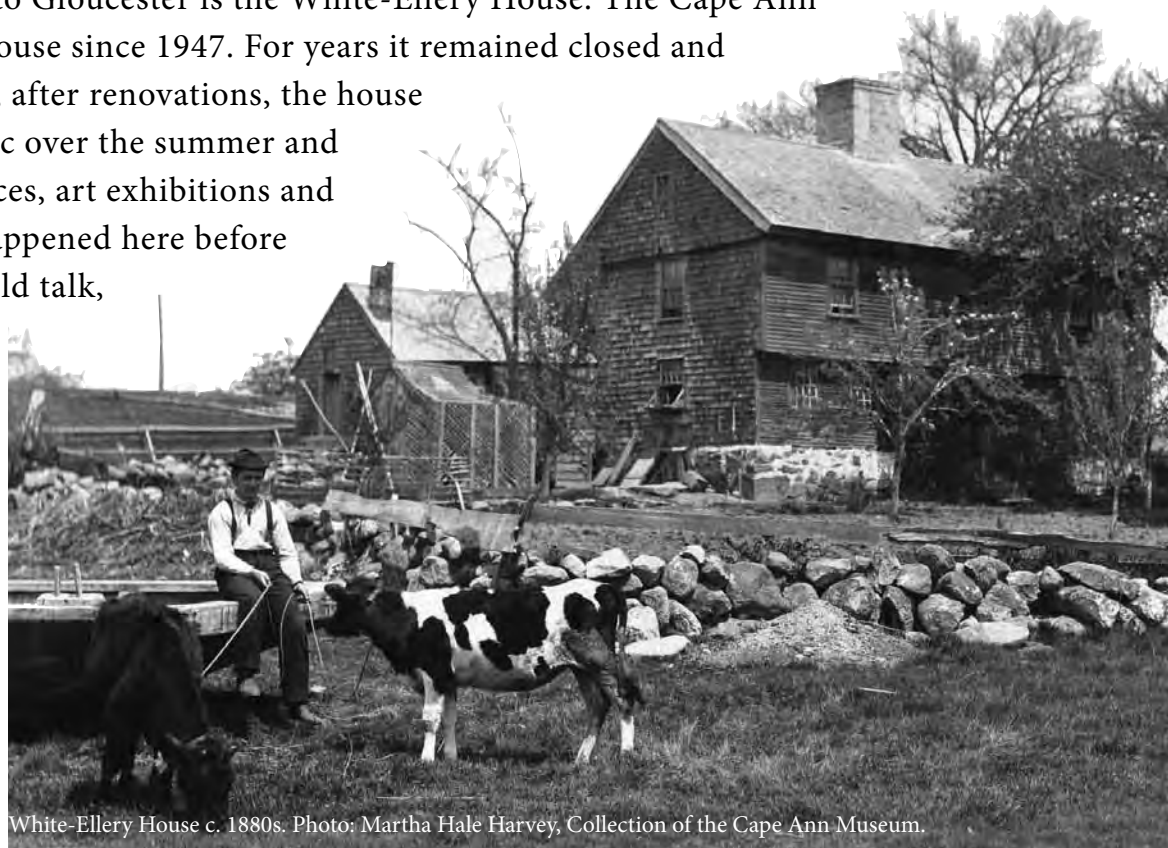


TIMESHIP *for kids*

SPRING 2013

THE WHITE-ELLERY HOUSE: 1710–2013

For visitors and local residents alike, one of the first things you see as you come over the Route 128 A. Piatt Andrew Bridge into Gloucester is the White-Ellery House. The Cape Ann Museum has owned this house since 1947. For years it remained closed and boarded up. Most recently, after renovations, the house has been open to the public over the summer and the host site of performances, art exhibitions and even dinners! But, what happened here before 1947? If only the walls could talk, the stories they would tell! We would hear of the men, women and children who lived here. We would learn of major events that these people saw during their lives. This house witnessed the growth and development of families, Cape Ann and more broadly the United States. Read on to learn about the White-Ellery House's three hundred year history.



White-Ellery House c. 1880s. Photo: Martha Hale Harvey, Collection of the Cape Ann Museum.



White-Ellery House, 2010. Collection of the Cape Ann Museum.

THINGS TO DO

Compare and contrast the photograph of the White-Ellery House taken in the 19th Century (above) with the recent photograph taken in 2010 (right). Find five things that are the same and five things that are different.

