

DUXBURY, 1953
BOOK 2273, PAGE 184
THE CABLE HOUSE

Former “Old Bank Building”

Trans-Atlantic Cable from Brest, France to the Town of Duxbury

The French Atlantic Telegraph Company laid an underwater telegraph cable across the Atlantic Ocean in 1869. The laying of the cable on the ocean floor began on June 21, 1869 at the coastal city of Brest in France and extended to the Town of Duxbury where it was brought ashore on July 23, 1869 at Rouse’s Hummock near the northerly end of Duxbury Beach.

On July 28th, a Grand Jubilee was held at Abram’s Hill overlooking the beach attended by the townsfolk and representatives of Boston, the Commonwealth, and national and international leaders. Flags were flown, bands played, and speeches delivered all in celebration of the event.

The next day, work was begun extending the cable across Duxbury Marsh to the building then known as the “Old Bank Building” at the corner of Washington and St. George Streets, title to which was acquired by the Ocean Telegraph Company in 1870. The building, which came to be known as the Cable House, was the telegraph office which sent and received messages to and from Europe and beyond, from that time to well into the 20th century. In 1953, having become obsolete, the property was sold as a private residence and continues to this day to be known as the Cable House to the residents of Duxbury who know its history.

Compliments of Register of Deeds John R. Buckley, Jr.
and Anthony M. Markella

From the “Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Notable Land Records Collection”