

History of common watering trough

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George T. Day spent 8½ days on the case, going to visit Lawyer F.T. Blackmer in Worcester and twice to Groton. His train fare was \$23.60 and his personal compensation was \$17. The lawyer received \$25. Remember, all this was a century ago.

The Union Society (Congregational Church) received \$7.50 for the "use of the bell" that hung in its tower. This fee was paid in alternate years with the First parish Church across the Common. It was customary to toll the bell upon the death of a resident or in case of a fire.

The local undertaker was

Albert P. Richardson who lived on Main St., just below Leland St. Inasmuch as the town supplied the horse drawn hearse, Richardson was paid \$34.50 "for attending 23 funerals with hearse." Incidentally, most of the Center kids in the winter slid down "Richardson Hill" by his house.

Speaking of the wintertime, John A. "Jack" Healy, the squire of the Graniteville section of town, received \$8 for damage to his sleigh. No police record on that accident!

The town hall, built in 1870, needed a new furnace.. total

cost, \$193.94. Also a new fence around three sides of the building which included posts for horse ties. This item was \$52 and there were ten persons involved in this project. Broken kerosene lamp chimneys was always a big item each month, plus matches, kerosene and wicks. Electricity didn't come to town until 1911.

The salary of Isaac E. Day was 9 mills on the dollar. He collected \$12,684.03 for the year, so his pay was \$114.15. My new adding machine proves the amount to be correct.

Gordon Seavey is the retired owner/publisher of the Belmont Citizen who is an avid local historian.