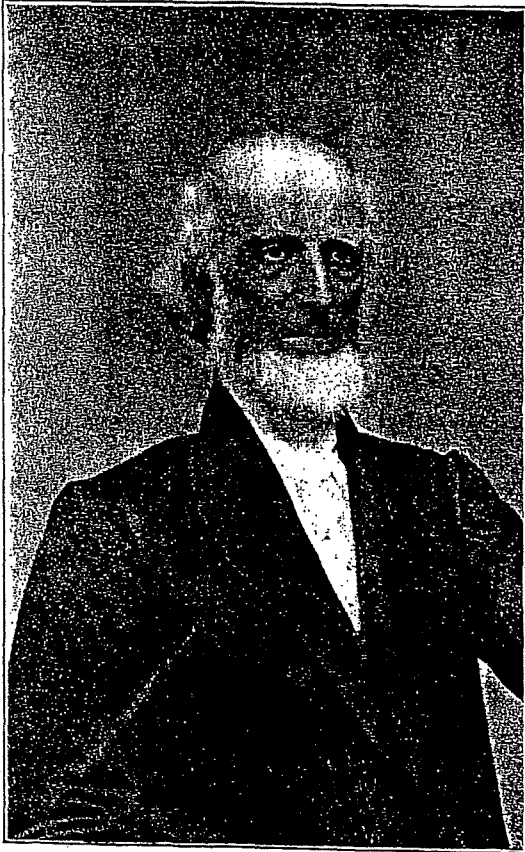


10 Gifford Court, Salem

Built by
Solomon Chaplin, housewright, 1806

Below:
Image of Rev. Michael Carlton, who for many years
Directed the organization that had the orphanage here



Mr. M. Carlton

History of House & Occupants Ten Gifford Court, Salem

By Robert Booth for Historic Salem Inc., Sept. 2009

According to available evidence, this house was built by Solomon Chaplin, housewright, in 1806, on Carpenter Street and was moved to this spot c. 1878 for R.B. Gifford and was occupied for many years by John E. Kimball, wood-shop proprietor, and his family.

On 15 August 1803 Ebenezer Shillaber, merchant, for \$400 sold to David Lord, Salem housewright, a lot bounded east 38' 4" on an "open way," north 100' on land of William Treadwell, west 38' 4" on land of Shillaber, south 100' on land of Phineas Cole (ED 173:18). Mr. Lord, a prominent contractor, built a house on the lot; and on 24 June 1805 he sold the same for \$1400 to Solomon Chaplin, housewright (ED 180:25). Mr. Chaplin, whose wife was named Polly, was a native of Rowley, and had been apprenticed to learn the carpenter's trade as a boy. Evidently he was very good at it.

Mr. Chaplin was an officer of the new Branch Church, on Howard Street. Rev. Josiah Spalding, formerly pastor of the Tabernacle Church, had lost a vote within that congregation, so his adherents had started the Branch Congregational church, which was made up mainly of "mechanics" (artisans) who were not natives of Salem. Two other officers of the church, Thomas Lamson and Joseph Edwards, resided nearby on Carpenter Street, as did Daniel Farrington. On the evening of January 16, 1806, as a meeting was being held at the Branch Church, some of Joseph Edwards' children kindled a fire among wood shavings on the floor of a room, and the Edwards house caught fire. Without adults at home at the time, the fire spread quickly, and the houses of Edwards, Lamson, and Chaplin burned down before the hand tubs and fire companies could get control (see Bentley's *Diary* for 16 Jan. 1806).

In 1806, evidently, Solomon Chaplin built a new house, perhaps on the foundation of the other one. He then decided to move to Monroe Street, recently opened between Essex and Federal Streets.

In August, 1808, he sold his former homestead for \$1600 to the Salem Female Charitable Society—dwelling house, other buildings, and lot—bounded with the dimensions as before, and referred to as the “same land I purchased of David Lord by deed 180:25” (ED 185:87). Thus ended Solomon Chaplin’s connection with this house. He resided on Monroe Street for many years. In Feb. 1831 his daughter Eliza Chaplin would marry Dr. George Nelson, 35, a graduate of Dartmouth (1822) and of Dartmouth Medical College (1828), who practiced first at Canaan, Conn., then Natchitoches, La., (two years), etc. (Dartmouth Alumni list, class of 1822, p.213).

The new owner, the Salem Female Charitable Society, was a charitable association that provided relief to widows of sailors and provided a home to the mariners’ orphans or destitute children. For many decades, this house served as the asylum for the unfortunate families and children whose breadwinners had been lost at sea and who could not otherwise escape being sent to the Charity House, out on a Salem Neck.

In 1823 the Society purchased the lot to the north, also fronting 38’ 4” on the street, from William Treadwell (ED 233:109). Gifford Court was not formally laid out (over part of the northerly lot) until the late 1870s.

The subsequent history of the town would remain one that primarily related to foreign trade and the perils of the sea for the next twenty years. In 1806 the British changed their policy toward American shipping, and no longer respected American-flagged vessels as neutral carriers. This disastrous policy change came just as the Derbys extended their wharf far out into the harbor, tripling its previous length to create more space for warehouses and ship-berths in the deeper water. The Crowninshields had recently built their great India Wharf at the foot of now-Webb Street. The other important wharves were White’s, Forrester’s (now Central, just west of Derby Wharf), and Union Wharf at the foot of Union Street. Farther to the west, smaller wharves extended into the South River, 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.

Beginning late in 1806, Salem’s commerce with the world was repeatedly interrupted by the British navy, which intercepted neutral trading vessels and often impressed American sailors into their service. France, at war with Britain, countered with its own adverse policy toward American shipping; and virtually overnight Salem’s shipping fleet lost its status as neutral shippers for the European nations. Salem and other American ports continued to push their trade into the oceans of the worlds, but now with the expectation that they would have to fight their way across the seas and into and out of foreign ports.

Salem’s twenty-year boom came to an end 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, which was widely opposed 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 on a ticket with Gov. Elbridge Gerry, a native of Marblehead.

Salem’s commerce with the world was repeatedly interrupted by the British, which intercepted neutral trading vessels and often impressed American sailors into their navy. Despite many warnings and negotiations, the British refused to alter their policies, and pushed President Madison into a position where he had few choices

other than hostilities. 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, the leader of the extreme Federalists, did not attend; and the Convention refrained from issuing any ultimatums. Nevertheless, it seemed almost treasonous to have convened it; and it signaled the beginning of the end for the national Federalist party.

At last, in February, 1815, peace was restored.

Post-war, America was flooded with British manufactured goods, especially factory-made knock-offs of the beautiful Indian textiles that had been the specialty of Salem importers for 30 years. Britain, dominant in India, had forced the Indians to become cotton-growers rather than cloth-producers; and the cheap Indian cotton was shipped to the English industrial ports and turned into mass-produced cloth. American national policy-makers reacted, in 1816, by passing a high tariff on cheap imported textiles, in order to protect and encourage America's own budding manufacturing capacity. The net result was to diminish what had been the most abundant and lucrative area of Salem's pre-war trade. Nevertheless, maritime commerce was Salem's business, and its merchants rebuilt their fleets and resumed their worldwide commerce, without a full understanding of how difficult the new international conditions had become. For a few years, their efforts were rewarded with reasonable profits, and it seemed that Salem was once again in the ascendant, with almost 200 vessels sailing to Europe, the Orient, the Caribbean and South America, and the southern ports.

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 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 long-standing trade that Salem would dominate; and its vessels thus gained access to all of the east African ports.

