

35 Washington Square North

This house was built in 1840 for Hannah & Elizabeth Hodges, wealthy sisters then in their forties. It stands on the site of two earlier dwellings: the house of Samuel Cheever, mariner, built in 1769 and removed in 1819 by Judge Joseph Story; and the house of blacksmith Jacob Poindexter, built in 1668 and later owned by his widow Ann, who, in September, 1692, was hanged as a witch.

The 1769 Cheever house is discussed below, followed by the 1840 Hodges house; and the 1668 Poindexter house is treated at the end.

In 1769 a house was built here as a residence and shop by Samuel Cheever, mariner. Mr. Cheever (1738-1814), in August, 1769, purchased from his father, Peter Cheever, a cordwainer (shoemaker), a piece of land for a house-lot at the southeasterly corner of his father's homestead. The lot was bounded southeasterly 45' (two poles 18 links) on the highway (now Washington Square), northeasterly 67' 4" (4 poles 2 links) on "the way to the ferry" (now Winter Street), and northwesterly and southwesterly on Peter Cheever's own land (ED 122:64). Samuel Cheever built the house right away, for his house is listed in a 1769 recording of new houses. A mariner (sailor) in 1769, he eventually gave up the sea and became a tanner and a merchant. He was probably a veteran of the Revolution, and may have sailed as a privateer against British shipping (1775-1783).

Samuel's brother Benjamin Cheever, a tanner, lived around the corner on Winter Street, and their tan yards adjoined, Samuel's running back northerly along Winter Street behind the house. The tanning business consisted of having vats in the ground and filling the vats with baths of varying chemical compositions, in which were soaked the hides of animals to be turned into leather. There were several tanning operations in this neighborhood at the time, and several ropewalks, long low buildings in which hemp was twisted into rope. The Common, in the 1770s, was hilly and swampy, and on it stood various buildings like the town poor-house, the gun-house, etc. It was not until 1802-1804 that the Common was improved to its present appearance. Samuel Cheever married a woman from Maine, and they had a son, Samuel Cheever Jr., and a daughter Sally, who married Capt. Jonathan Beckford. Samuel Cheever died on 19 March 1814, aged 76; by his will dated 1810 (appended), he devised his homestead to his wife Sally.

On 16 September 1819, Judge Joseph Story purchased for \$2250 the Samuel Cheever house and its land here on the corner of Winter Street and what was then called Newbury Street. Judge Story, born and raised in Marblehead, had a beautiful residence nearby on Winter Street, and he wished to have a view of the Common evidently. He immediately removed the 1769 Samuel Cheever house, and divided the ownership of the just-cleared former house-lot. To himself, he appropriated the northwest part of the Cheever lot; to his sister, Mrs. Eliza White (widow of Col. Joseph White Jr.), who owned the large brick house that faced on Oliver Street and backed against the just-cleared lot, he sold (for \$1250 on Oct. 25, 1819) the southeasterly part of the lot, at the corner of the two streets, fronting 57' on Winter and 47' on "Newbury or Brown Street", and running 71' by Mrs. White's house-lot, and 61' by Judge Story's land, (ED 221:262).

At the same time, Judge Story and his sister Mrs. White agreed that neither one would put up any buildings on either half of the just-cleared lot, and that the written permission of the other person would be needed to have any building constructed there; although fences, shrubbery, and fruit trees were permissible (ED 221:262). The indenture deed also noted that the Town of Salem had recently altered the course of "Brown or Newbury" Street and evidently taken some of the land along the southeasterly boundary of the lot.

The prohibition against putting up buildings on either half of the lot (Story or White) was dissolved by mutual consent on 22 July 1820 (ED 252:231). It is not evident that any building was erected on Mrs. White's lot at that time or in the next two decades. From 1819-on Mrs. Eliza Story White owned this lot in connection with her late husband's house (#33 W. Sq. N., also known as 2 Oliver). It was, likely, a garden or yard.

