#### 15 Summer St. built for John P. Peabody, Purveyor of ladies' furnishings 1874

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Most of the streets in Salem that have existed for centuries have been called by a number of names and Summer Street is no exception.

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- 1746 street to ye almshouse in 1746
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- 1762 Street from Main street to workhouse
- 1791 Street from town pump to Marblehead
- 1800 Summer Street<sup>1</sup>

The Rev. Peters sold the land to Capt. George Corwin of Salem, merchant, on July 1, 1659.<sup>2</sup> Capt. Corwin was born in Sibbertoft, Northamptonshire, England in 1610 and came to Salem about 1638. He was a prominent citizen and was, at various periods of his life; captain of a troop of horse, a representative to the General Court, a selectman of Salem, a shipowner and merchant and was considered a wealthy man when he died in 1685.<sup>3</sup>

The original parcel of land consisted of four acres of pasture and was in a somewhat swampy area of town. Indeed, when Capt. Corwin died on January 3, 1684-5 and left these three lots to his son Jonathan and the heirs of his son John, the only house on the property was on the eastern side near what is now Washington St.<sup>4</sup>

A portion of Ruck's Creek ran parallel to what is now Summer St. and widened out beyond what is now Norman St. to where a number of wharves were located near the present Washington St.. The shipyards of the Bacons and the Lamberts were also located in this area.<sup>5</sup> The wharves and shipyards in this part of Salem were located near Norman St. rather than along the North River due to the difference in the currents and tidal flats. The North River flats were broad which made building piers and wharves along the shore a far more expensive proposition than locating them along the banks of Ruck's Creek.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Essex Antiquarian, Vol. III, No. 5, pg. 65

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Essex (South) County Registry of Deeds, Book 1, leaf 60.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ibid, pg. 64

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Ibid, pg. 309

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The Corwin family tomb was located in the rear of the Summer Street section of the property that he left to his son, Jonathan.<sup>7</sup> This Jonathan Corwin built the house that is still standing on the corner of Essex and North Streets.<sup>8</sup> He, like his father, was prominent in the governing of Salem and was a deputy of the court as well as being a magistrate during the 1690's. His house may have been used to examine the people who were accused as witches, but the documented site of these proceedings was held in Salem's meeting house.<sup>9</sup>

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By the 1780s, the land which would later be designated as 15 Summer Street was probably the site of Mr. William Pynchon's home. Some of the adjacent properties along what is now Essex Street had been subdivided and the area in general was becoming more densely populated.

The area around Ruck's Creek was filled in about 1812 and with the coming of the railroads in the early 1840s, more of the low lying land was reclaimed from its swampy origins. 12

The 1850s saw the Summer Street and Norman Street area, as well as much of Salem, become more densely built upon. Even though Ruck's Creek had been controlled and filled in, there was still enough of a water problem at 15 Summer Street to have this provision as part of a deed from 1865, "...but saving and reserving to Ephraim Emmerton, his heirs and assigns, the use and improvement of a drain through the premises and liberty to make all necessary repairs at his and their cost and charge." 13

Whatever house or houses had been located at 15 Summer Street had been removed by December of 1873 when Mr. John P. Peabody purchased "a certain parcel of land" from Andrew Fitz. Mr. Peabody was in business for himself and had a shop on Essex Street which sold, "kid gloves, laces, hosiery, millinery, trimmings, buttons, fancy goods, and toilet articles." All these items were offered for sale to the discriminating female with the added assurance that they could expect to pay, "the lowest possible prices." <sup>15</sup>

Mr. Peabody died intestate, and in 1900, his "children and only heirs at law, Anna T.P. Longley (of Salem), Nellie A.P. Smith (of Boston) John S. Peabody and Charles

