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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HISTORIC U.S. ROUTE 20 ASSOCIATION

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Vol I No 1

Spring 2013

Welcome to our Inaugural Newsletter!



A Sign Marking Historic U.S. Route 20, located in Sudbury, MA

Welcome to the Historic US Route 20 Association. Whether you have an interest in local history, traveling, road history, preservation or promoting small local businesses, the Route 20 Association was created to do all of this. Since our inception in

September 2012, we have been able to meet some great people and organizations along Route 20. Many have been very warm and happy to see such an organization come along.

US Route 20 is one of the last great highways that you can still drive in its entirety that has not been lost to his-

tory or rerouted to the interstates. When one thinks of the traditional American highway, Route 66 is probably the first thing to come to mind. But in fact Route 20 is the longest intact highway in the country, Even now, US 20 meanders through small town America, just as it did in 1926 right here in our own backyards, yet Route 20 has always played second fiddle to other highways. As a result there is very little to identify, promote and preserve its significance, until now!

We hope you will join us on our journey across America's longest highway and find out what makes Route 20 such an incredible place in American history.

Our Mission & Goal

The mission of the Historic US Route 20 Association is to identify & preserve the cultural importance of, and to promote the economic development of inner cities, small towns and rural communities along all 3,365 miles and former alignments of US Route 20. Our mission will be delivered through promotion, preservation and education & carried out by

means of, but not limited to, fundraising, seeking out and/or providing grants, community development programs, books, writings, speeches, visiting and working with other nonprofit organizations and working directly with the local town organizations to bring awareness of and connect what US Route 20 has in common with respect to their

locations. Our vision is to be a national association with branch organizations in each of the 12 States in which US 20 travels through. We hope to place historical signage in accordance with local laws, promoting and preserving the highway, and to organize events that tie in the unique cultural and historical heritage US Route 20 has within the community.

Upcoming Events

- ANNUAL MEETING (TBD)
- CHESTER ON TRACK (MAY 18)
- FUNDRAISER (MAY-JUNE)
- CROSS COUNTRY EVENT (JUNE)
- ROUTE 20 CAR RUN (SEPT)
- WESTON (MA) 300 ANNIVERSARY EVENT (FALL)
- WAYLAND (MA) 350 ANNIVERSARY EVENT (WINTER)

VIEW OUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT HISTORICUS20.COM

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www.historicus20.com

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR STORIES, ITEMS, ARTIFACTS AND PHOTOS THAT RELATE TO THE GREAT HISTORY OF US ROUTE 20. CONTACT US!



Bryan Farr, Holding one of our many state-specific signs!

WHAT STARTED OUT AS A LONG-RANGE PLAN, QUICKLY TURNED INTO A SPONTANEOUS TRIP ACROSS THE UNITED STATES AND ALL OF IT ON US 20. –BRYAN FARR

Meet our President, Director, and Founder

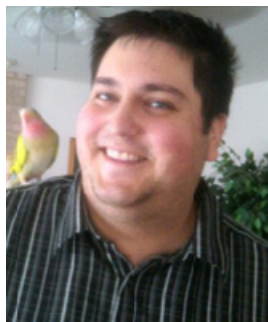
Bryan had a love for history early on, always eager to seek out new old facts and interesting stories in ways most people would glance right over. It is no wonder that over the years his love for this became focused on a highway. He grew up knowing Route 20 as the road that went from north of his grandparents cottage on Cayuga Lake, in New York's Finger Lakes region, to Darien Lake, where his family would make an annual pilgrimage every summer. It was one summer day in 1997 that Bryan took a borrowed camera and embarked on his first "road trip". Although it was just around the north part of Cayuga Lake, a passion for photography and road trips was born and Route 20 was a part of his first experience. The road trips grew over the years to include all eleven Finger Lakes, and eventually Bryan ended up traveling through all of New England and parts of Atlantic Canada before moving to the Boston

area in 2004. Here he learned, by driving back and forth from his hometown to Boston, Route 20 serpented the interstates and ended in Boston. It became a dream and goal to one day travel this highway in its entirety, but it seemed like many years in the making.

In the late spring of 2010, fate would play an interesting role in directing Bryan to Route 20. What started out as a long-range plan, quickly turned into a spontaneous trip across the United States and all of it on US 20. The trip was completed in 14 days and over 1800 pictures were taken. The entire journey was documented in a blog that can be viewed at: route20guy.livejournal.com The mission after the trip was to publish his photos into a coffee table book; but after a lot of planning and organizing, this mission grew exponentially into the project you see before you and the Historic US Route 20 Association was formed. Not only

was Route 20 a hobby or a photo project. It became a significant part of Bryan's life.

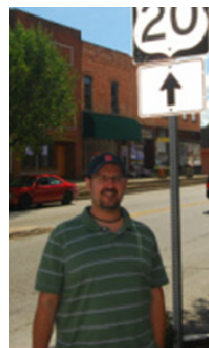
Bryan is a meteorologist by trade, and graduated from the University of North Carolina - Asheville. He has worked on TV, and in the private sector including the famous Mt. Washington Observatory. When not traveling on Route 20; Bryan enjoys the weather, hurricanes, wineries, home improvement projects, visiting the National Parks in the US and escaping to Vermont for a little RnR.



