 34th Massachusetts Infantry died on 13 January 1865. [*Boylston, Massachusetts Rebellion Records*] ²²
- 8) Sergeant John M. Forbes Company C, 34th Massachusetts Infantry died on 1 September 1864. [Plaque presented in 1886 and later placed at the Boylston Historical Society in 1971]

It is evident from the review of his official records that this young man, Corporal John Forbes captured as a prisoner of war, died of disease between the 12 and 14 January 1865 in the Rebel Prison in Salisbury, North Carolina at the age 25 years old. His name appears as one of those buried in the Salisbury National Cemetery in an unmarked burial site.



**Site of Union Soldiers Burial Trenches
Salisbury National Cemetery**
Photograph by: Jenny Dené-Hotchkiss



**Cenotaph
Corporal John Manley Forbes
Howard Street Cemetery**
Photograph by Bruce D. Filgate

A Soldier's Memorial in honor of all those who died was erected in Salisbury National Cemetery in Salisbury, North Carolina. It reads:



*"IN 18 TRENCHES, JUST SOUTH OF THIS SPOT, REST THE BODIES OF 11,700 SOLDIERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY, WHO PERISHED DURING THE YEARS 1864 AND 1865 WHILE HELD BY THE CONDERATE MILITARY AUTHORITIES AS PRISONERS OF WAR IN STOCKAGE NEAR THIS PLACE."*²³

John M. Forbes has a cenotaph at the Howard Street Cemetery in Northborough, Worcester County, Massachusetts. ²⁴ After Forbes' death his father, George Forbes, was put in charge of his estate. ²⁵ However, when George Forbes died in 1869, John Manley Forbes' mother, Susan Winslow Ball, was the sole recipient of this Boylston native's pension after he died in a Rebel prison in January 1865. ^{26 27}

**Unknown Soldier Memorial
Salisbury National Cemetery**
Photograph by: Jenny Dené-Hotchkiss

²² Rebellion Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts

²³ Gravestone Memorial, CPL John Manley Forbes (1840-1865), findagrave.com

²⁴ Gravestone Memorial, John Manley Forbes (1840-1865), Howard Street Cemetery, Northborough, Worcester County, Massachusetts, findagrave.com

²⁵ Massachusetts, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1635-1991

²⁶ Massachusetts, U.S., Death Records, 1841-1915

²⁷ U.S., Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934
Editor, Nancy Filgate, Boylston, Massachusetts

Antique Victorian Samovar

by Judy Haynes

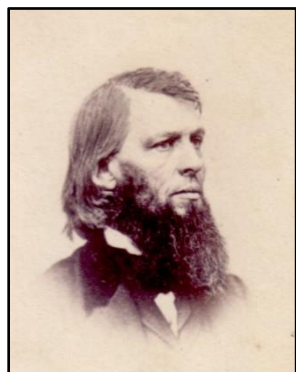
Boylston is the home of the John Bartholomew Gough estate which includes the Italian architecturally styled twenty room mansion he had built in 1848 for him and his wife, Mary Whitcomb Gough.



Gough Mansion

Boylston, Massachusetts

National Historic Landmark – May 30, 1974



John B. Gough

John became a much-desired orator in the *Temperance Movement* in the nineteenth century, as he had struggled with his own bout of alcoholism. Possessing a flair for the dramatic, he was able to educate while entertaining the audience regarding the evils of alcoholism as he was a good singer and a natural showman who could tell his story. The Boylston Historical Society & Museum is fortunate to have Gough objects in its collection, one of which is the Gough family samovar.



Mary Gough



Samovar-1850

*Originally owned by John & Mary Gough
BHSM Collection*

The samovar, literally meaning ‘self-brewer’ originated in Russia and is a vessel, made of metal that was used to heat and boil water for tea. Within the body, there is a center tube running vertically through the samovar where one would put lighted fuel – perhaps coal, charcoal, or even pinecones to create a fire.²⁸ One might keep it smoldering so it could be quickly rekindled with a kind of bellows designed for this purpose. However, the Russians would consider it an abomination to serve water that was heated longer than 15 minutes for tea. The charcoal is usually started in the range and put into the samovar tube. The space around the tube is filled with cold water and within minutes the water begins to boil. The tea itself is prepared by pouring the water over a small box filled with tea which is then brewed in an earthen teapot.²⁹

The antique copper samovar has a lid with a finely detailed satyr finial, two elaborate white opaline handles with satyr mask escutcheons, and “pied-de-biche” feet; as well as a brass spigot with a white opaline glass button. It measures 18 ½” in height to the tip/top of the lid and has a 25-inch diameter at the widest point of the urn body. The samovar in our collection was manufactured by R. & J. Slack, 336 Strand, London in 1850.

