



## THE ANNISQUAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

7 Walnut Street  
Annisquam MA 01930

### Visit the Firehouse

The Firehouse will open for the season in May 2018. Please email [avhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:avhistorical@gmail.com) to arrange a visit.

### Admission

Admission is free but donations are gratefully accepted.



SPRING 2018

## Thinking About Our Stagecoach

By David McAweeney



Dr. Robert Russell

Rob Russell, chair of the Annisquam Historical Society, has announced the Society will be making a field trip to Barre, Massachusetts, this Spring.

The Barre Historical Society has a stagecoach that was built by the Abbot and Downing Company of Concord, New Hampshire. This is the same company that built our Annisquam coach.

“We have a gem with our stage coach, and we want to see what we can learn from the Barre’s experience building a new building for the coach and making a bit by bit effort to restore the old coach to its former glory. We want to see what we can learn about how to best restore and preserve our own stage coach.”

Barre built a new building for the coach about eighteen years ago. An older building was available for conversion, but they quickly saw making it climate controlled was not financially feasible.



Undated photo of the Barre, Massachusetts Stagecoach



The Barre Stagecoach before cleaning and conservation.



The Annisquam Stagecoach as it is now. (Photo taken in 2015.) No conservation has been attempted

According to the Barre Historical Society brochure their coach was assembled by the Abbot Coach Company, in Concord, New Hampshire, in 1859. Its large size (15 feet long) made it unusual. The interior could hold 12 passengers on plush red cushions, and more passengers could ride in seats on the roof.

The exterior of the coach was originally straw colored and was highly ornamented with scroll work and scenic paintings.

In the mid 1800's Barre was situated in the center of north-south stagecoach travel from Worcester to Vermont. Barre is located near the Quabbin Reservoir in western Massachusetts. Town records confirm that by 1869, Coach 472 was in Barre.

Throughout its working life and thereafter it was simply known as Coach 472.

The stagecoach was last drawn by a team of horses in Barre's bicentennial parade in 1974.

In October 2001, a new coach house, specifically designed to store and display what it now known as "The Barre Stage Coach," was dedicated on the grounds of the Barre Historical Society.

David Teele took an immediate and vigorous interest in the Annisquam Stage Coach when the Annisquam Historical Society was being reorganized in 2015.

He was present when two Concord Coach experts from New Hampshire and Vermont, invited by Steve Harris,

came to assess the coach. They immediately determined that our coach is a "Concord Mail Coach," built by Abbot and Downing Company of Concord, New Hampshire.

They spotted its serial number, carved under the jump seat. The serial number is 54.

According to David, the Abbot and Downing Company was in business from 1847 and 1865. If the Barre Coach was Number 472 and built in 1859 that makes the probable manufactured date of our stage to be closer to 1847.



David Teele

For more history of our coach and stagecoaches in general see David's lecture on the Village Library website ([http://  
annisquamvillagelibrary.org](http://annisquamvillagelibrary.org))

# Send Us Your Photos, Please

By David Teele

**The Annisquam Historical Society would very much like to have our faithful readers share their photographs of Squam from (roughly) 1930-1980. We have an unrivaled collection of images (nearly 3000) dating from the earliest days of photography until about 1940 and very few thereafter.**

One might believe that Hurricane Carol (1954) is too recent an event to warrant inclusion in an historical collection, but 64 years have gone by! Time waits for nobody; people leave us, and old photographs may simply be discarded. Please look around and see what you can find.

The usual who, what, where, and when for each image is essential.

Of special interest would be buildings, events, and local institutions. Does anybody have a photograph of George Nugent's garbage truck or the iceman or a Railway Express Agency truck? (We still have a garbage pail entombed in its concrete sarcophagus outside our back door.)

Other topics might include: the three village stores, other hurricanes (especially the aftermaths), local fishermen, Lane's Garage, the Korean War, the AYC (especially the early days of the Junior Program), tuna fishing, Sea Fairs, plays, and so on.

If the photographs have been scanned already, the digital imagery will be just fine (and we will be most grateful). Otherwise, we can do the scans and return the photograph along with a copy of the scan. We will have to exercise our judgement about what to scan.

If you can help, please contact either David Teele (teele@mac.com) or Betsey Horovitz (betseybh@gmail.com).

