

The Old Stone News

The Newsletter of
The West Boylston
Historical Society
Fall 2011
Volume 13, Number 2

MEMBERSHIP

Your membership dues are due and payable January 1, 2012. You will find an envelope enclosed in this mailing for your convenience. We would appreciate your continued support of the society and its programs.



March 19, 1903
Mrs. Sutton's dog Toney says
"Please buy a brick".



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

From the President

by Beverly K. Goodale

I hope that you all had an enjoyable summer. It certainly was a hot one. It has cooled some but now I'm thinking about an ark. Weather in New England is never boring.

The work of the society never really stops. There is always work to be done here, whether maintenance to the building or grounds, preparing programs for the coming season, putting together our next fund raiser, paying the bills, or helping out folks who come into the society on Thursday mornings looking for all sorts of information. This year we had a new volunteer, Luke Fancy. Luke, a junior at the high school, helped out doing some yard work for us. We thank him for his efforts and we hope to see him again next summer.

Neil Norum is the chairman of our Program Committee and he and the committee have put together some interesting programs for your pleasure. The Faire Committee, chaired by Debbie Parks, has some new ideas for this years fund raiser. Both of these topics will be covered further in the newsletter. We thank them and their committees for all their hard work on our behalf. We hope that you will support them with your presence and volunteer to help out when asked helping to make this one of our best years yet.

100 Years Ago

The following excerpts were found in Mary A. Cook's Scrapbooks in September of 1911.

September 11, 2011. The flowers in the Old Beaman watering trough that was moved from the Beaman Tavern in the valley to the junction of Worcester and Shrewsbury Street, are now in their prime, the trough being filled with pink and white petunias in full blossom. The work of filling the old watering trough year after year has been done for the sake of old associations by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Potter of Worcester Street at their own expense.

September 18, 1911. Theodore Hosmer of Worcester Street, who for years has been a fox hunter, but who until today had only one pelt to his credit, downed three foxes today, equaling the record of his neighbor. Albert S. Pierce, another veteran fox hunter of West Boylston, made the same record September 14, 1906 killing three foxes in one day.

September 23, 1911. Mrs. Warren Goodale, wife of County Commissioner Warren Goodale of Clinton, was injured in an automobile accident at Dead Man's Curve near the West Boylston Railroad Station tonight. Mr. and Mrs. Goodale were going from West Boylston to Clinton and were slowly turning the curve at the bridge when a large touring car approached. The driver of the machine, which was a Mitchell touring car, was Dr. Frederick Bryant of 62 Main Street Worcester. Dr. Bryant was not driving fast, but neither driver could see on the other side of the bridge as the machines approached it. The automobiles came together throwing out Mrs. Goodale head first. **The Goodale Stanley Steamer had a front wheel put out of commission and the side broken.** Dr. Bryant took Mr. Goodale's car to the garage of William C. Overden where it is tonight. This is the most serious accident since the road was completed some five years ago.

A CD of all of Mary's articles may be purchased from the society.

CURATORS CORNER

We have had several items added to the society collection this year. Dwight Goodale has generously donated a number of items from the estate of his sister, June Ashton. Among them are a blanket chest, a large school bell, a Goodale bible, a brass bucket, a pottery jug, a sign and a deed box. We have also received a number of items of memorabilia from the Soule family. Dennis Parker donated an old gardening tool. Aaron and Beverly Goodale have contributed a set of nine volumes of books. These books are entitled *Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines in the Civil War*. We received two boxes of school construction from Lorraine Chartier Picotte, a photo of Will Goodale from Joan Whiting and a genealogy of David George Wormlight from Norman Goodale.

The society has acquired several items to help interpret the roll of the tavern in the early life of the Bigelow Tavern, two reproduction Hitchcock Chairs and a lovely Ca. 1830 work table, with pegged and tapered legs. The top is a single piece of wood. It is typical of pieces used in public houses as a tap table. These purchases were made with funds from our memorial contributions. We are still hunting for a bed appropriate to the period of 1850-1890.

Bev Goodale, Curator

~ In Memoriam ~

Our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of the following long time members:

Robert Soule, a lifelong resident of the town of West Boylston and husband of our late president, Gwen Soule. Bob was a former mailman in town, a volunteer fireman and worked in the cemetery after retirement. He and Gwen were Grand Marshals in the 2008 Bicentennial Parade.

William Merritt, a long time member of the Board of Directors and recipient of the Edgar A. Whitcomb Distinguished Service Award presented to a deserving member of the Historical Society each year by the West Boylston Historical Commission. Bill was a tireless worker for the society, willing to do anything to help out. Many of you will remember him as "Santa" at our Christmas Open House.

PROGRAMS

Your copy of the 2011-2012 program is included in this mailing. You will receive a separate mailing in a few weeks containing the information for our November Trip to the Louisa May Alcott Orchard House in Concord and Longfellow's Wayside Inn in Sudbury on Sunday, November 6, 2011. This should be a wonderful event. We will again go by bus. Be sure to get your reservations in early as we are limited to the number of people the bus can hold. Thank you everyone from the program committee members to those who have agreed to host meetings and to bake. You are very much appreciated.

Fall Faire Fundraiser ~ October 1, 2011

Our big fundraiser this year will take place on October 1, 2011 from 10:00 to 4:00 on the bandstand common in conjunction with the Arts Foundation Fall Fest. By now you have all received your **Bakeless Bake Sale** request. We do hope that you will participate as all proceeds will go towards the building of the new brick walk for the Historical Society.

We will also have a double booth at the Fall Fest and will be serving pulled pork sandwiches with coleslaw and apple crisp with whipped cream! We will have a magician, Tim Wilder, on hand to entertain you and a special family tree for children to personalize and take home. As always we will be selling our Historical Society wares as well as bicentennial treasures that will be marked at bargain prices. You will be able to purchase a brick at the Fest to support our endeavors. All donations will entitle you to a brick magnet.

We are looking for anyone willing to help us with set up, sales and break down. Thanking you in advance for calling! Please call: Debbie 774-261-8160, Barbara 508-835-6628 or Bev 508-825-3704.

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