

The Bigelow Tavern Times

Volume 28, No. 2 Fall 2025

65 Worcester St. West Boylston

News from The West Boylston Historical Society

Future Programs

What if the American Revolution Has Never Ended on Wednesday, November 5th at 6:30 pm at Beaman Memorial Public Library

William Warner, distinguished professor emeritus at UC Santa Barbara will explore questions and invite discussion pertaining to how each generation interprets our American Revolution." He will touch on the principals in his book *Protocols of Liberty*.

A preview of the programs that we hope to present in 2026. Dates and times will be posted at: www.wbhistory.org/programs .

Snow Trains: Dave Saums will tell us all about this memorable era when New England railroads once utilized empty weekend passenger trains to carry eager skiers to the slopes of New England.

Yours For Humanity...Abbey Foster Kelley: Travel back to 1854, a tumultuous time when social and political differences divided our country. Hear Abby's emotionally orations against slavery and prejudice, which changed the hearts and minds of many.

You'll Get a Bang out of Henry Knox: Explore Henry Knox's story, leading up to his undertaking the transport of the urgently needed cannon in the winter of 1775-1776.

How Isaiah Thomas Brought the Revolution to Worcester. Ashley Cataldo will tell us how Isaiah Thomas, revolutionary printer and founder of the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, traveled with his printing press from Boston to Worcester in April of 1775.

A Lively and Revolutionary Conversation with America's Second President," with George Baker. John Adams talks about his life and times in a humorous and inspiring performance, discussing many incidents in Adams' life.

President's Letter

Welcome to the Fall 2025 West Boylston Historical Society newsletter, we have had a very busy successful year with our programs and program and event planning for our upcoming year. We are looking forward to the 250th Anniversary of the United States and planning our programs to help in the celebration of our country's independence and birth of a nation.

We have received many wonderful and thoughtful donations this year, both monetary and items pertaining to the history of West Boylston and its people past and present. We are forever grateful to those who have donated. We have been blessed this year and express our deep gratitude to local resident and artist Shirley Smith, who along with her children have donated her beautiful paintings, water colors, originals and prints to the historical society to sell and receive all profits to benefit the society. We thank the Smith Family for their generosity. View the paintings during our regular Thursday hours, or on our website at: www.wbhistory.org/shop - and if you wish to purchase one, email us at bigelow@wbhistory.org to arrange a pick-up time.

We do accept donations all year and are open to the public on Thursdays from 10 am to 1 pm or special appointment. We also have a shortcut link to our Greater Worcester Community Foundation account on our website donate page,, or go you can go directly to: <https://tinyurl.com/WBHistory-GWCF>

We always welcome new members, and anyone who would like to join our Board of Directors. We can use your help! Please contact us through email if you are interested.

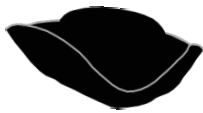
Please check out our website at www.wbhistory.org or email us at bigelow@wbhistory.org We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards, Steven Carlson, President



It's Membership Renewal time again! Please use the envelope enclosed in this mailing to submit your 2026 dues. Membership is from January 1 to December 31 of the year.
Your dues support our mission and are greatly appreciated.

250th Alarming News!



As we approach the nation's 250th Anniversary of our Independence day, we celebrate and remember our path to freedom from British oppression.

On the fabled late evening, early morning of April 18 and 19th 1775, up to forty riders participated in a series of "Alarm Rides" into the surrounding country side outside of Boston. Their purpose being to alert and alarm the local militia companies and spread word of the advancing British "regular troops" marching out of Boston to Concord on a secret mission to destroy rebel contraband hidden in and around the Concord area.

History records the valiant "Midnight Rides" of Revere, Dawes and the young country Doctor Samuel Prescott. However, history seldom mentions Prescott's older brother, Abel, also a Doctor and a fellow alarm rider. Abel Prescott was shot in his side by a British soldier, upon returning from alarming the Sudbury area later in the day and sadly died just a few months later from complications. One of the many unheralded heroes!

The West Boylston Historic Society has several interesting talks and events planned for our 250th celebratory year. Check for updated information on these programs at our website: www.wbhistory.org/programs.

Gerry Gomes

To see more Massachusetts events related to the 250th celebration, see www.revolution250.org



Excerpts from *The Old Farmers Almanac*

Rules of the Economy

1. Never contract a debt, but for things absolutely necessary; and not then unless you are conscious that it will be in your power to make payment; for it is more honourable to beg, than to deceive.
2. Never purchase conveniences, when necessities are wanted; for a new coat ill becomes a lean and hungry body.
3. Never purchase superfluities, but when you have money you know not what to do with.
4. Be always ready to do acts of charity, according to your ability; and never scruple to give bread to the hungry, before you have inquired into the cause of misery; for mathematical Christians make snivling saints.
5. Never do mere acts of hospitality, but when you have more than necessity requires; for it is good maxim to be just, before you are generous.
6. Never speak evil of your neighbour, for few people are free from faults, and he that throws the first stone may naturally expect to be wounded.
7. Never find fault with any law unless you can clearly show its defects and point out a better for the same purpose that was intended.



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