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<sup>7</sup>The Essex Antiquarian, Vol. III, No. 5, pg. 64
<sup>8</sup>Perley, Salem in the Seventeenth Century, pg. 141
<sup>9</sup>Ibid, pg. 294
<sup>10</sup>The Essex Antiquarian, Vol. III, No. 5, pg. 69
<sup>11</sup>Phillips, Salem in the Eighteenteenth Century, map
<sup>12</sup>Ibid, pg. 176 and Perley, Salem in the Seventeenth Century, pg. 314
<sup>13</sup>E.C.R.D., Book 687, leaf 235 (August 14, 1865)
<sup>14</sup>Ibid, Book 892, leaf 219 (December 29, 1873)
<sup>15</sup>Salem Directory, 1874
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Winthrop Peabody (of Belmont) and Mary P. Herring (of E. Providence, R.I.)" sold the house and land to Mr. Charles D. Brown. <sup>16</sup> Mr. Brown owned C.D. Brown and Company which was located at 156 Congress Street in Boston. <sup>17</sup>

The property remained in the Brown family until 1930 when "Charles A. Brown, Amos H.C. Brown, Donald T. Hood, Trustees under will of Abba F. Brown, late of Salem" sold it to James P. Ryan, a physician, and his wife. 18

Various members of the Ryan family lived and/or had physician or dentist offices at 15 Summer Street until the late 1970s. In 1975, the property was listed as being vacant<sup>19</sup> and the settlement of the Estate of Anna E. Ryan resulted in her heirs setting up the formation of the Bay Realty Trust.<sup>20</sup>

In 1976, the house was broken up into four apartments as well as becoming the headquarters for Historic Salem, Inc..<sup>21</sup> The members of the Bay Realty Trust then sold the house and property to the Allyn Realty Trust in 1978.<sup>22</sup>

Historic Salem, Inc. had offices at 15 Summer Street until 1980. After this, H.S.I.'s offices were moved and the space must have been divided because 15 Summer Street is listed as having two additional apartments, making a total of six. Students and working people of various professions were tenants during this period.<sup>23</sup> By 1983, one half of the apartments were listed as being vacant.<sup>24</sup>

The Bay Realty Trust sold the house and property to another Trust (Fifteen Summer St. Realty Trust) in 1983<sup>25</sup> and retained ownership until 1996 when the property was sold to the Peabody House Trust.<sup>26</sup>

