

BOSTON POST CANE

Edwin Atkins Grozier purchased the near bankrupt Boston Post newspaper in 1891 and became its publisher and editor. In order to increase the paper's circulation he developed idea of the Boston Post Cane following a bid on an unclaimed shipment canes.

The canes were manufactured by J.F. Fradley & Co. of New York from gaboon ebony from the African Congo. The heads of the cane were rolled 14-carat gold shaped like doorknobs and inscribed: "Presented by the Boston Post to the Oldest Citizen of (Town). To be transmitted."

On August 2, 1909 Grozier sent a letter to the selectmen of approximately 700 communities asking them "to act as trustee to see that the stick be duly presented and duly transmitted when a change of holders became necessary. The response from recipients was interesting. Some rejected the idea because they didn't want their age revealed...another claimed "Take that damned thing out of here, it's for old men and I'm just a young fellow." In 1909, another returned it when he learned that it was on loan, refusing to be "custodian of it for a Boston newspaper." There was superstition among elders that "the cane hastened one's demise." Eleanor Burns of Northwood, NH researched the Post Cane's history for nine years and can account for 440 canes...over 100 cities and towns in New Hampshire did receive a cane.

The Boston Post made its last press run on October 4, 1956, after 125 years of publication. The paper may be gone, yet its legacy, the Boston Post Cane remains, and the tradition continues.

On October 21, 1975 the Selectmen of Peterborough resolved the long-standing question of the procedure for awarding Peterborough's cane:

The present Board of Selectmen hereby establish a policy that the temporary custody of the cane shall be awarded to the oldest Peterborough citizen, now residing in the town and who has been residing in Peterborough for at least the past 50 years; no discrimination will be made with respect to whether or not the recipient is a male or female, ambulatory or not, or the condition of health enjoyed by the recipient. The recipient selected by this process shall have the option, which may be expressed by him or his family or his guardian, to pass the cane along to the next-in-line candidate on the basis of age who is also ambulatory; upon the death of the original recipient so passing, the cane shall be recovered from the substitute designee and the awarding process shall be repeated.

In establishing this policy, the Board examined in present day social aspects what seems to be the obvious intent of the original ceremony which is that the award should be made to the oldest citizen, with no discrimination being made except to determine a reasonable basis for deciding what constitutes age and citizenship. Primarily, the award symbolizes the Town's desire to extend good wishes to the recipient against the infirmities of old age and although a

cane signifies assistance in walking or attempting to walk, this aspect is considered to be secondary. The Board does not feel that eligibility should be exclusively based upon the candidate's being Peterborough-born...

The following lists Peterborough's recipients:

<u>Date Awarded</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
1909	Jonas B. Piper (85) (Dublin farmer, cobbler)
1909 (8/2)	J. G. Towne ? J. I. Adams
1949	Edward W. Cass
1954 (Nov.)	Charles Batchelder (98)
1967 (Apr. 20)	Samuel Stevens (98)
1969 (Sept. 25)	Frederick S. Russell (94)
1978 (Nov. 21)	Smith Theimann
May 13, 1982	Forrest Clayton Mercer
July , 1987	Melissa Agnes (Davis) LaCross
January 2, 1990	Emma Marie (Stehn) Larrabee (95) (Deceased July 22, 1995)
1995 ()	

BOSTON POST CANE
(Brief Suggestions from Research Notes)

The enclosed is a partial list of recipients of the Boston Post Cane compiled for inclusion in the Peterborough Town History from the Town of Peterborough. The list is incomplete, and research is underway to update it.

From this research some ideas and suggestions for the Cane's "resting place" when not in use, are being gelled. Some brief history:

From the research of Eleanor Burns of Northwood, NH... "the Cane's history for nine years, and can account for 440 canes... over 100 cities and towns in New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. [Two known to exist in Vermont, (from article by Jessie Salisbury)]. The Boston Post paper ran its last press on October 4, 1956 after 125 years of publication. "The paper may be gone, yet its legacy... remains, and the tradition continues.

There is awareness that in some areas, there are canes missing. In order to protect the cane, ideas and plans are being formed in communities for the protection and preservation of the cane. Because of this, for some time now, it became aware that Peterborough should "hop on the bandwagon" for the preservation of our cane. Some recommendations:

- 1) That the cane be permanently on "display" at the Peterborough Historical Museum with a list of the recipients.

It is an interesting historical artifact, and though it belongs to the Town of Peterborough under the jurisdiction of the Selectmen, it would be an interesting artifact to place on display. Whether it be the Historical Society or the newly renovated Town House, it should be housed in an appropriate display case with a list of recipients.

- 2) The Cane is more ceremonial than functional, and by today's geriatric medical standards, would not be suitable for daily use. With the advent of quad-canes and walkers, the Post Cane would not lend itself to safe daily function.

Other towns are catching on to this idea, and implementing procedures for same. Past history has shown that canes have disappeared with families who have moved, and a number of them are now unaccounted for. And for this reason, a proposed "Agreement Between Recipient and the Town" might be appropriate for the guaranteed protection and ultimate return of the cane.

A simpler solution would be to place the cane on permanent display at the Historical Museum with a list of recipients beside it. Upon award to the upcoming recipient by the Selectmen, a ceremony could take place honoring the recipient, and his/her name could be listed in place of honor beside the cane, thus protecting the Cane. An Award Certificate could be drawn up for the recipient to keep. Of course, the recipient should be privileged to use it.

Marie C. Larrabee-Steops
Boston Post Cane Historical Research Cmte

Hollis had its cane stolen from a nursing home. It is said that some towns placed the *Post* cane in the coffin during the showing of the deceased holder. Consequently, a few canes may have gone to eternity.

The following towns have missing canes:

Acworth	Danville	Milford
Alexandria	Deering	Milton
Amherst	Dorchester	Mont Vernon
Atkinson	Dunbarton	Moultonboro
Barrington	Epping	Piermont
Bethlehem	Gilsum	Richmond
Bridgewater	Holderness	Salem
Brookfield	Hollis	Sandwich
Brookline	Kingston	Stewartstown
Campton	Landaff	Thornton
Center Harbor	Langdon	Washington
Danbury	Litchfield	Westmoreland

Although many of the canes have been lost, a few found their way back home. Greenland's cane was found in New York state in 1967, it had been sold at a rummage sale. Plaistow lost its cane in 1909 and found in the 1970s. Merrimack's cane was lost for 45 years and Lebanon found its cane after 50 years. Lincoln's cane had been lost for many years, when it was returned anonymously in 1995.

