

# The Old Stone News

The Newsletter of  
The West Boylston  
Historical Society  
Fall, 2007  
Volume 10, Number 1

## WEST BOYLSTON TRIVIA

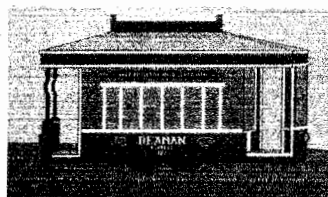
How long did it take after the West Boylston people first petitioned to become a town before it actually happened?

## MEMBERSHIP

An envelope is enclosed for next year's dues. They are for the calendar year 2008, but the treasurer is always glad to receive them early. If you have already paid for next year, just ignore the envelope.

*The Bicentennial Year would be a great time to become a new member!*

**ANOTHER CAT'S MEOW**  
We now have the Bicentennial trolley - very colorful,  
**\$16.50**



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

7:00 PM at the Beaman Library

*The Goddards*  
Sarah Bitticks

This is an informative and entertaining presentation about Dr. Robert Goddard and his wife Esther.

Robert, a professor at Clark University in the 1920s, was ridiculed for his fanciful ideas about space exploration, but he launched the world's first liquid-fueled rocket in 1926 and was eventually called one of the fathers of modern rocketry. Along the way, he shared a fascinating life with his wife Esther.

Sara Bitticks, vice president of the Auburn Historical Society, has meticulously researched the Goddards' lives and careers, and has presented this popular program many times. "They called Goddard 'Crazy Bob' for a reason," says Ms. Bitticks. Come to the Beaman Library on November 7 and find out why

Sunday, December 2, 2007

3:00 - 5:00 PM

Christmas Open House

65 Worcester St.

Lighting of the Christmas tree on the Common immediately following

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

The interior work in the ell continues. The kitchen cabinets are in, as well as the air conditioner. The walls and floors are mostly done, and we have two new computers, one of which we plan to dedicate to use by people coming to us for research.

AND - We now have a website - [www.wbhistory.org](http://www.wbhistory.org). Look it up. It's but complete yet, but it has plenty of useful information. It was designed for us by Stillwater Computer Services of West Boylston.

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

**Trivia Answer**

It took 17 years. The first request  
 was made in 1795. The State  
 turned it down. In 1796 we were  
 allowed to become the Second  
 Precinct or Parish of Boylston,  
 Sterling & Holden. A precinct  
 was somewhat self-governing  
 but without a state representative.  
 Then in 1808 we were finally  
 given independent status.

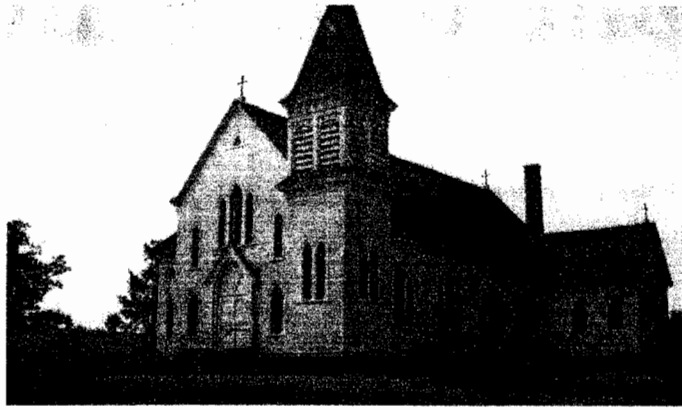
For the Bicentennial the Society  
 will be offering a beautiful new  
 West Boylston plate, designed  
 by Shirley Smith. It is in full  
 color and we anticipate a price  
 of \$36. They should be available  
 for Christmas.



West Boylston Historical Society  
 P.O. Box 201  
 West Boylston, MA 01583



**100 YEARS AGO**



Our Lady of Good Counsel had a new building in Oakdale,  
 replacing St. Anthony's, which had been taken for the reservoir,  
 However the reservoir had also taken many jobs, and people had  
 moved away, leaving empty pews in the new church. It soon was  
 forced to become a mission of Immaculate Conception and St.  
 John's parishes in Worcester. It was noted that in 1907, the church's  
 future did not look promising. They certainly got that wrong!



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