

BOLTON HISTORY GROUP

BOLTON RAILROAD RIOT

"Considerable excitement was aroused in our town, on Friday last, by the sudden requisition of Sheriff, Mr. Ferris, for an armed force, to aid him in the execution of legal process, which had been forcibly resisted by the laborers on the Central Railroad."

-Burlington Free Press, July 10, 1846

Two hundred Irishmen building a difficult stretch of the railroad in Bolton walked off the job on July 3, 1846. After not being paid for three months they had had enough. Angry and frustrated, they blocked local roads and took an officer of the Vermont Central Railroad hostage. Local sheriffs, unable to control the situation and fearful of escalating violence, turned to the state. A militia company and an armed volunteer fire company from Burlington were called in and some of the rioters were arrested. Order was restored only through the intervention of a Burlington Catholic priest, who persuaded the men to disperse and helped free those arrested.

The incident only fueled the fears and reinforced the stereotypical images of these new immigrants held by the Vermont establishment. It was a no-win situation for these men, who were never paid and instead got a bitter taste of how many non-Yankee minorities would be treated by authorities. Irish immigrants continued to move to Vermont to work on the railroad. Other immigrant groups followed—French Canadians, Italians, Scots, Welsh, and Swedes—to work in the mills, quarries, and factories that developed along with the railroads.

Source: Vermont Historical Society, History of Bolton by Gardiner Lane

Do you have any Irish ancestors that may have build the railroad?



B.H.G Events & Info:

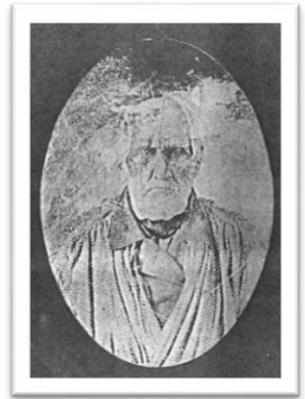
Next gathering: Sat, April 13th @ 11 pm Smilie School Library

Green Up Day BBQ: Sat, May 4th 11am – 3pm

May Gazette Topic: First irrigation system: Bombardier Farm brings farming into new century.

Bolton Spotlight: Augustin Lavake- Born in Quebec

- Served 7 years in Continental Army as French-Canadian Volunteer, Wounded and Discharged December 1785
- 1798 Purchased 70 Acres and then 6 other lots totaling 600 acres on Rt 2 E. Bolton
- Augustin and wife Lucy had 6 children: 4 boys & 2 girls
- First recorded Inn/Tavern keeper in Bolton
- Active in town affairs- one of the first selectman
- Put troops up in his fields during War of 1812.



March Gathering Highlights

We met Saturday 3/9/19 at the Smilie School library to discuss ongoing History group gatherings. In attendance were Russell & Laurie Farnsworth, Lee & Betty Wheelock, and Vicki Congdon. Topic of conversation centered around structured times and locations as well as topics to highlight in the upcoming gatherings as well as the Greenup day event.

We will keep meetings the 2nd Saturday of every month. During the colder months we will continue to use Smilie School library upon approval. Late morning time frame worked for all those in attendance so we will work with a 10/11 o'clock time frame. Once the weather is better, we will be working on cemetery restoration projects.

If there is anyone in the West Bolton community that is willing to host the history Group? I am actively seeking a space to draw in more from that area that may not get down to the East end of town. Your hospitality would be greatly appreciated!

A topic we would like to start is Interviews with town folks who live and/or grew up in Bolton at any point in their life and would allow us to absorb your stories and history.

If there are any member of the community interested please reach out and if you know of a parent, grandparent, neighbor etc. that has Bolton knowledge I would love to speak with them, I am more than happy to visit their residence or another location to speak with them. This would be a wonderful gift for the town and other folks to hear how others lived and grew up here. My email is Bryan.farnsworth00@gmail.com and phone number (802)595-5570.

Thank you all and look forward to more In attendance in April!