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Salem and Beverly Reunion May 29 – June 1, 2025



Attendees of the Haskell Family Reunion gather in front of the Hale Farm in Beverly, Massachusetts, on Friday, May 30, 2025, before taking a guided tour of the house, followed by a walk through the Abbott Street cemetery on the way to lunch at the Cabot House.

From nearby Danvers, once known as Salem Village, where the witch trials occurred in 1692, to Washington state, Haskells gathered in Salem and Beverly, which was referred to as the Bass River side of Salem before 1668, for the 2025 Haskell Reunion. Activities began Friday morning at the Hale Farm in Beverly, where Abby Battis, director of Historic Beverly and a descendant of Rev. John Hale, gave us a tour of the house and a history lesson about how John Hale became the first minister of First Church Beverly in 1667, lured away from the Church of Christ in Charlestown by an offer of a house and land extending to the ocean. She explained how John Hale played a significant role in the 1692 witch trials, initially supporting

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them and later realizing they were convicting innocent people. In the Hale House in 1697, he wrote a book, *A Modest Enquiry Into the Nature of Witchcraft*, which was published posthumously, two years after he died in 1700.



**Touring the Hale House
with Abby Battis**



After the Hale House tour and on our way to lunch at the Cabot House, Abby led us through the Abbott Street Burial Ground, also known as the Ancient Burying Ground, the oldest cemetery in Beverly, established in 1671, adjacent to

the First Church in Beverly. In the late 1880s, a prominent Beverly resident, not wanting to walk around the cemetery to reach City Hall, built Abbott Street, slicing through the middle of the cemetery. He allowed a short time for the removal and reinterment of the remains before constructing the road. However, not all were removed, and some are still buried under Abbott Street. John Hale's remains were removed and displayed for a week on the church altar before being reburied in a new section of the burying ground. Abby told us that she refuses to drive on Abbott Street.

Elizabeth Haskell is the only Haskell buried in the Abbott Street Burial Ground. She is the second wife of **ROBERT³ HASKELL (WILLIAM², MARK¹)**,

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**Abbott Street Burial Ground with
First Church Beverly in the background**



Rev. John Hale headstone where he was reinterred

who built the Haskell House at 680 Hale Street in Beverly, which we visited during the 2013 Concord-Beverly Reunion. Her headstone has fallen over and is mostly covered with dirt. Historic Beverly has initiated a program to restore such headstones, and we are collaborating with them to have Elizabeth's headstone restored. Refer to the article on page 10 for more details.

After our walk through the Abbott Street Burial Ground, we reached the Cabot House on Cabot Street for a box lunch on the second floor. Following lunch, Bev Pierce explained how her new novel, *The Rowans*, was inspired by the life of



Entering the Cabot House for lunch on Friday



Wiskers and Bob Haskell at the Cabot House

her fifth great-grandmother, Anna Haskell. See page 16 for some of the details that Bev shared at lunch.

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Friday lunch at the Cabot House

Photo by Abby Battis



Dave and Joanne Luz at the Cabot House

our reunion, even though three weddings were taking place at the hotel during the weekend.



L-R: Susan Nettleton, Richard Hascall, Robert Hascall, Wade Gadreault, Suzanne Gadreault, Colleen Martin at the Friday night dinner in Sophia's Room



Bev Pierce discusses the background of her recently released novel, *The Rowans*

Photo by Abby Battis

The Friday night dinner was held in Sophia's Room of the Hawthorne Hotel, named in honor of Nathaniel Hawthorne's wife, Sophia Peabody Hawthorne. The hotel, named after Nathaniel Hawthorne, is celebrating 100 years since its construction in 1925. As a member of Historic Hotels of America, it was the perfect venue for

After dinner, Vijay Joyce presented a slide show on the 400-year history of Salem, the place where our ancestors landed four centuries ago. It provided valuable context and background for the walking tour he led on Saturday morning from the Hawthorne Hotel to the Pickering House, the oldest house in Salem, where Vijay and his wife now reside, and through which he gave us a personal tour.

At the Saturday night dinner at Longboards restaurant, Wiskers conducted an auction to raise funds for the restoration of Elizabeth Haskell's headstone in the Abbott Street Burial Ground. See page 10 for the outcome.

The Sunday coffee at the William Haskell House in West Gloucester provided the perfect ending to a fun, informative, and successful reunion, as shown in the photos on the next three pages.

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Across the street from the Hawthorne Hotel is the best example of Federalist architecture.



Stopping by the Peabody Essex Museum.



The Charter Street Cemetery Welcome Center is an old building with low beams... as shown by Bev and Luanne.



The room with the two corner windows on the second floor behind Vijay is where George Washington slept. Cloth taken from curtains and bedding are now framed at the Pickering House.



The walking tour ended at the Pickering plots in the cemetery across the street from the Pickering House.



Behind Vijay is the Salem Witch Trials Memorial with 20 granite benches on which are etched the name, means of execution, and execution date of the 20 innocent victims.



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Vijay explains how the Pickering House was built in 1660 by John Pickering, and it stayed in the same family for over three and a half centuries.



The Pickering House patio overlooks a large backyard with lovely trees and gardens.



Saturday buffet dinner of steak tips and Parmesan chicken was at the Longboards restaurant on Salem harbor.



Colleen and Vijay are holding a reproduction of the c1794 Canandaigua Treaty Belt; a wampum belt presented by Timothy Pickering to the Haudenosaunee Confederacy of Native Americans on the occasion of the very first Treaty established between them and the United States, which is still in effect to this day.



L-R: Dave and Joanne Luz, Jane Lothian, Martha Lufkin, Doug and April Haskell, Penny Allen, Dave "Wiskers" Haskell



Vijay and his wife eat in the exquisite dining room in the Pickering House. The door behind Vijay leads to a large backyard,



L-R: Allen and Donna McCarriston, Natalie Samuelson, Karyn Haskell, Carol Kessler, Rhoda Briggs, Luanne and Tom Kane

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Coffee and Munchkins at the William Haskell House on Sunday



**Sisters at the William Haskell House
Jane Lothian and Martha Lufkin**



Colleen Martin



**Rick Samuelson
Dave Luz**



Natalie & Rick Samuelson



**Rhoda Briggs
Priscilla Horsman**



Dick & Edie Haskell



**Bev Pierce
Natalie Samuelson**