The samovar may have had ancient roots, as vessels made for tea were found or depicted in ancient Greek homes, but the first documented and registered samovar-makers were the Russian Lisitsyn brothers, Ivan and Nazar Fyodorovich in Tula, Russia in 1778.³⁰ They made their first one out of brass. Their designs came in various metal shapes and styles and even some beautiful ceramic samovars were made. Perhaps the tea maker was not invented by Russians, but they were thought to have influenced those found and made all over Europe and Asia since the 18th Century.³¹ The

²⁸ [Wikipedia.org/wiki/Samovar](https://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samovar)

²⁹ The Kernersville News, 13 January 1888

³⁰ [Wikipedia.org/wiki/Samovar](https://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samovar)

³¹ Vermont Watchman and State Journal, Montpelier Vermont, 8 April 1847

Russians had an expression: come “sit by the samovar” which meant please come and enjoy a leisurely visit and talk while drinking tea.

The samovar in the BHSM collection looks like what we think of as a traditional Russian style samovar with its brass feet and copper urn body. An object that was so prevalent in homes for tea, now is a rare sight. We hope you will stop by when we are open so you can examine this wonderful piece of history that is currently on display in our Boylston Historical Society Museum. It will put a new meaning to the invitation “let’s sit and have a cup of tea.”

Editor, Nancy Filgate. Boylston, Massachusetts

Boylston in the News *Worcester Telegram*

“Strives to Swallow a Florida Alligator”

BOYLSTON August 13—A battle of brief duration took place in Boylston, this afternoon, between a young Florida alligator and a monster Massachusetts bullfrog, and as in a previous contest between the North and South, the south was vanquished.

There in a water garden and aquarium at the home of Mrs. H.M. Andrews, and from time-to-time various kinds of fishes and reptiles have been added to it by the nature loving young people of the neighborhood.

Recently Gordon C. Dodge, son of Arthur G. Dodge, Worcester, donated a young alligator, 12 inches long, to the collection. Immediately on his arrival all the small frogs, which had taken up their abode in the pond, vacated the premises.

Harold B. French, this afternoon, found an enormous bullfrog in a nearby brook, and put him into the water garden. The frog had not been in the pond long when he discovered the alligator not more than a foot away.

Alligators were not on his regular bill of fare, but this one looked good to him, and with wide open mouth he made a jump for the alligator, which had always thought of frogs as non-combatants, and not to be considered, except as an article of diet. The alligator, not ready to resist the attack, quickly disappeared down the frog’s throat for half of his length.

Whether he would have remained long in this embarrassing position will never be known, for he was rescued by Penniman M. Lane of Worcester, who had been an interesting observer of the conflict. The frog measures 13 1/3 inches from the tip of his nose to the ends of his outstretched toes, and weighs one pound.

He is at present in close confinement, as it is not known what other animal about the farm he may seek to devour.

[Boylston Historical Society Archives Collection- Clipping from Worcester Telegram, year not determined; individuals mentioned were Harold B. French who was born 1894, Gordon C. Dodge who was born in 1898, and Mrs. H.M. Andrews who died 1925]



How would you celebrate your 77th Birthday?

In the early 20th century, fox hunting was a popular sport involving tracking and chasing a red fox by foxhounds led by a master of foxhounds who followed on foot or horseback. Ever wonder what our forefathers did for Birthday Celebrations? Here is a fascinating excerpt about Oliver Moore Ball's 77th Birthday Celebration, June 9, 1909 in Boylston, Massachusetts.

The Fox Hunt

*On His 77th Birthday
Worcester Friends Pay O.M. Ball a Visit
and Present Oak Table.*

“In order to help O.M. Ball of Boylston celebrate his 77th birthday, yesterday a number of Worcester sportsmen took advantage of an invitation from the veteran Boylston hunter, and after enjoying a superb dinner at Mr. Ball's home, took in a fine drive after the hounds, for more than three hours, last night, on Mr. Ball's farm.

