

History of owners and some occupants  
16 River Street, Salem

By Robert Booth, July 2017

According to available evidence, this house was built for Robert Wallis, cabinet maker, in 1787. It was later the home of William Knight, cordwainer, and family; Joseph N. Smith, cordwainer, and family; Alice (Poor) Ross, widow; William Phelps Jr., joiner, and family; and Michael Little, laborer, and family and descendants.

In July, 1787, for 50 li Robert Wallis, cabinet maker, bought from John Woodbury, housewright, a piece of land and buildings at the lower end of then-Beckford's Lane (now River Street) (ED 148:106). In those days, the topography was different here: this was a head of land that projected into the North River, which was a wide tidal sheet of water, navigable at high tide. The lot fronted about 47' on the street and included the flats (shore) of the North River and the use of a nearby well. It was described as comprising 14 ¼ poles of land, bounded south 2 poles 14' on the street, west 5 poles (about 83') on Stephen Driver's homestead, north on the river 3 poles 1' 9", and east on land of Joseph Saul 4 poles 14'. Likely the "buildings" were sheds. It was the same lot that Mr. Woodbury had bought of the Beckfords in October, 1784, the same having been set off to Edward Southwick in October, 1783, per the deed to Mr. Wallis. Several years later, in December, 1796, Mrs. Lydia Bickford claimed a dower right in the same land and Robert Wallis paid her \$40 to clear the title (ED 162:54).

Robert Wallis (1764-1824) was born in Ipswich, one of the three sons of a prosperous farmer, Robert Wallis, and Eunice Brown. The other boys were Moses and William. As a boy circa 1778 (the Revolutionary War was under way), Robert was apprenticed to learn the trade of a cabinet maker (maker of furniture), probably in Ipswich. After the war, he came to the seaport of Salem and began work as a journeyman cabinet maker. He was a good singer, and joined the singing school of the East Church (Rev. William Bentley) in 1785. He was a member of the North Singing School too (per Bentley). There may be sources relating to the style and quality of Mr. Wallis's furniture output. He is mentioned in Luke Beckerdite's *American Furniture* (p. 198).

*Robert Wallis (1764-1824), son of Robert Wallis & Eunice Brown of Ipswich, died 2 Oct. 1824, of dysentery, in Salem. He m. 13 Dec. 1787 Mary (Polly) Aveson (1766-1823), daughter of Richard Aveson & Hannah Punchard of Salem, died 20 March 1823, of consumption. He perhaps m/2 26 Aug. 1824 Rebecca Hovey (1781-1833). Known issue:*

- 1. Robert, 1788, died 1 April 1850, of palsy; insane*
- 2. Eunice, 1794, died 1 Nov. 1866, of opium overdose.*

In some places, the post-war loss of the former colonial connections and trade routes was devastating, for Americans were prohibited from trading with most British possessions; but in 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 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.).

Salem was a boom-town, in which widespread prosperity fueled much new construction and high demand for new goods and fine furnishings.

Robert Wallis was no doubt prospering, perhaps in partnership with other cabinet makers; when just 23 he purchased a lot on River Street for 50 li; and there he had a modest house built as the family residence. "Cape Driver", as this locale was known, was not a prestigious neighborhood. In the 1700s most of the land here was owned by the Beckford family; Stephen Driver in 1777 built a house on the point here, overlooking the North River; and Benjamin Goodhue Esq. laid out Lynn Street and perhaps some of the other roads between Federal Street and the river. The lots were sold mainly to people of modest means or to those who built houses for tenant income.

Robert Wallis hired a contractor to build his house and perhaps moved in that same year, 1787. This was among the first houses built hereabouts.

In August, 1788, for 34 li Mr. Wallis bought a lot on the main street (now upper Essex), but he flipped the lot for a 16 li profit in July, 1789 (ED 147:275, 148:138). In June, 1788, he bought from Edward Southwick, Danvers tanner, for 10.10.0 a corner lot, probably at now-Lynn and now-Andover streets (ED 153:253). In February, 1792, he sold the same for 11.8.0 to Joseph Ross, housewright (ED 155:151). Mr. Ross built a house thereon.

By the 1790s, the new foreign-trade markets 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. There was quite an influx from Ipswich, like Robert and his brother Moses, a trader who would become a merchant.

In 1792 a group of merchants founded Salem's first bank, the Essex Bank, 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.

In 1790 (per the census, p. 580, col. one), the Wallises resided here (#16). The house is listed between the houses of Stephen Driver and William Ferguson. Soon they moved to a new house on the main street (now 355 Essex Street site). In June, 1789, for 61.5.0 li, Robert had purchased from a Boston family a quarter share in the old Edward Kitchen Turner homestead; and Mr. Wallis had a house built fronting on the street. His land became extremely valuable when, in 1798, Chestnut Street was put through along its base line; and Mr. Wallis soon opened a way now known as Hamilton Street. The Wallis family would reside for many years in the new house on now-Essex Street.

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 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 1800, a tenant occupied this house, probably with a family. In that year, 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 cargoes 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 a 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. From the wharves were carted all manner of strange fruits and blue and red patterned china and piles of gorgeous silks and figured cloths. 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).

The town’s merchants were among the wealthiest in the country, and, in Samuel McIntire (1757-1811), 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.

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. On Union Street, not far from Bentley's church, on the fourth of July, 1804, was born Nathaniel Hawthorne, whose father would die of fever with most of his crew while on a voyage to the Caribbean in 1808. This kind of untimely death was all too typical of Salem's young seafarers, who fell prey to malaria and other diseases of the Caribbean and Pacific tropics.

In 1806 the Derbys extended their wharf far out into the harbor, tripling its previous length. This they did to create more space for warehouses and ship-berths in the deeper water, at just about the time that the Crowninshields had built their great India Wharf at the foot of now-Webb Street. The other important wharves were Forrester's (now Central, just west of Derby Wharf), and Union Wharf at the foot of Union Street; and then, farther to the west, a number of smaller wharves extended into the South River (filled in during the late 1800s), 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.

Salem's boom ended 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, widely reviled in New England, proved futile and nearly ruinous in Salem, where commerce ceased. 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 under Gov. Elbridge Gerry, a native of Marblehead.

On July 6, 1810, Robert Wallis for \$600 sold this house and land (#16) to William Knight, a cordwainer (shoemaker), who may already have been the tenant here (ED 192:41). Mr. Knight for \$500 mortgaged the same to Mr. Wallis, who would discharge the loan in 1816 (ED 119:171). The lot was described as containing 14 ¼ poles, as before. William Knight's wife Abigail (Punchard) Knight was a cousin of Mrs. Polly (Aveson) Wallis, whose mother was a Punchard. Abigail's step-mother was Mrs. Alice (Oaks) Poor-Punchard, whose daughter Alice (Poor) Ross would someday own this house. The homestead would continue to be owned by Punchard-connected relatives into the 1870s.