Fourteen towns have a residency requirement to qualify a holder for the cane: Henniker, North Hampton and Raymond... 5-years; Bedford, Lebanon and Loudon ... 10-years; Merrimack has a 25-year residency; Bath's holder must have lived in the town for a total of 50 years; Freedom, Goffstown, Hillsboro and Whitefield require a holder to be a long time resident. Two towns with "missing" *Post* canes have a residency requirement for their replica canes: Brookfield requires a 5-year residency and Sandwich requires the holder to be born in Sandwich or must be the oldest legal voter in Sandwich for the last 20 years.

Sandwich is the only town that requires the holder to be a *registered voter*, the original concept that Grozier instituted in 1909. All other towns honor their *oldest resident*.

Three towns allow the Auburn, Bedford and Lancaster is the only town.

NH0012200 written at the bi Thirty-eight (38) towns plan to display their town halls, historical societies homes and one is in a February 1994, Henry and Sea, held a cane auction in Massachusetts. There was an auction. Its estimated by a telephone bidder for \$6 the canes are beginning to sell increasingly difficult to find can be attributed to withdrawal from a holder who cracked.

One hundred and nine identified and nine (9) addressees of the town, may have

The oldest man to receive Newport, age 108 years. The average of Carroll. The average Warren was the first to pass Smith of Boscawen, 14 days; recipients had died, at the cane holders. Azel Emersor ... 13 years. He passed away

Ten of the first recipients enlisted when they were in William Cummings of North sons. Others were David B. of Seabrook, Patrick Gilles Epsom, George Merrill of Jamaica Gould of Lisbon. Ira Gould American Revolution and

problems. The newspaper's circulation was faltering. On June 19, 1946, Richard Grozier died suddenly of a heart attack. After Richard's death, the *Post* continued to publish, but the circulation continued to spiral downward.

In 1952, John Fox bought the *Boston Post* from the Richard Grozier estate. It would be four years of turmoil. Fox's experience was not in publishing but buying and selling securities. He had amassed an 18 million dollar fortune. Many of his problems stemmed from his lack of credit and his unreliability. The *Post's* daily circulation plunged. Fox faced litigation after litigation even after the demise of his newspaper. In 1956, the chapter closed on the *Boston Post*. John Fox filed for bankruptcy. On October 4, 1956, the *Post* published its final edition.

So ended the colorful career of Edwin Grozier and his *Boston Post*. Now it's just a chapter in newspaper history.

2. Launching of the *Boston Post Cane*

The headlines read, "The *Boston Post* will deliver a fine rocking chair and an excellent Morris chair to the oldest couple in New England, prepaid. Who is the oldest couple?"

It was another Grozier promotional scheme. It appeared several years before the *Post* cane. Letters came from little hamlets and large cities, from Richfield, Vermont, to Waterbury, Connecticut. Several weeks of photographs of white whiskered men and women with choker-neck dresses decorated the pages of the *Post*. Dates of birth, dates of marriages and lists of children appeared. The combined ages of husband and wife would determine the winner.

Finally the winners were determined and the *Post* chairs arrived in the little town of Orange, Vermont, prepaid. Mr. and Mrs. Jonathon Tillotson, combined ages 188 years, were the winners. The old couple could live out their lives in comfortable repose in the fine rocker and the excellent Morris chair. One hundred fifty couples had competed for that opportunity. Grozier called the contest "of historical value, that New England was not detrimental to longevity."

Long before public relations experts had discovered yellow pages and telemarketing, Grozier had known the value of advertising. He skillfully designed his own methods. He captivated and entertained his readers with contest after contest. Of all his promotional gimmicks, the most successful, the most famous, was the *Boston Post* cane.

"In many small towns and villages the general store was a place where many men gathered to talk and swap stories. One of the most conspicuous figures in the group was the 'oldest man,'" Grozier remarked during the interview with Keene Summer of the *American Magazine*. "Age," Grozier said, "is a subject of universal

interest, whether in the city or the country, a man who has managed to cheat death is always an interesting figure."

According to the article, Grozier arranged for a business firm to import a lot of the finest Gaboon (*sic*) ebony from Africa. He had the ebony made up into canes at a cost of a few thousand dollars. It was on August 2, 1909, that Edwin Grozier launched the *Boston Post Cane*. He wrote a letter to the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen of 700 towns in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. It is unclear why he excluded Connecticut and Vermont. The *Post* was delivered to both of these states in the "old couple" contest.

Two weeks later, on Wednesday, August 18, 1909, the following article appeared in the *Boston Post*. Included in the *Post* article was the following: a copy of the letter sent to each board of selectmen; a description of the cane and how it was made; a copy of the inscription on the top of *each* cane; a copy of the form to be completed by the recipient of the cane and returned to the *Post* with a photograph.

**THE BOSTON POST GOLD HEAD CANES PRESENTED
TO THE OLDEST CITIZEN OF SEVEN HUNDRED
NEW ENGLAND TOWNS THROUGH THE SELECTMEN.**

The *Boston Post* recently forwarded to the chairmen of each of 700 New England towns a fine Gaboon Ebony cane with gold head, with the request that it be presented with the compliments of the *Boston Post* to the Oldest Citizen of the town. A great deal of interest has been aroused all over New England by this presentation. Almost without exception the Selectmen of the various towns have expressed their cordial approval of the idea and have very willingly accepted the informal trust.

In many towns the *Post* cane has already been presented to the Oldest Citizen, the occasion in numerous instances being

BOSTON POST BUILDING, COURTESY BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, PRINT
DEPARTMENT.

The Boston Post

ESTABLISHED 1831

E. A. GROVER, Editor and Publisher

BOSTON, MASS.

August 2, 1909

REF--

We take the liberty of requesting of you and other members of the Board of Selectmen of your town a little favor, which we trust you may be able to grant.

The Boston Post desires to present, with its compliments to the Oldest Citizen of your town, a gold headed cane, and we are doubtless well informed as to the citizens of your town who we should like to ask that you make the selection and presentation.

The cane is a fine one, manufactured especially for us by J. F. Fradley & Co., of New York, who are generally recognized as the leading manufacturers of fine canes in this country. The stick is of carefully selected Gaboon ebony from the Congo, Africa, and the head is made of rolled gold of 14 carat fineness.

The head of the cane is artistically engraved as presented by The Boston Post to the Oldest Citizen of your town (to be named and submitted). The idea is that the cane shall always be owned and carried by the Oldest Citizen of your town, and that upon the decease of the present Oldest Citizen it shall be duly transferred to the then Oldest Citizen, remaining always in the possession of whoever is the Oldest Citizen of your town. Upon the decease of the holder of the cane a blank space has been left where the name of the holder may be engraved locally, if desired.