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    <sup>16</sup>E.C.R.D., Book 1627, leaf 570 (November 10, 1900)
    <sup>17</sup>Salem Directory, 1901-02
    <sup>18</sup>E.C.R.D., Book 2856, leaf 91 (August 26, 1930)
    <sup>19</sup>Salem Directory, 1975
    <sup>20</sup>Essex (South) County Probate, Docket #267947
    <sup>21</sup>Salem Directory, 1976
    <sup>22</sup>E.C.R.D., Book 6448, leaf 236 (March 3, 1978)
    <sup>23</sup>Salem Directory, 1980-84
    <sup>24</sup>Ibid, 1983
    <sup>25</sup>E.C.R.D., Book 7232, leaf 589 (October 3, 1983)
    <sup>26</sup>Ibid, Book, 13691, leaf 178 (August 1, 1996)
```

#### E.C.R.D., Book 6448, leaf 236

Grantors: James T. Ryan of Salem and George W. Ryan of Burlington (Bay Realty Trust)

Grantee: Robert C. Bramble (Trustee of Allyn Realty Trust)

Consideration: \$55,000

Conveyance of: Buildings thereon Date Recorded: March 3, 1978

#### **E.C.R.D.**, **Book** 6546, **leaf** 434

**Grantor:** Robert C. Bramble (Trustee of Allyn Realty Trust)

Grantee: Thomas W. Burke of Fairfield, Ohio, (Trustee of Bay Realty Trust)

Consideration: Paid

Conveyance of: Land and buildings **Date Recorded:** October 31, 1978

#### E.C.R.D., Book 7232, leaf 589

Grantor: Thomas W. Burke of Fairfield, Ohio, (Trustee of Bay Realty Trust)

Grantee: Paul D. McCarthy of Marblehead

Consideration: Paid