### *The Wallis Family after 1810*

*The Wallises had only a brief occupancy of this house (#16) but their subsequent history is worth noting. The family's personal life was blighted when Robert and Polly's only son, Robert Jr., became insane by 1816, when he was consigned to the bridewell of the Salem Alms House. He was totally mad, and unable to care for himself (declaration of non compos, 31 Dec. 1816, #28872). Their other child, daughter Eunice, then 22, resided with her parents.*

*By 1812 Mr. Wallis had become a yeoman (crop farmer), like his father, who resided on a large farm in Ipswich. Robert's brother Moses had moved to Salem and become a merchant; their brother William, a cabinet maker, resided at Montreal. In 1812 and 1814 Robert purchased a couple of rights in the Great Pasture, off Boston Street, which he may have used for grazing sheep or cattle (ED 223:187). He continued to develop his land along the west side of Hamilton Street. In addition to his own house at the corner of Essex Street, he built two other houses there and allowed Samuel Field McIntire, carver and joiner (son of Samuel McIntire the architect and carver), to build a modest house on the Wallis land. Mr. McIntire died and his widow Elizabeth and children continued there. After her death, Robert Wallis, yeoman, in August, 1820, bought the McIntire house which already stood on his land (ED 225:100). It was two stories in height and had a footprint of 24' by 16' with a pantry of 12' by 9' attached.*

*In March, 1823, Mrs. Polly (Aveson) Wallis died of consumption (tuberculosis), leaving her husband, son, and daughter. In April, 1824, Robert's father Robert Wallis of Ipswich died at 87, making Robert an heir of a valuable Ipswich estate, including much farmland. In April, 1824, Robert was again described as a cabinet maker, when, for \$91, he and his brother William, Montreal cabinet maker, purchased a piece of salt marsh in Ipswich from their father's estate (ED 235:138). Their brother Moses, Salem merchant, had died years before.*

*A Robert Wallis married Rebecca Hovey (1786-1833) in August, 1824, in Salem.*

*On Oct. 2, 1824, Robert Wallis died, aged sixty, of the effects of dysentery. To his two children he left a very valuable estate, including much land in Danvers and Ipswich, as well as the houses and land on Hamilton Street, Salem. Robert's daughter Eunice Wallis, thirty, continued to reside in the house on Essex Street, as she would for the rest of her life evidently. She never married. Her mother's cousin, John Punchard Esq. (1763-1857), the town clerk and a judge, took on the responsibility of the insane Robert Wallis Jr., and faithfully and astutely managed his property for 26 years, until Robert's death, from palsy, on April 1, 1850, in the 62d year of a tragic life.*

*Eunice Wallis, of no known occupation, rented out rooms in her house and leased the houses on Hamilton Street to tenants. In the 1830 census (p. 455), we find her in her Essex Street house with two other women, one in her 20s and one in her 30s. In 1846 she was listed in the Salem Directory as residing at 2 Hamilton Street. She had a cousin, Miss Eunice Wells Wallis (1804-1853) who lived nearby in 1851 (at then-368 Essex Street).*

*In 1850 (per census, house 349) Eunice, 54, shared her house with the family of James Harron, 60, a shoemaker with four children.*

*Eunice Wallis was 72 years old when she died in November, 1866, in sensational fashion. The cause of her demise was an overdose of opium.*

William Knight, the new owner of this house (#16) as of 1810, was a native of Manchester, Mass. He was apprenticed to a cordwainer (shoemaker), and had come to Salem by April, 1807, when he married Abigail Punchard, the daughter of a mariner, Samuel Punchard. They would live here (evidently) for about 12 years.

*William Knight (b. Dec. 1783, Manchester, Mass., son of John Knight and Susannah Allen, died Salem March 6, 1865, 82<sup>nd</sup> year. He m. 14 April 1807 Abigail Punchard, daughter of Samuel Punchard. He m/2 3 Oct. 1848 Mary Ford (born c.1778). Known issue:*

- 1. William, married and had sons William and Henry.*
- 2. Philinda, m. Nathaniel W. Sanders*
- 3. Abigail, m. John D. Winn*
- 4. Mary*
- 5. Susan, m. William H. Dwyer*
- 6. Elizabeth, m. Ezra Woodbury*
- 7. Martha, m. Dean C. Symonds*
- 8. Harriet, 1826, m. P. Derby*
- 9. James, 1829*

Salem resumed its seafaring commerce for three years, but still the British preyed on American shipping; and in June, 1812, war was declared against Britain.

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 led the extreme Federalists in proposing a series of demands which, if not met by the federal government, could lead to New England's seceding from the United States; but the Pickering faction was countered by Harrison G. Otis of Boston and the moderate Federalists, who prevailed in sending a moderate message to Congress.

At last, in February, 1815, peace was restored. Post-war, the Salem merchants rebuilt their fleets and resumed their worldwide trade, slowly at first, and then to great effect. Many new partnerships were formed. 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 (founded 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 in 1819, on the site of the George Crowninshield mansion, at the head of Derby Wharf. 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 huge and lucrative trade in which Salem dominated, and its vessels thus gained access to all of the east African ports.

Salem's general maritime foreign commerce fell off sharply in the late 1820s. Imports in Salem ships were supplanted by the goods that were now being produced in great quantities in America. 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), which created great wealth for their investors; and in general it seemed that the tide of opportunity was ebbing away from Salem. In an ingenious attempt 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 1826 to raise the money to dam the North River for industrial power. The project, which began with much promise, was suspended in 1827, which demoralized the town even more, and caused several leading citizens to move to Boston, the hub of investment in the new economy.

In February, 1818, for \$1075, William Knight purchased a house to the east on River Street and probably moved to that address (now #6); and he retained this house (#16) for rental income for a while. On 28 March 1822 William Knight sold this (#16) homestead for \$350 to cordwainer Joseph Newhall Smith, to whom Mr. Knight gave back a mortgage for the full amount (ED 229:173).

Joseph N. Smith (1798-1878) was a native of Danvers, born in 1798. He married Harriet Bryant of Salem and evidently they resided on Federal Street in 1820 (per census, p. 105).

*Joseph Newhall Smith (1798-1878), born Danvers 1798, son of John Smith and Susanna Newhall, died April 1878, Boston. He m/1 21 Jan. 1820 (Salem) Harriet Bryant (1800-1848), died Charlestown, consumption, 29 March 1848. He m/2 1849 Mary P. Batchelder, by whom he had more children. Known issue by Harriet:*

1. *Joseph N., bp. 8 May 1825*
2. *Frederick Nathan, 1839-1877.*
3. *Harriet A., 1844-1895.*
4. *others?*

Things did not work out with the mortgage, and Mr. Knight foreclosed. In April, 1825, Mr. Smith reconveyed to Mr. Knight his right in the homestead for \$10 (ED 239:2). Subsequently the Smiths removed to Charlestown and he became a prison officer. His wife Harriet would die in 1848; and he married, second, Mary Batchelder, with whom he would have more children.

William Knight, again the owner, rented out the house for income to tenants. In February, 1828, for \$450, he sold the place to a widow, "Alsy" Ross (ED 249:22). Mr. Knight would continue as a cordwainer for many years. His first wife Abigail Punchard died, and he married, second, in 1848, Mary Ford. By 1850 he, 66, was residing on Federal Street, with wife Mary, 72, and his children James, 21, a mariner, and Harriet, 24 (house 567). In 1860 William Knight, 77, was residing on River Street and working as a boat builder (house 2095). He would die on March 5, 1865, in his 82<sup>nd</sup> year. At that time he owned #6 and #8 River Street.

Alsy Ross (1778-1860) was Mrs. Alice (Poor) Ross, the widow of Joseph Ross (1770-1825), of this neighborhood. The census of 1830 (p. 384) lists Alsy Ross and son Joseph Ross (1802-1872) residing hereabouts, probably in this house (#16).

Alice/Alsy Poor, born in 1778, was the daughter of Henry Poor and Sally Oaks (1753-1836). Her father died before Alice was ten; and her mother married, second, 1788, Samuel Punchard, mariner, of this neighborhood. Alsy married 1794 Joseph Ross Jr., a housewright; they had several children and resided on Lynn Street in a house built by Joseph's father on land that had been owned by Robert Wallis. They sold the house for \$600 in 1823; and Joseph would die in 1825, leaving Alice with the job of raising the children; Henry, Sally F., Joseph, Abigail, Nathaniel, William, Hannah, Philinda C., David, and Alice/Alse Jr. Alse's daughter Sally died in 1826, aged 24 years, and Alice P. (who probably resided here 1828-1830) would die in April, 1833, aged 14 years. The son David Ross (1818-1844) worked as a wheelwright and married Harriet B. before his untimely death. Alsy's son Joseph Ross married 1830 Martha Derby Parnell. Mrs. Alsy/Alice (Poor) Ross would die on 22 Nov. 1840, aged 62 years.