We request that in an informal way your Board act as the holder of the cane, and see that the stick is duly presented and transmitted when such a change of holders becomes necessary. We do not suggest any formal trust or any legal or financial responsibility on your part, but simply that you act in the matter in accordance with the plan outlined as your best judgment indicates. There is no charge whatever by the Post to your Board for the cane, and the holder of the cane.

In case your Board will undertake to act for us, as requested, we would request that you notify us to that effect, a blank envelope being enclosed.

We also enclose a blank, leaving space for data as to the holder of the cane, and requesting that at your convenience, when the cane is presented, you will fill it out and forward to the same department, The Boston Post, to be filed in our archives. We would also be pleased to receive a photograph of the citizen to whom you may award the cane, with his name and address written on the back.

We are sending similar canes to various other towns, and as opportunity serves it is our purpose to publish some of these sketches and photographs.

A description of the cane is also enclosed, explaining the method of its manufacture and presentation, which we would be pleased to have you hand to your local paper for publication, if deemed worthy. It is possible that there may be sufficient interest in this matter to make the presentation of the cane an occasion for an informal meeting of the friends of the recipient. This lies of course wholly within your discretion.

We are forwarding the cane express paid to your address. If for any reason you are unable to act for us in this matter, kindly notify us at once and hold the cane until we may be able to make other arrangements for its presentation.

Trusting, however, that you may favor us by acting as requested,

We beg to remain,

Very respectfully yours,

BOSTON POST,

by *E. A. Grover*

Editor and Publisher.

marked by a special gathering and presentation being publicly made.

The description of the cane: The cane is a splendid specimen of such manufacture. It is made by J. F. Fradley & Co., of New York, who are widely recognized as the leading manufacturers of fine canes. The materials used in the Boston Post canes are the best obtainable. The sticks are of Gaboon ebony from the Congo, Africa. They are shipped to this country in logs about seven feet long, and then cut into stick lengths. They are allowed to dry for six months, so they will be thoroughly seasoned. After this they are carefully examined, and all cracked, warped or otherwise imperfect sticks are discarded. The perfect ones, are then turned to the desired sizes on a lathe, and allowed about three months for further drying. They are given a coat of shellac and rubbed down with pumice, coated with the finest quality of French varnish and then polished by hand with very fine pumice and oil. It takes about a year from the time the ebony logs

are cut to produce a perfect stick.

The gold in the heads of the *Post* cane is of 14-karat fineness. It is rolled into sheets, cut to the desired size and soldered in a conical tube, then placed in a sectional steel chuck or form, which admits of its being drawn into the exact shape of the finished head. The tops are first cut into discs, and then soldered to the cane after it has been shaped. They are then filled with a hard composition and "chased" or ornamented by hand, after which this composition filling is removed and they are sent to the polishing room for final finishing. The *Boston Post* cane is not merely an ornamental cane. It is designed for every day usage (sic) and will last for many years.

On the top of the gold head of each cane was engraved the following inscription:



Presented
By the Boston Post
to the
OLDEST CITIZEN
of

(To be transmitted)

Included was the form to be filled out by the oldest citizen of each town and returned to the *Boston Post*.

THE BOSTON POST CANE

Town of _____
State _____
Names of oldest citizen _____
Age _____ Place of birth _____

How long a citizen _____
Family _____
Date of cane presentation _____
Incidents in life of oldest citizen _____

Please state here anything in the life of the Oldest Citizen that might be of interest. Offices held, if any, societies? GAR record? Health and habits? ESPECIALLY TO WHAT DOES HE ATTRIBUTE HIS LONGEVITY?

(Please fill out and forward to Gold Cane Department, *The Boston Post*, for filing in its archives. If convenient a photograph with name and address of oldest citizen written upon the back would be appreciated.)

A large number of reports have already been received. From time to time, as opportunity serves, the *Post* proposes to publish in its daily and Sunday editions some of the photographs of the venerable men, who now possess the *Post* cane. They will present an interesting galaxy of the vigor and longevity of New England Manhood.

Although it was a straightforward request, confusion arose among the towns over who should receive the cane. Were women eligible to be cane holders? Should the town's oldest registered voter or its oldest native resident receive the cane?

On Sunday, August 22, 1909, in a very long article in the *Boston Post*, Mr. Grozier made it quite clear.

SELECTMEN APPROVE BOSTON POST CANE

The most common question has been as to whether both sexes were eligible for the cane. The intention of the *Post* from the outset has been that the cane should be presented

to the oldest male. The word "citizen" has been intended by the *Post* to mean the oldest registered male voter. Nearly every cane has been presented or will be presented in accordance with this ruling.

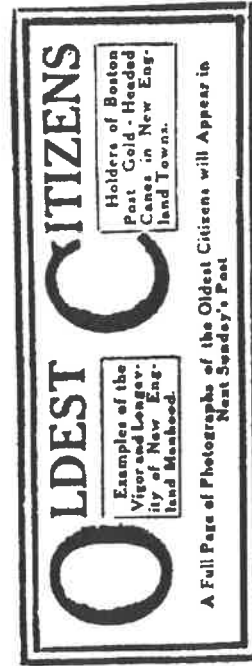
On other points that have a naturally come up, such as withholding the cane pending the illness of the person entitled to it, etc., the matter has been left wholly to the discretion of the Selectmen, who are best qualified to judge as to the proper course to pursue.

The extent of the popular interest that has been aroused all over New England by these gold cane presentation is remarkable. In many towns the presentation has been the occasion of large gatherings of the neighbors and friends of the recipients, who almost without exception have expressed their pleasure.

There have been so many of these presentations - some 700 in all - that it has not been possible for the *Post* to make adequate mention of them. A careful record, however, has been kept in the archives of the *Post*.

It is proposed from time to time to publish in the daily and Sunday *Post* some of the photographs and brief memoranda as to the cane holders.

In the daily editions of the *Post*, photographs of men who had received canes appeared at random with the following heading:



In the Sunday editions of the *Post*, the following notation appeared with many photographs of men that had been presented the gold-headed *Post* cane.

The Sunday *Post* takes pleasure in presenting today another group of the Oldest Citizens of New England, all of them recipients of one of the handsome ebony gold-headed Canes which the Boston *Post* recently sent to the Chairmen of each of 700 New England towns with the request that they be presented, with the compliments of the *Post*, to the oldest citizens of their respective communities.

The selectmen and chairmen of the various towns took up the idea with much enthusiasm, and in many cases there was a public presentation before an assemblage of the friends and neighbors of the recipient of the cane. The Boston *Post* gold-headed Canes are not only handsome and substantial gifts in themselves, but they are considered especially interesting for what they signify, for they are intended as a tribute to honored and useful lives, to thrift, temperance, and right living, and above all, to the superb vigor of New England manhood.

