

House & Land at 11 River Street, Salem, Mass.

This house was built by Asa Killam, Salem housewright, probably in the year 1783.

On 27 Sept 1782 John Beckford, a Salem yeoman, sold this house-lot and a piece of land across the street to Asa Killam, Salem housewright, for 32 li; at the time, River Street was called simply a "lane" (139:222). Since the 17th century, the Beckford (or Bickford) family had owned a great deal of land in this vicinity; it had never been considered particularly valuable. But with the laying-out of Federal Street in 1773, John Beckford's land became prime residential property, and he no doubt took great pleasure in subdividing and selling off his patrimony, which in those days ran right down to the waters of the North River (the shoreline was just about where Bridge Street is today).

Asa Killam bought this lot too late in the year to build a house thereon in 1782. But by the end of summer 1783, he doubtlessly had built this house for himself, his wife Polly, and their two boys, Asa Jr & John, who was just a baby. Salem tax records for 1783 no longer exist; the real estate assessment of 1784/5, however, reveals that Asa Killam owned a house worth 100 li in Ward Four.

After 26 years' residence in this, the house he had built, Asa Killam, now a wharfinger, sold it 3 Ap 1809 for \$1200 to his nephew, Jacob Lee, a 37-year-old mariner originally from Manchester, Mass (186:37). Captain Lee (1772-1847) lived here with his wife Sarah and children Jacob, John, Mary L, and David. He was master of several vessels, among them the 69-ton schooner Fish-Hawke (about 1815); the 127-ton brig Augusta, owned by Gideon Tucker (1820); and the 146-ton brig Acorn, owned by Joseph Peabody (1823).

Jacob Lee died of consumption 2 Jan 1847 in his 75th year, having outlived all of his family except daughter Mary, who had married Oliver Poland. On 15 Feb 1848, the executor of his will, John G King, sold the estate for \$1,050 to James N Archer, a Salem merchant (formerly an auctioneer) (393:207). Mr Archer had held a mortgage of \$553.48 on the property since 17 Jan 1842 (328:299); the mortgage was now discharged, and that same day, 15 Feb 1848, he sold an undivided half of the premises to Capt Lee's daughter Mary Poland for \$525 (393:207).

Mrs Poland died of the family illness, consumption, at Danvers on 25 Oct 1849. Four years later, James N Archer Jr, having inherited an undivided half of the River Street house from his deceased father, on 10 May 1853 sold it for \$540 to Mary's widower, Oliver Poland, Danvers wheelwright (594:128). On 18 June 1858, Mr Poland released this undivided half to his son

Barnet Poland of South Danvers (now Peabody) (572:181). At last, 27 Sept 1859 all of the Polands released their various rights in the premises to Eunice Emmerton Tuttle & Mary Davis Tuttle of Salem, by four deeds (596:73,74,75,75).

Mary Davis Tuttle evidently died leaving her undivided half to Eunice E Tuttle, who died in 1890 after having owned the house for 31 years. On 18 Dec 1890 the executor of Miss Tuttle's will, Richard C Manning, adjusted the boundary of #11 & #13 River Street with #13's owner, Cyrus L Hayward; a plan of the estates was then made (1300:5). A little later, 6 Jan 1891, Mr Manning sold the estate for \$1500 at public auction to Patrick Gilligan of Salem (1300:1).

Mr Gilligan died leaving the house to his wife & children; on 13 Nov 1912 widow Margaret Gilligan, for herself and her two daughters Mary Louise & Helen Marie, sold the premises for \$1200 to Carrie P Sargent, wife of Fred C Sargent, of Salem (2183:135,136). Mrs Sargent owned the house 11 years, and sold it 10 Nov 1923 to Salvatore Pirotto & his wife Santa, of Salem (2579:75). Nine years later, 13 July 1932, Mr & Mrs Pirotto conveyed the premises to William A Few of Salem (2924:8); Mr Few immediately reconveyed to Mrs Pirotto alone (2924:9).

On 16 Nov 1955, Mrs Santa Pirotto, then of Danvers, conveyed the premises to Dominic DeLuca & his wife Anna (4226:216); one year later, 18 Oct 1956, Mr & Mrs DeLuca sold the estate to Ralston F Pickering of Hamilton (4317:93). On 1 May 1970, Mr Pickering sold 11 River Street to Koleman Realty Trust of Salem for \$9600 (5680:704); Koleman Realty Trust sold it for \$24,000 on 12 Aug 1976 to Allyn Realty Trust (6268:566), and Allyn Realty Trust sold it 22 Oct 1976 for \$25,000 to Joyce Cook of 113 Federal Street, Salem (6291:274).