In January, 1830, Mrs. Alice Ross sold the homestead for \$313 to joiner William Phelps (ED 255:159). Mr. Phelps mortgaged the same for \$168 to the former owner, cordwainer William Knight. William Phelps was the founder of a sash and blind manufacturing business which he conducted with his sons. He was four-times married, first to Hannah Holt (1781), next to Sally Punchard (1792), next to Betsy Richardson of Beverly (1804), and finally to Elizabeth Bowen (1822). He had at least one son, John Punchard Phelps, by Sally Punchard, through whom he was connected to both Robert Wallis and William Knight. William Phelps Sr. probably did not reside here, for in October, 1830, for \$600 he

sold the same to his son, William Phelps Jr., joiner (ED 258:251). The house would be occupied by William Phelps Jr. and family for the next 43 years. William Jr.'s older half-brother John P. Phelps would (1835) marry Lucy C. Phelps, the sister of William Jr.'s wife Sally.

In 1830 occurred a horrifying crime that brought disgrace to Salem. Old Capt. Joseph White, a wealthy merchant, resided in the house now called the Gardner-Pingree house, on Essex Street. One night, intruders broke into his mansion and stabbed him to death. All of Salem buzzed with the news of murderous thugs; but the killer was a Crowninshield (a fallen son of one of the five brothers; after he was put in jail he killed himself). He had been hired by his friends, Capt. White's own relatives, Capt. Joseph Knapp and his brother Frank (they would be executed). The results of the investigation and trial having uncovered much that was lurid, more of the respectable families quit the now-notorious town.

As the decade wore on, Salem's remaining merchants had to take their equity out of wharves and warehouses and ships and put it into manufacturing and transportation, as the advent of railroads and canals diverted both capital and trade away from the coast. 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 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.

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. 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, active for many years in the early 1800s, led, in the 1830s, 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 were retooled for making high-quality white lead and sheet lead (the approach to

Marblehead is still called Lead Mills Hill, although the empty mill buildings burned down in 1960s).

These enterprises were a start in a new direction for Salem. In 1838 the Eastern Rail Road, headquartered in Salem, began operating between Boston and Salem, which gave the local people a route to the region's largest market. The new tracks ran over the middle of the Mill Pond; the tunnel under Washington Street was built in 1839; the line was extended to Newburyport in 1840.

In 1840 (per census, p. 300), the house was listed as occupied by William Phelps Jr. and family. William Knight was still residing at now-6 River Street; the neighbors preceding Mr. Phelps in the listing were S. Healy and Mrs. H. Currier; those after were E. Walsh and Mrs. Skerry.

*William Phelps Jr. (1813-1873), son of William & Betsy Phelps, died 23 May 1873. He m. 1 Nov. 1831 (Glouc.) Hannah Dane Phelps of Gloucester, b. 11 Jan. 1809, dtr. of Henry Phelps Esq. & Mary Forbes Coffin. Known issue:*

1. *Mary Forbes, 1836, m. Addison Center of Gloucester.*
2. *William Henry, 1839, moved to California.*
3. *Eliza Innis, 1841, never married.*
4. *Charles S., 1845, died young.*
5. *others?*

In the 1840s, as more industrial methods and machines were introduced, new companies in new lines of business arose in Salem. The tanning and curing of leather was very important 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. 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 changed, as hundreds of Irish families, fleeing the Famine in Ireland, settled in Salem and gave the industrialists a big pool of cheap labor.

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, standing on filled-in land at the foot of Washington Street, where before had been the merchants' wharves. In the face of all this change, some members of Salem's waning merchant class continued to pursue their sea-borne businesses; but even the conditions of shipping changed, and Salem was left on the ebb tide. In the late 1840s, giant clipper ships replaced the smaller vessels that Salem men had sailed around the world; and the clippers, with their deep drafts and large holds, were usually too large for Salem and its harbor. The town's shipping soon consisted of little more than Zanzibar-trade vessels and visits from Down East coasters with cargoes of fuel wood and building timber. By 1850 Salem was about finished as a working port. A picture of Salem's sleepy waterfront is given by Hawthorne in his mean-spirited "introductory section" to *The Scarlet Letter*, which he began while working in the Custom House.

In the 1855 census (house 136), we find William Phelps Jr., 42, sash & blind maker, Hannah D., 40, Mary, 18, William, 15, and Eliza, 13.

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, down 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).

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.

In 1860 (per census, house 2085) this house was occupied by William Phelps, 51, sash and blind maker, \$1400, \$500, wife Hannah D., and children Mary F., 21, Eliza J., 18, and William, 12. Next door (#14) were the Staffords. At #6 were old William Knight, 77, a boatbuilder now, and wife Mary, 82; he had owned this house (#16) starting back in 1810.

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.

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 Bachelder in *History of Essex County*, II: 65).

In 1870 (per census, house 150) this house was occupied by William Phelps Jr., 61, sash & blind maker, \$1500, wife Hannah Phelps, 59, keeping house, Eliza J., 24, teacher, and Sarah, 47, no occupation. Sarah was perhaps a younger sister of William.

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.

On May 23, 1873, William Phelps (Jr.), the owner, died, aged sixty years. His children conveyed the homestead to their mother, Mrs. Hannah D. (Phelps) Phelps; and on November 6, 1873, for \$1500 she sold the same to Ann, the wife of Michael Little (ED 889:294, 892:221). Mrs. Little mortgaged it back to Mrs. Phelps for \$1000 (ED 892:221)

Michael Little (1836-1917) was from Galway, Ireland, and arrived in the U. S. through the port of New York on Feb. 26, 1853 (per his 1876 citizenship papers). He was in Salem by 1855, working as a currier in the booming leather industry. In 1855 he resided in this neighborhood, in a boarding house run by Patrick "Keith" (sic; Keefe); Michael Little, 20, born Ireland, currier, resided there with, among others, James O'Neill, 30, currier, and Henry Crowley, 26, currier. In 1856 he married Anastasia Collins, born in Ireland; she was known as Ann. They had children Thomas, John, and Mary in quick succession; and in 1860 (per census, house 2086). they were residing in a three-family house very close to #16. The Littles were also caring for a baby named Martin Finnegan; and they had pet dogs.

In 1865 Michael Little, 30, laborer, was listed with wife Ann, 30, as parents of five children, living in a four-family house in this neighborhood, not far from the family of John Little, born Ireland, 35, currier, perhaps Michael's brother (house 426).

*Michel Little (1836-1917), born 9 Feb. 1836, Galway, Ireland, died 13 Feb. 1917, Salem. He m. 1856 Anastasia Collins (1835-1898, b. Ireland), died 28 March 1898. Known issue:*

1. *Thomas F., 1857*
2. *John H., 1859*
3. *Mary A., 1860*
4. *Katy, 1862*
5. *Delia, 1865*
6. *Margaret, 1868*
7. *Ellen, 1870, m. Michael Harkens*
8. *Sarah J., 1872, m. John J. McLaughlin.*
9. *Michael, Jan. 1874, m. Florence E.*
10. *Martin, 1876*

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 the 1880s and 1890s, 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.

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.

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. In 1883, the city of Salem took by eminent domain the shoreline of the North River, which was being filled in; the taking included the northerly part of the Littles' homestead land (ED 1113:279). 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.



Mrs. Anastasia (Collins) Little died in March, 1898, aged 64, leaving her husband Michael, currier, and many children and grandchildren. He would survive her by almost twenty years.

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.