In 1830 occurred a horrifying crime that destroyed several families in the old town. Old Capt. Joseph White, the wealthy great-uncle of Mrs. Eliza White's children, resided in the house now called the Gardner-Pingree house, on Essex Street one in from the corner of "Newbury" (now Hawthorne Boulevard). One night, intruders broke into his mansion and stabbed him to death. All of Salem buzzed with the news that thugs had murdered Capt. White. Soon enough, it became evident that the killers were Crowninshields and Knapps, members of Salem's elite class and relatives of the victim. The Knapps resided nearby on Essex Street, near Orange, next door to a merchant named William Silsbee. The results of the investigation and trial were very damaging to Salem and especially

to its waning merchant class. It may well have been this that persuaded Mrs. Eliza Story White that it was time to move out of town, which she did in 1830.

On 29 March 1831 Mrs. White and her children arranged to sell their house & land, including this lot (site, #35), to William Silsbee, the Essex Street merchant. Mrs. White, by virtue of the 1819 deed from Judge Story (who had moved to Cambridge in 1829), owned the #35 lot outright; and she sold it for \$1000 to Mr. Silsbee (ED 259:147). The lot ran 65' 9" by the former Story lot, thence 72' by the former White lot, 39' by Brown Street, thence 38' by the corner, thence 25' 6" by Winter Street.

Mr. Silsbee was the new owner of this corner lot and the homestead adjoining to the west. He was a prosperous merchant whose health was evidently precarious. He had married Mary Hodges in 1808. She was born 1789, the daughter of Capt. Benjamin Hodges and Hannah King, of lower Essex Street. In 1831 William & Mary Silsbee had surviving children Benjamin H., 21, William Jr., 18, John H., 17, Mary, 14, Hannah H., 13, and Harriet E., 11. He hastened to put his new property in trust for the benefit of his wife and children (ED 259:167, 270:164). The trustees were his brothers, U.S. Sen. Nathaniel Silsbee and Zachariah F. Silsbee Esq.

Mr. William Silsbee died on 15 January 1833, aged 53 years. By his will with codicils he devised one-third of all of his property to his wife Mary. He gave a \$1500 income trust as well as cash to his sister Sarah Wellman and niece Mary Ann Wellman, as a memento of his affection, "particularly during my sicknesses at various periods." The reversion of the trusts was to go to his children, who were to have everything else. The inventory of his estate shows assets of about \$98,700, a vast sum in those days. He was in trade with Russia and Italy and probably other parts of the world, and owned shares in trading ships and three whaling ships; and he owned shares in cargoes and merchandise. He owned stock in various banks, manufacturing companies, and insurance companies; and he had made loans to a few individuals, including his wife's sisters, Miss Hannah Hodges (she owed \$389.24) and Miss Elizabeth Hodges (she owed \$444.32).

Throughout the 1830s, this corner lot remained a yard or garden for the house of Mrs. Mary (Hodges) Silsbee, who continued to raise her children in the big brick house to the west. Mrs. Silsbee was close to her unmarried sisters, Hannah and Elizabeth Hodges, who had each inherited a fortune from their merchant father. Hannah & Elizabeth Hodges resided together in the 1830s, in the family house on

Essex Street. Then, evidently in 1839, they moved to 34 Chestnut Street, where they resided with their dear friend Miss Sally L. Allen.

Between the spring of 1840 and the spring of 1841, it was agreed that Hannah & Elizabeth Hodges should build a new house adjoining easterly on their sister Mrs. Mary Silsbee's house. The corner lot thus became a house-lot, and a new house was built, in a style nearly identical to that of Mrs. Silsbee's house. Only the frontispiece (front entry porch) was different, in that it was Greek in its proportions. By 1840 in Salem, all new houses were being built in the Greek Revival style (modified "temple" appearance), so the fact that this house was built to replicate an earlier style shows that the Hodges sisters were united in their approach to the architecture of the new building, and determined to make the double-house arrangement a harmonious composition.

The valuations of 1840, 1841, and 1842 tell the tale of the house's construction. In 1840, Hannah & Elizabeth Hodges are listed in Ward One, although they reside at 34 Chestnut Street; each has personal property worth \$13,500. In 1841, each is taxed for "half house, Brown Street, \$3000," although they are still listed in Ward One. In 1842 they are listed in Ward Two, each taxed \$2000 for half a house.

