

After 100 years, Post Cane retired

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LYNDEBOROUGH – Historical Society President Helen vanHam presented the Board of Selectmen with a replica of the Boston Post cane during their regular meeting Wednesday, April 15.

The selectmen said a display case will be made for the original cane.

The cane was presented to the town in May 1909 by the former Boston Post, part of an advertising program to increase the newspaper's circulation. How many canes were distributed is not known, since many of the Post's records have been lost.



The heads of Lyndeborough's original Boston Post Cane, right, and the replica cane presented to selectmen last week.



Lyndeborough Historical Society President Helen Van Ham, left, joined by Historical Society member Jessie Salisbury, presents the new Boston Post cane to Selectmen Lorraine Strube and Arnie Byam last week.

Lyndeborough's cane was first presented to Daniel B. Whittemore, who was 90 in August 1909. A list of all cane holders is being compiled and will be posted with the original cane.

Society member Bob Rogers suggested the original cane be used in presentation ceremonies, and the replica be left with the recipient. Selectwoman Lorraine Strube agreed "that would be a nice idea."

When the Historical Society decided to provide the replica cane as this year's project, members noted, "If you lose the replica, you are out a hundred dollars, but if you lose the original, it is gone forever."

Members said the 100th anniversary was an appropriate time to retire the original cane.

Selectmen said they will now determine who the next holder should be, having narrowed the list to two or three people.