In 1910 (per census, house 76), this house was occupied by Michael Little, 76, and by John McLaughlin, 38, a shoe factory worker, his wife (Mr. Little's daughter) Sadie, 34, and their three children, Frank, 12, Annie C., 7, and Alice, 3. Frank McLaughlin would become a stenographer by 1920; Alice would become a supervisor at N.E. Tel & Tel.

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.

Michael Little celebrated his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday on Friday, Feb. 9, 1917. He died at home four days later on the 13<sup>th</sup>. In his obituary he was remembered as “an old and well known citizen... He was a currier by trade and worked at that occupation for years. He was a noted dog fancier. He was a life-long member of the Young Men’s Catholic Temperance Society.” He left four sons and six daughters, 17 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. The funeral was held from the home of his daughter, Mrs. Michael Harkins of 120 North Street.<sup>1</sup>

In September, 1917, the homestead was sold (by order of Probate Court) for \$900 to this same Ellen F. (Little) Harkins, wife of Michael F. (ED 2374:251). On 22 July 1922 Mrs. Harkins granted the same to her nephew, J. Frank McLaughlin; and on Sept. 6, 1922, Mr. McLaughlin sold the place to his parents Mrs. John J. (Sarah C.) McLaughlin (ED 2522:195, 2528:111). The homestead remained in the McLaughlin family, descendants of Michael & Anastasia Little, for many years.

In 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, and Beverly’s United Shoe Machinery Company were all major local employers.

In 1952, Mrs. Sarah C. McLaughlin received assistance from the city of Salem but retained ownership of this house (ED 3891:270). After her death, the property descended to her daughter Miss Alice L. McLaughlin who resided here for many years. In October, 1993, she sold the same to herself and Eastern Bank & Trust Co. (ED 12187:405).

Alice McLaughlin died on October 21, 2001. Thereafter, the homestead was sold for \$220,000 to Kevin W. and Melissa Hankens, who reside there (ED 29222:64).

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<sup>1</sup> Issue of 13 Feb. 1917, Salem *Evening News*, “Recent Deaths And Funerals”.

## Glossary & Sources

A figure like (ED 123:45) refers to book 123, page 45, Essex South registry of Deeds, Federal Street, Salem.

A figure like (#12345) refers to Essex Probate case 12345, on file at the Essex Probate Court, Federal Street, Salem, or on microfilm at Mass. Archives, Boston, or at the Peabody Essex Museum's Phillips Library, Salem.

MSSRW refers to the multi-volume compendium, *Mass. Soldiers & Sailors in the Revolutionary War*, available at the Salem Public Library among other places.

MSSCRW refers to the multi-volume compendium, *Mass. Soldiers, Sailors, & Marines in the Civil War*, available at the Salem Public Library among other places.

EIHC refers to the Essex Institute Historical Collections (discontinued), a multi-volume set (first volume published in 1859) of data and articles about Essex County. The indices of the EIHC have been consulted regarding many of the people associated with this house.

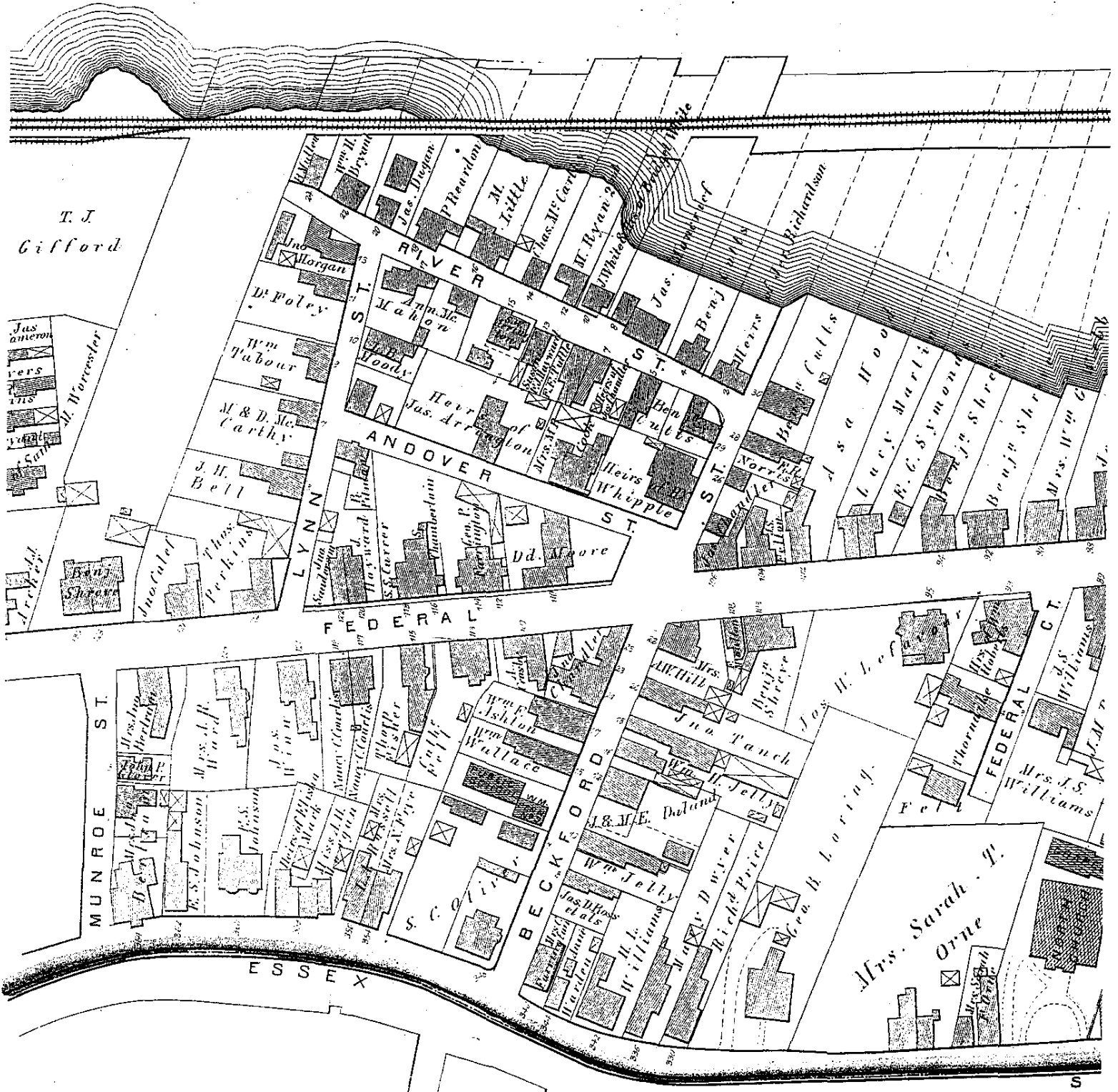
The six-volume published Salem Vital records (marriages, births, and deaths through 1849) have been consulted, as have the Salem Directory and later Naumkeag Directory, which have information about residents and their addresses, etc.

Sidney Perley's three-volume *History of Salem, 1626-1716* has been consulted, as has the four-volume *William Bentley's Diary*, J. Duncan Phillips' books, some newspaper obituaries, and other sources.

Salem real estate valuations, and, where applicable, Salem Street Books, have also been consulted, as have genealogies.

There is much more material available about Salem and its history; and the reader is encouraged to make his or her own discoveries.

--Robert Booth



T. J. Gifford

REVER ST.

ANDOVER ST.

FEDERAL

BECKFORD

MUNROE ST.