Robert Booth
10 Nov 1976

Notes

Asa Killam (1754-?), the builder of this house, has been thoroughly covered by Mr Sidney Perley (see excerpts enclosed).

Captain Jacob Lee (1772-1847), second owner of this house, was baptized at Manchester, home of his parents, Abiel & Sarah (Killam) Lee, 13 Dec 1772. He & his wife Sarah had Jacob Jr, who died^{in 1841} at Angustura while a crewman on his father's command, the brig Augusta; John, a seaman who died of consumption 7 Jan 1846, aged 40 years; Mary L, who married Oliver Poland and died of consumption 25 Oct 1849, aged 42½ years; and David, who died aboard the ship Factor of cholera at Matanzas, 14 June 1833, aged 24 years. Mrs Lee died of consumption in Salem, 6 Nov 1840, aged 62 years. Capt Lee also died of consumption in Salem 2 Jan 1847, aged 74 years.

KILLAM GENEALOGY

BY SIDNEY PERLEY.

47

JOHN KILLAM⁵, born in Wenham April 24, 1710. He was a weaver and yeoman, and lived in Wenham. He married, first, Sarah Patch of Wenham Jan. 8, 1740. She died Oct. 5, 1742, at the age of twenty-seven, and he married, second, Mary Poland of Ipswich (published April 3, 1743). She died Oct. 8, 1770; and he married, third, Anna Dodge April 23, 1771. Mr. Killam died in Wenham Jan. 24, 1774, at the age of sixty-three. His wife Anna survived him, and probably married Skipper Dodge of Wenham Oct. 3, 1776.

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Children, born in Wenham :—

- 74—I. JOHN⁶, born Aug. 16, 1740. *See below.*
75—II. ———⁶ (infant), died Feb. 5, 1743-4.
76—III. SARAH⁶, born Jan. 17, 1744-5; died young.
77—IV. ELIZABETH⁶, born Sept. 26, 1746.
78—V. HEPZIBAH⁶, born July 9, 1748; married John Woodbury of Ipswich Oct. 29, 1769.
79—VI. SARAH⁶, born April 24, 1750; probably married Abiel Lee of Manchester Jan. 2, 1772.
80—VII. MARY⁶, baptized May 10, 1752; married William Woodbury of Ipswich Jan. 12, 1773.
81—VIII. ASA⁶, born May 28, 1754. *See below.*

81

ASA KILHAM⁶, born in Wenham May 28, 1754. He was a housewright, lumber merchant and wharfinger, and lived in Salem, except in the earlier portion of his life he lived at Newfoundland. At the age of fourteen he was apprenticed to Barnabas Herrick of Salem to learn the carpenter's trade. A short time before the battle of Lexington, William Lilly of Salem hired young Killam to go to Newfoundland to work at his trade for six months, and soon after the battle of April 19th, although under age, with his master's consent, he went to Newfoundland with Mr. Lilly and his family, among whom was a young woman, whom Asa married three or four years later. He remained in Newfoundland till August, 1779, laboring at his trade, not only on houses and buildings, but on British ships of war and prize vessels, and on barracks for the use of British soldiers. During this time he was in the family and service of Mr. Lilly. In August, 1779, he embarked, with his wife and some property, in a British armed ship for St. Eustatia, in order to obtain a passage from thence to Massachusetts; and early in 1780 arrived in Salem. He subsequently held office in the militia and voted for many years, when (in 1803) his citizenship was called in question. This matter was carried to the supreme judicial court, and resulted, after three years, in the establishment of his citizenship in an elaborate, interesting and important opinion covering thirty-three pages.*

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Two interesting affidavits of these facts are recorded in the registry of deeds at Salem. That of Peter Murray is as follows :—†

(over)

*Asa Kilham versus Benjamin Ward, Jr., *et alii*, 2 Massachusetts Reports, 236.
†Essex Registry of Deeds, book 174, leaf 73.

I Peter Murry of Salem in the county of Essex, cooper, being of lawful age do testify and say, that in the month of March, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, I sailed from the Port of Salem, on a voyage to the West Indies and from thence we sailed to Newfoundland to the port called Harbour Grace and arrived there which was sometime in the month of July or August in the same year—at that time I found Asa Killam there & he was at that time at work for William Lilly and made his home at said Lilly's, and that I remained there about one month, when I left the said Killam there at that place—and that whilst I was there the said Killam told me that he was employed by the said Lilly. I further say that the said Killam lived with Barnabus Herrick of said Salem as an apprentice before I saw him at Newfoundland, and further saith not.