Solomon Talbot, age 95, of Sharon, was the first recipient to have his photograph published in the *Post* on August 21, 1909. At the time of the public presentation of his cane, Mr. Talbot called it, "one of the signal honors of my long life."

In addition to the 700 canes donated to the towns, Grozier gave several canes to his employees for Christmas that year.

The *Post* staff was called upon to settle minor disputes that arose about the cane. Many men could not find a birth certificate. Some men presented bibles. One man produced a baby mug with his date of birth on it. Several disputes occurred over the cane. After a cane was presented to a holder, it was not uncommon for an older man to appear and contest it. Some men applied for the cane but lived in one town and owned property and voted in another.

Although the idea of the cane was well received by the public, Grozier was not without his critics. Not all newspapers responded with favor to Grozier's idea.

The *Marblehead Messenger* on August 5, 1909, printed a lengthy editorial, part of which read:

The worthy gentlemen and honored citizen who is entitled to the cane's present custody is by virtue of some very special afflictions scarcely able to take such interest in it and it may be doubted that any one else is likely to compete for the distinction now or hereafter. "The *Post* offer is doubtless well meant but it is not of the sort to appeal to Marblehead people, if we judge them aright. We should be surprised if the kind of notoriety that such an article would bring to the recipient would not be distasteful to himself and family and the spectacle of one aged citizen waiting for another aged citizen to lay it down that he might take it up can scarcely be deemed inspiring."

The *Turner Falls Reporter* published its thoughts on August 25th, 1909. "The Boston newspaper advertising scheme of trying to make old men carry advertising canes as long as they live, and then pass the "sandwich" along to the next baker is creating a good deal of disgust among some people. Since the country fences and landscapes are tabooed, some new place must be found to tack advertising to."



Some newspapers preferred not to recognize the *Post*. The *Daily Hampshire Gazette* printed the name of the first cane recipient and added they (the selectmen) "acted for a donor in Boston." The *Brockton Times* wrote the canes were a gift from an "out-of-town newspaper." Fortunately for posterity, many papers printed the names and ages of the first recipients and gave credit to the donor, the *Boston Post*. One year after the introduction of the *Post* cane, the paper's daily circulation had reached a new level, 335,000 copies. This was an increase of 50,000 copies in one year.

As the years passed, canes became dented and damaged. For over 40 years, F. Joseph Bianco of East Boston, a jewelry manufacturer, serviced the canes. He repaired 18 or 19 canes each year, some canes came back two or three times. He charged about \$5.00 per cane, paid by the *Post* but never publicized. In 1952, that service ended.

In the 1920s and the 1930s new problems arose for the *Post*. On August 26, 1920, Congress passed the Nineteenth Amendment, the Equal Suffrage Amendment. This gave women the right to vote. As recognized voters, women began asking for their equal rights to the *Post* cane. Although there were rumblings in the 1920s, by the 1930s the rumblings from the women had become vociferous roars. It was then that Richard Grozier, the present editor and publisher of the *Post*, gave his approval. The women of New England became *Post* cane holders. But the feminine issue did not end there. Some women were not enthusiastic about divulging their true age. A few women would not have the cane in their house. "It's hexed," they said. Other women fought for the honor.

Since 1909 canes have been lost, some burned, some stolen. It has been said that a few have descended into the sod with their holder. Many have been stored away in town hall closets and vaults, only to resurface years later. Some have been found in dumpsters; others sold at estate auctions. In addition, there are the canes that journeyed thousands of miles, found and returned to their native town years later.

Though all this chaos, the canes have endured. Celebrating their 87th birthday, the canes have outlived their creator, Edwin Grozier; outlived their sponsor, The *Boston Post*, and outdated their theme, "an example of the vigor and longevity of New England Manhood."

The cane has been highly prized by many, to others it symbolized the "kiss of death." It has been honored and coveted, shunned, and cursed. Yet, no cane in New England has touched so many hands and touched so many hearts. No cane has known the fame of Grozier's *Boston Post* cane.

FINAL ANALYSIS OF THE SURVEY

Every effort was made to obtain the original list of towns that received a *Post* cane in 1909 but the search was unsuccessful.

In doing this survey, it must be remembered that is not a scientific survey. Nothing, 87 years later, can be exact. Some towns said they never received a cane, yet published evidence proved they did. Others claimed they received a cane, but no evidence could be found. Two towns were not counted in the survey, Greenwich and Prescott. They could not be reached. They are at the bottom of the Quabbin Reservoir. Four states, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island participated in the *Post* cane giveaway. These states included a total of over 1500 towns in 1909. Maine alone had over 900 towns. So, not *all* towns received a *Post* cane. We know that Mr. Grozier gave out only 700 *Post* canes to the four states.

The Bay State in 1909 had 321 towns. This survey shows that 257 towns and one city, received a *Boston Post* cane. That's 80 percent of Massachusetts towns. The intent was that only towns were to be the benefactors of the canes. Somehow Campello, a section of Brockton, a city, received a *Post* cane.

Of the 258 original canes received in 1909, 97 canes (37.5 percent) are missing. A serious problem often arose upon the death of the holder. Many families did not know or perhaps, they didn't want to know, that the cane was only a "living loan." Some would not return the cane after the death of the cane holder. Yet the head of the cane clearly stated, "to be transmitted." More than one family adamantly refused to give back the cane. Sixty-two towns never received a *Post* cane. That's over 19 percent of the towns.

One hundred sixty-one Bay State towns or 62 percent have their original *Post* cane. In seventy-eight towns the recipients still hold the "original cane." Forty-six towns store or retired their canes. Thirty-seven towns have a symbolic presentation of the cane or

give a replica, plaque, or a certificate, etc.

With the help of many people and many old newspapers, 180 first recipients of the cane were found. In addition, twelve other men may have been first recipients, but this could not be confirmed.

The first recipient who held the *Post* cane the shortest time - two days, was John Baker, age 92, (Harwich). The man that held the cane the longest time, seventeen years, was Russell Higgins, (Eastham). He died September 8, 1926, age 100.

The average age of the first cane recipient was 90 years. The youngest to receive the *Post* Cane was Austin Glazier, (Leverett), age 80 years. The oldest recipient was Samuel Putnam, (New Salem), age 102 years.

In New England, the oldest first recipient to receive the *Post* cane was from North Newport, New Hampshire. He was reported to be James Bellows McGregor, born September 6, 1801, age 108 years. He died six months after receiving the cane.

In Norfolk County, two members of the same family received a cane. Peter Talbot, 86, of Canton and Solomon Talbot, 95, of Sharon, brothers, were both recipients of the *Post* cane.