In the 1842 Salem Directory Hannah & Elizabeth Hodges are listed at Two Oliver Street, evidently because this house was at first considered to be part of their sister Mary Silsbee's house. Miss Sally Allen was listed at 34 Chestnut Street. The next Salem Directory, for 1846, lists Hannah, Elizabeth, and Sally at 5 ½ Brown Street, which was the address of this house for many years, since the address of 5 Brown Street was already taken by the house at the easterly corner of Winter and Brown Street. Brown Street, also called Newbury Street for a short time, began at Pleasant Street and ran westerly across Winter Street, and on along to St. Peter Street.

Although there is no known eye-witness account of the building of this house, Benjamin F. Browne, who was born in this neighborhood in 1793, recorded his "Youthful Recollections of Salem" (1869) and referred to this house and its predecessor, among others. In his writings (EIHC 4:3), this house is called "Miss Hodges's house" or "Miss Hannah Hodges' brick house;" the house it adjoins (2 Oliver/33 Washington Sq.) was B.H. Silsbee's; and Washington Square North was then part of Brown Street. Referring to the area c. 1810, Mr. Browne wrote, "on the western corner (site of Miss Hodges's house) were the house and shop of Samuel Cheever, who had a tannery in the rear, now occupied by the residence of

Robert Upton... Next to (Samuel) Cheever's, the site of Benjamin H. Silsbee's house, was the dwelling house and bakery of James Wright..." Mr. Browne also wrote, "Samuel Cheever was... a tanner, and his house was on the western corner of Brown & Winter Streets, on the site of Miss Hannah Hodges' brick house. The tanyard was in the rear." And, finally (EIHC 50:13), "Samuel Cheever's house and shop were round the corner, fronting on Brown Street, the site now occupied by Miss Hannah Hodges."

Miss Hannah & Elizabeth Hodges lived here with their friend Miss Sally Allen through the 1840s. It did not seem necessary to secure a deed to the land, which was owned by their sister Mrs. Silsbee. The Misses Hodges lived well, as their investments proved sound. They were likely managed by their nephews, Benjamin & John Silsbee, and they included shares in the new railroads which had been built in the 1830s and 1840s. There were no investments in any maritime enterprise at all.

Hannah and Elizabeth Hodges, born in 1794 and 1796, were the daughters of a successful shipmaster and merchant, Capt. Benjamin Hodges (1754-1806) and his wife Hannah King (1758-1814) and were descended from old Salem families that had made their money in shipping.

After the Revolution (1775-1783), Salem's merchants had pushed their ships and cargoes into all parts of the known world. Hasket Derby, William Gray, and Joseph Peabody were the leaders in this effort. In 1784, Derby opened trade with Saint Petersburg, Russia; and in 1784 and 1785 he dispatched trading vessels to Africa and China, respectively. Voyages to India soon followed, and to the Spice Islands (Sumatra, Java, Malaya, etc.). In 1798 trade opened with Mocha, Arabia, which supplied coffee. The size and number of vessels was increased, and by 1800 Salem was the greatest trading port in America, with some of the wealthiest merchants. It was at this time (1792) that Salem's first bank was founded: the Essex Bank was followed by the Salem Bank (1803) and Merchants Bank (1811).

Salem at the turn of the 19th century, when Hannah and Elizabeth were little girls, was growing and thriving. The town's merchants were among the wealthiest in the country. In Samuel McIntire, they had a local architect who could help them realize their desires for large and beautiful homes built and decorated in the Adamesque style. This style (called "Federal" today) had been developed years before by the Adam brothers in England and featured fanlight doorways, palladian windows, elongated pilasters and columns, and large windows. It was introduced to New England by Charles Bulfinch upon his return from England in

1790. The State House in Boston was his first institutional composition; and soon Beacon Hill was being built up with handsome residences in the Bulfinch manner.

Salem's foreign commerce was booming in the first decade of the nineteenth century, as was the commerce of Newburyport and even Marblehead. Salem vessels sailed to the Caribbean and Europe—including Russia—as before, but were opening trade to the East as well, sailing to the far side of the globe to trade with the merchants of the Spice Islands, India, and Malaya. Salem cargoes were exceedingly valuable. Capt. Benjamin Hodges participated fully in this trade; but he died in April, 1806, aged 52. His surviving children were then Mary, 16, Hannah, nine, Elizabeth, eight, and Sarah, six (she would die in 1812). He and his wife Hannah had had nine children, but five had died before 1806, including a very promising son, Benjamin Hodges Jr., a Harvard graduate who had died in 1804. Mrs. Hodges was left with a large and valuable estate, but small children to raise.

