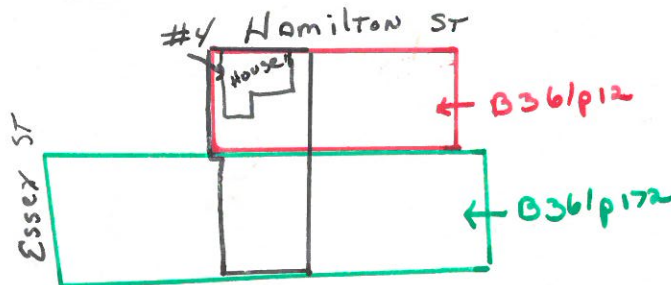


4 HAMILTON STREET

This house was built in 1858 by Capt. Charles Heffman as a cottage for his gardner Hugh Wilson. The first tax record found is 1858 which lists Hugh Wilson as occupant and Charles Heffman owner.

Capt. Heffman built the house on land he bought from Gilbert Newhall (Book 361page 12) in 1845. When he sold it to Hugh Wilson in 1877 the land included part of this lot and part of land he bought from Sarah Field (Book 361 page 172)



Prior to moving into 4 Hamilton St. Hugh Wilson is listed in the 1850 directory as living on North Pine St. The 1850 census record shows Hugh Wilson age 36, gardner born in Scotland - wife Isabella age 35 and sons William age 4, John age 2 and Robert age 6 months. In 1866 Hugh is listed as owner of a dog.

In the Essex Institute Historical Collections Vol.48 page 291 there is mention of Joseph Pearson who hired land in Andover since 1853 from Hugh Wilson now of Salem. This could be the same Hugh.

The following gives the chain of title and any other information found on the property.

HUGH WILSON

Mr. Wilson was born on Jan. 31, 1818 in Edenburg, Scotland. He was educated in parish schools of New Castle. Early in life he developed a taste for gardening and a passionate love of flowers.

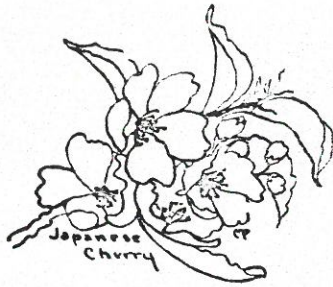
Mr. Wilson served three years as apprentice in the famous garden of the Duke of Bucklegh. He subsequently worked three years for marquis of Letham of New Battle Abbey and three years at Melville Castle, the seat of the viscount of Melville. While in the employ of the first named was in competition for a prize and won a silver medal for herbarian specimens.

He came to America in the sailing ship "Roscius" one of the Collins packets and landed in New York. There he resumed the occupation of horticulturist, first employed in floral establishment of George C. Therburn. On Jan. 16, 1844 Mr. Wilson entered the employ of Charles Heffman one of Salem's old time and well remembered African merchants. He remained there until the Captains death in 1878 and his services were retained by Mrs. Heffman in whose employ he was at death, continuous service of 55 years.

Mr. Wilson's first wife was Isabella, his second was Susan. He had three sons William a resident of Nebraska since 1873, John of 10 Hamilton St. Salem, and Robert of Springfield, Mass.

Mr. Wilson died April 23, 1899 after a brief illness. He was buried from his home on 4 Hamilton St. Service said by Rev. James Bredie of the South Church where Mr. Wilson worshipped for ever half a century. He was buried at Harmony Greve on Fern Path.

Salem News
April 24, 1899



Crossing to the north side of Chestnut Street at Flint, is the Wheatland house at No. 30, built in 1896, where the habitual passer-by awaits with expectation the blooming of the fairy like Japanese cherry (*prunus subhirtella pendula*) and later enjoys the magnolia at the other side of the entrance.

The house at No. 28, was erected originally by Ichabod Tucker about 1800 and a new front was built in 1846. It was later owned by the Wilsons, and is now the First Church parish, where Rev. and Mrs. Bradford E. Gale reside. Here there is a particularly fine hawthorn tree, beautiful old peonies and a box edging.

The garden of greatest interest is at No. 26. The Hoffman-Simpson house was built about 1826 by Humphrey Devereaux, purchased by Capt. Charles Hoffman between 1837-40. The captain was a noted horticulturist, and his garden was considered the finest in Salem. Among his importations were camellias, azaleas and smilax. Many herbaceous plants were added until his garden contained the finest collection to be found in the United States; many of these are still growing.

His three greenhouses extended along Hamilton Street with separate sections for roses, camellias, azaleas, oleanders, ferns and mixed flowers and another for grapes. Camellias and azaleas were planted in tubs, some as large as six feet in diameter; others were trained into pyramids, umbrellas and other topiary forms. During the season of bloom, people came from great distances to see them. At one time 600 to 700 camellias were cut and sold at a dollar apiece in the Boston market. This industry lasted for twelve to fifteen years. There was a night blooming cereus, one of the first to be raised in Salem, that had thirty to forty blossoms; another feature was twenty varieties of cacti.

