

The Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore

(The following article appeared in a 1958 issue of the Clipper and was reprinted in the 1975 Anniversary issue.)

Duxbury Clipper, Thursday, August 5, 1982

In 1845 the Old Colony Railroad was opened for business with a run to Plymouth. The train consisted of an engine and 3 coaches, the latter having doors on the sides instead of on the end as now. Arriving in the historical town, a chowder was served in Plymouth Hall to 400 guests. Here is an account in the Boston Advertiser written in 1859:

"The road and all the machinery being new, the train proceeded at a moderate pace, stopping at all the way stations to take in the gentlemen who had been invited to join in the excursion. The route passes through Dorchester on the seacoast border, crosses the Neponset River near its mouth, passes the villages of Quincy and South Weymouth center and South Abington, a portion of Hanson, a corner of Halifax and the village of Kingston to its terminus, Court St., in Plymouth, a distance of 37 miles.

"The route as far as Quincy and Braintree is pleasant, but from the latter point on is uninteresting. The track, with the exception of a small portion where the work is not finished, was in excellent order. The depot buildings at the way stations are yet unfinished.

"The work was completed at a cost less than the capital of the company, which is \$1,000,000. This is the 7th of the main lines of railroad that now radiate from Boston as a common center, measuring in all their branches more than 800 miles in extent.

"Said one passenger later: 'Going up the grade from what is now Quincy Adams, at that time Braintree, the locomotive was unable to pull the train and some of us were obliged to get off and help push the engine and train up the slope. First, we detached the engine and pushed that up the grade. Then we took the cars and gave them a lift up the hard place. And that was the way in which we helped along the first trip over the new railroad.'

"We went along all right then until we came to Kingston, 4 miles from Plymouth, and here we found that the bridge was not completed. The engineer did not care to run the cars over the road heavily loaded as they were, and so we got out and pushed."

Train service to Duxbury started in 1871, and the last run was on August 20, 1940.