PETER MURRAY.

This was sworn to in Salem Dec. 17, 1803.

The other is that of William Lilly, and is as follows:—*

District of Conception Bay in Newfoundland—The Deposition of William Lilly of Harbour-grace in Newfoundland Esq—Certifyeth to whom it may concern That in the month of April in the year 1775, about a week after the battle of Lexington when all ranks and conditions of men were in a state of distraction, and knew not where to go or what to do, Asa Killam of Salem in the Co of Essex, then an apprentice to Mr Herrick, my then Neighbour, who worked on my house in Salem, and being in want of a person of his occupation, I prevailed on Mr Herrick to let him the sd Killam go with me to Newfoundland to build me a house, which he accordingly did. Mr Henry Gardner and his family came at the same time, at which time it was all our hopes that peace would soon be restored, at this time Polly Leech lived in my family, and was afterwards Married to the said Asa Killam by a minister of the church of England in my presence, that as soon as an opportunity offered the said Killam took his wife and the little property he earned at his trade, and went on board the ship Hope, Cap^t Roberts, at the hazard of being taken, to return to his native country That during the whole time of his being in this country, except one year, he was building a House at Portdegrace in this district, he was chiefly employed by me, so that no person could be a better Judge of his disposition towards his native country than myself, although common prudence enjoined him to silence in every other place except my own house, and that he always manifested a constant and uniform attachment to his own country, and from his peaceable and engaging behaviour he was

*Essex Registry of Deeds, book 177, leaf 16.

importuned by many as well as myself to tarry until the returns of peace, as the danger of such a voyage was great; But his heart and mind was fixed on his native land, so far from attaching himself to the British cause, that I am confident it never entered his thoughts, on the contrary I have overheard him say that he was sorry that he was not there to prove his attachment, that he never work'd on any of the King's works, his principle employment was House work,—his attachment to Polly Leech might have commenced previous to his coming from Salem, unknown to me as she lived in my family at the time he work'd at my house with his master. The above citation is the truth, and I am happy to have it in my power to convince his opponents, that the said Asa Killam never did an act in this country to my knowledge to forfeit his allegiance to the American States—given under my hand at Harborgrace in Newfoundland this tenth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and five

W^m LILLY

This was sworn to at Harbor Grace, District of Conception Bay, Newfoundland, June 10, 1805.

Mr. Killam married Mary Leech Jan. —, 1779, in Newfoundland. He died in 18—; and she died in Salem, his widow, of old age, March 17, 1839, at the age of eighty-four.

Children:—

- 118—I. ASA⁷. See below.
- 119—II. JOHN⁷, born April 24, 1783, in Salem.
- 120—III. MARY⁷, born Oct. 10, 1784, in Salem; unmarried in 1814.
- 121—IV. DANIEL⁷, born March 10, 1787, in Salem; living in 1814.
- 122—V. RUTH⁷, born May 13, 1788, in Salem; married Benjamin Barker July 10, 1814.
- 123—VI. ROBERT⁷, born July 29, 1790, in Salem.
- 124—VII. GEORGE WASHINGTON⁷, born March 2, 1797, in Salem; cordwainer; lived in Roxbury in 1823; married widow Rebecca G. Fisher Feb. 22, 1821.

