

# August Brought Agitated News!

By Judy Haynes

*Many surprises are in store for those who browse through the old news clippings in our Mary French Scrapbook collection.*

One item that is particularly attention getting is the following:

August 27, 1896

## A BOYLSTON WEDDING

A Church Wedding With Impressive Services.

*The town of Boylston was agitated this afternoon by the first church wedding which has occurred there for a long time.*

*The happy couple were Calvin H. Andrews of Worcester and Miss M. Esther Reed of Boylston, a graduate of the Clinton High School. Rev. D. E. Burtner performed the ceremony.*

*The best man was Charles Baker of Worcester, and Miss Ethel L. Wilder of Clinton officiated as maid of honor.*

*The bridesmaids were Miss Minnie J. Vance of Boston, Misses Houghton and Greenwood of Ashland, and Miss Fannie P. Walker of Clinton.*

*The ushers – Walter Denny and Arthur Comins of Leicester, and Harry Sinclair and Fred Brigham of Worcester.*

*The bride was attired in white silk and chiffon, and the maid of honor and bridesmaids were dressed in white muslin.*

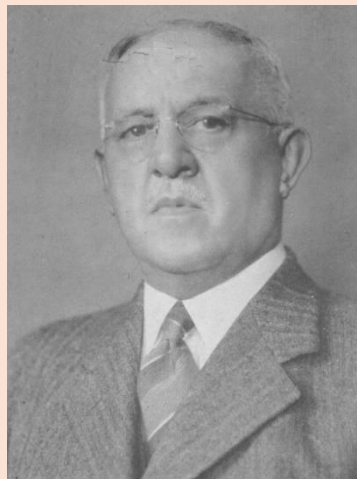
*The church was profusely decorated by Florist Breed of Clinton, with palms and gloxinias, and the scene and service were especially impressive. The cheerful pair took the evening train for a tour among the White Hills of New Hampshire.<sup>1</sup>*

Did you notice the word “**agitated**” in the first line? That got my attention and sent me to the dictionary as I had never seen a happy occasion or wedding described as “agitated.” One tends to think of agitated or agitation with negative connotations.

Current meanings are (1) to disturb or excite; (2) stir up interest or concern and (3) disturb, especially publicly; and to shake or move. Since none of these quite fit with one’s interpretation as to the happy occasion that was being conveyed, let us then review the meaning in a more contemporary light by exploring its definition in the *Worcester’s Dictionary* by Joseph E. Worcester, LL.D. Boston, 1860, one of many texts which can be found in the reference section of the Boylston Historical Society. The move to the 1860 dictionary, was in hopes for a definition more in keeping with nineteenth century language, and one on a happier note.

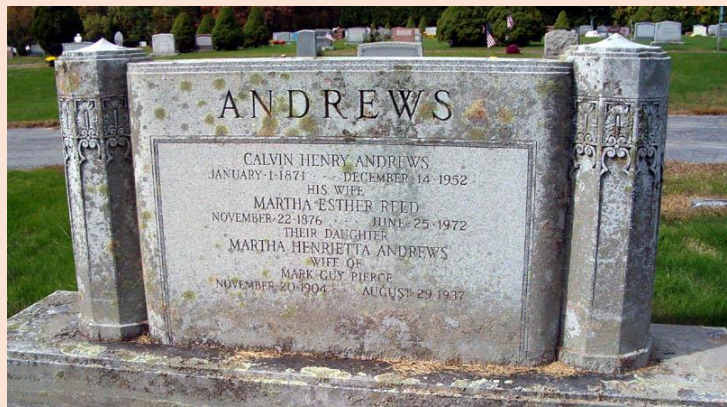
Worcester writes: “*To put in motion by disturbance of equilibrium; to shake and to disturb; stir up; to excite.*” This was not remarkably different. Thus, the only fitting conclusion is that a wedding after many long years “*excited*” the people in a positive way and likely “*stirred up*” the Congregation to fill the church.

Note again- oddly, no name of the church was mentioned in that particular news item. One assumes it was the Boylston Congregational Church as we learn in a 1923 clip that Andrews would become a deacon and on the board of trustees of the Boylston Congregational Church.



