



Asbury Grove Historical Society

So. Hamilton, MA

Notices about Asbury Grove from Newspapers
in the Year 1860

Notices about Asbury Grove from newspapers in the year 1860 (the 2nd Camp Meeting)

Compiled and transcribed by Lin Wright for the Asbury Grove Historical Society in 2016

In June, 1860 there were several brief notices in Boston area papers stating that the Methodist Camp Meeting at Asbury Grove will be on August 20.

Headline: Camp Meeting **Date:** Thursday, August 2, 1860 **Paper:** Salem Register (Salem, Massachusetts) **Page:** 2

[No Headline] **Date:** Friday, August 3, 1860 **Paper:** Boston Evening Transcript (Boston, Massachusetts) **Page:** 2 – essentially the same as Salem Register with minor changes (in blue)

CAMP MEETING IN ESSEX COUNTY. The Methodist Episcopal Camp Meeting, at Asbury Grove, Hamilton, will commence on Monday, August 20, and continue through the week. The accommodations for landing passengers from the cars of the Eastern Railroad will be much improved from last year, and undoubtedly the gathering will be much larger than at the first camp meeting ~~there~~ at this beautiful place.

[No Headline] **Date:** Friday, August 3, 1860 **Paper:** Cape Ann Advertiser (Gloucester, Massachusetts) **Page:** 2

CAMP MEETING.—The Methodist Episcopal Camp Meeting, at Asbury Grove, Hamilton, will commence on Monday, Aug. 20th, and continue through the week. The gathering will be immense, and we trust will result in much good. Remember the day, Aug. 20.

[No Headline] **Date:** Friday, August 10, 1860 **Paper:** Cape Ann Advertiser (Gloucester, Massachusetts) **Page:** 2

A large delegation from Gloucester will attend the Camp Meeting, at Asbury Grove, on the 20th inst.

Headline: Asbury Grove Camp Meeting **Date:** Thursday, August 16, 1860 **Paper:** Salem Register (Salem, Massachusetts) **Page:** 2

ASBURY GROVE CAMP MEETING. The annual camp meeting of Methodists at Asbury Grove, Hamilton, will commence on Monday next, the 20th. A correspondent of the Journal writes that active preparations are going on, a large number of workmen being engaged in erecting additional buildings, more seats, which have all been painted lead color, a large brick oven and furnace for the cooking department, and other improvements, which will add greatly to the convenience and comfort of the large crowd of people who are expected to be present. No booths or other temporary buildings for the sale of provisions or liquors will be allowed within one mile of the camp, and a large police force will be on duty to preserve order. A great gathering is anticipated.

[No Headline] **Date:** Friday, August 17, 1860 **Paper:** Cape Ann Advertiser (Gloucester, Massachusetts) **Page:** 2

CAMP MEETING.—The Camp Meeting to be held at Asbury Grove, Hamilton, next week, promises to be one of the most successful gatherings of the kind ever held hereabouts. Extensive arrangements have been made, to render everything pleasant, and should the weather prove auspicious, the number in attendance will be much larger than last season. Quite a large party will

be present from this town, and the arrangements for the accommodation of the Elm st. M. E. Society will be second to none on the ground. A new tent has been provided with a floor raised from the ground, and the sides are boarded to the eaves. The Society at Riverdale will also have a tent on the ground, and in addition to these societies, and numerous private parties, a large delegation are making arrangement to go from Lanesville. We hope they may have a refreshing season.

Headline: Asbury Grove Camp Meeting **Date:** Thursday, August 23, 1860 **Paper:** Salem Register (Salem, Massachusetts) **Page:** 2

Asbury Grove Camp Meeting.

The Camp Meeting at Asbury Grove, Hamilton, was duly inaugurated on Monday. The following are the rules of the meeting, which are read every day, as also the law relating to camp meetings:

1. The circle within the tents is consecrated for worship.
2. No walking about or talking with this circle during public worship.
3. Worship commences at 10 A. M., 2 ½ and 7 P. M.
4. Time for meals, 6 ½ A.M., 12 ½ and 5 ½ P. M.
5. Meetings in the tents are 8 A. M., after public service in the afternoon and from 9 to 10 P. M.
6. Hour of retiring, 10 P. M.
7. Rising, 5 A. M.
8. A light is to be kept in each tent during the night.
9. At the ringing of the bell at 10 P. M., all persons not having accommodations on the ground, are expected to retire.
10. No smoking.
11. No sale of drinks, confectioneries, books, pamphlets, &c., without permission from the committee.

The following is a list of the societies represented in the meeting and their pastors:

Boston—Hanover street, Rev. W. C. High; Bromfield street, Rev. W. F. Warren; Church street, Rev. I. J. P. Collyer; Hedding Church, Rev. H. W. Allen; Meridian street, Rev. S. Tupper; Bennington street, Rev. G. F. Cox; North Russell street, Rev. J. W. Dadman,

Lynn—Common street, Rev. G. W. Steele; Boston street, Rev. A. D. Sargent; Eaton street, Rev. W. A. Braman; Maple street, Rev. J. A. Ames; South street, Rev. J. L. Hanaford.

