

## *History of House & Occupants 115 Federal Street, Salem*

By Robert Booth for Historic Salem Inc., Nov. 2008

According to available evidence, this house was built by Joseph Edwards, housewright, in 1814. It stands on the site of the shop of Deacon Jacob Sanderson, cabinet-maker, built by 1793.

On April 17, 1793, William Pickman Esq., for 31.16.11 sold to Jacob Sanderson, gentleman, a lot 19.3 poles in area, bounded northerly 50' 6" on Federal Street, westerly 110' on land sold to Elijah Sanderson, southerly on Elijah Sanderson and John Buffinton land, and easterly 129' on land of Joseph Felt (ED 156:123). The lot description had the unusual feature of starting the bounds from a point 33' south of the street, perhaps because the lot was originally square to the street but the back part of the lot ran off diagonally after 33' in depth. On the same day, Mr. Pickman sold the lot to the east to Joseph Felt, and the lot to the west to Jacob's brother Elijah Sanderson.

Jacob Sanderson proceeded to have a shop built on this lot, as a workshop for the making of furniture and for the retailing of various goods, including feathers (for stuffing), pepper, and meat. Perhaps the shop had been standing here since 1780, on land leased from Pickman; but the lot was not sold until 1793.

Jacob Sanderson (d. 1810) and his brother Elijah, Revolutionary War soldiers and expert cabinet-makers, came from Lexington to Salem in 1779. They soon contracted for the construction of a large double house on Federal Street, which they each occupied for the rest of their lives; it still stands, opposite Monroe Street. They were very ambitious furniture-makers and employed many artisans in their business. Among others, Samuel McIntire did piece-work for them as a carver (a monograph has been written about the Sandersons and their furniture). Their shop produced for local and regional trade and, eventually, for export. Several skilled artisans moved into Salem and went to work for the Sandersons, who tended to employ in-migrants like themselves. Daniel Clark of Wenham and Boston (55 Summer Street) is one example.

In post-war Salem, the merchants and mariners were ready to push their ships and cargoes into all parts of the known world. They did so with astonishing success. For a period of about 25 years, Salem was a famous center of commercial enterprise: by virtue of competing fiercely,

pioneering new routes, and opening and dominating new markets, Salem won a high place in the world. Hasket Derby, William Gray, Eben Beckford, and Joseph Peabody were the town's commercial leaders. In 1784, Derby began trade with Russia; and in 1784 and 1785 he dispatched trading vessels to Africa and China, respectively. Voyages to India soon followed, and to the Spice Islands and Pepper Islands (Sumatra, Java, Malaya, etc.). Derby, like many other merchants, commissioned furniture from the Sandersons.

Once again, Salem was a boom-town, fueling much new construction, and the need for beautiful furniture. As cabinet-makers, the Sandersons were in a good position to thrive. Jacob Sanderson became a leader in his neighborhood and his church, the North Church (Congregational-Unitarian), in which he was elected deacon in January, 1785—it stood on North Street, near the corner of Lynde.

By the 1790s, the new foreign-trade markets—and the coffee trade, which would be opened in 1798 with Mocha, Arabia—brought great riches to the Salem merchants, and raised the level of wealth throughout the town: new ships were bought and built, more crews were formed with more shipmasters, new shops and stores opened, new partnerships were formed, and new people moved to town. In 1792 Salem's first bank, the Essex Bank, was founded, although it "existed in experiment a long time before it was incorporated," per Rev. William Bentley. From a population of 7921 in 1790, the town would grow by 1500 persons in a decade. At the same time, thanks to the economic policies of Alexander Hamilton, Salem vessels were able to transport foreign cargoes tax-free and essentially to serve as the neutral carrying fleet for both Britain and France, which were at war with each other. Politically, Jacob Sanderson espoused the Federalist Party, and in 1794 he was elected a selectman of Salem. He was respected also as an administrator of the estates of deceased persons<sup>1</sup>

In the late 1790s, there was agitation in Congress to go to war with France, which was at war with England. After President Adams' negotiators were rebuffed by the French leaders in 1797, a quasi-war with France began in summer, 1798, much to the horror of Salem's George Crowninshield family (father and five shipmaster sons), which had an extensive trade with the French, and whose ships and cargos in French ports were susceptible to seizure. The quasi-war brought about a political split within the Salem population. Those who favored war with France (and detente with England) aligned themselves with the national

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<sup>1</sup> E.g. estate of housewright Charles Briggs in 1798.

Federalist party, led by Hamilton and Salem's Timothy Pickering (the U.S. Secretary of State). These included most of the merchants, led locally by the Derby family. Those who favored peace with republican France were the Anti-Federalists, who later became aligned with Pres. Jefferson and his Democratic-Republican party; they were led locally by the Crowninshields. For the first few years of this rivalry, the Federalists prevailed; but after the death of Hasket "King" Derby in 1799 his family's power weakened. In this same year, in October, after twenty years, Jacob and Elijah Sanderson dissolved their partnership. Presumably the shop was used only by Jacob's boys and men after that.

In 1800, Adams negotiated peace with France and fired Pickering, his oppositional Secretary of State. Salem's Federalists merchants erupted in anger, expressed through their newspaper, the *Salem Gazette*. At the same time, British vessels began to harass American shipping. Salem owners bought more cannon and shot, and kept pushing their trade to the farthest ports of the rich East, while also maintaining trade with the Caribbean and Europe. Salem cargos were exceedingly valuable, and Salem was a major center for distribution of merchandise throughout New England: "the streets about the wharves were alive with teams loaded with goods for all parts of the country. It was a busy scene with the coming and going of vehicles, some from long distances, for railroads were then unknown and all transportation must be carried on in wagons and drays. In the taverns could be seen teamsters from all quarters sitting around the open fire in the chilly evenings, discussing the news of the day or making merry over potations of New England rum, which Salem manufactured in abundance." (from Hurd's *History of Essex County*, 1888, p.65).

The Crowninshields, led by brother Jacob, were especially successful, as their holdings rose from three vessels in 1800 to several in 1803. Their bailiwick, the Derby Street district, seemed almost to be itself imported from some foreign country: in the stores, parrots chattered and monkeys cavorted, and from the warehouses wafted the exotic aromas of Sumatran spices and Arabian coffee beans and Caribbean molasses. From the wharves were carted all manner of strange fruits, and crates of patterned china in red and blue, and piles of gorgeous silks and figured cloths, English leather goods, and hundreds of barrels of miscellaneous objects drawn from all of the ports and workshops of the world. The greatest of the Salem merchants at this time was William "Billy" Gray, who owned 36 large vessels—15 ships, 7 barks, 13 brigs, 1 schooner—by 1808. Salem was then still a town, and a small one by our standards, with a total population of about 9,500 in 1800. Its politics were fierce, and polarized everything. The two factions attended separate churches, held separate

parades, and supported separate schools, military companies, and newspapers. Salem's merchants resided mainly on two streets: Washington (which ended in a wharf on the Inner Harbor, and, above Essex, had the Town House in the middle) and Essex (particularly between what are now Hawthorne Boulevard and North Street). The East Parish (Derby Street area) was for the seafaring families, shipmasters, sailors, and fishermen. In the 1790s, Federal Street, known as New Street, had more empty lots than fine houses. Chestnut Street did not exist: its site was a meadow. The Common was not yet Washington Square, and was covered with hillocks, small ponds and swamps, utility buildings, and the alms-house. As the 19<sup>th</sup> century advanced, Salem's commercial prosperity would sweep almost all of the great downtown houses away (the brick Joshua Ward house, built 1784, is a notable exception).

Amid all of this retail activity, Jacob Sanderson was inspired to sell imported goods out of this, his "cabinet shop."<sup>2</sup> He owned shares in various vessels at sea, and invested in "adventures," meaning cargo that he sent out in care of the captain or supercargo, hoping they could exchange it for goods of greater value when sold in Salem. He seems to have joined George Taylor, a South Salem farmer, in some of these adventures; and on 1 July 1803 they advertised the sale of 2,000 horse-hides and a quantity of down feathers (see Salem Gazette). The first known instance of such a sale through the shop was in July, 1803, when Jacob advertised "eight bales of otter skins just imported from La Plata" and in November, 1803, he advertised bales of swan's-down feathers for sale at his store "in Federal Street"<sup>3</sup>

The town's merchants were among the wealthiest in the country, and, in Samuel McIntire, they had a local architect who could help them realize their desires for large and beautiful homes in the latest style. While a few of the many new houses went up in the old Essex-Washington Street axis, most were erected on or near Washington Square or in the Federalist "west end" (Chestnut, Federal, and upper Essex Streets). The architectural style (called "Federal" today) had been developed by the Adam brothers in England and featured fanlight doorways, palladian windows, elongated pilasters and columns, and large windows. It was introduced to New England by Charles Bulfinch in 1790. The State House in Boston was his first institutional composition; and soon Beacon Hill was being built up with handsome residences in the Bulfinch manner.

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<sup>2</sup> It was so called in most of his newspaper advertisements; once or twice it is called his furniture shop.

<sup>3</sup> See Salem Gazette 1 July 1803, also 6 Dec. 1803.

Samuel McIntire (1757-1811), who was self-educated and who made his living primarily as a wood-carver and carpenter for clients as well as for craftsmen like Jacob Sanderson, was quick to adapt the Bulfinch style to Salem's larger lots. McIntire's first local composition, the Jerathmeel Peirce house (on Federal Street), contrasts with his later Adamesque designs. In place of walls of wood paneling, there now appeared plastered expanses painted in bright colors or covered in bold wallpapers. The Adam style put a premium on handsome casings and carvings of central interior features such door-caps and chimney-pieces (McIntire's specialty). On the exterior, the Adam style included elegant fences; and the houses were often built of brick, with attenuated porticoes and, in the high style, string courses, swagged panels, and even two-story pilasters. The best example of the new style was the Elias Hasket Derby house, co-designed by Bulfinch and McIntire, and built on Essex Street in 1797-8 (demolished in 1815), on the site of today's Town House Square.

A new bank, the Salem Bank, was formed in 1803, and there were two insurance companies and several societies and associations. The fierce politics and commercial rivalries continued. The ferment of the times is captured in the diary of Rev. William Bentley, bachelor minister of Salem's East Church and editor of the *Register* newspaper. His diary is full of references to the civic and commercial doings of the town, and to the lives and behaviors of all classes of society. He had high hopes for the future of a republican America, with well educated citizens. He observed and fostered the transition in Salem, and wrote in his diary (2 Dec. 1806), "While Salem was under the greatest aristocracy in New England, few men thought, and the few directed the many. Now the aristocracy is gone and the many govern. It is plain it must require considerable time to give common knowledge to the people." On Union Street, not far from Bentley's church, on the fourth of July, 1804, was born a boy who would grow up to eclipse all sons of Salem in the eyes of the world: Nathaniel Hawthorne, whose father would die of fever while on a voyage to the Caribbean in 1808. This kind of untimely death was all too common among Salem's young seafarers, who fell prey to malaria and other diseases of the Caribbean and Pacific tropics.

In 1803, Jacob Sanderson took a trip. In his absence, Thomas Hodgkins ran the shop and looked after the apprentices (see Mabel Swan, EIHC Oct. 1934, p.334). In general, the Sandersons were good employers and masters, and eventually they provided free evening classes to their apprentices, boys from fourteen-on who worked for them without taking a regular wage but who lived in the family and were provided with board and clothing too.

It was at just this time (1806) that the British changed their policy toward American shipping, and no longer respected American-flagged vessels as neutral carriers. This disastrous policy change came just as the Derbys extended their wharf far out into the harbor, tripling its previous length to create more space for warehouses and ship-berths in the deeper water. The Crowninshields had recently built their great India Wharf at the foot of now-Webb Street. The other important wharves were White's, Forrester's (now Central, just west of Derby Wharf), and Union Wharf at the foot of Union Street. Farther to the west, smaller wharves extended into the South River, all the way to the foot of Washington Street. Each had a warehouse or two, and shops for artisans (coopers, blockmakers, joiners, etc.). The waterfront between Union Street and Washington Street also had lumber yards and several ship chandleries and distilleries, with a Market House at the foot of Central Street, below the Custom House. The wharves and streets were crowded with shoppers, gawkers, hawkers, sailors, artisans ("mechanics"), storekeepers, and teamsters; and just across the way, on Stage Point along the south bank of the South River, wooden barks and brigs and ships were being built in the shipyards.

Beginning late in 1806, Salem's commerce with the world was repeatedly interrupted by the British navy, which intercepted neutral trading vessels and often impressed American sailors into their service. France, at war with Britain, countered with its own adverse policy toward American shipping; and virtually overnight Salem's shipping fleet lost its status as neutral shippers for the European nations. Salem and other American ports continued to push their trade into the oceans of the worlds, but now with the expectation that they would have to fight their way across the seas and into and out of foreign ports. The degree of difficulty was daunting, sometimes fatally so: a young supercargo, Joseph Osgood Jr., whose vessel was captured by the British on its return from the Orient, was stranded in London and became so disconsolate that he took his life through an overdose of opium. Jacob Sanderson was made administrator of his estate.<sup>4</sup> He was also made guardian of minors Ebenezer & Joseph Bancroft and advertised their father's former property for sale in December 1806.<sup>5</sup>

Salem's twenty-year boom came to an end with a crash in January, 1808, when Jefferson and the Congress imposed an embargo on all shipping in hopes of forestalling war with Britain. The Embargo, which was widely

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<sup>4</sup> See Salem Gazette, August 1806.

<sup>5</sup> See Salem Gazette, 23 Dec. 1806.

opposed in New England, proved futile and nearly ruinous in Salem, where commerce ceased. In October, 1808, Jacob Sanderson advertised for “a young journeyman cabinet maker who is acquainted with the turning business” and he also advertised the sale of “mess beef.”<sup>6</sup> As a hotbed of Democratic-Republicanism, Salem’s East Parish and its seafarers, led by the Crowninshields, loyally supported the Embargo until it was lifted in spring, 1809. Shunned by the other Salem merchants for his support of the Embargo, the eminent Billy Gray took his large fleet of ships—fully one-third of Salem’s tonnage—and moved to Boston, whose commerce was thereby much augmented. Gray’s removal eliminated a huge amount of Salem wealth, shipping, import-export cargos, and local employment. Gray soon switched from the Federalist party, and was elected Lt. Governor on a ticket with Gov. Elbridge Gerry, a native of Marblehead.

Jacob Sanderson, as guardian of Joseph Bancroft’s children, indemnified his bondsmen, Benjamin Upton and Elijah Sanderson, in November, 1809, by mortgaging the premises to them (ED 189:42). The “buildings and land” were bounded north 50’ 6” Federal Street, west 110’ on land of said Elijah Sanderson, south 38’ 8” on land of John Buffinton, east 129’ 6” on land of Felt. Unfortunately, Deacon Sanderson had not completed his obligation as guardian when he died, aged fifty-two, in February, 1810. His widow, Catherine, advertised in May, 1810, that she would taken in boarders at her residence; and she asked “Who would wish to let the store lately improved by Deacon Jacob Sanderson, at a very reasonable rate?”<sup>7</sup> The estate proved insolvent (debts outweighed value of personal estate). In June, 1810, at the Federal Street store, William Lang, auctioneer, auctioned the tools and stock, including wood and unfinished pieces of furniture, a grindstone, the shop stove and work benches, etc., and advertised that the store would be let at a moderate rate.”<sup>8</sup> Finally, in July, 1811, Catherine Sanderson put up for sale some of the real estate: a reversion in a house on Andover Street, half the homestead, and this, a lot of land with a cabinet-maker’s shop thereon, bounded exactly as in the 1793 deed.<sup>9</sup> This last description is the proof that this lot was the site of the Sanderson furniture work-shop. Mrs. Catherine Sanderson died in 1811.

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid, 11 Oct. 1808.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, 18 may 1810

<sup>8</sup> ibid, 12 June 1810.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, 23 July 1811



American sailors into their navy. Despite many warnings and negotiations, the British refused to alter their policies, and pushed President Madison into a position where he had few choices other than hostilities. In June, 1812, war was declared against Britain.

No buyer came forward for the shop. In July, 1812, the property was forfeited to the mortgage-holders, Messrs. Sanderson and Upton (ED 189:42). On Feb. 14, 1814, they sold the premises for \$817.16 to Joseph Edwards, Salem gentleman (ED 201:297); and he mortgaged the same for \$418 to the guardian of Joseph Bancroft (ED 210:237).

