

HISTORY OF THE DIXEY MORGAN HOUSE

In 1621 the ship "Fortune" arrived in the Plymouth Colony, with new settlers. Among them was a young man from Wales named Robert Morgan. For a few years he traveled around, including a stay in Saco, (Maine) before settling for good in Beverly in the 1630's. He bought land, and married. Of his sons, Joseph, born in 1650, in turn had many sons. Robert, born in 1681 married Mary Thorndyke. Among their children is the man this history concerns: Dixey Morgan, born in Beverly in 1708. He married a Beverly girl, Lucy Taylor in 1733 and we find him listed in 1751 as owning a house. At some time in the next two years the Morgans moved to Salem; probably selling their house and hoping to buy more land for their growing family. They settled on a large farm in South Salem: the area along Loring Avenue which now encompasses Cleveland Road and Pickman Park. This was the ancient "Holmes Farm" (with the only building known to exist in South Salem in 1700) eventually bought by Benjamin Pickman and known long after as the "Pickman Farm". Dixey Morgan was probably a farm hand on this large acreage, saving his money toward owning his own farm. Life was hard and not until 20 years after he married did he finally buy his first piece of Salem land.

For a moment, let us describe this area in South Salem. All the land south of the South River and Mill Pond (now the swamp between Jefferson Avenue and the railroad) was known as the South Fields. What is now Loring Avenue was known as the "Old Road" to Marblehead, crossing Forest River at the Leggs Hill Road bridge and following across up the slope eastward into the present "Old Salem Road", Marblehead. The first mill at Forest River was built by Samuel Gardner in 1735. Two years later, the Forest River Bridge was built, and the "New Road" to Marblehead laid out from the (present) College site through the South Fields more or less where upper Lafayette Street is now. Gardner, the mill owner, built his own house on the steep hill (between Raymond Road and Raymond Avenue) overlooking his mill. Various early Salem men had owned parcels of this easterly South Fields land from the 1600's on, but no one built there before Gardner.

In 1753, Dixey Morgan bought a 3 acre piece of land down to the shore. (approximately where numbers 412, 414, 411 and 415 Lafayette Street are now). A year later, Morgan added almost 13 acres more with 2nd purchase (from houses 416, 417 south and west to the Raymond Avenue areas and "Adams Swamp"). He now had acquired a good size farm site, but 8 more years were to pass before he had the money to build his own home. He probably began cultivating his own fields, in addition to his work on Pickman Farm.

Meanwhile his wife bore him their 9th baby. The last 4 Morgan children were baptized at Salem's Tabernacle Church. In 1757 for 5^{sh} 6^{sh} 8^p. Dixey Morgan bought the "northerly half of the wall, pew on the northerly side of the western staircase" at the church. All Salem men were assessed poll taxes; also taxes on their buildings and lands, and on "personal estate and income by trade." These taxes were, in addition, levied in 3 sets: the Province tax, the County Tax and the Town Tax. The scattered records still available show Dixey paying only poll taxes until his first land purchase in 1753. From then on he paid the land and income taxes also. By 1757 his oldest son William was over 21 and paying his own taxes. Dixey is recorded for 3 years as serving as a "Constable" (one of 4 named by the assessors) who collected taxes in 1759, 1764, and 1765.

At last in 1762 the Morgans built their own home on their lot. Probably at first they had only one chimney (4 rooms, 2 up and 2 down) with the kitchen at one side. To build even this half, Dixey had to mortgag the 3 acre lot he had bought first. He was now 54 years old, and his surviving children ranged from 7 to 27 years old, probably the oldest ones married and gone. 4 years later Dixey took on another larger mortgage on the rest of his land. This may have been when he completed his house; adding a 2nd chimney and 4 more rooms on the other side of the front door, perhaps also a barn.

Meanwhile his family was growing up. In 1772 his daughter Charity aged 27, married a 28 year old Marblehead man, Pickering Collins (Bentley says, "his mother was a daughter of Col. Pickering"). Morgan's own farm was far from profitable. He paid off his largest mortgage to Francis Cabot by taking out an even larger one on his land and buildings in 1774 with the widow Pickman, his former employer.

The Revolution made its impact felt when 3 Morgan sons (plus a nephew who may have been living with them) enlisted in Salem militia companies in 1775. Dixey's son-in-law, Pickering Collins left his wife Charity and baby daughter to enlist at the same time. Two Morgan sons went on to serve on the brigantine "Tyrannicide" after mustering out of the militia. Collins was captured by the British and exchanged probably at the war's end.

Lucy Morgan, wife of Dixey, died sometime around the end of the war, and in 1781, Dixey, now 73 years old, took a 2nd wife, Hannah Masury. 8 years later in 1789 the newspaper "Salem Mercury" carried a notice of his death. This sturdy farmer who spent a lifetime trying to make a living from Salem's rocky land died with no wife, leaving little but debts behind. The inventory of his estate lists his house, barn, and 18 acres, plus a pathetic list of his few possessions including 1 plow, 1 cart, a few old pieces of furniture, a cow, some old pots and bottles, 2 old spinning wheels, a grindstone, mortar and pestle, an old green quilt, a broken case of drawers, and a "parcel of old iron". His debts included the large mortgage still held by the widow Pickman, the smaller mortgage on his 3 acre lot, and sums owed numerous people including his nephew and his oldest daughter Lucy.

Pickering Collins and his wife Charity Morgan Collins were living in Marblehead, with a growing family of 5 children, from 5 to 16 years old. He took over the settlement of Dixey's affairs. In 1791 he took possession of the Morgan farm by paying off the Pickman mortgage. He had to re-mortgage most of this debt to a Marblehead man. Life was not easy for the Collins family on the farm. They lost the 3 acre lot 2 years later, as they couldn't pay off that 1762 mortgage. Finally in 1796, Pickering was able to buy back this land, and the farm was again complete.