Conveyance of: 15 Summer St. "Building and about 8160 sq. feet of land"

Date Recorded: October 3, 1983

#### **E.C.R.D., Book** 13691, leaf 178

**Grantor:** Fifteen Summer St. Realty Trust, (Paul D. McCarthy of Marblehead, Daniel J. Murphy of Doylestown, Buck's County PA and Dave D. McCarthy of Marblehead)

**Grantee: Peabody House Trust** 

**Consideration:** Paid

Conveyance of: "The land in Salem...with buildings thereon located at 15 Summer St." "Beginning at the Northerly corner thereof on said Summer Street and running Easterly by land of Wardwell, also known as 'Mardwell' in prior documents, one hundred and twenty-four feet and one inch to land now or formerly of Stevens; thence turning and running Southerly by said land now or formerly of Stevens and by land of Shepard, sixty-four feet and five inches to said land of Shepard; thence turning and running by said land now or formerly of Shepard, first Westerly ninety-seven feet and five inches, and thence a little more Southerly, still by land of said Shepard, nineteen feet and eight inchest to said Summer Street; thence turning and running Northerly by said Summer Street, seventy feet and eleven inches to point begun at. All of said measurements being more or less."

Date Recorded: August 1, 1996

## Essex County Registry of Deeds Transfers of title:

**E.C.R.D. Book** 892, leaf 219

**Grantor:** Andrew Fitz of Salem **Grantee:** John P. Peabody of Salem

Consideration: \$100.00