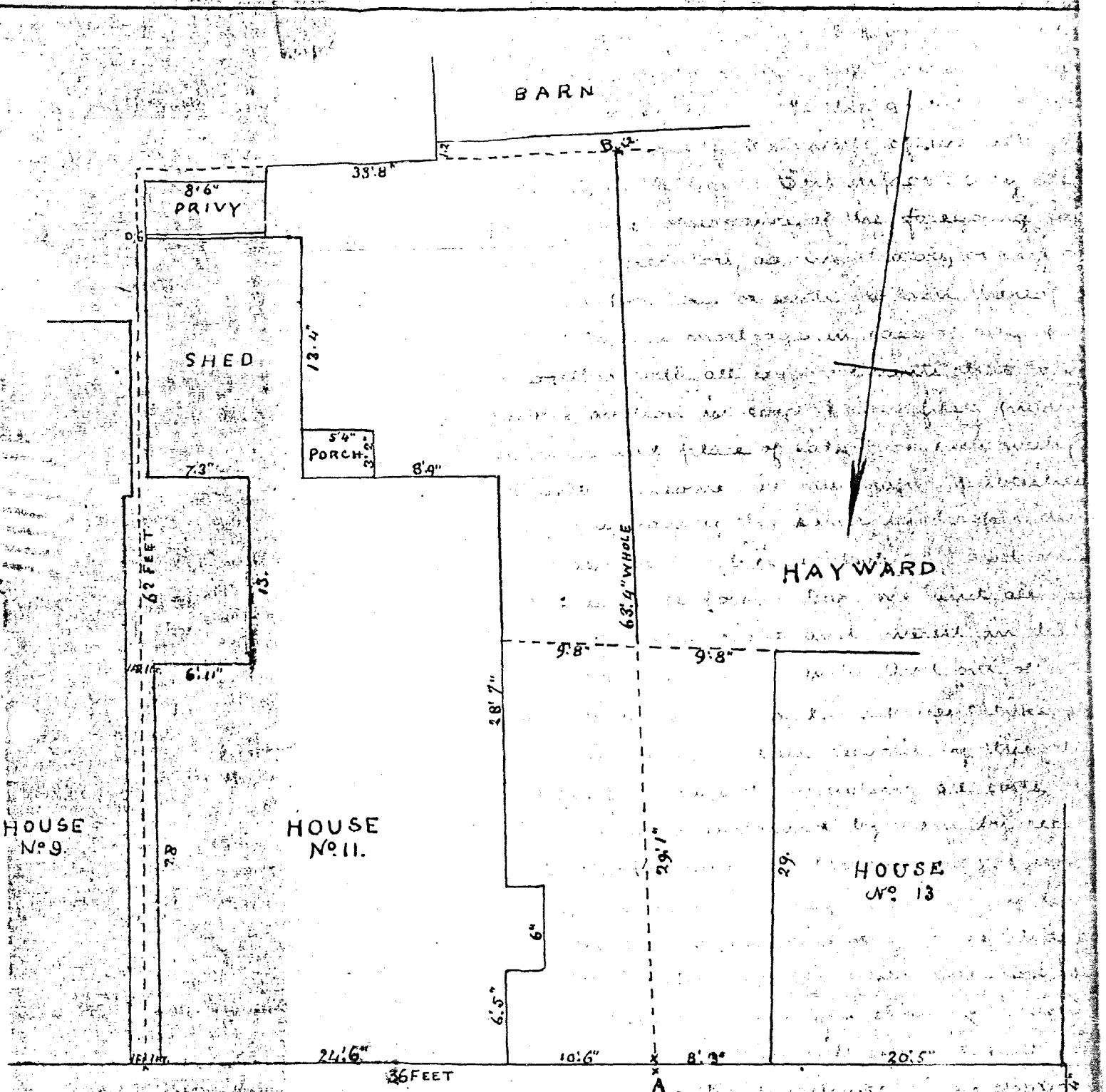
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ASA KILLAM⁷, born in Newfoundland, probably, about 1780. He was a housewright, and lived in Salem. He married Hannah, daughter of David and Martha (Hentfield) Neal Feb. 13, 1803. He died in 1813. She survived him, and married, secondly, Stephen Richardson Nov. 23, 1813.

Children:—

- 169—I. ASA⁸, born about 1804; died in Salem April 29, 1829, aged twenty-five.
- 170—II. MARY⁸, married Matthew Marsfield Carnes Dec. 10, 1833.

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PLAN OF ESTATE NO. II, RIVER STREET, SALEM

BELONGING TO EUNICE E. TUTTLE.

BY CHARLES A. PUTNAM, SUR. DEC. 16th 1890.

SCALE 8 FEET TO AN INCH.

Salem Nov. 6. 1891. Recd. & verified in Essex Reg. Deeds. So. Dist.
 with certificate of R. G. Manning Esq. vol. lib. 1300 folio 5
 att. Charles Gooden, Reg.