ESSEX

Jas. American  
Wm. Worrester  
M. Worrester  
J. H. Bell  
Phos. Perkins  
J. H. Bell  
Benj. Shreve

D. Poley  
Wm. Tabour  
M & D Mc Carthy  
J. H. Bell  
Phos. Perkins  
J. H. Bell  
Benj. Shreve  
J. H. Bell  
Phos. Perkins  
J. H. Bell  
Benj. Shreve

M. Ryan  
Jas. M. Ryan  
Benj. Shreve  
Wm. Tabour  
M. Ryan  
Benj. Shreve  
Wm. Tabour  
M. Ryan  
Benj. Shreve

Mrs. A. B. Ward  
Mrs. J. S. Williams  
Mrs. Sarah W. Orne  
Mrs. J. S. Williams  
Mrs. J. S. Williams  
Mrs. J. S. Williams

1897 Atlas

ward 4

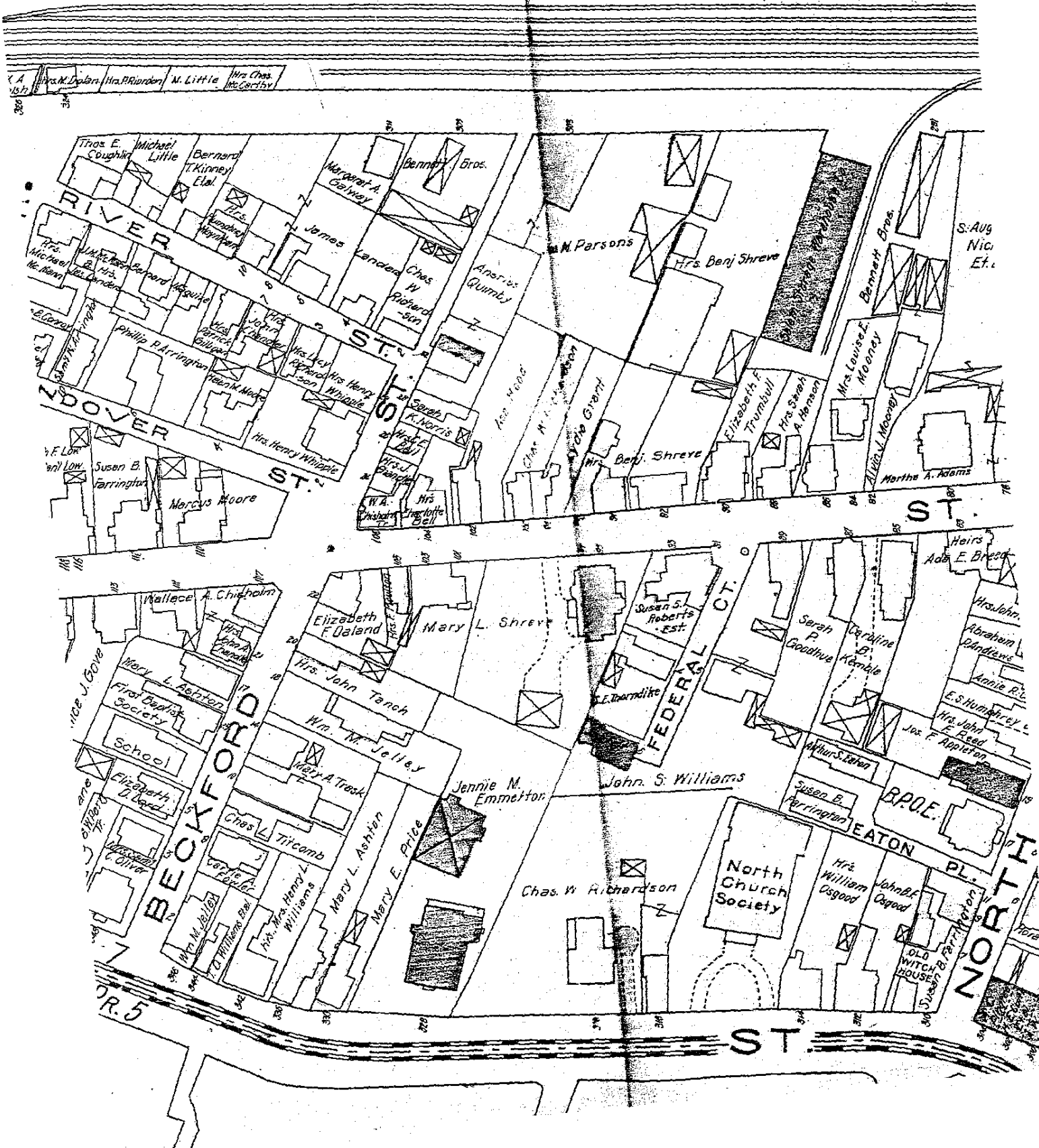
1911 A

BOSTON

&

MAINE

R. R.





I Woodbery Person all man by these presents that I John Woodbery of Salem in the County of Essex & Commonwealth of Massachusetts being in New Bedford  
 A. Hall's house right by & with the consent of Elizabeth my wife for & in consideration of the sum of fifty pounds lawful money paid unto me by Robert  
 148: Hall's of Salem do hereby give grant sell & convey unto the said Robert Hall's  
 106 his heirs & assigns forever one certain piece or lot of land lying in New Bedford at the lower end of Diebords lane (called containing 1/4 of an acre)

and is bounded as follows front to the street to the right by the pole  
 sixteen feet westerly bounded on the left by a ditch bounded five poles westerly  
 on the river three poles one foot nine inches North bounding on Joseph Hall's  
 ten poles further west together with the buildings standing on the same together  
 with the privilege of the street to the northward of said lot that belongs to  
 said lot together with the privilege of the well in common with me that belongs  
 to the late mansion house of M<sup>r</sup>. Benjamin Diebords yeoman deceased & being  
 the same lot of land that was sold off to Joseph Southwick by his son  
 in October 1783 and the aforesaid privileges of that or them was sold off  
 to said Southwick I have & do hold the same to the said Robert Hall's his  
 heirs & assigns to his & their use & behoof forever and I do covenant with the  
 said Robert Hall's his heirs & 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 of the same to the said Robert Hall's to hold in manners  
 aforesaid and that I will warrant & defend the same to the said Robert  
 Hall's & to his heirs & assigns against the lawful demands of any  
 persons claiming from by or under any propriety. In witness  
 whereof we do hereto set our hands & seal this eighteenth day of  
 July one thousand seven hundred & eighty seven 1787  
 signed sealed & delivered in presence of  
 John Cherry, W<sup>m</sup> Farjiver } John Woodbery & a deal  
 Joseph July 19 1787 } Elizabeth Woodbery & a deal  
 within instrument to be his deed before John Pickering Just peace  
 there for the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 1787 executed & sworn to by John Pickering Regs

Dickford  
to  
Wallis  
162154

I know all men, that I Lydia Dickford of Salem in the County of Essex, widow, in consideration of forty dollars paid me by Robert Wallis of Salem aforesaid Cabinet maker, the receipt whereof I do acknowledge, have granted sold and conveyed, and do by these presents grant sell and convey, release assign and forever quitclaim to the said Robert and his heirs and assigns forever - All the right, title interest and estate, which I now have, or, by any way or means, might have of in and to that lot of land lying in Salem aforesaid, which John Woodbery conveyed to said Wallis, by Deed dated the eighteenth day of July 1787. Recorded in the Essex Registry of Deeds Book 188 Leaf 106, together with the buildings standing on the same, and the flats to the northward of said lot of land, said lot of land is now bounded southerly on river street, two poles and fourteen feet, westerly on land of Stephen Driver, five poles, northerly on the river three poles and one foot nine inches, easterly on land of Joseph Saul four poles and fourteen feet, containing fourteen poles and one quarter - To have and to hold, the granted premises to the said Wallis and his heirs and assigns forever - And I the said Lydia do hereby for myself, my heirs, executors administrators and assigns covenant and grant to and with the said Robert Wallis and his heirs and assigns, that he and they shall forever from henceforth quietly have and peaceably possess the granted premises and every part thereof with this appurtenances without any claim suit interruption entry, or disturbance made thereon, or to be hereafter made thereon by me the said Lydia, by force of any legacy to me in the Will of Benjamin Dickford deceased or by any other title way or means whatsoever - And without any claim suit or interruption of any person or persons by any way or means claiming or to claim by from or under me the said Lydia, and further that I the said Lydia will not and shall not at any time hereafter for or by reason of any cause of action, debt or legacy, I may or might have against the estate of Benjamin Dickford decd, attach or levy any execution upon the granted premises, with the appurtenances - And that the said Robert Wallis and his heirs and assigns shall from henceforth forever have, and quietly enjoy the granted premises, wholly discharged of or from all and every such debt, cause of action or legacy - In witness whereof I the said Lydia have hereunto set my hand and seal, the ninth day of December in the year of our Lord seventeen hundred and ninety six - - -

