



THE ANNISQUAM HISTORICAL

34 Leonard Street
Annisquam MA 01930

Visit the Museum

The Fire House will be open this summer on Mondays from 3 to 5 and Thursdays from 7 to 9 or by Appointment:

contact:
avhistorical@gmail.com

Admission

Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted.



Summer 2017

Annisquam Man WWI Hero

By David McAveaney

This article is taken from *Attack on Orleans* by Jake Klim, published in 2014.

Eric Lingard, whose name appears on the plaque in Memorial Woods, between Lobster Cove and Washington Street, grew up in Annisquam. His family home was on Washington Street at the corner of Bennett Street.



Lingard was a Harvard Graduate and was in his second year at Harvard Law School when his mother died. He quit law school and returned to Annisquam to take care of his ailing sister. For a short time he owned a successful ice business on Lobster Cove.

In 1917 he was accepted to the US Navy's fledging air arm. He was trained in Pensacola, Florida to drop bombs from a Navy biplane onto a target. He was judged to be "above average, excellent" in training.

After graduation he was assigned to the Chatham Naval Air Station south of Orleans on Cape Cod. His aircraft was a Curtiss HS-1L "Flying Boat" It was an amphibious biplane considered ideal for the Shores of Cape Cod. It was a single-engine pusher-type biplane.

Eric was flying sorties constantly when word came that the US San Diego, with its crew of 1200, had been sunk off Long Island by a German U Boat. Other attacks by the same submarine were reported off Cape Cod.

On July 18, 1918, a sighting of the German Submarine was reported off Orleans. Eric Lingard and his crew of two, Shields and Howard, were dispatched to the area. They quickly spotted the sub and approached it:

“Howard lined the sight “dead on the deck” and pulled the release just 800 feet above the sub, defying instructions to bomb their target at a safe distance. But for some reason, the Mark IV bomb failed to drop.

Howard motioned with his hand for Lingard to circle around so that he could try to discharge the bomb a second time. Again, ignoring the 1,000 foot rule, Lingard and his crew flew just 400 feet above the U-Boat —so close that the bombs’ explosion below would likely blow the men from their aircraft.

Again the mechanic tried to discharge the bomb, but again the bomb release failed to cooperate. The release was then tested and determined to be stuck. Frustrated but not willing to throw in the towel just yet, Howard, clearly a man not afraid of heights, quickly jumped out of the cockpit and onto the plane’s lower wing—a distance of six feet—before the target below their aircraft was out of range. Lingard and Shields watched in disbelief as a blast of wind nearly sent their fearless mechanic tumbling into the ocean below, but to his colleagues’ amazement, Howard maintained his balance. Gripping the plane’s strut with one hand and holding the bomb with the other, Howard took a deep breath, uncurled his fingers and released the Mark IV.

Howard’s aim was immaculate, but frustratingly, the bomb failed to explode once it hit the sea, just a few feet from the sub. The airmen were dumbfounded. Had the bomb worked properly, the submarine would have likely been incapacitated or even destroyed.

Lingard, out of bombs, continued to track the sub as his commander, Captain Eaton, caught up. Eaton spotted the sub, zeroed in on it and fired. His aim was perfect, but again the bomb did not explode. Of course the German sub was firing at the Americans as they attacked.

In October 1918 while flying another mission off the Cape Cod coast the engine of Lingard’s plane failed. He landed safely in the water with his two crewmen, but was not rescued for twenty-seven hours. Shortly after returning to dry land Lingard developed pneumonia. He died at the Chatham Naval Air Station infirmary with his sister, Olga, at his bedside.

Olga was largely responsible for the plaque in Memorial woods.

Attack on Orleans is available at the Annisquam Historical Museum, from Amazon.com, and most local bookstores. This fast-moving book is a comprehensive historical account of the German U-Boat attacks on Cape Cod.

To see a photo of a plane similar to Eric Lingard’s airplane try clicking here:

<https://goodmorninggloucester.wordpress.com/2012/08/25/gloucester-harbor-1919-from-fred-bodin/>

If this link does not work Google **Good Morning Gloucester** and search for **Lingard**.

WWI Exhibit Opening a Great Success

On the fourth of July The Annisquam Historical Society Museum staged its first exhibit in at least thirty five years. Dr. Robert Russell, Museum Board Co-chair, reported that the newly revitalized museum hosted more than 100 visitors on opening day. They found an organized and interesting display.



WWI in Annisquam

The exhibit, entitled *WWI in Annisquam* was inspired by the Annisquam men whose names appear on the plaque in Memorial Woods. This is also the hundredth anniversary year of America's entry into that war. Bob Griffith, a member of the Museum Steering committee, was the driving force behind the display.

Bob began researching the names on the plaque but then found a photo montage of Annisquam men in uniform who served in the war. This was right in the Museum collection. Holly Clay searched the family and genealogy files for these men. On display are some of the family letters, photos, and news clippings. Bob searched the microfiche file at the Sawyer Free Library adding WWI newspaper clippings for the display.

