

Historic home moves to make way for bank branch office

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The old, white frame structure, on the corner of Wianno and Main Streets, home of the Lovell family for generations, will be moved to make way for a bank branch office.

Back in the days when Osterville was called "Lovell's Neighborhood," the old house stood, seemingly impassive, as life passed it by. What stories could be told if the house could speak?

Originally the home of James Lovell, it was built about 1762. There was a succession of Lovells that occupied the house during the two centuries the house occupied its advantageous view of the village.

Horses, then horseless carriages, went by. Styles and mores changed. Wars were fought. New inventions made way for a more leisurely life. Children played. Life went on.

In 1935, Fred Dill, the adopted son of the sixth James Lovell, inherited the home, and after his death his widow married Malcolm (Max) Crosby, who was the last to occupy the home. Mr. Crosby died in April, 1979.

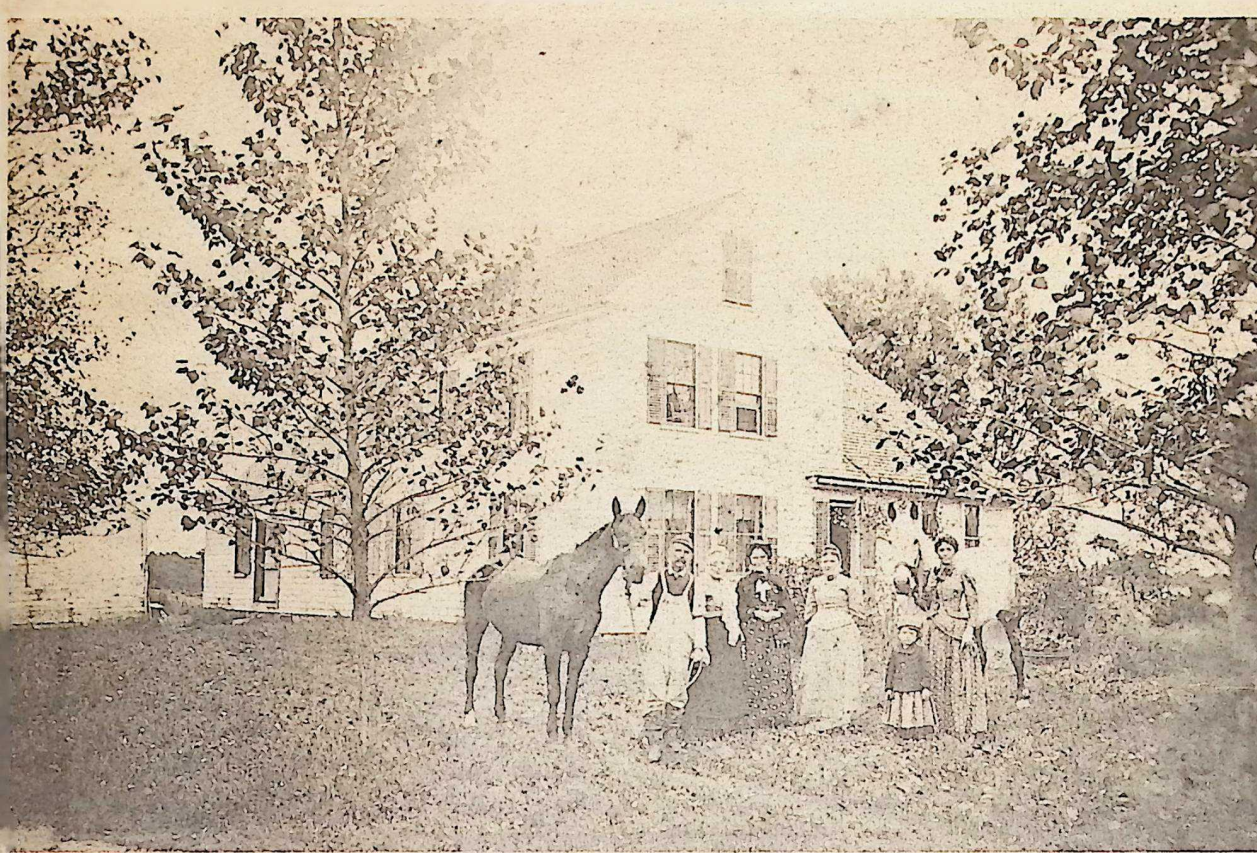
Walls do not have ears and houses can't tell stories, but records of the village were written within these walls and kept throughout the years- records of the times, the people, and primarily, records of the family who lived here.

James Allen Lovell (1851-1935) is remembered as a very strict father, a no nonsense adult, but apparently, James Allen had been a mischievous child; for it was he who was blamed for setting a fire that destroyed an old section of the house. Much of the left side of the house and the upstairs have been altered as a result of this fire, but the downstairs remains as it was originally.