**CALVIN H. ANDREWS**  
(1871-1952)  
BHSM Photograph Collection

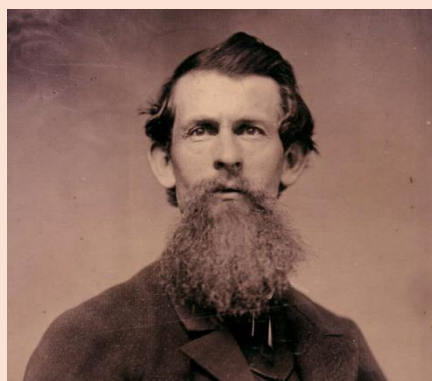
Calvin Henry Andrews would have been 25 years old when he married Martha Esther Reed, as he was born 1 January 1871 to John T. Andrews and Henrietta M. Brigham. He died at age 81 years on 14 December 1952. His gravestone can be seen at Pine Grove Cemetery, Boylston. The Andrews family had lived in the home known as the Hastings brick tavern at 701 Main Street.<sup>2,3</sup>



**GRAVESTONE OF CALVIN & ESTHER ANDREWS**  
Pine Grove Cemetery, Boylston, Massachusetts  
Photograph by Bruce D. Filgate



**HENRIETTA (BRIGHAM) ANDREWS**  
MOTHER OF CALVIN H. ANDREWS  
BHSM Photograph Collection



**JOHN T. ANDREWS**  
FATHER OF CALVIN H. ANDREWS  
BHSM Photograph Collection

<sup>1</sup> Mary French Scrapbook Collection, Worcester Newspaper, Boylston Historical Society

<sup>2</sup> Andrews Gravestone, Pine Grove Cemetery, findagrave.com

<sup>3</sup> Filgate, Bruce D., Boylston Historical Series (2012), Boylston Historical Society, Boylston, Massachusetts

The Worcester Evening Post, Friday, August 24, 1923 newspaper shows Principal Calvin H. Andrews and his Assistant Principal George H. Boyden busy at work on Andrews Boylston Farm raking and unloading hay. Both spent their six weeks of summer unwinding from the stress of the “mental and nervous strain of the schoolroom” by doing farm labor. The fresh air and physical activity recharged their brains for the return to Commerce High School in early September. At that time high school for Boylston teens was completed at one of several Worcester high schools.



(Special to The Post)  
**BOYLSTON, Aug. 24.**—The accompanying cuts show two Worcester educators who have found an ideal way of spending their vacations. On the hayrake is Calvin H. Andrews, principal of the High School of Commerce. On the load of hay is George H. Boyden, assistant to Mr. Andrews.  
 After the mental and nervous strain of the schoolroom, these men go into the hayfield almost immediately after school closes for the summer vacation. For a month or six weeks both may be seen on the Andrews farm any good haying day, raking and loading hay. These men do not work by fits and starts, but they begin in the morning at the regular time and put in a full day, stopping only the usual time for the noonday meal.  
 Messrs. Andrews and Boyden have spent their vacations in the hayfield together for 12 consecutive years. They have been closely associated also in church work for a number of years. Both are members of the board of deacons and also of the board of trustees of the Boylston Congregational Church.  
 After recuperating from the nervous strain of the schoolroom and storing up energy for the coming year, these men are ready to meet the difficult problems always confronting the executives of such a school as that of the High School of Commerce.



Reading these clips can lead one to learn a great deal about one person. From a *Metropolitan Newspaper magazine*, we find the name Calvin H. Andrews again in the news. The magazine showed a baby in a carriage with the question: “Recognize Him?”

The article goes on to describe Principal Calvin H. Andrews of High School of Commerce, the “same young man in the baby carriage.”



According to the article (ca. 1946), Calvin Andrews had been a public-school teacher and executive since 1916, giving 52 years to the Worcester schools. That would indicate he started teaching at about age 22 (ca. 1893) followed by years as an executive (perhaps as principal since 1916). We learn also that he had been a football star at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. The newspaper writer stated that:

*“More boys, probably, have come under his influence than under that of any other high school teacher in New England. He [Andrews] says, “incidentally, of youth today, that it is every bit as good as its forebears. I’m awfully proud, he adds, ‘of our high school boys and girls!’”*

In another post WWII newsclip (date/source unknown) with a photograph of Andrews, it proudly announces that Commerce High “offers eight languages, while a few years ago it “offered five.” “There is no definite explanation for the increase, says Mr. Andrews, “but I think the war had some effect, for people have become more conscious of their nationality. An example is a course in modern—not classical—Greek. The course was inaugurated at the request of the Greek people of Worcester.” “German is less popular than it was a few years ago,” explains Mr. Andrews, “but I don’t think the war has had much to do with this change. Spanish is popular because of the interest in Latin America and its business opportunities. Classes in this language have risen from eight to ten within the year.”

This is just a brief look back through history at one person who played an active role in the lives of the young people of Boylston for many of the late nineteenth and twentieth century years and most of this was gleaned from our newspaper scrapbooks.

Stop by the Historical Society to view the interesting newspaper collection. Perhaps you will find someone you know in those pages.

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 Filgate, Bruce, Boylston Historical Series (2012)