Joseph Edwards, gentleman and housewright, built a house on the site, perhaps recycling some of the structure of the shop in so doing. He would own and occupy the house for ten years, 1814-1824. He was an important figure among the artisans of the town, a member of the Salem Charitable Mechanic Association and a member of important town committees such as the Board of Health, of which he would serve as president for years. He had built the house at 5 Carpenter Street in 1807, and the house at 8 Carpenter Street in 1809, and, as a well-regarded contractor, he built other houses and structures including the Salem Jail on St. Peter Street and its Jailer's House, still standing; and he assisted in building the Custom House on Derby Street, 1818-19 (per EIHC article by D.B. Little, also B.F. Tolles' *Architectural Guide to Salem*).

Although the merchants had tried to prevent the war, when it came, Salem swiftly fitted out 40 privateers manned by Marblehead and Salem crews, who also served on U.S. Navy vessels, including the *frigate Constitution*. Many more local vessels could have been sent against the British, but some of the Federalist merchants held them back. In addition, Salem fielded companies of infantry and artillery. Salem and Marblehead privateers were largely successful in making prizes of British supply vessels. While many of the town's men were wounded in engagements, and some were killed, the possible riches of privateering kept the men returning to sea as often as possible. The first prizes were captured by a 30-ton converted fishing schooner, the *Fame*, and by a 14-ton luxury yacht fitted with one gun, the *Jefferson*. Of all Salem privateers, the Crowninshields' 350-ton ship *America* was most successful: she captured 30-plus prizes worth more than \$1,100,000.

Salem erected forts and batteries on its Neck, to discourage the British warships that cruised these waters. On land, the war went poorly for the United States, as the British captured Washington, DC, and burned the Capitol and the White House. Along the western frontier, U.S. forces



were successful against the weak English forces; and, as predicted by many, the western expansionists had their day. At sea, as time wore on, Salem vessels were captured, and its men imprisoned or killed. After almost three years, the war was bleeding the town dry. Hundreds of Salem men and boys were in British prison-ships and at Dartmoor Prison in England. At the Hartford Convention in 1814, New England Federalist delegates met to consider what they could do to bring the war to a close and to restore the region's commerce. Sen. Timothy Pickering of Salem, the leader of the extreme Federalists, did not attend; and the Convention refrained from issuing any ultimatums. Nevertheless, it seemed almost treasonous to have convened it; and it signaled the beginning of the end for the national Federalist party.

At last, in February, 1815, peace was restored.

Post-war, America was flooded with British manufactured goods, especially factory-made knock-offs of the beautiful Indian textiles that had been the specialty of Salem importers for 30 years. Britain, dominant in India, had forced the Indians to become cotton-growers rather than cloth-producers; and the cheap Indian cotton was shipped to the English industrial ports and turned into mass-produced cloth. American national policy-makers reacted, in 1816, by passing a high tariff on cheap imported textiles, in order to protect and encourage America's own budding manufacturing capacity. The net result was to diminish what had been the most abundant and lucrative area of Salem's pre-war trade. Nevertheless, maritime commerce was Salem's business, and its merchants rebuilt their fleets and resumed their worldwide commerce, without a full understanding of how difficult the new international conditions had become. For a few years, their efforts were rewarded with reasonable profits, and it seemed that Salem was once again in the ascendant, with almost 200 vessels sailing to Europe, the Orient, the Caribbean and South America, and the southern ports.

Joseph Edwards (1780-1854) was born in Wenham, the son of Abraham Edwards. Trained as a housewright, he came to Salem by 1802, when he married Sally Lang of Salem (they would have twelve sons and a daughter). In 1805, when he was selling his half a pew in the Tabernacle, probably because he favored Rev. Josiah Spalding in a split within that church; and he followed Mr. Spalding to the new Branch Church, Congregational, on Howard Street. He resided on Carpenter Street—as did Daniel Farrington, housewright, and other Branch Church adherents, many of them “mechanics” (craftsmen and artisans rather than mariners and merchants). Two

other officers of the church, Thomas Lamson and Solomon Chaplin, resided nearby on Carpenter Street. On the evening of January 16, 1806, at a time that a meeting was being held at the Branch Church, some of Joseph Edwards' children on that cold night kindled a fire among wood shavings on the floor of a room, and the house caught fire. Without adults at home at the time, the fire spread without opposition, and the houses of Edwards, Lamson, and Chaplin burned down before the hand tubs and fire companies could bring the conflagration under control (see Bentley's Diary for 16 Jan. 1806).

Joseph Edwards probably built a new house in the spring of 1806. In 1807 he joined the new Salem Mechanic Light Infantry, and was elected a captain of a company, after which he was known as Capt. Joseph Edwards. In that same year he built and sold a Carpenter Street three-story brick house for two families (see 5 May 1807 *Salem Gazette*). In 1808 he was made administrator of the estate of his deceased father, Abraham Edwards of Wenham.

*Joseph Edwards (1780-1854), born in Wenham, son of Abraham Edwards & Prudence Dodge, died in Salem on July 14, 1854.*

*He m. 5 June 1802 Sally Lang. Known issue:*

1. *Joseph, 1803, m. 1824 Hannah Braid*
2. *Benjamin, 1805, died young.*
3. *Abraham, 1807*
4. *Benjamin, 1809, died young*
5. *Charles, 1810*
6. *Benjamin, 1812*
7. *William, 1814*
8. *David B., 1816*
9. *Richard L., 1818*
10. *George D., 1820*
11. *Jacob D., 1821*
12. *Henry, 1825*
13. *Sarah E., 1828*

After the Embargo, he and Job D. Porter began a partnership in October, 1809 in the wood and lumber business.<sup>10</sup> In November, 1809, he advertised the sale of a two-story Carpenter Street house and 60,000 pine boards. One month later he became guardian of William Edwards of Wenham, perhaps a younger brother or nephew. He evidently formed a partnership in the building business with John Warden Jr. of Essex Street;

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<sup>10</sup> *Salem Gazette*, 23 Oct. 1809.

and they dissolved the partnership at the end of 1811.<sup>11</sup> He was a Federalist in politics, and was elected one of many Surveyors of Lumber at town meeting in the spring of 1812, just before the outbreak of war. The Salem militia, Captain Edwards included, was called out at various times to man the local fort at Winter Island, anticipating an attack from the sea by the British. It never came. In 1814, as has been mentioned, Joseph Edwards purchased the Sanderson lot and shop, and built a house thereon as his residence. Captain Edwards participated in a militia court martial as a judge in July, 1815; but the politics of such organizations could be difficult, and in June, 1816, he was replaced as captain by mason David Robbins.<sup>12</sup>

The pre-war partisan politics of the town were not resumed post-war, as the middle-class “mechanics” (artisans) became more powerful and brought about civic harmony, largely through the Salem Charitable Mechanic Association, of which Joseph Edwards was a founder in 1817. Rev. William Bentley, keen observer and active citizen during Salem’s time of greatest prosperity and fiercest political divisions, died in 1819, the year in which a new U.S. Custom House was built on the site of the George Crowninshield mansion, at the head of Derby Wharf. In the 1820 federal census, Joseph Edwards & family were listed as residing here (p. 72/106, 1820 census).

Into the 1820s foreign trade continued prosperous; and new markets were opened with Madagascar (1820), which supplied tallow and ivory, and Zanzibar (1825), whence came coffee, ivory, and gum copal, used to make varnish. This opened a long-standing trade that Salem would dominate; and its vessels thus gained access to all of the east African ports. Salem’s general maritime foreign commerce fell off sharply in 1824, as a second major tariff act was passed by Congress, to the benefit of manufacturers and the detriment of importers. Salem imports were supplanted by the goods that were now being produced in great quantities in America. The town’s prosperity began to wane, and many people saw no future locally. The interior of the country was being opened for settlement, and some Salemites moved away. To the north, the falls of the Merrimack River powered large new textile mills (Lowell was founded in 1823); and in general it seemed that the tide of opportunity was ebbing away from Salem. To stem the flow of talent from the town and to harness its potential water power for manufacturing, Salem’s merchants and capitalists banded together in 1825 to raise the money to dam the

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid, 31 Dec. 1811

<sup>12</sup> ibid, 22 June 1816

North River for industrial power. Over the course of three years, the effort gained momentum, but ultimately its many investors failed to implement the plan, which caused several leading citizens to move to Boston, the hub of investment in the new economy.

In 1817 Edwards evidently he recovered his captaincy. By 1820 he had become an expert in the new science of pomology and he advertised his services as a pruner and grafter of trees, at which he had established his abilities in work for E. Hersey Derby and Ichabod Tucker on their fine farms.<sup>13</sup> By March, 1822, Joseph Edwards had been elected president of the town Board of Health, which promulgated new rules for keeping Salem clean (see *Essex Register*, 15 May 1822). He joined the Essex Lodge of Freemasons in February, 1824. His oldest son, Joseph Edwards Jr., a tailor, married Hannah Braid in October, 1824.

In October, 1824, for \$2350 Joseph Edwards sold the house and land here to Thomas Cole, Salem gentleman (ED 236:148). In January, 1825, he purchased a piece of land near the South Bridge (ED 239:279). There he evidently built a house as his new family residence on "South Street" (future Lafayette Street, near New derby). Captain Edwards thereafter resided in South Salem, where he was highly regarded as a builder and tree-grafter.

In March, 1825, Mr. Cole and his neighbor to the east, Joseph Felt, exchanged some land (ED 238:1), which increased Cole's frontage on the street and squared off the lots. Thomas Cole was chosen deacon of the North Church in August, 1825, at which he had been a member for ten years; in this, he was following the example of Jacob Sanderson (1790s) and of Jacob's brother Elijah, who had become a deacon in December, 1814.

Thomas Cole had come to Salem to teach in a private girls' school. He was a stepson of Noah Rice, a Harvard classmate of Rev. William Bentley of Salem. Cole was an excellent pedagogue and eventually became proprietor of a School for Girls, or Female School, in Marlborough Street (present Federal Street) near the Tabernacle Church. Cole was very active in the Freemasons, and became the head of Essex Lodge; and he was accepted into the upper echelons of the town's merchants and gentlemen.

Cole's school was celebrated for bringing to female education the same standards that applied to the college preparation of their brothers. Rev.

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<sup>13</sup> see Salem Gazette, 17 March 1820

William Bentley visited the school on May 22, 1819, and had reported “Yesterday I was for the first time with the trustees of the female school, Marlborough Street near the Tabernacle. The instructor is Mr. Cole, the pupils limited to thirty. It was my business to address and to assist in devotional exercises. It is the first time that ever in a public school<sup>14</sup> I saw young ladies answering questions in geometry, natural philosophy, and in Latin. John Pickering and Mr. Peirce were the deputation on the occasion.” Bentley noted that a similar private school for girls had been started by “the Story influence” off Washington Square. In the 1830 census (p. 370) the Thomas Cole family is found here (man in his 50s, two women, one aged 15-20, one in her 40s).

In 1830 occurred a horrifying crime that brought disgrace to Salem. Old Capt. Joseph White, a rich merchant, now retired, resided in a mansion on Essex Street. His wealth was legendary in Salem, not least among the denizens of the nearby Salem Jail, where plots had long been hatched to break in and steal the Captain’s putative treasure chest. One night, intruders did break in; and they stabbed him to death in his sleep. All of Salem buzzed with rumors; but within a few months it was discovered that the murderer was a Crowninshield (he killed himself) who had been hired by his friends, Capt. White’s own relatives, Capt. Joe Knap and his brother Frank (they would be executed). The murder, and related lurid events, tarnished Salem further, and more families quit the now-notorious town.

The 1831 valuations show that this house was owned and occupied by Thomas Cole. He would reside here for another ten years, growing in repute as a schoolmaster. His great hobby was the use of the microscope, in which he was notably proficient.

Salem had not prepared for the industrial age, and had few natural advantages. The North River served not to power factories but mainly to flush the waste from the 25 tanneries that had set up along its banks. As the decade wore on, and the new railroads and canals, all running and flowing to Boston from points north, west, and south, diverted both capital and trade away from the coast. Salem’s remaining merchants took their equity out of local wharves and warehouses and ships and put it into the stock of manufacturing and transportation companies. Some merchants did not make the transition, and were ruined. Old-line areas of work, like rope-making, sail-making, and ship chandleries, gradually declined and disappeared. Salem slumped badly, but, despite all, the

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<sup>14</sup> Meaning not a “public school” funded by the town, but a school open to public observation.

voters decided to charter their town as a city in 1836—the third city to be formed in the state, behind Boston and Lowell. City Hall was built 1837-8 and the city seal was adopted with an already-anachronistic Latin motto of “to the farthest port of the rich East”—a far cry from “Go West, young man!” The Panic of 1837, a brief, sharp, nationwide economic depression, caused even more Salem families to head west in search of fortune and a better future.

Throughout the 1830s, the leaders of Salem scrambled to re-invent an economy for their fellow citizens, many of whom were mariners without much sea-faring to do. Ingenuity, ambition, and hard work would have to carry the day. One inspiration was the Salem Laboratory, Salem’s first science-based manufacturing enterprise, founded in 1813 to produce chemicals. At the plant built in 1818 in North Salem on the North River, the production of alum and blue vitriol was a specialty; and it proved a very successful business. Salem’s whale-fishery led to the manufacturing of high-quality candles at Stage Point, along with machine oils. The candles proved very popular. Lead-manufacturing began in the 1820s, and grew large after 1830, when Wyman’s gristmills on the Forest River, at the head of Salem Harbor, were retooled for making high-quality white lead and sheet lead. These enterprises were a start toward taking Salem in a new direction. In 1838 the Eastern Rail Road, headquartered in Salem, began operating between Boston and Salem, which gave the local people a direct route to the region’s largest market. The new railroad tracks ran right over the middle of the Mill Pond; the tunnel under Washington Street was built in 1839; and the line was extended to Newburyport in 1840.

Thomas Cole married Nancy Gay, the step-daughter of the late Ichabod Tucker of 28 Chestnut Street. Cole moved to Chestnut Street and resided there with her and her mother, and pursued his interest in the microscope. In October, 1841, Thomas Cole sold the premises on Federal Street for \$2750 (subject to a \$700 mortgage) to Thorp Fisher, Salem trader (ED 327:244). Cole resided on Chestnut Street thereafter.

Thorp Fisher (1804-1885) was the proprietor of a restaurant. He was born in April, 1804, in Francestown, New Hampshire, the ninth child of Moses Fisher and Louisa Thorp. His mother died when he was six, and he was raised by his stepmother Lucy (Friend) Fisher. His father was a farmer and veteran of the Revolutionary War.

Thorp came to Salem by 1832, probably following an older brother who had moved here. He is mentioned in the Salem *Gazette* in July as

protesting a false wedding notice, which had him marrying Joanna Jones of Francestown, N.H. The notice was handed in as a practical joke, and the wedding “was entirely without foundation,” per Mr. Fisher.<sup>15</sup> Well, not entirely, for on November 6<sup>th</sup> he did marry Joanna C. Jones (1806-1855), the daughter of Benjamin Jones and Chloe Farrington. They would have two sons and two daughters. In 1835 Thorp Fisher was partners with William Young in a provision or restaurant business conducted in the cellar of the Market House (Old Town Hall), dealing in cider etc. The partnership was dissolved in May, 1835, after which Mr. Fisher carried on alone.

By the time they moved in here in 1841, the Fishers had a daughter and two young sons; and a second daughter, Joanna, would be born in 1843. Mr. Fisher’s restaurant was then located downtown at “11 Market Hotel”; and this house was then-49 Federal Street (per 1841 directory).

*Thorp Fisher (1804-1885), born Francestown, N.H., son of Moses Fisher and Louisa Thorp, died Salem 9 Dec. 1885. He m. 6 Nov. 1832 Joanna C. Jones (1806-1855), of Francestown, dtr. of Benjamin Jones & Chloe Farrington; she died 4 Oct. 1855. He m/2 10 Oct. 1860 Mary Ruth Babbidge (1807-1887), widow of Henry Russell and daughter of Christopher Babbidge & Mary Randell, died 22 Feb. 1887. Known issue:*

- 1. Louisa, 1833, nurse in Washington in Civil War; teacher of freedmen; died California 4 July 1897.*
- 2. George A., 1837, m. 1859 Annie Shepard.*
- 3. Charles H., 1840, m. 1886 Lydia M. Bangs*
- 4. Joanna A., 1843, m. J.H. Bigelow of Salem.*

Some members of Salem’s waning merchant class continued to pursue their sea-borne businesses into the 1840s; but it was an ebb tide, with unfavorable winds. Boston, transformed into a modern mega-port with efficient railroad and highway distribution to all markets, had subsumed virtually all foreign trade other than Salem’s continuing commerce with Zanzibar. The sleepy waterfront at Derby Wharf, with an occasional arrival from Africa and regular visits from schooners carrying wood from Nova Scotia, is depicted in 1850 by Hawthorne in his cranky “introductory section” to *The Scarlet Letter*, which he began while working in the Custom House.