Rev. William Bentley in his incomparable diary records regretfully the "death of Pickering Collins, age 69, a farmer in the South Fields by whom we have often been kindly entertained," and "---he was much and deservedly respected." Collins died of asthma in April of 1811. He had made a will 2 months earlier, probably ill and knowing the end was near. His wife Charity received the farm and its income for her lifetime. At her death it was to be divided among his 3 surviving children. She lived as long as she was able to in the homestead and Bentley mentions that she died in 1822. The farm most likely became more and more run down and indebted, as she grew older. Two years after her son died, Isaac Homan of Marblehead paid up the mortgage: the deed was re-written by Collins that Morgan had first incurred to build his house. Charity Morgan Collins was living on a Revolutionary War pension her husband

CIVIL NORMAL SCHOOL

F.D.D. NEWCOMB

ABBY O. & MARY E. WILLIAMS

10 A.

ABBY O. & MARY E. WILLIAMS

J. W. PRATT & ELIZ. A. FARLEY
D. B. H. POWERS ET AL.

J. W. PRATT
3 1/4 A.

G. W. GLAZIER

GEO. W. MUDGEY

J. H. SULLIVAN HEIRS
2 3/8 A.

ELIZA A. FARLEY
3 3/4 A.

S. ELIZABETH WILSON

J. T. HOPKINS

KELLY

E. C. SLOAN

MARY A. METCALF

MRS. S. TOPPAN

ELIZ. W. BROWNING

MARY A. METCALF
1 1/4 A.

EST. OF G. W. METCALF
4 1/2 A.

1/2 A.

J. M. RAYMOND

J. M. RAYMOND

B. G. NATHAWAY

3 A.

SEA WALL

SALEM

ANNA'S SPRING

I. C. WYMAN

FOREST RIVER LEAD MILLS
CHARWICK LEAD WORKS

I. C. WYMAN

INFORMATION FROM VITAL RECORDS OF SALEM, BEVERLY, MARBLEHEAD

Dixey Morgan

born in Beverly 1708 s Robert & Mary
 died in Salem May 19, 1789 age 81
 married Lucy Tailer in 1733 in Beverly
 children (baptised in Beverly) William 1735
 (First Parish) Lucy 1738
 Mary 1739
 Charity 1743 (died young)
 Charity 1745 (died 1841
 see Collins
 (baptised in Salem) Andrew 1748
 Dixey 1752 m. Jane Daniels
 1808
 Benjamin 1753 (died young)
 Benjamin 1755 m. Lucy Smit
 1806 and had 7 children

married Hannah Masary 1781

Pickering Collins

of Marblehead (no birth record)
 died in Salem of asthma in 1811 age 69
 married Charity Morgan in 1772
 children (baptised in Marblehead) Hannah 1775 m. Nathaniel
 Boynton of Lynn 1796
 Charity 1779 (no further
 records)
 Dixey 1783 death "sudden"
 1822 age 40
 Pickering Jr. m. Rebecca
 Bowden 1804 had daughter
 born 1805, he died before
 1811.
 Sarah 1786 m. William Bree
 of Lynn in 1809 died 183
 children William Jr.
 Sarah Ellen
 Mary Ann d. 1841

Benjamin Metcalf^{G.}

born in 1795 (no birthplace recorded)
 died in Salem 1871 age 76
 he lived in Lynn: married Mary Jane Lakeman of Salem in
 1833 she was born in 1806, died in 1887.
 children:
 Benjamin F. 1835
 Charles A 1839 died 1928
 married Mary Abby Peabody
 of Ipswich in 1874
 George W 1842.

Salem City Directory of 1837 listed B.G. Metcalf living
 on the Pickering Farm in South Salem.

Mary Abby Peabody Metcalf (see above, wife of Charles A Metcalf) came from
 Ipswich, no dates found of her birth and death. She
 came from Ipswich and apparently left Salem after sell-
 ing the property in 1929.

Byron T. Atwood

married Helen Knight of Manchester
 childre born in Wenham:
 Nancy 1927
 Byron Jr. 1928
 born in Salem: Marianne 1931 d. 1932
 Jane 1935
 Betsy 1938
 baby stillborn 1943

Bert Dee

b 1918 in Worcester, Mass, married Sylvia A. Lewis
 born 1922, Holyoke.
 children: born in Worcester. Richard 1947
 born in Beverly Joshua 1949
 Justin 1951
 Rachel 1953

Book 1083, page 118

May 27, 1882 Charles A Metcalf bought from Mary J. Brackett, widow of Salem for \$2300.00 Land and buildings in Salem bounded as follows: on W. of Lafayette St. where land joins land of Pratt, running W. 219', turning running SW 985' to Marblehead Branch Railroad, turning running SE by R.R. 168' to land of Walcott, turning running NE by land of said Walcott 399', running E. by same 438' to street, then N. on street 598' to beginning.

Book 1110, page 281

June 21, 1883 Charles Hatch bought from Charles A Metcalf for \$1.00 and "valuables" all rights to land and buildings described in Book 1110 page 188 also an undivided 3rd part.

Book 1110, page 188

June 21, 1883 Mary A. Metcalf bought from Charles Hatch of Quincy "for \$1.00 and other valuables" all rights to land (about 8 acres) and buildings bounded N by land of Samuel Pratt, E. by Lafayette Street, S. & SE by land formerly of Nelson now of Walcott; S. & SW by Marblehead Branch R.R., W. by land of heirs of Nathaniel Kelly. Also (about 3 acres) land bounded on N. by land of Toppan, E. & SE by harbor; S. by land of Pickman or Loring; W. by Lafayette Street.

