

For over a century, it has been the practice to designate the oldest resident in hundreds of New England towns as the holder of the Boston Post Cane. The publisher of The Boston Post newspaper, Edwin Grozier, started this practice in 1909 as an advertising promotion. He gave out 700 canes to towns (not cities) in NH, ME, MA and RI to be held by the oldest resident while they lived. Until 1930 they went to the oldest male resident. The newspaper went out of business in 1956 but some towns keep the tradition alive.

The canes were crafted by J. F. Fradley Co., using African ebony, with a 14 karat gold head and a ferrule at the tip. The head is engraved as "presented by The Boston Post to the oldest citizen of (name of town) to be transmitted." For many years, towns actually loaned their cane but that led to the loss of canes over the years. Now it is typical to keep the cane on display and present a proclamation.

At the main entrance to the New Castle Town Hall, on the immediate right-hand wall, is a case which holds the cane and information about all known honorees.