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<sup>15</sup> Salem Gazette 27 July 1832.



Although Hawthorne had no interest in describing it, Salem's transformation did occur in the 1840s, as more industrial methods and machines were introduced, and many new companies in new lines of business arose. The Gothic symbol of Salem's new industrial economy was the large twin-towered granite train station—the “stone depot”—smoking and growling with idling locomotives. It stood on filled-in land at the foot of Washington Street, where the merchants' wharves had been; and from it the trains carried many valuable products as well as passengers. The tanning and curing of leather was very important in Salem by the mid-1800s. On and near Boston Street, along the upper North River, there were 41 tanneries in 1844, and 85 in 1850, employing 550 hands. The leather business would continue to grow in importance throughout the 1800s. In 1846 the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company completed the construction at Stage Point of the largest factory building in the United States, 60' wide by 400' long. It was an immediate success, and hundreds of people found employment there, many of them living in tenements built nearby. It too benefited from the Zanzibar and Africa trade, as it produced light cotton cloth for use in the tropics. Also in the 1840s, a new method was introduced to make possible high-volume industrial shoe production. In Lynn, the factory system was perfected, and that city became the nation's leading shoe producer. Salem had shoe factories too, and attracted shoe workers from outlying towns and the countryside. Even the population began to be transformed, as hundreds of Irish families, fleeing the Famine in Ireland, settled in Salem and gave the industrialists a big pool of cheap labor.

In 1850 the census-taker found the residents here to be Thorp Fisher, 46, trader (\$3700 in real estate), Joanna, 44, Louisa, 17, George, 13, Charles, 10, and Joanna, seven (house 533, ward 4, 1850 census).

In 1851, Stephen C. Phillips succeeded in building a railroad line from Salem to Lowell, which meant that the coal that was landed at Phillips Wharf (formerly the Crowninshields' great India Wharf) could be run cheaply out to Lowell to help fuel the boilers of the mills, whose output of textiles could be freighted easily to Salem for shipment by water. This innovation, although not long-lived, was a much-needed boost to Salem's economy as a port and transportation center. Salem's growth continued through the 1850s, as business and industries expanded, the population swelled, new churches (e.g. Immaculate Conception, 1857) were started, new working-class neighborhoods were developed (especially in North Salem and South Salem, off Boston Street, and along the Mill Pond behind the Broad Street graveyard), and new schools, factories, and stores were built. A second, larger, factory building for the Naumkeag Steam

Cotton Company was added in 1859, at Stage Point, where a new Methodist Church went up, and many neat homes, boarding-houses, and stores were erected along the streets between Lafayette and Congress. The tanning business continued to boom, as better and larger tanneries were built along Boston Street and Mason Street; and subsidiary industries sprang up as well, most notably the J.M. Anderson glue-works on the Turnpike (Highland Avenue).

At the Fisher house, the two sons, George and Henry, were growing up. Their mother died in 1855, when the youngest child, Joanna, was twelve. In 1860 Mr. Fisher, a widower, 62, was listed in the census as a gentleman, with \$4,000 in r.e. and \$10,000 in personal estate; his daughter Louisa was gone off to be a nurse; his son George, 25, was in a books and stationery business and lived here with his wife Mary, 24; son Charles was 18 and daughter Joanna was 16; and Mary Mulligan, 22, was their servant (see 1860 census, house 1975, ward four). In 1860 their father remarried, and they acquired a step-brother, Albert Russell, who resided here. At the age of 21, George Fisher married (in 1859) Annie Shepard of Salem; and in 1860 they had a first child, Alice. He probably worked with his father; and he enjoyed things military as a member of the Salem Light Infantry. His brother Charles Fisher, twenty in 1860, had a technical bent, and had gone to Boston in 1856, aged sixteen, to work in a machine shop and become a mechanical engineer; and in 1859 he had begun at the Corliss Steam Engine Company in Boston.

As it re-established itself as an economic powerhouse, Salem took a strong interest in national politics. It was primarily Republican, and strongly anti-slavery, with its share of outspoken abolitionists, led by Charles Remond, a passionate speaker who came from one of the city's notable black families. At its Lyceum (on Church Street) and in other venues, plays and shows were put on, but cultural lectures and political speeches were given too.

By 1860, with the election of Abraham Lincoln, it was clear that the Southern states would secede from the union; and Salem, which had done so much to win the independence of the nation, was ready to go to war to force others to remain a part of it.

The Civil War began in April, 1861, and went on for four years, during which hundreds of Salem men served in the army and navy, and many were killed or died of disease or abusive treatment while imprisoned. Hundreds more suffered wounds, or broken health. The people of Salem contributed greatly to efforts to alleviate the suffering of the soldiers,

sailors, and their families; and there was great celebration when the war finally ended in the spring of 1865, just as President Lincoln was assassinated. The four years of bloodshed and warfare were over; the slaves were free; 800,000 men were dead; the union was preserved and the South was under martial rule. Salem, with many wounded soldiers and grieving families, welcomed the coming of peace.

The two Fisher sons both served with distinction in the armed forces during the Civil War. Charles entered the U.S. Navy at the outset; and in January, 1864, he was appointed Acting Master's mate on the *Magnolia* in the East Gulf Squadron. George entered the U.S. Army as a lieutenant in 1861, and would be brevetted to a captain late in the war, during which he was wounded at the Battle of Newbern (NC) in 1864 (see appended record of service). Both Fisher brothers went west after the war. George settled as a commission merchant in San Francisco, while Charles stayed on the move, residing in California and in China among other places. Their sister Louisa was a nurse in Washington during the war, and later taught freedmen; and she too went to California. The younger sister, Joanna, was well educated; and she married J.H. Bigelow in 1864, and resided with him and their two surviving children, Charles and Minnie, in Salem.

Through the 1860s, Salem pursued manufacturing, especially of leather and shoes and textiles. The managers and capitalists tended to build their new, grand houses along Lafayette Street (these houses may still be seen, south of Roslyn Street; many are in the French Second Empire style, with mansard roofs). A third factory building for the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company was built in 1865.

In 1870 Salem received its last cargo from Zanzibar, thus ending a once-important trade. By then, a new Salem & New York freight steamboat line was in operation. Seven years later, with the arrival of a vessel from Cayenne, Salem's foreign trade came to an end. After that, "the merchandise warehouses on the wharves no longer contained silks from India, tea from China, pepper from Sumatra, coffee from Arabia, spices from Batavia, gum-copal from Zanzibar, hides from Africa, and the various other products of far-away countries. The boys have ceased to watch on the Neck for the incoming vessels, hoping to earn a reward by being the first to announce to the expectant merchant the safe return of his looked-for vessel. The foreign commerce of Salem, once her pride and glory, has spread its white wings and sailed away forever" (Rev. George Batchelor in *History of Essex County*, II: 65).

In 1870 the house was occupied (per census, house 193) by Thorp Fisher, 66, victualler, Mary R., 63, her son Albert Russell, 23, revenue clerk; and Irish maid-servant Mary Whiting, 24.

Salem was now so densely built-up that a general conflagration was always a possibility, as in Boston, when, on Nov. 9, 1872, the financial and manufacturing district of the city burned up. Salem continued to prosper in the 1870s, carried forward by the leather-making business. In 1874 the city was visited by a tornado and shaken by a minor earthquake. In the following year, the large Pennsylvania Pier (site of the present coal-fired harborside electrical generating plant) was completed to begin receiving large shipments of coal. Beyond it, at Juniper Point, a new owner began subdividing the old Allen farmlands into a new development called Salem Willows and Juniper Point. In the U.S. centennial year, 1876, A.G. Bell of Salem announced that he had discovered a way to transmit voices over telegraph wires.

In this decade, French-Canadian families began coming to work in Salem's mills and factories, and more houses and tenements were built. The better-off workers bought portions of older houses or built small homes for their families in the outlying sections of the city; and by 1879 the Naumkeag Steam Cotton mills would employ 1200 people and produce annually nearly 15 million yards of cloth. Shoe-manufacturing businesses expanded in the 1870s, and 40 shoe factories were employing 600-plus operatives. Tanning, in both Salem and Peabody, remained a very important industry, and employed hundreds of breadwinners. On Boston Street in 1879, the Arnold tannery caught fire and burned down.

In 1880 (per census, p. 688a) this house was occupied by Thorp Fisher, 76, retired, wife Mary R., 73, her son Albert B. Russell, 33, deputy tax collector, and by maid-servant Catherine Morse, 23, born in Ireland.

In the 1880s, Salem kept building infrastructure; and new businesses arose, and established businesses expanded. Retail stores prospered; horse-drawn trolleys ran every which-way; and machinists, carpenters, millwrights, and other specialists all thrived. In 1880, Salem's manufactured goods were valued at about \$8.4 million, of which leather accounted for nearly half. In the summer of 1886, the Knights of Labor brought a strike against the manufacturers for a ten-hour day and other concessions; but the manufacturers imported labor from Maine and Canada, and kept going. The strikers held out, and there was violence in the streets, and even rioting; but the owners prevailed, and many of the

defeated workers lost their jobs and suffered, with their families, through a bitter winter.

Mr. Thorp Fisher died on Dec. 9, 1885, in his 82<sup>nd</sup> year. He was survived by his wife Mary (who would die in 1887), daughters Joanna and Louisa and sons Charles and George.

By the mid-1880s, Salem's cotton-cloth mills at the Point employed 1400 people who produced about 19 million yards annually, worth about \$1.5 million. The city's large shoe factories stood downtown behind the stone depot and on Dodge and Lafayette Streets. A jute bagging company prospered with plants on Skerry Street and English Street; its products were sent south to be used in cotton-baling. Salem factories also produced lead, paint, and oil. At the Eastern Railroad yard on Bridge Street, cars were repaired and even built new. In 1887 the streets were first lit with electricity, replacing gas-light. The gas works, which had stood on Northey Street since 1850, was moved to a larger site on Bridge Street in 1888, opposite the Beverly Shore.

In January, 1889, George Fisher of San Francisco sold his interest to his brother Charles H. Fisher of Hyde Park, Mass. (ED 1243:319). In April, 1890, Charles H. Fisher and his sisters sold their interest to Jesse F. Upton and wife of Salem (ED 1276:242, 244). Jesse Upton was the proprietor of a drug store, or apothecary, that was conducted (as successor to George Farrington) in the Corwin-Ward House, corner of North and Essex Streets, also known popularly as the Witch House. Jesse was born in 1859, son of Warren A. Upton and Caroline Pratt, of Salem; and in 1883 he married Lillie Hathaway, who gave birth to their first child in 1885. For more than 75 years the homestead would remain in the ownership of the Upton family.

More factories and more people required more space for buildings, more roads, and more storage areas. This space was created by filling in rivers, harbors, and ponds. The once-broad North River was filled from both shores, and became a canal along Bridge Street above the North Bridge. The large and beautiful Mill Pond, which occupied the whole area between the present Jefferson Avenue, Canal Street, and Loring Avenue, finally vanished beneath streets, storage areas, junk-yards, rail-yards, and parking lots. The South River, too, with its epicenter at Central Street (that's why there was a Custom House built there in 1805) disappeared under the pavement of Riley Plaza and New Derby Street, and some of its old wharves were joined together with much in-fill and turned into coal-

yards and lumber-yards. Only a canal was left, running in from Derby and Central Wharves to Lafayette Street.

Salem kept growing. The Canadians were followed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by large numbers of Polish and Ukrainian families, who settled primarily in the Derby Street neighborhood. By the eve of World War One, Salem was a bustling, polyglot city that supported large department stores and large factories of every description. People from the surrounding towns, and Marblehead in particular, came to Salem to do their shopping; and its handsome government buildings, as befit the county seat, were busy with conveyances of land, lawsuits, and probate proceedings. The city's politics were lively, and its economy was strong.

On June 25, 1914, in the morning, in Blubber Hollow (Boston Street opposite Federal), a fire started in one of Salem's fire-prone wooden tanneries. This fire soon consumed the building and raced out of control, for the west wind was high and the season had been dry. The next building caught fire, and the next, and out of Blubber Hollow the fire roared easterly, a monstrous front of flame and smoke, wiping out the houses of Boston Street, Essex Street, and upper Broad Street, and then sweeping through Hathorne, Winthrop, Endicott, and other residential streets. Men and machines could not stop it: the enormous fire crossed over into South Salem and destroyed the neighborhoods west of Lafayette Street, then devoured the mansions of Lafayette Street itself, and raged onward into the tenement district. Despite the combined efforts of heroic fire crews from many towns and cities, the fire overwhelmed everything in its path: it smashed into the large factory buildings of the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company (Congress Street), which exploded in an inferno; and it rolled down Lafayette Street and across the water to Derby Street. There, just beyond Union Street, after a 13-hour rampage, the monster died, having consumed 250 acres, 1600 houses, and 41 factories, and leaving three dead and thousands homeless. Some people had insurance, some did not; all received much support and generous donations from all over the country and the world. It was one of the greatest urban disasters in the history of the United States, and the people of Salem would take years to recover from it. Eventually, they did, and many of the former houses and businesses were rebuilt; and several urban-renewal projects (including Hawthorne Boulevard, which involved removing old houses and widening old streets) were put into effect.

By the 1920s, Salem was once again a thriving city; and its tercentenary in 1926 was a time of great celebration. The Depression hit in 1929, and continued through the 1930s. Salem, the county seat and regional retail

center, gradually rebounded, and prospered after World War II through the 1950s and into the 1960s. General Electric, Sylvania, Parker Brothers, Pequot Mills (formerly Naumkeag Steam Cotton Co.), Almy's department store, various other large-scale retailers, many tanneries, and Beverly's United Shoe Machinery Company were all major local employers. Then the arrival of suburban shopping malls and the relocation of manufacturing businesses took their toll, as they have with many other cities. Salem has navigated its way forward into the present with success, trading on its share of notoriety arising from the witch trials, but also from its history as a great seaport and as the home of Bowditch, McIntire, Bentley, Story, and Hawthorne. Most of all, it remains a city where the homes of the old-time merchants, mariners, housewrights, cabinet-makers, and mill-operatives are all honored as a large part of what makes Salem different from any other place.

--Robert Booth for Historic Salem Inc.





The Bowditch House  
9 North Street  
Post Office Box 865  
Salem, Massachusetts 01970  
Telephone: (978) 745-0799

December 10, 2008

Ms. Darleen Melis  
115 Federal Street  
Salem, MA 01970

Dear Darleen:

Enclosed please find the research paper completed by Mr. Robert Booth, on the property located at 115 Federal Street Salem, MA.

Please review the document and call this office (978-745-0799) if you have any questions. Please call Historic Salem, Inc. to approve the wording for your plaque which would read as follows:

**Built by  
Joseph Edwards, Housewright  
1814  
Site of Jacob Sanderson's Cabinet Shop  
c. 1793**

Very truly yours,

Richard P. Thompson  
Executive Administrator  
Historic Salem, Inc.

Property at 115 Federal St., Salem, Massachusetts

Essex County Registry of Deeds:

Book	Leaf	Grantee	Grantor	Description
5337	690	Kenneth L. Lavoie ux Patricia	Katherine A. Upton (widow)	Northerly by Federal St. 44 ft. 8 in. Easterly by land now or formerly of Felt 128' Southerly by land now or formerly of Sanderson and of Buffington 42' 9" Westerly by land now or formerly of Sanderson 108' 5"

February 1, 1966

"Being the same premises conveyed to Clarence H. Upton and Katherine A. Upton, husband and wife, by deed of Mary B. Tudbury dtd. 6/12/1943 (said Clarence H. Upton having died 8/11/1956) See Estate of Katherine A. Upton Essex Probate Court Docket #283865."