Salem's general maritime foreign commerce fell off sharply in 1824, as a second major tariff act was passed by Congress, to the benefit of manufacturers and the detriment of importers. Salem imports were supplanted by the goods that were now being

produced in great quantities in America. The town's prosperity began to wane, and many people saw no future locally. 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); and in general it seemed that the tide of opportunity was ebbing away from Salem. 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 1825 to raise the money to dam the North River for industrial power. Over the course of three years, the effort gained momentum, but ultimately its many investors failed to implement the plan, which caused several leading citizens to move to Boston, the hub of investment in the new economy.

In 1830 occurred a horrifying crime that brought disgrace to Salem. Old Capt. Joseph White, a rich merchant, now retired, resided in a mansion on Essex Street. His wealth was legendary in Salem, not least among the denizens of the nearby Salem Jail, where plots had long been hatched to break in and steal the Captain's putative treasure chest. One night, an intruder did break in and clubbed him to death in his sleep. All of Salem buzzed with rumors; but within a few months it was discovered that the murderer was a Crowninshield (after being put in jail he killed himself) who had been hired by his friends, Capt. White's own relatives, Capt. Joe Knapp and his brother Frank (they would be executed). The murder, and related lurid events, tarnished Salem further, and more families quit the now-notorious town.

The Salem Female Charitable Society, owner of this house, evidently dissolved in 1832. It was reorganized on May 1, 1833 as the seamen's Widow and Orphan Association; and by 1842 its president was Mrs. A. True, with Miss Abigail Ward as Secretary; and its Managers were Mrs. John Barton, Mrs. Daniel Bray, Mrs. Joseph Hodges, Miss Nancy Wellman, and eight more ladies, who were responsible for knowing who in their neighborhoods might need help (per 1842 Directory, p. 123).

In May, 1844, Robert Brookhouse, a very wealthy self-made merchant, for \$1400 purchased the house and land from the Salem

Female Charitable Society (ED 344:187); and then he donated to the Salem Seaman's Orphan & Children's Friend Society a piece of land with a house and buildings and half of a well, fronting 38' 4" on Carpenter Street and running back 100' (ED 345:6). It would appear that the Society was actually conveying the lot fronting 76' on Carpenter Street, although the deed mentions only one of the lots (the southern one, fronting 38' 4", with the house thereon).

The Seaman's Orphan & Children's Friend Society was founded "to ameliorate the condition of the fatherless and the widow" (per 1861 Salem Directory). It had two predecessor organizations. One was The Seamen's Widow and Orphan Association, formed in 1833. The other was the Salem Children's Friend Society, organized in 1839 "for the purpose of rescuing from evil and improving the condition of such children as are in indigent and suffering circumstances and not otherwise provided for" (see 1842 Salem Directory, pp.123-4). Both were originally focused on assisting the people of the seafaring East Parish of Salem, in the Derby Street waterfront neighborhood. In 1839 the Children's Friend Society's director was the tall, lanky, kindly Rev. Michael Carlton. For years before the founding of any society, Mr. Carlton and his wife had been taking in and caring for the orphaned children of seafaring families (see pp. 164-5, *Visitor's Guide To Salem*, 1927).

Michael Carlton (1795-1865) was born at Blue Hill, Maine, on 26 October 1795, died Salem 6 March 1865. He became a Baptist minister, and in 1822 accepted the call of a parish in Hopkinton.¹ He came to Salem in 1832 and married Deborah Hunt, who soon died. For several years, starting in 1837, he was pastor of the Seamen's Bethel Church on Herbert Street in Salem; and he was a missionary all week long to the sailors along the waterfront, notable as "the friend in need' of the wretched and the poor," known to the wisecracking boys of Wapping as "Gospel Tongs," plucking sinners from the flames.

¹ This paragraph taken from *The Perkins Family*, EIHC 21:59-60, 1884, and from *The Old Ladies Home*

Michael Carlton married (2nd wife) 8 Oct. 1833 Hannah Perkins (1800-1883), born Salem 26 May 1800, d/o James Perkins of Salem, died 4 Dec. 1883. Issue:

1. Francis Perkins, 20 Aug. 1834, d. 26 March 1836.
2. Priscilla Ann, 28 Jan. 1836, d. 1 Feb. 1866.
3. Francis Perkins, 28 Aug. 1837
4. Elizabeth, 2 Sept 1841, d. 21 July 1863.

Eventually, the Carltons' friends and admirers raised money to help the children. The Society itself was made up of well-to-do merchants and their wives, who shared their wealth with the families of mariners who had died ashore or been lost at sea, leaving widows, fatherless children, and sometimes, orphans. These seafaring men, employed by the merchants to sail their vessels, faced dangers from storms, mischance, disease, and enemies at sea and on land. Often the sailors died in the service of the merchant, leaving little for the subsistence of their families. This is where the ship-owning merchant families stepped in, to be sure that no family in Salem would suffer from hunger or want.

In the early 1840s, Mr. and Mrs. Carlton resided on the north side of Charter Street in the handsome old Mason-Harraden house, and used a house nearby as an orphanage. Beginning in 1844, the orphans and perhaps some fatherless families evidently resided here in a house on the site of the present house at 7 Carpenter Street.

In 1846, the Children's friend was evidently operating a school here as well as orphanage. Mrs. Sophia West was the superintendent of the Children's Friend Society, house 7 Carpenter Street, and Mary J. West was a teacher and resident there (1846 Salem Directory). (The 1851 atlas shows this site as occupied by the building of the "Seamen's Orphan Asylum.")

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. As the decade wore on, and the new railroads and canals, all running and flowing to Boston from points north, west, and south, diverted both capital and trade away from the coast. Salem's remaining merchants took their equity out of local wharves

and warehouses and ships and put it into the stock of manufacturing and transportation companies. 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.

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 led 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, at the head of Salem Harbor, were retooled for making high-quality white lead and sheet lead. These enterprises were a start toward taking Salem in a new direction. In 1838 the Eastern Rail Road, headquartered in Salem, began operating between Boston and Salem, which gave the local people a direct route to the region’s largest market. The new railroad tracks ran right over the middle of the Mill Pond; the tunnel under Washington Street was built in 1839; and the line was extended to Newburyport in 1840.

In the face of these changes, some members of Salem’s waning merchant class continued to pursue their sea-borne businesses into the 1840s; but it was an ebb tide, with unfavorable winds. Boston, transformed into a modern mega-port with efficient railroad and highway distribution to all markets, had subsumed virtually all foreign trade other than Salem’s continuing commerce with

Zanzibar. The sleepy waterfront at Derby Wharf, with an occasional arrival from Africa and regular visits from schooners carrying wood from Nova Scotia, is depicted in 1850 by Hawthorne in his cranky “introductory section” to *The Scarlet Letter*, which he began while working in the Custom House.

Although Hawthorne had no interest in describing it, Salem’s transformation did occur in the 1840s, as more industrial methods and machines were introduced, and many new companies in new lines of business arose. 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. It stood on filled-in land at the foot of Washington Street, where the merchants’ wharves had been; and from it the trains carried many valuable products as well as passengers. The tanning and curing of leather was very important in Salem 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. It too benefited from the Zanzibar and Africa trade, as it produced light cotton cloth for use in the tropics. 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 began to transform, as hundreds of Irish families, fleeing the Famine in Ireland, settled in Salem and gave the industrialists a big pool of cheap labor.

In 1851, Stephen C. Phillips succeeded in building a railroad line from Salem to Lowell, which meant that the coal that was landed at Phillips Wharf (formerly the Crowninshields’ great India Wharf) could be run cheaply out to Lowell to help fuel the boilers of the mills, whose output of textiles could be freighted easily to Salem for shipment by water. This innovation, although not long-lived,

was a much-needed boost to Salem's economy as a port and transportation center. 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, 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.

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. In that year (census)...

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, just as President Lincoln was assassinated. The four years of bloodshed and warfare were over; the slaves were free; 800,000

men were dead; the union was preserved and the South was under martial rule. Salem, with many wounded soldiers and grieving families, welcomed the coming of peace.