It was great weather for the run. As good luck had it, a fox was started by the pack within 15 minutes after starting from the house, and within half a mile of it. Thereafter, the guests, most of whom were from Worcester, hastened over hill and dale in as pleasant a drive as they have had for months.

The visitors, all members of Worcester fur club, as a token of their appreciation of Mr. Ball's work for the club, took along with them yesterday afternoon a handsome oak table, for the purchase of which the various members contributed. To Charles B. Daniels was given the task of buying, and a nice four-poster he bought. It was a peach, and pleased Mr. Ball immensely.

The party arrived at the farm, at 5:30 o'clock and went to the home of one of Mr. Ball's neighbors, where they left the table. Then they called on the veteran huntsman.

An excellent supper was served, after a reception, in which Mrs. Elisha S. Knowles, Mrs. Charles B. Daniels and Mrs. Oscar England, all of Worcester, assisted in receiving. Supper was over at 7, and after a smoke, the guests with Mr. Ball, who was as spry on his feet as the youngest man in the party, left for the run after the fox.

The table was presented after supper, being brought over from the neighboring house, much to the surprise of Mr. Ball. Elisha S. Knowles made the presentation speech. Mr. Ball responded, though at first his astonishment got the better of his voice.

After the drive over the hills after Reynard [fox], a return was made, and the new table was found loaded high with cakes, confections, ice-cream and lunch. The party returned to Worcester on a late car [trolley]”.
-A true copy from an old news clipping. -Judy Haynes



Oliver M. Ball
1832-1914

Born 8 June 1832
Boylston, Massachusetts



Father - Barnabas Ball
Mother- Abigail Howe



Spouse - Maroe E. Flagg
Married 29 November 1855
Worcester, Massachusetts



Died 22 July 1914
Boylston, Massachusetts
Interred
Pine Grove Cemetery
Boylston, Massachusetts



Growing Up in Boylston

The Farm

by Gordon Hastings

In the summer of 1953 Uncle Bill was renting the old Reed farm on Cross Street. Uncle Bill was the son of my dad's half-brother Earl who with wife Lena lived on Green Street. The Reeds, who formerly owned Reeds Dairy, had given up farming years before but Uncle Bill was determined that he could revive the old place. He always needed an extra pair of volunteer hands because he couldn't afford to pay for help, so Libbey and I had the experience of our lives.

Libbey loved anything with a motor. He uttered the words diesel, Mack Truck and eighteen-wheeler with reverence. If it didn't have a motor, he pretended it did. He was so fascinated with Mack Trucks that he had authentic chrome Mack Bulldog hood ornament attached to his bicycle handlebars. For Libbey, this was the ultimate in status. Libbey and I worked for Uncle Bill that summer.

We were both twelve. We loved Uncle Bill because he had no problem with handing over important jobs on the farm to us. My father had made it clear that the last thing he wanted was for his children to become farmers. But he had been wise enough to allow me the chance to get it out of my system.

"The cows know where to go. One of you get up ahead, the other in the back. Be careful opening the electric fence gate because it's hot," Uncle Bill said.

With Libbey leading the way and me in the rear we left the barnyard each morning after milking, herding forty cows a half-mile over the road to pasture. We had no problems with the oncoming cars because Libbey, exercising our right of way with great authority, brought the cars to a halt on the side of the road while the herd passed. I always gave an all-clear wave when the last cow passed the line of irritated drivers. I felt important.

"Need to teach you kids how to drive the

tractors," Uncle Bill said.

No words could have been more exciting to either Libbey or me. Libbey was a natural, learning to drive one of Uncle Bill's two identical 1947 orange tricycle wheel Allis Chalmers tractors in less than a day. I finished a close second. Uncle Bill had another important job for us.



"Back up one at a time and I'll fill them up with the loader," Uncle Bill said.

On spring weekends in the time between the morning and afternoon milking, the huge piles of cow manure that had gathered in the winter beneath the barn had to be spread upon the fields. Each Allis Chalmers had been hitched up to a manure spreader. Uncle Bill ran the big tractor with the front-end loader. It took twenty scoops to fill each spreader and the odor coming from the steaming piles was ripe.