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3333 138 <sup>not necessary</sup> Mary B. Tudbury was unmarried. (deed to a straw) to Clarence H. Upton and Katherine A. Upton 6/12/1943  
" 137 Same date, 6/12/1943, we find:

Mary B. Tudbury (salem) (for consideration paid)	George A. Upton & Clarence H. Upton (Salem), Ernest F. Upton (Waterville, Maine)	same land described as above
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Mary P. Upton, ux of George; Estelle M. Upton, ux of Ernest, Katherine A. Upton, ux of Clarence all released dower rights to said grantee, Mary B. Tudbury

\*\*\*\*\*

1276	242	Jessie F. Upton and Lillie E. Upton, ux (said of Salem)	Charles H. Fisher (Hyde Park, Mass) Johanna A. Bigelow, Cambridge, Mass) and Ira, husband of Johanna Bigelow	same land described as above.
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for \$1.00 paid by Jessie & Lillie Upton 4/15/1890

"An Estate in Salem.... said parcel and house and other buildings ...for and during her natural life to said Lillie E. Upton and the fee simple in said parcel, house and buildings subject to said life estate of the said Lillie E. Upton to said Jessis F. Upton, his heirs and assigns, said parcel of land is situated on Federal Street in said Salem and is bounded:

(same land described as above)

Meaning hereby to convey to said grantees as aforesaid the same Estate conveyed to Thorp Fisher by deed of Thomas Cole dated October 23, 1841 and recorded in E.E.R.D. Book 327 leaf 244 to which references may be had. Also see R.D. Book 236 leaf 148; Book 238 leaf 1; Book 201 leaf 297. .... Said Charles H. Fisher and Johanna A. Bigelow convey same as heirs of law of Thorp Fisher, late of said Salem, deceased. Also see deed of Geo. A. Fisher to said Charles H. Fisher dated 1/21/1889 recorded in Book 1243 leaf 319." (Lydia M., ux of Charles released dower rights.)

Property at 115 Federal St., Salem, Massachusetts cont'd.

Essex County Registry of Deeds:

Book	Leaf	Grantee	Grantor	Description
1243	319	Charles H. Fisher (Hyde Park, Mass.- brother) for sum of \$1.00	George A. Fisher, (San Francisco, Calif.) 1/21/1889	Bounded northerly by Federal St., Westerly by land now or formerly of Curtis, Easterly by said Estate of Curtis now or formerly of Frye, said estate being numbered 115 Federal St.  "conveyed to me as heir of my father, Thorpe Fisher."

\* \* \* \* \*

327	244	Thorpe Fisher, trader	Thomas Cole of Salem Nancy, ux	see below: for sum of \$2,750.00 , 10/23/1841
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Estate situate by Federal St.: Bounded by northeasterly corner of said street and land of the heirs of Joseph Felt, then running westerly measuring by said street 44' 8"; then running southerly by land of Sanderson and measuring 32' 5"; thence southerly inclining some westerly by said Sanderson's land - 76'; then turning and running easterly by land of said Sanderson's heirs and by land of heirs of Buffington, the line measuring all 42' 9"; then running northerly by land of heirs of Joseph Felt 60'; then inclining westerly (nearly an obtuse angle) 2' 6"; then continuing northerly by said Felt 24' 9"; then turning easterly - nearly at right angles and measuring 1' 9"; then turning northerly nearly at right angles and running 40' 9" by said Felt's land to point of beginning --- with dwelling house and all other buildings thereon - being Estate I purchased of Joseph Edwards and others being subject to a mortgage of John G. King of \$700 and interest which is recorded in Book 268 leaf 92.

268	92	Wm. King discharged the mortgage on 10/28/1841 Thomas Cole and ux, Nancy undertook mtge in 8/28/1832		
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\* \* \* \* \*

236	148	Thomas Cole ux, Nancy	Joseph Edwards ux, Sally	see below: for sum of \$2,350 10/28/1824
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Situated in Salem by Federal St.: Two story dwelling house and other buildings thereon bounded and described as follows: Beginning N.W. corner at a point 5' 6" easterly from the underpinning of workshop of Deacon Elijah Sanderson; then running southerly 17° easterly 31' 8"; then southerly 6° 76' to land of John Buffington bounded westerly on lines described by lands of said Sanderson, then running northerly 87° easterly 39' by land of said Buffington to land of Joseph Felt Jr.; thence running northerly 30 min. west 97' northerly 15° 10 min. westerly 31' bounded easterly by said Felt's land to Federal St. This last point being 13' 9" westerly from the underpinning of said Felt dwelling house at its northwest corner, thence running southerly 65° west by said Street 50' 6" to point of beginning. Said estate conv eyed to me by Elijah Sanderson and Benjamin Upton by deed of assignment February 14, 1814.

Property at 115 Federal St., Salem, Massachusetts cont'd.

## Essex County Registry of Deeds:

Book	Leaf	Grantee	Grantor	Description
201	297	Joseph Edwards	Elijah Sanderson and Benjamin Upton	2/14/1814 for \$817.16 (assignment) This deed is enclosed.

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189	42	Elijah Sanderson Benjamin Upton	Jacob Sanderson	11/27/1809 This deed is enclosed.
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156	123/4	Joseph Felt Jacob Sanderson, Elijah Sanderson Jonathan Ropes	Benjamin Pickman	1793 These deeds are enclosed.
-----	-------	---	------------------	--------------------------------

456-1234 ←  
64 fed on Federal Street

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156	121/2	Benjamin Pickman	Hannah Poynton, widow	1793 This deed is enclosed.
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Joan Bailey,  
120 Federal St.  
Salem, Mass. 7/5/1967

Essex Inst. Historical Collections, Oct. 1949, Cabinet Makers of Salem, Belnap Pg. 343:

" In March, 1780, the Sandersons had either arrived definitely in Salem or were preparing to do so but both had left their girls behind them as is shown by the dates of their marriages. .... they had selected a shop. The following deed is given in full because of its interest in connection with the business:

In Consideration of the Sum of 75 pounds Sterling or 750 Pounds old Tenor as money was usually called in the year 1770 to me paid in manner hereafter provided I the subscriber do hereby sell to Messrs. Elijah and Jacob Sanderson of Salem, join ers.... a certain Building or store formerly belong to Philip Godfrid Kast .....and lately improved as a store, situated on a Lot of Land belonging to the Estate of Samuel Curwen, Esq. lying on the lane leading to the North Bridge (North Street) so called in salem..... subscriber agreed (name: Jonathan Waldo) that above sum be paid in joiner work and Stock in any sort or kind of House Furniture which said Waldo shall chuse..... delivered to said Waldo within six months from date here of ..... date: 3/21/1780 signed: Waldo!

Mr. Waldo certified that on Nov. 5, 1784, he had received payment in full.

Waldo also executed a paper, 3/21/1780 as follows:

I the subscriber promise and agree with Messrs. Elijah and Jacob Sanderson that the building formerly by me improved as a store and now sold to said E & J Sanderson shall remain on the land on which it now is during the Term of the Lease which is to the 15th Day of November 1785. In consideration of which they are to pay me the Sum of Four Pounds Ster. in Gold or Silver yearly for Rent of the said land.  
J. Waldo"

\*\*\*\*\*

In 1782/3 E & J Sanderson purchased land at corner of Lynn and Federal Sts. and toget her built their mansion house.

\*\*\*\*\*

City Hall, Salem, Mass. tax records for the lyear 1792:

		Valuation book	Tax
Jacob Sanderson	1 pt house and 1/2 shop	30 (pounds)	2.50
Elijah Sanderson	1 pt house and 1/2 shop	ditto	ditto

1793 purchased land across Federal St. from Pickman

Tax records for year 1793:

Jacob Sanderson	1 pt house & shop & 1/2 of a store	300	4.4 (tax amt. s. obscure)
Elijah Sanderson	1 pt house & shop & 1/2 of a store	300	4.4

Tax records for 1794 same

Tax records for year 1795:

Jacob Sanderson	1 pt house & shcp and 1/2 of a store	1350	again tax amts. obscure
Elijah Sanderson	1 pt house & shop and 1/2 of a store	1350	

1796 thru 1799 same description - valuation 1500 for each

Lavoie, 115 Federal St., Salem, Mass. cont'd.

Tax Records, City of Salem, year 1800:

		valuation
Jacob Sanderson	1 pt house & shop	10000 (again figures obscure)
	1/2 store crossed out in pen	
Elijah Sanderson	1 pt house & shop	10000
	1/2 store crossed out in pen	

years 1806 and 1809 ( which I chose at random) show for each: 1 pt house & shop val. 1800

Jacob dies February 13, 1810

Tax records for year 1811 (which is year Elijah Sanderson and Benjamin Upton sold Jacob's shop to Joseph Edwards)

		valuation
Elijah Sanderson	1 pt house, store	1800
	1 1/2 cow rights	
Joseph Edwards,	pt house	— tax amt (difficult)

\*\*\*\*\*

Please note the enclosed deeds referring to sale by Pickman to Ropes, Sandersons, and Felt. later in December 1793, Elijah Sanderson purchased additional land from Jonathan Ropes, fronting Federal St. MAX E.C.R. Deeds Book 157, p. 72.

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We read again from Historical Collections, Essex. Inst. Oct. 1949 page 345: "....., but if the "new street" refers to Federal street then it may have been opposite the house on Federal street, at number 51 by the old numbering or 121 by the new, where Sanderson did have a shop at least by 1823 when, on 8 November Elijah advertised his Cabinet and Chair Warehouse" on Federal near Beckford St." John Sanderson gave his address at No. 51 in the first Directory in 1837 and until 1846 when the shop was on the house property. the deed may be briefly quoted: Jonathan Ropes of Salem, merchant, for 5 pounds paid by Elijah Sanderson of Salem, cabinet maker a certain strip of land bounded northerly on a new street 12', easterly on land of Sanderson 48' 8", thence westerly on land of George Ropes 46' 3". 17 December 1793 "

No. 51  
at  
corner  
adjacent  
to  
house

\*\*\*\*\*

Pickman gave thru sale in 1793 Elijah 38' on Federal St. April 17.  
Ropes " " " " " " 12' on Federal St. total 50' on Federal St. 17 December, 1793

#121 Federal St. is house now owned by Woodsman, formerly Curwen, where John Sanderson gave his address as 51 in 1837, which would, as a double check, place Elijah's shop on Heigney's property, now #117 and 119 Federal St. (see map)

Please note references (typed) made to Deeds Book 236 page 158 Edwards to Cole: "underpinning of workshop of Deacon Elijah Sanderson"

\*\*\*\*\*

Again turning to Historical Collections, Oct. 1949, page 347: "Est ate of Deacon Jacob Sanderson: Inventory of Deacon Sanderson \$2,364.67 taken by William Lang, Samuel Holman, Junr. Daniel Clarke. It includes the house and land on Federal Street, the Store and land on Federal street, the house and land at Lynn and Andover streets, etc. etc. Catharine, widow of Jacob Sanderson was buried 26 December, 1811. etc. etc.

Soon after the death of Jacob Sanderson, Elijah made some sort of business combination with Caleb Burbank, Benjamin Swan, Joel Tay and Capt. John Waters, all of Salem, which was to undertake the exportation of furniture. They were soon engaged in a series of law suits among themselves too complicated to be disentangled here. "

Page 334

" Jacob Sanderson's shop was on Federal Street as was also the "Sanderson Cabinet Wares", and in addition to the journeymen workmen whom the Sandersons employed they had numerous apprentices. Labor troubles could be asx annoying then, before the day of labor unions, as they are today, and in 1798, Elijah brought suit against a Mr. Radson for inducing one of his apprentices to leave. "

*This was from  
said Lane  
was built  
in early  
as 1794.  
Bank acquired  
from Tople.*

" This suit may have suggested to the Sandersons the wisdom of providing free educational advantages to their apprentices as an added inducement to holding them. (Bill from Daniel Parker to Jacob Sanderson for instructing four apprentices six weeks at 25 cents per week each. Five years later, Jacob was still providing them with educational opportunities as Asa Flanders evening school.) "

"The following item at the end of a bill, dated 1803, and rendered by Thomas Hodgkins, who worked for Jacob, shows Jacob's provision for his apprentices during his absence from his shop:

to my time and services in Ceping your tools and  
superintending your apprentices and Business in  
your absents from the Shop as Pr Power given me  
up to this date \$21. "

\*\*\*\*\*

27

deed enclosed

Nov. 2, 1809 Jacob As principal and Elijah Sanderson and Benjamin Upton as surities did on 1/10/1804 make a Bond in the Penal sum of conditions of which Bond etc for Bancroft Children . I said Jacob upon the payment of \$1.00 paid me by Elijah and Benjamin etc. ... give grant etc(descrptn. of property.) I said Jacob ~~and~~ true and lawful owner... mention made of payment on or before 11/27/1811 to nullify this deed etc.  
signed: Jacob, ~~iii~~

Jacob died 1810. Catherine died 1811

July 1812 notation in margin, Elijah Sanderson and Benjamin Upton quietly entered and took possession. 1814 assignment to Joseph Edwards for \$817.16

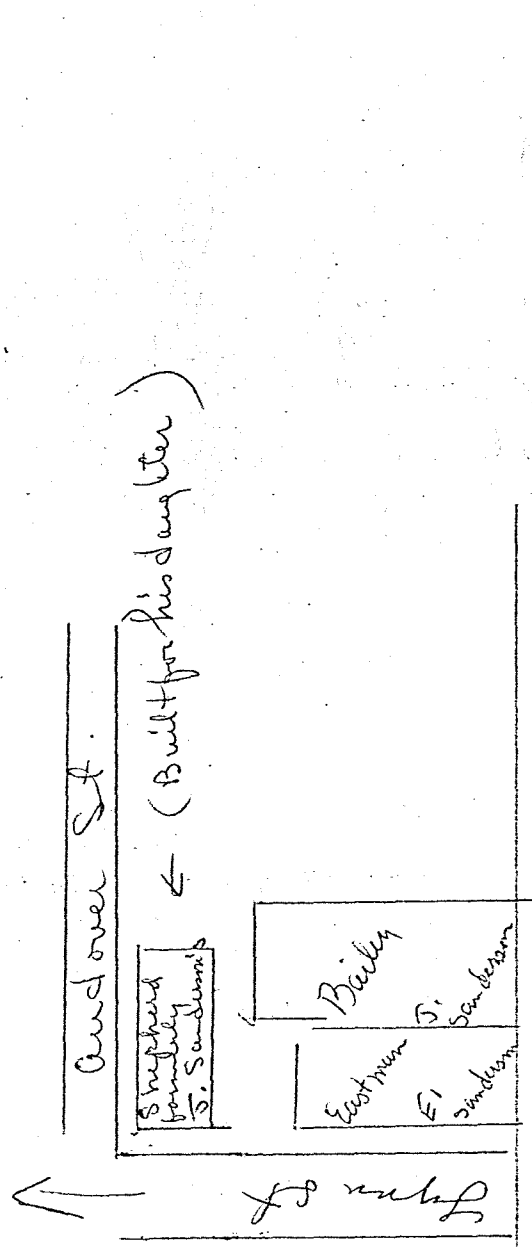
\*\*\*\*\*

Bailey and Lavoie ask for a date of 1793 for the Jacob Sanderson Shop.

Joan Bailey  
120 Federal St.  
Salem, Mass.



April 17 - 1793 - Pickman to Ropes - Sanders - felt - Brown etc



(RICE) (Brown)	(woodsmen) Pickman to Ropes	Federal (Hager) Pickman To Eliph Sanderson	(New) Pickman To Jacob Sanderson	St. - (Brown) Pickman To Joseph Felt	Brown etc
- Benj	Jonathan Ropes	Ropes	now	now	
Ropes	Salm Sanderson	now	now	now	
hand	hand	Haigney	now	now	
(Mrs Rice) ←	(Mrs Brown's)	not whole of present Haigney lot	now	now	

cut T.D. 156 - 124 ft.  
 88 ft + 12 ft from 110 ft.  
 Brown's about 12 feet - 129 ft  
 Haigney lot 156 - 129 ft

Re: Property - Lavoie - 115 Federal St - Salem, Mass.