Newburyport—Liberty street, Rev. S. Kelley; Purchase street, Rev. F. Furber.

North Andover—Rev. G. Sutherland.

Rockport—Rev. E. Mason

Lowell—Worthen street, Rev. Luke Thayer; Central Church, Rev. C. Field.

Saugus—Rev. J. M. Clarke.

Malden—Rev. I. S. Cushman.

Gloucester—Riverdale, Rev. N. S. Spaulding; Elm street, Rev. C. L. McCurdy.

Melrose—Rev. A. D. Merrill.

Salem—Rev. J. H. Mansfield.

Watertown—Rev. H. E. Hempstead.

Roxbury—Rev. F. H. Newhall.

Chelsea—Walnut street, Rev. J. S. Barrows.

Cambridgeport—Rev. G. Haven.

Charlestown—High street, Rev. L. P. Frost.

Topsfield—Rev. J. W. Lewis.

Medford—Rev. A. F. Herrick.

Ipswich—Rev. C. L. Eastman.

Stoughton—Rev. C. Hammond.
Marblehead—Rev. A. M. Osgood.
East Cambridge—Rev. N. A. Howe.
South Walpole—Rev. W. Merrill.
Somerville—Rev. O. S. Howe.

There are upwards of one hundred tents in the grove, including family and private tents.

Messrs. Thurston of Lynn and Sanger of Salem have made extensive arrangements for feeding the multitudes, the former having laid in, according to the Journal, among other things one ton of meats, fifteen barrels of flour, nine hundred weight of sugar, one hogshead of molasses, thirty bushels of potatoes, three thousand ears of green corn, five hundred squashes, four barrels green apples, two barrels port, with beans in proportion, five hundred pounds butter, four hundred pounds cheese, and one hundred dozen eggs. Mr. Sanger, whose large canvas tent joins Mr. Thurston's, had fifty men at work, and has made provision to dispense six hundred loaves of white, and one hundred loaves of brown bread per day, and three thousand pies during the week. His *table d'hote* will be varied on different days, to suit the caprices of the appetite.

The Presiding Elder, Rev. L. Crowell, made some appropriate remarks at the opening on Monday afternoon, and was followed by A. D. Sargent of the Boston street church, Lynn, who in an eloquent manner set forth the object of the meeting. His text was, "How amiable are thy tabernacles."

An interesting poem was read by Rev. Mr. Manson of Rockport, appropriate to the occasion.

The meeting was called together at 7 P. M., for public worship. The hymn was sung, commencing "God of my life, what just return," &c. Rev. Mr. Kelley, of the Liberty street Church, Newburyport, preached from 5th verse, 29th chapter, of Chronicles, "Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day unto the Lord." Mr. Kelley was followed by Rev. A. J. Davies of Southern Illinois.

On Tuesday the weather was exceedingly disagreeable. The sermon at the stand in the forenoon was by Rev. W. H. Black, of the Kentucky Conference. He preached from the text, "Oh, Lord, revive thy work," Heb. 4.2. The sermon was well adapted to the place and circumstances. At the close, exhortations were given by Rev. A. F. Herrick of Medford and Rev. A. D. Sawyer of Lynn, followed by singing and prayers.

At one o'clock was the annual meeting of the Association, at which the reports of the officers were read. The Treasurer stated that the Association had received and expended during the first year of its existence, the sum of \$1350, for preachers' house, seats, and preparing the grounds.—After the transaction of some business of minor importance, the meeting adjourned.

While the people were at dinner heavy thunder showers arose, and the rain continued to fall so copiously as to prevent any further services at the public stand during the day. Ample protecting, however, was found within the tents, and the tent exercises were carried on with great fervor and effect. Yesterday, after the morning, the weather was more favorable, and the public services were resumed. The Camp Meeting will be continued every day until Saturday afternoon.

[No Headline] **Date:** Saturday, August 25, 1860 **Paper:** Cape Ann Light and Gloucester Telegraph (Gloucester, Massachusetts) **Page:** 1

HAMILTON CAMP MEETING.—The Annual Camp Meeting of the Boston and Lynn Districts was commenced Monday in Asbury Grove, Hamilton, a town in Essex county, about 12 miles from Gloucester. The attendance for the opening day was numerous.

Asbury Grove, now occupied for the purpose of a Camp Meeting, for the second time, contains about ten acres, five of which are owned by the District Association, and five are leased for the annual week of religious service. It is situated about one mile from the station on the Eastern Railroad, and is a pleasant, romantic spot. Its selection displays good taste, Elm Street Society of this town has erected two tents. That of Riverdale is also amply provided with the