Libbey and I hauled dozens of loads out from under the barn and spread it on the recently thawed fields. It was the perfect way to perfect our driving skills. Libbey's Mom bought us a can of Turtle Wax and we polished the tractor's bright orange metal motor housing until it glowed. The

Mack Bulldog was unceremoniously removed from Libbey's bike and attached to the radiator cap of his tractor. My Dad gave me a chrome exhaust pipe echo-can which I attached to my tractor giving it a throaty sound when I accelerated.

It was haying season. Uncle Bill was up ahead running the baling machine with Libbey sitting on the discharge chute just in back of the roaring motor. He was covered with hay chaff as he diligently checked the tied knots. Sonny and Peter Card also volunteered to help.

I slowly drove the Allis Chalmers in between the rows and Peter and Sonny threw the fifty-pound bales onto the platform wagon. The old baling machine was only good for a couple of rows before the knots would fail and the hay would fall loosely to the ground. Libbey would shout out to Uncle Bill and the process would come to a halt until the baling twine was re-threaded. All the broken bails had to be carried to the front for a successful second time through the machine.

Once the wagon was loaded, I was on my own, driving back to the barn, sometimes as much as a mile away. Sonny, Peter and Libbey followed in Uncle Bill's truck, which they had also loaded with hay once the platform wagon was full. The bales were stacked twelve high on the wagon and they swayed back and forth with each dip in the road and around every corner. I cautiously kept the Allis slowly moving forward. With a sigh of relief, I made the sharp turn just past old man Moore's barn and then headed down the near vertical hill that in the winter provided the final thrill on the double runner. The Allis held the pushing weight of the hay against the hitch as I applied the break with a shaking foot and kept the tractor in first gear with a trembling hand. It took a half hour to get safely back to the barn. It took an hour for us to unload the hay wagon and truck.

"You kids are the best help I've ever had," Uncle Bill said with the ever-present Pall Mall bobbing in his mouth.

"Peter and I are going back to our house.

We'll see you in Smith's field at 1:30," Sonny said.

"Come on kids, get in the truck, Clara will have lunch ready," Uncle Bill said.

The menu was always the same: creamed chicken and peas on white toast or creamed chipped beef on toast. Metal TV trays with painted scenes of New England were placed in front of the often-flickering black and white Dumont television. Bill and Clara dutifully watched *Days of our Lives* followed by the sound of light snoring from Uncle Bill as Aunt Clara cleared the plates. Libbey and I went outside and waited in the truck. In a half hour, Uncle Bill appeared and we headed back to the barn.

Friday was milk check day and the daily routine changed. Uncle Bill never drove the faded red Ford truck over 25 miles an hour. As we headed down Route 70 to Clinton the stake body sides would rock and clatter back and forth making such a racket that conversation was impossible. Cars roared past us at the first brake in the double yellow line.

"Gotta stop at the bank first, then we will head for lunch," Uncle Bill shouted over the clatter.

A cigarette ash fell on his flannel shirt adding one more hole as Uncle Bill pulled into a parking slot in front of the Clinton Bank and Trust Company. It didn't matter that the back of the truck extended well into Main Street, as he turned off the motor.

"Be right out."

With cash clutched in his right hand and a broad smile, Uncle Bill swung up into the driver's seat then stuffed the bills in his bib overall pocket. "Let's head for the Hilltop."

Uncle Bill was a regular at his favorite diner.

"Hi Bill, I see you got the kids with you today," the waitress said.

"Wouldn't want to be without them Maureen! Work harder than me."

Maureen was in her sixties, short hair just below her ears, a pink uniform with white trim and a white apron. She always spoke with an

order pad raised in her left hand and a stubby pencil clenched between her right fore finger and thumb.

“You kids want the burgers and fries, right?” Maureen asked.

We sure did, we were hungry.

“Bill?” she asked.

“Bring me a bowl of clam chowder with extra crackers and a ham sandwich with mustard and a double coleslaw. Here’s a dollar, I need some nickels for the boys.”

Maureen walked past Uncle Bill and handed half the nickels to Libby and the other half to me. When we finished our burgers, we headed for the pinball machine in the rear just outside the men’s room door. We played pinball, Uncle Bill ate and smoked at the same time, and Maureen talked loud enough that I could hear every word, despite the pinball machine’s clicks and bells.