**Conveyance of:** "A certain parcel of land - <u>Westerly</u> by Summer St., <u>Northerly</u> by land of Emmerton, <u>Easterly</u> by land of Emmerton and others, <u>Southerly</u> by land of Osborne.

Being the same premises from Joseph F. Dane et ux" (See: Book 687, leaf 235).

Date Recorded: December 29, 1873

#### **E.C.R.D., Book** 1627, leaf 570

Grantors: Anna T.P. Longley et al of Salem

**Grantee:** Charles D. Brown **Consideration:** \$6,500

Conveyance of: Land with buildings Date Recorded: November 10, 1900

#### **E.C.R.D.**, **Book** 285, leaf 691

Grantors: Charles A. Brown et al Trs.

Grantees: James P. Ryan et ux

Consideration: \$9,625

Conveyance of: Summer St./ Land and buildings, "Being the same premises conveyed to

Charles D. Brown"

Date Recorded: August 26, 1930

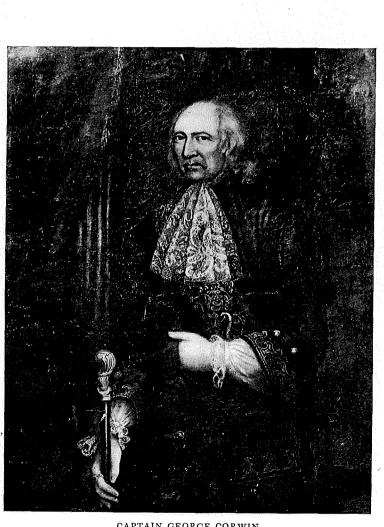
#### **E.C.R.D.**, **Book** 5726, **leaf** 98

**Grantors:** J.P. Ryan et al **Grantees:** James T. Ryan et al

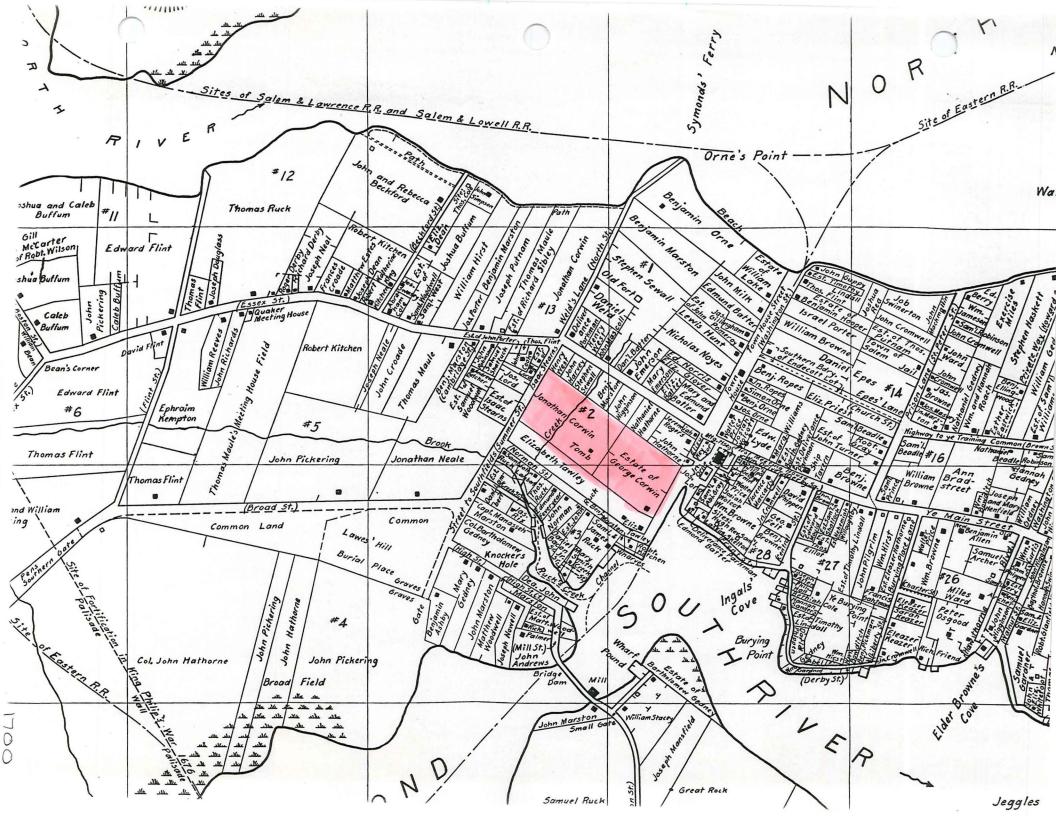
Consideration: Paid

Conveyance of: Summer St./ land and buildings

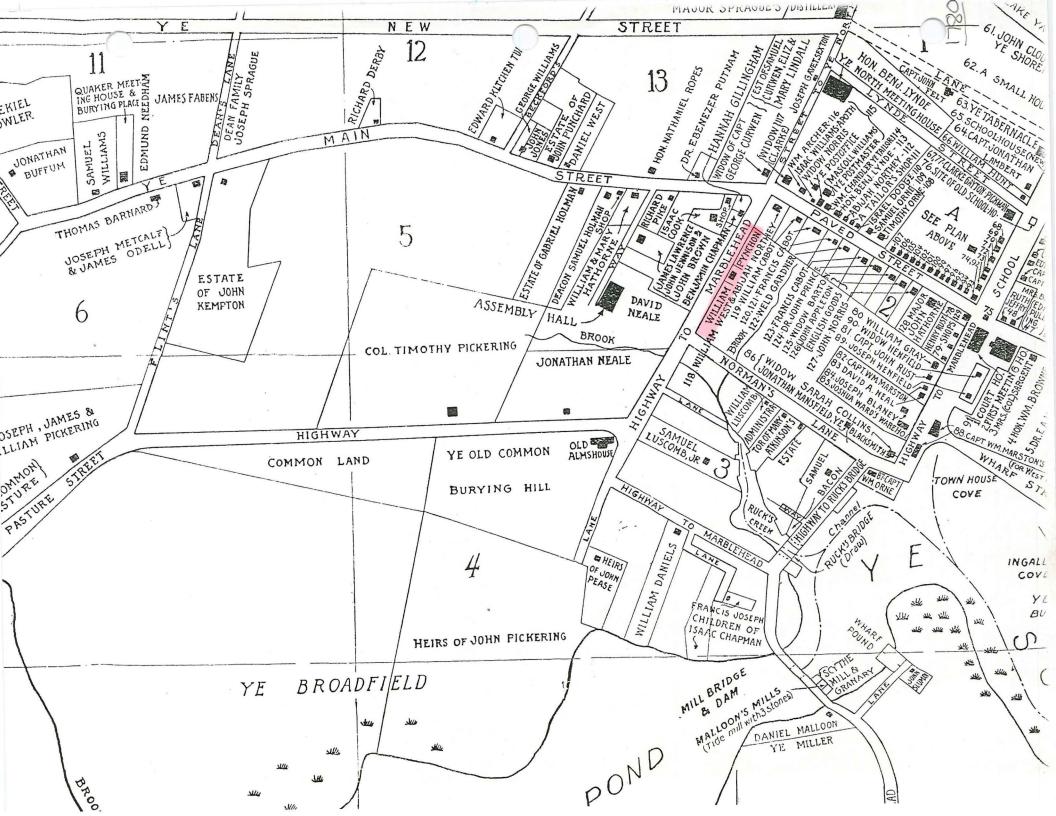
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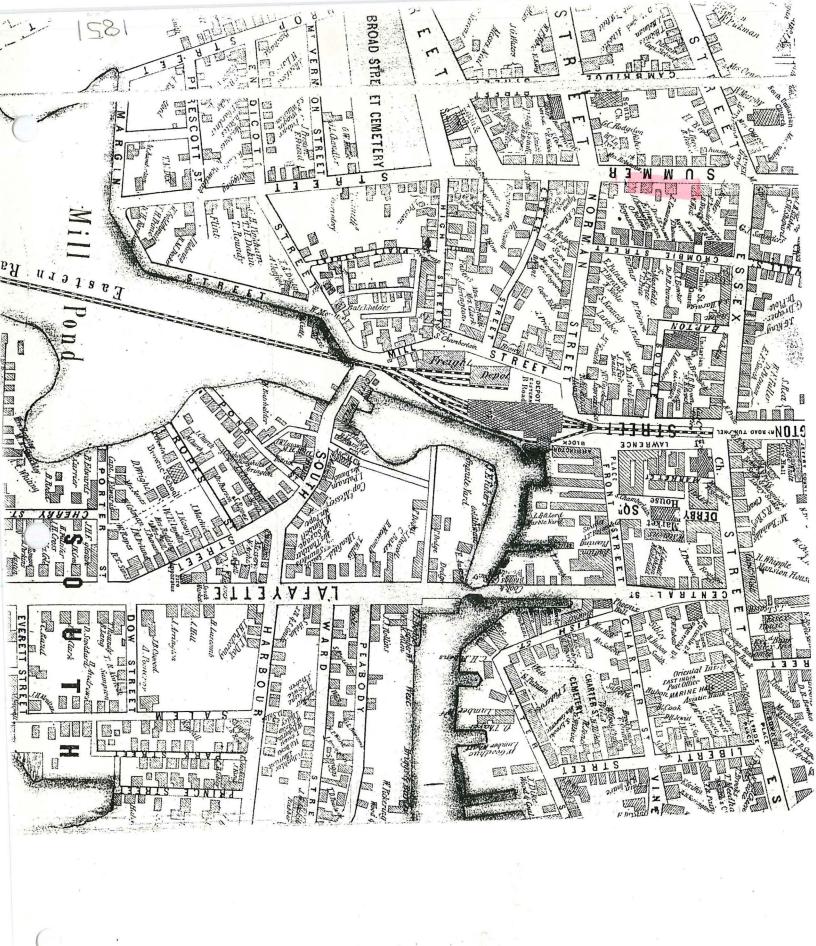


CAPTAIN GEORGE CORWIN



PART OF SALEM IN 1700. NO. 2.

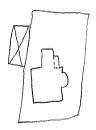