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, this house was the asylum of the Salem Seamaen's Orphan & Children's Friend Society (1870 census, house 253). Ms. Azubah Kilpatrick, 35, born in Maine, was the on-premises superintendent. She was assisted by Miss Emma Bruce, 18; and their servant was Ellen Marr, 19. They had charge of fifteen children, ranging in ages from four to eleven (see appended census printout).

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

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.

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.

The 1874 atlas shows (evidently) the old Chaplin house (sold 1808 to the Female Society) in situ, numbered 9 Carpenter Street, owned by the "Children's Friend Society," with a shed or barn attached to it at the rear. Gifford Court did not exist as a formal roadway at that time, but its site was probably used as a passage-way.

In 1877 it was decided to build a large new orphanage on the site of this house. The new building was to occupy the site on the corner of Carpenter Street and the new roadway (Gifford Court). This house, evidently, would be removed to its present site, on land then owned by Rufus B. Gifford, a contractor who worked on the new building. The children and their caretakers moved out of the house on April 3, 1878, so presumably it was moved at that time or shortly afterward. The house likely had two chimneys, each serving the main rooms left and right; but the left chimney was evidently removed for the move, and the right may have been too, although the chimneypieces were retained on that side in the parlor and the parlor chamber.

Many donations were made toward the project, including \$5,000 from Mrs. Hemenway. John C. Osgood headed up the building committee, and working plans for the new building were drafted by Aaron Goldthwait.

The old house was removed and work on the new building commenced on April 16. The frame was raised on May 10, the roof and walls were on by May 25, and plastering was under way by June 27. C.H. Flint and company were excavators and masons. The stone work was done Mr. Merrill. R.B. Gifford won the general contract for carpentry (executed by the men at Ashby & Rowell), plumbing (by F.P. Goss), slating (by George Fowler), roofing (by J.D. & J.W. Eaton), and stair-building (by Henry Conant). Charles B. Brown won the contract for painting and tiling, while Frothingham & Fifield set the furnaces. Mr. Osgood superintended all the work.

The new building was completed and furnished by October, and was dedicated in an impressive ceremony on the 24th. People and institutions had made special memorial donations and gifts, which were displayed throughout the downstairs rooms. The upstairs rooms were used as dormitories, and were equipped with iron bedsteads and white counterpanes. A play-room, hospital, nursery, bath, and rooms for matron and assistants. Downstairs were the administrative offices, dining room, etc. The dedication event included choirs, speeches, and a public inspection of the new building, which was thoroughly described in the newspapers of the time (see articles from the Oct. 26, 1878, *Salem Observer*, and the Oct. 28 *Salem Register*).

The 1878 valuations (ward 4, p.18) shows that R.B. Gifford was assessed for various pieces of real estate, including a house near Carpenter St (\$900 or \$600) and half of the house at 19 Carpenter St. (\$900). In 1879 (p. 20) RBG: 21 Gifford Ct. house, \$1000, also ½ house 19 Gifford Ct. \$900 (nothing on Carpenter St.), etc. In 1880 (p.22): RBG: as 1879, etc. (1880 tax book: ward four: John E Kimball, 13 Gifford Ct.)

John E. Kimball resided here, evidently as the first tenant, and certainly by 1879. He was a notable carpenter, born in 1841; in 1870 he had resided at then-Ten Carpenter Street (per directory). He and his second wife, Sarah Hoyt, had just married, in 1877.

Through the 1880s and 1890s the John E. Kimball family resided here as the tenants of Rufus B. Gifford. By 1886 John E. Kimball was advertising his sash-making shop at 12 Carpenter Street in the Salem Directory (he resided here at then-5 Gifford Court).

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.

In November, 1895, the house was the scene of the evening wedding of Jennie Kimball and George L. Hyde in a ceremony performed by Rev. John W. Buckham. Best man was George E. Teel; maid of honor was Jennie's sister Edith C. Kimball. "The house was prettily decorated with flowers and plants, and the Cadet orchestra furnished music." (per *Kimball Family News*, p.262).

In 1900, this house (house 107, 1910 census, ward 4, ED 450, p. 6) was occupied by John Kimball, 59, and (second) wife Sarah, 46, married 13 years, with no children by this marriage. John worked as a wood moulder.

In 1910, this house (h. 37, 1900 census, ward 4, SD 119, ED 464, sheet 3) was occupied by John Kimball, 60, still working as a wood turner with his own shop, and his wife Sarah, along with a lodger, Sadie Moore, 42, born in Canada, a trained nurse in a private family.

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. 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.

Salem kept growing. The Canadians were followed in the early 20th century by large numbers of Polish and Ukrainian families, who settled primarily in the Derby Street neighborhood. 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.

By 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.

On October 31, 1929, occurred the death of Mrs Sarah. Hoyt Kimball, wife of John; her funeral was held Nov. 1 1929 from house at 10 Gifford Court, conducted by Rev. Carl Heath of Crombie Street Church, with burial at South Side Cemetery, Ipswich. (per Salem Evening News, 2 Nov. 1929, Sat.). Shortly after Sarah's demise, John E. Kimball died too, perhaps within a few months. He had resided here for about fifty years.

In 1930, the house was purchased and occupied by a leather worker, Joseph P. Kelly, wife Annie, and whatever children they may have had (per directory). In July, 1930, the Gifford heirs sold the premises to the Kellys (he was Patrick J.) (ED 2852:336).

By 1932 another occupant here, alongside the Kellys, was Mary J. Behan, who lived here through the 1930s evidently. In February 1938 the Kellys sold the premises to Mary Horan (ED 3138:179) but they continued to reside here. In September, 1946, she gave the premises to Joseph J. Kelly (ED 3518:80) but she retained a life interest therein. Perhaps Joseph was the son of the previous owners, who continued to reside here with Mary Horan. Evidently she died by 1952. In March of that year JJK sold the homestead to Sophie Sifanech (ED 3880:407).

In 1952 the J.P. Kellys moved away to 11 Lemon Street; and this house was vacant for a while (per directory). In August 1952 Ms. Sifanech sold the premises to Edward A. Ruxton (ED 3919:339). By 1953 the occupants were Edward A. Ruxton, leather worker, wife Sophie, and (their daughter, likely) Joy A. Ruxton, student nurse (per directory); and they would reside here until selling in 1956 to Delvina and Leo Brousseau (ED 4247:2), who would own it for more than twenty years.

Salem, the county seat and regional retail center, prospered through the 1950s and into the 1960s. Sylvania, Parker Brothers, Pequot Mills (formerly Naumkeag Steam Cotton Co.), Almy's department store, various other large-scale retailers, large tanneries, and Beverly's United Shoe Machinery Company were all major local employers. Then the arrival of suburban shopping malls and the relocation of manufacturing businesses took their toll, as they have with many other cities. More than most, Salem has navigated its way forward into the present with success, trading on the notoriety of the witch trials and on its history as a great seaport and as the home of Bowditch, McIntire, Bentley, Story, and Hawthorne. Most of all, it remains a city where the homes of the old-time merchants, mariners, housewrights, carpenters, and mill-operatives are all honored as a large part of what makes Salem different from any other place.