“My son Bennie’s home and out of work. You know of anything? He’d be no good on a farm. Nobody tips good here except the men in the neckties from the battery plant. Remember Charlie, home from the War, who always sat on the last stool. He died last week. They said he had cancer and didn’t know it. Same as Fred, last year. I see it all in here. You fight, Bill?”

“No, couldn’t pass the physical with this leg.”

“You’re lucky.”

“He’s still eating. He is always slow when he has the extra oyster crackers. Got any more nickels?” Libbey said.

It took Uncle Bill about an hour to finish his noontime meal at the diner. It took longer at home because he always took a nap.

The pinball machine went silent after consuming my last nickel. With a cloud of smoke rising from a freshly lit cigarette Uncle Bill spun around on the red counter stool and both feet simultaneously hit the tile floor.

“One more stop” Uncle Bill said with a smile.

The Old Owl sign appeared as we rounded a corner. We came to a halt behind three

other battered trucks.

“I’ll only be a few minutes; you boys wait here.”

He climbed out of the truck and disappeared through the darkened doorway. I never told my Dad that Uncle Bill stopped at the Old Owl on Fridays.

“There goes a brand-new Mack,” said Libbey, as a red dump truck rolled by. Together we identified ten trucks of merit as we waited the usual fifteen minutes for Uncle Bill.

A sweet scent enveloped the cab as uncle Bill hit the seat behind the wheel, tapped the pack of Pall Mall’s and struck a match. He took a long drag and smiled. Three cranks and the engine came to life and the wooden stake body sides clanged back and forth in their unique rhythm as we headed back to the barn creeping along at barely twenty miles an hour.

“Hope nobody we know sees us going this slow,” Libbey whispered to me.

For all his faults Uncle Bill was good to me. Except for the time Paul and I begged him to let us go on a trail ride alone, he never put me in harm’s way. *(That’s a story for another time.)* Uncle Bill taught me how to work hard and to be responsible around equipment and farm animals. Even today the sight of a Holstein cow lazily grazing in a summer meadow brings back memories of Uncle Bill.



BOYLSTON'S HISTORICAL CALENDAR

<i>DATE</i>		<i>YEAR</i>
JUNE 1	BUILDING MORNINGDALE CHAPEL BEGAN	1912
JUNE 2	FIRST TELEPHONE INSTALLED IN TOWN	1897
JUNE 3	BOYLSTON GRADUATES ASSOCIATION FORMED	1905
JUNE 4	WACHUSETT RESERVOIR WAS COMPLETED	1905
JUNE 18	THE TORY, SOLOMON HOUGHTON WAS BORN	1728
JUNE 24	BOYLSTON HISTORIC DISTRICT WAS FORMED	1979
JUNE 25	MARSHALL FLAGG KILLED HIS BROTHER, WILLIAM	1849
JULY 1	EARLY SETTLER, JONAS TEMPLE WAS BORN	1733
JULY 2	U.N. LOOKS AT BOYLSTON AS POSSIBLE SITE FOR HEADQUARTERS	1946
JULY 3	WORK BEGAN ON THE TOWN HOUSE	1922
JULY 4	INDEPENDENCE DAY	1776
JULY 18	TAVERNKEEPER ENSIGN JOHN BUSH BORN	1699
JULY 21	MARY E. FRENCH BORN, "THE SCRAPBOOK LADY"	1863
JULY 30	SARAH PARTRIDGE DIED	1890
	SHE BEGAN THE TRADITION OF PLACING FLOWERS ON GRAVES IN MEMORY OF FALLEN SOLDIERS/SAILORS TO HONOR THEM ON DECORATION DAY (NOW MEMORIAL DAY)	

Kendall Research Project

Nate Rollins is a researcher for the Boylston Historical Society - Kendall Research Project. Through his perceptive and resourceful research approach Boylston has uncovered the life of George Lamson, his contribution to the environment and his legacy for future generations.

