

Ye Olde Tavern News

*The Newsletter of
The West Boylston
Historical Society
Spring 2022
Volume 25, Number 1*

MEMBERSHIP

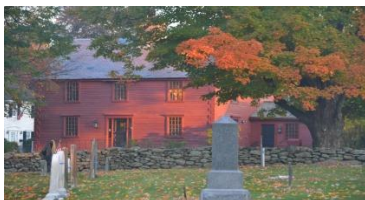
The dues for the calendar year 2022 are now due. If you have received a due's envelope with this newsletter, it means that we have not received your dues. The Society needs and would very much appreciate your continued support.

CONTACT INFORMATION

www.wbhistory.org
bigelow@wbhistory.org

We would very much like to have everyone's email address so as to notify you of changes when we need to reach you quickly and efficiently. It also saves us time and money. We promise not to share them.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS



The Bigelow Tavern is in good condition and the grounds weathered the New England winter very well. The grounds crew will be preparing for the summer season. Thank you to the snow removal guys!!

MISSION STATEMENT

"The West Boylston Historical Society collects, preserves and honors the history of the Town through programs,



From the President

Is Spring not too, too far away! I trust everyone is free from covid and happy about the removal of the mask mandate. Despite all the restrictions, we managed to have two excellent programs last fall at the Senior Center. A big thank you to Lisa Viclund. Mark Alzapiedi did his usual fine job giving a fair appraisal of our treasures. It is always fun to see what everyone has and to learn about an item. We were happy to have Carol McAdam share her collection of Howard Johnson collectibles and share some history and stories about this historic landmark.

We will be open on our usual Thursday mornings from 10-noon by the time you receive this newsletter. Even though we have been closed for the winter months, we have been busy behind the scenes. There is always so much to do. A big thanks to the West Boylston Cultural Council and our Vice President, Andy Sontag, we now have two great new computers and software to catalogue our artifacts. Also, a new web site and logo are coming soon!

I have met with Dr. David Lizotte, the Assistant Principal of the High School to discuss ways to get our youth interested in the Historical Society and our mission. I am excited to tell you that we have a High School Intern, Ali Turkanian to work with us on our social media. I understand that many of our senior members and friends aren't on social media, but our youth are definitely users of Face Book and Instagram. She has some great ideas to reach out to the younger crowd. It is amazing how the younger people easily navigate all of this.

We have welcomed two new board members since the Fall. Andrea Mullen grew up in town and still lives here. She is excited to help us move forward with our mission. Welcome Andrea! Whit Barnard has been helping with the maintenance and grounds keeping as a volunteer and has now joined us. Welcome Whit!

The Program Committee consisting of myself, Kim Fisher and Andrea Mullen have worked very hard to come up with some exciting new programs that will appeal to all ages. The programs are listed in this newsletter. Enjoy the first issue of "Ye Olde Tavern News"!

Carol Parker, President

Historical Happenings

Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at the Bigelow Tavern

2:00 pm & 7:00 pm

The Foiled Assassination Attempt on Abraham Lincoln

May 4, 2022 - Annual Meeting - Separate Letter will be mailed out with Info

September 10 2022 - Town Wide Yard Sale, - at the Bigelow Tavern

8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Monday Evening Openings at the Bigelow Tavern

June 27th, July 25th, August 29th, September 26th

CURATORS CORNER

Dresser Sets were once a staple on the vanity of a Victorian lady. They could be found in many materials including glass, silver and porcelains. These sets were designed to make a woman's beauty routine more efficient and came with a number of pieces depending on the set. Some of the more common ones are as follows:

Organizing Tray
Comb.
Pin Box
Hair Receiver
Shoehorn
Perfume Atomizer
Hair Brush
Manicure Set
Button Hook
Hand Mirror
Powder Puff

One of the most interesting pieces, I think, is the hair receiver. It is a two piece container with a hole in the cover for receiving a woman's hair from her brush. Beautiful hair was revered, so a woman wanted a full head of hair and to achieve this the collected hair was used to make hair pieces that matched her hair perfectly. In the 1940's hair was made into "ratts", long rolls, that were used to create a popular hair style.