Lined paper and delivered in the presence of us, the words "and the privilege or right" and two whole lines were erased - before - } Lydia X Dickford - - a seal mark

sealing ac - Richard Ward, John Archer - - -

Witness my hand and seal this 12th day of December 1796. Then Lydia Dickford acknowledged this Instrument to be her free deed before Richard Ward Justice of the peace

Witness my hand and seal this 12th day of December 1796 & recorded & examined by John Pickering Reg<sup>r</sup>



Robert Wallis  
to  
William Knight

192:41

1810

Know all men by these Presents That I Robert Wallis of Salem  
in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by and with the  
consent of Mary my wife, for and in the consideration of the sum of one  
hundred dollars paid me by William Knight of Salem in the County aforesaid,  
conduceinor, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, do hereby give  
grant, sell and convey unto the said William Knight and his heirs and  
assigns, forever, one certain piece of land in Salem, lying in river Street  
containing fourteen poles, and one quarter cord, is bounded as follows from to  
the street southerly two poles, fourteen feet westerly on Stephen Crover five poles  
northerly on the river three poles, one foot, nine inches, easterly on Joseph Fall four  
poles, fourteen feet, together with the dwelling house standing on the same, also  
with the privilege of the flats to the northward of said lot belonging to me.  
To have and to hold the same to the said William Knight and his  
heirs and assigns, to his and their use and behoof forever, and I do covenant  
with the said William Knight and 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 William Knight  
to hold in manner as aforesaid, and that I will warrant and defend  
the same to the said William Knight, and to his heirs and assigns forever  
against the lawful claims and demands of any person.  
In Witness whereof we the said Robert Wallis and Mary Wallis have  
hereunto set our hands and seals, this sixth day of July, A.D. one thousand  
eight hundred and ten. Robert Wallis seal  
Signed sealed and delivered in presence of Mary Wallis seal  
Saml. Savage, Ezechiel Savage } John Ferguson.

Essex ss July 9<sup>th</sup> 1810. Then Robert Wallis acknowledged the foregoing  
instrument his free act and deed, before me, Ezechiel Savage Justice Peace  
Essex ss Received July 11<sup>th</sup> 1810. Recorded and Examined by Amos Choate

Williams Knight  
to  
Robert Wallis  
The above  
mortgage from named former named said  
William Knight to said Robert Wallis  
dated on the 9th day of July 1810  
at Salem  
Robert Wallis  
111

I know all Men by these Presents That I William Knight of Salem  
in the County of Essex Cordwainer in consideration of five hundred dollars  
paid by Robert Wallis of said Salem Tredler the receipt whereof I do hereby  
acknowledge do hereby give grant sell and convey unto the said Robert Wal-  
lis his heirs and assigns, a certain dwelling house with the land under  
and adjoining in said Salem and fronting southerly on River Street two poles  
and fifteen feet westerly on Stephen Driver five poles northerly on the River three  
poles one foot and nine inches Easterly on Joseph Inuit four poles fourteen feet.  
Also the privilege of the path to the northward of said land and belonging  
thereto to have and to hold the granted premises with the appurtenan-  
ces to the said Robert Wallis his heirs and assigns to him and their heirs and ben-  
efit forever and I the said William Knight for myself my heirs executors and  
administrators do hereby covenant with the said Robert Wallis his heirs &  
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  
Robert Wallis and that I will and my heirs executors and administrators  
shall warrant and defend the same to the said Robert Wallis his heirs and  
assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of any persons and I  
Abigail wife of the said William in consideration of one cent do hereby sell  
and release to the said Wallis my right of dower in the premises. Provided  
nevertheless that if the said William Knight his heirs executors or ad-  
ministrators shall pay said Robert Wallis his heirs executors adminis-  
trators or assigns said sum of five hundred dollars by installments as fol-  
lows viz one hundred dollars in one year one hundred dollars in two  
years one hundred dollars in three years and two hundred dollars on or  
before the ninth day of July which will be in the year of our Lord one  
thousand eight hundred and fifteen with lawful interest on each installment  
then this deed or also of certain promissory notes bearing even date with these  
presents given by said William Knight to said Robert Wallis to pay him  
or his order the sum of five hundred dollars in the whole being the first  
mentioned sum and interest at the times aforesaid shall both be void other-  
wise shall remain absolute In Witness whereof we the said William Knight  
and Abigail Knight have hereunto set our hands and seals this ninth day  
of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ten  
signed sealed delivered in presence of us } William Knight and  
Mary Worcester } Abigail Knight seal  
Sarah Savage } witness to } Essex s. July 9<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1810. Then the above named  
Ezekiel Savage } Wm Knight } William Knight acknowledged the above instu-  
ment to be his free act and deed before me Ezekiel Savage Justice Peace  
Essex s. Dec. July 11. 1810. recorded & examined by Mrs. Charles Reg.



Salem April 4. 1826. We the subscribers have examined the within account of the administrators of the estate of Robert Wallis, dec'd, find the same to be correct and consent that the same may be approved and allowed —

John Donchard <sup>husband</sup> } representing  
 of Robert Wallis } the heirs  
 Eunice Wallis } at law  
 N  
 Robert  
 Wallis

Essex, ss. At a court of probate holden at Salem in and for said  
 county on the first Tuesday in April, A. D. 1826.  
 The foregoing account being duly presented, and it being made  
 to appear, that notice has been given according to law to all persons interested,  
 the same is duly examined; and John Glen King esquire  
 administrator makes oath,  
 that to the best of his knowledge and belief the said account is just  
 and true:—It is thereupon decreed, that the same be accepted, allowed and recorded.

John W. White Judge of Probate.

1826. April 4.  
 Wallis Robert, Sal. adm. ut.  
 28875  
 Recorded  
 Vol. 38. 36

William Knight

1822

to  
Joseph N. Smith  
229:173

Know all Men by these Presents That I William Knight of Salem in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts hereinafter, in consideration of three hundred and fifty dollars to me paid by Joseph Newhall Smith of the same Salem hereinafter, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge do hereby give grant sell and convey unto him the said Joseph N. Smith and his heirs and assigns forever a certain lot of land containing fourteen poles and one quarter with the dwelling house and all other buildings thereon situated on river street in Salem aforesaid and is the same which I purchased of Robert Walker by deed dated July 6. 1810. recorded in Book 197. Leaf 61. bounded southerly on river street two poles and fourteen feet, westerly on land late of Stephen Driver now supposed to be owned by Elizabeth Williams three measuring five poles westerly on the river three poles one foot and nine inches and easterly on land late Joseph Saul now of Joseph Andrews four poles and four feet with all my right in the flats lying northerly of the premises and between the same and the channel of the North river and together with all the privileges and appurtenances To have and to hold the granted premises with the appurtenances to the said Joseph N. Smith his heirs and assigns to him and their use and benefit forever. And I the said William Knight for myself my heirs executors and administrators do hereby covenant with the said Joseph N. Smith his heirs and assigns that at the execution hereof I was 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 N. Smith in fee simple and that I will and my heirs executors and administrators shall warrant and defend the same to the said Joseph N. Smith his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims or demands of any persons. And I Abigail wife of said Williams in consideration of one dollar paid me by said Smith the receipt of which I acknowledge do hereby release to him and his heirs and assigns all my right of dower in the premises. **In witness** whereof we the said William and Abigail Knight have hereunto set our hands and seals this twenty eighth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty two.

signed sealed and delivered  
in presence of us  
Elizabeth Raymond  
Mary Raymond

William Knight - - - seal  
Abigail Knight - - - seal

Essex ss. March 28. 1822. Then the above named William Knight acknowledged the above instrument to be his free act and deed before me Amos Choate Just. Peace

Essex ss. Received March 28. 1822. recorded and examined by Amos Choate Jus.