-Nancy Filgate

George Lambert Lamson, was the son of Captain Lambert Lamson and Sophia Smith Bond who were married on 4 December 1839 in Worcester, Worcester County, Massachusetts.⁵³ He was born in August 1842 in Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts.^{54,55} This was their second child. A couple years earlier on 4 December 1840, their daughter, Mary Sophia Bond, was born in Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts.⁵⁶ Like many people living in the United States then, Captain Lambert Lamson was a farmer. But he was a very successful farmer in the town of Boylston. In 1888 the Lamson family had the 2nd highest tax bill in the town.⁵⁷ Throughout his farming career, Lambert and Sophia employed various domestic servants and farm hands. The history of the Lamson family being a prominent influence in the town continued through Lambert's community involvement as a town selectman in 1841, 1849, 1853 and 1854. He also served as a town assessor in 1838, 1849 and 1852.⁵⁸ Both of Lambert and Sophia's children, George and Mary, were fortunate enough to have gone to school.⁵⁹



George L. Lamson
1842-1912

BHSM Photograph Collection

When George was 20 years old in 1862, his father, Lambert, tragically passed away at 59 years old due to a spinal injury he received from falling off his wagon.⁶⁰ At this time, the United States was nearly a year and a half into the Civil War. And the following June, George registered for the military draft in the 8th Congressional District as a Class 1 soldier.⁶¹ No military records of George being active in the military, nor being deployed have been located. Two years later came the 1865

⁵³ Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988, pg. 83

⁵⁴ Marriage Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts

⁵⁵ United States Federal Census, Worcester, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1900

⁵⁶ Birth Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1840

⁵⁷ Twenty Thousand Rich New Englanders, A List of Taxpayers Who Were Assessed in 1888 to Pay a Tax of One Hundred Dollars or More, pg. 99

⁵⁸ Centennial Celebration of the Incorporation of Boylston Massachusetts, August 18, 1886, pp. 135, 138

⁵⁹ United States Federal Census, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1850 & 1860

⁶⁰ Death Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1862

⁶¹ U.S., Civil War Draft Registrations Records, 1863-1865

Commonwealth Census that shows him at home, running the successful farm with his mother, sister, and 2 other hired helpers.⁶²

Sadly, four years later, George's sister died young at 28 years of age on 17 October 1869 of a stomach inflammation.⁶³ However, the sadness in his life was about to turn for the better. Just over one year later, on 3 November 1870 at Boylston, the 28-year-old George took the 23-year-old Mary Grosvenor Baldwin, daughter of Charles H. Baldwin and Harriet H. Grosvenor, as his wife.⁶⁴ Mary was born on 11 September 1847 in West Boylston.⁶⁵ At that time, George had taken over the management of the farm and lived there with his mother, at least three hired hands, and a domestic servant from Ireland.⁶⁶ Their successful farm required the help of hired hands because it was considerable in size and productivity. Of the 600 acres that George owned, 400 of it was productive and 200 was undeveloped woodland. In 1870, the productive side of the farm consisted of 21 dairy cows, 20 cattle, 4 hogs, 4 horses, and 2 oxen. In that year the farm produced 250 bushel of corn and 212 bushels of oats, 700 bushels of potatoes, \$450 worth of orchard fruit, 6,000 gallons of milk, \$500 of meat, and 100 tons of hay. The farm had a total cash value of approximately \$35,000.⁶⁷ In 2020 dollars this is approximately \$640,000⁶⁸. But certainly, the actual value today is much greater; good luck buying 600 acres in Boylston now for any sum.

After a few years of honeymoon, life, and acclimation, George and Mary had two children. Their first son, George Lambert Lamson Jr., was born on 21 February 1873 in Boylston.⁶⁹ Their second son, Frank Grosvenor Lamson, was born on 31 January 1875.⁷⁰ By 1880, George's farm had decreased to about half its productive value.⁷¹ We know that in 1881 George L. Lamson was paid \$15.50 to be a road commissioner in district number 6 of Boylston.⁷² At some point, likely shortly before 1897, George and his family moved to Worcester after the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board acquired his farm in Boylston and Clinton to make way for the Wachusett Reservoir. The several years between the initial planning of the reservoir and George's land being flooded gave the family ample time for a transition from life on the farm to life in the city. George's farm in Boylston and Clinton also saw a significant transformation over this period. The Wachusett Reservoir project had approximately 3,300 acres of land that was not submerged, and that land needed to be managed and protected from erosion. George's farm was to become known as the Lamson Nursery and over several years provided hundreds of thousands of trees for the project.⁷³ Many of the existing structures in the area, including the Lamson properties, had been used for housing workers involved with the project. In 1908 the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board invested in painting and re-roofing these structures.⁷⁴

