

The Old Stone News

The Newsletter of
The West Boylston
Historical Society
Fall, 2006
Volume 9, Number 1

WEST BOYLSTON TRIVIA

1. What is the only stone Gothic - style building in West Boylston?
2. What was West Boylston Street (Route 12) before it became the town's main commercial strip?
3. What was the big news in town in 1908?
4. Parts of West Boylston were once in six other towns. What were they?

CEMETERY WALK

Saturday, October 14, 10:00 AM

Frank Brown and Gwen Soule will take you on a history tour of Mount Vernon Cemetery. You'll see some unusual monuments you never noticed before, and learn about some interesting people buried there - Town history from a different angle!

The walk should take about two hours.

Just meet us at the Historical Society, 65 Worcester Street - plenty of parking.

Rain date 10/21

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

In Memoriam

John Klar

John was a long-time member and a director of the Society. He was a man of many talents and skills - computer expert, ham radio operator, musician, and a good friend to many. The Society and the town of West Boylston will miss him.

What's happening at the Bigelow Tavern

The Goodale Gang have completed the new roof on the ell, along with much other work, The Jacob Winn barn from Lancaster Street given to us by the state has been taken down, moved to our property and mostly put together again. The barn will provide museum and storage space We have received a large gift of antique tools from the Goodnow and Farrar families which will be displayed there.

OUR FIRST PROGRAM OF THE NEW SEASON

Real Townies are Always Home - Original Stories about Life in New England

Local author Sally Cragin will entertain us with humorous and informative stories of small-town New England life. Part story-teller and part factual reporter, Sally will take us on an entertaining exploration of aspects of New England seldom considered: the pink flamingo (a native invention), boisterous visiting geese, town pounds, "the winter beater," the dreaded-but-welcome plowman, why we HAVE to pick apples, canoeing by moonlight, the awesome snapping turtle and the soul-reviving qualities of a pond.

Wednesday, October 4, 7:00 PM at the Beaman Library

MEMBERSHIP

An envelope is enclosed for next year's dues. They will cover the calendar year 2007, but the treasurer is always glad to receive them early.

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

Trivia Answers

1. The Holbrook Chapel at the cemetery is late Victorian Gothic. In case you thought it was the Old Stone Church, that is Romanesque.

2. A trolley route. The streetcars ran from about 1905 to 1928.

3. The hundredth anniversary. So don't forget that the two hundredth is coming up in less than two years.

4. Lancaster, Shrewsbury, Boylston, Sterling, Holden and Worcester.

The answers to all these questions could be found in our IMAGES OF AMERICA book available from the Society for \$20.

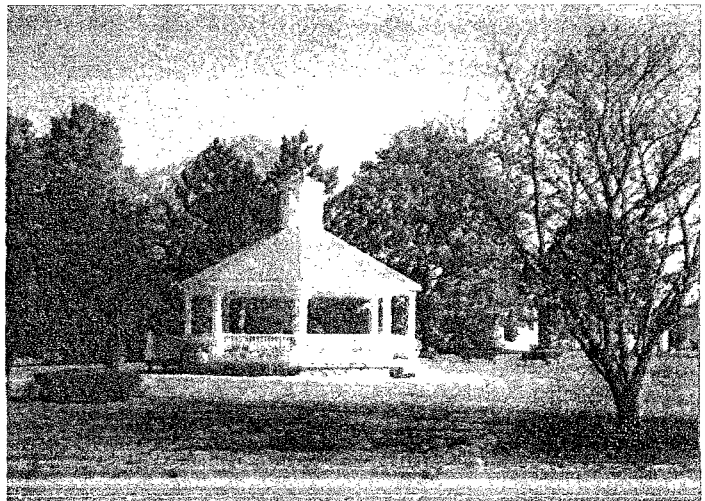
100 YEARS AGO

The last 25 Buildings in the reservoir area were auctioned off. Sale prices ranged from \$26 to \$102, for a grand total of \$ 1700.

The talk of the town in 1906, however, was the controversy over the new Congregationalist parsonage. The Church, displaced by the reservoir, had moved back to the site where it had begun in the 1790s (right where it is now). Back then, and until 1833, the Congregational Church was the tax-supported state church in Massachusetts, and there was very little difference between parish and town. As a result, the church thought it still owned the common, and started to build a house on common land, near where the bandstand is today.

Albert Hinds, the town treasurer and a member of another church, contested their claim and the matter spent many months in court.

In the end the court ruled that although the original grant by the neighboring landowners included both the church site and the common, the common now belonged to the town. The church filled in its cellar hole and bought a house on Central Street.



West Boylston Historical Society

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