Know all men by these presents that I William Pickman of Salem in the County  
of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Esquire for and in considera-  
tion of the sum of one hundred & one pounds 11s/ lawful money paid to me by  
Jonathan Lopes of Salem aforesaid merchant, the receipt whereof I do hereby  
acknowledge, do hereby give grant sell and convey unto the said Jonathan  
Lopes his heirs and assigns the following piece of land situate in said Salem  
containing about twenty seven poles or be the same more or less  
bounded as follows westerly by land of said Lopes one hundred and  
nine feet nine inches southerly by land late John Lopes' deceased  
sixty three feet, easterly on land this day sold by me to Elijah Sanderson  
one hundred thirty one feet five inches and northerly on Federal Street  
sixty four feet with the priviledges & appurtenances thereof. Do give  
and to hold the same to the said Jonathan Lopes his heirs and assigns  
to him or their use and behoof forever and I do covenant with the said  
Jonathan Lopes his heirs and assigns that I am lawfully seised in fee of the  
premises that they are free of all incumbrances that I have good right to sell  
and convey the same to the said Jonathan Lopes in manner aforesaid  
and that I and my heirs will warrant and defend the same to the said Jona-  
than Lopes his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims  
and demands of any person. In witness whereof I the said William Pickman  
have hereunto set my hand and seal this twentieth day of April  
in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety three  
and in presence of  
Elijah Sanderson  
William Pickman & a seal  
Essex

Pickman  
to  
Lopes

B 156 2 123



So know all Men by these presents that I William Pickman Esquire of the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Esquire for and in consideration of the sum of forty two pounds <sup>one shilling</sup> lawful money paid me by Elijah Saunders of Salem aforesaid Callit maker, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge

I do hereby give grant sell and convey unto the said Elijah Saunders for his heirs and assigns a certain piece of land situate in Salem aforesaid containing twenty five poles <sup>or thereabouts</sup> half of a pole or be the same more or less & bounded as follows, westerly by land sold by me this day to Jonathan Hooper one hundred thirty one feet six inches southerly by land of Clark and Grant sixty four feet easterly by John Buffinton's garden thirty five feet northerly by land sold by me to Jacob Saunders fourteen feet three inches, easterly by the last mentioned land seventy seven feet to a stake then easterly on said Jacob Saunders land land thirty three feet to Federal Street & northerly by said Federal Street thirty eight feet with the priviledges and appurtenances thereof to have and to hold the same to the said Elijah Saunders for his heirs and assigns to his and their use and behoof forever. And I do covenant with the said Elijah Saunders for his heirs and assigns that I am lawfully seized in fee of the premises that they are free of all incumbrances that I have good right to sell and convey the same to the said Elijah Saunders in manner aforesaid And that I and my heirs will warrant and defend the same to the said Elijah Saunders his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of any persons. In witness whereof I the said William Pickman have hereunto set my hand and seal this seventeenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety three Signed sealed and delivered in presence of } Wm Pickman of a seal  
Chas Cleveland Judge & Pickman }

Witness April 17. 1793 I the above named William Pickman Esquire acknowledge the above Instrument to be free and valid before me Edward Pulling Justices  
Witness Dec April 17. 1793 & recorded & examined by John Pickering Regr

B 156 P 124

Katherine A. Upton, late of Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts,

by power conferred by license of the Probate Court, dated January 29, 1966,

and every other power,

for Eighteen thousand five hundred Dollars  
paid, grant to Kenneth L. Lavoie and Patricia Lavoie, husband and wife,  
as tenants by the entirety, both of Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts

the land:  
A certain parcel of land, with the buildings thereon,  
situated on Federal Street in said Salem, and bounded and described  
as follows:

- NORTHERLY by said Federal Street, forty-four feet and eight inches;
- EASTERLY by land now or formerly of Felt, one hundred twenty-eight feet;
- SOUTHERLY by land now or formerly of Sanderson and of Suffington, forty-two feet and nine inches; and
- WESTERLY by land now or formerly of Sanderson, one hundred and eight feet and five inches;

Being the same premises conveyed to Clarence H. Upton and Katherine A. Upton, husband and wife, as tenants by the entirety, by deed of Mary E. Tudoury dated June 12, 1943, recorded with Essex South District Registry of Deeds to Book 3533, page 156; the said Clarence H. Upton having died August 11, 1966.

See Estate of Katherine A. Upton, Essex Probate Court Docket #283865.

Real Estate taxes for the year 1966 are to be paid by the grantees - they having been proportioned.

Witness my hand and seal this first day of February 1966

Thaddeus Buczko

Executor u/e of Katherine A. Upton

Mass. Excise \$20.50

U.S. Decon Stamp \$20.35

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Essex, ss. February 1, 1966

Then personally appeared the above named Thaddeus Buczko

and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his free act and deed, before me

Manning Sigmund

Charles F. Manning

Notary Public  
Essex County, Mass.

My commission expires April 30, 1966

Pickman To Felt

Know all Men by these presents that I William Pickman of Salem in the County  
of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Esquire for and in consideration  
the sum of fifty one pounds lawful money paid me by Joseph Felt of Salem  
my said housewight, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, do hereby  
with good right full and convey unto the said Joseph Felt his heirs and assigns  
view or lot of land situate in Salem aforesaid containing twenty five  
and one half of a pole or better same more or less & bounded as follows  
to wit: southerly by Federal Street ~~sixty~~ <sup>thirty</sup> feet, westerly thirty three feet  
by said street, southerly to a stake by land sold by me this day to Jacob  
Anderson thence running southerly from said stake and bounding wester-  
ly by the last mentioned land ninety six feet six inches to Buffinton land  
easterly by the last mentioned land forty three feet nine inches easterly  
by land of William Stearns forty feet partly & partly by land sold by  
me this day to Brown & Goodhue ninety eight feet nine inches & partly  
by

by land sold by me this day to Goodhue twenty six feet nine inches with  
the privileges and appurtenances thereof. So have I do sold the same to the  
said Joseph Felt his heirs and assigns to his & their use and behoof forever and I  
do covenant with the said Joseph Felt his heirs and assigns that I am lawfully  
seized in fee of the premises that they are free of all incumbrances that I have  
good right to sell and convey the same to the said Joseph Felt in manner aforesaid  
and that I and my heirs will warrant and defend the same to the said Joseph  
Felt his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims of any person  
In witness whereof I the said William Pickman have hereunto set my  
hand and seal this seventh day of April in the year of our Lord one  
thousand seven hundred and ninety three

Witness my hand and seal this seventh day of April 1793  
in presence of  
P. Sanderson }  
I, Edward Pulling Just Peace }  
do hereby acknowledge the above Instrument to be  
freely and lawfully made and executed by the above named William  
Pickman as aforesaid  
Edward Pulling Just Peace  
April 17. 1793 & recorded & examined by John Pickering

Pickin  
to  
Barre

B 156-4123

W  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5

Know all Men by these presents that I William Pickman of Salem in the  
 County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts assign for and in  
 consideration of thirty two pounds twelve shillings lawful money paid  
 by Bartholomew Brown of Salem aforesaid housewright, the receipt  
 whereof I do hereby acknowledge do hereby give grant sell and convey  
 with the said Bartholomew Brown his heirs and assigns a certain piece  
 of lot of land situate in Salem aforesaid containing fixteen poles or six  
 furlongs more or less and bounded as follows westerly on land sold by me the day  
 of Joseph Felt about thirty seven feet five inches southerly on land sold by me  
 the day to William Stearns one hundred and ten feet easterly on Bur  
 row Lane (there so called) forty feet and northerly on land sold by me  
 to Honer Goodhue one hundred and ten feet with the privileges  
 and appurtenances thereto belonging to have and to hold the same  
 unto the said Brown his heirs and assigns to his or their use and behoof  
 and I do Covenant with the said Brown his heirs and assigns  
 that I am lawfully seized in fee of the premises that they are free of all im  
 munities that I have good right to sell and convey the same unto the said  
 Brown his heirs & assigns in manner aforesaid and that I will warrant  
 defend the same to the said Brown his heirs and assigns forever a  
 gainst the lawful claims and demands of any persons In witness whereof I  
 the said William Pickman have hereunto set my hand and seal this se  
 venth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven  
 hundred and ninety three.

Wm Pickman a seal  
 signed sealed & delivered  
 in presence of  
 William Stearns  
 Jacob Sandersson  
 }  
 Commonwealt of Massachusetts Essex 17 A  
 pril 1793 Then William Pickman named  
 in this Instrument acknowledged the same to  
 be his deed before Edward Pulling Justice of Peace  
 Meas. Rec April 17. 1793 & recorded & search by John Pickering Reg





Poynton  
to  
Pickman

Know all Men by these presents that I Hannah Poynton of Salem in the County  
of Essex widow for and in consideration of the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds  
lawful money paid me by William Pickman of Salem aforesaid Esquire - The  
receipt of which sum I do hereby acknowledge have remised released and forever  
quitclaimed and do by these presents remise release and forever quitclaim unto  
the said William Pickman his heirs and assigns all my right title interest  
and estate which I have in & to all that real estate situate in Salem aforesaid  
containing about one Acre and nine rods or be the same more or less bound  
as follows easterly on Backford's lane, so called, southerly on land now or late  
of Ahijah Estes Benjamin Bacon and Francis Grant John Ropes' heirs  
on land of Jonathan Ropes westerly on land of Jonathan Ropes to the  
street northerly on the said north or new street, so called, and easterly on  
now or late John Standen's there southerly about twelve feet and easterly

Edward Kitchen Turner of Salem aforesaid gentleman did in and by his deed  
dated the sixteenth day of February Anno Domini seventeen hundred & se-  
venty six convey to my late husband Thomas Poynton deceased in Mortgage  
will more fully appear reference being had thereto and of which I took  
possession as Administratrix of said Thomas' estate by virtue of an Execution  
in which it is said the said Edward Kitchen Turner, conveyed after giving said  
Mortgage, to said William Pickman his heirs and assigns he the said William  
Pickman being now in the actual & peaceable possession of the same relea-  
se premises to have and to hold the foregoing release premises with  
appurtenances to him the said William Pickman his heirs and assigns  
his & their use & behoof forever. And I the said Edward Kitchen Turner

and administrators covenant to and with the  
said William Pickman his heirs and assigns that I will warrant and defend  
the foregoing release premises to him his heirs and assigns against the  
lawful claims & demands of all persons claiming from by or under me  
in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this fifth day of  
April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & ninety three  
signed sealed and delivered in presence of } Hannah Poynton & a seal  
Edw. Driver Edward Pulling - }

Witness April 17, AD. 1793. Then M<sup>rs</sup> Hannah Poynton named in the  
foregoing instrument acknowledged the same to be her deed. before Edward Pulling Justice of peace  
at New York April 17, 1793 at nine o'clock afternoon & recorded & examined  
By John Pichering Notary

121  
958  
P. K  
To  
E  
E  
P. K  
B. 36 7 121  
958

Know all Men by these presents that I William Pickman of Salem in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Esquire for and in consideration of the sum of thirty one pounds & fifteen sh<sup>l</sup> & 6 lawful money paid by Jacob Saunderson of Salem aforesaid Gentleman, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, do hereby give grant sell and convey unto the said Jacob Saunderson his heirs and assigns a certain lot or piece of land situated in Salem aforesaid containing about nineteen poles and three tenths of a pole or be the same more or less bounded as follows westerly by land sold by me this day to Elijah Saunderson thirty three feet distant southerly from Federal Street to a stake and also westerly by the last mentioned land from said stake southerly seventy seven feet to land of said Elijah southerly on the last mentioned land fourteen feet three inches & also southerly on land of John Buffinton twenty four feet five inches easterly by land sold by me this day to Joseph Bell ninety six feet six inches to a stake which stake is distant southerly from said Federal Street thirty three feet which distance of thirty three feet is another boundary easterly by said street fifty feet six inches with the appurtenances. To have & to hold the same to the said Jacob Saunderson his heirs and assigns to him & their use and behoof forever and I do covenant with the said Jacob Saunderson his heirs and assigns that I am lawfully seized in fee of the premises that they are free of all incumbrances that I have good right to sell & convey the same to the said Jacob Saunderson in manner aforesaid - and that I will warrant and defend the same to the said Jacob Saunderson his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons In witness whereof I the said William Pickman have hereunto set my hand and seal this seventeenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety three

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of  
Clerk Cleveland  
Wm Pickman

Essex April 17. 1793 then the above named William Pickman Esquire acknowledged the above instrument to be before me  
Edward Pulling Just Peace

Witness my hand and seal April 17. 1793 & recorded & acknowledged by Wm Pickman

Joseph Edwards  
to

Joseph Edwards  
1791

1791  
1791

Know all Men by these Presents, that we Elijah Anderson and  
 Benjamin Appton with us named, in consideration of eight hundred and  
 fourteen dollars and sixteen cents paid by Joseph Edwards of Salem in the  
 County of Essex Gentlemen, the receipt whereof we hereby acknowledge have  
 and hereby do give bargain, sell assign transfer and set over to the said Edwar  
 his heirs assigns, all the right the within described premises, with their appur  
 tenances, together with this tract of Mortgage. So that and to hold the same  
 with all the privileges and appurtenances to him the said Edwards his heirs and  
 assigns, in as full and ample manner as a better said Anderson and Appton may  
 and assigns might have hold and enjoyed the same in case this assignment  
 had not been made. And we do the said Anderson and Appton for our selves our  
 heirs executors and Administrators do covenant with said Edwards his heirs &  
 assigns, that he and hisy shall & may lawfully for him, his heirs and assigns have  
 enjoy the assigned premises, against any claim and demand of us, or either of us,  
 or any person claiming from by or under us or either of us. In Testimony  
 whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this fourteenth day of February  
 the year first our said Benjamin Anderson and Appton  
 Joseph Edwards in presence of us  
 Justice of the Peace  
 1791

Anderson and Benjamin

Appton

Witness our hand

Justice of the Peace

1791



## *History of House & Occupants 115 Federal Street, Salem*

By Robert Booth for Historic Salem Inc., Nov. 2008

According to available evidence, this house was built by Joseph Edwards, housewright, in 1814. It stands on the site of the shop of Deacon Jacob Sanderson, cabinet-maker, built by 1793.

On April 17, 1793, William Pickman Esq., for 31.16.11 sold to Jacob Sanderson, gentleman, a lot 19.3 poles in area, bounded northerly 50' 6" on Federal Street, westerly 110' on land sold to Elijah Sanderson, southerly on Elijah Sanderson and John Buffinton land, and easterly 129' on land of Joseph Felt (ED 156:123). The lot description had the unusual feature of starting the bounds from a point 33' south of the street, perhaps because the lot was originally square to the street but the back part of the lot ran off diagonally after 33' in depth. On the same day, Mr. Pickman sold the lot to the east to Joseph Felt, and the lot to the west to Jacob's brother Elijah Sanderson.

Jacob Sanderson proceeded to have a shop built on this lot, as a workshop for the making of furniture and for the retailing of various goods, including feathers (for stuffing), pepper, and meat. Perhaps the shop had been standing here since 1780, on land leased from Pickman; but the lot was not sold until 1793.

Jacob Sanderson (d. 1810) and his brother Elijah, Revolutionary War soldiers and expert cabinet-makers, came from Lexington to Salem in 1779. They soon contracted for the construction of a large double house on Federal Street, which they each occupied for the rest of their lives; it still stands, opposite Monroe Street. They were very ambitious furniture-makers and employed many artisans in their business. Among others, Samuel McIntire did piece-work for them as a carver (a monograph has been written about the Sandersons and their furniture). Their shop produced for local and regional trade and, eventually, for export. Several skilled artisans moved into Salem and went to work for the Sandersons, who tended to employ in-migrants like themselves. Daniel Clark of Wenham and Boston (55 Summer Street) is one example.

In post-war Salem, the merchants and mariners were ready to push their ships and cargoes into all parts of the known world. They did so with astonishing success. For a period of about 25 years, Salem was a famous center of commercial enterprise: by virtue of competing fiercely,

pioneering new routes, and opening and dominating new markets, Salem won a high place in the world. Hasket Derby, William Gray, Eben Beckford, and Joseph Peabody were the town's commercial leaders. In 1784, Derby began trade with Russia; and in 1784 and 1785 he dispatched trading vessels to Africa and China, respectively. Voyages to India soon followed, and to the Spice Islands and Pepper Islands (Sumatra, Java, Malaya, etc.). Derby, like many other merchants, commissioned furniture from the Sandersons.

Once again, Salem was a boom-town, fueling much new construction, and the need for beautiful furniture. As cabinet-makers, the Sandersons were in a good position to thrive. Jacob Sanderson became a leader in his neighborhood and his church, the North Church (Congregational-Unitarian), in which he was elected deacon in January, 1785—it stood on North Street, near the corner of Lynde.