The Embargo of 1808-9 suspended all trade for a year; and then came the War of 1812-1815. Sally Hodges died in 1812, aged twelve years; and then Mrs. Hannah King Hodges died in 1814, by which time her daughter Mary had married William Silsbee, who may have become the guardian for her younger sisters Hannah and Elizabeth, then 18 and 16. The two teen-aged sisters had known much sorrow in their short lives, having lost their parents and all but one of their brothers and sisters. In this they were joined by a friend their own age, Sally Allen, the daughter of Capt. Edward and Sarah Allen. Sally had lost her parents, and would lose many of her brothers and sisters too. In 1825 she made William Silsbee her attorney for a transaction (ED 247:112). The bond between Sally Allen and the Hodges sisters was strong, and would last for decades, ending only with death.

Salem resumed its foreign commerce with great success, but only through the 1820s. By 1840, Salem's economy had shifted almost completely from maritime enterprise to manufacturing. There was still an active trade with Zanzibar, but Salem's general foreign commerce fell off sharply beginning in 1830. American goods were now being produced at a level where imports were not so much needed as in the past, and the interior of the country was being opened for settlement. People moved west, including some from Salem, and the economic attention of the merchants turned westward with them.

Salem was chartered as a city in 1836. City Hall was built 1837-8 and the city seal was adopted in 1839 with a Latin motto of "to the farthest port of the rich East." The motto was already outdated, for manufacturing and the railroads now attracted Salem's capital, and many of the more notable merchants moved to Boston, the center of investment in these non-maritime industries. The Eastern Rail Road began operating between Salem and Boston in 1838. Salem did engage in some manufacturing—leather, shoes, textiles—but not on the scale of the factory towns of Lowell, Lawrence, and Haverhill, with their mills driven by the powerful waters of the Merrimack.

It was in a manufacturing city that the Hodges sisters had their new house built. Their inheritance came from maritime wealth, but almost all of their investments were made in manufacturing businesses or banks that made loans to manufacturers. Among Salem's industrial enterprises were the following.

The first capitalized manufacturing enterprise in Salem was the Salem Laboratory Company, founded in 1819 to produce chemicals. The plant was situated in north Salem on the North River; blue vitriol was its specialty throughout the 1800s.

The tanning and curing of leather—once carried on here by the Cheevers--was a very important industry by the mid-1800s. It was conducted near Boston Street, along the upper North River. There were 23 tanneries in 1832, 41 in 1844, and 85 in 1850, employing 550 hands. The leather business continued to grow in importance throughout the 1800s and into the 1900s.

In 1847 the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company erected its first mill, 400' by 60', the largest in the U.S. It was an immediate success, and a second, larger, building was added in 1859, and a third in 1865. By 1880 the mills would employ 1200 and produced annually 14,700,000 yards of cloth.

In the 1830s and earlier, shoemaking was conducted by craftsman called cordwainers, like old Peter Cheever, who made the shoes by hand. In the 1840s, a new method was introduced: industrial shoe production, employing the factory system and using high-speed machinery. In Lynn, the factory system was perfected, and that city became the nation's leading shoe producer; but Salem had shoe factories too, and attracted shoe workers from outlying towns and country areas.

Lead-manufacturing began in the 1820s, and became a large employer after 1830, when Wyman's gristmills on the Forest River were retooled for making high-quality white lead and sheet lead. The approach to Marblehead is still called Lead Mills Hill, although the old buildings burned down in 1960s.

Salem also had an active whale-fishery for many years. In the 1830s candle manufacturing began at Stage Point, and soon Salem's sperm-whale-oil candles were famous. Oils for machinery were also manufactured there.

Somewhat stubbornly, Salem's waning merchant class pursued their business on the sea; but soon the conditions of shipping changed, and Salem was left on the ebb tide. In the late 1840s, giant clipper ships replaced the smaller ships that Salem men had sailed around the world; and the clippers, with their deep drafts and large holds, were usually too large for Salem and its harbor. Salem's shipping soon consisted of little more than visits from Down East coasters with cargoes of fuel wood and building timber. By 1850 Salem was finished as a working port; and its glory days were over. An excellent picture of Salem's waterfront, during its period of decline, is given by Hawthorne in his "introductory section" (really a sketch of Salem) to **The Scarlet Letter**, which he began while working in the Custom House and completed at home nearby on Mall Street.