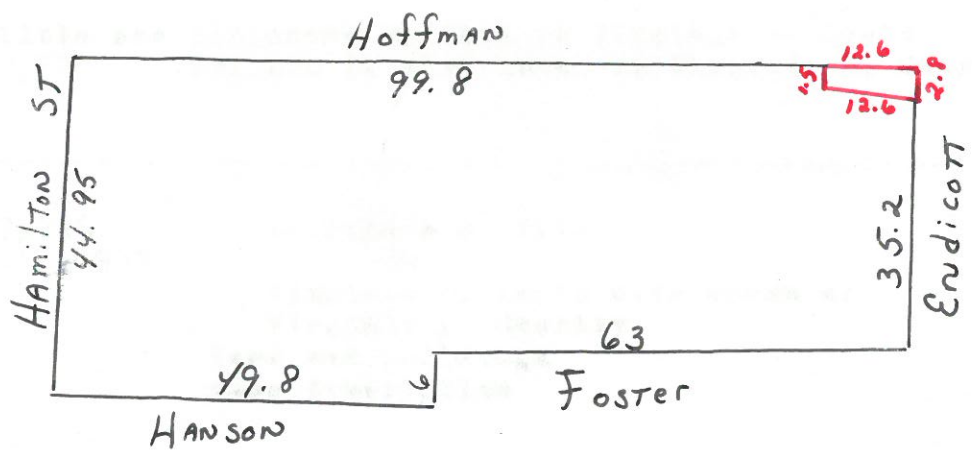
The grounds were enclosed after the fashion of the walled gardens of today, upon them the fruit trees were espaliered and the garden paths were edged with box. Within the garden there is a very old pump still standing and a latticed summer-house draped with Dutchman's pipe (*aristolochia durior*), probably over ninety years old. (1938)

During Capt. Hoffman's lifetime, Hugh Wilson was superintendent of gardens. From childhood he was a close friend of Peter Henderson, the horticulturist, to whose book Wilson contributed a chapter on grapes. He corresponded with the principal plant importers of the world and thereby obtained many fine specimens. At one time Mr. Magee was associated with him in the Hoffman garden, and in 1878, Hoffman gave Magee and Geary, then owners of a commercial greenhouse on Crombie Street, several azaleas and camellias. Some of the latter grew to the top of the greenhouse and had to be trimmed to confine them therein. They were kept for sentiment and never a blossom sold. Some were seventy-five and some nearer a hundred years old, and they were there until the greenhouse was razed.

Capt. John Fiske Allen, who lived across the street at No. 31, and Capt. Hoffman did much hybridizing with Spanish grapes, having excellent results. The Augustus, Rogers and Manning grapes became famous as grown in Salem. Some of these grapevines have continued to bear fruit since 1810, the huge roots outside, vine and Hamburg grapes within the hothouse.

On the second floor of the brick carriage house, Capt. Hoffman had built a grape closet, which was later used as a model by the government for a cold storage plant. It was a closely boarded section with the inner surface padded with curled hair, held in place by laths; the heavy door was one foot thick, with hand wrought hinges and handles, and was padded with curled hair held in place with tufted cotton cloth. Inside this room was a smaller one, insulated in a similar manner. The ceiling was of lath for the circulation of air, and grapes were hung on hooks from the ceiling. There was a shelf extending around three sides of the room. On the floor were the grape boxes, 12" x 14" x 33", which were 2½" thick and were lined with charcoal and closed with padded covers; here the grapes and other fruit were safely stored and brought out on state occasions. It is said that in the winter, Capt. Hoffman spent the greater part of his day in this closet, looking over the fruit by lantern light, when it was so cold that bricks were heated for him to stand on.

Virginia W. Lewis
Mar. 10, 1977
Leaving to the heirs of the late
Virginia W. Lewis
land and buildings
see also recording
deed
recording date



see Allen D. Lacey to Mary Leila Cook, Sept. 19, 1976
124-12476
Mary D. Galding to Elizabeth D. Cook

Mary D. Galding to Mary Leila Cook
Feb. 1, 1977
relating her right to property
to
Elizabeth D. Cook
land and buildings
and appurtenances

promissory life estate to Mary Leila Cook or heirs of
Allen D. Lacey Sept. 19, 1976 124-12476

Date of death of Mary Galding related to right of survivor

B6335p742
March 30, 1977

Virginia M. Lewis
to
Charles B and Susan P. Gilligan
tenants by entirety
Quit claim
land and buildings

see plan description
on
preceding page

for title see Elizabeth B. Shea to Virginia M. Lewis
B5457p796 Virginia is also known as Virginia L. Charity

