

# The Old Stone News

The Newsletter of  
The West Boylston  
Historical Society  
Spring 2011  
Volume 13, Number 1

## MEMBERSHIP

Your membership dues were due by January 1, 2011. If you have an envelope in this mailing, it means that we have not received your dues. We would appreciate your continued support of the society and its programs.



February 1, 1909  
Annie Waite's dog, Toney



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 Beverly K. Goodale

It is hard to believe that spring is just around the corner, especially with all the "white stuff" still on the ground but our March meeting is just two weeks away. The tavern has fared well through this winter. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Philip Chevalier for keeping us plowed out. Aaron, Don, Dwight, and Norman see to it that paths are shoveled and sanded and that the ell roof is raked. We only had to close one Thursday because of the weather.

Our Bigelow Tavern Faire brought in over \$2,000.00, our best fundraiser yet. Congratulations to Elaine Novia, her committee, and all those who made it possible and there were many.

With the exception of the October meeting, attendance at our programs has been great. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate. Those who did venture out to hear Ann Marie's presentation on Francis Perkins were treated to an extraordinary one women show. We had a full bus for our trip to the Artemas Ward Museum and dinner at Verona Grille. Our open house with "Father Christmas", aka, Patrick Novia, was a success as well. The Tavern just shines at holiday time. Thank you to everyone who had a part in making these events happen. We joined the Boylston Historical Society on February 12, for a slide show presentation by Eamon Earls on the Wachusett. Eamon is only 16 and a remarkable young man. If you have a chance in the future to hear him, don't pass it up.

## 100 Years Ago

In 1911 the following proposition was made by Mr. George Calvin Rice to the Town of West Boylston, "Gentlemen: Knowing that the TOWN OF West Boylston is without a suitable library building, and being mindful that the town is desirous of having such a building, I hereby make the following offer:

First; If before the first of May, 1911, the town will purchase the triangle tract of land at the junction of Newton and Central Streets, now owned by a Wayland A. Tuttle and agree to suitably grade the same thereafter, I will make a gift to the town of a building to be used as a Public Library, which will cost not less than twenty thousand dollars (20,000) and agree to have said building constructed at once.

Second: The said building is to be marked and known as the Beaman Memorial Public Library, in memory of my great-grandfather, Major Ezra Beaman, who was one of the early inhabitants and prominently identified in the formation of the town."

From the "History of the Public Library in the Town of West Boylston Massachusetts" by Annie M. Waite, Librarian

## **CURATORS CORNER**

We have received several items this winter for the society, a large photo of the Old Stone Church made up of four different prints from the family of Bud Maddocks, and from Lois Gray, some wonderful transfer ware china, circa 1830. They belonged to her great grandmother.

We are in the process of exploring ways to interpret the tavern in the history of this house. We will also be looking for furniture suitable for a bedroom of the mid 1800s, the period when Mary Spofford lived here and the building was known as the Spofford Inn. In conjunction with this, we will be looking to expand our knowledge of all the folks who have lived here in the past, thereby bringing the house to life.

The house committee has moved in for the winter. They are just finishing up some cement work in the basement and will start on the cellar windows in warmer weather. Spring will also be an ideal time to continue the inventory in the barn.

Bev Goodale, Curator

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## **~ In Memoriam ~**

Our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of the following people:

JUNE ASHTON, member and sister of Dwight Goodale and Ruth Skagerlund

ROSCOE C. BLUNT, JR., father of Rockie Blunt

FREDDY GRISWALD, a long time member and supporter of the society

GWEN SOULE, A member of the Board of Directors and past President of the society, Gwen was a true friend and supporter for many years. Whether working on our tavern fairs, yard sales or exhibits, she was always there. We will miss her easy smile and twinkling eyes.

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## **PROGRAMS**

As this is the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil War, the next two programs focus on that era. On March 2, Christopher Daly will present a program entitled **The Lincoln Assassination** at 7:00 PM at the society.

On April 6, Father Walter Riley will present a talk on **The American Civil War** with special emphasis on several of West Boylston's Civil War Soldiers. This program will also be at the society at 7:00PM.

**Our Annual Meeting** will again be held at the Manor on May 4, at 5:30PM. Following dinner, Rob Smith will present **The Wachusett Reservoir, Then and Now**. Details will be mailed out later.

## **Volunteers**

**Bakers** - three are needed for the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Call Barbara at 508-835-6628.

**Weeders** - periodically we need help in the garden. Call Bev 508-835-3704.

**Program Committee** – Neil Norum will be chairing and needs two members to work with him. Call Neil at 508-835-6340.

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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).

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