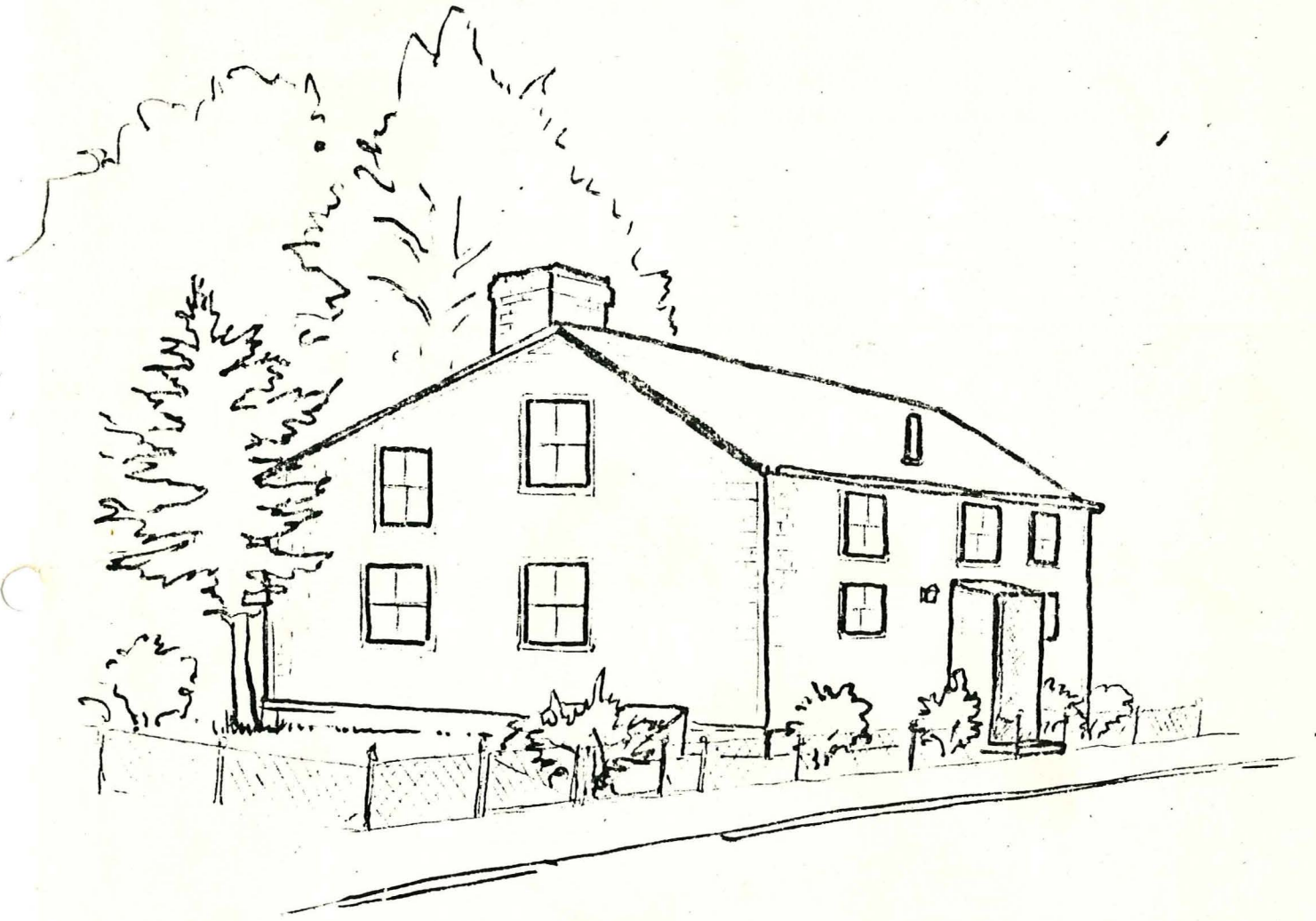


1970



The William Stickney House  
47 Osgood St. Salem  
built in 1835

by S.L. Dee

①

STORY OF THE  
WILLIAM STICKNEY HOUSE

This house history begins a few years before 1834. A large piece of land which had been part of the estate of Josiah Richardson was divided into numbered lots on an as yet unnamed lane (later called Osgood St.) leading from Bridge St. to Collins Cove. Various buyers purchased lots, and in 1834 William Manning and George Wheeland sold one of these lots to William Stickney. Mr. Stickney lived in a large house on Bridge St. only a short distance from his business which was a cordage factory. He also owned 3 or 4 other houses, probably small, which may have been rented to workers from his ropewalks. One of these workers was a black named Thomas Marbray. Tax records mention no street for his address until 1836, and from then on he was noted as living at 11 Osgood St. or just Osgood St. (This was, in those years, the number of the house we are interested in which is now # 47) As William Stickney acquired the land in 1834, and Thomas Marbray was living at that address in 1836, it seems probable that 1835 was the year the house was built as another of Stickney's rental properties.