Probate Docket
47065

September 1888, Stephen E. Abbott is named agent for George W. Metcalf (son-address unknown)

September 17, 1888 Mary A Metcalf (wife of Charles A) gets assigned buildings and 5 1/2 acres of land bounded from Lafayette Street W. 220' by land of Pratt, SW by land of Kelly 512' turning E. by land set off for George Metcalf 550' to Lafayette Street, also land across street to water and N. to land of Toppan.

Book 2804, page 138

April 26, 1929 Byron T. Atwood and his wife Helen bought from Mary A Metcalf land together with buildings thereon beginning at N. corner thereof on Lafayette Street along with land formerly of J.P. Browning heirs, now of Lougee and Goodwin running W. 341 1/2' to land formerly of heirs of Nathaniel Kelly; running SW by land of Kelly 190' to a stone bound and land formerly of Lucy S Browning turning E. by land of Browning 463' to a stone bound on Lafayette Street, turning N. 118' to point of beginning.

Book 4585, page 70

July 1959 Robert M. Dee and his wife Sylvia bought from Byron T. Atwood and his wife Helen land together with the buildings thereon beginning at N corner thereof on Lafayette Street along land formerly of Lougee and Goodwin running W. 341 1/2' to land formerly of heirs of Nathaniel Kelly running SW by land of Kelly 190' to a stone bound and land formerly of Lucy S. Browning, turning E. by land of Browning 463' to a stone bound on Lafayette Street turning N. 118' to point of beginning.

Diary of William
Bentley, Vol 4
Page 264

...the account I had from Widow Pickering Collins, the next neighbor of Browne, on land bought from Gardner (who built Forest River Mills) who was a Morgan and is upon her patrimony. Her family was from Beverly, in which some are still found.

Vol 4, page 563

1818 Last evening I spent with a circle of friends at the Widow of Pickering Collins, near Gardner's or the Forest River Mills. Her father Morgan built the house about 50 years ago. The house on the hill was the Gardner, or mill house, and is still owned by the heirs of Farmer Browne who purchased it and lived at a great age in it. The mills have been repeatedly sold... The Morgan lot is about 15 acres.....

Book 234, page 230

March 5, 1824 Isaac Wyman of Marblehead buys the mortgages held by Seward Brimblecome (dec) on the land and buildings of Pickering Collins (dec) for \$822.70

Book 317, page 240

March 11, 1840, Benjamin G. Metcalf bought from Nathaniel and Hannah Boynton, William Breed Jr, and his son William (all are heirs of Pickering Collins). for \$200.00: 18 acres of land bounded on E. by Salem harbor, on S. by land of Pickman; W. by Derby's Marsh; NW by land of Derby and Kelly; N. by land of Pratt; highway passing through.

Book 318, page 117

April 24, 1840 Benjamin G. Metcalf bought from Elizabeth Wyman, administrator of estate of Isaac Wyman for \$1570.41: 18 acres of land through which highway passes which said Isaac held in mortgage which I took possession of for condition broken in 1837; bounded E. on harbor S. by Pickman farm; W. by Derby farm; N. by Pratt estate NW by Kelly.

Book 318, page 138

April 24, 1840 Benjamin G. Metcalf took out a mortgage for \$400.00 with Elizabeth Wyman on this property. Mortgage was discharged in 1844.

Probate Docket
35885

Charity Collins widow, died in Lynn in 1841 age 93. She was an applicant for a Revolutionary Pension of the U.S. Petition of her daughter Hannah Boynton to recover balance of her pension still due. William Breed (husband of Sarah Collins Breed, dec, 1839) and William Breed JR. of age are administrators. There were 2 minor Breed children, Sarah and Maryann (died 1841).

Book 771, page 19

Benjamin G. Metcalf sold off about 6 acres of his land to James D. Nelson. (this later belonged to John M. Raymond) Charles Metcalf (son) bought it back at one point but lost it by defaulting on mortgage.

Probate Docket
47065

Benjamin G. Metcalf died June 12, 1871 intestate left widow Mary L., sons Benjamin F of ST. Louis, Charles A of Salem, George W of Iowa. Inventory included house, barn and out buildings valued at \$2500.00 about 11 acres of land valued at \$3500.00. 2 cattle, 1 horse, wagons, farm tools, furnishings, plus some cash in the bank (\$700.00) According to law this estate would go 1/3 to each son.

July 1879 Mary L. Metcalf widow is assigned dower in lands. (she had petitioned court for some kind of provision)

September 1879 Charles A (son) is assigned 2 undivided 3 parts (which included homestead) George W (through agent Benjamin G. Hathaway) is assigned 1 undivided 3rd part (which included land at the south part of estate).

of Love Pickman widow, dec, receives from Pickering Collins 189£, 7sh, 8p, which is remaining sum of mortgage due, releasing to Pickering Collins title to and buildings thereon the land as follows: the land conveyed to Dixey Morgan by Benjamin Gerrish in Book 100, page 65 and the land conveyed to Dixey Morgan by Francis Cabot in deed dated October 6, 1766. The whole sum of land being 15 acres 81 poles bounded as follows: on S. by land of Jonathan Brown formerly Gardner; S. and W. on Fitch's and Pickman's land; W. and N. by land of Hodges and Britton, on N. by Morgan's land, formerly Reeves, on E. by harbor.