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

Know all Men by these Presents That I Solomon Chaplin of Salem in the County of Essex
 to Female
 Essex house in consideration of one thousand & six hundred dollars paid me by the Charitable Society
 of Salem Female Charitable Society in Salem aforesaid the receipt whereof I do hereby
 acknowledge do hereby give grant sell and convey unto the said Salem Female Charitable
 Society & their assigns forever a lot of land in Salem aforesaid & bounded as follows
 viz beginning at the northeast corner thereof by the southeast corner of the lot that
 Mr Phineas Shillaber late of said Salem dec^d sold to William Sheadwell and from
 thence running westerly one hundred feet, bounding north by an said lot purchased
 by said Sheadwell, thence running furtherly and bounding westerly by land belonging
 to the heirs of said Shillaber thirty eight feet four inches, thence running easterly & bounding
 furtherly by land of Phineas Cole one hundred feet thence running westerly thirty
 feet & five inches, and thence bounding easterly on a way called Carpenter Street, with the
 dwelling house and other Buildings thereon and on the same well owned by myself
 and the said Cole - with all the privileges and appurtenances to the same belonging
 it being the same land which was conveyed to me the said Chaplin by David Lord of
 said Salem handsright by his deed recorded in the Registry of Deeds for said
 County of Essex Book 100th Leaf 25 as will appear reference being thereto had
 to have & to hold the grant premises with the appurtenances to the

Solomon Chaplin
to Female
Charitable Society

see
B. 344.
p. 186.

Aug. 6,
1808

ED
185:87

1		William	20	M	at home	Ireland	1	1		
2		Ellen	17	F	at home	Mass	1	1		
3		John	17	M	at home	Mass	1	1	May	
4		John	10	M	no occupation	Ireland	1	1		1
5	240	George	31	M	at home	Ireland	1	1		1
6		William	28	M	at home	Ireland	1	1		1
7		William	24	M	at home	Ireland	1	1		
8		George	24	M	at home	Ireland	1	1		
9		William	17	M	at home	Mass	1	1		
10		William	17	M	at home	Mass	1	1		
11	250 346	William	10	M	at home	Mass			soon	
12		Mary	11	F	at home	Mass				
13		Joseph	11	M	at school	Mass				1
14	251 349	William	12	M	at home	Mass				
15		Mary	11	F	at home	Mass				
16		Joseph	18	M	no occupation	Mass				
17		Friedrich	14	M	at school	Mass				1
18		Charles	11	M	at school	Mass				1
19		Alice	7	F	at school	Mass				1
20		Robert	2	M	at home	Mass				
21		Edgar	3	M	at home	Mass				May
22		Henry	29	M	no occupation	Mass				
23	252 343	William	16	M	at home	Mass				
24		Mary	12	F	at home	Mass				
25		Charlotte	21	F	no occupation	Mass				
26	253 347	William	17	M	at home	Mass				
27		Bruce	18	M	at home	Mass				
28		Ellen	19	F	at home	Mass				
29		Ellen	11	F	at school	Mass				1
30		Jane	11	F	at school	Mass				1
31		Kelly	9	F	at school	Mass				1
32		Clara	9	F	at school	Mass				1
33		Ellen	8	F	at school	Mass				1
34		Lillian	8	F	at school	Mass				1
35		Nelly	7	F	at school	Mass				1
36		Anna	4	F	at home	Mass				1
37		Ida	4	F	at home	Mass				1
38		Frank	9	M	at school	Mass				1
39		Andrew	6	M	at school	Mass				1
40		John	4	M	at home	Mass				1

John Starnes & Charles
Ground Society

5	No. of dwellings	4	No. of white females	23	No. of males foreign born	4	No. of males	16	No. of females	22
	families	5	colored males		females	2				
	white males	17	females		blind					

Arthur Fadah, 6 b mass et school
John Perry 4 " " " home
Frank Cloutman 4 " " " "

1870 WD 4

Know all men by these presents;

Salem F. C.
Society
to
Robt. Brookhouse.

344:187

that the Salem Female Charitable Society in Salem, in the County of Essex; in consideration of the sum of one thousand and five hundred dollars paid by Robert Brookhouse of Salem, in said County Merchant, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant, sell and convey unto the said Robert Brookhouse his heirs and assigns a lot of land situate in Salem aforesaid, and bounded as follows (viz), beginning at the Northeast corner thereof by the Southeast corner of the lot that Mr. Ebenezer Phillips late of said Salem deceased, sold to William Treadwell, and from thence running Westerly one hundred feet bounding Northerly on said lot purchased by said Treadwell, thence running Southerly and bounding Westerly by land belonging to the heirs of said Phillips thirty eight feet and four inches; thence running Easterly and bounding Southerly by land of Phineas Cole one hundred feet, thence running Northerly thirty eight feet and four inches and thence bounding Easterly on a way called Carpenter Street, with the dwelling house and other buildings thereon, and one half of a well formerly owned by Solomon Chaplin and said Cole, with all the privileges and appurtenances to the same belonging; it being the same estate which was conveyed to the Salem Female Charitable Society by Solomon Chaplin by deed dated August 6th 1808. and Recorded in Registry of Deeds Book 135. Leaf 87.

To have and to hold the aforesaid premises to the said Brookhouse his heirs and assigns to his and their use and behoof forever. and said Society doth covenant with the said Brookhouse his heirs and assigns that they are lawfully seized in fee of the aforesaid premises, that they are free of all incumbrances, that they have good right to sell and convey the same to the said Brookhouse, and that they will warrant and defend the same premises to the said Brookhouse his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons: - In Witness Whereof, the said Salem Female Charitable Society by Mary F. Brookhouse first Directress of said Society and Frances A. P. Safford Secretary of said Society hereunto duly authorized have hereunto set our hands and seals this tenth day of May, in the year of our

Lord, one thousand eight hundred and forty four: —

Signed, sealed and de-
livered in presence of,
Robert Brookhouse jr.
Stephen P. Webb.

Mary F. Brookhouse — seal
Frances A. P. P. Safford — seal

Essex. ss. Salem May 10th 1844. Then

the above named Salem Female Charitable Society by Mary F. Brook-
house and Frances A. P. P. Safford their attornies acknowledged
the above instrument to be their free act and deed:

before me. Stephen P. Webb. justice of the peace

Essex. ss. Received. May 13 1844. 2 m. before 10. A.M.

recorded and examined by . . . R. H. French. Reg.

republican party and held it responsible for "the 8000 dram-shops in Boston and 12,000 in the state." The only weak thing in the meeting that we notice in the accounts is that the Hyde Park Band was present to make an agreeable noise. Better do without the bauds. Parties which have no principles stand in need of brass bands to fill the vacuum, but the temperance cause has got to succeed by persuading the minds of people and stirring their hearts or not at all.

The Essex County Clambake at Ipswich on Tuesday, in the interest of Butler's campaign, did not, so they say, "come up to the high sounding phrase of the manifesto." The people were there in only moderate quantities—say a couple of thousand—and the extra trains which were advertised were not needed. The speeches were made in a tent near the depot; where the county fairs are held, and the clambake was held in the same locality. The talking was done by Gen. Butler and Rev. Mr. Delamater of Indiana, one of the green-back congressmen chosen at the late election.

The election takes place one week from next Tuesday. Then will close the most vituperative campaign. It will be well if the country never sees another like it. The prospects as to the result seem to us to be, as they have been from the beginning, largely in favor of the election of Talbot. Gen. Butler will run best in the manufacturing towns, but in the rural districts and in such places as Salem, he will be badly beaten, so that we do not see how he can overcome the republican majority. There will probably be a very full vote and that of itself will greatly help the republican party.

The Butler parade and reception in Lynn on Tuesday evening was a large and lively affair. The procession which escorted Gen. Butler consisted of five Butler battalions of Lynn; the Butler Guards from Salem; members of the various Butler clubs in the city; and a battalion of Butler cavalrymen. The music was furnished by four bands and several drum corps. At Music hall Gen. Butler, having been introduced by Nathan Clark, the coalition candidate from the fifth district, delivered his address, which contained nothing material that was new. Overflow meetings were held at the Academy of Music, where Butler addressed the torchlighters, and also at Centennial hall, where there was another large gathering. Two Butler flags were raised during the evening,—one at the Sagamore house and one at Pleasant hall.

