

**NOW!**



### **330 Linden Street**

*“Home built on Land of one of the  
Founding Fathers of Boylston,  
Massachusetts”*

*Known as The Solomon Houghton House, it was built in the latter half of the 18th century (prior to 1760) by Solomon Houghton; a prominent Tory, who was later sought by colonial officials for distributing counterfeit currency during the American Revolution.*

The Houghton Road originally laid out in June 1731 began at 330 Linden Street (*the Houghton Place*), then it followed what is now Linden northward to the present Berlin line.

It had been in 1722/23, when Solomon’s father, Joshua, and Joshua’s elder brother, Eleazar Houghton, had been granted land in Lancaster (in an area which would later become northern Boylston). Joshua Houghton, who had been born in 30 August 1695, married Elizabeth Bennett in Lancaster on 8 April 1719 and they went on to have 8 children: Jerusha, born 6 January 1720; Saul, born 6 May 1722; Orpha, born 6 Nov 1724; Vashti, born 7 May 1726; Joshua Jr born 29 July 1728; Solomon, born 5 June 1729; Tirus, born 16 April 1732; and Hiram, born 1735. The family settled in the area of 330 Linden Street. The exact location of this first building on the land is unknown, but it believed to have been between 316 and 330 Linden Street. His brother, Eleazar who had married Elizabeth Divol 11 March 1718/19, resided with Joshua for a time, but relocated to Lunenburg in 1726.

Joshua Houghton, a founding father of Boylston, Massachusetts, was a member of the North Precinct Committee that was formed at our First Precinct Meeting in 19 January 1743. The purpose of this Precinct Committee was to find a proper minister for the new Meeting House of the North Precinct of Shrewsbury (in 1786 this precinct was incorporated to be the Town of Boylston). The committee successfully located Reverend Ebenezer Morse a learned, minister, doctor and lawyer to fill the position.

It was Joshua’s son, Solomon, who would go down in Boylston History as one of the area’s most notorious Tories and as a conspirator in the Revolutionary War Counterfeiting Plot. He is believed to have built the present structure at 330 Linden Street. The leader of the Loyalists or Tories was none other than Rev. Ebenezer Morse. Joining him were the leading tavernkeeper, Jotham Bush, his sons, David Bush and John Bush, Solomon Houghton, William Crawford, and several others.

Solomon Houghton was a Loyalist, and suspected not only of uttering sentiments unfriendly to the cause of the colonists, but was indicted for circulation of counterfeit Continental Currency, which was made in England and sent over by the British Army for circulation. To escape the Continental authorities Houghton concealed himself in a cave (roughly between 316 and 330 Linden Street) in the East Woods near the boundary line between Lancaster and Shrewsbury until he could get away to Boston and go on board a British vessel bound for Nova Scotia.

As with all political points of view, there were some who supported each side: some the English and others who supported the colonists.

Benjamin Houghton was the last of the Houghton family to occupy the premises. The Houghtons inter-married with the family of Deacon Levi Moore, and inherited their musical ability. It is said that at the laying of the cornerstone of the Town Hall in 1830 (now the home of the Boylston Historical Society and Museum), the music for the occasion was furnished by the Houghton family. Today this homestead as well our Historic Town Hall proudly fly our United States of America flag.