⁶² Massachusetts State Census, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1865

⁶³ Death Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1869

⁶⁴ Marriage Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1871 & 1872

⁶⁵ Birth Registry, West Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1848

⁶⁶ United States Federal Census, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1870

⁶⁷ United States Agriculture Census, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1870

⁶⁸ <https://www.officialdata.org/us/inflation/1870?endYear=2020&amount=35000>

⁶⁹ Birth Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1873

⁷⁰ Birth Records, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1875

⁷¹ United States Agriculture Census, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1870

⁷² Annual Reports of the Town Officers of the Town of Boylston for the Year Ending March 1, 1881, Pg 28

⁷³ Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board, Annual Reports 1904-1908 – www.hathitrust.org

⁷⁴ Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board, Annual Report 1908 – www.hathitrust.org – pg. 99



**Lamson Nursery, Boylston, Massachusetts
Wachusett Reservoir taking up trees for planting**

4 November 1903

Massachusetts Metropolitan Water Works Photograph Collection, 1875-1930

George's mother, Sophia Bond Lamson, died on 1 January 1897 in Worcester of double pneumonia.⁷⁵ And only two years later, George's son Frank died of appendicitis on 7 May 1899 at the age of 24 years in Boylston.⁷⁶ This later period of George's life was spent living in Worcester where he had multiple properties. One of which suffered damage from a fire on 4 August 1901. His tenant, S.A. Winkler, threw a match into a basket and caused \$20.02 in damage. On 4 July of the same year at 10:40 p.m. George Lamson in his own personal dwelling had a fire that caused \$15 worth of damage.⁷⁷

George died on 20 May 1912 of a cerebral hemorrhage in his Worcester home at 2 Rock Avenue.⁷⁸ He is buried in Pine Grove Cemetery in Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts.^{79,80} His wife, Mary Baldwin Lamson, passed on 23 September 1923 and was interred next to her husband in the Lamson lot at Pine Grove Cemetery.⁸¹ But, the legacy of the Lamson family lives on today, as there is a small tributary feeding the Wachusett Reservoir to this day called "Lamson Brook" that flows south out of West Boylston.



**George L. Lamson Gravestone
Pine Grove Cemetery**

Photograph by Bruce D. Filgate

⁷⁵ Death Records, Worcester, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1897

⁷⁶ Death Records, Worcester, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1899

⁷⁷ City Document, No. 56. Address of Hon. Edward F. Fletcher, Mayor of the City of Worcester, 1902 with the Annual Reports of the Several Departments, for the Financial Year Ending November 30, 1901

⁷⁸ The Boston Globe, Tuesday, 21 May 1912

⁷⁹ Death Certificate, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Worcester, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1912

⁸⁰ Gravestone Memorial, Pine Grove Cemetery, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, www.findagrave.com

⁸¹ Gravestone Memorial, Pine Grove Cemetery, Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, www.findagrave.com
Editor, Nancy A. Filgate, Boylston, Massachusetts



A Peek into the Past

Boylston Gleanings from News Clippings
~Mary French Scrapbooks~

Summer has always brought Boylstonians out of doors, both to work and to play. Summer brought 4th of July celebrations, summer evening Lawn Parties, games and picnics. It could also be a dangerous time as when George Prouty was killed working on his farm with dynamite or when another farmer was gored by his cow or another report of a man killed by a runaway horse.

"While blasting rocks in his pasture this afternoon [June 24, 1927], George H. Prouty, 70-year-old farmer was instantly killed by an explosion of dynamite and his decapitated body was found at dusk tonight lying near his wheelbarrow upon which were loaded several sticks of the explosive."

News that sensational was not too common, though farm accidents did happen and were reported. One would rather read something like the following:

[July 4, 1902] "will ever be held in memory of those taking part in the exercises of that day, when in pride and joy the citizens and former residents of Boylston see floating from the top of a beautiful flag staff which cannot be excelled in the state, Old Glory, and yet ever new, as each succeeding generation is called upon to display patriotism and stand for the flag, yea, die if need be."

