



Bygone Bennington on WBTN-AM 1370

 Search this site

Link to WBTN-AM

[WBTN-AM 1370](#)

Recent Programs

[Home](#)

[No. 97: Main Street Fire](#)

[No. 96: Frederick D. Burt](#)

[No. 95: Harold Frotten
Murder--Part 4](#)

[No. 94: Harold Frotten--Part 3](#)

[No. 93: Harold Frotten
Murder--Part 2](#)

[No 92: Harold Frotten
Murder--Part 1](#)

[No. 91: Plane Crash \(1945\)](#)

[No. 89: Fairdale Farms, Inc.](#)

[No. 88: Fillmore Farms, Inc.](#)

[No. 87: Eclipse \(1806\)](#)

[No. 86: William H. Wills](#)

[No. 85: The Day Will Rogers
Came to Bennington](#)

[No 84: Chet Wadsworth's Dog
Buck](#)

[No. 83: Bennington People](#)

[No. 82: Banner Bits & Pieces](#)

[No: 81: New Catholic Church](#)

[No. 80: Bank Robberies](#)

Previous Programs

[No. 2 - 20](#)

[No. 21-40](#)

[No. 41-60](#)

[No. 60-80](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Home](#) >

No. 26: Granite Fountain

BYGONE BENNINGTON
ON WBTN AM 1370
Number 26

Hello folks: This is Joe Hall and you are listing to "Bygone Bennington" on WBTN AM 1370.

Perhaps you have noticed, there is a granite fountain in Old Bennington in the community green, between the streets, at the junction of Monument Avenue and Route 9.

In 1907, when the horse was the local transportation of choice and the automobile was still only a toy, it was important to have various places in town for horses to get a drink. The fountain is a horse watering trough. It is over six feet tall from top to bottom; the horse trough is circular and is four feet off the ground. The designer was also thinking of man's best friend, the dog, as there are two hollowed out places, just above the ground, which is designed to have running water, where a thirsty dog could get a clear, cool drink. There is a bronze plaque on the fountain, which reads; "1906, Presented by the National Humane Alliance, Herman Lee Ensign, Founder."

On the National Humane Alliance watering trough web site, it states that Mr. Ensign left his fortune to the Humane Alliance. The watering trough was mass-produced in Maine. The web site states that they have found 70 of these fountains scattered across the U.S.

The Bennington Evening Banner of August 29, 1907 tells about its installation in Bennington Centre. Most of the article is about Mr. Ensign. It does mention the gift was secured for Bennington by Mrs. H.S. Bingham, however, it is not clear who paid for the gift.

Mrs. Fannie L. Bingham was wife of Henry Stephen Bingham who owned and operated the Bennington Paper Box Factory at 709 Main Street, now the site of Stewart's Shop. Mr. & Mrs. Bingham lived in a house, when it was on the corner of Hillside and Silver Street, which is now on Silver, just above the Christian Science Church. In the 1930s, I believe it was 1935, the house was moved up Silver Street to make room for the Christian Science Church.

Fannie Loring Bingham was born in Bennington in



The Bingham home when it was on the corner of Silver & Hillside Streets. Now the site of the Christian Science Church. The house was moved & is now just up Silver Street from the Christian Science Church. Photo from Bennington Souvenir 1904



On the right; The Bennington Paper Box Factory, now the site of Stewart's Shop on East Main Street, Bennington.

1849 to Mr. & Mrs. Joseph H. Loring. Mr. Loring was the owner and proprietor of the J.H. Loring & Company. They were dealers in coal and operated a livery stable; later the business became Henry W. Tuttle Company, which now is the site of the empty lot on the north side of Depot Street.

Fannie Theresa Loring married Henry S. Bingham on January 3, 1873 and they lived in Bennington until about 1909, when they moved to Greenfield, Massachusetts, due to failing health, to be with their daughter. They had two children, Loring Dewey Bingham, who died at a very young age and Ella A. Bingham.

Fannie Bingham died in Greenfield on December 15, 1922. Her obituary speaks of her as being "of strong character and executive ability and took a leading part in Bennington activities of many kinds."

You have been listening to BYGONE BENNINGTON on WBTN AM 1370.



RESIDENCE OF
Bingham

The Bingham home when it was on the corner of Silver & Hillside Streets. Now the site of the Christian Science Church. The house was moved & is now just up Silver Street from the Christian Science Church. Photo from Bennington Souvenir 1904



National Humane Alliance horse watering trough on Monument Ave. in Old Bennington. Circa 1907. Frederick D. Burt photograph

Comments

You do not have permission to add comments.