Atlas of the City of Salem, 1897 Plate, No. 2

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321

## E. HATHAWAY,

No. 21

SALEM,

Mass.

Washington Street,

Flour.

Mince.

BREAD

Family, CRACKERS. Graham, and Rolls.

Drop, Lemon, Sponge, Pound, Cup, Harrison.

Seed, Martha Washington, Jumbles, Buns.

Molasses and Sugar Gingerbread, Hard and Thin Gingerbread, and Wedding Cake.

CREAM CAKES Fresh Every Day.

PIES.

Apple,

Washington,

Fruit.

BISCUIT. TEA

### TIMOTHY

DEALER IN

Boots, Shoes, and Rubbers.

Also, CATHOLIC BOOKS and PICTURES, Furnished at Lowest Prices.

NO. 299 ESSEX ST., SALEM.

BOOTS and SHOES Repaired neatly and reasonably.

AGENT FOR THE



Cunard, Inman, Anchor, and National Steamship Lines. Also, Tickets to Australia and California, with Sight Drafts for £1 and upwards.

Passages at the lowest rates.

INTELLIGENCE OFFICE AND VARIETY STORE BY MRS.

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<sup>13</sup>E.C.R.D., Book 687, leaf 235 (August 14, 1865)

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<sup>17</sup>Salem Directory, 1901-02 <sup>18</sup>E.C.R.D., Book 2856, leaf 91 (August 26, 1930) <sup>19</sup>Salem Directory, 1975 <sup>20</sup>Essex (South) County Probate, Docket #267947 <sup>21</sup>Salem Directory, 1976 <sup>22</sup>E.C.R.D., Book 6448, leaf 236 (March 3, 1978) <sup>23</sup>Salem Directory, 1980-84