The statement in the last Observer concerning Mr. Hubbard Breed and his action in a late convention was based upon the best authority, and was written simply to relieve Mr. B. of an unjust accusation started by one of the scribblers of the Boston Herald. The matter was of very little consequence in itself, but we have since taken the trouble to enquire further into it, and we are satisfied that our representation of the facts was exact in all essential particulars. In fact we are confirmed in our accounts by the Salem delegate himself, who was said, untruly, to have been prompted by Mr. Breed. When we undertake to state a fact in the Observer we usually take some pains to get it right, and we would affectionately invite the scribblers for the Post and the Herald to do the same. It will make their lucubrations more valuable as well as interest-

DEDICATION.

OF THE "HOME" OF THE SEAMAN'S ORPHAN AND CHILDREN'S FRIEND SOCIETY.

The new "Home" of the Seaman's Orphan and Children's Friend Society was dedicated on Thursday last. It is a substantial, convenient and beautiful structure,—a credit to the enterprising and devoted ladies who manage this grand charity as well as to the honesty and workmanship of the mechanics who have been concerned in its construction. There is an air of good taste, adaptability, and generosity about the edifice, within and without that doubtless had much to do with evoking a general spirit of praise, at the dedication.

The building is three stories in height. The first room on the left, on the first floor, is handsomely furnished for the use of the managers of this institution. The next room on the same side is for the matron, the next to be used as a sewing room, (on the right, the first room is an ample dining room, then comes the kitchen, and beyond the laundry, with soapstone tubs, mangle and other conveniences.

On the second and third floors are the dormitories, with nice iron bedsteads and snow-white counterpanes, a splendid play-room, the Matron's and Assistants' rooms, nursery, hospital, bath-room, &c. Nothing apparently is wanting which could promote the welfare of the little ones who are or who may be so fortunate as to find a home within these walls. There are many conveniences about the house which visitors will be interested in noting, but which need not be here mentioned in detail. Nearly or quite all of the pictures and ornaments which beautify many of the rooms, are gifts of friends of the home, who have thus shown their sympathy for the good work which a few untiring laborers have been engaged in for many years.

In one of the rooms around the fire place is some pretty tile, the gift of Mr. Jas. Chamberlain, as a memorial of his deceased wife who was an ardent friend of this institution, and in another Mrs. N. B. Mansfield has contributed a similar token of regard for the home. The nursery was furnished by the money raised by a few little girls residing in So. Salem, who conducted a very successful fair and one or two entertainments with this end in view. The pretty Persian tapestry carpet on the floor of the manager's room, was the gift of a lady friend and the furniture was contributed by the South Church Sunday School, excepting two antique chairs by Mrs. Geo. H. Loring and two elegant bookcases and a desk, by a benevolent friend. The marble clock and ornament and the tables in the dining room were the gifts of the Tabernacle Sunday School, and the hospital was furnished by the Cromblestreet Sunday School. The nice fire sets in the principal rooms are the gift of the Universalist Sunday School. The silver for the table was contributed by the First Church. The amounts contributed by the other Sunday Schools have gone into the general furnishing fund. There are probably more objects in and about the house which have an interesting history of rightly directed sentiment, than can be found in almost any other institution in our midst.

At the dedication of the home, on Thursday afternoon, the numerous friends of this charity were present in large numbers. There was hardly standing room within the sound of the various speakers' voices for all. It was an event in the life of those concerned in the management of this institution, especially to those who have followed its course from its infant days to its present fulness of strength and usefulness. Among those present were the President of the Society, now in her nineteenth year, the former treasurer, now in her ninety-second year, and Mrs. Homans, who contributed \$5,000 towards the building fund.

The exercises were opened with singing by a select choir, of "The Father's hand in all,"

DEATH OF GENERAL DEVEREUX. Our obituary column to-day contains a record of the death, on Thursday, of General George H. Devereux, after a protracted illness, and at the age of 69 years. General Devereux was born in Salem and always resided here, except for a short period in early life, when he removed to Cheneyfield, Me., in hopes to recover from pecuniary embarrassments which had overtaken him, but in which he was disappointed. He was a scholar by taste and education, a graduate of Harvard college, and a man of rich promise in his youth. As a public speaker he was extremely felicitous, although he but seldom appeared before the public. A few Lyceum lectures and occasional addresses, with now and then a political speech, in the old whig days, comprised all the efforts in this direction. But on such occasions the graces and fervor of his style and the force of his observations always captivated his hearers. General Devereux's public services were mainly in the military department of the State. He was for several years captain of the Salem Light Infantry, and was subsequently Adjutant General of the Commonwealth. We know of no remains which he leaves as a literary man except a novel, published eight or ten years ago, based upon his experiences in the Maine woods—a work of decided merit, rich in its descriptions of natural objects, and with passages of much fervor in its delineations of character.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE. The School Board held a meeting on Monday evening. The morning session of the Brown Primary school was fixed from Oct. 1 to April 1, to begin at 8.30 and close at 11.30 o'clock. A special committee was appointed to consider the expediency of approving such private schools as are attended by factory children, in accordance with the State law. The sum of \$200 was added to the appropriation for finishing the art room at the High School. The following teachers were elected: Lucy W. Elles, principal of Naumkeag School; Ellen Clarke, assistant in Bodwich Grammar; Mary A. Gage, assistant in Bentley Grammar, and Alice P. Jackman and Eliza Murphy, assistants in the Holly-street Grammar school.

CITY HALL DONORS. The Board of Aldermen held a meeting on Thursday evening. One name was registered on the voting list. The Mayor read the correspondence pertaining to the gift of \$5000 by A. A. Low of New York, for educational purposes, the substance of which is presented in another column. An order was adopted, on motion of Alderman Emmerton accepting the gift in appropriate terms, and appointing the Mayor, two members of the Board of Aldermen, with such as the Common Council may join, to whom the subject shall be referred for further action.

Concurrent action was taken in the matter of improving the Ward 3 ward room, and also in the \$2000 appropriation for the extension of the Broad street primary school house.

The Common Council order regarding extra clerical assistance in the office of the City Clerk, was a subject of debate, partly on account of its obscure wording. Mr. Benjamin advocated respectfully returning it for the purpose of having its intent made more clear, though there was no apparent opposition to any inquiry that might be intended.

The City Marshal's monthly report was read. There were 125 cases before the court during September.

Various other matters of no marked importance, were acted upon.

tem, for a time I presume.

... A son of M broke his collar. Fortunately the might have been well.

... Mr. John has raised new p same for dinner that ripened from season.

... There will time of the East and travelers should on time tables if unless they wish

... Mr. J. W. play of stereoscopic of the W. C. These views or a trade, and has a rooms on Essex

... A Butler C. Five on Friday e. Murphy was the Currier, Secret obtained and a appointed.