It is difficult to find out much about this first occupant of \*11 Osgood St. Births, deaths, and marriages among Salem's black citizens in those days were often unrecorded. However in 1839 Thomas "Marberry" was listed as being drowned in Para while a member of the crew of the brig "Eagle." He was 47 years old. Although he died without a will, his widow petitioned the court to permit her to keep his few possessions. By this document we learn that Ann Marbray was his widow and that she had 6 young children, "one of them sick." Her husband left little behind: the inventory of

his few belongings included a few housefurnishings and clothes plus a "large Bible and a lot of books." Their total value was only \$55.32. Mrs. Marbray didn't stay on at the Osgood St. house: she was probably evicted, as the landlord William Stibney had died himself the year before, and his estate was being settled. His various rental houses and his ropewalk were sold.

George T. Saunders, a merchant, bought the Osgood St. house and land in 1839 for \$130.15 at a public auction. By 1841 and for the next 2 years a black mariner named Jesse Shorter lived on Osgood St. and probably he was living at #11. In 1844 Royal M. Shorter had moved in, and no more is heard of Jesse. "VITAL STATISTICS" doesn't reveal whether these men were father and son, or brothers, or whether Jesse died in 1843 or went away. Royal Shorter was listed as living on Bridge St. in 1837, and his marriage in 1843 to Eliza Petersen is recorded: the year before he moved to Osgood St. In the next few years, 3 children were born to the Shorters: one died aged 3. The other 2, were not alive in 1879.

Royal Shorter was a laborer, and on another document he was described as a janitor. After struggling to save money for 14 years, he finally achieved his goal. For a total of \$218 paid to George Saunders' widow, he became owner of his home in 1856. Two more children were born to Royal and Eliza Shorter after the purchase of their house: a daughter Lucy and a son James. The book of deeds #766 contains a document drawn up in 1869 whereby Royal M. Shorter registered his premises as a "homestead." After a few more years, he sold off to a neighbor the tidal flats portion of his lot. In 1879 he died, leaving in his will \$1 to each of his 2 surviving children James and Lucy, and the rest of his property to his wife.

Lucy Shorter lived on with her mother, and after her mother's death, she and James inherited the house and land. By 1916 Lucy owned the property alone - she apparently never married, and her brother was dead. For \$1 "and considerations" she deeded the property to Charles Fuller, of Salem.

The great Salem fire had left Fuller and his relatives homeless. Charles, a bachelor, moved into the Osgood St. house with his sister Caroline Weizer and her family, and he eventually deeded the property to her. In 1946 Caroline Weizer died. Her son Raymond R. Weizer had passed away more than 10 years before, leaving a widow and 2 sons. These boys, Donald Francis and Raymond Gerald inherited their grandmother's house, and with their widowed mother moved in.

Raymond Gerald and his mother continue, 20 or 30 years later, to live in this small attractive stympled home at 47 Osgood St., now in 1970 135 years old.

DOCUMENTATION

Ⓟ

Book 243 p. 201

( This is a lengthy document describing the dividing into many lots of a portion of the estate of Josiah Richardson, dec. of Salem, victualler: the land being on what is now Osgood St.)

Book 277 p. 107 July 14, 1834

William Manning and George Whittford (and wife Hannah) sell for \$200 to William Stickney of Salem, gentleman, a lot of land lying on the lane leading from Bridge St. to Collins Cove bounded: beginning at the S. corner of John Reed's land on said way running E. 144' to fence as it stands; thence 60' by said fence to lot #10 on plan (see Book 243 p. 201) thence 135' by lot #10 to said way with all land in rear of lot #9 on said plan to low water mark as side lines of said lot run.

Book 327 p. 75 October 10, 1839

Benjamin Merrill, adm. of estate of William Stickney dec. of Salem sells at public auction for \$130.75 to George T. Saunders, merchant, of Salem, the dwelling house, land and bldgs. bounded: on S.W. by Osgood St.; on S.E. by land of William Micklefield; N.E. as the fence stands; and N.W. as the fence stands; now occupied by Thos. Marbury, the same estate conveyed to Wm. Stickney by Wm. Manning. For \$229.25 paid by said Saunders I release and discharge the mortgage I have on the premises. (Harriet Stickney releases her right of dower.)

Probate 17711 Thomas Marbray Jan. 7 1850

Salem mariner dec., intestate excerpts:

left a widow Ann and 6 children, "one of them sick" who petitioned Court to be allowed to keep her husband's possessions. This petition was granted.

The inventory, total value \$55.32 (no real estate) included a few house furnishings (beds, bedding, chairs, table, bureau, a time piece, woodenware) etc contents of a closet and a "large Bible and a lot of books".