**We know some of the answers, but who else among us knows the who, what, where, and when for the photograph below? (answers in next issue) -**



# Squam Rock Road Pillar Repaired



The landmark pillar at the corner of Walnut Street and Squam Rock Road has been repaired. A vehicle coming down Squam Rock road evidently struck the wall over a year ago. All the rocks in the pillar were shifted.

The pillar is owned by the Squam Rock Land Trust. In 1964 the land that includes the pillar and stone wall was deeded to the Land Trust by the City of Gloucester. The city had acquired it through a tax-title taking.

The repairs were made by Araneo Landworks, Inc. of Rockport, MA.

## Tom O'Keefe

Tom O'Keefe, who was a long time presence in Annisquam, passed away January 13, 2018. He had been residing at The Den Mar Health and Rehabilitation Facility in Rockport for some time.

For more than thirty years Tom ran the Annisquam Historical Society. The Society's Firehouse collection was a special treasure to him. He was president of the Leonard Club, he ran the Art Gallery, was active in organizing the Sea Fair, the Fourth of July Parade, and Christmas Caroling. He was a member of the Annisquam Village Hall Association executive committee. Plus he did much more.



This photo was featured in our Summer 2016 Newsletter. It is from the AHS collection. The date on the glass plate sleeve is October 17, 1886. The inscription reads "building of wall from adjoining quarry for road."

# The Annisquam Historical Society to Present a History of the Annisquam Village Church

By Holly Clay

***In 1728 Benjamin Bradstreet stepped into the pulpit of the newly established Gloucester's Third Parish Church. He had turned down a more profitable offer to serve as minister in civilized Topsfield, instead choosing a virtual outpost community. The Third Parish could only pay a yearly stipend of 125 pounds sterling. Bradstreet was a mere 23 years of age and would stay in the post for 34 years.***

The story of Bradstreet and others will be on display this summer in an Annisquam Historical Society exhibit highlighting the long history of the Annisquam Village Church.

Documents, photographs and artifacts included in this summer's show relay much about spiritual and civic life in Cape Ann's past. Beginning with the formal 1728 launch of the village meeting house and following through to the twentieth century.

The original record books of the Parish are stored safely in the AVC. They provide a great perspective on the leaders who steered its course. The first pastor Benjamin Bradstreet features prominently. On 18 September 1728, when the Third Parish and its "plain" Meeting House, were officially initiated with Bradstreet's ordination ceremony, it was the king who called the parishioners to meeting. The following appears on the first page of the Third Parish's first record book:

***"June 22, 1728. To the inhabitants of Annesquam and the northerle part of the Cape were called in his Majesty's name to meet together at the new meeting house to make choice of presenct officers for the year ensuing."***

The record book reveals the long arm of English rule and more. The crown was buttressed by court and Parliament-appointed governors, but

also on a local level by a rising colonial elite, a new class of citizen making decisions and directing matters both religious and civil. Ten parish members, among which were those who funded the church's construction, signed a covenant with Bradstreet. Brief and ecumenical, it established these men as church elders, leaders in the community.

Bradstreet, fit in with those ministers, men who represented a burgeoning theological and social establishment. Though he lost his father, a well-placed doctor, at the age of 12, in 1716, he inherited an estate substantial enough to finance a Harvard education, including graduate studies. The 21-year-old Bradstreet graduated in 1725, married Sarah Greenleaf in 1726 and continued his studies for a Harvard Masters in Theology (1729) while pastor of the Third Parish. Thus, notwithstanding his choice of the poor parish on Cape Ann, he followed the path that tradition and Puritan hierarchy deemed for young men of his standing.

His life and ministry would take unanticipated twists and turns, however. Come this summer to learn more about changes that occurred during the tenure of the first parson and others who followed him in the Third Parish pulpit."

The AHS plans to display materials on the AVC and Third Parish in the Firehouse this summer, July – September 2018. If you have items relating to the Third Parish or AVC history, please share the information with us at the AHS. We would like to discuss exhibiting noteworthy documents and objects. Please contact Rob Russell or Holly Clay at [avhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:avhistorical@gmail.com) with any suggestions or ideas.





Photo by David McAveaney April 2018

**The rusted metal straps are left from the big flagstaff when it was taken down in June 1887.**

## **Squam Rock's Flagstaff**

By David McAveaney

Every so often I like to browse through the Annisquam Historical Society items included in the Digital Commonwealth website. I came across this one several months ago.