Eighteen of the first recipients died within six months after receiving the *Post* cane, and 41 had died by end of the first year. Many of the comments of the first recipients are worthy of note. Sabin Kelton of Warwick, was offered the *Post* cane in September 1909. He "wished to wait until he was old enough to receive the cane." He was 91. In the summer of 1910, he thought himself of sufficient age and accepted the cane. John Hopkins of Orleans, "doesn't know what to do with cane. He perhaps will use it when he gets along in years." He was 93.

Jeremiah Hammett of Achusnet and Alexander Kilgore of Hopkinton chewed tobacco all their lives. While William Jeffrey of Hudson never smoked but once and after that used the tobacco to kill fleas on his cattle. George Hawes of Saugus, liked nothing better than a "drag on the old dudeen."

Amos Jones of Pembroke got "great comfort in his pipe and drank a little grog every day for his optic infirmities." While Delucina Bingham of Manchester, started drinking liquor at age 80, but stopped at 84. William Goodnow of Winchendon told the minister when he married, "Tie the knot, so it won't slip. It never slipped during 50 years of marriage." Joseph Rice of Wayland said "he never cared to take a wife for better or for worse, for fear she might prove "worse"; besides he never thought he was quite old enough until he was too old."

Captain Josephus Dawes of Duxbury chopped wood every day. Levi Coleburn of Webster, Cornelius Tirrell of Weymouth, Dexter Hubbard of Spencer, and Charles Hastings of Orange, were all working into their 90s. Nirum Neal of Hamilton, grew "a third set of teeth" at age 82, and lived to be 98. He also walked from Berwick, Maine to Salem. Tilden Pierce of Plymouth objected to modern food and favored his old time diet of Johnny cake and fat pork. He decried frequent bathing which "weakens one and could not understand how one could get so dirty to require two baths a week." Andrew Fuller of Edgartown, believed his longevity was due to "not having a doctor or taking much medication."

First there were the adventurers. Franklin Johnson (Nahant), Barnabus Bourne (Falmouth), Andrew Fuller (Edgartown), Levi Coleburn (Webster), and Asa Woodman (Wilmington) all travelled the sparsely populated land to California to find their fortune in the Gold Rush.

Then there were the heroes. Martin Gaylord of Easthampton participated in John Brown's Raid in Kansas. Civil War veterans were: William Thayer (Cohasset), James Warner (Hanover), Benjamin Clow (Dalton), William Cole (West Bridgewater), Jeremiah Edson (Dighton), Hiram Nye (Barnstable), Rev. Nathaniel Merrill (Wilbraham), Ashley Wood (West Boylston), Jeremiah McCarthy (Wrentham), and John P. Lyon (Abington), Samuel Easter (Swampscott), and Samuel Bent (Dedham). Almon Farr (Shrewsbury), was in the Mexican War under General Zachary Taylor.

Since 1909, Massachusetts has experienced many changes in its towns and cities. In 1912, the Town of Hyde Park was annexed to the City of Boston. Several towns became cities: Revere and Attleboro in 1914, Leominster in 1915 and Peabody in 1916. Methuen became a city in 1917, but this was declared unconstitutional in 1921 and was rescinded. Westfield became a city in 1920 and Gardner in 1921. Two towns were created, Millville in 1916 and East Brookfield in 1920. With the building of the Quabbin Reservoir, four towns and twelve villages were drowned in 1938: Dana, Enfield, Prescott, and Greenwich. About 2500 persons were displaced. Thirty four cemeteries were involved and 2500 graves were removed. By then there were 39 cities and 312 towns. More recently, four towns have become cities but are classified as "cities that are known as towns": Agawam, Methuen, Easthampton, and Amesbury.

Six Bay State towns in 1909 later became cities: Attleboro, Gardner, Leominster, Peabody, Revere, and Westfield all received *Post* canes and all canes are missing!

The first woman known to take advantage of the 19th Amendment was Mrs. Marilla Stone. She was Royalston's fourth cane holder and oldest legal voter. She received the cane in 1923 and held it for five years, until her death, September 22, 1928, age 98.

When Mr. Grozier gave out the canes, he intended that the *oldest male registered voter* should receive the cane. That was 87 years ago! Today, most town have established their own rules. The advent of nursing homes and rest homes has produced an migratory elder population. This has required some towns to have residency requirements: Leverett 5-years, Northfield 10-years, Lexington 15-years. The Sandwich cane holder must be native-born or a registered voter of Sandwich for twenty years. In Northfield, if the holder is in a nursing home, the cane is kept in the town hall. In Amherst, it's kept at the Council on Aging and in Dartmouth, it's kept in the home of the holder.

Some towns give their canes annually, limiting the holder's tenure to one year. Lincoln gives its *Post* cane at its Town meeting each year to the oldest registered voter. Rockport gives its cane to the oldest Brethren member at their annual summer picnic. Greenfield gives its cane to the oldest citizen on the nearest date to June 9th each year. Greenfield was incorporated as a town June 9, 1753. Concord has been giving the cane to its "honored citizen" for ten years. In March each year, it is given to the individual who has contributed the most to the town. While in Lexington, the cane is given to a male or female, over 80, who has been a resident at least 15 years, is involved in the community, inspiring others, engaging in a second career, or a hobby, or volunteering, and is an inspiration to the community.

Other towns give more than one cane. Wilbraham gives the original *Post* cane to the oldest resident and a different cane to the resident who has lived in Wilbraham 25 years. Palmer and Littleton give substitute *Post* canes to the oldest male and the oldest female. Leverett gives to its "most senior" male and female. Walpole had to give two canes recently when two eligible holders were born the same day. Duxbury does not give out canes, but it has two, the *Post* cane and a cane donated in 1939 for the "oldest female citizen."

Chester and Blackstone have lost their original canes, but each has acquired an unmarked original *Post* cane. Some of these canes may be the canes that Grozier gave his employees for Christmas.

Many canes are under supervision of the selectmen or the town clerk. Some are under the supervision of the Historical Society, the Historical Commission, or the Council on Aging. Bridgewater has a special "Gold Cane Committee." Harvard is unique; its cane is under the supervision of the local newspaper, the *Harvard Post*.

Life expectancy in 1900 was 47 years, today it's 76 years. These men lived in the days before antibiotics, insulin, B-12 injections, X-rays, by-pass surgery, and transplants. Yet they lived, and some worked, into their 90s. They participated in the excitement of the

Gold Rush, the expansion of the West. They lived through the assassinations of three presidents (Lincoln, Garfield, and McKinley) and the horrors of the Civil War. They were the fiber of our rural New England. They were our farmers, our harness makers, our bridge-builders, our stage coach drivers, our sea captains, our school teachers, our inventors, our legislators. Grozier called them the "venerable men who possess an interesting galaxy of the vigor and longevity of New England Manhood."

