



**THE ANNISQUAM
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**7 Walnut Street
Annisquam MA 01930**

Visit the Museum

The Firehouse will be open this summer on Mondays from 3 to 5 or by Appointment (or anytime the lights are on.)

contact:
avhistorical@gmail.com

Admission

Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted.



Spring-Summer 2019

New Golf Links in Annisquam

By David McAweeney

It was around 1900 according to the Annisquam Yacht Club Time-Line, that Harry Wiggin, Quincy Bent, and J.S. Dean, all members of the Annisquam Yacht Club, agreed to the establishment of a links style golf course in Rockholm. Few have ever heard of it, as it lasted just a few years.

According to the story of his accidental death in the *Gloucester Daily Times*, Harry Wiggin had been for years developing much of Rockholm and Norwood Heights as a summer colony. A golf course would add another attraction to sailing, tennis, bathing and shooting.

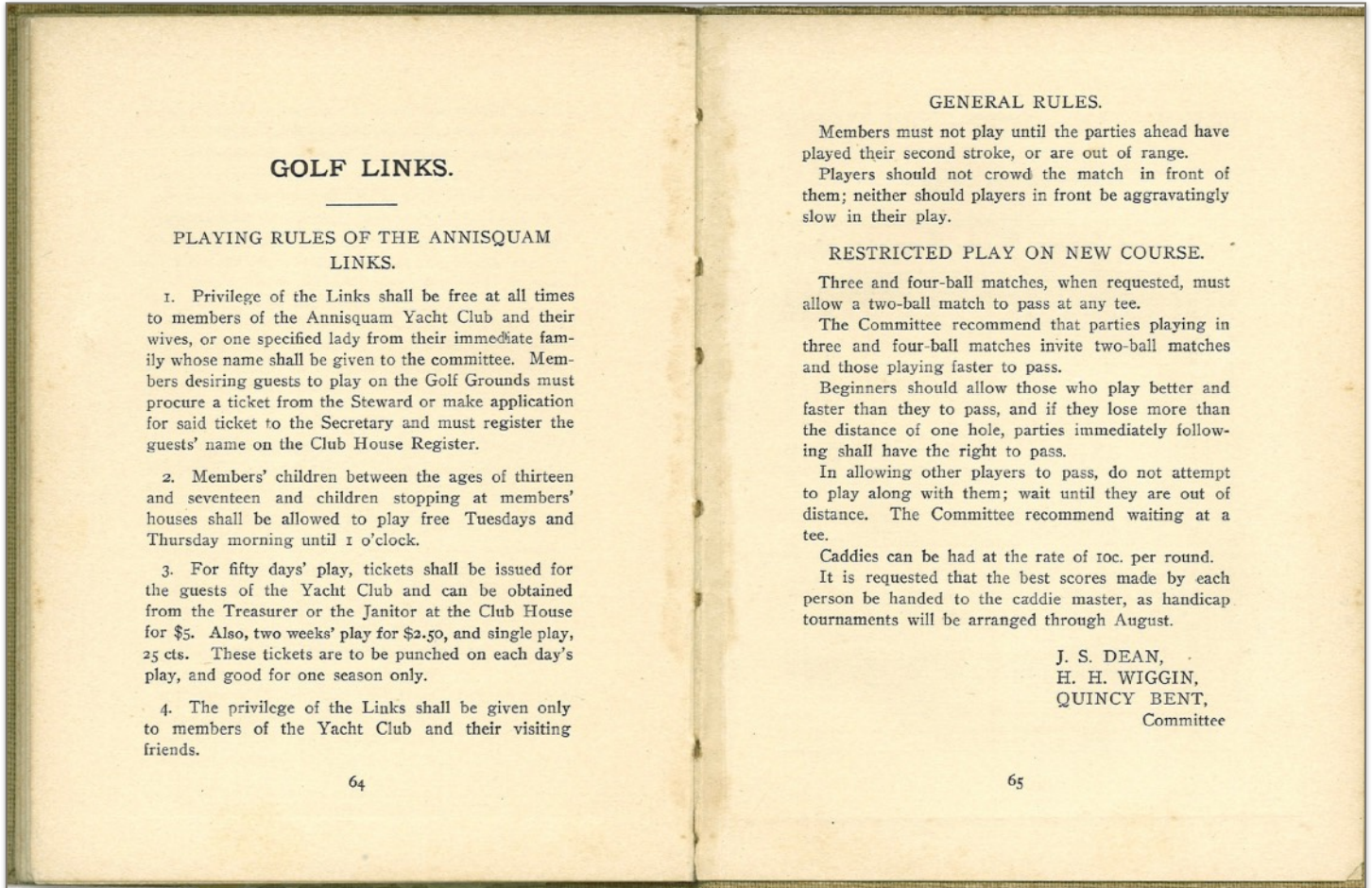
Little remains of the golf course, but the clubhouse, now a summer residence, stands at the first left after the split on Rockholm Road. Eben Andrews remembers hearing that the building was used as a barracks at the Lighthouse and was dragged to its current location. The extent of the golf course is unknown though Mike Wheeler thinks it may have extended to the Squam Rock Pasture. This is possible since that property belonged to another of the golf links founders, Quincy Bent.

