

## ***BRINGING the PRESENCE of the PAST into the PRESENT***

### ***New Hampton Had a Train Wreck?***

Although I grew up in New Hampton, I do not recall hearing about two locomotives involved in a head-on crash in our town. A stereoscopic card on eBay, with its faded image of the wreckage of two locomotives, led to many questions. These were quickly answered by a framed collage hanging on the wall of the New Hampton Historical Society Museum. Local resident Volker Antoni, through photos and text, narrates the story of *The Railroad in New Hampton*, including the collision. The following information is from Volker's work.

On May 8, 1882, through an error of the dispatcher, the daily local from Plymouth to Concord collided with a cattle train out of Vermont. While most of the crew members were able to jump free before the crash, there were two fatalities. One was William Abel (1834-1882) of Bridgewater, an English immigrant who owned a knitting machine factory in Laconia, and the other was Hiram Jones (1832-1882), a horse drover from Barre, VT. Volker concludes, "*The conductor and as such, the person in charge of the passenger train was Thomas Robie (1830-1893). Passengers referred to his train as 'Robie's Train.'* He was a New Hampton native. Twice-daily on his route he passed the Robie family homestead and farm on the east side of Winona Road at the intersection of Straits Road and extending down to the Fogg's Road Station."



*½ of a Stereoscopic View Card found on eBay. The photographers, C. F. Bracy of Ashland and C.H. Colby of Meredith took several photographs of the wreck from various perspectives – all of which were sold to the public! Winona Lake was once "Long Pond."*

All aboard, indeed! For more information on the history of the town, please visit the New Hampton Historical Society website at [www.newhamptonhistory.org/](http://www.newhamptonhistory.org/)

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