To clear up many discrepancies, let's summarize the facts. The canes were given out by Edwin Grozier of the *Boston Post* newspaper on August 2, 1909. *Seven hundred towns* in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and Rhode Island received the inscribed gold-topped *Post* cane. *Not all towns* in New England received a cane. Cities were not included in the list, yet Campello, a section of the city of Brockton, through some freak accident received a *Post* cane. Mr. Grozier specified that the *oldest registered male voter* (citizen) should receive the cane, *not the oldest male resident*. The cane was to be *transmitted* on the death of the cane holder. Of the 321 towns in the Bay State in 1909, 257, *and one city*, received a *Post* cane. There are *161 original Post* canes still in existence in Massachusetts. In addition, the stories reporting (including the *New York Times*) that the canes were bought at an auction sale are probably fantasy. In Grozier's 1923 interview, he stated he had the ebony wood purchased and made up into canes at a New York business firm, at a cost of a few thousand dollars.

Some say Grozier was a genius, skilled in the art of human relations. But alas, gone is the colorful career of Edwin Grozier. Gone also is the vitality of the *Boston Post* newspaper. Yet, they both live on, in the longest running advertisement of the 20th Century.

Even Grozier could not have predicted the cane's lasting success. After 87 years, the spotlight still shines on the ebony shaft and the decorative gold top of that famous walking stick... the *Boston Post* cane.

Summary Barnstable County

In 1909, Barnstable County had 15 towns and no cities.

1. Towns that received a *Post* cane: 15
Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Dennis, Eastham, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Truro, Wellfleet, Yarmouth.
2. Towns that did not receive a *Post* cane: 0
3. Towns that give out the original *Post* cane: 6
Barnstable, Brewster, Harwich, Orleans, Provincetown, Yarmouth.
5. Towns that retired or store the *Post* cane: 3
Bourne, Falmouth, Wellfleet.
6. Towns that present and return cane or give a form of replica of the *Post* cane: 3
Chatham, Dennis, Eastham.
7. Towns that have a missing *Post* cane: 3
Mashpee, Sandwich, Truro.
8. Towns that still have their original *Post* cane: 12
Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Dennis, Eastham, Falmouth, Harwich, Orleans, Provincetown, Wellfleet, Yarmouth.

Summary Berkshire County

In 1909, Berkshire County had 30 towns and two cities, North Adams and Pittsfield.

1. Towns that received a *Post* cane: 11
Adams, Becket, Dalton, Hinsdale, Lanesboro, Lee, Lenox, Peru, Savoy, Stockbridge, Williamstown.
2. Towns that did not receive a *Post* cane: 19
Alford, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Egremont, Florida, Great Barrington, Hancock, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Ashford, New Marlboro, Otis, Richmond, Sandisfield, Sheffield, Tyringham, Washington, West Stockbridge, Windsor.
3. Towns that give out the original *Post* cane: 2
Hinsdale, Lee.
4. Towns that have retired or store the *Post* cane: 0
5. Towns that present and return cane or give a form of replica of the *Post* cane: 1
Lenox
6. Towns that have a missing *Post* cane: 8
Adams, Becket, Dalton, Lanesboro, Peru, Savoy, Stockbridge, Williamstown.
7. Towns that have their original *Post* cane: 3
Hinsdale, Lee, Lenox.

SUMMARY BRISTOL COUNTY

In 1909, Bristol County had 17 towns and three cities: Fall River, New Bedford and Taunton.

1. Towns that received a *Post* cane: 16
Achusnet, Attleboro, Berkley, Dartmouth, Dighton, Easton, Fairhaven, Freetown, Mansfield, North Attleboro, Norton, Raynham, Rehoboth, Somerset, Swansea, Westport.
2. Town that did not receive a *Post* cane: 1
Seekonk
3. Towns that give out the original *Post* cane: 7
Achusnet, Dartmouth, Dighton, Freetown, Raynham, Rehoboth, Westport.
4. Towns that have retired or store the *Post* cane: 4
North Attleboro, Norton, Somerset, Swansea.
5. Towns that present and return cane or give a form of replica of the *Post* cane: 0
6. Towns that have a missing *Post* cane: 5
Attleboro, Berkley, Easton, Fairhaven, Mansfield.
7. Towns that have their original *Post* cane: 11

Achusnet, Dartmouth, Dighton, Freetown, North Attleboro, Norton, Raynham, Rehoboth, Somerset, Swansea, Westport.

Summary Dukes County

In 1909, Dukes County had seven towns and no cities.

1. Towns that received a *Post* cane: 3
Edgartown, Oak Bluffs, Tisbury.
2. Towns that did not receive a *Post* cane: 4
Chilmark, Gay Head, Gosnold, West Tisbury.
3. Towns that give out the original *Post* cane: 0
4. Town that retired or store the *Post* cane: 1
Oak Bluffs.
5. Towns that present and return cane or give a form of replica of the *Post* cane: 1
Tisbury
6. Town that has a missing *Post* cane: 1
Edgartown
7. Towns that have their original *Post* cane: 2
Oak Bluffs, Tisbury.

Summary Essex County

In 1909, Essex County had 27 towns and seven cities: Beverly, Gloucester, Haverhill, Lawrence, Lynn, Newburyport and Salem.

1. Towns that received a *Post cane*: 25
 Amesbury, Andover, Boxford, Danvers, Essex, Georgetown, Groveland, Hamilton, Ipswich, Lynnfield, Manchester, Marblehead, Merrimac, Middleton, Nahant, Newbury, North Andover, Peabody, Rockport, Rowley, Salisbury, Saugus, Swampscott, Topsfield, West Newbury.
2. Towns that did not receive a *Post cane*: 2
 Methuen, Wenham.
3. Towns that give out the original *Post cane*: 7
 Boxford, Groveland, Manchester, Marblehead, Middleton, Nahant, Topsfield.
4. Towns that retired or store the *Post cane*: 8
 Amesbury, Andover, Danvers, Georgetown, Merrimac, Rockport, Swampscott, West Newbury.
5. Towns that present and return cane or give a form of replica of the *Post cane*: 2
 Newbury, Rowley
6. Towns that have a missing *Post cane*: 8
 Essex, Hamilton, Ipswich, Lynnfield, North Andover, Peabody, Salisbury, Saugus.
7. Towns that have their original *Post cane*: 17
 Amesbury, Andover, Boxford, Danvers, Georgetown, Groveland, Manchester, Marblehead, Merrimac, Middleton, Nahant, Newbury, Rockport, Rowley, Swampscott, Topsfield, West Newbury.

Summary Franklin County

In 1909, Franklin County had 26 towns and no cities.

