

## THE BOSTON POST CANE

An interesting sidelight into memorabilia of half a century ago was the travels of the BOSTON POST CANE. Apparently this newspaper thought it would increase its circulation by presenting a cane to the Selectmen of all the towns in Massachusetts, who in turn would present it to the oldest inhabitant to use until death, or removal elsewhere, then it would pass on to the next oldest.

All the dates that follow are from the Maynard News:-

August 20, 1909 - Lewis Stetson Towne, residing with his daughter, Mrs. Daniel Parmenter, was the first recipient of the BOSTON POST CANE, a handsome goldheaded ebony cane. He used to run the wheelwright shop next to John Glynn, the blacksmith. He is ninety years of age.

December 23, 1910 - The cane was passed on to Gavin Taylor, Brooks St., age 89.

December 27, 1912 - Gavin Taylor died at home of his daughter, Mrs. William Gutteridge. He was born in Scotland, and was assistant overseer of weaving for thirty-five years. Joel Parmenter is thought to be the next in line.

April 18, 1919 - Selectman Binks presents cane to Edward Henderson, Pleasant Street, 85 years of age. Four have held the cane so far.

September 26, 1919 - Selectman Bink's presents cane to John Fix, age 91. Next in line if Dennis Callahan, 87, and Sumner Rogers, 84.

May 28, 1920 - Dennis Callahan, age 90, holder of the Boston Post Cane, still going strong, vegetable garden and all.

January 13, 1922 - John K. Fix, 3 Parker Street, passes on. He was born in Germany in 1830. He was head machinist at the woolen mills and later at the powder mills.

January 20, 1922 - Dennis Callahan received the Boston Post Cane from Selectman Binks. He is ninety-five years old.



(As you must note, the above dates somehow got mixed up in the newspaper, and who the holder of the cane was during this period.-Author)

November 27, 1925 - Joel Parmenter dies at age 90.

December 25, 1925 - Daniel Coughlin presented cane at age 85.

October 26, 1928 - Daniel Coughlin, 15 Maple Street, passes on at age 89. He was born in Ireland, resident of Maynard for sixty-five years. He is survived by daughters Mrs. Albert Sylvester, Mrs. Catherine Bariteau, Miss Nellie Coughlin, and sons Daniel, Bartholomew and Thomas.

This was the last date that we have out of the Maynard News. We checked with Mrs. Jeremiah Lynch, granddaughter of Mr. Coughlin, if she could aid us further but the curtain seems to have dropped on this quaint passing of the cane from one enfeebled hand to another. All that can be said now is that if the cane is in someone's hand now he must be close to a hundred and fifty years old!

I am indebted to James Farrell for additional research.

Read at the January 1966 Maynard Historical Society Meeting-B.R.Koski