A links style course requires little of the landscaping that we expect in a conventional golf course. In those years there were very few trees. Much of the land had been pasture land requiring little upgrading. Still the maintenance costs must have been significant.

“The tennis courts were put in good order with the hope that the men who played two years ago would come back to the game, but golf seemed to take up their spare time,”

...From the AYC timeline. Apparently the tennis courts were less popular when the Golf Links were available.

Pages 64 and 65 from the Annisquam Yacht Club Handbook



The Links Rules are courtesy of Els Spofford and John Pear of the AYC timeline committee, part of the 100th anniversary celebration. The entire 63 page rulebook is reproduced in John H. Bishop's history, *AYC 1895-1988*. The rules book is dated 1901. The bound copy is dated 1902.



The clubhouse was once a Coast Guard barracks at the Annisquam Lighthouse. It was moved from there to its location on Rockholm Road. It is now a private summer residence.

Who was Harry Wiggin?

Harry Wiggin was a prominent summer resident of Annisquam. He was a founder, and for twenty-five years was the Commodore of the Annisquam Yacht Club. His summer home was on the shore in Norwood Heights. The building still stands, hardly changed and is currently the home of John and Holly Perry.

According to the *Gloucester Daily Times*, August 7, 1936, Harry Wiggin was born in Charlestown Massachusetts where he attended public schools and later organized the H.H. Wiggin Lumber Company, having docks in Charlestown. For 50 years he was connected with the hardwood lumber business. He was the leading light in the largest terminal on the Atlantic coast located on the Mystic River. It was completed in 1926 at a cost of three million dollars. At the time of his death he was engaged with the Terminal Wharf and Warehouse Company handling wool, cotton, sugar, and other merchandise.

Years before his passing he started the real estate development known as Rockholm in Annisquam. He also reportedly was a major developer of Norwood Heights.

He was an ardent yachtsman being rated as one of the finest amateur sailors along the coast.

Mr. Wiggins demise came from a tragic accident. His chauffeur normally drove him to Boston to work, but on August 6, 1936, he parked on Main street in Gloucester while his employer went for a walk that included a visit to the Cape Ann Savings Bank. Passing a vacant store under renovation, he apparently went in to explore. Coming to an unlighted basement stairway, he apparently misjudged the distance to the first step. He fell 15 feet to the basement floor, landing heavily on the right side of his head. Death was believed to be instantaneous.

He was survived by his wife, Gertrude, a daughter, Mrs. William B. Stearns, Jr., and two sons, Morrill Wiggin and Harrison Sherburne Wiggin, both of whom worked in the terminal and lumber businesses. He was 72.

Morrill Wiggin and his family moved to his father's house. His brother, Harrison Sherburne Wiggin, had a summer home at the stone chair on Leonard Street.



Harry Wiggin courtesy of Annisquam Yacht Club



Wiggin-Perry House. Built 1902.

The Annisquam Land Trustees owned much of Norwood Heights and Rockholm.

Rockholm in Annisquam was a marketing piece describing the area. Circa 1902

Some excerpts from the booklet...