HISTORY BY THE INCH

The Boys of '61 and an encounter with John Wilkes Booth

The following article was found in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette, written by Mary Cook on June 24, 1922, and I have also added information from a previous article that Mary Cook had written on May 10, 1922.



This picture of the boys of '61 was taken on the West Boylston Common by Miss Ruth Adams of Worcester, who since she was a tiny girl has walked by the side of her grandfather, William Beach, every Memorial Day, as he marched to lay the flowers on his comrades grave. Miss Adams caught the members of the George D. Wells post and their comrades from Post 10, Worcester, as they were eating ice cream, the treat being provided by W.W. White, who never forgets veterans on Memorial Day.

Among the group are three West Boylston men who, when under 20 years of age, ran away together from their home in Oakdale to fight for Uncle Sam. George A. Blunt, one of their number, lost an arm in the battle of Cold Harbor but is well and active. He is with the Barnard, Sumner Co. of Worcester as floor walker, after having delivered letters for over 48 years.

William Beach, a second member of the group, received a wound in the leg from which he has always had trouble. The third member, Alfonzo Kelly of Fitchburg, was disabled in the war and was sent home. Another man in the picture is Levi Shepard who was a member of C Co., 34th captured on May 21, 1864, he was a boy of just 19 years of age, and from that day to this has celebrated his release from "that hell on earth," Andersonville prison, whence he was taken November 19, 1864, to die.

Still another of this little group is Comdr. Charles R. Huntley of Post 10 formerly commander of the George D. Wells post. On the night of April 13, 1865, when Comdr. Huntley was on picket duty at Fort Stephens, Washington D.C., a stranger approached him, Huntley commanded him to halt and tell him where he was going. The cloaked figure said he was on his way to Washington and asked the distance, also asked what time it was. Huntley supplied him the information and the man passed through the lines.

That man was John Wilkes Booth, and the following night he shot President Abraham Lincoln. Comdr. Huntley has always regretted that he let the stranger get passed him. He has often said: "I would have given my own life to save President Lincoln, and if I had only known who the man was I would have shot him dead then and there." His account of the incident is always accompanied by the regret that had he but known the errand of the stranger that the greatest tragedy of the time would have been prevented.

Mr. Huntley was born in Windsor, Connecticut. He came to West Boylston with his brother at the age of 12 to make his home with the late Rufus Lord. On July 3, 1863, he enlisted in the 3rd Massachusetts Heavy Artillery and was sent to Washington. During the war he saw service in the battles of Rappahannock, Warrenton Junction, and many other places in Virginia. He received his discharge September 18, 1865.

He returned to West Boylston but soon after left for Worcester where he lived for 30 years. In Worcester he was employed by the W.R. Rowell Co. for 14 years and was with the Barnard, Sumner & Putnam Co., for three years. In 1922 he was 82 years old and had moved back to West Boylston, 24 years previously. He was commander of George D. Wells post, G.A.R. for 12 years and when that disbanded, he joined post 10 of Worcester.

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

Steven Carlson, Historical Society Historian

CURATOR'S CORNER Con't from Page 2

Ivory Pyralin is a kind of plastic made between 1900 and World War I by the Arlington Co. of New Jersey. The DuPont Co. purchased the Arlington Co. in 1917 and began selling dresser sets with names such as "French Ivory", "La Belle", "La Parisienne", and "Du Barry". There is no ivory used in making these products. Ivory was simply the color of the product.