Book 154, page 50

September 22, 1791 Pickering Collins mortgages this same estate to Seward Brimblecome of Marblehead for 135£. The due date of the mortgage to be September 19, 1792

Book 160, page 203

March 29, 1796, Hannah Poynton sells back to Pickering Collins for 34£ 1sh, 9p. 2 small pieces of land as follows: First: 1 acre 150 poles bounded on E. by road from Salem to Marblehead, S. on land late of Francis Cabot but now of P. Collins, N. on land of Nathaniel Ropes (dec.) N. a little E. by land of heirs of Joseph Ropes (dec.) Second piece opposite first on N. by land of late Joseph Ropes, E. by harbor, S. land of late Cabot now of said Collins, W. by road. This is the same land recovered from Collins in a court judgment in August 1794 (see mortgage book 114, page 213)

Book 160, page 203

March 29, 1796 Pickering Collins mortgages this same land to Seward Brimblecome for 39£. The sum of \$130 and interest to be repaid Brimblecome in one year.

Diary of William Bentley, Vol 4
page 12.

This day we lost an old friend Pickering Collins age 69, a farmer in South Fields, by whom we have been often kindly entertained. Mr. Pickering Collins was brought from his farm... and buried from his brother-in-laws William Browne. His friends could attend with great convenience and they did their duty. He was much and deservedly respected. His wife was a Morgan, and Morgan the father in law possessed the farm before him. He left one son unmarried, besides his other children.

Probate Docket
6105

Pickering Collins, yeoman will dated February 1811, he died April 1811 Widow Charity named executrix. Will gives to wife Charity the use and income of his estate for life.

to his son Dixey 1/2 of property on St. Peter Street (bought in 1786 146-111)

to his sister 1/2 of property on St. Peter Street small bequest to daughter of his late son Pickering

Remainder of estate real and personal to be divided 1/3 to 3 children:

Dixey Collins

Hannah Collins Boynton

Sarah Collins Breed

Inventory of estate: house and land in S. Salem \$3000.00 plus furnishings, house and land on St. Peter Street \$800.00. There are no probate records for Dixey Collins.

Diary of William Bentley Vol 4
e 28

June 1811, Mrs. Collins who was a Morgan, said she was born on what is now the site of Pickman's farm when it belonged to Gerrish 66 years ago. (also) Mr. Flag in his gondola carried his horse plow upon Jeggles Island. He hoed last year, and the neighbors say for this first time the soil on this rock was ploughed. It has not 1/4 acre. The hoeing gave 19 bushels of potato.

Book 114, page 213

October 13, 1762 Dixey Morgan for 16£ (parcel sum of 32£) mortgages 2 small parcels of land (about 3 acres the same in Book 110, page 223) * Thomas Poynton, merchant of Salem.

Samuel Curwen Papers, Vol III lists among other houses built in 1762, one built in the South Fields of Salem by Dixey Morgan.

Book 121, page 21

October 17, 1766 Dixey Morgan and wife Lucy take out a mortgage with Francis Cabot on South Fields land (2 parcels, 12 acres 81 poles, and 3 acres) This land was sold to Morgan by Benjamin Gerrish April 19, 1754 in Book 100, Page 65.

Book 133, page 22

January 24, 1774 Dixey Morgan mortgages his lands (Book 121, page 21, mortgaged) plus house and barn to Love Pickman for 160£ 15s., Samuel Curwen's signature is on the document.

Mass Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War
Vol I, page XIX

"call for troops followed...by resolve of January 20, 1776...for temporary reinforcement to strengthen the army lines and fortifications around Boston,...a quota apportioned to various towns.
...commanding officer of each company of militia in the towns mentioned, should muster his command without delay...soldiers to serve until April 1776 (at least)

Vol XI

Benjamin Morgan (son of Dixey Morgan) private entered July 20, 1776, Capt. John Symonds company of matrosses raised in Salem, served 2 months, 11 days.
Israel Morgan (Dixey's nephew) same company as above served 2 months, 4 days.
Dixey Morgan Jr. Private, Capt Benjamin Wards Company enlisted January 22, 1776, discharged June 1776, service 4 months, 19 days, after this he is listed on rolls of brigantine "Tyrannicide" finally discharged February 17, 1777.
Andrew Morgan, (son of Dixey Morgan) same company as above, stationed at Salem for defense of seacoast; service from July 1775, to June 1776. Then he is on rolls of "Tyrannicide" until January 1, 1777.

Vol. III

Pickering Collins of Marblehead, Matross, Capt. Edward Fettyplace's (Mbhd) Company, enlisted February 22, 1776 service to September 1, 1776; 6 months 8 days, also on list of prisoners brought to Marblehead in the cartel "Pacific" to be exchanged for British prisoners as returned by Thomas Stone, Commissary (no year listed).

Mass Soldiers, Sailors & Marines in the Civil War

Vol. VI, page 187

George W. Metcalf (son of Benjamin W. Metcalf) age 19 served from October 1861, to November 1864 with the 1st Reg. Mass. Volunteer Cavalry.

Probate Docket
18712

Dixey Morgan died 1789, yeoman (intestate) leaves widow Hannah, Edward Bowen named administrator (signed by William Morgan, (son) Pickering Collins (son-in-law))

Inventory of estate April 1790 included:
Mansion house and 18 acres in South Fields 215£, various household items.

List of Debts:

to Love Pickman: mortgage, principal and interest 185£
to Israel Morgan (nephew) 85£
small debts to Benjamin Lynde, Nathan Bowen, Johathan Phelps.

Estate is declared insolvent. Claims allowed against estate 1792 include amounts to Nathan Bowen, Benjamin Lynde, William West, John Norton, Capt. Thomas Gerry Johnathan Phelps, Lucy Morgan (daughter) Capt. Thomas Poynton.