... The Octob Homeopathic M. Wednesday last, R. Morse, in this of Salem, read upon the Localiz

... A workman works partook o lecture containing asking it for Hqu City Hospital w him, and he sub effects of the dru

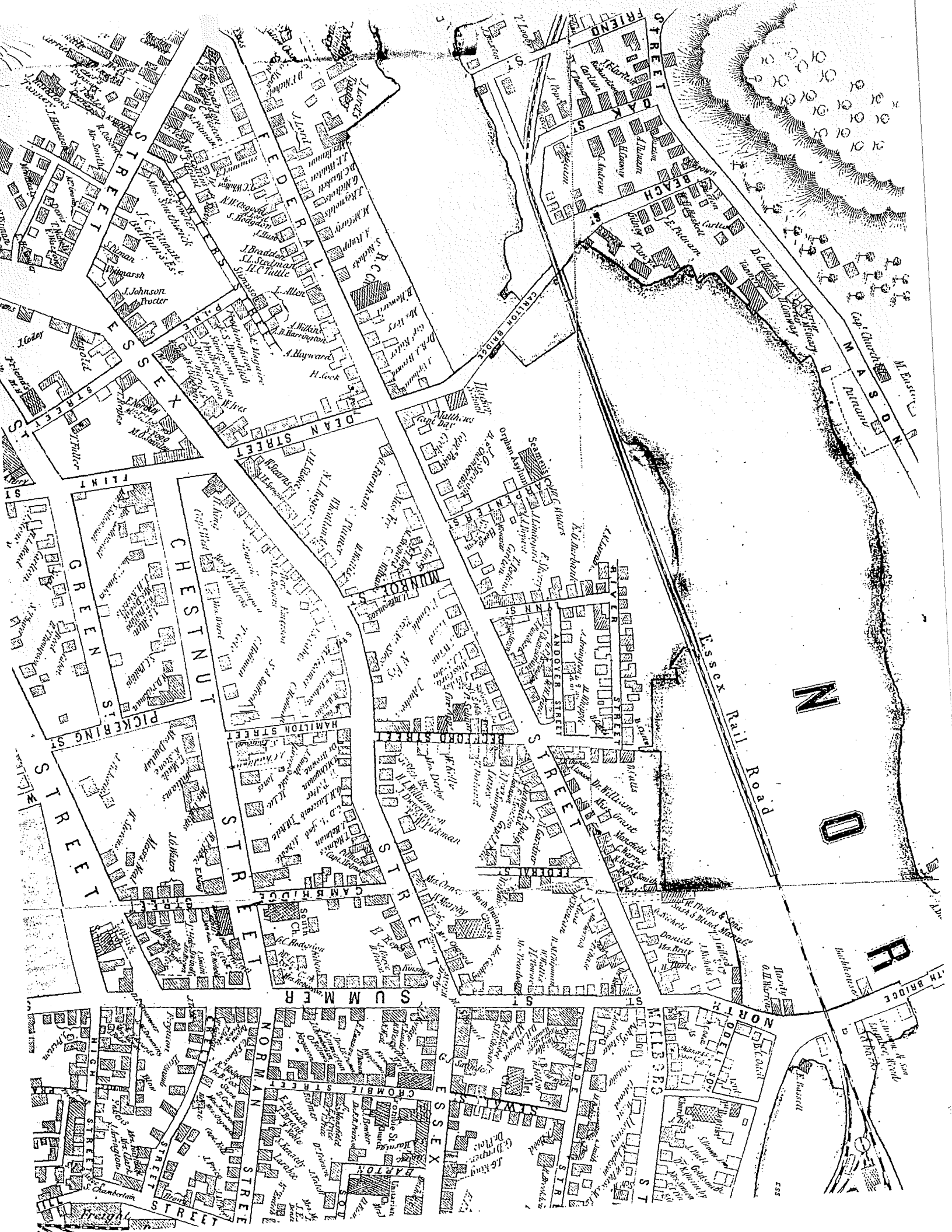
... The Suprem will come in, in t ber 5. The Pen heard at this sess the rulings of the ing election day, Court will not co

... Voters seat enge of the Mayo to-day (Saturday) Monday, Oct. 28, Tuesday, Oct 29, stration will close M., on Tuesday n

... The Ward I its organization o President, Micha A. Devine; Sec., ton; Commander, Chas. McMaster, is stated, has now

... Mr. H. P. F. Essex street, has ly "The Old Fari Thomas." It con general informati calculations and intentions.

... The Treasu Orphan and Child fully acknowledg ing sums from th



N
D

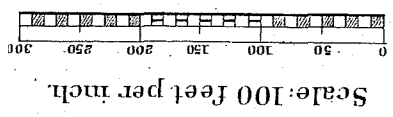
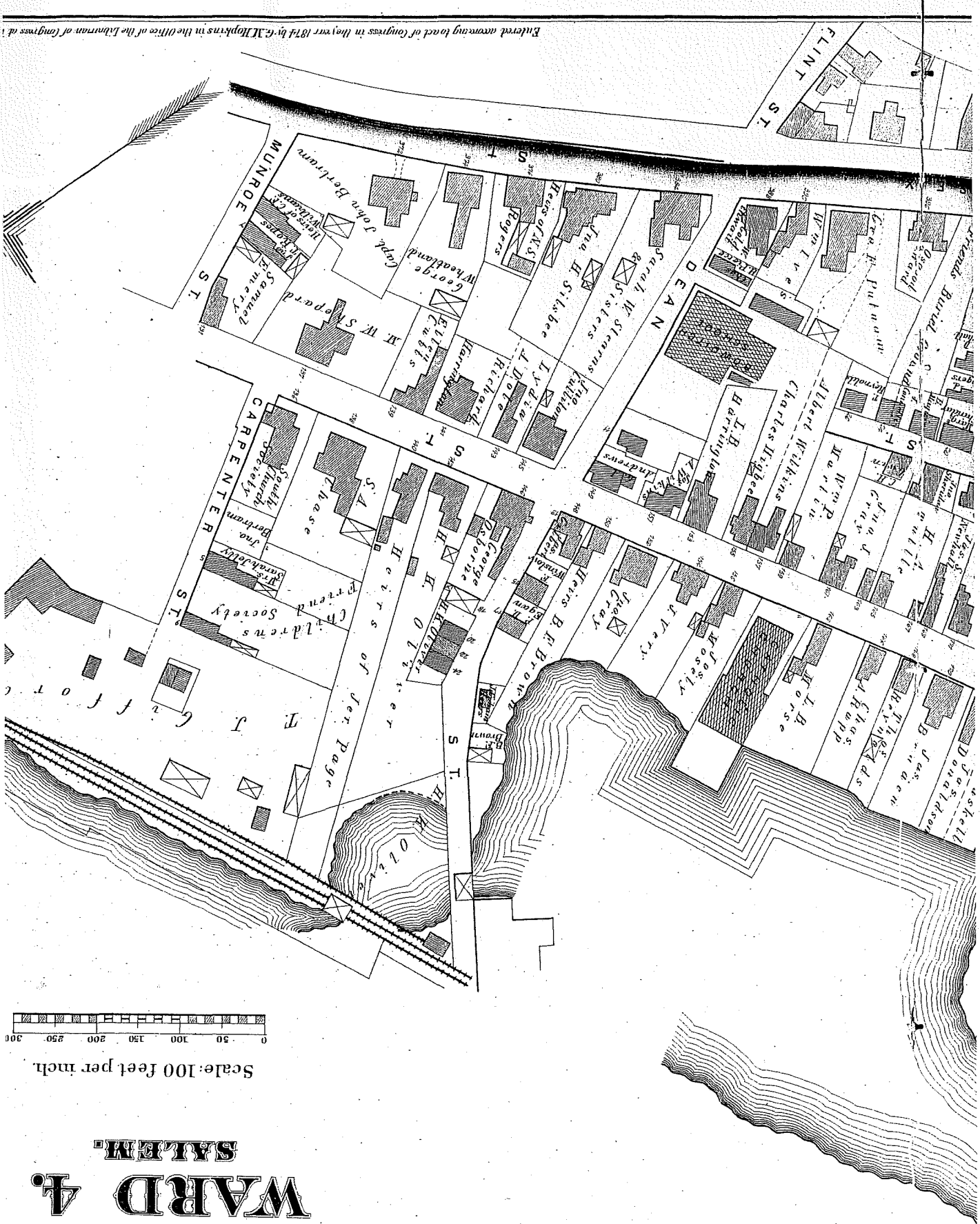
R

Essex Rail Road

Cap. Church
Palatine

TH BRIDGE

ESS



WARD 4.
OF
SALLEM,
PART

1874

by R. S. Rantoul et al

Records of the First Fifty Years of

managers, including a purchasing committee of five members. They voted to hold a Fair on the 20th, 21st and 22nd days of the following February. On October 8th the managers met in Mrs. J. Francis Tuckerman's parlors; Mrs. Tuckerman was chosen President; Mrs. Benjamin H. Silsbee, Vice-President; Mrs. Nathaniel Kinsman, Secretary; Miss Lydia R. Nichols, Treasurer. A sum of money was advanced for the purchase of material, and an exhibition of tableaux was voted, from the proceeds of which to provide more material. Meetings followed at intervals of a week. The free use of Creamer Hall was tendered as a meeting place in preparing for the Fair. At the weekly meeting, in Creamer Hall, October 24, a sub-committee was appointed to arrange for the tableaux in Mechanic Hall. Hamilton Hall was engaged for the Fair. Two exhibitions of the tableaux netted the sum of \$383, and, ample material for the Fair being thus assured, a sufficient committee was raised among the younger ladies to take charge of some dozen tables.

