

## Historian's Notebook

by George Blanchard

I enjoy looking back to see what it was like a century ago: at the church, in our community, and in the

country. This article will give you an idea what it was like to live in 1909/1910.

### What a difference a century makes!

- The average life expectancy was 47 years.
- Only 14% of the homes had a bathtub.
- Only 8% of the homes had a phone.
- There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads.
- The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
- The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.
- The average wage in 1909 was 22 cents per hour.
- The average worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.
- A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.
- More than 95 percent of all births took place at home.
- Ninety percent of all doctors had NO college education. Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press AND the government as sub-standard.
- Sugar cost four cents a pound.
- Eggs were 14 cents a dozen.
- Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

- Most women washed their hair once a month, and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.
- Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering their country for any reason.
- Five leading causes of death were:
  - 1) Pneumonia and influenza
  - 2) Tuberculosis
  - 3) Diarrhea
  - 4) Heart disease
  - 5) Stroke
- The American flag had 45 stars.
- The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was only 30 (thirty)!
- Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented yet.
- There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.
- Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write and only 6 percent of all Americans graduated from high school.
- Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drug store. Back then pharmacists said, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health."
- Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.
- There were about 230 reported murders in the entire USA.
- One more sad thought; 95% of the taxes we have now did not exist in 1909.

Can you imagine what it may be like in another 100 years or for that matter in 10 or 25 years! (My thanks to Warren Page for providing this information)

The  
**GREEN ROOSTER**  
CoffeeHouse  
Doors open 7:30  
All shows 8:00 p.m.  
508-798-3010



<b>Feb 6</b> <b>\$12</b>	<b>OTTER / RIVER</b> , a benefit for Camp Putnam. It's a combination of bands. Our yearly get-together for listening, singing along and even dancing. See you here!
<b>Feb 27</b> <b>\$12</b>	<b>THE SKY BLUE BOYS</b> (Banjo Dan and Willy Lindner)
<b>Mar 20</b> <b>\$12</b>	<b>SLO GRASS</b>
	<b>Thanks for dropping in!</b> <b>We always need volunteers.</b>

## SECOND SUNDAY


HEALING  
SERVICE



In accord with one of our most ancient of Christian traditions, the

Diaconate would like to offer Healing Services on a regular basis. Immediately following worship on the second Sunday of the month, the pastor and a Deacon will be available to anoint and offer a brief prayer for those of you who would like to receive this healing blessing. It is our desire as pastor and as Deacons to provide for your spiritual needs.

**WIDER CHURCH LUNCHEON  
AND MOVIE  
ON HOMELESSNESS  
"WHERE GOD  
LEFT HIS SHOES"  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21  
12:00 p.m. SMALL PARLOR**

  
**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Mary Dzaugis	2
Curt Berggren	4
Amy Hennig	11
Robert Dik	12
Jan Scott Orczyk	13
Arline Kimball	16
Abbey Beth Kielinen	20
Donna Enberg	23
Margaret Manoogian	28
Judith Quinn	29

## THE FOOD CUPBOARD NEEDS



**CANNED MEATS & FISH  
CANNED BEANS • SOUPS  
MAC & CHEESE • PASTA & SAUCE  
CEREAL • POWDERED MILK  
CANNED FRUITS & VEGGIES  
PEANUT BUTTER**

**BIBLE STUDY**  
**WE MEET ON FRIDAY MORNINGS at**  
**10:00 a.m. IN THE SMALL PARLOR.**



**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

*Dear Members of United, and the  
Wider Church Covenant Ministry,*

*Thank you for your  
generous and thoughtful  
contribution of \$1,100.00 to  
the "Community Ministries  
Fund" at Greater Worcester  
Community Foundation.*



*We are grateful for your gift that  
helps to build a vibrant community.*

*Very truly yours,  
Ann T. Lisi, Executive Director  
Greater Worcester Community  
Foundation*

*We are most grateful for your recent  
gift of \$300.00 to benefit Memorial  
Hospice.*

*We appreciate your generosity.  
Mary C. DeFeudis, Chair  
UMass Medical School/UMass  
Memorial Development Council*

*Thank you for your generous  
donation of \$500.00. Every dollar of  
your donation will be well spent.*

*Again, thank you for your wonderful  
gift and support.*

*Warm regards,  
Joe McKee, Executive Director  
AIDS Project Worcester*

*Thank you so much for your  
donation of \$500.00 in support of  
what the "Yes We Care Homework  
Center" of Belmont A.M. Zion  
Church is trying to accomplish.*

*We appreciate your generous gift.  
Sincerely,  
Staff at the Homework Center*

*Thank you for your donation of  
\$300.00 to our Save Homes Program  
and your vote of confidence in our  
work.*

*Safe Homes is so important to  
GLBT youth, but we couldn't do it  
alone. Donations make it all  
possible, thank you for your support.*

*My very best wishes,  
Tina Hyland, Director of  
Resource Development  
Safe Homes*

*We want to take this opportunity to  
thank you for the generous gifts you've  
made to Cottage Hill Academy.*

*The girls at Cottage Hill are so very  
grateful for the hope and healing that  
takes place...all made possible by your  
thoughtful support.*

*Thank you again for your generosity.  
Cottage Hill Academy  
Baldwinville, Mass.  
(www.youinc.org)*

**If you wake up Sunday morning, and  
it is snowing, be assured that  
Church will still be held. We will  
not cancel worship, but we urge  
you to use discretion for your  
own safety.**