means of camp life. Rockport too has a good delegation on the ground. The opening services were varied by Rev. Elijah Mason of Rockport, who delivered a poem prepared for the occasion. This is a new feature of Camp Meeting service, but its success on this occasion no doubt will make it a permanent thing. There is poetry in religion, just as there is religion in poetry. The service was closed with singing, prayer and benediction. The regular services for the week will be at 10 o'clock A. M., 2 ½ and 7 o'clock P. M. At each of these a regular sermon will be preached. Besides these will be social meetings at the tents. These form by far the most peculiar, novel and striking exercises of the camp. They are hearty, unctuous, attractive and impressive. Few can witness them without being concerned. At times there are fifty, sixty and eighty in progress at the same time; and as the voices of the singers and speakers come together the effect is singular. At one tent there will be vocal exercises; at another prayer; and still another a fervor of exhortation such as is rarely heard outside of the Methodist denomination. Each in its way is good, often excellent. The spectator standing in the centre of the grove will hear such a commingling of diverse sounds as will not fail to stir his ears. The Boston Atlas in its excellent report says, all who attend Camp Meeting, and remain in the tents, as may be naturally supposed, are not professedly pious. On the contrary, some have the unmistakable air and manner of the gay and worldly. Young ladies in jaunty hats, waving curls, and fashionable attire generally, may be seen on the active promenade between service, evidently as upon Washington street, seeing what is to be seen, There are also young men of a corresponding class, who are present not so much for the spiritual, as for sensational purposes. The great majority, however,—those who give character and stamp to the Camp Meeting as an institution—are quite of another class, and religious to the core. Still beyond these are a miscellaneous class, made up of the... [fold in paper—line illegible]...are here and there, and depart with no other motive than to gratify a trivial curiosity.

Forty societies were represented Monday.—This is a larger number than on the first day last year. The attendance will doubtless reach 15,000 to 18,000, should the weather prove favorable.

There are thirty policemen on the ground, under the direction of Charles Merrill, Esq., Deputy Sheriff of Lynn, They have head-quarters within the camp circle, and are on duty hourly.

[No Headline] **Date:** Saturday, August 25, 1860 **Paper:** Cape Ann Light and Gloucester Telegraph (Gloucester, Massachusetts) **Page:** 2

THE CAMP MEETING at Asbury Grove, in Hamilton, has not been held under as propitious circumstances as would have been desirable, Monday—a sort of business day—being cloudy, Tuesday quite rainy a considerable part of the day, and frequent showers prevailing Wednesday. During these days the number of visitors to the camp ground were few compared with what would have been the case had the weather been as favorable as at the dedication of the grove last year. The rest of the week has been little better in the way of weather, though in spite of it large numbers of visitors have attended, including many from this section. On Tuesday, the Gloucester tent was the scene of an interesting meeting under the direction of Rev. A. M. Osgood of Marblehead, who discoursed upon the subject of Sanctification, his text being “Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth.” John 17:17. On Wednesday, stated meetings held in the tents of the Gloucester and Newburyport societies, in the Bromfield street tent, by Rev. Mr. Davis of Alton, Ill., and in the Ipswich, Topsfield and Rockport tents, services were also held.

[No Headline] **Date:** Friday, August 31, 1860 **Paper:** Cape Ann Advertiser (Gloucester, Massachusetts) **Page:** 2

ASBURY GROVE CAMP MEETING.

When we came home from Asbury Grove, in the summer of 1859, it was with a firm determination to revisit its scenes, if our health should be spared till the month of August, 1860. The year has flown, with its usual mutations, and we have again returned from the encampment at

Hamilton. Not with the same sensations of novelty, with which we were filled after our first visit, and yet with a sense of pleasure; for the scene at Camp meeting is ever varying, ever new.

It seemed as though the fates had formed a league to inveigle us out of the long anticipated visit to the gathering at Asbury Grove.—Pressing business engagements promised to debar us from devoting any considerable time to such an excursion, and the inclemency of the weather served to detain many better people than us, at home. It seemed as though the prayers of our Methodist friends was answered in a literal, if not in a spiritual sense, for the flood ‘gates were opened,’ and the rain descended in plentiful showers, through the week.

Despairing of getting a clear morning for our journey, we availed ourselves of a momentary leisure on Friday, and were swiftly borne along toward the usually quiet town of Hamilton. We found the tents arranged in nearly the same order as the year before, there being, however, several new society tents, and a large number of family tents. The arrangements were well carried out, and perfect order reigned. The accommodations feeding the multitude were much better than last season. Many of the tents have been much improved and several new ones erected. Notwithstanding the dampness of the weather, most of the tents were dry as a room.

The rain interfered with some of the public services during the week, but the private services, in many of the tents, were quite as interesting. Old men were there, indulging in “the luxury of tears;” women, old and young, were bathed in tears of repentance, while stirring prayers and exhortations were offered.

Few can witness these private services without some emotion; the fervent prayers, the quick responses and lovely singing must make some impression on the beholder,

A great many visited camp meeting on Friday. We are not used to estimating gatherings of the kind, but heard the number present stated all the way from either thousand to twice that number. It is quite a study to examine the different classes present. And when we have learned the lesson of the camp, a walk to the railway station will not fail to present new scenes. Here are victualing and confectionary booths. On the other hand is a Smoking Park, whose principal trees are sun flowers, while the lumbering omnibus with its curiosity seeking freight goes rolling between.

But we must bid camp meeting adieu, hoping when 1861 rolls around to have another opportunity to visit Ashbury [sic] Grove.