



Fall 2016

THE ANNISQUAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

34 Leonard St
Annisquam MA 01930
978-381-3141

Visit the Museum

The Firehouse will be closed to the public for the winter between October 15 and May 13, except by Appointment.

Contact:

avhistorical@gmail.com or
978-381-3141.

Admission

Admission is free but donations are gratefully accepted.



Unspoiled Forever

Most of this article is taken from a letter written in 1953 to the people of Annisquam from Henry Worcester, Alden French, and Brooks Stevens, Jr.

A brief history of the Squam Rock Land Trust by David McAweeney

In 1935 the property including Bent's Pasture and Lighthouse Beach was owned by Mr. Quincy Bent, a summer resident of Annisquam. This was at the peak of the Great Depression, and he decided he wanted to dispose of the property. He was considering offering it to the City of Gloucester as a public park.

Some Annisquam residents heard of this and felt that such a park would reduce the value of Annisquam property and spoil the rare charm of this unusually beautiful area. A group of three men, Mr. Henry Worcester, Mr. Arthur Wiggin, and Mr. Adolph Leeds, purchased the whole property of twelve acres from Mr. Bent. They set up the Squam Rock Land Trust in which the title was vested.

It was expected that many of those who were concerned about a possible public park would purchase shares in the Trust but unfortunately this interest disappeared. In 1949 Mr. Leeds, no longer wishing to be a shareholder, sold his interest to Mr. Worcester and Mr. Wiggin. In the fall of 1952, Mr. Wiggin felt he wished to dispose of his shares also.

A group from Squam Rock and Adams Hill Roads had meetings to try to find means of preserving the area and various plans were discussed. Since most of this group happened to be summer residents it was difficult to get any decisions during the winter months. As a temporary solution, Brooks Stevens, Jr. bought Mr. Wiggin's shares so that Mr. Wiggin could retire. That allowed decisions to be postponed until summer when all Annisquam residents could be involved.

Mr. Stevens, in buying, believed that conditions had changed since 1935, and that many people in 1953 would be willing to purchase shares and participate in the ownership and responsibilities. There was little seashore property left, especially with a good beach attached, and in this case there was a land court title going to mean low water. Already offers had been made by real estate developers, and the completion of the new Route 128 was expected to put more pressure on the Annisquam area.

There were many meetings in the summer of 1953 where various alternatives were discussed. At a very-well attended meeting of the Village Hall Association on Sunday night, August 16, 1953, the overwhelming majority voted to leave the higher land, the blueberry pasture, and Squam Rock itself, undeveloped. It was felt that Annisquam residents could reach the beach on foot without undue hardship. The costs of ownership, annual taxes and costs were to be widely shared among residents and others interested in Annisquam.

The cost to the original purchasers of the Trust property in 1935 was \$10,000. To that \$8000 was added for taxes paid over the nineteen years since the purchase. These share holders split their shares so that there would be approximately 180 shares of \$100 in value. These shares were offered to local residents. It was made clear that if there were not at least 170 shares subscribed none would be accepted. It was also made clear to every purchaser that there would be no monetary return on their investment and further that there would be annual assessments to pay for taxes and other expenses. It was believed that intangible returns in other forms would make this investment worthwhile. Sales were limited to ten shares per individual shareholder.



The following year, on Friday, July 9, 1954, the first meeting of the reorganized trust was held. 198 shares had been purchased. The first action of the trust was to purchase the shares held by the estate of Henry Worcester and of Brooks Stevens, Jr. for \$18,300.

In 2016 the trust has 393 shareholders and 145 beach cardholders. The trust is financially stable thanks to generous donations from both shareholders and cardholders.

Unspoiled forever

List of Stockholders as of July 1, 1954, presented at the first annual meeting of the reorganized trust.