Know all Men by these Presents that I William Knight to  
of Salem in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts had <sup>to</sup> ~~Also~~ Ross  
witness in consideration of four hundred and fifty dollars paid by the  
Ross of the same Salem, widow the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge 249:22  
do hereby give, grant, sell and convey unto her the said Mrs Ross, and her  
heirs and assigns forever a certain lot of land containing fourteen poles &  
one quarter with the dwelling house and other buildings thereon standing Feb. 1828  
on River Street in Salem aforesaid and is the same which I purchased of  
Robert Wallis by deed dated July 6 1810 - Recorded in Book 192 leaf 111 bot-  
ed southerly on River Street, two poles & fourteen feet, westerly on land late  
of Stephen Dimes now supposed to be owned by Elizabeth Williams -  
thence measuring five poles, northerly on the river three poles one foot  
and nine inches, and Easterly on land late Joseph Paul, son of William  
Seerington four poles and fourteen feet, with all my right in the flatto  
lying northerly of the premises and between the same & the channel of  
the North River - and together with all the privileges and appurtenances  
thereto belonging. To have and to hold the granted premi-  
ses with the appurtenances to the said Mrs Ross her heirs & assigns to  
her and their use and benefit forever. And I the said William Knight  
for myself my heirs, executors and administrators, do hereby covenant  
with the said Mrs Ross her heirs and assigns, that I am lawfully sei-  
ed 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 Mrs Ross &  
that I will and my heirs executors and administrators shall war-  
rant and defend the same to the said Mrs Ross her heirs and assigns  
forever against the lawful claims and demands of any persons -  
And I Abigail wife of said William in consideration of one dollar paid  
me by said Mrs Ross the receipt whereof I acknowledge do hereby release  
to her and her heirs and assigns all my right to dower in the premises.  
IN WITNESS whereof we the said William & Abigail Knight have  
herunto set our hands and seals this fourteenth day of February in the  
year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty eight -  
Signed sealed, and delivered in presence of us } William Knight seal  
John Purchard, Nathaniel Ross - } Abigail Knight seal  
Essex ss February 14 1828 Then the above named William Knight acknowledged the above  
instrument to be his free act and deed, before me John Purchard, Just Peace -  
Essex ss. Received February 28 - 1828. Recorded and examined by James Choate Reg

1828  
mortgage

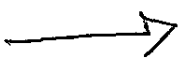
Abel Ross  
to  
William Knight  
249:22

William Knight

Given on January 27, 1828. of William Knight the mortgage herein contained, acknowledged, judgment and satisfaction in the mortgage and in hereby fully discharge the same.

William Knight

Know all Men by these Presents that I Abel Ross of Salem in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts widens in consideration of one hundred and fifty dollars to me paid by William Knight of said Salem Cordwainer the receipt whereof do hereby acknowledge do hereby give grant sell and convey unto the said William Knight and to his heirs and assigns forever a certain lot of land containing fourteen Poles and one quarter with a dwelling house & other buildings there on situated in River Street in Salem aforesaid which I purchased of said William by his deed to me dated and executed this day - bounded westerly on River Street two poles and fourteen feet - westerly on land of Elizabeth Williams five poles - Northwly on the North River three poles one foot and nine inches and easterly on land of William Harrington four poles and fourteen feet - as will appear by the deeds aforesaid with all my right in the flatts lying westerly of the premises and between the same and the channel of the North River with all the Privileges and appurtenances to the premises belonging. To Have and to Hold the granted premises with the appurtenances to the said William Knight his heirs and assigns to his and their use and benefit forever. And I the said Abel Ross for myself my heirs executors and administrators do hereby covenant with the said William Knight 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 William Knight in fee and in mortgage and that I will and my heirs, executors and administrators shall warrant and defend the same to the said William Knight his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of any persons - ~~except~~ Provided nevertheless, That if said Abel Ross his heirs executors or administrators shall pay said William Knight his heirs executors administrators or assigns said sum of one hundred and fifty dollars on or before the fourteenth day of February which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty with lawful interest there on annually then this deed is also a certain Note bearing even date with these presents, given by said Abel Ross to said William Knight promising to pay one hundred and fifty dollars the first mentioned sum & interest at the time aforesaid, shall be void; otherwise shall remain absolute. In witness whereof I the said Abel Ross have hereunto set my hand and seal this fourteenth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty eight. -  
signed sealed & delivered in presence of us. } Abel Ross - seal  
John Punchard. Nathaniel Ross.



I know all men by these presents, that S, Hannah S. Phelps, of Salem, Essex County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Widow, in consideration of Fifteen hundred dollars, paid by Ann Seittle, wife of Michael Seittle, of said Salem, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Ann Seittle, in her own right, free from the interference or control of her husband, a certain lot of land, with all the buildings thereon, situated on River Street, in Salem, and bounded as follows, viz. southerly on said River Street, two poles and fourteen feet; westerly on land late of Stephen Driver, there measuring five poles, Northwesterly on the North River, three poles and nine inches, Easterly on land late of Joseph's land, four poles and fourteen feet, with all my right to the flats lying Northwesterly of the premises, and between them and the North River, or however otherwise bounded, cleaning to convey the same premises conveyed to my late husband William Phelps junior, by deed of William Phelps, dated October twenty second, A.D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty, and recorded with Essex Deeds, Southern District, Book 259. leaf 51. And conveyed to me by William W. Phelps et al. by deed recorded with Essex Deeds, Book 339. leaf 294. To have and to hold the granted premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, to the said Ann Seittle and her heirs and assigns to their own use and behoof forever. And S, do hereby for myself and my heirs executors and administrators, covenant with the said grantee and her heirs and assigns that S, and lawfully seized in fee simple of the granted premises, that they are free from all incumbrances, that S, have good right to sell and convey the same as aforesaid, and that S, will and my heirs, executors and administrators shall warrant and defend the same to the said grantee and her heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons. In witness whereof, S, the said Hannah S. Phelps, hereunto set my hand and seal, this sixth day of November, in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy three.

Signed, sealed and delivered in } Hannah S. Phelps seal  
presence of David D. Burtchick. } Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Essex, ss. 7 November 1873. Then personally appeared the above-named Hannah S. Phelps, and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be her free act and deed.

