



Abbot-Downing Historical Society
PO Box 4077
Concord, NH 03302-4077
www.concordcoach.org

Concord is celebrating its history – all 250 years of it.

Truth: Concord's history ran off while we slept.
Now folks growl when they speak of the railroad station.
What's left of the Dew Drop Inn? A wooden peg and a brick.
How about the Tenney Chimes? Silence..
The Italian garden on North Main? A gas station.
Rumford Coffee House? A union hall.
Gone.
You have one to add? Tell me.
And I'll tell you another, one that's six weeks shy of departure.

Concord's historic claim to fame was a factory on Main Street,
The Abbot-Downing Company, in all its generations.
J. Stephens Abbot and Lewis Downing and their huge manufacturing yards
built the famed stagecoach – the "Concord Coach" –
which opened the American West and then circled the globe.
They also built horse-drawn vehicles, all shapes and sizes,
And finally motor cars and trucks, even fire engines.
Built them by the thousands, and all marked "Concord".
In Concord now, mostly they're all
Gone.

We do have seven Concord Coaches in town
thanks to history-minded neighbors,
and a Concord fire engine,(one of the two left in the world).
The folks at the Abbot-Downing Historical Society
keep two coaches safe, preserved in company
with sleighs and wagons and carriages they "think were made here",
but don't carry the Abbot-Downing "Brand".
They cherish the vehicles and the history
and share them every chance they get,
in their barn, on our city streets..

Now Chance has come to Concord, hoping we'll take it.
A New Hampshire gentleman who collected
seven Concord-made vehicles all marked "Abbot-Downing",
has decided it is time to sell them all – as one lot.
It's a once-in-a-lifetime chance to bring our history home.

The gentleman prefers that the Concord pieces return home.
He has offered them at a “special price”, \$100,000 for the lot of six,
another \$75,000 for the rare seventh, but his offer only holds until September 1.
Why? A carriage museum in the Midwest wants them all
and is standing by, anxious, with checkbook in hand.

So what are we doing to do?
Nothing, and then growl about our lost history?
Or are we going to pitch in,
big and little purses – and grab the chance we have been given
to save the most extraordinary collection ever assembled
of the single factor which made our city unique.

Six weeks. In four days \$13,000 has primed the well.
Six weeks and \$187,000 to go to save the one piece
of our Concord history that made a global difference..
Six weeks before it is lost forever.
Gone.

Your tax-deductible contributions may be sent to:
Abbot-Downing Historical Society
PO Box 4077
Concord, NH
03302-4077

Updates will be posted on the Society’s website:
www.concordcoach.org

Help Us Bring the Vehicles Home

Be a part of history in preserving these vehicles!

The Abbot-Downing Historical Society is currently in the process of raising funds needed to purchase these rare and beautiful historic vehicles. We have a small window of time in which to do this and we are counting on people like you to help us bring these unique vehicles home to Concord where they were built 150 years ago.

Would you join us in bringing this special part of New Hampshire history home where we and future generations may enjoy them?

If you can say,

“YES, I WANT TO HELP !”

Please make checks out to:

The Abbot-Downing Historical Society

Mailing address:

Abbot-Downing Historical Society
PO Box 4077

Concord, NH 03302-4077

Become an integral part of preserving history by donating to the Abbot-Downing Historical Society Vehicle Fund Raiser.

We hope you'll consider helping us in bringing these beautiful historic Abbot-Downing vehicles home to Concord, NH.

For more information, contact:

Brian Erickson, President
603-746-3939

Peter James, Treasurer
603-863-7330

Or any member of the Abbot-Downing Historical Society



Abbot-Downing Historical Society
of Concord NH
a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