Bradley Schaaf
Vice President, General Manager



Jason Beckerman
Vice President, Director of Education



Jim Gaydos
Treasurer



Seth Cavello
Secretary



THANK YOU!! To all the individual who gave to us on our Kickstarter campaign this past summer!

Educational Programs and Outreach

We are continuing to develop several programs to offer to the community. If your group or organization would like us to come speak and offer a presentation on Historic US Route 20, please contact us. Our programs presently consist of the following:

- . US Route 20 in Massachusetts - A Historical Overview
- . US Route 20 across the US - A Historical Overview : Detailing all of US Route 20



from Boston to Newport.
 . How Historic US Route 20 can Benefit Your Community - Our community development program, designed for business and town leaders, Chambers of Commerce.
 . Traveling Route 20 - How to accomplish the Great American Road Trip

We can also customize a program for your town or group! At this time we are only presenting in Massachusetts. As we grow, we expect to offer these presentations across the US. We will have a calendar for future events and dates.

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR SINCEREST THANKS TO THE ROUTE 6 TOURIST ASSOCIATION FOR ALL THEIR HELP & GUIDANCE IN GETTING US STARTED!

WWW.ROUTE6TOUR.COM



The Eastern terminus of Jacob's Ladder

Featured Partner: Jacobs Ladder Trail

In November, 2012, the Historic US Route 20 Association met with the Jacobs Ladder Trail Assoc. (JLT), at their meeting in Becket, MA. Jacobs Ladder was originally a steep, treacherous straight line route over Becket Mountain, and was typically advised by many to be avoided when traveling between Springfield and Albany. The first completed over a mountain-ridge highway in the country opened in September 1910 to the automobile, with

over 2,000 people in attendance at the summit. With more people being able to afford the new Model T, the new and improved highway from Lee to Huntington proved to be quite successful in connecting east coast travelers to the west. The route was widened and improved through the Depression era and the towns along the Jacobs Ladder thrived with

various mills and industry. The advent of the interstate highways brought a rapid demise to these towns. The new JLT aims to enhance, preserve and interpret unique qualities that lie along this route.

We are happy to work with and be a part of this organization who have done much over the last 20 years to promote their section of Route 20.

Historical Short—Boston Post Road

The Route which would become US 20 started in the 1630s from a Native American trail which the early Massachusetts Bay settlers would take inland over time, first reaching Watertown to Worcester. By 1673, the first post rider delivered mail from New York to Boston on this route. In the 1740s, Benjamin Franklin declared that

measured mile markers be placed on the road to ensure accurate postage rates be paid. The route was traveled by Generals Washington & Knox during the Revolution. The road would carry stage coaches and become the primary route between Albany & Boston with many Inns and Taverns operating along its path.



People & Places

Since our inception we have met with the following:

- Weston Historical Society
- Northborough Historical Society
- Lenox Library Association
- Berkshire County Historical Society
- AAOSHO
- Watertown Library
- Weston Public Library
- Chester Railway Station
- James Garfield National Historic Site
- Route 20 Association of NY
- Jacobs Ladder Trail Association
- Wayland Historical Society





The Historic US Route 20 Association
16 Congress St
Lynn, MA 01904

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

As a private, nonprofit institution, membership is what drives the Historic US Route 20 Association to success on its mission to preserve and promote the many great sites along US Route 20. I wish to become a:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student / Senior Member \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Member \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Twenty Member \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Non Profit Member \$ n/c |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3365 Member \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Sponsor \$ ____ |

You may apply online or check by mail:

Name(s) Non Profit ID #

Address

City, State, Zip

E-mail (optional– needed for electronic newsletter distribution)

The Historic US Route 20 Association
16 Congress St
Lynn, MA 01904
www.historicus20.com/membership

Upon receipt of your membership dues, you will receive your membership benefits package. Membership dues are valid for one year upon receipt.

Business, Non Profit and Corporate Members Please View our Web Page for more details.

I prefer a PAPER or ELECTRONIC Newsletter

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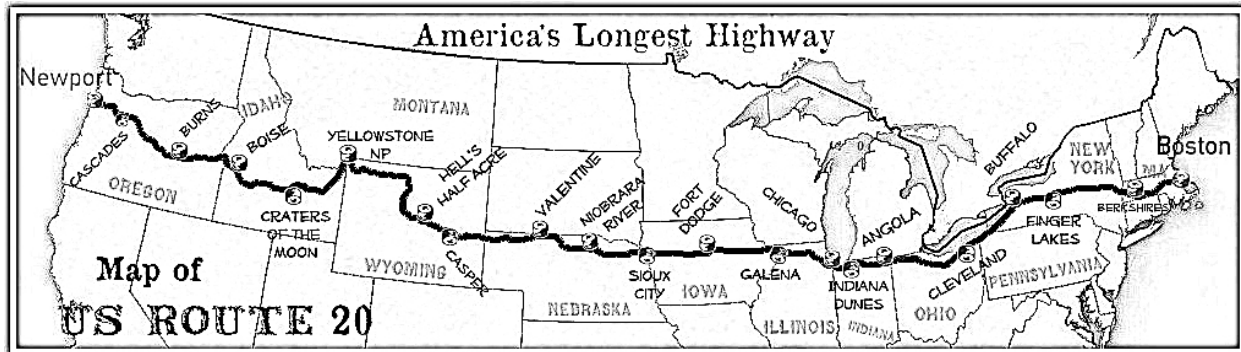
www.historicus20.com