Osterville's first library was in the dining room of the old house at the time it was occupied by Mrs. Thankful Ames, the village's first librarian. This was in 1873.

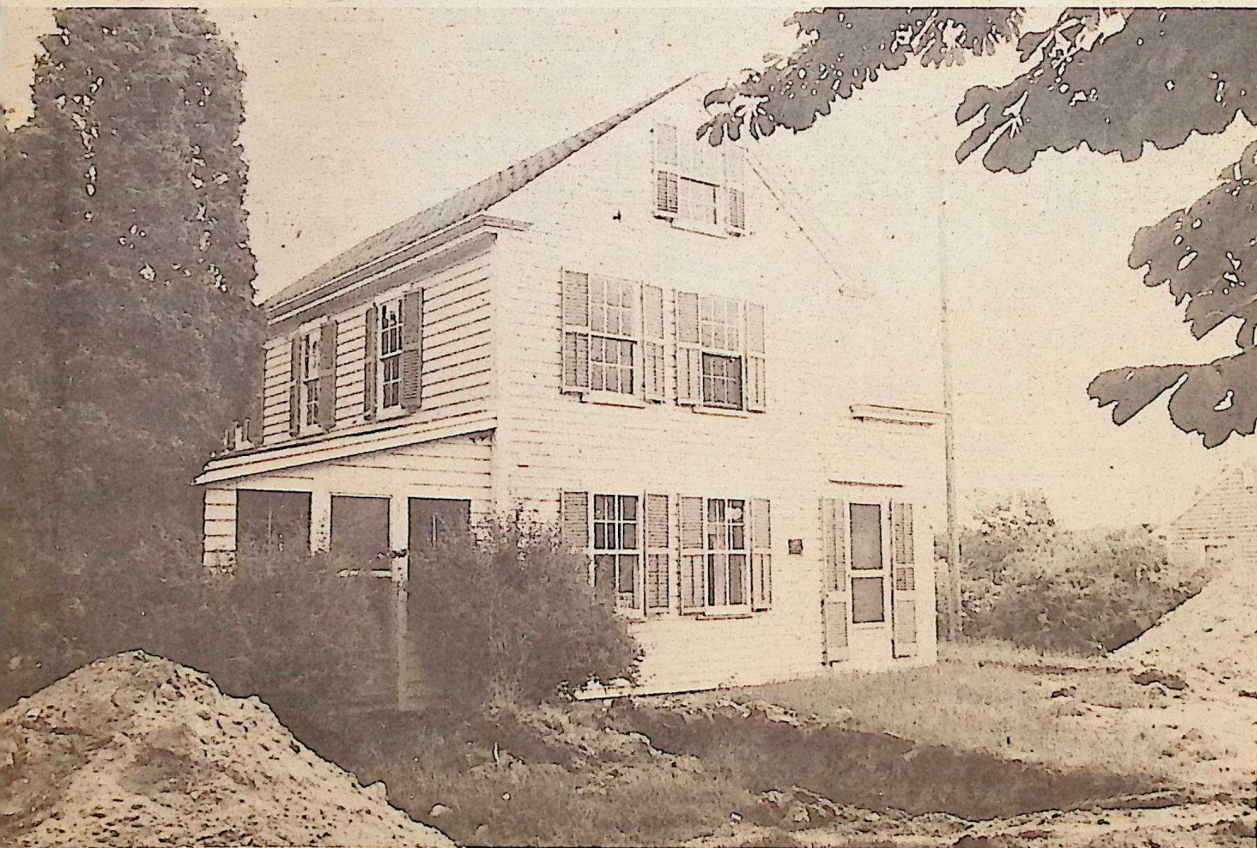
Robert Hallett of Marstons Mills recently purchased the home when he heard the bank wanted the property but not the house. His wife said that it was a lovely house, an historic house, and they wanted to see it preserved. The house will be moved southeast of its present location, across from the Cape Cod Academy tennis courts.

Ironically, the Hallett name has been associated with the house before. James Lovell IV married Clarissa Hallett in 1825 after the death of his first wife.



Lovell house as it appeared in 1893. Pictured left to right: James Allen Lovell, Laura Waitt Kerbaugh,

Lucinda Hinckley Lovell, Eugenia Lovell, Willie Johnson and Ella Lovell. (Photo courtesy of Paul Chesbro)



The original home of James Lovell which occupied the southwest corner of Wianno Avenue and West Bay Road in Osterville for the past 220 years, was scheduled to be moved Wednesday (yesterday). Robert Hallett purchased the building from the Bass River Savings

Bank and had it moved to Lovell Road, a few hundred yards away, thus preserving the old homestead. Hallett said the building had to be moved by Wednesday as the bank reportedly will begin construction immediately. (Village Advertiser Photo by Mark Cote)