But the war-cloud grew threatening. The Salem Zouaves had begun to drill, and the uneasy feeling, spreading over the Country, made it seem advisable to postpone the Fair at least until the Autumn of 1861. The equipment of the Home, however, was not to be delayed. "A generous friend," presumably Captain Bertram, advanced the needed funds in anticipation of the proceeds of the Fair, and monthly meetings took the place of weekly meetings, the table-work being vigorously prosecuted throughout the winter. But national affairs drifted from bad to worse and, on May 18,—Sumter had fallen in April,—it was voted "that it will not be practicable to hold a Fair on the date fixed, and that the accumulation of articles prepared for the purpose be sold early in June in some smaller hall." Downing Hall was at once offered for the purpose, free of expense, and there, June 5, 1861, the sale began, continuing throughout the week and adding to our funds the sum of \$1,089.39.

Meanwhile, two dramatic entertainments had been arranged by the young people,—one in Creamer Hall and one in Downing Hall,—the use of both halls being tendered without charge,—and these

produced a total of \$251.20. Two concerts were also given at Lyceum Hall, under the direction of Manuel Fenollosa, yielding the sum of \$225. Before the close of 1861, a Fair had been held at Hamilton Hall, the receipts of which amounted to \$1,248.

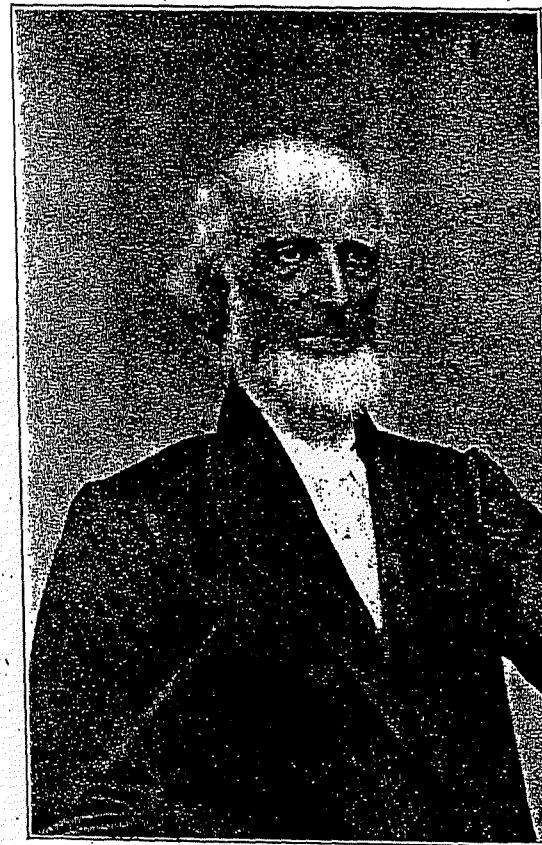
But the building offered by Mr. Brookhouse was found, upon inspection, to be ill-suited to our needs, and another mansion, larger and better adapted, was tendered by Mr. Brookhouse and examined by a Committee. This was the fine, brick "Moses Townsend" house at the corner of Derby and Carlton Streets, since disfigured and devoted to mechanical uses. In matters of charity it seems to be permissible to look a gift-horse in the mouth. Once more the ladies and gentlemen who were promoting the undertaking allowed Mr. Brookhouse to understand that, while the house now offered would be gratefully accepted for our purposes, another house belonging to him would, in their judgment, better meet the requirements of the case. This was the "Crowninshield" house, just above the Custom House, which Mr. Brookhouse had bought in 1854, intending it for a charity in which he had long been interested,—the founding of an Old Sailors' Home. But his public offer of the house for this use had been held open for some years without definite response, and he now allowed himself to be persuaded that the "Moses Townsend" house would well enough serve the purpose of a Sailors' Snug Harbor, in case that scheme should ever take shape. It came to no issue in his day, and so it was left for Captain Bertram to provide a refuge for stranded seamen in the "Joseph Waters" house at the corner of Turner and Derby Streets, and the "Crowninshield" house became the property of the Old Ladies' Home by deed from Robert Brookhouse, dated April 8, 1861.

ROBERT BROOKHOUSE.

Mr. Brookhouse was probably the only great merchant of Salem, since the days of George Corwin and Philip English, who had no practical knowledge of navigation, unless the Crowninshields may have furnished an exception. Our rich men generally have made

burg Expedition, and one of the chief merchants and capitalists of the Province. He never lived in it, however, having built himself a stately residence on Essex Street, still standing in sorry plight next the Marine Museum. Originally a plain structure of red brick, surmounted by a low, flat roof, with the usual wooden balustrade above its coping, the Lynde Street house had an unpretentious porch affording entrance to its front hall. But Mr. Derby, when he bought it, followed the practice common at that time of disguising brick fronts with a veneer of pine, and painted the whole house of a light gray color, ornamenting the hall-door with a more elaborate entrance-porch, and adding heavy, wooden pilasters on either side of it. He also built, on the peak of the roof, a cupola surmounted with a McIntire eagle. The purpose of these cupolas, which were not uncommon, was to provide a survey of the harbor, so that merchants might observe from home the movements of their shipping. Few high buildings then existed to obstruct the view. John Adams, commenting in his diary on the attractions of the Cranch house which he frequented before the Revolution, and a part of which is still standing in Mill Street, says that it commanded a view of the harbor. The window-blinds of Mr. Derby's cupola were provided with loop-holes to receive the spy-glass, and its ceiling was frescoed with a mural design, from the brush of Corné, picturing the Derby merchant-fleet. This painting retained its interest and freshness until after the death of Mr. Brookhouse. Statues ornamented the grass-plot on the southern side of the house. There was a glassed-in veranda overlooking it, in which potted flowers mingled their odors with the notes of song-birds suspended, in cages, from the veranda-roof.

Real-estate investments always had an attraction for Mr. Brookhouse and he watched the markets closely. When the Crowninshield Mansion was offered for sale at auction, in March, 1854, he was present at the gathering, taking with him his little grandson and namesake, to whom he had already disclosed the object with which he desired to buy that estate, and the limit to which he was prepared to bid upon it. The grandson, now of Athol, recalls the scene today, and writes that the venerable merchant, not wishing to



Miss H. Carleton

voted attention which my wife has shown to my two children; never surpassed and seldom equalled by an own mother." It enjoins on his surviving son and daughter every attention to her in her declining years. The second son, who bore his name, was one of the three Vice-Presidents chosen at the opening of the Home.

THE CROWNINSHIELD MANSION.