Abele, Mrs. Alice Whittemore	Gale, Lyman W.	Parson, Mrs. Janet E.
Adams, Frederick J. and Keith F.	Giuliano, Dr. Charles E.	Pear, Wm. H
Allen, Claude L.	Gleason, Mrs. Helen H.	Perry, Mrs. Marjorie B.
Allen, Mrs. Helen B.	Gleason, Sidney	Pinkerton, William M.
Allen, Joseph	Haines, Mrs. Emily W.	Raymond, Mrs. Margaret J.
Andrews, Dr. Earle R.	Harrington, Thomas E.	Russ, Ira A.
Andrews, Mrs. Ida P.	Harvey, Mrs. Lesley C.	Sargent, Walter A. & Abby W.
Annisquam Village Association	Hayward, Ernest	Sargent, Winthrop W.
Atwood, Mrs. Harriet T.B.	Hooper, Edward L.	Schereschewsky, John Forby
Balcom, Miss Helen B.	Hubbard, Edward B.	Smith, Charles Gaston, Jr.
Barrett, Frederick P. & Robert E. Jr.	Hughes, Miss Elinor L. & Mrs. Katharine H. Teele	Smith, Mrs. Isabel Davison
Bent, Quincy	Janeway, Mrs. Elizabeth B.	Smith, Wilder & Mildred A.
Birge, Mrs. Ethel R.	Jelleff, Frank R.	Steeves, Henry A.
Bragdon, Miss Mary D.	Joplin, Robert J. & Mary Minns	Stevens, Brooks, Jr. & Janet H.
Brett, Mrs. Sarah D.	Keiler, Edmund H.	Usher, Donald K.
Brigham, Frederick H.	Kennedy, Sargent & Elizabeth	Usher, Mrs. Margaret C.
Brown, Everett T.	Kimball, Mrs. Virginia D.	Vance, Dr. L. Alexander
Chase, William Chester	Lane, Miss Isabel B.	Vawter, Miss Cora C.
Chickering, Mrs. Eleanor W.	Langer, Mrs. Rowena Morse	vonRosenvinge, Mrs. Mary W.
Crouse, Mrs. Anna Erskine	Langer, William L.	Voorhis, Robert T.
Crouse, Russel	Littlefield, Paul Damon	Wadleigh, Donal
Cunningham, Brig. Gen. James H.	Lord, Miss Elizabeth	Wadleigh, Mrs. Margaret K.
Cunningham, John D. Jr. & Mary F.	Lorden, Mr. George P.	Wadleigh, Paul F.
Dangelmayer, Wynton R. & Jeanette	Lovejoy, Frederick H.	Wallis, Katherine G.
Davis, Mrs. Mary B.	Lowe, Mrs. Hazel R.	Wellman, Miss Harriet V.
Davis, Philip A.	Lyman, Mrs. Alice W.	Wentworth, Miss Olive R.
Davis, Philip A. Jr.	Lyman, Harrison F. Jr.	White, Henry K.
Davison, Sydney M.	Mahn, Burlen & Clara E.	Wiggin, Arthur M.
Dennison, Miss. Marie H.	Mechem, John S.	Wiggin, H. Sherburne
Douglas, Miss Bessie M.	Mechem, Richard W.	Wiggin, Henry T.
duVernet, Miss Muriel	Meyer, Dr. Eugene & Mary Bradley	Wiggin, Morrill
Dykeman, Wendell W.	Moore, Mrs. Alice Lyman	Wiley, Mrs. Grace M.
Ely, Edward S.	Murch, Miss Una M.	Worcester, John D.
Fawcett, William V. M.	Muzzey, Mrs. Emilie Y.	
Fitch, Stanley G.H.	Newhauser, Mrs. Gernda vB.	
Folger, Richard S. & Mabel K.	Olson, Norman R.	
Forbes, W. Stuart, Jr.	Olson, Walter E.	
Ford, Howard S.	Parks, Earle C.	
Fox, Edward W.		
French, Alden		
French, Dudley		
French, Mrs. Helen G.		
French, Hollis Stratton		

AHS News by Mary Ellen Lepionka



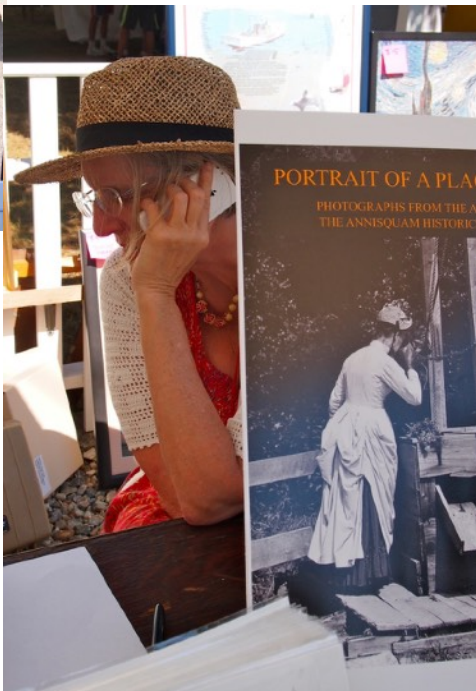
Denise Nichols and Betsy Horowitz at the AHS SeaFair table.