ANYONE WHO HAS SEEN AND WONDERED ABOUT THE THREE MEN NAMED ON THE PLAQUE WILL BE MOVED BY THE PERSONAL STORIES THAT BOB AND THE OTHER VOLUNTEERS COLLECTED AND PUT ON DISPLAY. BOB FELT STRONGLY THAT THESE MENS HEROISM AND SERVICE AS WELL AS THAT OF OTHERS SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED. HE HAS ACHIEVED THIS AND MORE.



Robert Griffith, a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, has a long-term interest in Military History.



Tim Thurman of Annisquam contributed reproductions of WWI era posters for the display.

The exhibit also highlights the efforts of those on the Homefront. Newspaper clipping of successful Liberty Bond drives are included. Victory gardens were everywhere. Gloucester people were urged to eat more fish. Meatless and wheatless days were urged. Conserve coal! The Annisquam sewing circle ran suppers to raise money.

Bob found Army, Navy, and Marine registration lists at the Gloucester American Legion and the Cape Ann Veterans Office. He gives special thanks to Lucia Amero at the office of Veterans' Services and to Attorney Mark Nestor.

Special links to the past were remembered: Kathy Schad of Arlington Street is a niece of John Earnest Gossom, one of the three. Steve Langer of Adams Hill loaned the exhibit the gas mask his grandfather, William Langer, carried in the war.

Holly Clay-Smith contributed to this article.

Soldiers Memorial Wood is between Lobster Cove and Washington Street. To find the monument cross the wooden foot bridge from the village. Just past the end of the bridge find a well-used footpath on the left. Follow the path about 200-300 yards. The plaque is straight ahead. You may also find it by turning left on Washington Street. Walk to the second cut in the stone wall. There is a steep path right to the plaque.

The path continues almost to the end of the woods. Then it is a bit tricky to climb over the wall back to the Washington Street sidewalk.

Memorial Woods is owned by the Annisquam Association, the same non-profit that owns the Village Hall, the Museum, Library and Exchange buildings. It is maintained by the Leonard Club whose members stage a big clean up every spring.



Photos of Mrs Issac Adams Found



When we published the spring edition of the Journal David and Rita Teele were still in New Zealand. Upon their return David located these two photos in the Museum collection.

These photos of Mrs Adams were taken in 1885 probably by Mrs Adam's son-in-law. The Signature is only "Mellen."

The dresses are similar in style to those in the Museum textiles collection.



Annisquam Historical Goes Digital

Rita Teele and others who have been working on digitizing the Historical collection for more than two years, received big news last month. The Museum partnership with the Boston Public Library has paid off.

Jake Sadow of the Library emailed Rita that the first batch of Annisquam documents is now online! Here is the website with the first items: <https://archive.org/details/annisquamhistoricalsociety>. Please take a look. Read some of the documents!

The material was scanned and uploaded to the internet at no financial cost to the Annisquam Museum by the Boston Public Library with funding received from the state of Massachusetts.

As time goes by more and more of the local collection will be available on line twenty-four hours a day. It will also safeguard the items from being lost or damaged. David Teele has purchased a scanner with the hope that more volunteers will come so the the Museum can scan and upload its own documents.



Ever wondered how folks moved these big blocks of stone before our time?

Betsey Horovitz, museum volunteer, found this photo in the Museum collection. It shows the building of Squam Rock Road. The pillar is still on the corner of Squam Rock Road and Walnut street. The date on the glass plate sleeve is October 17, 1886. The inscription reads “building of wall from adjoining quarry for road.” The gentleman in the center of the picture may have been the developer of the properties served by the new road.

Simple tools were used: a block and tackle system and pulleys. Note the slanted pole in the center. Its base is on a swivel. The block of stone is hoisted up and other ropes swivel it into position. In this case it looks like only manpower was used to haul the lines. A horse might have been used to lift heavier blocks. A horse would also be used to drag stone along the ground on a sledge. The vertical post is held in place by guy-ropes. Positioning the pulley on top there improves the mechanical advantage of the system.

The granite blocks were probably cut right on the site. There are plenty of signs of quarrying right there.



The Captain Oliver Lane House , oil on canvas, 28x48 in. Painted by Alfred J. Wiggin in 1859.

This is the home of Charlotte (Aunt Tot) Lane whose *Remembrances* were the basis of several History Journal articles. According to James F. O’Gorman, writing in a 1980 Cape Ann Historical Association show catalog of Wiggin’s works, the house was built in 1833. It was built by Oliver Lane who was active in the China Trade, and whose diaries, ships logs, and even underwear are in the Museum collection.

The home still stands slightly modified on Arlington Street. It is occupied now by the Higgins family. The small gambrel style house in on the lower left is the Chard House on River Road.

The original of the painting is now in the main house at the Cogswell Grant in Essex, Massachusetts.

Where the Hotels Were

Last winter David Teele came across the map that included this section when we were looking for something else. We've often heard about the old hotels in Annisquam but could never be quite sure where they were. This map shows the By Water Inn overlooking Cambridge Beach, the Wonasquam Lodge which covered the area where Holly DeBlois' house now stands plus the area where Peter and Sandra Lawrence live, also the Hotel Overlook that covered the land where Michalene Evans Flaherty lives plus more land behind her house.

The Brynmere, the only hotel still standing, is a point of reference.