Socially, Annisquam has grown slowly but well. Wealth is there and moderate means, but never ostentation. Community life is strong and friendliness is paramount.

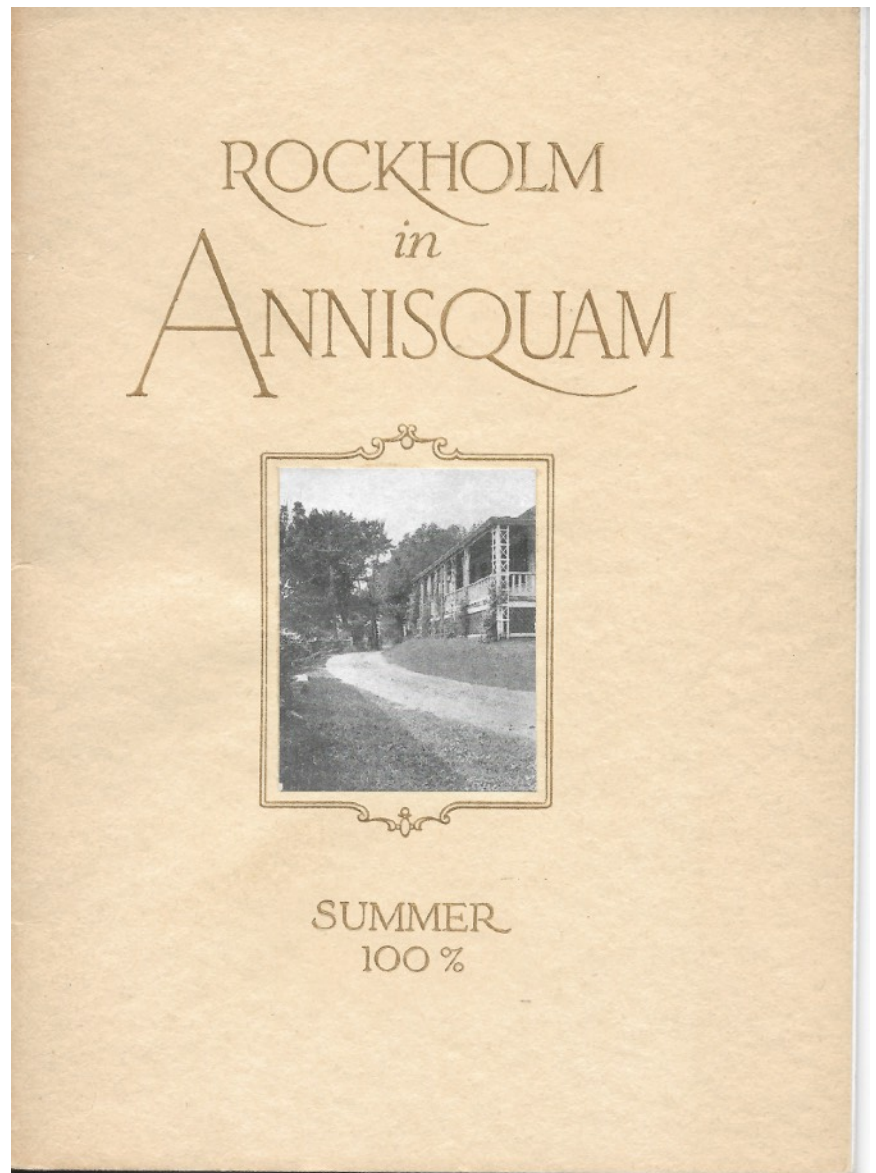
Every proper sport is here to enjoy. Boating is at its best and safest. Yacht racing for both you and the youngsters-established classes adapted to every grade of skill. Golf, tennis, bathing, motoring, fishing, shooting.

Annisquam is now coming to its own—and without having lost its old-time flavor.

It has maintained its moderate pace and moderate values.

Ownership of this beautiful tract was secured in recent years by a few summer residents whose private estates were already among the most attractive on this shore.