Book 154, page 50

September 22, 1791, Benjamin Pickman Jr. Adm. of estate

had earned, but finally old age forced her to leave the family home. She spent her last days with a married daughter in Lynn, where she passed away in 1841; 93 years old. Charity outlived all but one of her children. There was little remaining of the estate for her heirs.

A new person enters this account: Benjamin Metcalf. The 1837 Salem directory lists him as living on the Pickman Farm in the South Fields. He was then 42, married to a Salem woman Mary Jane Lakeman, and the father of a young son. Metcalf undoubtedly knew the Collins property (it adjoined Pickman land) and he may have known old widow Collins. Perhaps he even farmed part of her land for her. When she finally died, Benjamin G. Metcalf bought the title (what was left of it) to the Collins farm from Charity's surviving daughter, 2 sons-in-laws and 3 grandchildren. Then he took over the Wyman-held mortgage (and paid that off at last in 1844).

Probably the homestead was in sad need of repairs by 1840. It was probably Metcalf who replaced the original fireplace woodwork with Federal Style. He also re-located the 3rd floor stairs to the back of the 2nd floor, and finished off 3 bedrooms on the 3rd floor. By now the Metcalfs had two sons, and in 1842 the third was born. Farming was not much more profitable a century later than when Morgan first plowed the land, and Benjamin Metcalf sold off 6 acres at the south edge of his property. The Civil War took away 19 year old George, the youngest son. He served 3 years in the Union Army, and then joined the adventurous young men to "go West". He settled in Iowa, and the oldest son settled in St. Louis. Charles the 2nd son stayed home.

In 1871, Benjamin Metcalf died, aged 76. He left no will, so according to law, his property would be divided among his 3 sons. This included his house and out buildings, 11 acres of land, 2 cattle, 1 horse, wagons, tools, furniture, etc., and \$700.00 in the bank. Mary his widow was left unprovided for, and 8 years later she petitioned the court that she was old and ill, with no funds to live on. Meanwhile Charles had married Mary Abby Peabody of Ipswich and they were living also in the homestead. The court granted the widow "dower in lands" and Charles received 2 (undivided) thirds of the land which included the house. (The oldest son's whereabouts were unknown.) The youngest son in Iowa had a local agent handle his third which was land at the south of the property.

Charles and his wife stayed on with the old widow. They never had any children. He was a surveyor, and seems to have bought and sold off land, in the process, mortgaging the family home several times. The old widow died in 1887. Charles wrote over the property into his wife Mary's name: only 5 1/2 acres were left of the original Morgan farm. In the 1890's Charles and Mary wrought the next changes in the house: Victorian stamped iron ceilings, ugly front porch and 2nd floor bay window; kitchen and dining room fireplaces bricked up and stoves installed. Window sashes replaced with 2 over 2 panes. Lafayette Street (as it was called since 1824) was being settled and 9 or 10 houses stood between what is now the College and the bridge at the Lead Mills. Charles (and Mary, whose name held the title) sold off his land gradually, and neighboring houses were built. In 1928 Charles died, aged 89 years old. A year later, almost a century after the first Metcalf acquired it, the last Metcalf, Mary sold her house and land: there remaining less than 2 acres of Dixey Morgan's farm.

In 1929 when Byron T. Atwood, his wife Helen and two young children moved into their new home, the Depression lay on the country. Land was cheap and the Atwood's new home was a good buy; at least the land was. The house, although basically the same solid farmhouse built about 170 years before, had no central

heat, and was sad, ugly looking, dingy and neglected. Over the next 30 years that the Atwoods lived here and raised 4 children they completely rejuvenated and modernized the house. They installed a good heating system, good plumbing, and replaced the ugly Victorian front porch structure with styling to restore the good taste of a dignified old mansion. A living room wing was added, and a bedroom over the kitchen. The barn replaced by a garage. The whole property tastefully landscaped with choice shrubs and trees. Stone retaining walls and terracing added much to the attractiveness of the setting. The driveway tennis court, gardens, children's playhouse and many more improvements followed.

In 1959, with their children grown and married, the Atwoods sold the property, now one of the loveliest residences in South Salem. Robert Dee, his wife Sylvia and their 4 children aged from 6 to 12 found the house just right for a growing family; the 5th family to grow up in this venerable home.

There is little open land left in Salem's "South Fields". The Pickman Farm area is all built up. "Adam's Swamp" is covered with the Veteran's Housing Project and the expanding Salem State College buildings. Samuel Gardner's home on the hill, later the residence of Mayor John M. Raymond, was torn down by developers. Dixey Morgan's ocean front lands have been long since sold and built upon. Only a 9 foot strip from Lafayette Street to the shore remains with the last 2 acres in the property of Dixey's ancient homestead, now in 1968 206 years old, the oldest house in South Salem.