David Teele and Deedy Sargent staff the table



Gerry Herbert



Annie Storr and Woman at the Well

AHS AT SEA FAIR

The Annisquam Historical Society participated in the Sea Fair this year. David Teele and Betsey Horowitz were prime movers in setting up our table and canopy and putting out Elinor Teele's poster and all the beautiful vintage photographic prints from glass plates made by David and by Esther Pullman. Betsey and David had plenty of help, with Gerry Herbert, Deedy Sargent, Martha Hooper, Denise Nichols, and Annie Storr pitching in. And we needed the help, as Squammers and their friends and family swarmed our table to see our wares. Dave Pearce, Steve Harris, and Rob Russell dropped by too to spell us as needed so we could go to see the wonderful waxworks! Many thanks to everyone. AHS sales at Sea Fair made a handsome contribution to the Village Church. Remaining photographic prints, along with postcards and other items from the Firehouse, have been consigned to the Exchange for sale to benefit the AHS. Best of all, we had many more people sign up to become involved in the Historical Society and receive our History Journal.



RACHEL ONUF'S WORKSHOP #3 AND AN AHS WEB SITE

On Sunday July 17 the AHS held another workshop in the Firehouse, led by Rachel Onuf, our Roving Archivist from the Massachusetts State Archives. Rite Teele and Roz Smith were among the attendees. Rachel gave us advice on how to inventory our vertical files and explained how to participate in the Catablog, a database created at the University of Massachusetts for the CHC network (Commonwealth Historical Collaborative). The Catablog is a web site where small historical societies, museums, libraries, and archives in Massachusetts can share information about what is in their collections. Rachel created a shell account for us (see <http://chc.library.umass.edu/blog/annisquam-historical-society/>), and we look forward to populating our page and linking it to our new web site, which is in the works, thanks to Steve Harris and Doug Johnson. Steve created a page for the AHS and for other groups on the Village Hall web site (Google "SQUAM"). See <https://www.annisquamvillage.org/historical.html>. And Doug is designing a web site just for the AHS! Meanwhile, our SHRAB Category 3 grant gives us access to Rachel's expertise any time we need her! She created a list of materials we should get with our new SHRAB Regrant of \$1000 for preservation supplies. Tops on the list of supplies to order are polyester protector sheets and print boxes for all the photographs David Teele has been scanning and Betsey Horowitz has been cataloging! Is there no end to all this good news?



Rachel Onuf, Rita Teele and Roz Smith Discussing How to Catalog the Vertical Files

Massachusetts
SHRAB
State Historical Records Advisory Board

SQUAM: LASTING MORE THAN A DAY WITH BOB MALMÉ

The AHS has a grant from Massachusetts Humanities to inventory the ephemera in the Firehouse. *Ephemera* is defined as papers and other items that have a short life or are intended to last only a day before being thrown away. Examples are tickets, receipts, letters, doodles, greeting cards, invitations, playbills, and so on. The vertical files in the Firehouse contain many such items dating from the Civil War period to the present, and they are important in telling the story of Annisquam. Our grant money enabled us to hire the services of a professional archivist, Robert Malmé, who has been creating an inventory spreadsheet and a finding aid for our vertical files. On August 31 Bob also gave a workshop in the Library on “Identifying, Organizing and Cataloging Archival Records.” The workshop was attended by Dave Pearce, Rita Teele, Holly Clay, Bob Griffith, and Steve Harris. We have a copy of Bob’s powerpoint presentation if anyone would like to see it. Bob has finished almost half of the vertical files, doing a great job, and we are applying for another Mass Humanities Research Inventory Grant to try to keep him longer. An outgrowth of our experience with Bob’s work has been to look into the idea of having the vertical files digitized and made available online through Digital Commons (see <http://digitalcommons.bepress.com/>), an initiative being spearheaded by Rita Teele