“Rippling Waters” is the thought expressed by native Indian tribes in their word “Annisquam,” and no term could now be more descriptive of the cool and equable climate. Warm summer airs are tempered over waters and green marsh. The chill, damp winds of the east and north lose their sting by passage over miles of sun-drenched hills and fields.



Booklet courtesy of John Perry

The further story of its treasures is yours for the asking.

What's a Wiggie?

By David McAweeney

Last winter some of us were sitting around at the Good Neighbors Annual Dinner discussing the bow ties a few men were wearing. Then Hazel von Rosenvinge asked if we knew what a Wiggie was. None of us had ever heard of one.

She explained that it was a men's bow tie manufactured right here in Annisquam by the enterprising granddaughters of Harry Wiggin. Their names were Isabel and Deborah Wiggin. They were summer folk who lived at 2 Chester Square where Peter and Susan Willis live now.

PD Littlefield soon became involved in the conversation and later wrote:

I'd never heard this term "Wiggie" before and now in the last couple of weeks I've heard it twice. (Maybe also from Hazel.) I have a few of them myself, but called them "Wiggin Tie," which is what is stitched into the inside. Dad had a lot, maybe hundreds at one time, and wore them consistently from their invention in the 1940's until his death.

At his funeral we all wore them and then they were distributed to his grandchildren and great grandchildren. His love of the tie was one of the themes of my eulogy. It was also central to Dick and John Mechem's sartorial habits. I've always assumed Fred Lovejoy had a collection, but perhaps he wears different bow ties. I believe they were sold at Johnny Appleseed, where Hollis French worked, and Brooks Brothers. I believe Hollis wore them. Of course, Sherburne and Morrill Wiggin wore them.

In the 1950's and 1960's most men in Annisquam had them. On any Saturday night at the Annisquam Yacht Club, during that time, half the men there would have been wearing them.

(The Wiggins were distant cousins of ours, I think, maybe second cousins to my great-grand parents? - and great friends. They may have originally come to Annisquam together in the late 19th century? They appear frequently in my grandparents guest book, visiting my great grandmother, Sarah Damon, perhaps for tea rather than overnight.)
PD



Photo courtesy of Jackie Littlefield

I spoke to a few people about the ties hoping to find some old photos. Jackie Littlefield provided these two excellent photos.

Hazel von Rosenvinge said her husband, Ted, had many Wiggies, but avoided having his picture taken. She said the tie was a very narrow, straight bow tie—no curves. They were called Wiggies because they were made by Isabel Wiggin, daughter of Sherburne.

Connie Mason knew the Wiggin girls well. She said her husband, Walker, had dozens of the ties. After Walker passed away her very helpful kids sent them off to one of the charity shops.

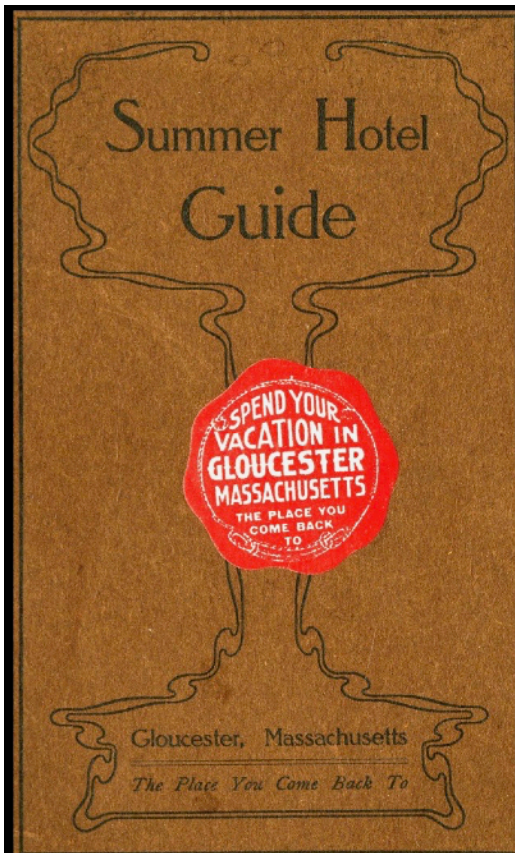
Tartie Bishop said her father had dozens of Wiggies. She remembered him wearing them to the Yacht Club.