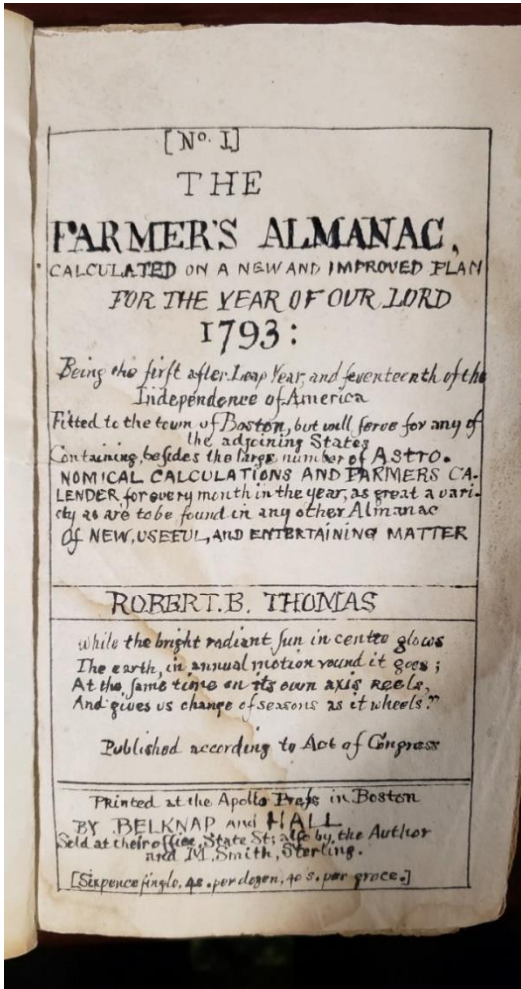
The Bigelow Tavern Historical Society is the owner of a partial Dresser Set. It is made of Ivory Pyralin and is ivory in color and consists of nine pieces, including a hair receiver. Most pieces are marked Ivory Py-ra-Lin, Du Barry and are monogrammed.

Information for this article was taken from Google. For further study refer to Schiffer's Book, "Antique Dresser Sets 1890's- 1950's" by Roseann Ettinger

Bev Goodale, Curator



The Farmer's Almanac Corner



Fun Fact #1: Robert Bailey Thomas, founder and editor of the Farmer's Almanac, was a West Boylston resident for most of his life.

Fun Fact #2: The word "old" was added to the name of the almanac in the 1830's to distinguish Thomas' almanac from other competing publications. Thomas' almanac outshone the success, accuracy, and vitality of all others. It is the oldest continuously published periodical in the United States.

Fun Fact #3: The Beaman Memorial Library owns the complete collection of The Farmer's/Old Farmer's Almanac from the first publishing in 1792 (for the 1793 edition) to the present. The library holds the honor of owning one of three complete collections; the others are located at Yankee Magazine headquarters and the Library of Congress.

The Almanac provides weather forecasts, astronomical data, botanical information and planting charts, recipes, articles and anecdotes specific to the year. Or, as the 1793 cover page tells us, "...besides the large number of astronomical calculations and farmer's calendar for every month in the year...new, useful and entertaining matter."

Let's peek at a few things The Farmer's Almanac offered in 1793!

Eclipses: There will be four eclipses this year, two of the sun and as many of the moon. The first will be of the moon, February 25th, partially visible.

The second will be of the sun, March 12 in the morning, invisible. The third will be of the moon, August 21 in the morning, invisible. The fourth and last will be of the sun, September 5, day, partly visible, partly invisible.

The names and characters of the twelve signs of the zodiac:

COMMON NOTES for 1793.			
Golden Number	8	Dominical Letter	F
Cycle of the Sun	10	Epaet	17
<i>The Names and Characters of the PLANETS.</i>			
☉ The Sun.	♁ The Earth.	♂ Mars.	
☾ The Moon.	♂ Mercury.	♃ Jupiter.	
♀ Venus.	♄ Saturn.		
<i>The Names and Characters of the ASPECTS.</i>			
♁ Conjunction, or in the same degree.	Δ Trin, 120 degrees.	♁ Opposition, 180 degrees.	
* Sextile, 60 degrees.	♁ Dragon's head.	♁ Dragon's tail.	
□ Quartile, 90 degrees.			
<i>The names and characters of the twelve SIGNS of the ZODIAC.</i>			
♈ Aries, head.	♎ Libra, reins.		
♉ Taurus, neck.	♏ Scorpio, secrets.		
♊ Gemini, arms.	♐ Sagittarius, thighs.		
♋ Cancer, breast.	♑ Capricorn, knees.		
♌ Leo, heart.	♒ Aquarius, legs.		
♍ Virgo, belly.	♓ Pisces, feet.		

