

If William Lawrence was the Patron Saint and Augustine Amory was the Enabler, then Rev Horatio Gray was likely the Seed of the new church in North Andover. In Amory's historical summary of his tenure, he clearly identifies Gray's first organized efforts; he wrote:

“About three years ago services were held in the same Town Hall by the Rev. Horatio Gray in accordance with the wishes of several Episcopalians. But when the summer was over, the services were discontinued. Thereupon many Episcopalians who had hoped for the formation of some permanent organization were much disappointed and united themselves to other churches.”

Gray was born into a family of wealth. His grandfather was none other than William Gray, a self-made man from Lynn who knew how to seize opportunity and make the most of it. Rising from a very humble beginning, over his career he built a fleet of vessels and engaged in overseas trade and in the later 1700's was reported to be the wealthiest man in America, at one point lending money to finance the Revolution. He also served as the 9th Lt Governor of the state. His son Henry followed him into business and while the records on him are vague, he too likely was a person of means. Henry's eighth son, Horatio was born to this line of wealth at Roxbury in 1828 and like all good men of wealthy parentage who either followed their father into business or became an Episcopal minister, he took the latter course. Graduating from Brown and then Theological Seminary of Virginia, he entered the priesthood in 1852.

Gray's career was not exactly spectacular, initially an assistant minister at a large church in Philadelphia for 1 year, he then took on a small new parish in rural New York State for 2 years, and after a blank period during which he wrote a memoir of a Brooklyn minister, he was rector in Mamaroneck NY (Westchester County) for 5 years. At the ripe age of 43 he retired to his ancestral Boston—serving in various supply position as his obituary states. His time in Boston shows little distinction, but one assumes his connections and esteem took him far. He was never distant from the figures of church power and authority. In short, it appears that he did whatever he wanted to do. At his death in 1903, the Bishop of Massachusetts officiated at his funeral—not something that happened for every clergyman.

In 1872, Gray either came to North Andover by choice of summer residence or took a direction from some other Episcopal authority, and initiated the first services. North Andover was a famous summering spot for the best families of Boston and Salem—and Gray fit that mold. In 1874 he summered with his sister at Isaac Osgood's (at Old Center) and the local paper recorded:

July 10th The services of the Protestant Episcopal Church will be held in the Town Hall North Andover, Sunday July 12th at 10:30 and the service will be continued on Sunday through July and August at the same time and place. The Rev Horatio Gray will be the clergyman in charge.

Aug 21st Episcopal Services were held at the Town Hall, Rev Horatio Gray

officiating. The attendance was unusually large owing in part to the fact that there were no services at the Unitarian Church. The singing of Miss Sarah Kittredge, Miss Curwen and Messer's Hutchins and Nutt was excellent.

Oct 2nd Episcopal Service will be held for the last time this season at the Town Hall on Sunday morning and at the close of the service the communion will be administered by the Rev Mr. Gray of Boston, who has conducted the services through the summer with so much acceptance, will leave behind many friends to regret his departure. Rev Mr. Gray will officiate at Grace Church Lawrence, during October in the absence of the rector.

In the following year, the news reporting from North Andover was rather meager, but there is no mention of services being conducted in that year. The significant start fizzled out, actually some 6 years, until the leadership of William Lawrence and the energy of Augustine Amory formed St Paul's in 1880. But Horatio Gray planted the seed.