That particular July 4th in 1902 included speeches by George Wright on the history of the American flag, a program and committee were thanked for the new flag staff costing \$321.60. Songs were sung, games were played and souvenirs given. Guests over age 70 each received a bouquet of red and white roses tied with a blue ribbon. The news article covered five columns of newspaper.

In that same year, Friday evening, July 25, 1902,

The Boylston Dramatic Club held a Lawn Party at Central Park, Boylston Center. A farce titled "A Precious Pickle" was held and on sale were ice cream, cake, and lemonade, with the advertisement: "Come Boys! Give your girl a good time!"

Lawn parties were still being held in 1919 when the

"Boylston Boy Scouts plan to have a party for the public, beginning at 7 o'clock, June 13, on the Common. The proceeds they plan to save toward building of a log cabin." The Scouts sold ice cream, candy, frankfurters, and mysteries. They had an orchestra and a fortune teller.

From a news clip of July 16, 1885,

"There was nothing done in this town the 4th excepting firing by the boys [Gun Salute] and a picnic at Sawyer's Mills with fireworks in the evening."



Lemon Sherbet

Mix together:

1 qt milk
1 ½ qts cream
9 lemons
6 cups sugar
(optional) juice & nuts

Freeze until firm

YUMMY!

Citation: *Tried Recipes by Many Housewives, 1910*

Happy 4th of July.



to all my friends!!



Gin Daisy

2 Gin
1 Yellow Chartreuse
2 tsp Sugar
3 dashes of Lemon Juice
1 squirt Carbonated Water

Ice-Stir well from bottom
Strain into a Wine Glass
Ornament with a piece of fruit (orange or
pineapple)

Citation: *Burke's Complete Cocktail & Drinking
Recipes, 1944*

Peach Cobbler



Butter a 3 ½ deep earthenware dish
Line sides with your favorite pastry

Filling

Ripe peeled peaches torn in halves
Leave in enough pits for flavor
Sweeten abundantly

Cover with a rich layer of crust,
sealing, so none of the juices may
escape.

Bake in hot oven for about ¾ hour
When nearly done dredge with
powdered sugar and put back in oven
to glaze.

ENJOY!

Citation: *Tried Recipes by Many Housewives, 1910*



1 Elmwood Place

This architecturally styled Greek Revival single family home was originally built circa 1800 by Lieutenant John Hastings for his wife and six children. John served as one of the Minutemen in Captain Robert Andrew's company who marched from the North Precinct of Shrewsbury (later known as Boylston, Massachusetts) in response to the Alarm in 1775 from Concord and Lexington. John Hastings was born in 1738 to Daniel Hastings and Sarah Ball who were settlers of the area. John married Elizabeth Howe in 1762 and they went on to have their six children. He was a farmer by trade and served on the First Board of Selectmen for the Town of Boylston when it was incorporated in 1786. John purchased the property from Abel Osgood the previous owner whose home on the property was a mere cellar hole by 1795. The cellar hole can still be found on the property today,

The farm was subsequently sold to Abijah Flagg and then Montraville Flagg Sr., Montraville Flagg Jr., Munson Flagg, George Fuller, Richard Flagg and in 1963 to the Shepherd Knapp School. It was then leased and later sold to Digital Equipment Corporation of Maynard, Massachusetts to be used as an executive conference site. Today the farm and ponds are owned by the Town of Boylston and listed on the register of Massachusetts Culturally Significant Resources.

This house has many a story to tell. It was from this home that in 1893 young Ellen, age 14 years starry-eyed, left with a hired hand of her father's to secretly wed only to have her plans thwarted by her father, Montraville Flagg and the Worcester police. And on January 19, 1919, the Eightieth Amendment to the Constitution was ratified and the U.S. embarked on an attempt at social reform. The country swept dry by law, had clandestine stills and "speak-easys" opening up with illegal stills in many localities, including Elmwood Place. One of the first raids in Boylston, Massachusetts was indeed at Elmwood Place. "The still was located in the cellar of the old Cider Mill barn where the officers discovered two 75-gallon stills, electric separators, 1,250 gallons of mash, and 50 gallons of 'hooch'." Among those arrested was Munson Flagg (Town Assessor) who was the owner of the property at the time. Was it mere irony that the adjacent land had been previously owned by John B. Gough, the well-known temperance orator?

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