Aries, head
Taurus, neck
Gemini, arms
Cancer, breast
Leo, heart
Virgo, belly
Libra, reins
Scorpio, secrets
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A new method of making butter, as practiced in England

One day, previous to churning, hang the cream over the fire in a clean kettle (an iron one is preferable on account of its being less liable to burn to) and attend with care, having a clear fire, though not too fierce that it may rise over, which is common if not carefully attended; and as soon as it begins to boil or is fully scalded, take it off and drain it when the particles of milk, which tend to sour and change the butter, are separated and left behind. Then put the vessel, into which it was strained, into a tub of water in a cellar til the next morning when it will be ready for churning and become butter in less than a quarter of the time by the common method. It will also be hard, with a peculiar additional sweetness that will not change.

The labor in this way is less than the other as the butter comes so much sooner and saves so much labor in working out the buttermilk. By this method good butter may be made in dog-days. (I'm very grateful for grocery stores after reading this!)

March, third month. 1793

Bleak winds assault us all around; dances aloft or skims the ground; see the schoolboy – his hat in hand, while on the path he scarce can stand.

MARCH, third Month. 1793.					
Friday	1	8	15	22	29
Saturday	2	9	16	23	30
SUNDAY	3	10	17	24	31
Monday	4	11	18	25	
Tuesday	5	12	19	26	
Wednesday	6	13	20	27	
Thursday	7	14	21	28	

Farmer's Calendar

Continue to break and swindle hemp and flax as it being not only the best, but the most leisure of time. Now for making maple sugar. Remember to feed your bees, turn up the hives, and sprinkle the combs with sweet wort. Pay attention to the cows that will calf early; for a fortnight's good feeding before calving, is worth 3 months after. Thrash and put up Indian corn. Cut and cord up your wood at the door against summer when it will all be wanted. Sprinkle hay with salt and water when you lay it before your cattle; it will prevent it from crumbling and make your cattle hearty. Cut hedges. If you work it right, you'll put up bars and gaps round your mowing lands, and spread and break horse and cow dung, which is done by boys with maling sledges. Get outposts and rails, and prepare them for setting, which may be done next week in many places. Put your sleds, sleighs, &c. all carefully away, for another year.

Good Friday – Easter: a storm is near at hand!

Cures for corns, toothache, and removal of freckles:

For corns on the feet: Take the yeast of beer and spread it on a linen rag and apply it to the part affected; renew it once a day for three or four weeks. It will cure.

The cure the toothache: Let the person that is troubled with the toothache lay on the contrary side, drop three drops of the juice of rue into the ear on the side of the teeth ached; let it remain an hour or two and it will remove the pain.

To take off freckles: Take bean flower water, or elder flower water, or may dew gathered from corn, the quantity of four spoonful's and add it to one spoonful of oil of tarter; mix it well together and often wash the face with it and let it dry on.

Stay tuned for a glimpse of 1794 in the next newsletter!

Submitted by Kim Fisher

LOOKING BACK

Excerpts taken from the Mary Cook scrapbook collection

September 21, 1899

THREE FOOT CELERY GROWN IN TOWN

Benjamin F. Bond cut a head of celery in his garden this morning that was 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' high and weighing 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds. He is a market gardener and lives on the common. He had a comparatively small garden covering but two acres with every inch of ground used and two crops of small vegetables are raised yearly. He has been a market gardener 12 years and his business is paying like never before. For many years he has been troubled by lack of water during the summer. Last summer he made an experiment which has proved successful. G.W. Patterson of Lake View bored an artesian well in the place 330' deep and the 6 week job cost \$1,000. The tower and windmill cost an additional \$200.