By the 1790s, the new foreign-trade markets—and the coffee trade, which would be opened in 1798 with Mocha, Arabia—brought great riches to the Salem merchants, and raised the level of wealth throughout the town: new ships were bought and built, more crews were formed with more shipmasters, new shops and stores opened, new partnerships were formed, and new people moved to town. In 1792 Salem's first bank, the Essex Bank, was founded, although it "existed in experiment a long time before it was incorporated," per Rev. William Bentley. From a population of 7921 in 1790, the town would grow by 1500 persons in a decade. At the same time, thanks to the economic policies of Alexander Hamilton, Salem vessels were able to transport foreign cargoes tax-free and essentially to serve as the neutral carrying fleet for both Britain and France, which were at war with each other. Politically, Jacob Sanderson espoused the Federalist Party, and in 1794 he was elected a selectman of Salem. He was respected also as an administrator of the estates of deceased persons<sup>1</sup>

In the late 1790s, there was agitation in Congress to go to war with France, which was at war with England. After President Adams' negotiators were rebuffed by the French leaders in 1797, a quasi-war with France began in summer, 1798, much to the horror of Salem's George Crowninshield family (father and five shipmaster sons), which had an extensive trade with the French, and whose ships and cargos in French ports were susceptible to seizure. The quasi-war brought about a political split within the Salem population. Those who favored war with France (and detente with England) aligned themselves with the national

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<sup>1</sup> E.g. estate of housewright Charles Briggs in 1798.

Federalist party, led by Hamilton and Salem's Timothy Pickering (the U.S. Secretary of State). These included most of the merchants, led locally by the Derby family. Those who favored peace with republican France were the Anti-Federalists, who later became aligned with Pres. Jefferson and his Democratic-Republican party; they were led locally by the Crowninshields. For the first few years of this rivalry, the Federalists prevailed; but after the death of Hasket "King" Derby in 1799 his family's power weakened. In this same year, in October, after twenty years, Jacob and Elijah Sanderson dissolved their partnership. Presumably the shop was used only by Jacob's boys and men after that.

In 1800, Adams negotiated peace with France and fired Pickering, his oppositional Secretary of State. Salem's Federalists merchants erupted in anger, expressed through their newspaper, the *Salem Gazette*. At the same time, British vessels began to harass American shipping. Salem owners bought more cannon and shot, and kept pushing their trade to the farthest ports of the rich East, while also maintaining trade with the Caribbean and Europe. Salem cargos were exceedingly valuable, and Salem was a major center for distribution of merchandise throughout New England: "the streets about the wharves were alive with teams loaded with goods for all parts of the country. It was a busy scene with the coming and going of vehicles, some from long distances, for railroads were then unknown and all transportation must be carried on in wagons and drays. In the taverns could be seen teamsters from all quarters sitting around the open fire in the chilly evenings, discussing the news of the day or making merry over potations of New England rum, which Salem manufactured in abundance." (from Hurd's *History of Essex County*, 1888, p.65).

The Crowninshields, led by brother Jacob, were especially successful, as their holdings rose from three vessels in 1800 to several in 1803. Their bailiwick, the Derby Street district, seemed almost to be itself imported from some foreign country: in the stores, parrots chattered and monkeys cavorted, and from the warehouses wafted the exotic aromas of Sumatran spices and Arabian coffee beans and Caribbean molasses. From the wharves were carted all manner of strange fruits, and crates of patterned china in red and blue, and piles of gorgeous silks and figured cloths, English leather goods, and hundreds of barrels of miscellaneous objects drawn from all of the ports and workshops of the world. The greatest of the Salem merchants at this time was William "Billy" Gray, who owned 36 large vessels—15 ships, 7 barks, 13 brigs, 1 schooner—by 1808. Salem was then still a town, and a small one by our standards, with a total population of about 9,500 in 1800. Its politics were fierce, and polarized everything. The two factions attended separate churches, held separate

parades, and supported separate schools, military companies, and newspapers. Salem's merchants resided mainly on two streets: Washington (which ended in a wharf on the Inner Harbor, and, above Essex, had the Town House in the middle) and Essex (particularly between what are now Hawthorne Boulevard and North Street). The East Parish (Derby Street area) was for the seafaring families, shipmasters, sailors, and fishermen. In the 1790s, Federal Street, known as New Street, had more empty lots than fine houses. Chestnut Street did not exist: its site was a meadow. The Common was not yet Washington Square, and was covered with hillocks, small ponds and swamps, utility buildings, and the alms-house. As the 19<sup>th</sup> century advanced, Salem's commercial prosperity would sweep almost all of the great downtown houses away (the brick Joshua Ward house, built 1784, is a notable exception).

Amid all of this retail activity, Jacob Sanderson was inspired to sell imported goods out of this, his "cabinet shop."<sup>2</sup> He owned shares in various vessels at sea, and invested in "adventures," meaning cargo that he sent out in care of the captain or supercargo, hoping they could exchange it for goods of greater value when sold in Salem. He seems to have joined George Taylor, a South Salem farmer, in some of these adventures; and on 1 July 1803 they advertised the sale of 2,000 horse-hides and a quantity of down feathers (see Salem Gazette). The first known instance of such a sale through the shop was in July, 1803, when Jacob advertised "eight bales of otter skins just imported from La Plata" and in November, 1803, he advertised bales of swan's-down feathers for sale at his store "in Federal Street"<sup>3</sup>

The town's merchants were among the wealthiest in the country, and, in Samuel McIntire, they had a local architect who could help them realize their desires for large and beautiful homes in the latest style. While a few of the many new houses went up in the old Essex-Washington Street axis, most were erected on or near Washington Square or in the Federalist "west end" (Chestnut, Federal, and upper Essex Streets). The architectural style (called "Federal" today) had been developed by the Adam brothers in England and featured fanlight doorways, palladian windows, elongated pilasters and columns, and large windows. It was introduced to New England by Charles Bulfinch in 1790. The State House in Boston was his first institutional composition; and soon Beacon Hill was being built up with handsome residences in the Bulfinch manner.

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<sup>2</sup> It was so called in most of his newspaper advertisements; once or twice it is called his furniture shop.

<sup>3</sup> See Salem Gazette 1 July 1803, also 6 Dec. 1803.

Samuel McIntire (1757-1811), who was self-educated and who made his living primarily as a wood-carver and carpenter for clients as well as for craftsmen like Jacob Sanderson, was quick to adapt the Bulfinch style to Salem's larger lots. McIntire's first local composition, the Jerathmeel Peirce house (on Federal Street), contrasts with his later Adamesque designs. In place of walls of wood paneling, there now appeared plastered expanses painted in bright colors or covered in bold wallpapers. The Adam style put a premium on handsome casings and carvings of central interior features such door-caps and chimney-pieces (McIntire's specialty). On the exterior, the Adam style included elegant fences; and the houses were often built of brick, with attenuated porticoes and, in the high style, string courses, swagged panels, and even two-story pilasters. The best example of the new style was the Elias Hasket Derby house, co-designed by Bulfinch and McIntire, and built on Essex Street in 1797-8 (demolished in 1815), on the site of today's Town House Square.

A new bank, the Salem Bank, was formed in 1803, and there were two insurance companies and several societies and associations. The fierce politics and commercial rivalries continued. The ferment of the times is captured in the diary of Rev. William Bentley, bachelor minister of Salem's East Church and editor of the *Register* newspaper. His diary is full of references to the civic and commercial doings of the town, and to the lives and behaviors of all classes of society. He had high hopes for the future of a republican America, with well educated citizens. He observed and fostered the transition in Salem, and wrote in his diary (2 Dec. 1806), "While Salem was under the greatest aristocracy in New England, few men thought, and the few directed the many. Now the aristocracy is gone and the many govern. It is plain it must require considerable time to give common knowledge to the people." On Union Street, not far from Bentley's church, on the fourth of July, 1804, was born a boy who would grow up to eclipse all sons of Salem in the eyes of the world: Nathaniel Hawthorne, whose father would die of fever while on a voyage to the Caribbean in 1808. This kind of untimely death was all too common among Salem's young seafarers, who fell prey to malaria and other diseases of the Caribbean and Pacific tropics.

In 1803, Jacob Sanderson took a trip. In his absence, Thomas Hodgkins ran the shop and looked after the apprentices (see Mabel Swan, EIHC Oct. 1934, p.334). In general, the Sandersons were good employers and masters, and eventually they provided free evening classes to their apprentices, boys from fourteen-on who worked for them without taking a regular wage but who lived in the family and were provided with board and clothing too.



It was at just this time (1806) that the British changed their policy toward American shipping, and no longer respected American-flagged vessels as neutral carriers. This disastrous policy change came just as the Derbys extended their wharf far out into the harbor, tripling its previous length to create more space for warehouses and ship-berths in the deeper water. The Crowninshields had recently built their great India Wharf at the foot of now-Webb Street. The other important wharves were White's, Forrester's (now Central, just west of Derby Wharf), and Union Wharf at the foot of Union Street. Farther to the west, smaller wharves extended into the South River, all the way to the foot of Washington Street. Each had a warehouse or two, and shops for artisans (coopers, blockmakers, joiners, etc.). The waterfront between Union Street and Washington Street also had lumber yards and several ship chandleries and distilleries, with a Market House at the foot of Central Street, below the Custom House. The wharves and streets were crowded with shoppers, gawkers, hawkers, sailors, artisans ("mechanics"), storekeepers, and teamsters; and just across the way, on Stage Point along the south bank of the South River, wooden barks and brigs and ships were being built in the shipyards.

Beginning late in 1806, Salem's commerce with the world was repeatedly interrupted by the British navy, which intercepted neutral trading vessels and often impressed American sailors into their service. France, at war with Britain, countered with its own adverse policy toward American shipping; and virtually overnight Salem's shipping fleet lost its status as neutral shippers for the European nations. Salem and other American ports continued to push their trade into the oceans of the worlds, but now with the expectation that they would have to fight their way across the seas and into and out of foreign ports. The degree of difficulty was daunting, sometimes fatally so: a young supercargo, Joseph Osgood Jr., whose vessel was captured by the British on its return from the Orient, was stranded in London and became so disconsolate that he took his life through an overdose of opium. Jacob Sanderson was made administrator of his estate.<sup>4</sup> He was also made guardian of minors Ebenezer & Joseph Bancroft and advertised their father's former property for sale in December 1806.<sup>5</sup>

Salem's twenty-year boom came to an end with a crash in January, 1808, when Jefferson and the Congress imposed an embargo on all shipping in hopes of forestalling war with Britain. The Embargo, which was widely

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<sup>4</sup> See Salem Gazette, August 1806.

<sup>5</sup> See Salem Gazette, 23 Dec. 1806.

opposed in New England, proved futile and nearly ruinous in Salem, where commerce ceased. In October, 1808, Jacob Sanderson advertised for “a young journeyman cabinet maker who is acquainted with the turning business” and he also advertised the sale of “mess beef.”<sup>6</sup> As a hotbed of Democratic-Republicanism, Salem’s East Parish and its seafarers, led by the Crowninshields, loyally supported the Embargo until it was lifted in spring, 1809. Shunned by the other Salem merchants for his support of the Embargo, the eminent Billy Gray took his large fleet of ships—fully one-third of Salem’s tonnage—and moved to Boston, whose commerce was thereby much augmented. Gray’s removal eliminated a huge amount of Salem wealth, shipping, import-export cargos, and local employment. Gray soon switched from the Federalist party, and was elected Lt. Governor on a ticket with Gov. Elbridge Gerry, a native of Marblehead.

Jacob Sanderson, as guardian of Joseph Bancroft’s children, indemnified his bondsmen, Benjamin Upton and Elijah Sanderson, in November, 1809, by mortgaging the premises to them (ED 189:42). The “buildings and land” were bounded north 50’ 6” Federal Street, west 110’ on land of said Elijah Sanderson, south 38’ 8” on land of John Buffinton, east 129’ 6” on land of Felt. Unfortunately, Deacon Sanderson had not completed his obligation as guardian when he died, aged fifty-two, in February, 1810. His widow, Catherine, advertised in May, 1810, that she would taken in boarders at her residence; and she asked “Who would wish to let the store lately improved by Deacon Jacob Sanderson, at a very reasonable rate?”<sup>7</sup> The estate proved insolvent (debts outweighed value of personal estate). In June, 1810, at the Federal Street store, William Lang, auctioneer, auctioned the tools and stock, including wood and unfinished pieces of furniture, a grindstone, the shop stove and work benches, etc., and advertised that the store would be let at a moderate rate.”<sup>8</sup> Finally, in July, 1811, Catherine Sanderson put up for sale some of the real estate: a reversion in a house on Andover Street, half the homestead, and this, a lot of land with a cabinet-maker’s shop thereon, bounded exactly as in the 1793 deed.<sup>9</sup> This last description is the proof that this lot was the site of the Sanderson furniture work-shop. Mrs. Catherine Sanderson died in 1811.

Salem’s commerce with the world was repeatedly interrupted by the British, which intercepted neutral trading vessels and often impressed

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid, 11 Oct. 1808.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, 18 may 1810

<sup>8</sup> ibid, 12 June 1810.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, 23 July 1811

American sailors into their navy. Despite many warnings and negotiations, the British refused to alter their policies, and pushed President Madison into a position where he had few choices other than hostilities. In June, 1812, war was declared against Britain.

No buyer came forward for the shop. In July, 1812, the property was forfeited to the mortgage-holders, Messrs. Sanderson and Upton (ED 189:42). On Feb. 14, 1814, they sold the premises for \$817.16 to Joseph Edwards, Salem gentleman (ED 201:297); and he mortgaged the same for \$418 to the guardian of Joseph Bancroft (ED 210:237).

Joseph Edwards, gentleman and housewright, built a house on the site, perhaps recycling some of the structure of the shop in so doing. He would own and occupy the house for ten years, 1814-1824. He was an important figure among the artisans of the town, a member of the Salem Charitable Mechanic Association and a member of important town committees such as the Board of Health, of which he would serve as president for years. He had built the house at 5 Carpenter Street in 1807, and the house at 8 Carpenter Street in 1809, and, as a well-regarded contractor, he built other houses and structures including the Salem Jail on St. Peter Street and its Jailer's House, still standing; and he assisted in building the Custom House on Derby Street, 1818-19 (per EIHC article by D.B. Little, also B.F. Tolles' *Architectural Guide to Salem*).

Although the merchants had tried to prevent the war, when it came, Salem swiftly fitted out 40 privateers manned by Marblehead and Salem crews, who also served on U.S. Navy vessels, including the *frigate Constitution*. Many more local vessels could have been sent against the British, but some of the Federalist merchants held them back. In addition, Salem fielded companies of infantry and artillery. Salem and Marblehead privateers were largely successful in making prizes of British supply vessels. While many of the town's men were wounded in engagements, and some were killed, the possible riches of privateering kept the men returning to sea as often as possible. The first prizes were captured by a 30-ton converted fishing schooner, the *Fame*, and by a 14-ton luxury yacht fitted with one gun, the *Jefferson*. Of all Salem privateers, the Crowninshields' 350-ton ship *America* was most successful: she captured 30-plus prizes worth more than \$1,100,000.

Salem erected forts and batteries on its Neck, to discourage the British warships that cruised these waters. On land, the war went poorly for the United States, as the British captured Washington, DC, and burned the Capitol and the White House. Along the western frontier, U.S. forces

were successful against the weak English forces; and, as predicted by many, the western expansionists had their day. At sea, as time wore on, Salem vessels were captured, and its men imprisoned or killed. After almost three years, the war was bleeding the town dry. Hundreds of Salem men and boys were in British prison-ships and at Dartmoor Prison in England. At the Hartford Convention in 1814, New England Federalist delegates met to consider what they could do to bring the war to a close and to restore the region's commerce. Sen. Timothy Pickering of Salem, the leader of the extreme Federalists, did not attend; and the Convention refrained from issuing any ultimatums. Nevertheless, it seemed almost treasonous to have convened it; and it signaled the beginning of the end for the national Federalist party.

At last, in February, 1815, peace was restored.