<sup>16</sup>E.C.R.D., Book 1627, leaf 570 (November 10, 1900)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup>Ibid, 1983

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup>E.C.R.D., Book 7232, leaf 589 (October 3, 1983) <sup>26</sup>Ibid, Book, 13691, leaf 178 (August 1, 1996)

#### E.C.R.D., Book 6448, leaf 236

Grantors: James T. Ryan of Salem and George W. Ryan of Burlington (Bay Realty Trust)

Grantee: Robert C. Bramble (Trustee of Allyn Realty Trust)

Consideration: \$55,000

Conveyance of: Buildings thereon Date Recorded: March 3, 1978

#### E.C.R.D., Book 6546, leaf 434

Grantor: Robert C. Bramble (Trustee of Allyn Realty Trust)

Grantee: Thomas W. Burke of Fairfield, Ohio, (Trustee of Bay Realty Trust)

Consideration: Paid

Conveyance of: Land and buildings Date Recorded: October 31, 1978

#### E.C.R.D., Book 7232, leaf 589

Grantor: Thomas W. Burke of Fairfield, Ohio, (Trustee of Bay Realty Trust)

Grantee: Paul D. McCarthy of Marblehead

Consideration: Paid

Conveyance of: 15 Summer St. "Building and about 8160 sq. feet of land"

Date Recorded: October 3, 1983

#### E.C.R.D., Book 13691, leaf 178

**Grantor:** Fifteen Summer St. Realty Trust, (Paul D. McCarthy of Marblehead, Daniel J. Murphy of Doylestown, Buck's County PA and Dave D. McCarthy of Marblehead)

Grantee: Peabody House Trust

Consideration: Paid

