

The Old Stone News

The Newsletter of
The West Boylston
Historical Society
Spring 2010
Volume 12, Number 2

MEMBERSHIP

If you find a membership envelope in this mailing, it means your dues for 2010 are not yet paid. Thank you to all those who have paid your dues.

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Arthur Scarlett's dog, Rex, out for a ride with his mistress on January 13, 1903.

In January we welcomed Neil Norum to the Board of Directors of the West Boylston Historical Society. He is replacing Jean Costello.



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 Rockie Blunt

In the middle of a cold, snowy winter, it's easy to forget that spring is almost upon us—but it is, and so are the final few programs that will conclude the Historical Society's yearly schedule.

At 7:00 pm on March 3, the Bigelow Tavern will be the site of a fascinating glimpse back into West Boylston's past. Glass negatives of historical photographs will be on display for viewing and discussion. The following month's program, "The Gravestone Girls," will take place at 7:00 pm on April 7, also at the Bigelow Tavern.

On Wednesday, May 5, our Annual Meeting will be held at the Manor Restaurant. This year's program, titled "An Evening with Bathsheba Spooner," tells the story of the 18<sup>th</sup> century *femme fatale* whose sex scandal and murder trial played out against the backdrop of the revolutionary war. Come hear about the connection between Bathsheba's trial and West Boylston. (There's even a possibility that the lady herself will show up that night). You will receive more details about the evening's festivities in a mailing in April.

And finally, we have added one more program to our schedule this year. On Sunday afternoon, June 6, a special exhibit on "Maps and Art of West Boylston" will be on display from 3:00 to 5:00 pm, again at the Bigelow Tavern. *This program will be open to members only.*

A busy few months lie ahead, so mark your calendars now.

## MARY COOK'S SCRAPBOOK DVD

The society is now selling the Mary Cook scrapbook collection on a DVD. This is a complete collection of all her newspaper columns written for some 30 years for the Worcester Telegram and Gazette. The proceeds will benefit the West Boylston Historical Commission. Cost is \$20.00.

The society is also selling all of the souvenirs from the Bicentennial. Everything is marked down and the clothing is one third of its original price.

The proceeds will be split between the society and the commission. So, think of us when you need a special gift.

**CURATORS CORNER**

Winter is a quiet time at the Historical Society. The Thursday group continues to work on various projects, placing newspaper articles in three ringed binders for easy access, rechecking and organizing materials in the vault, filing family genealogies and doing research. We are still trying to identify as many of the glass negatives in the society collection as possible in preparation for the March program. We get many inquiries from the historical server on our web site and we try to answer them as well as we can. It is hoped that when our web site is updated, some questions will take care of themselves.

We recently received several gifts from Lois Gray, a pine bureau, a lamp and a lovely table. We are very appreciative of her gifts. We hope to use them in the upstairs bedrooms.

The House Committee has moved inside for the winter and is currently at work cleaning the cellar and re pointing some of the walls.

I am very grateful to our volunteers for their help. Thank you.

Bev Goodale, Curator

An article dated June 5, 1910, is quoted as follows.

"Officers of the West Boylston Police Department were on duty today watching the automobiles that were exceeding the speed limit of 15 miles an hour, and several parties were held up and ordered to slow down." Apparently, there was a speed issue in town, because I did find follow up articles through out the year 1910, anyone driving over 20 miles an hour was fined and their name was reported in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette, this was headed by the Board of Selectmen.

Sincerely, Steven Carlson  
Historian

~ In Memoriam ~

RONALD H. CAMERON

1919 – 2010

Ron's family has designated that memorial donations be given to the West Boylston Historical Society. We are grateful for their generosity. As a permanent memorial, a book will be purchased for the society's library in Ron's name.

Be sure to check the Historical Society website for up to date information at [www.wbhistory.org](http://www.wbhistory.org).

PROGRAMS

On March 3, 2010 at 7:00PM Neil Norum will lead a program featuring our West Boylston Glass Negatives

On April 7, 2010 at 7:00PM the "Gravestone Girls" will give a presentation that takes us from the origin of the ritual of burial and gravestone making to its practice and meaning in modern day. They focus on the evolution of gravestones, their symbolism and the meaning and purpose of those symbols from Colonial times to the present.

Both of these programs will take place at the society.

On May 5, 2010 we will meet at the Manor for our Annual Meeting. This year's program will feature Madeline R. Arn reenacting the role of Bathsheba Spooner. You may recall that she, along with three revolutionary soldiers, was hung for the murder of her husband, Joshua Spooner, on the Worcester Common in 1778. You will receive a mailing for this meeting as we get closer to the date.