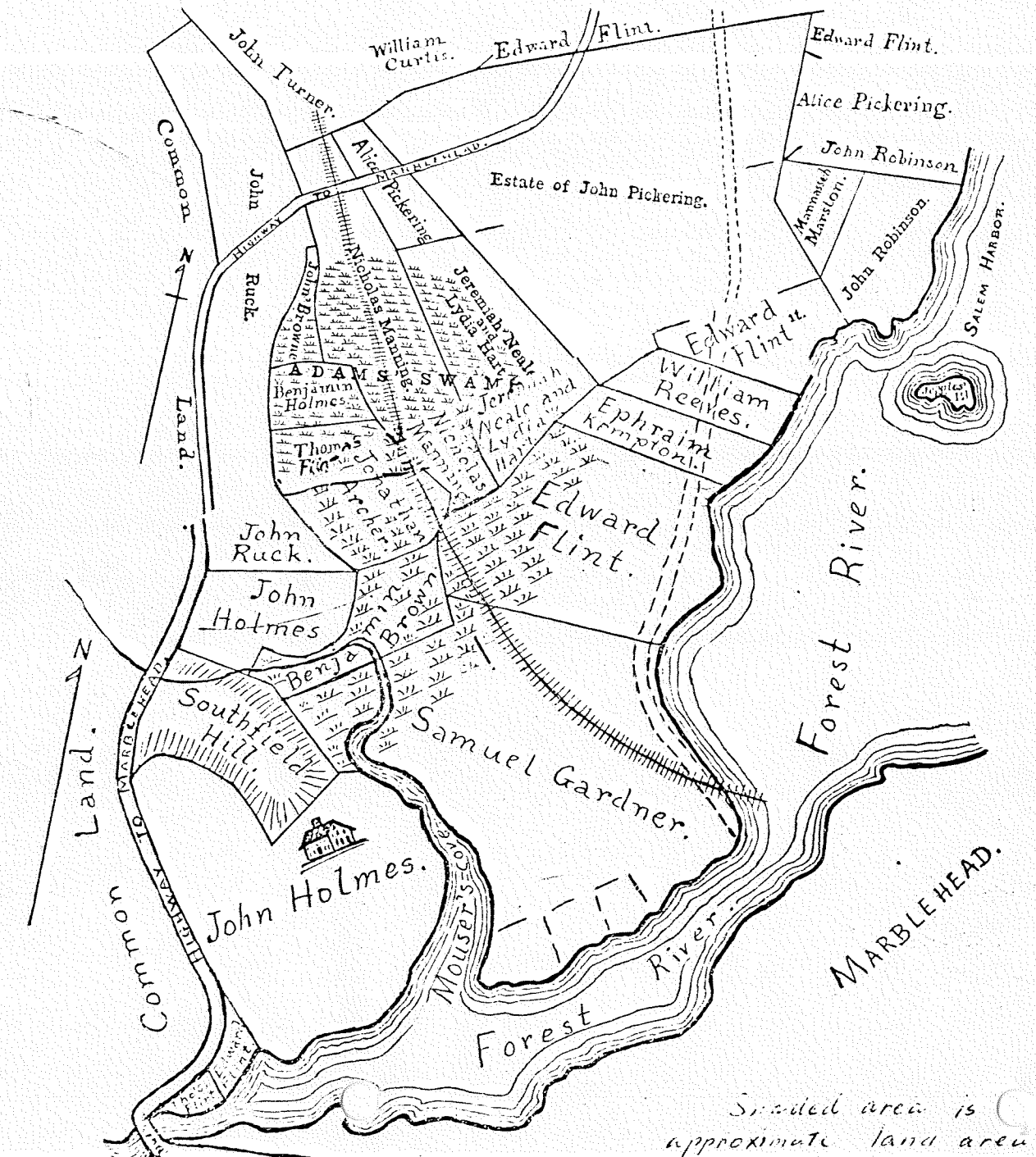
Documentation

- Book 3 page 3 In 1666 William Browne sells to William Flint for 25£ 15 acres (bought by William Browne from John Beckett, formerly belonging to William Jegales, dec.) in the South Field, bounded on the S. by Forest River, E. by harbor, N. by some ground formerly of Henry Harrod now of William Flint, W. land of Richard Adams.
- Book 26, page 148 In 1712 Ephraim Kempton deeds to his son John Kempton (incl. other land and houses elsewhere) "all that upland in South Fields given and bequeathed to me" (by his father-in-law John Reeves) about 2 1/2 or 3 acres, being half of a 5 acre lot, being next to the late Edward Flint's land, being part of the lot here to fore of Daniel Baxter's: also "my piece of meadow or marsh" about 1/2 acre bounded on the NW by Samuel Archer, E by Edward Flint's land lying undivided with about the same quantity of William Reeves.
- Book 35, page 62 In 1714 John Kempton mortgages this South Field land to William Browne. This is paid off to Samuel Browne and John Browne (heirs of William Browne) in 1718.
- Book 31, page 214 In 1717 David Flint pays up debt to Col. Samuel Browne and receives back title to land in South Fields including 5 acres bounded on N. by William Ropes, E. by harbor, S. by land of William Reeves, SW by Adams' Swamp, NW, by Benjamin Pickering.
- Book 31 page 215 In 1717 David Flint sells this same lot to Benjamin Gerrish and Benjamin Flint (who is executor of estate of the late Joseph Flint).
- Book 45, page 73 July 27, 1725 Samuel Ropes sells to Cockeril Reeves for 20£, 2 1/2 acres in the South Fields bounded as follows: N. by land that was formerly David Flint's, E. by Salem harbor, S. by John Kempton, W. by Jonathan Glover or Adam's Swamp. Samuel Ropes inherited this land.
- Book 110, page 223 April 24, 1753 Dixey Morgan bought 2 pieces of land from Cockeril Reeves for 32£, 13s, 4p. This deed was destroyed. A new one was made out (for 5s. more) with 2 dates: August 10, 1757 and October 13, 1762. This 2nd deed was signed by heirs of Cockeril Reeves: widow Elizabeth and many children and spouses.
First Parcel: 1 acre, 150 poles bounded on E. by road to Marblehead, (measuring 12 poles 9 links) S. on land of Francis Cabot (25 poles 13 links) NW by land of late Nathaniel Ropes to land of Joseph Ropes (18 poles 3 links) N. a little E. on land of Joseph Ropes (14 poles 2 links) to the road.
Second Parcel: 1 1/4 acres opposite 1st on other side of road, bounded on W. by said road, (12 poles 5 links) and * so on to harbor. E. on harbor (about 10 poles 13 links) S. on land of Francis Cabot to the road. * N. by land of Ropes
- Book 100, page 65 April 20, 1754 Dixey Morgan bought from Benjamin Gerrish for 190£ 2 s. 3p., 12 acres, 18 poles of land in the South Fields of Salem in 2 parcels.
First: bounded on NE corner by new road so called from Salem to Marblehead, being the SE corner of Francis Cabot's land, running by his land S. 39° 30' W. 35 poles, 15 links; thence S. 23° W. 12 poles, 17 links by land of Nathaniel Ropes, hence S. 41° W. 4 poles, 22 links by land of Joseph Bretton; thence S. 73° W. 3 poles, 2 links by said Bretton's land; thence S. 16° W. 4 poles, 12 links, then S. 4° W. 5 poles, 5 links, then S. 23° E. 11 poles 6 links to land of Capt. John Gardner; then E. 2° 30' E. 43 poles 10 links by said Gardner's land to said road and thence butting E. on said road to corner first mentioned.
Second parcel: (this is the land on the E. side of the road opposite the first tract, running along the harbor).