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Date Recorded: August 1, 1996

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**Grantor:** Andrew Fitz of Salem **Grantee:** John P. Peabody of Salem

Consideration: \$100.00

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Date Recorded: December 29, 1873

#### E.C.R.D., Book 1627, leaf 570

Grantors: Anna T.P. Longley et al of Salem

**Grantee:** Charles D. Brown **Consideration:** \$6,500

Conveyance of: Land with buildings Date Recorded: November 10, 1900

#### E.C.R.D., Book 285, leaf 691

Grantors: Charles A. Brown et al Trs.

Grantees: James P. Ryan et ux

Consideration: \$9,625

Conveyance of: Summer St./ Land and buildings, "Being the same premises conveyed to

Charles D. Brown"

Date Recorded: August 26, 1930

#### E.C.R.D., Book 5726, leaf 98

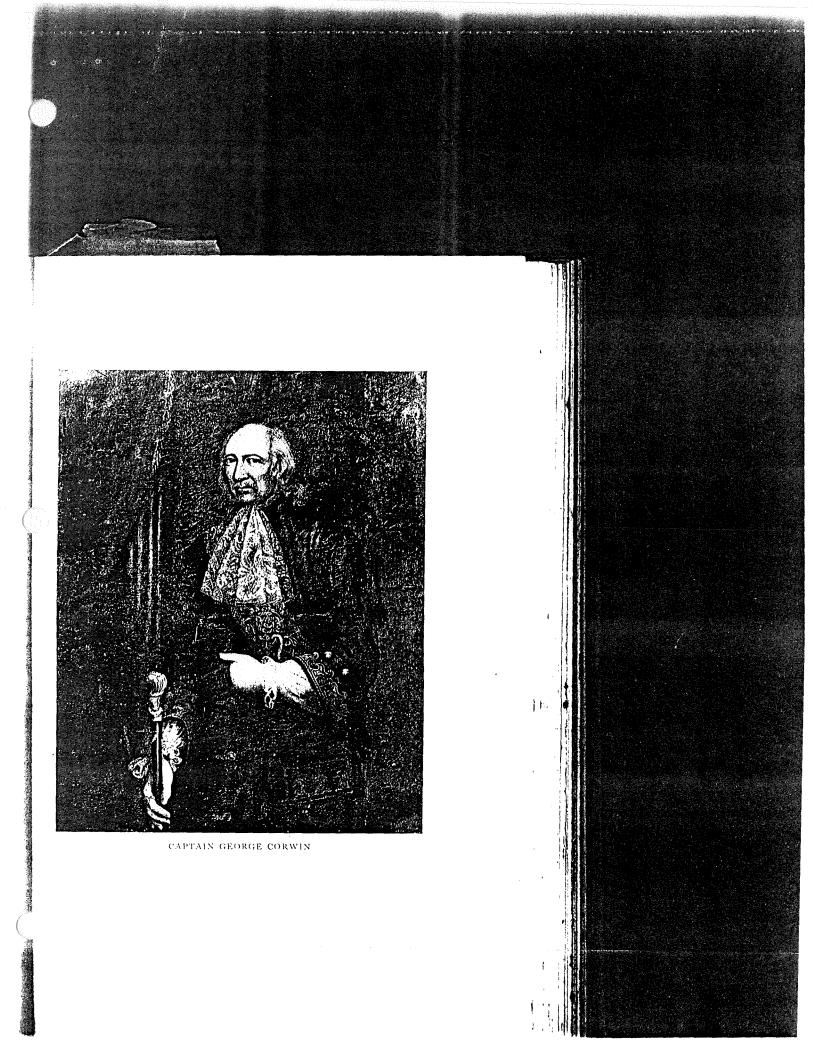
Grantors: J.P. Ryan et al

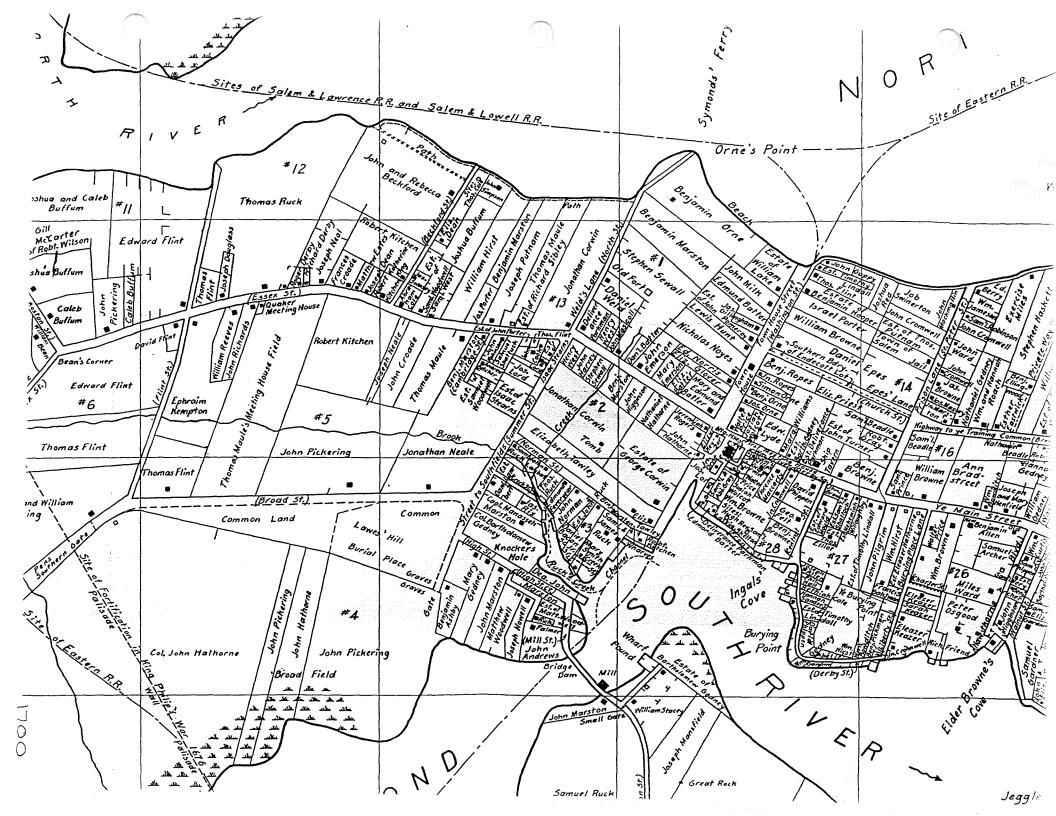
Grantees: James T. Ryan et al

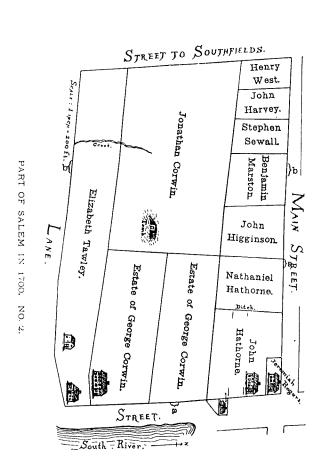
Consideration: Paid

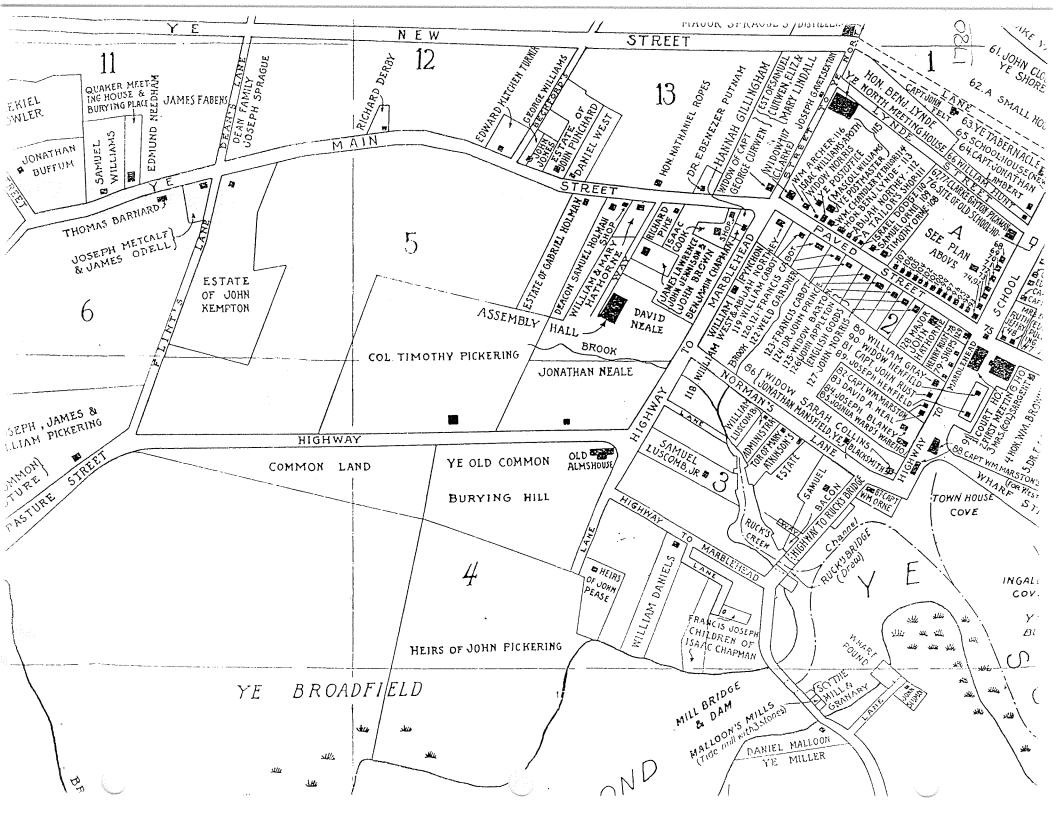
Conveyance of: Summer St./ land and buildings

Date Recorded: November 13, 1970







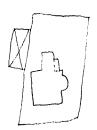






Atlas of the City of Salem, 1897 Plate, No. 2

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Mass.

Washington Street.

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