18TH CENTURY: FIRST PARISH

Home is where the heart is ... the heart of the village. In the 1700s, the center of Gloucester and Rockport was at the Town Green, where the Route 128 Grant Circle rotary is today. It was called the First Parish. The White-Ellery House was one of several homes in this area. It was

Gloucester artist Fitz Henry Lane went far and wide to sketch scenes that he would later paint in his studio. Where do you think Lane was standing to make the drawing below? The First Parish Meeting House was not still standing in 1863. Lane used his artistic license and added it.

built for the most important member of the First Parish, Reverend John White. A reverend served many purposes in colonial times. He advised on questions of faith, preached every Sunday (Sabbath Day), lectured monthly, comforted and aided the sick and dying, handled marriages and funerals, and guided the townspeople. In exchange for these services, the reverend was given a house, garden and salary. Reverend White's house

was directly next door to the meeting house. He and his wife Lucy, along with their 4 children, moved there in 1710. During Reverend White's time living in the house, he witnessed the growth of Cape Ann. What started as a small village safely tucked aside the Annisquam River grew to become the bustling harbor community that we know today as Downtown Gloucester. When the center of town relocated to what would be called Harbor Village, the Reverend had to move, too. He needed to be near the heart and soul of the people. The Harbor Village became known as the First Parish. The White-Ellery House remained in what would be called the Fourth Parish.

Did you know?

250

HISTORY OF GLOUCESTER.

Heckell in 1740; and died Oct. 25, 1814, aged ninety-three. Mary, born in 1723, married David Allen in 1745, and died before 1766. Samuel, the eleventh and youngest child of Mr. White, born in 1725, graduated at Harvard College in 1741, at the early age of sixteen. He became a schoolmaster, and was probably employed in that vocation in his native town in 1743 and 1749. He died before his father. A person of the same name, a physician, removed from York to Saug in about 1750; and died, soon after 1766, of consumption.* Our Samuel might have been attracted to that region to visit his sister Lucy, who resided in York.†

Mr. White received, soon after his settlement here, a grant of land, just below the plain on which his meeting-house stood; and undoubtedly built on that spot the house still standing there, which is accurately represented in the engraving below. He



Fitz Henry Lane drew Reverend White's house for one of Gloucester's first history books!

Detail from *History of the Town of Gloucester, Cape Ann* by John J. Babson. Drawing attributed to Fitz Henry Lane.

THINGS TO DO

Find a map of Gloucester, Massachusetts. Locate the following: Gloucester Harbor, Annisquam River and Route 128.

WEB
ADVENTURE

<http://www.historicnewengland.org/historic-properties/homes>

Look for other historic homes built during the First Period (1625–1725) of American Architecture. How do they compare to the White-Ellery House?

19TH CENTURY: A CENTURY OF ELLERYS

As the 18th century came to a close, Gloucester was well on its way to becoming a bustling shipping port. As a result of the American Revolution and later the War of 1812, America gained independence from Great Britain on the high seas. Throughout the 19th century, Gloucester would become more industrialized and eventually the premiere fishing port in America.

The second owner of the White-Ellery House was James Stevens. Stevens used the house as an inn and tavern between 1735 and 1740. In 1740, Captain William Ellery, a merchant, mariner, church and civic leader bought it upon his second marriage to neighbor Abigail Allen. Captain Ellery continued to operate an inn out of the house for a short time and then simply used it as a home. In 1793, their son Benjamin Ellery inherited the house. He lived there with his wife Sarah and their 9 children.

Benjamin Ellery was a merchant who traded in fish, clams, candles, molasses and other goods. He also had a gundalow (a shallow draft work boat) which he let out for use along the nearby Annisquam River. Benjamin's youngest son Samuel inherited the house in 1822. Eventually, his brother John, who had been in

Maine making furniture, returned to Gloucester to help Samuel with their ailing mother. In 1854, John's eldest son, also named John, moved into the house with his wife Sarah. John worked for the Eastern Railroad, soon to be the Boston and Maine Railroad. The railroad came to Gloucester in 1847.

By 1892, John and Sarah Ellery had lived in the house almost 40 years. They recognized the historical importance of the house and charged visitors 25¢ to view it. The house was over 180 years old and Gloucester was celebrating its 250th anniversary. The picture to the left is of John and future generations of Ellerys.



Saville Map Segment, (1823) Map of the Town Green. Collection of the Cape Ann Museum.

THINGS TO DO

This map was drawn when Benjamin Ellery owned the house. Look closely. See if you can find the Landing which is the spot where Ellery would access the Annisquam River for his trading activities. Who was living next door to the Ellery's at this time?



