



Boston's North End January 15, 1919

“The sight that greeted the first of the rescuers on the scene is almost indescribable in words. Molasses, waist deep, covered the street and swirled and bubbled about the wreckage. Here and there struggled a form — whether it was animal or human being impossible to tell. Only an upheaval, a thrashing about in the sticky mass, showed where any life was... Horses died like so many flies on sticky fly paper. The more they struggled, the deeper in the mess they were ensnared. Human beings — men and women — suffered likewise.” — Boston Post

Photo: By Leslie Jones, courtesy of Boston Public Library

There are many resources about this period of time in Boston's history that you may also want to look at. A brief bibliography is below. These items, and many others, may be requested through the Minuteman Library Network.

- *Boston's Immigrants 1840-1925* by Michael Price and Anthony Sammarco
- *Danger, Disaster and Horrid Deeds: Thrills, Chills, and Outrageous Crimes from the Pages of Yankee Magazine (904 Danger)*
- *Epidemic and Peace, 1918* by Alfred W. Crosby
- *The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History* by John M. Barry (Print and CD: 614.518 Barry)
- *Images of Boston: Boston's North End* by Anthony Sammarco
- *Pandemic 1918: Eyewitness Accounts from the Greatest Medical Holocaust in Modern History* by Catharine Arnold (614.518 Arnold)
- *Sacco and Vanzetti: The Case Resolved* by Francis Russell (345.73 Russell)
- *Sacco and Vanzetti: The Men, the Murders, and the Judgment of Mankind* by Bruce Watson (345.73 Watson)
- *September 1918: War, Plague, and the World Series* by Skip Desjardin (973.461 Desjardin)

DVD

- *Sacco and Vanzetti: Directed by Peter Miller* (DVD 345.73 Sacco)

Databases

- Boston Globe
- Historic Boston Globe
- Academic OneFile

Website: Famous Trials

law2.umkc.edu/Faculty/projects/ftrials/ftrials.htm

Web's largest collection of primary documents and original materials pertaining to historic trials.

Explore the history of the 1919 Boston Molasses Flood with books for all ages



Dark Tide: The Great Boston Molasses Flood of 1919

By Stephen Puleo

Joshua's Song

By Joan Hiatt Harlow

Molasses Flood

By Blair Lent

WESTWOOD READS

2019


Westwood Public Library


Westwood Public Library

660 High Street
Westwood, MA 02090
781-326-1045
www.westwoodlibrary.org

About the Author...



Mr. Stephen Puleo, author, historian, awarding-winning newspaper reporter, and communications professional has made more than 500 public appearances since *Dark Tide* was published in 2003. He has written

five other narrative nonfiction books and has a new book scheduled to be published in spring 2020.

Other published works are:

- *American Treasures: the Secret Efforts to Save the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Gettysburg Address* (2016)
- *The Caning : the Assault that Drove America to Civil War* (2012)
- *A City So Grand : The Rise of an American Metropolis, Boston 1850—1900* (2010)
- *The Boston Italians* (2007)
- *Due to Enemy Action* (2005)

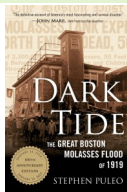
Stephen Puleo holds a master's degree in history from UMass-Boston and has taught history at Suffolk University in Boston. Stephen and his wife Kate, who live south of Boston, donate a portion of his book proceeds to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF).

Dark Tide was selected by the Boston Authors Club as a finalist for its prestigious Julia Ward Howe Award for literary merit.

In 2003, the Associated Press included

Dark Tide in its "round up" selection of

books; a recommendation that appeared in more than 80 newspapers nationwide. More than 20 communities have selected Mr. Puleo's books as town-wide reading programs, and *Dark Tide* has been selected for reading and discussion by scores of bookclubs. An updated 100th anniversary edition will be published in January 2019.



Westwood Reads 2019 Library Events

Events will be held in the Community Meeting Room at the Westwood Public Library

Friday, January 25th at 1:30 PM Author Stephen Puleo will present an illustrated lecture about his book, *Dark Tide: The Great Molasses Flood of 1919*. Copies of the 100th Anniversary Edition of *Dark Tide*, which Mr. Puleo will autograph, will be available for purchase. This lecture is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Friends of the Westwood Council on Aging and is free and open to the public. No registration is required and all are welcome.

Tuesday, January 29th at 7:00 PM **What Caused the Molasses Tank to Fail?** Dr. Ronald Mayville, a Senior Principal structural and metallurgical engineer with Simpson, Gumpertz & Heger in Waltham has spent many years researching the causes that led to the collapse of the steel storage tank. He will share some of his insights into why the tank failed and lessons learned from this tragic disaster. No registration is required and all are welcome.

Wednesday, January 30th at 7:00 PM **Boston in 1919—Molasses and Politics.** Dr. Gary Hylander will present an illustrated lecture focusing on events that were taking place in and around Boston at the time of the Molasses Flood in January 1919. Dr. Hylander earned his PhD at Boston College, and is currently an independent scholar who specializes as a presidential historian, pedagogical specialist for the NEH, and has been a professor of history at Framingham State University and Stonehill College. He is a frequent presenter at library forums, historical societies, senior living centers, civic and professional organizations, as well as a public affairs commentator on local cable news and radio. No registration is required and all are welcome.

DATE TBD (April or June 2019) Walking Tour of the North End, site of the great molasses flood tragedy, with author Stephen Puleo. Participants will meet at the North End Branch of the Boston Public Library (located at 25 Parmenter Street, Boston, MA) to begin this 90 minute walking tour. Additional information will be provided once a firm date has been set. Pre-registration will be required for this event. For further information please contact Tricia Perry, Library Director at 781-320-1041. Note: Tour will be limited to 50 participants.

Special thanks to the Friends of the Westwood Public Library for their generous and continuing support of Westwood Reads and so many other library programs! Bibi's Café and Bakery will be providing special molasses-based treats for each evening program!

