

The Old Stone News

The Newsletter of
The West Boylston
Historical Society
Fall 2009
Volume 12, Number 1

MEMBERSHIP

The treasurer would like to remind the membership that if you have not yet paid your dues, they are due January 1, 2010. Thank you to all those people who have already paid. Membership Cards should be ready soon.

CORRECTION AND ADDITIONS

We would like to correct an error in the program listing for the Historical Society Board of Directors. Elaine Novia was elected at our annual meeting, to fill the unexpired term of Gwen Soule. Please remove Gwen's name and insert Elaine's. We apologize to Elaine. Also, Dwight Goodale has resigned as Vice-president. Beverly Goodale will fill that slot. Barbara Deschene will become the Registrar for the society.

The Historical Society is open
each Thursday 9:30 AM to
noon at 65 Worcester St.
(508) 835-6971
or by appointment

From the President

by Rockie Blunt

Greetings! As the West Boylston Society begins its 2009 – 2010 year, we are embarking on our 39th year of service to the community. Many events have taken place in those thirty – nine years – many programs, projects, and celebrations, all with the purpose of preserving our town's history for all those who seek to understand the past and treasure the collective memories of West Boylston.

Although much has changed in those thirty – nine years, one thing has remained constant: the dedication and hard work of the Society's board of directors, who willingly volunteer their time and their energy on the Society's behalf.

This year, the board is happy to welcome two new members: Elaine Novia and April Gustafson. As West Boylston natives, both Elaine and April know the town well. Now they take their place alongside the other directors: Bev, Aaron, Norman and Dwight Goodale; Steve Carlson; Kim Hopewell; Barbara Deschenes; Jean Costello; and Bill Merritt.

Any successful board of directors is like a successful sports team, which mixes a group of veteran players, who bring experience, and new players, who contribute energy and fresh ideas. Elaine and April did not take long to begin playing their part, volunteering for the Curatorial, Nominating, hospitality, and Programs Committees.

It is gratifying to know that with these two additions to our team, the Historical Society is looking forward to a busy and productive season in 2009 – 2010.

CALENDARS

The 2010 calendars are ready. We have been able to keep the price at \$10.00. All of the photos in the calendar this year are from the societies collection of glass negatives that were recently printed with funds from the CPA Grant.

so important. All of the prints taken
from our collection of 650 plus glass

“At the special town meeting today, for the purpose of deciding upon electric lights, it was voted, 71 to 2 to build a municipal light plant, the electricity to be purchased from the Connecticut Light and Power Co. It was further voted to issue the town’s notes for the sum of \$15,000 to provide for 12 miles of construction and 165 lights, and to be refunded at the rate of \$1,000 a year. The Selectman will proceed to have the plant built at once and electric lights will be in operation by July 1, 1910.”

Taken from an article in the Telegram & Gazette from December 20, 1909.

Steven Carlson
Historian

~ In Memoriam ~

Doris J. Merritt
1927 – 2009

Ronald I. Borjeson, Jr.
1928 – 2009

The West Boylston Historical Society recently lost two longtime members. We are grateful to those people who have so generously donated to the society in their memory. The Board of Directors recently implemented a new policy. As a permanent memorial, a book will be purchased for the Historical Society’s Library in memory of each.

Be sure to check the Historical Society website for up to date information at www.wbhistory.org.

PROGRAMS

Forty-three members and friends visited the Asa Water’s Mansion and dined at Calabrias in Millbury on November 3, 2009, kicking off the fall season. It was a great evening of fellowship and good food.

Our December 6, 2009 program will be the Bigelow Tavern Open House from 3-5PM, culminating with the lighting of the Christmas tree on the Band Stand Common. Santa will again be making a visit, so bring your camera for the perfect photo opportunity. Refreshments will be served.

As well, Bicentennial merchandise will be available, much of it at greatly reduced prices. The proceeds from this sale will be split between the society and the West Boylston Historical Commission. The society will have the calendars and other items available for sale too.