Paul Littlefield wearing his Wiggie to a Harvard graduation. He was in the class of 1942, and he marched with his class.



The Overlook Hotel



Hotel Guide 1905

The Annisquam Historical Society in collaboration with the Leonard Club of Annisquam is pleased to sponsor a Power Point presentation titled:

The Hotels of Annisquam

1880-1929

By Peter Lawrence

On Thursday night the 27th of June, 2019,
at 7 PM in the Annisquam Village Hall

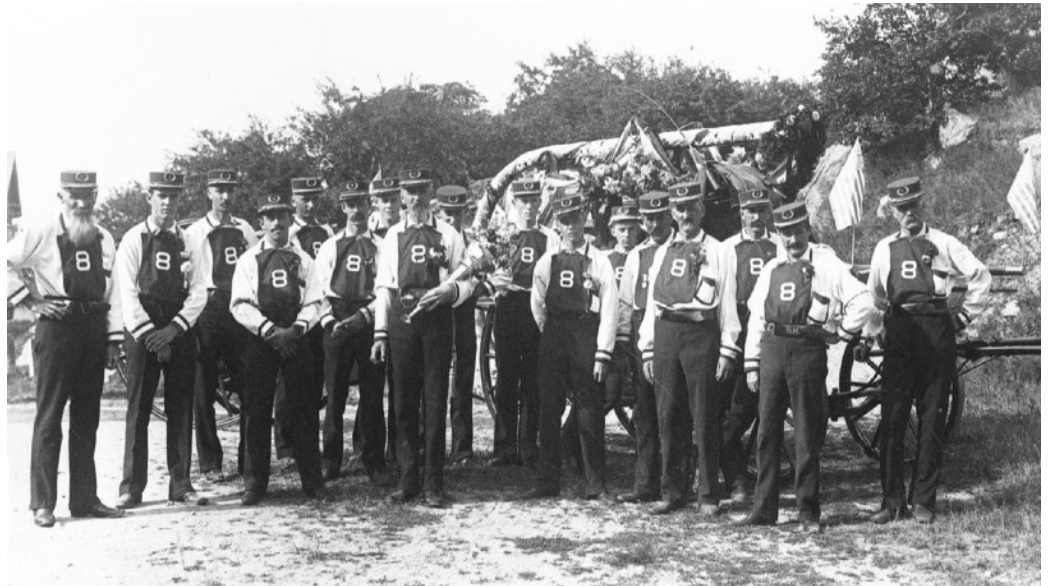
All are welcome

Fire Fighting in "Squam" Locals Organize to Respond, then Join Burgeoning City Fire Department By Holly Clay

This summer the Annisquam Historical Society focuses on the history of firefighting in Annisquam and on Cape Ann. Items on display in the Firehouse tell the story of the machines and engines used, the Engine House building, and Deluge 8, a company of men.

The Minutes of the Annisquam firefighting association, later a division of the Gloucester Fire Department, detail its activities from the 1850's through the 1930's. These, combined with Cape Ann Museum and City Archive resources dating back to the 1830's, are the basis for this summer retrospective.

Photographs, firemen's paraphernalia, and documents tell a story of dedication and fraternity. Men came together to save neighbors' lives and property and avert disaster. The fire-fighting troops relied on brain, brawn and muscle, as much as equipment. Fire-fighting apparatus was primitive in the 1830's. Increasingly sophisticated in the late 19th century through the first half of the 20th century, it was still not equal to the demands of large and lethal fires. The record makes clear that human ingenuity and loyalty to brothers-in-arms played lead roles.



Members of the Deluge 8 Company stand proudly at attention in front of their engine, "Deluge," at the base of Adams Hill Road. August 23, 1892. (Property of Annisquam Historical Society. Printed by David Teele.)

Firefighting Exhibit At the Firehouse

The Firefighting Exhibit will be on display from July 4 through mid-September. The Firehouse will be open on the 4th of July, following the Parade in Annisquam.



An alert team of horses pulling a "steamer" (steam engine) races out of the Defiance Engine House in Gloucester. Circa 1905. (Property of Cape Ann Museum.)