



Post Office Box 4077
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March , 2014

Dues

A notice was included with the last newsletter and the response has been good. If we have not received your dues for this year, another notice is included this time as well. If you have sent them in and do receive a notice, they probably crossed in the mail. Please continue to support the Society and pay your dues promptly.

April Meeting

The April meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8th, at 6:30 pm in the History Room of the Hopkinton Library. Food is not allowed in this room, so please don't bring refreshments. We do hope to see many of you there as we plan for summer events. The nominating committee will present their report for officers for the coming year. If the weather looks "iffy", check the web site or call either Peter James at 603 863-7330 or Brian Erickson at 603 746-3939 to check on the status of the meeting.

A New Fund Raising Program

I am repeating the information below hoping that many will sign up for the Amazon Smile Program.

We have signed on to a new fund raising program with Amazon, the on line retailer. It is called "Amazon Smile" and we get ½% of purchase totals when you buy from Amazon. You have to enter the Amazon site through the Amazon Smile link: "**smile.amazon.com**"

The first time there, you log in and then they will ask you to choose a charity. Type in the box "**Abbot-Downing Historical Society Inc**" Now that you have chosen your charity, you can start shopping. Your chosen charity will stay the same unless you change it.

Remember, you must go to Amazon through the "**smile.amazon.com**" link

You get the same product and the same pricing and the Society gets a donation. This looks like an easy way for the Society to earn some income with very little effort on the members' part. Amazon has millions of products at very good prices and they ship quickly and reasonably. Please think about using this avenue to support us. If you have questions about this, please call Peter James at 603 863-7330.

Guest Abbot & Downing Article

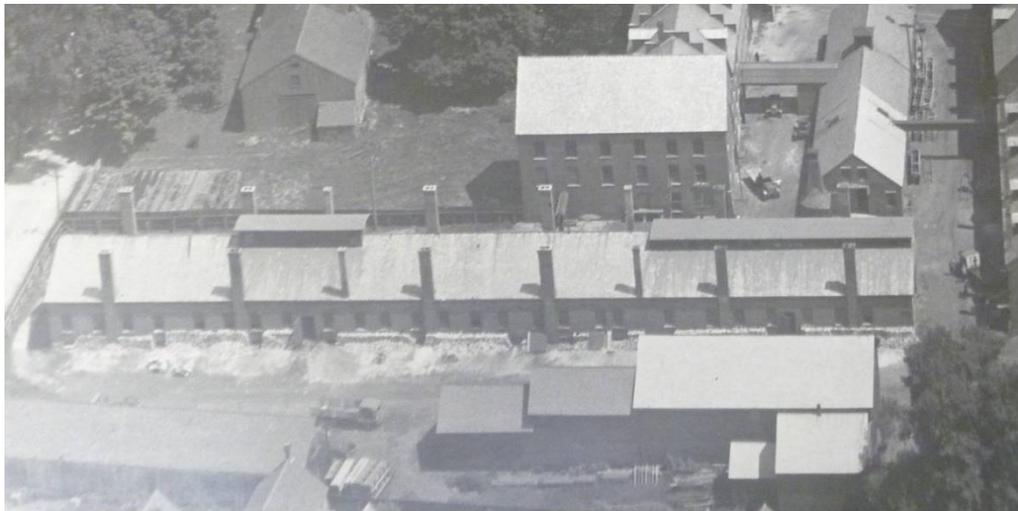
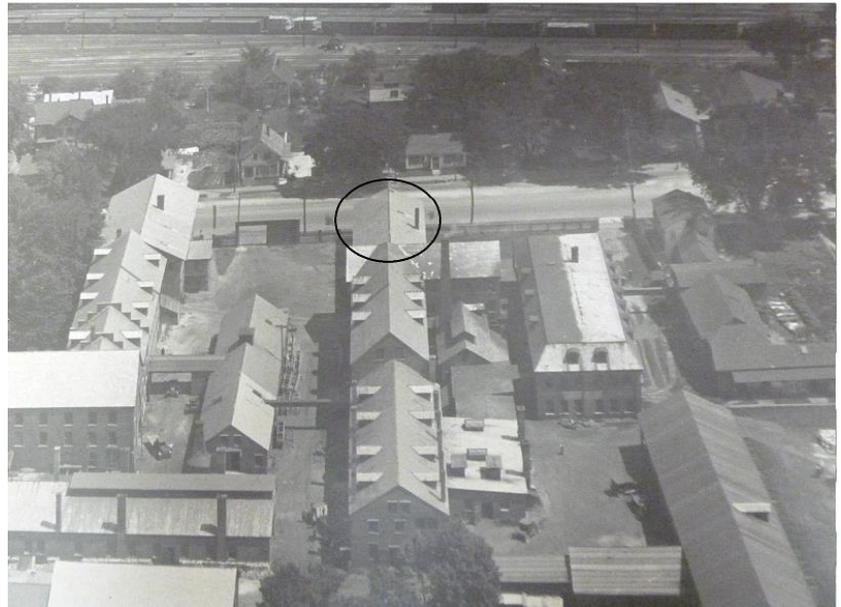
In this month's newsletter is a guest article reprinted from the "Amoskeag Reserve Engine Company" newsletter. This is the local chapter of SPAAMFAA (The Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Motorized Fire Apparatus in America). The article was written by John Donovan and relates his personal memory of the great fire that destroyed many of the original Abbot and Downing buildings in about 1962. We thank both ARECNH and John for this interesting bit of history that relates to the work that we do.

Abbot and Downing Buildings

Below are a couple of undated aerial photos of the Abbot and Downing factory area that were taken sometime before the fire mentioned above. It shows the locations of the two remaining buildings.

The circled building is the present location of the Cleary Cleaners and is owned by our members Barbara and Jay Rosenfield. Only the front part of the original building remains. It was a woodworking shop, possibly where the wheels were made.

South Main Street is in the background.



This aerial photo shows the blacksmith shops with all the chimneys and many windows and the two clerestories. The windows have been filled in with concrete blocks and the chimneys have been removed. Is now multi tenant commercial.