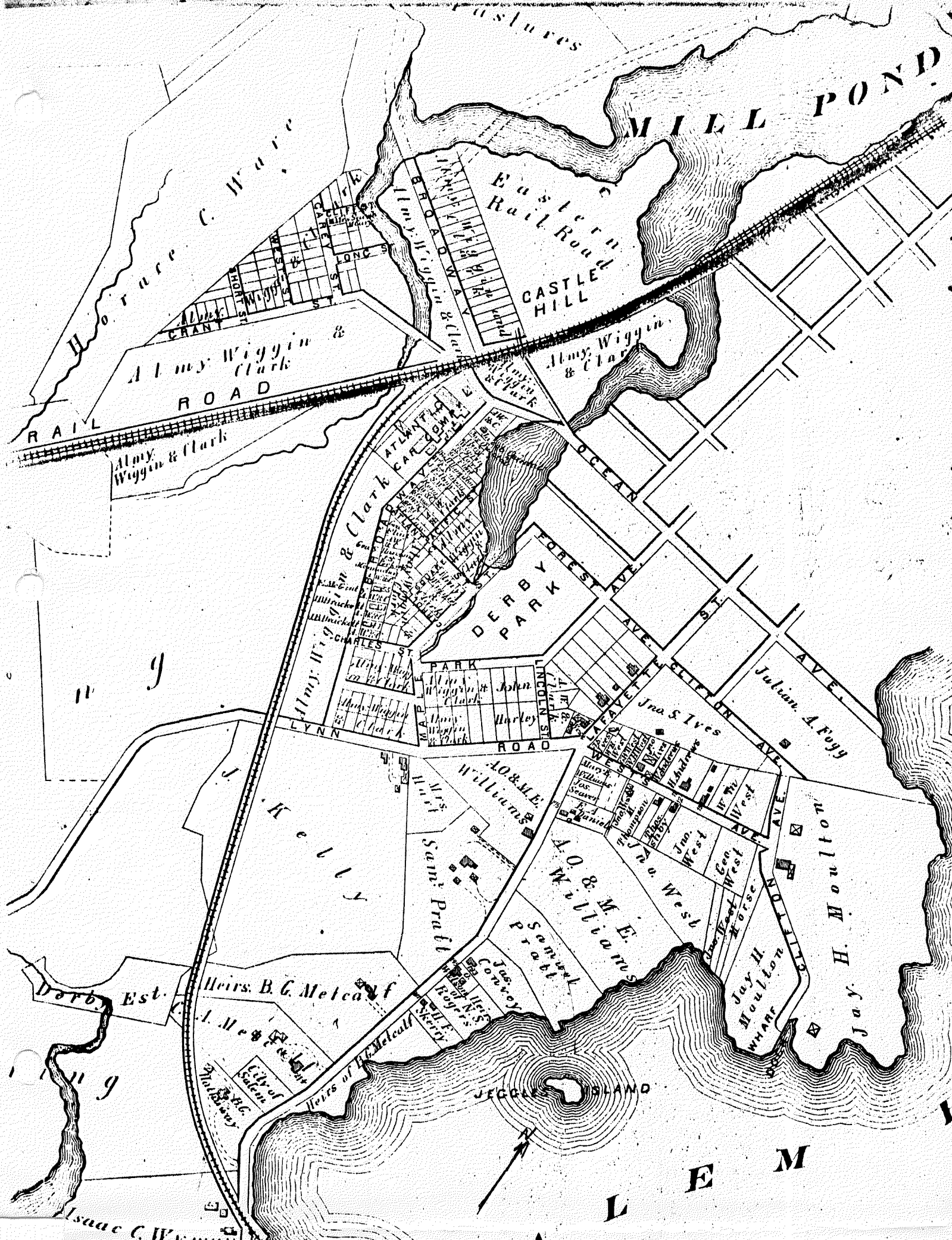
PART OF SALEM IN 1700.

NO. 34.

SCALE: 1 inch = 600 ft.



Shaded area is ()
approximate land area on



PARTS OF
WARDS
 SALEM.
 From 1874

South field to Marblehead, 1734; the old road so called to Marblehead, 1773; the road leading to Forest river bridge so called and Salem hospital, 1777; and Loring avenue since 1881.