1. Towns that received a *Post cane*: 19
 Ashfield, Bernardston, Buckland, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Greenfield, Hawley, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Shelburne, Shutesbury, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, Whately.
2. Towns that did not receive a *Post cane*: 7
 Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Heath, Leyden, Monroe, Rowe.
3. Towns that give out the original *Post cane*: 12
 Ashfield, Bernardston, Deerfield, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, Whately.
4. Towns that retired or store the *Post cane*: 0
5. Towns that present and return cane or give a form of replica of the *Post cane*: 3
 Erving, Greenfield, Leverett.
6. Towns that have a missing *Post cane*: 4
 Buckland, Gill, Hawley, Shutesbury.
7. Towns that have their original *Post cane*: 15
 Ashfield, Bernardston, Deerfield, Erving, Greenfield, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, Whately.

Summary Hamden County

In 1909, Hampden County had 20 towns and three cities: Chicopee, Holyoke, and Springfield.

1. Towns that received a *Post* cane: 13
 Agawam, Brimfield, Chester, East Longmeadow, Hampden, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, Wales, Westfield, West Springfield, Wilbraham.
2. Towns that did not receive a *Post* cane: 7
 Blandford, Granville, Holland, Montgomery, Russell, Southwick, Tolland.
3. Towns that give out the original *Post* cane: 4
 Brimfield, Longmeadow, Wales, Wilbraham.
4. Towns that retired or store the *Post* cane: 2
 Hampden, Ludlow
5. Towns that present and return cane or give a form of replica of the *Post* cane: 2
 East Longmeadow, West Springfield.
6. Towns that have a missing original *Post* cane: 5
 Agawam, Chester, Monson, Palmer, Westfield.
7. Town that has a missing original *Post* cane and obtained a duplicate original *Post* cane: 1
 Chester.
8. Towns that still have the original *Post* cane: 8
 Brimfield, East Longmeadow, Hampden, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Wales, West Springfield, Wilbraham.

Summary Hampshire County

In 1909, Hampshire County had 20 towns and one city, Northampton.

1. Towns that received a *Post* cane: 16
 Amherst, Belchertown, Chesterfield, Cummington, Easthampton, Enfield, Goshen, Granby, Hadley, Hatfield, Huntington, South Hadley, Southampton, Ware, Williamsburg, Worthington.
2. Towns that did not receive a *Post* cane: 4
 Middlefield, Pelham, Plainfield, Westhampton.
3. Towns that give out the original *Post* cane: 9
 Amherst, Belchertown, Easthampton, Granby, Hadley, Hatfield, Huntington, Southampton, Worthington.
4. Town that retired or stores the *Post* cane: 1
 Enfield.
5. Town that presents and returns cane or gives a form of replica of the *Post* cane: 1
 Williamsburg.
6. Towns that have a missing *Post* cane: 5
 Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, South Hadley, Ware.
7. Towns that have their original *Post* cane: 11
 Amherst, Belchertown, Easthampton, Enfield, Granby, Hadley, Hatfield, Huntington, Southampton, Williamsburg, Worthington.

Summary Middlesex County

In 1909, Middlesex County had 43 towns and 11 cities: Cambridge, Everett, Lowell, Marlboro, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Newton, Somerville, Waltham and Woburn.

1. Towns that received a *Post* cane: 38
 Acton, Arlington, Ashby, Ashland, Ayer, Bedford, Belmont, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Concord, Dracut, Framingham, Groton, Holliston, Hopkinton, Hudson, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, Maynard, Natick, North Reading, Pepperell, Reading, Sherborn, Shirley, Stow, Sudbury, Tewksbury, Townsend, Tyngsboro, Wakefield, Watertown, Wayland, Westford, Weston, Wilmington, Winchester.
2. Towns that did not receive a *Post* cane: 5
 Billerica, Boxborough, Burlington, Dunstable, Stoneham.
3. Towns that give out the original *Post* cane: 6
 Acton, Ashby, Ayer, Concord, Groton, Shirley.
4. Towns that retired or store the *Post* cane: 6
 Bedford, Carlisle, Hudson, Maynard, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough.
5. Towns that present and return cane or give a form of replica of the *Post* cane: 7
 Holliston, Hopkinton, Lincoln, Sherborn, Stow, Sudbury, Townsend.
6. Towns that have a missing *Post* cane: 19
 Arlington, Ashland, Belmont, Chelmsford, Dracut, Framingham, Lexington, Littleton, Natick, North Reading, Pepperell, Reading, Wakefield, Watertown, Wayland, Westford, Weston, Wilmington, Winchester.
7. Towns that have their original *Post* cane: 19
 Acton, Ashby, Ayer, Bedford, Carlisle, Concord, Groton, Holliston,

Hopkinton, Hudson, Lincoln, Maynard, Sherborn, Shirley, Stowe, Sudbury, Tewksbury, Townsend, Tyngsboro.

Summary Nantucket County

In 1909, Nantucket County had one town, Nantucket.

1. Town that received a *Post* cane: 1
 Nantucket
2. Town that retired or store the *Post* cane: 1
 Nantucket
3. Town that has its original *Post* cane: 1
 Nantucket

Summary Norfolk County

In 1909, Norfolk County had 28 towns and one city, Quincy.

1. Towns that received a *Post* cane: 19
 Bellingham, Canton, Cohasset, Dedham, Foxboro, Franklin, Holbrook, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Needham, Norwood, Sharon, Stoughton, Walpole, Wellesley, Westwood, Weymouth, Wrentham.
2. Towns that did not receive a *Post* cane: 9
 Avon, Braintree, Brookline, Dover, Hyde Park, Milton, Norfolk, Plainville, Randolph.
3. Towns that give out their original *Post* cane: 3
 Norwood, Wellesley, Westwood.
4. Towns that retired or store the *Post* cane: 6
 Canton, Cohasset, Medfield, Millis, Needham, Sharon.
5. Towns that present and return cane or give some form of replica of *Post* cane: 4
 Bellingham, Foxboro, Franklin, Walpole.
6. Towns that have a missing *Post* cane: 6
 Dedham, Holbrook, Medway, Stoughton, Weymouth, Wrentham.
7. Towns that have their original *Post* cane: 13
 Bellingham, Canton, Cohasset, Foxboro, Franklin, Medfield, Millis, Needham, Norwood, Sharon, Walpole, Wellesley, Westwood.

Summary Plymouth County

In 1909, Plymouth County had 26 towns and one city, Brockton.