Post-war, America was flooded with British manufactured goods, especially factory-made knock-offs of the beautiful Indian textiles that had been the specialty of Salem importers for 30 years. Britain, dominant in India, had forced the Indians to become cotton-growers rather than cloth-producers; and the cheap Indian cotton was shipped to the English industrial ports and turned into mass-produced cloth. American national policy-makers reacted, in 1816, by passing a high tariff on cheap imported textiles, in order to protect and encourage America's own budding manufacturing capacity. The net result was to diminish what had been the most abundant and lucrative area of Salem's pre-war trade. Nevertheless, maritime commerce was Salem's business, and its merchants rebuilt their fleets and resumed their worldwide commerce, without a full understanding of how difficult the new international conditions had become. For a few years, their efforts were rewarded with reasonable profits, and it seemed that Salem was once again in the ascendant, with almost 200 vessels sailing to Europe, the Orient, the Caribbean and South America, and the southern ports.

Joseph Edwards (1780-1854) was born in Wenham, the son of Abraham Edwards. Trained as a housewright, he came to Salem by 1802, when he married Sally Lang of Salem (they would have twelve sons and a daughter). In 1805, when he was selling his half a pew in the Tabernacle, probably because he favored Rev. Josiah Spalding in a split within that church; and he followed Mr. Spalding to the new Branch Church, Congregational, on Howard Street. He resided on Carpenter Street—as did Daniel Farrington, housewright, and other Branch Church adherents, many of them “mechanics” (craftsmen and artisans rather than mariners and merchants). Two

other officers of the church, Thomas Lamson and Solomon Chaplin, resided nearby on Carpenter Street. On the evening of January 16, 1806, at a time that a meeting was being held at the Branch Church, some of Joseph Edwards' children on that cold night kindled a fire among wood shavings on the floor of a room, and the house caught fire. Without adults at home at the time, the fire spread without opposition, and the houses of Edwards, Lamson, and Chaplin burned down before the hand tubs and fire companies could bring the conflagration under control (see Bentley's Diary for 16 Jan. 1806).

Joseph Edwards probably built a new house in the spring of 1806. In 1807 he joined the new Salem Mechanic Light Infantry, and was elected a captain of a company, after which he was known as Capt. Joseph Edwards. In that same year he built and sold a Carpenter Street three-story brick house for two families (see 5 May 1807 *Salem Gazette*). In 1808 he was made administrator of the estate of his deceased father, Abraham Edwards of Wenham.

*Joseph Edwards (1780-1854), born in Wenham, son of Abraham Edwards & Prudence Dodge, died in Salem on July 14, 1854.*

*He m. 5 June 1802 Sally Lang. Known issue:*

1. *Joseph, 1803, m. 1824 Hannah Braid*
2. *Benjamin, 1805, died young.*
3. *Abraham, 1807*
4. *Benjamin, 1809, died young*
5. *Charles, 1810*
6. *Benjamin, 1812*
7. *William, 1814*
8. *David B., 1816*
9. *Richard L., 1818*
10. *George D., 1820*
11. *Jacob D., 1821*
12. *Henry, 1825*
13. *Sarah E., 1828*

After the Embargo, he and Job D. Porter began a partnership in October, 1809 in the wood and lumber business.<sup>10</sup> In November, 1809, he advertised the sale of a two-story Carpenter Street house and 60,000 pine boards. One month later he became guardian of William Edwards of Wenham, perhaps a younger brother or nephew. He evidently formed a partnership in the building business with John Warden Jr. of Essex Street;

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<sup>10</sup> *Salem Gazette*, 23 Oct. 1809.

and they dissolved the partnership at the end of 1811.<sup>11</sup> He was a Federalist in politics, and was elected one of many Surveyors of Lumber at town meeting in the spring of 1812, just before the outbreak of war. The Salem militia, Captain Edwards included, was called out at various times to man the local fort at Winter Island, anticipating an attack from the sea by the British. It never came. In 1814, as has been mentioned, Joseph Edwards purchased the Sanderson lot and shop, and built a house thereon as his residence. Captain Edwards participated in a militia court martial as a judge in July, 1815; but the politics of such organizations could be difficult, and in June, 1816, he was replaced as captain by mason David Robbins.<sup>12</sup>

The pre-war partisan politics of the town were not resumed post-war, as the middle-class “mechanics” (artisans) became more powerful and brought about civic harmony, largely through the Salem Charitable Mechanic Association, of which Joseph Edwards was a founder in 1817. Rev. William Bentley, keen observer and active citizen during Salem’s time of greatest prosperity and fiercest political divisions, died in 1819, the year in which a new U.S. Custom House was built on the site of the George Crowninshield mansion, at the head of Derby Wharf. In the 1820 federal census, Joseph Edwards & family were listed as residing here (p. 72/106, 1820 census).

Into the 1820s foreign trade continued prosperous; and new markets were opened with Madagascar (1820), which supplied tallow and ivory, and Zanzibar (1825), whence came coffee, ivory, and gum copal, used to make varnish. This opened a long-standing trade that Salem would dominate; and its vessels thus gained access to all of the east African ports. Salem’s general maritime foreign commerce fell off sharply in 1824, as a second major tariff act was passed by Congress, to the benefit of manufacturers and the detriment of importers. Salem imports were supplanted by the goods that were now being produced in great quantities in America. The town’s prosperity began to wane, and many people saw no future locally. The interior of the country was being opened for settlement, and some Salemites moved away. To the north, the falls of the Merrimack River powered large new textile mills (Lowell was founded in 1823); and in general it seemed that the tide of opportunity was ebbing away from Salem. To stem the flow of talent from the town and to harness its potential water power for manufacturing, Salem’s merchants and capitalists banded together in 1825 to raise the money to dam the

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid, 31 Dec. 1811

<sup>12</sup> ibid, 22 June 1816

North River for industrial power. Over the course of three years, the effort gained momentum, but ultimately its many investors failed to implement the plan, which caused several leading citizens to move to Boston, the hub of investment in the new economy.

In 1817 Edwards evidently he recovered his captaincy. By 1820 he had become an expert in the new science of pomology and he advertised his services as a pruner and grafter of trees, at which he had established his abilities in work for E. Hersey Derby and Ichabod Tucker on their fine farms.<sup>13</sup> By March, 1822, Joseph Edwards had been elected president of the town Board of Health, which promulgated new rules for keeping Salem clean (see *Essex Register*, 15 May 1822). He joined the Essex Lodge of Freemasons in February, 1824. His oldest son, Joseph Edwards Jr., a tailor, married Hannah Braid in October, 1824.

In October, 1824, for \$2350 Joseph Edwards sold the house and land here to Thomas Cole, Salem gentleman (ED 236:148). In January, 1825, he purchased a piece of land near the South Bridge (ED 239:279). There he evidently built a house as his new family residence on "South Street" (future Lafayette Street, near New derby). Captain Edwards thereafter resided in South Salem, where he was highly regarded as a builder and tree-grafter.

In March, 1825, Mr. Cole and his neighbor to the east, Joseph Felt, exchanged some land (ED 238:1), which increased Cole's frontage on the street and squared off the lots. Thomas Cole was chosen deacon of the North Church in August, 1825, at which he had been a member for ten years; in this, he was following the example of Jacob Sanderson (1790s) and of Jacob's brother Elijah, who had become a deacon in December, 1814.

Thomas Cole had come to Salem to teach in a private girls' school. He was a stepson of Noah Rice, a Harvard classmate of Rev. William Bentley of Salem. Cole was an excellent pedagogue and eventually became proprietor of a School for Girls, or Female School, in Marlborough Street (present Federal Street) near the Tabernacle Church. Cole was very active in the Freemasons, and became the head of Essex Lodge; and he was accepted into the upper echelons of the town's merchants and gentlemen.

Cole's school was celebrated for bringing to female education the same standards that applied to the college preparation of their brothers. Rev.

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<sup>13</sup> see Salem Gazette, 17 March 1820

William Bentley visited the school on May 22, 1819, and had reported “Yesterday I was for the first time with the trustees of the female school, Marlborough Street near the Tabernacle. The instructor is Mr. Cole, the pupils limited to thirty. It was my business to address and to assist in devotional exercises. It is the first time that ever in a public school<sup>14</sup> I saw young ladies answering questions in geometry, natural philosophy, and in Latin. John Pickering and Mr. Peirce were the deputation on the occasion.” Bentley noted that a similar private school for girls had been started by “the Story influence” off Washington Square. In the 1830 census (p. 370) the Thomas Cole family is found here (man in his 50s, two women, one aged 15-20, one in her 40s).

In 1830 occurred a horrifying crime that brought disgrace to Salem. Old Capt. Joseph White, a rich merchant, now retired, resided in a mansion on Essex Street. His wealth was legendary in Salem, not least among the denizens of the nearby Salem Jail, where plots had long been hatched to break in and steal the Captain’s putative treasure chest. One night, intruders did break in; and they stabbed him to death in his sleep. All of Salem buzzed with rumors; but within a few months it was discovered that the murderer was a Crowninshield (he killed himself) who had been hired by his friends, Capt. White’s own relatives, Capt. Joe Knap and his brother Frank (they would be executed). The murder, and related lurid events, tarnished Salem further, and more families quit the now-notorious town.

The 1831 valuations show that this house was owned and occupied by Thomas Cole. He would reside here for another ten years, growing in repute as a schoolmaster. His great hobby was the use of the microscope, in which he was notably proficient.

Salem had not prepared for the industrial age, and had few natural advantages. The North River served not to power factories but mainly to flush the waste from the 25 tanneries that had set up along its banks. As the decade wore on, and the new railroads and canals, all running and flowing to Boston from points north, west, and south, diverted both capital and trade away from the coast. Salem’s remaining merchants took their equity out of local wharves and warehouses and ships and put it into the stock of manufacturing and transportation companies. Some merchants did not make the transition, and were ruined. Old-line areas of work, like rope-making, sail-making, and ship chandleries, gradually declined and disappeared. Salem slumped badly, but, despite all, the

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<sup>14</sup> Meaning not a “public school” funded by the town, but a school open to public observation.



voters decided to charter their town as a city in 1836—the third city to be formed in the state, behind Boston and Lowell. City Hall was built 1837-8 and the city seal was adopted with an already-anachronistic Latin motto of “to the farthest port of the rich East”—a far cry from “Go West, young man!” The Panic of 1837, a brief, sharp, nationwide economic depression, caused even more Salem families to head west in search of fortune and a better future.

Throughout the 1830s, the leaders of Salem scrambled to re-invent an economy for their fellow citizens, many of whom were mariners without much sea-faring to do. Ingenuity, ambition, and hard work would have to carry the day. One inspiration was the Salem Laboratory, Salem’s first science-based manufacturing enterprise, founded in 1813 to produce chemicals. At the plant built in 1818 in North Salem on the North River, the production of alum and blue vitriol was a specialty; and it proved a very successful business. Salem’s whale-fishery led to the manufacturing of high-quality candles at Stage Point, along with machine oils. The candles proved very popular. Lead-manufacturing began in the 1820s, and grew large after 1830, when Wyman’s gristmills on the Forest River, at the head of Salem Harbor, were retooled for making high-quality white lead and sheet lead. These enterprises were a start toward taking Salem in a new direction. In 1838 the Eastern Rail Road, headquartered in Salem, began operating between Boston and Salem, which gave the local people a direct route to the region’s largest market. The new railroad tracks ran right over the middle of the Mill Pond; the tunnel under Washington Street was built in 1839; and the line was extended to Newburyport in 1840.

Thomas Cole married Nancy Gay, the step-daughter of the late Ichabod Tucker of 28 Chestnut Street. Cole moved to Chestnut Street and resided there with her and her mother, and pursued his interest in the microscope. In October, 1841, Thomas Cole sold the premises on Federal Street for \$2750 (subject to a \$700 mortgage) to Thorp Fisher, Salem trader (ED 327:244). Cole resided on Chestnut Street thereafter.

Thorp Fisher (1804-1885) was the proprietor of a restaurant. He was born in April, 1804, in Francestown, New Hampshire, the ninth child of Moses Fisher and Louisa Thorp. His mother died when he was six, and he was raised by his stepmother Lucy (Friend) Fisher. His father was a farmer and veteran of the Revolutionary War.

Thorp came to Salem by 1832, probably following an older brother who had moved here. He is mentioned in the Salem *Gazette* in July as

protesting a false wedding notice, which had him marrying Joanna Jones of Francestown, N.H. The notice was handed in as a practical joke, and the wedding “was entirely without foundation,” per Mr. Fisher.<sup>15</sup> Well, not entirely, for on November 6<sup>th</sup> he did marry Joanna C. Jones (1806-1855), the daughter of Benjamin Jones and Chloe Farrington. They would have two sons and two daughters. In 1835 Thorp Fisher was partners with William Young in a provision or restaurant business conducted in the cellar of the Market House (Old Town Hall), dealing in cider etc. The partnership was dissolved in May, 1835, after which Mr. Fisher carried on alone.

By the time they moved in here in 1841, the Fishers had a daughter and two young sons; and a second daughter, Joanna, would be born in 1843. Mr. Fisher’s restaurant was then located downtown at “11 Market Hotel”; and this house was then-49 Federal Street (per 1841 directory).

*Thorp Fisher (1804-1885), born Francestown, N.H., son of Moses Fisher and Louisa Thorp, died Salem 9 Dec. 1885. He m. 6 Nov. 1832 Joanna C. Jones (1806-1855), of Francestown, dtr. of Benjamin Jones & Chloe Farrington; she died 4 Oct. 1855. He m/2 10 Oct. 1860 Mary Ruth Babbidge (1807-1887), widow of Henry Russell and daughter of Christopher Babbidge & Mary Randell, died 22 Feb. 1887. Known issue:*

- 1. Louisa, 1833, nurse in Washington in Civil War; teacher of freedmen; died California 4 July 1897.*
- 2. George A., 1837, m. 1859 Annie Shepard.*
- 3. Charles H., 1840, m. 1886 Lydia M. Bangs*
- 4. Joanna A., 1843, m. J.H. Bigelow of Salem.*

Some members of Salem’s waning merchant class continued to pursue their sea-borne businesses into the 1840s; but it was an ebb tide, with unfavorable winds. Boston, transformed into a modern mega-port with efficient railroad and highway distribution to all markets, had subsumed virtually all foreign trade other than Salem’s continuing commerce with Zanzibar. The sleepy waterfront at Derby Wharf, with an occasional arrival from Africa and regular visits from schooners carrying wood from Nova Scotia, is depicted in 1850 by Hawthorne in his cranky “introductory section” to *The Scarlet Letter*, which he began while working in the Custom House.

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<sup>15</sup> Salem Gazette 27 July 1832.

Although Hawthorne had no interest in describing it, Salem's transformation did occur in the 1840s, as more industrial methods and machines were introduced, and many new companies in new lines of business arose. The Gothic symbol of Salem's new industrial economy was the large twin-towered granite train station—the “stone depot”—smoking and growling with idling locomotives. It stood on filled-in land at the foot of Washington Street, where the merchants' wharves had been; and from it the trains carried many valuable products as well as passengers. The tanning and curing of leather was very important in Salem by the mid-1800s. On and near Boston Street, along the upper North River, there were 41 tanneries in 1844, and 85 in 1850, employing 550 hands. The leather business would continue to grow in importance throughout the 1800s. In 1846 the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company completed the construction at Stage Point of the largest factory building in the United States, 60' wide by 400' long. It was an immediate success, and hundreds of people found employment there, many of them living in tenements built nearby. It too benefited from the Zanzibar and Africa trade, as it produced light cotton cloth for use in the tropics. Also in the 1840s, a new method was introduced to make possible high-volume industrial shoe production. In Lynn, the factory system was perfected, and that city became the nation's leading shoe producer. Salem had shoe factories too, and attracted shoe workers from outlying towns and the countryside. Even the population began to be transformed, as hundreds of Irish families, fleeing the Famine in Ireland, settled in Salem and gave the industrialists a big pool of cheap labor.

In 1850 the census-taker found the residents here to be Thorp Fisher, 46, trader (\$3700 in real estate), Joanna, 44, Louisa, 17, George, 13, Charles, 10, and Joanna, seven (house 533, ward 4, 1850 census).