The water on the east was called Forest river as early as 1666; ye water or harbor, 1669; the river, 1692; ye sea or salt water, 1708; cove or river, 1791; Salem harbor, 1812; and the harbor, 1829.

Forest river has been so called since 1636, at least. Its Indian name was Massabequash.

The creek running out of Forest river was called Mouser's cove in 1656, probably because John Mouser owned land upon it very early; and was called creek or branch of Forest river in 1730.

William Reeves Lot. This was a part of the lot of Daniel Baxter. It subsequently belonged to John Reeves of Salem as early as 1652. Mr. Reeves died in 1681, having devised this part of his lot to his son William Reeves, who owned it in 1700.

Ephraim Kempton Lot. This was a part of the five-acre lot of Daniel Baxter. It subsequently belonged to John Reeves of Salem, as early as 1652. Mr. Reeves died in 1681, having devised this portion to his daughter Mary's husband, Ephraim Kempton of Salem, a locksmith. He owned it in 1700.

Edward Flint Lot. This lot belonged to Daniel Baxter of Salem, seaman, before 1645, when the half-acre of marsh at the north end of it was granted to him. He conveyed the whole lot to William Flint of Salem 12: 3 mo: 1653.* Mr. Flint died, possessed of it, Feb. 2, 1672-3, having devised it to his son, Edward Flint. It was then appraised at twelve pounds. It belonged to Edward Flint in 1700.

Samuel Gardner Lot. Henry True owned this lot very early. He owned it in 1653; and probably conveyed that part of it lying easterly of the dashes soon after. It came into the possession of Samuel Gardner. Mr. True died in 1654, 1655-

possessed of that part of the lot lying westerly of the dashes; and his administratrix conveyed it to George Gardner of Salem, merchant, 22: 9: 1659.* Lieutenant Gardner died Aug. 20, 1679, having devised this part of the lot to his son Samuel, who owned the other part.

There were three small lots at the southern corner of this lot, shown on the map within the dashes. Henry True owned the middle one, and it was conveyed by the administratrix of his estate in the deed above-mentioned. The other lots were owned at that time (1659) by Samuel Archer and Goodman Skerry.

Samuel Gardner owned the entire lot in 1700.

Benjamin Browne Lot. This lot of meadow or marsh land early belonged to William Lord. He owned it probably as early as 1659. It belonged to Benjamin Browne in 1700.

John Holmes Lot. This lot was early known as "Mowser's," having probably belonged to John Mousar, and perhaps granted to him in 1639. Thomas Browning died, possessed of it, in the spring of 1671, having devised his land to his sons-in-law Joseph Williams and Isaac Meachum. They divided the estate 17: 2: 1675, and this lot was assigned to Mr. Meachum.† Mr. Meachum lived in Endfield, Mass., Nov. 14, 1693, when he conveyed this lot to Samuel Gardner of Salem.‡ For twenty-seven pounds Mr. Gardner conveyed it to John Holmes of Salem April 9, 1694;§ and Mr. Holmes died, possessed of it, in 1718.

Southfield Hill. This hill was reserved by the Southfield proprietors when the lands in this section were divided in the early days. When the new highway (now Lafayette street) was laid out from the present Normal school to the lead mills on Forest river, in 1737, the proprietors granted this hill to the owners of land

over which the new road was laid out.* This hill was hired for many years of the Southfield proprietors by John Holmes and after his death by his son Benjamin Holmes, before its grant in 1737.

John Holmes House. John Holmes was a yeoman and lived in Salem on this lot about 1676. When the house that stood here in 1700 was built is not known, but probably about 1676. Mr. Holmes died in 1718, and the house and land descended to his son Benjamin Holmes, who was a husbandman, and lived here. The house was probably taken down before 1750.

Edward Flint Lot. This lot was owned by William Flint very early. He died Feb. 2, 1672-3, possessed of it. His sons, Edward and Thomas Flint, divided the estate Dec. 3, 1694; and this lot was assigned to Edward.† Edward Flint owned it in 1700.

Thomas Flint Lot. This lot was owned by William Flint very early. He died Feb. 2, 1672-3, possessed of it. His sons, Edward and Thomas Flint, divided the estate Dec. 3, 1694; and this lot was assigned to Thomas,‡ who owned it in 1700.

SALEM IN 1700. NO. 35.

BY SIDNEY FERLEY.

The map on the opposite page represents that part of Salem lying between Loring avenue and the bay and from Forest river northwesterly about a third of a mile. It is based on actual surveys and title deeds, and is drawn on a scale of six hundred feet to an inch. It shows the location of the only house that was standing there in 1700. The dotted lines show where Lafayette street now runs. It was the road to Marblehead which was laid out in 1737, accounts of which have been given. Originally, it ran along the shore around the point in front of the residence of Hon. John M. Raymond. The land damages occasioned by the laying out of this road were met by the grant of the South field hill, shown on the map, to the owners of the several lots of land through which it passed. The line with the dashes across it show where the Marblehead branch of the Boston & Maine Railroad now runs.

Loring avenue was the old way to Marblehead, having been laid out in 1666, as described in a former article. It was called the highway as it goes toward Marblehead in 1676; highway to Marblehead, 1713; ye country road leading to Marblehead, 1719; ye road leading through

*Broken.

*Essex Registry of Deeds, book 1, leaf 73.

*Essex Registry of Deeds, book 1, leaf 73.

†Essex Registry of Deeds, book 4, leaf 100.

‡Essex Registry of Deeds, book 65, leaf 183.

§Essex Registry of Deeds, book 11, leaf 45.

*See Essex Registry of Deeds, book 74, leaf 138.

†Essex Registry of Deeds, book