After the well was completed, he placed 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of iron piping through his grounds and introduced water

through these pipes then attached sprinklers to water the produce at any time. His specialty is raising celery and three-fourths of his garden is devoted to it with approximately 1,500 plants in these beds, selling at \$1.50 per dozen wholesale and retailing at 15 to 20 cents per bunch. He also planted 1,000 tomato plants which yielded liberally. He does not plant potatoes or corn.

His prized possession is a tree he raised from a castor oil bean brought from Florida and planted last April. The tree is now 8' high and stocky. He is a thrifty hard-working man and employs two men to help him. He attributes his good crops this season to the irrigation system and if it cost him twice as much, it would have been worth it.

Barbara M. Deschenes

~ In Memoriam ~

Janet L. (Brackett) Buck
1929 – 2022

Dwight M. Goodale, Jr.
1929 – 2021

The West Boylston Historical Society recently lost two longtime board members. We are grateful to those people who have so generously donated to the society in their memory.

**Join us at the West Boylston Historical Society
for an informative & eloquent presentation
given by our president Carol Parker**

Following Abraham Lincoln's election on November 6, 1860, the southern states were talking about seceding and forming their own confederacy. One of the conspiracies involved a secret organization that did not want Lincoln inaugurated. Having learned of this secret organization that could possibly destroy Samuel Morse Felton's Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore Railroad, he hired the Pinkerton Detective Agency to uncover a plot to destroy his tracks and assassinate Abraham Lincoln.



You will hear about this "cloak and dagger" mystery involving undercover detectives with assumed identities, disguises, secret meetings and the key people that saved Abraham Lincoln from the assassins.

The presenter is Carol Parker, President of the West Boylston Historical Society

**Wednesday April 6th 2p.m or 7p.m at
the Historical Society,
65 Worcester St. West Boylston, MA.
For reservations call 774-823-3636**



Registration for Kids at Play Program

***Families are invited to begin taking photos of their children at play to be exhibited on Sunday, October 9th.
For Registration and Guidelines***

Email Carol Parker at: parkerkarol64@gmail.com after May 1st

September 10th Town Yard Yard Sale

September 24-25th Fund Raiser Family Photo Shoot on Our Major Edward's Buggy

Photography by Kelly Samia - \$50 with all proceeds going to the Historical Society

Call Carol Parker at: 774-823-3636 to reserve your time slot

Sign up by July 1st for a \$10.00 discount

In the event of rain we will cancel on September 23rd via social media.

Sunday, October 9th 2-4 p.m. Kids at Play Exhibit at the Tavern

Come and enjoy seeing photographs of our wonderful West Boylston Kids at Play in 2022

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Bakers Needed

To provide refreshments For our April 6th program Call the Historical Society if you can help.

508-835-6971



West Boylston Historical Society
Town Wide Yard Sale - Major Fund Raiser

Saturday, September 10, 2022

8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Save Clean Useable Items in Good Condition -

Please no luggage, Large Electronics, Technical Books or Clothing

Wanted

Antiques and Collectables, Household Items, Jewelry, Small Furniture, Tools, Children's Toys (complete and in good working condition), Books and Gift Items.

Items may be dropped off at Society on the following: Thursdays, August 11th, 18th, 25th, and September 1st Between 10:00 am – 12:00 noon.

We will also have a limited number of spaces available for vendors at \$15 per 11ft by 11ft. space. You will need to supply your own table, etc.

Call for details at 508-835-6971. It is, first come first serve.

Vendor Registration

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Mail with your check of \$15 to: West Boylston Historical Society, 65 Worcester Street, P.O. Box 201,
West Boylston, MA 01583