

Susan Griggs on Caleb Grosvenor

“Caleb Grosvenor had two sons in the Revolution, and his home was undoubtedly sold after his death. The place did not again return to the Grosvenor family for a hundred years, when it was purchased by Benjamin Grosvenor.

Caleb Grosvenor was a rising young man at the time the Abington meetinghouse was built. Because of paying the highest rate in the Parish, he was given first choice of a place to build his pew.

The old post road, later the Hartford-Boston turnpike, was muddy, rough and precipitous, though heavily traveled. The tavern, built in 1765, was famous through the Revolution. Caleb Grosvenor was a loyal Patriot, but a sign long hung before his door, depicting a post rider carrying the English flag, and riding a galloping horse. This sign, that once bore the date 1765, now hangs before the Ben Grosvenor Inn on Pomfret Street.

History, tradition and controversy met at the tavern. In 1812 the son of Lieut. Joseph Spaulding, a Revolutionary soldier. Rev. Solomon Spaulding, with his wife, spent some time at the Caleb Grosvenor Inn while suffering from loss of voice while teaching school. He wrote for his own amusement a romantic account of the wanderings of the Children of Israel across the Behring Straits, and called it "Manuscript Found" or the "Book of Mormon."