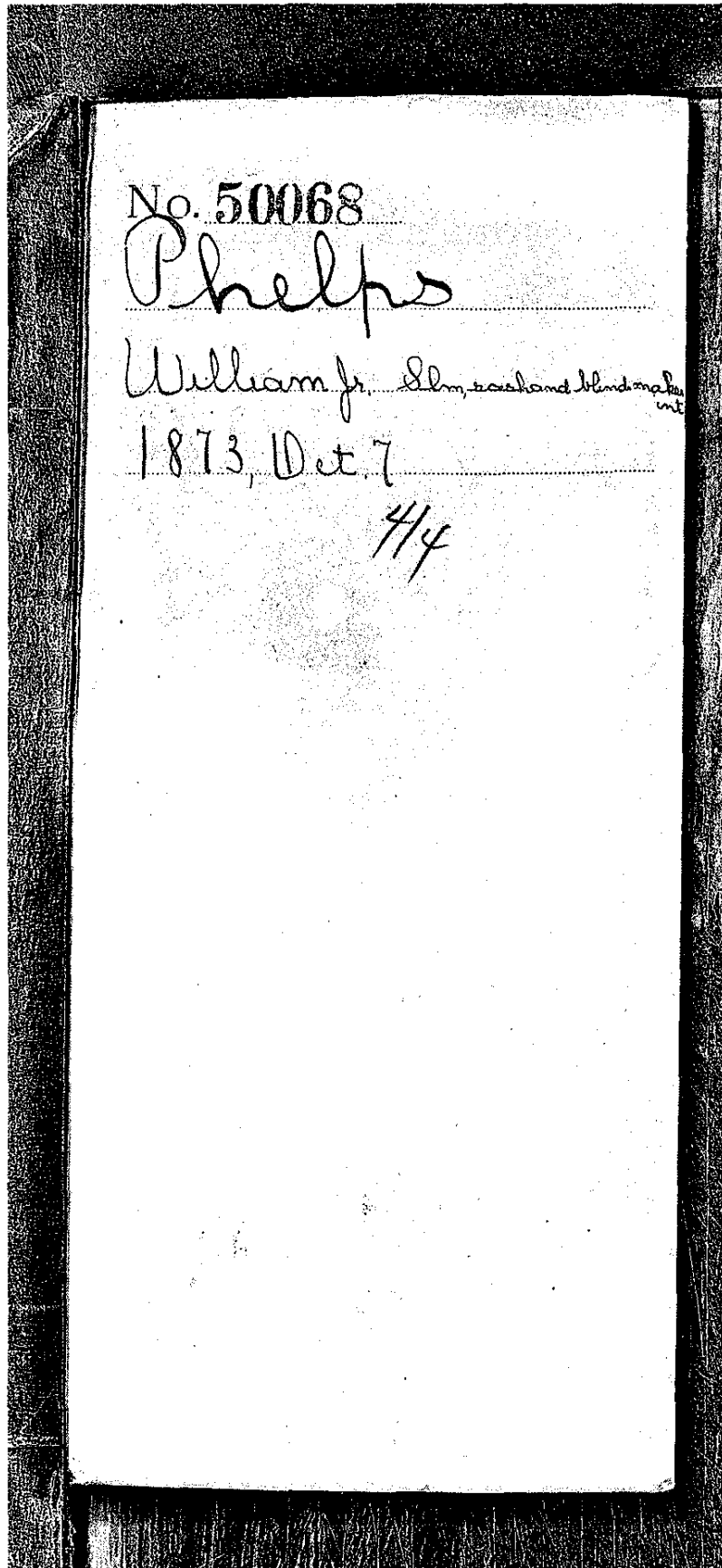
Before me, David D. Burtchick, Justice of the Peace,  
Essex, ss. Rec'd Nov. 25. 1873. 12-m. past 10 a.m. Rec. and Exp by John Shaw Regd

W. S. Phelps

to  
Ann Seittle  
(with him)

1873

897:221



No. 50068

Phelps

William Jr. Sbm, each hand blind on the  
int

1873, Oct. 7

4/4



Salem Mass. April 8<sup>th</sup> 1876.

I hereby acknowledge that I have received of Ebenezer  
Buswell Administrator of the Estate of William  
Phelps jr. all the estate and property of said William  
Phelps jr. which came into his hands Messrs  
after the payment of the debts of said William  
and I hereby release and discharge said Buswell  
from all further liability as administrator - executor  
and agent when any valid claims that may hereafter  
be brought against said Estate - The heirs at law  
of said William Phelps having conveyed to me, his  
widow all their interest in said Estate.

Witness my hand & seal -

Henry F. Sullivan

H. D. Phelps

Essex. ss. August 15. 1876. Received for record  
the Probate Office.

Attest.

A. C. Goodell

register.



[Minors must be so designated. If any party is a married woman, her husband's name must be given. Next of kin may be determined by reference to Chapters 91 and 94 of the General Statutes.]

To the Honorable the Judge of the Probate Court in and for the County of Essex:

RESPECTFULLY represents *Ebenezer Buswell*

of *Salem* in the county of *Essex* that  
*William Phelps, junior* who last dwelt in  
*Salem* in said county of Essex, *Sarah Bliss Mather* died on the *23<sup>d</sup>*  
 day of *May* in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and seventy *seven*  
 intestate, possessed of goods and estate remaining to be  
 administered, leaving a widow, whose name is *Hannah D. Phelps*  
 and as he is only next of kin the persons whose names, residence, and relationship to  
 the deceased are as follows, viz.:

*Mary Forbes Center* w. of *Addison Center, Gloucester, daughter*  
*William H. Phelps - California - son*  
*Eliza Dennis Phelps - Salem - daughter.*

That your petitioner is *requested by the heirs to take administration on the*  
*estate*

Wherefore your petitioner prays that he may be appointed Administrator of the  
 estate of said deceased.

Dated this *ninth* day of *September* A. D. 1879.

*Ebenezer Buswell*

The undersigned being all the persons interested in the foregoing Petition, desire the same  
 may be granted without further notice.

[The Administrator must file the Inventory in the Probate Office within three months after his appointment.]

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

ESSEX, SS. PROBATE COURT.

To Rufus B. Gifford, George H. Flint and William Archer, all of Salem in said county,

GREETING:

YOU are hereby appointed to appraise, on oath, the estate and effects of William Phelps, junior, late of Salem in said county of Essex, Sash and blind maker, deceased, which may be in said Commonwealth. When you have performed that service you will deliver this order, and your doings in pursuance thereof, to Ebenezer Buswell, Administrator

of the estate of said

deceased, that he may return the same to the Probate Court for said county of Essex.

Witness my hand and the seal of said Court, this seventh day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

Geo. Abbott Judge of Probate Court.

Essex, ss. December 9 A. D. 1873 Then the above-named Geo. Foster Flint

personally appeared and made oath that they would faithfully and impartially discharge the trust reposed in them by the foregoing order. Before me James Stratton, Justice of the Peace, Essex Co. December 9, 1873. Then personally appeared Rufus B. Gifford, William Archer above named and made oath that they would faithfully and impartially discharge the trust reposed in them by the foregoing order. Geo. Foster Flint Justice of the Peace.

Pursuant to the foregoing order, to us directed, we have appraised said estate as follows; to wit, - Amount of Real Estate, as per schedule exhibited, \$ 3033.33 1/3 Amount of Personal Estate, as per schedule exhibited, \$ 199.00.

Rufus B. Gifford, Geo. Foster Flint, William Archer Appraisers.

Essex, ss. December 9th A. D. 1873. Then personally appeared Ebenezer Buswell the Administrator of said estate, and made

oath that the foregoing is a true and perfect Inventory of all the estate of said deceased that has come to his possession or knowledge.

Before me, Geo. Foster Flint Justice of the Peace.

## Schedule of Real Estate in detail.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | DOLLS. | CTS.             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------------|
| One undivided third part of estate on North Side of }<br>Federal Street with the buildings }                                                                                                                             | 1033   | 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ |
| House & land River Street                                                                                                                                                                                                | 1500   | 00               |
| One hundred half of East half of house owned<br>by W <sup>m</sup> Phelps on South side of Federal Street, subject<br>to a mortgage given before he purchased and subject<br>to the right of W <sup>m</sup> Phelps wife } | 500    | 00               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 3033   | 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ |

30068 / 1873. December 11.

*Phelad William jr. I am sark the ind on his int*  
ADMINISTRAT<sup>OR</sup> *of* INVENTORY.

Filed December 11. 1873.

Rec. (N. S.) Book 262, Page 656.

(3)

11/11

11/11