The Crowninshield Mansion, which Mr. Brookhouse so generously placed at our disposal, did not lack an interesting story. It was built by Benjamin Williams Crowninshield, probably in 1811, on a lot of land conveyed to him by his father, George Crowninshield, the elder, in a deed executed September 17, 1810. George Crowninshield, Senior, was the father of a distinguished family. He had married at Salem, in 1757, Mary, a daughter of Richard Derby, and, by the will of the latter, dated 1783, had acquired a title to the land upon which the Custom House now stands, and upon which, probably from 1774, until his death in 1815, he had lived in a well-appointed, wooden dwelling, having an ample garden and coach-house in its rear. This seems to have been built by David Ropes, from whom Mr. Derby had bought the estate, with a house on it, in 1774. Ropes was an inn-holder and kept a tavern there which Mr. Derby found it desirable to remove. Of some dozen sites offered in 1818 for the erection of a Custom House,—before that date Salem had no Federal Building, save the Baker's Island Light House,—this estate was the choice of a committee of leading Merchants, one member of which was John Derby, and he, in the course of the transaction, agreed, in case the Custom House should be placed where it is, to remove a warehouse of his, standing across the way, at the head of Derby wharf, and to keep forever free of obstruction the water-frontage of the Federal Building. This may have been the long, double-doored warehouse, removed in sections from Derby wharf to the Derby farm in Danvers for a coach-house and stable, and still to be seen there. Moreover, a forty-foot cartway down the wharf is guaranteed in the will of Elias Hasket Derby, so that the water-view from the Custom House can

never be obscured, and this also helps the outlook from the Old Ladies' Home.*

But while Richard Derby, of North Bridge fame, had built, in 1763, or earlier, the beautiful, little, red-brick dwelling still standing just below the Custom House, a house which so strongly suggests the prerevolutionary type of the Green Dragon Tavern in Boston and of Massachusetts Hall at Cambridge, and of scores of structures still surviving at Germantown and Annapolis, and while the Derbys of the eighteenth century pervaded that part of the town, and had a shipyard alongside Derby Wharf where they built, in 1791, the "Grand Turk" and the famous "pine ship, Henry," and

*The Will of Elias Hasket Derby, which went into effect in 1799, imposed upon the Derby Wharf property conditions which inure directly to our advantage. A way down Derby Wharf is provided for commercial purposes, to remain open forever, and this is to measure forty feet in width from the east side of the Derby Counting House. The flats so far west as the west line of Ezekiel Hersey Derby's wharf property, the wharf property purchased by the Old Ladies' Home a century later, are not to be built upon, but are to be kept open forever. These flats now belong in fee to the Home. Essex Deeds, South District, Lib. 1862: Fol. 166.

The Custom House was built in 1818. In May, 1819, the following record was made, *in perpetuam rei memoriam*: Essex Deeds, South District, Lib. 478: Fol. 93.

"John Derby, having engaged with the Secretary of the United States Treasury to remove the store from the northeast part of his Wharf twenty feet to the westward, on the building of the Custom House at the head of Derby Wharf, a Custom House having been built there and the store removed, it is important to mark the spot where the store stood. Two stones, one foot square and three feet long, marked with a + on the top, having been placed six inches under ground at the northeast and southeast corners of the store lot, we view the stones and find them correctly placed, and the courses and distances given exact from the two Derby Street corners of the Custom House.

"Signed: William R. Lee, Collector;

Abijah Northey, Surveyor of Land;

Nathaniel West, A Proprietor on the Wharf;

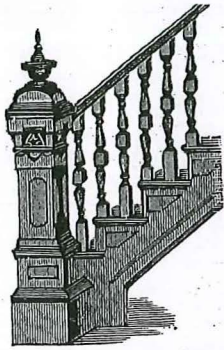
Nathaniel Knight, Wharfinger of the Wharf;

Isaac Cushing, Jr., Last occupier of store removed;

John W. Rogers, A Merchant on the Wharf;

Joseph Waters, A merchant of Salem."

The Counting House of Elias Hasket Derby, later of John Derby, which stood near the site of this store, was raised on piles so that trucks might pass under it, and so that it might command a free view of the Harbor and of the Wharf. When Lemuel B. Hatch came into possession of the Wharf, this "Compting House" was removed to No. 16 Herbert Street, and there, with additions on its northerly side, was converted into a dwelling. The old split shingles may be seen, still firm and strong, on its southerly wall.



HENRY CONANT, Stair Builder

SAWING, TURNING, DANIELS' PLANING, ETC.
BALUSTERS, RAILS AND POSTS,
FURNISHED AT SHORT NOTICE.

Gifford's Mill, 16 Carpenter St., SALEM, MASS.

JOHN E. KIMBALL & BRO.,

Doors, Sashes and Blinds

...MADE TO ORDER...

Turning, Planing, Sawing and all kinds of
Wood Working.

Window Frames, House Brackets, Cabinet and Counter Work. First-Class Doors,
veneered or solid.

MILL, 16 CARPENTER ST., SALEM, MASS.

WILLIAM A. IRVING,

— Manufacturer of —

...ALL KINDS OF...

Wood and Paper Boxes

18 CARPENTER ST., SALEM, MASS.

Salem Kindling Wood Co.

DEALERS IN ALL KINDS OF

Prepared Kindling,

HARD AND PINE WOOD

Also Pine and Hemlock Slabs.

339 BRIDGE STREET, SALEM.

Telephone 104-2.

N. P. GIFFORD,

Successor to T. J. Gifford.

Mouldings, Gutters,

— and —

FLOORING OF ALL KINDS

constantly on hand.

Mills, 336 to 340 Bridge Street,

SALEM, MASS.

25-

CARL C. SPANG

BOOK 8625/233

of Salem, Essex

County, Massachusetts,

being unmarried, for consideration paid, and in full consideration of \$155,000.00 Grant a one half interest in Charles J. Brophy and Kathleen Johnson Brophy, husband and wife, as tenants by the entirety and a one half interest in Laurence D. Healy and Martha A. Johnson as tenants in common, all

of 10 Gifford Court, Salem, MA with quitclaim covenants

the land in said Salem, with the buildings thereon, situated at 10 Gifford Court, bounded and described as follows:

[Description and encumbrances, if any]

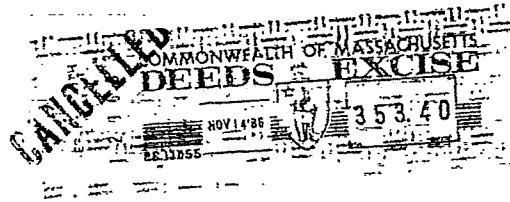
- SOUTHEASTERLY By Gifford Court, sometimes erroneously referred to as Giffords Court, sixty-two (62) feet;
- NORTHEASTERLY by land now or late of Grimes, about thirty-two (32) feet;
- NORTHWESTERLY by land now or late of Nolan, about sixty-six (66) feet;
- SOUTHWESTERLY by land now or late of Winslow, about thirty-two (32) feet.

For my title see deed of Carl C. Spang and Agnes J. Krajewski recorded with said Registry in Book 6825, Page 082.

Property Address: 10 Gifford Court, Salem, Massachusetts

1986 NOV 14 PM 12:36

000323



Witness my hand and seal this 4th day of November, 19 86

Carl C. Spang

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Middlesex

ss.

November 14 19 86

Then personally appeared the above named Carl C. Spang

and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his free act and deed before me

O. Bradley Latham

Notary Public

My commission expires November 9 19 90

(*Individual — Joint Tenants — Tenants in Common.)

CHAPTER 183 SEC. 6 AS AMENDED BY CHAPTER 497 OF 1969

Every deed presented for record shall contain or have endorsed upon it the full name, residence and post office address of the grantee and a recital of the amount of the full consideration thereof in dollars or the nature of the other consideration therefor, if not delivered for a specific monetary sum. The full consideration shall mean the total price for the conveyance without deduction for any liens or encumbrances assumed by the grantee or remaining thereon. All such endorsements and recitals shall be recorded as part of the deed. Failure to comply with this section shall not affect the validity of any deed. No register of deeds shall accept a deed for recording unless it is in compliance with the requirements of this section.