This item was taken from the *Historical Notes of Leila Norwood Adams 1942-1943*

## **From the Cape Ann Advertiser June 24, 1887**

AN OLD LANDMARK: The old flagstaff has been removed from Young's Rock. Being very weak and in danger of falling, it was thought best to take it down. The wooden fish that surmounted the pole is about four feet long and the date upon it is 1853. For 34 years this vane has followed the wind and served as a landmark for many who now look in vain for this familiar object. This is the second staff erected on the rock. Mr. John Pierce who removed from Boston to this village in 1841 and built his house at the base of the hill erected a small pole on top of the same rock. This boulder is said to be the largest in



Photograph from the AHS collection

the country. It is hoped a new staff will sometime be put in position.

Note by Mrs. Rayne Adams, chairman of the Annisquam Historical society. "Squam Rock now so-called was formerly known as Young's Great Rock."

Further information from Mrs. Adams: "By advertising for information and a subsequent telephone call an eyewitness, Miss Elizabeth Hooper, daughter of the lighthouse keeper, told of the removal of the pole and weather vane June 24, 1887. Miss Hooper's father was keeper of the lighthouse at Annisquam in 1887."

On the copy was another handwritten note: "Miss Hooper died last year 1963"

Editors note: Squam Rock is not a boulder. It is a relatively high area in the rock formation that is Cape Ann. Boulders exist all over the Cape. They are called glacial erratics. Squam Rock was here far before the ice age.

According to William Dennen, the MIT geology professor who wrote the **Rocks of Cape Ann**, the granite layer was formed about 450 million years ago.

According to Shaun McNiff, who wrote *Under Squam Rock* and who resides in Mr. Pierce's house, Mr. Pierce was married to a Chard from Annisquam. The Chards were involved in most of Annisquam's commerce at that time. That probably accounts for his fast involvement with the village.

**To see this item and 84 others on Digital Commonwealth, Google [digitalcommonwealth.org](https://digitalcommonwealth.org). Then enter annisquam.**

# Cape Ann Museum Exhibits Annisquam Items

By Holly Clay

The exhibition, *Unfolding Histories, Cape Ann Before 1900*, will run through September 9, 2018 at the Cape Ann Museum (CAM). Items in the exhibit come from local historical societies and museums. The letters, documents and memorabilia shine a light on Gloucester's past by telling stories about people and life on Cape Ann.



*Studio 1623 (formerly CATV) will run a short piece on the exhibit, focusing on reflections of several contributors and the curator. Pictured here from left to right are Jim Witham of the Essex Historical Society and Shipbuilding Museum, Beth Welin, Director of the Manchester Historic Museum, Dr. Molly O'Hagan Hardy, Director for Digital and Book History Initiatives at the American Antiquarian Society and the CAM guest curator of Unfolding Histories, and Holly Clay of the Annisquam Historical Society (AHS).*

The exhibition includes a number of items from the Annisquam Historical Society. Earliest are American votives and arrowheads, given to AHS by S. Foster Damon.

The first volume (1854) of Minutes and the Constitution of the Deluge 8 Engine Company (Annisquam) shows that a charitable organization came to be affiliated with local fire fighting in an era when Gloucester could not always provide coverage to the reaches of Cape Ann.

Also on show: The Annisquam Reading Circle notes from the years 1877 to 1888 provide an elegant account of favorite authors and books of the day.

Thomas Saville's Letterbook, with correspondence beginning in 1805, contains accounts of his world travels and affords a record of trade that supported slavery.

Through the record book, book of accounts, and pledge and mission statement for the Annisquam Division of Sons of Temperance we see how local communities supported the temperance movement.

New England reformer Henry C. Wright's letter book dates to his years in Great Britain (1842-47) where he lectured on non-violence, collaborated with "luminaries of the transatlantic abolitionist movement" and fomented support for the anti-slavery movement in the U.S. and world-wide.

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## Meeting

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The next general meeting of the Annisquam Historical Society is May 8, 2018 at 7:30 pm. It will be held in the Annisquam Village Library. All are welcome.

## Call for Volunteers

The Annisquam Historical Society (AHS) welcomes your suggestions and input. AHS depends on volunteers; they help us manage the collections, stay in touch with the community and preserve the village's shared history. We would like to hear how you could help. A May meeting for potential volunteers will be scheduled and will be followed by a training workshop. If you're interested, please drop us a line at [avhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:avhistorical@gmail.com) or call 978-381-3141.