B5457p796
July 12, 1967

Elizabeth B. Shea
to
Virginia M. Lewis also known as
Virginia L. Charity
land and buildings
same description

see Ellen D. Looney to Mary Louise Shea Sept. 29, 1919
B2424p476 Probate #287384 also deed B5340p450
Mary C. Goldkamp to Elizabeth B. Shea

B5340p450
Feb. 8, 1966

Mary C. Goldkamp of West Hartford Ct.
released her rights in property
to
Elizabeth B. Shea of Salem
land and buildings
same description

premises life estate to Mary Louise Shea by deed of
Ellen D. Looney Sept. 29, 1919 B2424p476

Otto husband of Mary Goldkamp released his right of dower

Probate #287384

Mary Louise Shea
died Jan.13,1966

heirs:

Elizabeth B. Shea	44 Chestnut St	daughter
Mary C. Geldkamp	261 S. Main St	"
	West Hartford Ct.	
J.P.Simmons	15 County Way Bv.	"
Margaret L. Powers	22 Princeton Dr.	"
	Medford	"
Patricia April	395 $\frac{1}{2}$ Jefferson Ave	grand daughter
Susan Rogers	17 Ellsworth Ave	" " "
Richard Callahan	" " "	son in law
		(not an heir)
Ellen McGrane	65 Endicott St.	grand daughter

May 12,1966

net proceeds from fire loss on personal property
received from St. Paul Insurance Co. \$4000 personal
property located at 4 Hamilton St.

B2424p476 Ellen D. Leoney, widow
for consideration land described
Sept. 29,1919

to Mary Louise Shea wife of Bartholemew
J. Shea now residing at 4 Hamilton St. to hold during
her life time and after her death in equal shares to her
children:

Ellen D. Shea
Elizabeth B. Shea
Mary C. Shea

to such of them that may be then living and if none of
them survive their mother then upon her death to such
persons in such proportions and upon such terms as she
may by her will appoint

same conveyed by deed
Walter T. Mc Donald May 1, 1913

B2210p573
May 1, 1913
\$1 and other
consideration

Mary Elizabeth Phinney
to
Walter T. McDonald

land and buildings

same description
conveyed by Robert Wilson May 26, 1906
B1828p26

purpose of this deed is to correct the error in the
description in deed of Oct. 31, 1910 B 2047p407

B2210p575
May 1, 1913
\$1 and other
consideration

Walter T. McDonald
to
Ellen D. Leoney

land and buildings

same description
this deed is to correct an error in the description of
a deed given by me to Ellen Leoney on Oct. 31, 1910
B2183p191

Walter's wife Margaret released her dower

B2183p191
Oct. 31, 1910
recorded
Nov. 27, 1912

Walter T. McDonald
to

Ellen D. Leoney

land and buildings

same description as B. 2047p407
corrective deed B2210p575

B2047p407
Oct. 31, 1910

Mary Elizabeth Phinney
to
Walter T. McDonald

land and buildings

the description of the property boundaries are different
than the original deed, it omits the 99.8 boundary line
the 1.5 and 12.6 lines are the wrong direction and the
35.2 line is listed 5.2 The rest is correct

all the errors are corrected in B2210p573

B1828p26

\$1

May 26, 1906

Robert and Margaret E. Wilson
of Springfield
William Wilson
of Normal, Nebraska

children and legatees of Hugh Wilson late of Salem

to
Mary Elizabeth Phinney

land and buildings
correct description

Susan F. Wilson widow of Hugh now dead

Probate #84384

Hugh Wilson

1899

Gilbert L. Streeter, Exc.

Inventory:

house and land

4 Hamilton St.
Magnolia Ave. Lynn

\$2,000

1,500

100

woodlot in Tewsbury

1,094.42

Salem Savings

1,114.10

Salem 5ct Savings

1,111.88

Warren Bank Peabody

1,107.31

Beverly Savings

1,049.58

Danvers Savings

1,357.40

Cape Ann Savings

notes and mortgages:

Bernard Fallen

1,000

William Flowers

500

Isaac Niles

1,200

Francis Burrill

1,850

Louis Beurneuf

1,800

R.B.DeLong

1,500

bonds of Cedar Rapids and Nev. Ry Co.

1,350

policy life insurance

2,000

cash

100

personal

25

other shares

no value

total 18,159.69

Probate #84384

Hugh Wilson (cont.)

heirs:

Susan F.	widow	Salem
Jehn	son	"
William	"	Nebraska
Robert	"	Springfield

Main part of will:

after decease of my wife \$1 to my son Jehn and all the rest to sons William and Robert will date June 16, 1897

B998p109
May 22, 1878
\$1

Charles Hoffman
to
Hugh Wilson

land
beginning 99.8 feet in from Hamilton St.



B977p180
May 13, 1877
\$2,500

Charles Hoffman
to
Hugh Wilson

message