HISTORIC US ROUTE 20

Vol 1 No 1

A Supplement to the Historic US Route 20 Association Newsletter

Spring 2013



A Brief History of US Route 20 Part I By: Bryan Farr

There are many pre-histories to the formation of US Route 20 and we hope to cover many of them over time. In this article we will focus on the official Federal Highway known as US 20.

The Federal Highway Acts of 1916 and 1921 allowed for federal monies to go directly to the States for the improvement and building of highways. As most roads at this time were dirt, these acts were greatly welcomed.

The 1921 Act required the identification of important road ways that could be used in the event of war. With this, various states began different methods of marking their highways. Some with painted colors on telephone poles, others with elaborate signs while in New England, important routes were assigned numbers.

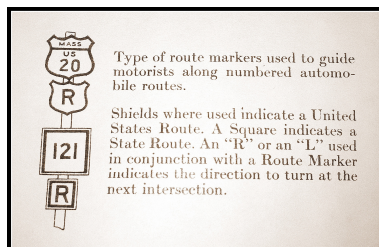
It was the New England System that inspired The Joint Board on State Highway Officials to develop a uniform nationwide highway numbering system

The Board first met on April 20-21, 1925 and agreed to create a group of highways, that would be known as United States Highways. The board designated that groups of regional public works

and highway officials would meet in May and June to designate which roads, already in existence, should become US Highways.

The roads that would become US Route 20 in Massachusetts were officially identified at the Boston meeting on June 15, 1925. Other regions met as follows: Western - May 15, Great Lakes - June 3, Mid Atlantic—May 15.

The Joint Board on Interstate Highways convened again after each region had selected their roads to adopt, connect, number and map out the routes which had been chosen. The first day of meetings on August 3, 1925 was a preliminary review session. The second day saw the adoption of the US Route Shield. This shield was modeled after the shield of the United States.



On August 5, 50,000 miles of highway were selected to become US Highways, be numbered and signed with the uniform markers picked the previous day.

It was decided that the final numbering system would be delegated to sub-committees and voted upon at a later date

On November 18, 1925, the Joint Board issued its approval of the complete preliminary United States Highway System. The states could still make suggestions or ask for any changes until a final approval would be ready the following year.

Most of what was designated as Route 20 did not face any issues. The only area of concern was voiced by Oregon. As Route 20 was to run to Astoria via Yellowstone National Park, Oregon felt that since these roads were in poor condition and closed during the winter months, direct travel could not occur and Oregon would be left without a direct cross country route. Therefore, Route 20 was truncated to the eastern entrance to Yellowstone NP and US 30 was moved to connect to Astoria.

On November 11, 1926, the American Association of State Highway Officials approved the final map drawn of the US Highway system—its official birth.

Route 20 would begin at the State House in Boston, MA and continue to Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. - To Be Continued

Shop the Historic **US ROUTE 20** Store

Support the Organization by purchasing these great gift items!
Order by phone, mail or visit www.historicUS20.com/Store

All proceeds benefit the Historic US Route 20 Association



THE OFFICIAL HISTORIC US ROUTE 20 BUMPER STICKER

A vinyl white 3" bumper sticker, with a Historic US 20 logo and website. Place on your back window, laptop or anywhere else a bumper sticker can be placed.

\$ 2.75

THE OFFICIAL HISTORIC US **\$ 20** ROUTE 20 T-SHIRT

A heavy weight T-shirt, printed in the USA, (Maine). Shows the current route across the United States with the original 1926 Route shield. BLUE S, M, L, XL, 2X



OFFICIAL HISTORIC US ROUTE 20 ROAD SIGN

A metal highway grade road sign. Historic Brown color. Perfect for your collection of road sign memorabilia.

Help designate an official section of Historic US Route 20!!

Forget about that other American highway—this sign looks great in Bars, Diners, Drive Ins, Museums, etc!

Available in two (2) sizes, official size (36x24) and half size (18x12).

You can specify state name.

We ask that you order this from our website for more details.

Please allow 3-6 weeks for delivery.

Shipping charges apply for this item.

\$ 25-90*

This sign is also available to towns & organizations for official highway signage. Also available for private road use. Please contact the Historic US Route 20 Assoc for more details. All signs ordered by towns and organizations are considered donations.

Phone: (617) 733-5796 Mail: Historic US Route 20 16 Congress St Lynn, MA 01904