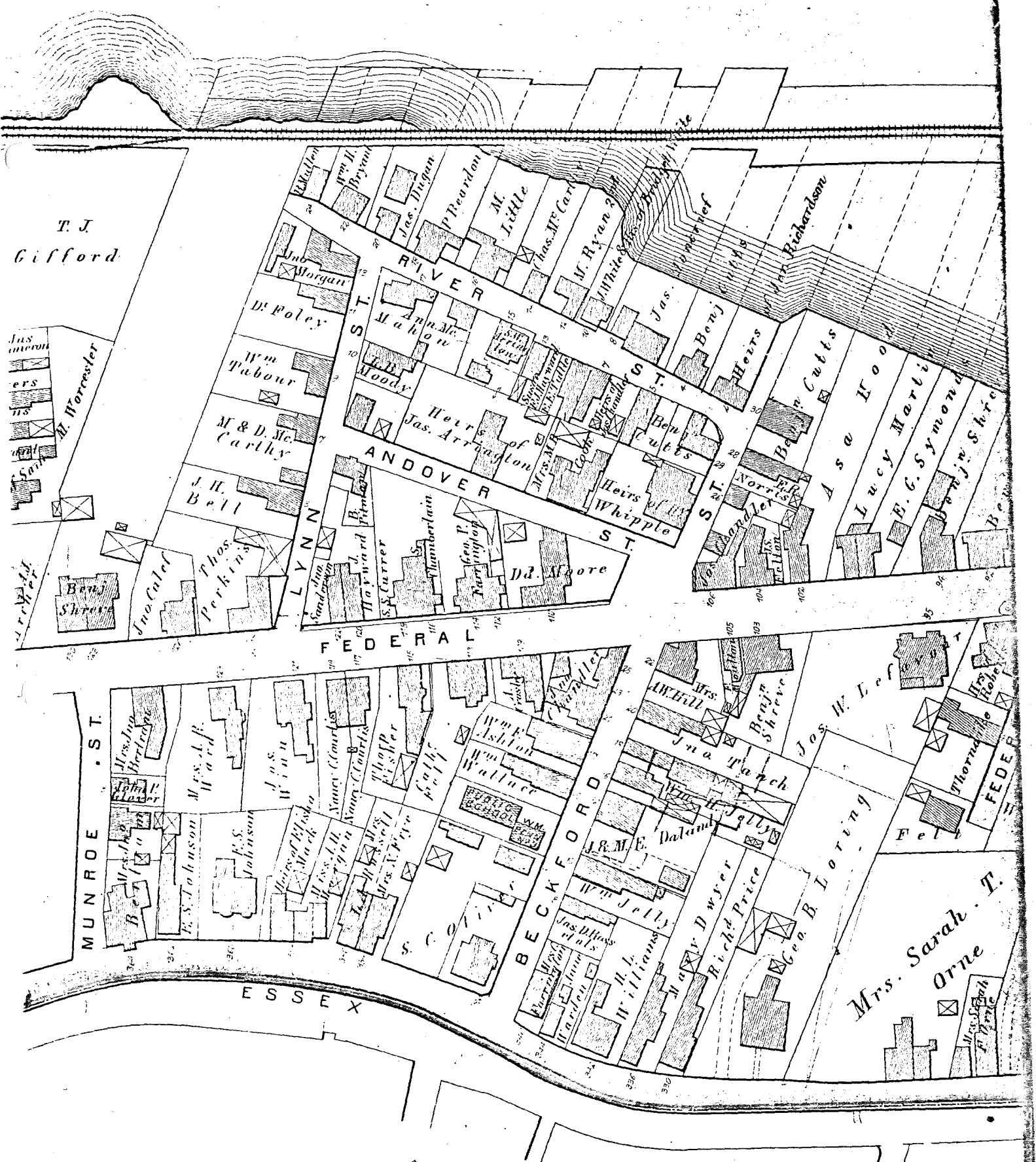
In^o Beckford
to
Asa Killum

Know all men by these presents that I John Beckford of Salem in the County of Essex & Commonwealth of Massachusetts yeoman in consideration of thirty two pounds seven shillings paid me by Asa Killum of Salem in the County aforesaid housewright, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge do hereby give grant sell & convey unto the said Asa Killum & his heirs & assigns a certain lot of land in said Salem bounded north on lane thirty four feet east on land of I^o Beckford seventy feet west on land of Joel Richards seven ty feet south on land of I^o Beckford thirty five & a quarter feet. Also another lot of land bounded south on lane thirty three & a half feet north on a stone wall or highwater mark thirty two feet east on land of I^o Beckford sixty two feet west on land of Joel Richards sixty two feet. So have I to hold the same to the I^o Asa Killum & his heirs & assigns to him & their use & behoof forever and I do covenant with the I^o Asa & 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 the same to the said Asa & that I will warrant & defend the same to the said Asa & his heirs & assigns forever against the lawful claims & demands of any persons. In witness whereof I do hereunto set my hand & seal this twenty seventh day of September A.D.

1782
Signed sealed & delivered
in presence of us
Eben^r Beckford
Hannah Beckford

John Beckford & a seal
Essex s^o Sept^r 30. 1782 then John Beckford personally acknowledged the foregoing Instrument to be his free Deed - before
John Pickering Just Peace

Essex s^o Rec^d Oct^r 2. 1782 & recorded of examⁿ by John Pickering Reg^r



T. J. Gifford

M. Worcester

Ben. Shreve

Munroe St.

Essex

From An Atlas of SALEM.

in 1874 by G.M. Hopkins



PART OF WARD 4.