In 1851, Stephen C. Phillips succeeded in building a railroad line from Salem to Lowell, which meant that the coal that was landed at Phillips Wharf (formerly the Crowninshields' great India Wharf) could be run cheaply out to Lowell to help fuel the boilers of the mills, whose output of textiles could be freighted easily to Salem for shipment by water. This innovation, although not long-lived, was a much-needed boost to Salem's economy as a port and transportation center. Salem's growth continued through the 1850s, as business and industries expanded, the population swelled, new churches (e.g. Immaculate Conception, 1857) were started, new working-class neighborhoods were developed (especially in North Salem and South Salem, off Boston Street, and along the Mill Pond behind the Broad Street graveyard), and new schools, factories, and stores were built. A second, larger, factory building for the Naumkeag Steam

Cotton Company was added in 1859, at Stage Point, where a new Methodist Church went up, and many neat homes, boarding-houses, and stores were erected along the streets between Lafayette and Congress. The tanning business continued to boom, as better and larger tanneries were built along Boston Street and Mason Street; and subsidiary industries sprang up as well, most notably the J.M. Anderson glue-works on the Turnpike (Highland Avenue).

At the Fisher house, the two sons, George and Henry, were growing up. Their mother died in 1855, when the youngest child, Joanna, was twelve. In 1860 Mr. Fisher, a widower, 62, was listed in the census as a gentleman, with \$4,000 in r.e. and \$10,000 in personal estate; his daughter Louisa was gone off to be a nurse; his son George, 25, was in a books and stationery business and lived here with his wife Mary, 24; son Charles was 18 and daughter Joanna was 16; and Mary Mulligan, 22, was their servant (see 1860 census, house 1975, ward four). In 1860 their father remarried, and they acquired a step-brother, Albert Russell, who resided here. At the age of 21, George Fisher married (in 1859) Annie Shepard of Salem; and in 1860 they had a first child, Alice. He probably worked with his father; and he enjoyed things military as a member of the Salem Light Infantry. His brother Charles Fisher, twenty in 1860, had a technical bent, and had gone to Boston in 1856, aged sixteen, to work in a machine shop and become a mechanical engineer; and in 1859 he had begun at the Corliss Steam Engine Company in Boston.

As it re-established itself as an economic powerhouse, Salem took a strong interest in national politics. It was primarily Republican, and strongly anti-slavery, with its share of outspoken abolitionists, led by Charles Remond, a passionate speaker who came from one of the city's notable black families. At its Lyceum (on Church Street) and in other venues, plays and shows were put on, but cultural lectures and political speeches were given too.

By 1860, with the election of Abraham Lincoln, it was clear that the Southern states would secede from the union; and Salem, which had done so much to win the independence of the nation, was ready to go to war to force others to remain a part of it.

The Civil War began in April, 1861, and went on for four years, during which hundreds of Salem men served in the army and navy, and many were killed or died of disease or abusive treatment while imprisoned. Hundreds more suffered wounds, or broken health. The people of Salem contributed greatly to efforts to alleviate the suffering of the soldiers,

sailors, and their families; and there was great celebration when the war finally ended in the spring of 1865, just as President Lincoln was assassinated. The four years of bloodshed and warfare were over; the slaves were free; 800,000 men were dead; the union was preserved and the South was under martial rule. Salem, with many wounded soldiers and grieving families, welcomed the coming of peace.

The two Fisher sons both served with distinction in the armed forces during the Civil War. Charles entered the U.S. Navy at the outset; and in January, 1864, he was appointed Acting Master's mate on the *Magnolia* in the East Gulf Squadron. George entered the U.S. Army as a lieutenant in 1861, and would be brevetted to a captain late in the war, during which he was wounded at the Battle of Newbern (NC) in 1864 (see appended record of service). Both Fisher brothers went west after the war. George settled as a commission merchant in San Francisco, while Charles stayed on the move, residing in California and in China among other places. Their sister Louisa was a nurse in Washington during the war, and later taught freedmen; and she too went to California. The younger sister, Joanna, was well educated; and she married J.H. Bigelow in 1864, and resided with him and their two surviving children, Charles and Minnie, in Salem.

Through the 1860s, Salem pursued manufacturing, especially of leather and shoes and textiles. The managers and capitalists tended to build their new, grand houses along Lafayette Street (these houses may still be seen, south of Roslyn Street; many are in the French Second Empire style, with mansard roofs). A third factory building for the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company was built in 1865.

In 1870 Salem received its last cargo from Zanzibar, thus ending a once-important trade. By then, a new Salem & New York freight steamboat line was in operation. Seven years later, with the arrival of a vessel from Cayenne, Salem's foreign trade came to an end. After that, "the merchandise warehouses on the wharves no longer contained silks from India, tea from China, pepper from Sumatra, coffee from Arabia, spices from Batavia, gum-copal from Zanzibar, hides from Africa, and the various other products of far-away countries. The boys have ceased to watch on the Neck for the incoming vessels, hoping to earn a reward by being the first to announce to the expectant merchant the safe return of his looked-for vessel. The foreign commerce of Salem, once her pride and glory, has spread its white wings and sailed away forever" (Rev. George Batchelor in *History of Essex County*, II: 65).

In 1870 the house was occupied (per census, house 193) by Thorp Fisher, 66, victualler, Mary R., 63, her son Albert Russell, 23, revenue clerk; and Irish maid-servant Mary Whiting, 24.

Salem was now so densely built-up that a general conflagration was always a possibility, as in Boston, when, on Nov. 9, 1872, the financial and manufacturing district of the city burned up. Salem continued to prosper in the 1870s, carried forward by the leather-making business. In 1874 the city was visited by a tornado and shaken by a minor earthquake. In the following year, the large Pennsylvania Pier (site of the present coal-fired harborside electrical generating plant) was completed to begin receiving large shipments of coal. Beyond it, at Juniper Point, a new owner began subdividing the old Allen farmlands into a new development called Salem Willows and Juniper Point. In the U.S. centennial year, 1876, A.G. Bell of Salem announced that he had discovered a way to transmit voices over telegraph wires.

In this decade, French-Canadian families began coming to work in Salem's mills and factories, and more houses and tenements were built. The better-off workers bought portions of older houses or built small homes for their families in the outlying sections of the city; and by 1879 the Naumkeag Steam Cotton mills would employ 1200 people and produce annually nearly 15 million yards of cloth. Shoe-manufacturing businesses expanded in the 1870s, and 40 shoe factories were employing 600-plus operatives. Tanning, in both Salem and Peabody, remained a very important industry, and employed hundreds of breadwinners. On Boston Street in 1879, the Arnold tannery caught fire and burned down.

In 1880 (per census, p. 688a) this house was occupied by Thorp Fisher, 76, retired, wife Mary R., 73, her son Albert B. Russell, 33, deputy tax collector, and by maid-servant Catherine Morse, 23, born in Ireland.

In the 1880s, Salem kept building infrastructure; and new businesses arose, and established businesses expanded. Retail stores prospered; horse-drawn trolleys ran every which-way; and machinists, carpenters, millwrights, and other specialists all thrived. In 1880, Salem's manufactured goods were valued at about \$8.4 million, of which leather accounted for nearly half. In the summer of 1886, the Knights of Labor brought a strike against the manufacturers for a ten-hour day and other concessions; but the manufacturers imported labor from Maine and Canada, and kept going. The strikers held out, and there was violence in the streets, and even rioting; but the owners prevailed, and many of the

defeated workers lost their jobs and suffered, with their families, through a bitter winter.

Mr. Thorp Fisher died on Dec. 9, 1885, in his 82<sup>nd</sup> year. He was survived by his wife Mary (who would die in 1887), daughters Joanna and Louisa and sons Charles and George.

By the mid-1880s, Salem's cotton-cloth mills at the Point employed 1400 people who produced about 19 million yards annually, worth about \$1.5 million. The city's large shoe factories stood downtown behind the stone depot and on Dodge and Lafayette Streets. A jute bagging company prospered with plants on Skerry Street and English Street; its products were sent south to be used in cotton-baling. Salem factories also produced lead, paint, and oil. At the Eastern Railroad yard on Bridge Street, cars were repaired and even built new. In 1887 the streets were first lit with electricity, replacing gas-light. The gas works, which had stood on Northey Street since 1850, was moved to a larger site on Bridge Street in 1888, opposite the Beverly Shore.

In January, 1889, George Fisher of San Francisco sold his interest to his brother Charles H. Fisher of Hyde Park, Mass. (ED 1243:319). In April, 1890, Charles H. Fisher and his sisters sold their interest to Jesse F. Upton and wife of Salem (ED 1276:242, 244). Jesse Upton was the proprietor of a drug store, or apothecary, that was conducted (as successor to George Farrington) in the Corwin-Ward House, corner of North and Essex Streets, also known popularly as the Witch House. Jesse was born in 1859, son of Warren A. Upton and Caroline Pratt, of Salem; and in 1883 he married Lillie Hathaway, who gave birth to their first child in 1885. For more than 75 years the homestead would remain in the ownership of the Upton family.

More factories and more people required more space for buildings, more roads, and more storage areas. This space was created by filling in rivers, harbors, and ponds. The once-broad North River was filled from both shores, and became a canal along Bridge Street above the North Bridge. The large and beautiful Mill Pond, which occupied the whole area between the present Jefferson Avenue, Canal Street, and Loring Avenue, finally vanished beneath streets, storage areas, junk-yards, rail-yards, and parking lots. The South River, too, with its epicenter at Central Street (that's why there was a Custom House built there in 1805) disappeared under the pavement of Riley Plaza and New Derby Street, and some of its old wharves were joined together with much in-fill and turned into coal-

yards and lumber-yards. Only a canal was left, running in from Derby and Central Wharves to Lafayette Street.

Salem kept growing. The Canadians were followed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by large numbers of Polish and Ukrainian families, who settled primarily in the Derby Street neighborhood. By the eve of World War One, Salem was a bustling, polyglot city that supported large department stores and large factories of every description. People from the surrounding towns, and Marblehead in particular, came to Salem to do their shopping; and its handsome government buildings, as befit the county seat, were busy with conveyances of land, lawsuits, and probate proceedings. The city's politics were lively, and its economy was strong.

On June 25, 1914, in the morning, in Blubber Hollow (Boston Street opposite Federal), a fire started in one of Salem's fire-prone wooden tanneries. This fire soon consumed the building and raced out of control, for the west wind was high and the season had been dry. The next building caught fire, and the next, and out of Blubber Hollow the fire roared easterly, a monstrous front of flame and smoke, wiping out the houses of Boston Street, Essex Street, and upper Broad Street, and then sweeping through Hathorne, Winthrop, Endicott, and other residential streets. Men and machines could not stop it: the enormous fire crossed over into South Salem and destroyed the neighborhoods west of Lafayette Street, then devoured the mansions of Lafayette Street itself, and raged onward into the tenement district. Despite the combined efforts of heroic fire crews from many towns and cities, the fire overwhelmed everything in its path: it smashed into the large factory buildings of the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company (Congress Street), which exploded in an inferno; and it rolled down Lafayette Street and across the water to Derby Street. There, just beyond Union Street, after a 13-hour rampage, the monster died, having consumed 250 acres, 1600 houses, and 41 factories, and leaving three dead and thousands homeless. Some people had insurance, some did not; all received much support and generous donations from all over the country and the world. It was one of the greatest urban disasters in the history of the United States, and the people of Salem would take years to recover from it. Eventually, they did, and many of the former houses and businesses were rebuilt; and several urban-renewal projects (including Hawthorne Boulevard, which involved removing old houses and widening old streets) were put into effect.

By the 1920s, Salem was once again a thriving city; and its tercentenary in 1926 was a time of great celebration. The Depression hit in 1929, and continued through the 1930s. Salem, the county seat and regional retail



center, gradually rebounded, and prospered after World War II through the 1950s and into the 1960s. General Electric, Sylvania, Parker Brothers, Pequot Mills (formerly Naumkeag Steam Cotton Co.), Almy's department store, various other large-scale retailers, many tanneries, and Beverly's United Shoe Machinery Company were all major local employers. Then the arrival of suburban shopping malls and the relocation of manufacturing businesses took their toll, as they have with many other cities. Salem has navigated its way forward into the present with success, trading on its share of notoriety arising from the witch trials, but also from its history as a great seaport and as the home of Bowditch, McIntire, Bentley, Story, and Hawthorne. Most of all, it remains a city where the homes of the old-time merchants, mariners, housewrights, cabinet-makers, and mill-operatives are all honored as a large part of what makes Salem different from any other place.

--Robert Booth for Historic Salem Inc.



The Bowditch House  
9 North Street  
Post Office Box 865  
Salem, Massachusetts 01970  
Telephone: (978) 745-0799

December 10, 2008

Ms. Darleen Melis  
115 Federal Street  
Salem, MA 01970

Dear Darleen:

Enclosed please find the research paper completed by Mr. Robert Booth, on the property located at 115 Federal Street Salem, MA.

Please review the document and call this office (978-745-0799) if you have any questions. Please call Historic Salem, Inc. to approve the wording for your plaque which would read as follows:

**Built by  
Joseph Edwards, Housewright  
1814  
Site of Jacob Sanderson's Cabinet Shop  
c. 1793**

Very truly yours,

Richard P. Thompson  
Executive Administrator  
Historic Salem, Inc.

115 Federal Street

Jacob Sanderson workshop, 1793

Research: Bailey and Lavoie, 1967

---

115 Federal Street

Built 1814 by Joseph Edwards  
housewright

Research:

Robert Booth  
November 2008

121  
958  
P. K  
To  
E  
E  
P. K  
B. 36 7 121  
958

Know all Men by these presents that I William Pickman of Salem in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Esquire for and in consideration of the sum of thirty one pounds & fifteen sh<sup>l</sup> & 6 lawful money paid by Jacob Saunderson of Salem aforesaid Gentleman, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, do hereby give grant sell and convey unto the said Jacob Saunderson his heirs and assigns a certain lot or piece of land situated in Salem aforesaid containing about nineteen poles and three tenths of a pole or be the same more or less bounded as follows westerly by land sold by me this day to Elijah Saunderson thirty three feet distant southerly from Federal Street to a stake and also westerly by the last mentioned land from said stake southerly seventy seven feet to land of said Elijah southerly on the last mentioned land fourteen feet three inches & also southerly on land of John Buffinton twenty four feet five inches easterly by land sold by me this day to Joseph Bell ninety six feet six inches to a stake which stake is distant southerly from said Federal Street thirty three feet which distance of thirty three feet is another boundary easterly by said street fifty feet six inches with the appurtenances. To have & to hold the same to the said Jacob Saunderson his heirs and assigns to him & their use and behoof forever and I do covenant with the said Jacob Saunderson his heirs and assigns that I am lawfully seized in fee of the premises that they are free of all incumbrances that I have good right to sell & convey the same to the said Jacob Saunderson in manner aforesaid - and that I will warrant and defend the same to the said Jacob Saunderson his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons In witness whereof I the said William Pickman have hereunto set my hand and seal this seventeenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety three

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of  
Clerk Cleveland  
Wm Pickman

Essex April 17. 1793 then the above named William Pickman Esquire acknowledged the above instrument to be before me  
Edward Pulling Just Peace

Witness my hand and seal April 17. 1793  
Edward Pulling Just Peace

Joseph Edwards  
to

Joseph Edwards  
1791

1791  
1791

Know all Men by these Presents, that we Elijah Anderson and  
 Benjamin Appton within named, in consideration of eight hundred and  
 fourteen dollars and sixteen cents paid by Joseph Edwards of Salem in the  
 County of Essex Gentlemen, the receipt whereof we hereby acknowledge have  
 and hereby do give bargain, sell assign transfer and set over to the said Edwar  
 his heirs assigns, all the right the within described premises, with their appur  
 tenances, together with this tract of Mortgage. So that and to hold the same  
 with all the privileges and appurtenances to him the said Edwards his heirs and  
 assigns, in as full and ample manner as a better said Anderson and Appton may  
 and assigns might have hold and enjoyed the same in case his assignment  
 had not been made. And we do the said Anderson and Appton for our selves our  
 heirs executors and Administrators do covenant with said Edwards his heirs &  
 assigns, that he and hisy shall & may lawfully for him, his heirs and assigns have  
 enjoy the assigned premises, against any claim and demand of us, or either of us,  
 or any person claiming from by or under us or either of us. In Testimony  
 whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this fourteenth day of February  
 the year first our said Benjamin Anderson and Jonathan  
 Appton sealed & published in presence of us  
 Justice of the Peace for the County of Essex  
 Benjamin Anderson  
 Jonathan Appton

Anderson and Benjamin

Appton respectively acknowledged the above to be

their free act and deed.

before John Bowler Justice of the Peace.

Witness my hand & the seal of the County of Essex the 14th day of February 1791  
 John Bowler  
 Justice of the Peace