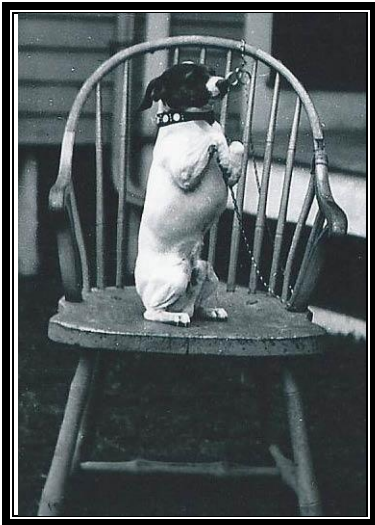


The Old Stone News

The Newsletter of
The West Boylston
Historical Society
Spring 2012
Volume 14, Number 1

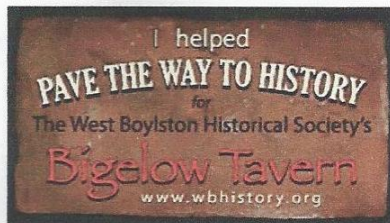
MEMBERSHIP

Your membership dues were due by January 1, 2012. If you have an envelope in this mailing, it means that we have not received your dues. We appreciate your continued support of the society and its programs.



I beg you, **"Please buy a brick"**!
Keyes' collection

A \$3.00 donation will pay for the purchase and installation of one 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

How about this Winter? I must say that it makes getting around a whole lot easier. Winter gives us the free time at the society to take on projects without interruption. We have at long last started, and at this point, are half way through the cleaning and safe storage of our collection of Keyes' glass negatives. Each one is being cleaned, placed in archival paper, identified, and safely placed in archival boxes for storage in our vault. The last step will be to list them in our Past Perfect computer system for easy access. Funding for this program was paid for with a CPA grant, for which we are most grateful. Aaron is overseeing this project with the help of Norman, Dwight, Don, Barbara, April, and Bev. Thank you all.

We recently received a letter informing us that our application for funding has received final approval in the amount of \$250.00 to support our annual meeting program, THE WORCESTER LUNCH CAR COMPANY. This grant was given to us by the West Boylston Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. We extend our thanks to the West Boylston Cultural Council.

In other news, we hope to reinstate our History Tour of West Boylston with the 3rd graders this year. Rockie Blunt has graciously agreed to head up this program again.

As we begin our monthly program presentations, we hope to see many of you return to the Bigelow Tavern.

The West Boylston History Club

Early in the 2011-2012 school year, The West Boylston History Club was formed at the High School. The mission of the Club is to give students with an interest in history a place to further explore their passion, and to invite others to join them in learning about local and United States history. The faculty advisor for the club is Mr. Michael Carter and all high school students are invited to join. At present, the club has over 20 members. At weekly meetings, students discuss plans for trips and visits to local places of historic significance. Once a month they view a movie with a historical theme or story. The members of the Club are looking forward to joining with The West Boylston Historical Society for special events and opportunities.

Officers for the Club are:

President – Michael Hutchinson
Secretary – Makenzie Holm
Historian – Sarah Novia

Vice President- Jessica Mulhern
Treasurer – position to be filled

CURATORS CORNER

We have received a number of items relating to the fire department from Janet Bartlett. We also had a visitor last week, Ben Caruso, who brought us numerous articles that he found using a metal detector in the area of the reservoir. We hope to display this interesting collection at the annual meeting. And lastly we received two nice Hitchcock chairs from Neil and Lynn Norum. We are always happy to receive memorabilia relating to the town.

Thank you.

Bev Goodale, Curator

~In Memoriam~

Our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of

Emily Swide Boosahda

October 3 1929 ~ February 13, 2012
a generous and supporting member of
the West Boylston Historical Society

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Be sure to check the Historical Society website for up to date information at:

[www.wbhistory.org](http://www.wbhistory.org).



Group of members and guests outside the Louisa May Alcott Orchard House Museum Concord, MA at our November 6, 2011 meeting

Photo by Neil Norum

## PROGRAMS

On March 7, we will have as our speaker, Keith Vezeau, the Archivist at the Massachusetts Military Museum and Archives located in the historic National Guard Armory in Worcester. Come learn about all this museum has to offer.

On April 4, Pat McGrath will be here to share her story of John Bruno, a West Boylston Civil War Soldier. Pat is a talented genealogist, and you will learn first hand how she used those skills to bring his history to life.

Our annual meeting on May 2 will feature Richard Gutman, curator of Johnson and Wales Culinary Museum. His talk will feature the Worcester Lunch Car Company. We will send more information on this program in April.

## 100 Years Ago

The year 1912 was noteworthy in many events and happenings around the globe, the biggest event was that of the sinking of the "unsinkable" Titanic steamship. Locally, in Boston the opening of Fenway Park brought great excitement to the game of baseball and to the people of Boston and New England who flocked to Fenway to watch "the game" and still do today.

Even more locally, in our town of West Boylston, two events happened in the spring of 1912 to help uplift the spirits of the townsfolk who remained in town after the construction of the Wachusett Reservoir. On March 24th the Beaman Memorial Public Library(which was donated to the town by George Calvin Rice, grandson of Ezra Beaman)opened its doors for inspection for the first time to 75 visitors, the total completion date of the library was two weeks later. Also in that same week in March, it was announced to the town that it will have a new park opposite the high school building as the result of a bequest in the will of Aaron Goodale IV who died in August of the previous year. Mr. Goodale served in various town offices and was much interested in its welfare. The bequest of the park is about three and a half acres at the intersection of Crescent and Goodale Streets. Aaron stipulates that the bequest is on the condition that the town shall cause to be erected before two years, and at each corner of the lot, a dressed granite post 15 inches square projecting at least four feet above the surface of the ground, and each post to have the words "Goodale Park" on one side and Mr. Goodale's name and date of the gift on the other side. Also, that the town appropriate not less than \$50.00 for each of the following 20 years for the improvement and care of the premises. If the town fails to carry out these conditions, the property goes to his son Leon A. Goodale.

As we reflect now as a town in 2012, we are fortunate enough to have had caring people as George Calvin Rice and Aaron Goodale who truly believed in West Boylston's future for generations to come.

Steven Carlson, Historian