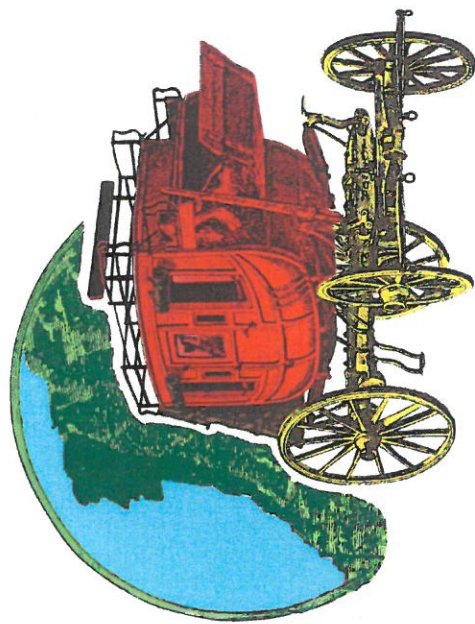
Abbot-Downing Website

www.concordcoach.org



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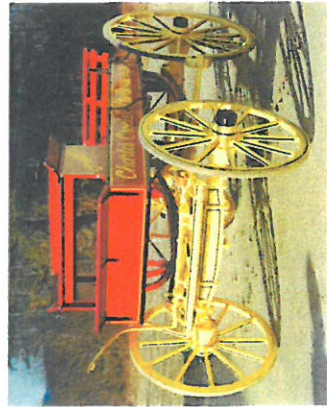
Email Address
info@concordcoach.org





Roof-Seat Break

The Abbot-Downing Company made a large number of pleasure-driving vehicles. One of the more sporting vehicles was their Roof-Seat Break which came into being when the sport of four-in-hand driving became popular on summer estates. These large vehicles, usually were found in well-established coach houses, at livery stables, and horse exchanges. This one, No. 21126, carries the customary maker's tag, 'Abbot-Downing Company'.



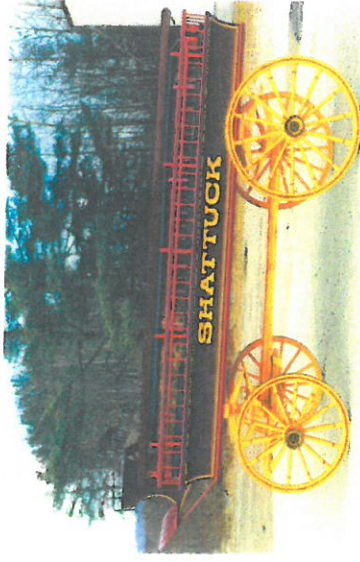
Express Wagon

The Abbott-Downing Company made a wide range of heavy vehicles - all sorts of heavy trucks and drays. Commercial vehicles seemed to be a specialty. The body of this vehicle, an Express Wagon, is fitted with rockers, and is set on leather *thoroughbraces*. This arrangement served to reduce the jolting and pounding of construction work, especially when traveling on rough roads.



Crawford House Mountain Wagon

The Crawford House was one of the great mountain hotels situated in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. It was located at Crawford Notch. Most mountain houses owned vehicles, a Mountain Wagon or a Concord Coach, or Break, which shuttled hotel guests between the hotel and railway station. They also did double duty, taking guests in and about the picturesque mountain haunts and lakes. The bodies of these vehicles were hung on elliptical steel leaf springs in several arrangements. Four springs together, two springs transverse beneath the body and two parallel to the sides, created the platform spring, seen at the rear of this vehicle. This three-spring arrangement over the fifth wheel was sufficient to hold up the weight at the front. Since the Mountain Wagon necessarily traveled over harsh mountain roads, it was built heavier and sturdier than a normal Spring Wagon, and was supplied with a brake.



The Abbot-Downing Barge 'Shattuck Wagon'

The Shattuck Wagon is one of the rarest of the Abbot-Downing vehicles. There are only three that are known to currently exist. They carried school baseball teams to away games or large parties to the beach, or other such outings. With seats on the long sides, in the manner of a Wagonette, with the ever-present Abbot-Downing carved wooden spindles and a top rail, such a vehicle could easily accommodate twenty passengers. This particular one, named 'The Shattuck' was one of three made for St. Paul's School in Concord, NH.



Pony Sleigh

Although there were many types of sleighs, most of them were adaptations of wheeled vehicles to runners. The Pony Sleigh carried four passengers and could be pulled by one or two horses. There appears to be no relationship between its name and the fact that it was horse size. We have been told that this one may possibly be the only one left in existence manufactured by Abbot & Downing.