Bob Malme working in the Firehouse



FIREHOUSE FUN FOR VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

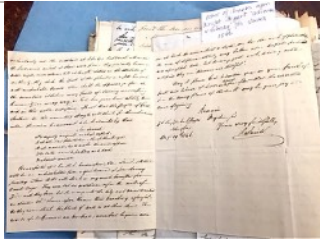
Our first guest book is getting filled up! And Hooray for AHS volunteers! Many thanks to Marilyn Short, Jeff Weiss, Bettie Cartwright, and John Perry for their work on the Fundraising Committee and sleuthing of a possible new acquisition for the Firehouse collections. The travel journal of a Squam lady, in the possession of a rare book dealer in Toronto, proved too dear, but it sure was fun to try. Other sleuthing has been going on in the Firehouse. Martha Hooper has been researching the Dyer family, indexing and transcribing their 19th century letters. Jane Deering came by to research the history of the Annisquam Village Players. Holly Clay continues her transcriptions of our Wright letterbook in the Cape Ann Museum, and an example is included in this issue of the AHS History Journal. Kathleen Adams and others from the Annisquam Village Church and the First Congregational Church in Rockport have been searching for information about the history of their parishioners in the 18th century. Their inquiry was in aid of “Devoted Footsteps,” a September 25th reenactment of parishioners’ walk from Squam through Dogtown to the new meeting house in Sandy Bay, when Rockport became its own parish in 1755 and people no longer had to trek across the Cape to get to church. To “Devoted Footsteps” the AHS donated exhibit items— wooden clogs that women wore over their regular shoes when trekking through Dogtown and manikins for displaying colonial garb—and ecclesiastical texts, such as a copy of the ordination of Squam’s first minister, Benjamin Bradstreet. Helping community history to come alive is one of our goals.



Jane Deering Researching the Village Players



Martha Hooper Researching the Dyer Family



FROM THE FIREHOUSE:

1846 Letter to Local Abolitionist Henry Clarke Wright
from Adam Smith,

-- Thank you Letter to Him

My dear Sir,

As you are about to leave this country for the United States I cannot forbear tendering you my thanks for your labour's in behalf of those who are in bonds. Every labourer in this noble cause is entitled to gratitude: how much more than those who commit not their lives dear for the achievement of liberty for the degraded and brutalized slave. Would to God every American felt as you now feel in reference to the horrible crime of man stealing. What a jubilee would there be! No living man who has not been a slave could appreciate the emotions of three millions of human beings coming out of a state which may without exaggeration be termed a terrestrial hell. How near that event may be none can tell. You may live, and I trust, will live to see it. These words, "Let the oppressed go free," are more than an exhortation. They come at first perhaps in that shape as the words "Let my people go," that the oppressor may repent and magnanimously and voluntarily set the enslaved at liberty: but of each utterance the persuasive feel of those words fades: they gradually become more rigid, more stern, till at length, clothed in the attributes of authority, they shake the spirit of the planter and fill his soul with unspeakable terrors. Then shall the oppressed go free. In the meantime it behooves every friend of bleeding and suffering humanity, in every way, as God has given him ability, to aid in this noble enterprise. I trust that the people of Great Position in this momentous struggle will think for themselves, nor allow themselves for a moment to be hoodwinked by those who deemed:

For dignity compos'd and high exploit:

But all was false and hollow; though his Tongue

Dropt Manna, and could make the worse appear

The better reason, to perplex and dash

Matuarest Counsels [John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 2. p. 115]

Henceforth Drs. Candlish, Cunningham, Chalmers, & Patton [of the Free Church of Scotland, founded in opposition to abolitionism] will be an indissoluble five, a quintessence of pro-slavery jesuitry. Their D.D.'s will stand in my mind hereafter for Dumb Dogs. They were set as watchmen upon the walls of Zion and they have let the enemy in the city and never sounded an alarm. Oh! Shame upon them: their treachery is fearful. As they now stand the blood of souls is at their doors. The words of Mr. [William Lloyd] Garrison are too true; "...none but laymen, or at least the men without a degree, can do the work of philanthropy" [from the 1838 issue of *The Liberator* by William Lloyd Garrison]. The men of diploma-celebrity may batten upon disputed particulars and apocryphal texts, but to every good work, to every noble enterprise, they are "Timorous and Slothful"! May it please God to sustain you in your work of faith and labour of love and impart hereafter that the redeemed from the sunny plains of the South [i.e., freed slaves] may be your joy and crown of rejoicing.

I remain

76 Shepperton Cottages

My dear Sir

Islington

Yours very faithfully

Aug 19 1846

A. Smith