WEB
ADVENTURE

<http://www.historicnewengland.org/school-youth-programs/family-ties>
Learn more about your family history, historic houses, portraits and keepsakes!



Virginia Lee Burton(1909–1968). Author’s mock-up for *The Little House* (1942). Collection of the Cape Ann Museum.

20TH CENTURY: IN THE NAME OF PROGRESS

By the early 1900s Cape Ann was a place in transition. Electric cars had replaced horse drawn carriages. Immigrants were settling here to work in the fishing and granite industries. Tourists and summer residents flocked here to enjoy the fresh air.

In 1923, John’s wife Sarah Ellery passed away. For the last 20 years of her life, she had lived in the house with her daughter Rachel Low (Ellery) Beeman and

Rachel’s husband and children. Rachel’s daughter Ida is pictured below. In 1947, plans were unveiled showing Route 128 coming into Gloucester. The path of the new highway cut almost directly through the White-Ellery House. Realizing the historic importance of the structure, the City of Gloucester took the house and gave it to the Cape Ann Historical Association (now called Cape Ann Museum). The City also gave the Museum a small sliver of land at the corner of Poplar and Washington Streets where the house was promptly moved.

Ida Beeman Falk, who had lived in the White-Ellery House as a girl, would later recount her efforts to empty its contents before it was moved.

She wondered, “Did you ever have the experience of emptying an old house which was occupied by several generations and each leaving as they passed to their maker sea trunks full of keepsakes brought from foreign countries...” What do you think Ida was feeling at this time?



The White-Ellery House in the process of being moved, 1947. Collection of the Cape Ann Museum.



THINGS TO DO

Visit the Cape Ann Museum Children’s Activity Center and read Gloucester author Virginia Lee Burton’s *The Little House*. That little house had a big move just like the White-Ellery House!

WEB
ADVENTURE

<http://www.capeannmuseum.org/collections/white-ellery-house-1710/>

See more White-Ellery House photographs and learn how the house is being used today.

ACTIVITIES

A stereoscope is an optical instrument through which two pictures of the same object, taken from slightly different points of view, are viewed, one by each eye, producing the effect of a single picture of the object.

When viewed properly they give a sense of three dimensions. First

drawings were used to create a 3-D effect, but by the 1870s, which is when this picture of the White-Ellery House was taken, photographs were becoming more common place. Invented in the 1840s, these stereoscopic cards transported people to unknown places. In a time before airplanes and television, this was an easy way to see the world. People would sit in their parlors and find entertainment.



Collection of the Cape Ann Museum.



The Procter Brothers in Gloucester produced stereoscopic cards of Cape Ann. Now it's your turn. Draw two identical images, side by side. Cut out the card and bring your drawings to the Children's Activity Center at the Cape Ann Museum to view them with a stereoscope.

THINGS TO DO

Go to your local library and check out *The Astonishing Stereoscope* by award winning author Jane Langton. Learn about the Hall Family's adventures as they enter the world brought to life by their stereoscope.

VISIT THE CAPE ANN MUSEUM



William (8), Susie (4) and James (12) Ellery with their Uncle Dennison at Revere Beach, c. 1888. Private Collection.

ARCHIVES

View historic photos and documents to learn more about the many branches of the Ellery Family. You can also see more historic photos of the White-Ellery House through the years.



View of Washington Street, c. 1880. Collection of the Cape Ann Museum.

PERMANENT COLLECTION

Enjoy scenes from 19th century Gloucester in the Fitz Henry Lane Gallery. Don't miss this painting, *Babson and Ellery Houses, Gloucester*, 1863. Oil on Canvas. Collection of the Cape Ann Museum.



WHITE-ELLERY HOUSE

During the summer, visit the White-Ellery House on the first Saturdays of the month. Look for Contemporary Art Installations like the one here by Shep Abbott in 2012.

VISIT THE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY CENTER

Located on the lower level of the Museum, the Activity Center is a warm and welcoming place for kids and families to stretch out. The rule here is hands on ... spin the ship's wheel, take a turn at the butter churn, challenge yourself with mazes and puzzles, color, trace, print, create, draw, sketch or simply get lost in a book. You can come and go as you like and return as often as you want.

The Cape Ann Museum is open Tuesday – Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Museum is closed on Mondays, major holidays and during the month of February.

The second Saturday of every month is Family Free Day. For up-to-date information on exhibitions, special events and public programs please visit www.capeannmuseum.org or call (978) 283-0455 x10.

CAPE ANN MUSEUM

ART HISTORY CULTURE

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