Book 578 p. 273 September 29, 1858

Mary Ann Sanders and Edward H. Rayson trustees under the will of George T. Sanders dec. of Salem sell for \$109 to Royal Shorter of Salem, laborer, one undivided half of a lot of land, house and bldgs. on Osgood St. bounded by land formerly of William Mecklefield, being the same land conveyed to George T. Sanders by adm. of William Stickney (Book 327 p. 75)

Book 578 p. 274 September 29, 1858

Mary Ann Sanders widow, of Salem for \$109 sells to Royal Shorter of Salem, laborer, one undivided half of a lot of land with house and bldgs. on Osgood St. bounded by land formerly of William Mecklefield, being same land conveyed to my husband the late George T. Sanders by the adm. of William Stickney. Refer to deed Book 327 p. 75 for description.

Book 766 p. 100 March 12, 1869

Royal M. Shorter as owner and occupant registers the premises as a Homestead.

Book 876 p. 265 February 13, 1873

Royal M. Shorter of Salem sells for \$45 part of flats appertaining to his land to George D. Phippen, described: all that lies N.E. of a right line drawn S.E. across my flats com. at a point 160' distant from Osgood St. on W. bound of my land, running thence 60' to a point 160' from Osgood St. on E. bound of my land.

Probate 53191 Royal M. Shorter, Salem, janitor dec. Jan. 2, 1879

left wife Eliza, Lucy Helen (minor daughter) and James (minor son)

Will dated Sept. 1878, bequeaths \$1 to each child and all the rest of his property to his wife.

Book 2347 p. 583 November 10, 1916

Lucy H. Shorter, unmarried, of Salem, sells for \$1 and considerations to Charles Fuller of Salem, land and buildings on Osgood St. described: SW on Osgood St. 59'-3"; SE on land now or late of Wm. Micklefield 160'; NE on land now or late of George D. Phippen 60'; NW on land now or late of said Phippen 160'. One half of the above premises inherited from my mother Eliza H. Shorter to whom it was devised by my father, the remaining half inherited from my brother James R. Shorter, dec. (ref. made to deeds: Book 578 p. 243, p. 244; Book 876 p. 265)

Vital Statistics

(some of this information  
gleaned from Court documents  
and Tax books)

Thomas Marbray — drowned at Parais 1837 age 47; a member  
of the crew of brig "Eagle"

left a wife Ann and 6 children

Royal H. Shorter married Eliza A. Peterson in 1843  
died 1879

- children: Jesse P. b. 1846 d. 1847
- Olivia b. 1847 d. before 1879
- Andrew C. b. 1849 d. before 1879
- James R. b. after 1858 d. before 1916
- Lucy H. b. after 1858

Salem City Directory

1837

(no Shorter listed)

William Stickney cordage factory 18 Bridge St.  
house 36 Bridge St.

Thomas Marberry 11 Osgood St.

Jacob & James Striley 13 Osgood St.

Wm. Foster Jr. ropemaker 15 Osgood St.

1842

Jessee Shorter mariner Osgood St.

Royal Shorter laborer Osgood St.

1846

Royal Shorter Osgood St.

1850

Royal Shorter Osgood St.



Items and spelling are as written in tax book.

TAX ASSESSMENTS

WARD 2

Georg Wade

Jesse & Royal Shorter

Thomas Marbury

William Stickney

1850	(no listing)				
1851	(no listing)				
1852	Thos. Marble B ropemaker 1 poll				
1853	Thos. Marble C ropemaker 1 poll				
1854	Thos. Marbury C 1 poll	William Stickney 1 poll	2 ropemkrs house house 2000 800	3 houses 1200	
1855	Thos. Marble B 1 poll	William Stickney 1 poll	2 ropemkrs house house 2000 800	3 houses 1200	
1856	Thos. Marbury B. laborer N Osjeod 1 poll	William Stickney 1 poll	2 ropemkrs house house 2000 800	3 houses 1200	
1857	Thos. Marbury B 1 poll	William Stickney 1 poll	ropemknt house + land 2000	3 houses + land 1300	
1858	Thos. Marbury B Osjeod St 1 poll	estate of Wm. Stickney #64 Bridge	ropemknt house + land 2000	3 houses + land 1300	(no Shorters listed)
1859	Thos. Marbury B Osjeod St dead	estate of Wm. Stickney #64	house ropemknt + land 2000	ropemknt house + land 2000	Royal Shorter Osjeod St 1 poll
1860		Mrs. Wm. Stickney	house 68 Bridge		Royal Shorter 1 poll
1861					Jesse Shorter B Osjeod 1 poll
1862					Jesse Shorter B Osjeod 1 poll
1863					Jesse Shorter C Osjeod 1 poll
1864					Royal Shorter Osjeod 1 poll
1865					Jesse Shorter col. Osjeod 1 poll

14 these years  
no George Wade listed