1. Towns that received a *Post* cane: 25
 Abington, Bridgewater, Carver, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, Hingham, Hull, Kingston, Lakeville, Marion, Marshfield, Mattapoisett, Middleboro, Norwell, Pembroke, Plymouth, Plympton, Rochester, Rockland, Scituate, Wareham, West Bridgewater.
2. Cities that received a *Post* cane: Brockton 1
3. Towns that did not receive a *Post* cane: Whitman 1
4. Towns that give out the original *Post* cane: 10
 Bridgewater, Carver, Hanover, Kingston, Marion, Mattapoisett, Plympton, Rochester, Scituate, Wareham.
5. Towns that retired or store the *Post* cane: 5
 Abington, Duxbury, Lakeville, Norwell, Pembroke.
6. Towns that present and return cane or give a form of replica of the *Post* cane: 0
7. Cities that have a missing *Post* cane: Brockton 1
8. Towns that have a missing *Post* cane: 10
 East Bridgewater, Halifax, Hanson, Hingham, Hull, Marshfield, Middleboro, Plymouth, Rockland, West Bridgewater.
9. Towns that have their original *Post* cane: 15
 Abington, Bridgewater, Carver, Duxury, Hanover, Kingston, Lakeville, Marion, Mattapoisett, Norwell, Pembroke, Plympton, Rochester, Scituate, Wareham.

Summary Suffolk County

Boston in 1996 is comprised of many neighborhoods:

Allston/Brighton, Back Bay/Beacon Hill, Central, Charlestown, Chinatown, North Dorchester, South Dorchester, East Boston, Fenway/Kenmore, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, Roslindale, Roxbury, South Boston, South End, West Roxbury.

In 1909, Suffolk County had two cities, Boston and Chelsea, and two towns, Revere and Winthrop.

1. Towns that received a *Post* cane: 2
Revere and Winthrop.
2. Towns that did not receive a *Post* cane: 0
3. Towns that have their original *Post* cane: 0
4. Towns that have a missing *Post* cane: 2

Revere and Winthrop.

Summary Worcester County

In 1909, Worcester County had 59 towns and two cities, Fitchburg and Worcester.

1. Towns that received a *Post* cane: 54
Ashburnham, Athol, Auburn, Barre, Berlin, Blackstone, Bolton, Boylston, Brookfield, Charlton, Clinton, Dana, Douglas, Dudley, Gardner, Grafton, Hardwick, Harvard, Holden, Hopedale, Hubbardston, Lancaster, Leicester, Leominster, Lunenburg, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, New Braintree, Northboro, Northbridge, Oakham, Oxford, Petersham, Phillipston, Princeton, Royalston, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Southboro, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge, Sutton, Templeton, Upton, Uxbridge, Warren, Webster, Westboro, West Boylston, West Brookfield, Westminster, Winchendon.
2. Towns not known if they received a *Post* cane: 2
Greenwich, Prescott.
3. Towns that did not receive a *Post* cane: 3
Paxton, Sterling, North Brookfield.
4. Towns that give out the original *Post* cane: 12
Ashburnham, Auburn, Brookfield, Hardwick, Lunenburg, Oakham, Petersham, Princeton, Royalston, Southboro, Westboro, Winchendon.
5. Towns that retired or store the *Post* Cane: 9
Athol, Lancaster, Shrewsbury, Spencer, Sturbridge, Templeton, Upton, Webster, West Brookfield.
6. Towns that present and return cane or give a form of replica of the *Post* cane: 13
Barre, Berlin, Boylston, Clinton, Harvard, Holden, Hubbardston, Millbury, Northboro, Rutland, Sutton, Uxbridge, West Boylston.

7. Towns that have a missing *Post* cane: 20

Blackstone, Bolton, Charlton, Dana, Douglas, Dudley, Gardner, Grafton, Hopedale, Leicester, Leominster, Mendon, Milford, New Braintree, Northbridge, Oxford, Phillipston, Southbridge, Warren, Westminster.

8. Town that has a missing *Post* cane and obtained a duplicate original *Post* cane: 1

Blackstone.

9. Towns that still have their original *Post* cane: 34

Ashburnham, Athol, Auburn, Barre, Berlin, Boylston, Brookfield, Clinton, Hardwick, Harvard, Holden, Hubbardston, Lancaster, Lunenburg, Millbury, Northboro, Oakham, Petersham, Princeton, Royalston, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Southboro, Spencer, Sturbridge, Sutton, Templeton, Upton, Uxbridge, Webster, Westboro, West Boylston, West Brookfield, Winchendon.

Index

- Abington, 129, 168, 183
 Achusnet, 47, 167, 174
 Acton, 97, 180
 Adams, 39, 173
 Adams, John, 150-1
 "A Ford a Day Given Away,"
 16
 Agawam, 81, 169, 178
 Alford, 39, 173
 A. L. Jones cane, 90
 Allen, Lloyd E., 50
 Alley, Nathaniel W., 104
American Magazine, 12, 21
 Amesbury, 57, 59, 169, 176
 Amherst, 89, 169, 179
 Anderson, Capt. Alexander, 138
 Andover, 59, 176
Andover Townsman, 59
 Arlington, 97, 180
 Ashburnham, 143, 145, 185-6
 Ashby, 97, 180
 Ashcraft, David, 79
 Ashfield, 71, 177
 Ashland, 97-8, 180
Ashland Advertiser, 103
 Assonet (see Freetown)
 Athol, 145, 185-6
Athol Transcript, 145
 Attleboro, 47, 169, 174
Attleboro Sun, 127
 Auburn, 145, 185-6
 Avon, 117, 182
 Ayer, 98, 180
 B
 Bagnell, Richard W., 137
 Baker, Isaiah F., 38
 Baker, John W., 36, 167
 Barker, Daniel, F101-2
 Barnstable, 33, 168, 172
 Barnstable County, 32-38, 172
 Barre, 145-6, 185-6
 Bates, Alanson, 117
 Becket, 41, 173
 Bedford, 99, 180
 Belchertown, 89-90, 179
 Bellingham, 117, 182
 Belmont, 99-100, 180
 Bent, Samuel G., 118-9, 168
 Berkley, 48, 174
 Berkshire County 39-45, 173
Berkshire Evening Eagle, 42, 44
 Berlin, 146-7, 185-6
 Bernardston, 71, 177
 Berwick, Maine, 168
 Bianco, F. Joseph, 30-31
 Billerica, 100, 180
 Billings, Luther, 97
 Bingham, Delucina M., 63, 168
 Bishop, William H., 161-2
 Black, Almon, 103
 Black, Joseph, 59
 Blackstone, 147, 170, 185-6
 Blandford, 81, 178
 Blanding, William W., 52-3
 Blake, Joseph, 59
 Blankenship, Ichabod N., 134
 Bly, Albert, 84
 Bodurtha, Albert 84-5
 Bolton, 147, 185-6
 Bosma cane, 157
Boston Globe, 11
Boston Herald, 12
 Boston University, 11
 Bosworth, James A., 126
 Bourne, 33-4, 172