

# Old Abington History Hunt

summer 2010



## Rules of the Game:

- Visit all 10 historic sites in any order at any time before Labor Day 2010
- Take a picture of yourself at the site with the specified marker visible in the photo (go to [www.dyerlibrary.org](http://www.dyerlibrary.org) for images of the acceptable markers)
- Submit the photos to the Dyer Memorial Library by midnight September 6, 2010 either electronically (e-mail to [historyhunt@dyerlibrary.org](mailto:historyhunt@dyerlibrary.org)) or hard copies (by mail to P.O. Box 2245, Abington 02351 or in person at 28 Centre Ave., Abington); include your name and contact information
- All complete entries will receive a prize (while supplies last)

### **1. Oldest Jurisdictional Line in the U.S.**



In 1664 surveyors erected a “heape of stones” on the Satucket Path to mark the border between Plymouth Colony and Massachusetts Bay Colony. The Satucket Path was the main trail that led from Wessagusset (North Weymouth) to the source of the Satucket River at Robbin’s Pond in East Bridgewater. The name “Satucket” is derived from an Algonquin word meaning “great pouring-forth stream place,” referring to the place where the river flowed out of the pond. Adams and Washington Streets in Abington approximately follow the route of the path today.

*Location:* along Rt. 58, on the Abington-Weymouth line (across from Precast Specialties Corp.)

*Marker to include in picture:* boulder with “An Heape of Stones” inscription

### **2. Ford’s Farm**



Andrew Ford (d. 1693) and his family came from Weymouth by way of the Satucket Path, probably around 1670, and established the first settlement in the territory that later became Abington. If you stand on the bridge over the Schumatuscant (Lower Beaver Brook) and look north along the west bank, you will see the area where the farmland was.

*Location:* junction of Adams St. and Washington St. in North Abington

*Marker to include in picture:* bronze plaque on boulder

### **3. First Parish Church**



In colonial times, no town could incorporate until it had a learned minister to teach and preach to the inhabitants of the town. Rev. Samuel Brown of Newbury came in 1711 to be Abington’s first minister, and in 1712, the Town of Abington was incorporated. The exact date when the First Parish was organized is not known, but presumably it was when Rev. Brown arrived. The church built a number of meeting houses over the years, as the congregation outgrew its building. The one that still stands is now the United Church of Christ.

*Location:* 10 Bedford St., Abington

*Marker to include in picture:* “Abington Parish Church” sign (not UCC sign)

#### 4. Oldest House in Rockland



Samuel Greene (1721-1756) built this farmhouse in 1745, and it has retained its original appearance. It was moved to its present site in 1972; it was on Market Street prior to the move. From 1799 to 1783, it was the home of Dr. David Jones, Jr., a surgeon who served with Gen. Joseph Warren at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

*Location:* Goddard St., Rockland (next to the church and across from the high school)

*Marker to include in picture:* the house

#### 5. Studley (Reeds) Pond



This pond was originally called Silver Lake, then Reeds Pond, then Studleys Pond after Ezekiel Studley, who served as Rockland's town clerk 1875-1916. Like all the other ponds in the area, it was a source of ice for the Tudor Ice Company of Boston. Frederic Tudor (1783-1864) was the company's founder and known as the "Ice King." Ice harvesting was an important industry in New England during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries since it offered work to farmers in the winter.

*Location:* near 80 Market St., Rockland (entrance next to CVS driveway)

*Marker to include in picture:* "Please do not feed the ducks" sign with pond in the background

#### 6. Ten Footer



Ten footers were small, backyard shoemaker's workshops common in the early 1800s. The name was derived from the fact that the structure was usually 10 feet by 10 feet. As the shoe industry grew, individual shoemakers working in these ten footers were contracted to make a specific part of the shoe instead of the whole shoe. The parts were then assembled in the factories. Over time, production of the parts also moved to the factories and shoe manufacturing became a large-scale industry.

*Location:* 28 Centre Ave., Abington (Dyer Memorial Library)

*Marker to include in picture:* the ten footer

#### 7. Island Grove Park



From the 1840s until the Civil War, Island Grove was a favorite place for anti-slavery rallies. Special trains running from Boston to Abington along the Old Colony line carried abolitionists to hear Wendell Phillips, George Thompson, Lucy Stone, William Lloyd Garrison, and others speak on anti-slavery issues. In 1909, Moses Arnold, who fought with the 12th Mass. Volunteers Co. G, erected a monument where the speakers' platform stood under the pine trees.

*Location:* entrance on Park Ave., Abington

*Marker to include in picture:* memorial tablet to abolitionists

## 8. North Abington Depot



In 1893, a conflict arose between the Town of Abington and the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Co. The town had granted the Rockland and Abington Street Railway Co. the right to build and maintain a trolley line on town roads, but the railroad refused to permit the street railway to cross its location at the grade. On August 16, 1893, a riot erupted when a group of railroad workers set out to uproot the trolley tracks on North Ave. by the railroad crossing and were met by a group of townspeople who had gathered to stop them. The case went to court and justice ruled in favor of the town. As an act of reparation, the railroad company built the North Abington Depot.

*Location:* 101 Railroad St., Abington

*Marker to include in picture:* signage on front door including the historic landmark plaque above

## 9. Commonwealth Shoe



Commonwealth Shoe was one of many shoe factories in Old Abington that flourished in the early 1900s. When the First Unitarian Society of Whitman sold its church, the shoe company purchased the building and incorporated it into the factory complex, where it remains an integral part of the structure. The shoe factory is currently in the process of being converted into a combination retail space and luxury apartments.

*Location:* corner of South and Marble Streets, Whitman

*Marker to include in picture:* former church building with the arched windows on its side

## 10. Toll House



In 1930, Kenneth and Ruth Wakefield purchased a house built in 1709 and opened the Toll House Restaurant and Inn. The establishment was located on what used to be the main road between Boston and New Bedford and near where toll was collected during the height of the whaling industry. It was while baking homemade cookies for the restaurant that Ruth Wakefield created her famous Toll House Chocolate Chip Cookies. Although the restaurant was completely destroyed by fire on New Year's Eve 1984, its legacy as the birthplace of the Toll House cookie is secure – the chocolate chip cookie was designated the official state cookie in 1997.

*Location:* 392 Bedford St. (Rt. 18), Whitman – in parking lot of Walgreen's

*Marker to include in picture:* "1709 Toll House" sign