In 1849 (if not before), Miss Elizabeth Hodges fell ill. The illness proved fatal, and she died in the spring of 1849, on March 23rd. Her will devised all of her property to her sister Hannah. Should Hannah not have survived her, some of the money was to have gone in trust for Miss Sally Allen, with reversion to Miss Hodges' six Silsbee nieces and nephews, who were to receive all else. The inventory of the estate of Miss Elizabeth Hodges was taken on 20 April 1849 and shows that she owned "1/2 of dwelling house in Salem, \$3000," half the furniture in the house (\$800), and shares in various manufacturing companies, insurance companies, railroads, and banks. The total value of her personal estate was \$22,230.

In 1850, Miss Hodges did not reside here but her friend Miss Sally Allen did. In 1850 (per census, house 458) this house was occupied by Sarah Allen, 55, who was caring for Joseph L. Silsbee, an infant who lived here with her, as did Alice Flinn, 30 (born in Ireland), Elizabeth Carthin, 50, and Mary Carthin, 14, both born in Ireland, and Mary Harding, 19. It is not clear which of these others were

boarders and which domestic helpers. The owner, Miss Hannah Hodges, resided nearby in the household of merchant George Peabody; she was then 54 years old (1850 census, house 460). The baby, Joseph Lyman Silsbee, was born on 25 November 1848, the son of Rev. William Silsbee and Charlotte Lyman. Rev. William (Harvard, 1832), was a son of William Silsbee and Mary Hodges; he had married Charlotte Lyman and become something of an itinerant preacher in the 1840s and was back in Salem when Joseph (his third child) was born, right after which Joseph's mother Charlotte died. The baby was "placed" with Miss Allen, and Rev. William went off to Cincinnati to teach, and then to Europe, then settling in Northampton as minister of the Second Congregational Church, 1855-1863. He finally settled in Trenton, New York. Joseph probably rejoined his father (who had remarried in 1858) at some point. Joseph went to Harvard and graduated in 1869. He resided in this house in 1870, when he was studying architecture in Boston. In 1873 he moved to Syracuse and became an architect; he married there in 1875 and had at least three children.

On 31 August 1851 Mrs. Mary (Hodges) Silsbee died, and her house was purchased by her son Benjamin Hodges Silsbee. In 1851, eleven years after the house was built, Benjamin H. Silsbee, merchant (later President of Merchants Bank), agreed to sell the land under this house to his aunt Hannah Hodges, and on 20 Oct. 1851 for \$1000 she made the purchase (ED 451:299). She evidently moved in and resided here, with others, in the 1850s.

In 1860 (census, house 1759) this house was occupied as a two-family. In one unit lived Hannah Hodges, 66, Sarah L. Allen, 67, and two Irish-born domestic servants, Hannah Brick, 30, and Mary Ann Brick, 25. In the other lived Sarah Phillips, 58, Charles Jackson, 28, a lawyer, and an Irish domestic, Mary Sweeney, 35.

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 imprisonment. No doubt Miss Hannah Hodges contributed to relief efforts to alleviate the suffering of the soldiers, sailors, and their families.

On 1 November 1864 Mr. B.H. Silsbee and his aunt Miss Hannah Hodges drew up a privacy agreement, in which Hannah agreed that, as soon as she no longer resided in her house (whether by death or removal), that any window in her house that overlooked Mr. Silsbee's property would be blocked up at her expense or the expense of the owner of her house (ED 678:112).

In 1870 (house 421) the residents here were Hannah Hodges, 75, Sarah Allen, 76, Joseph L. Silsbee, 21, a student, Hannah Brick, 40, a servant, and Hannah Shea, 20, a servant.

Miss Hannah Hodges died on 21 April 1871, in her 76th year of life.

On 8 July 1871 this house and land were sold for \$11,500 to John N. Mott, the husband of Miss Hodges' youngest niece, Harriet Elizabeth (Silsbee) Mott (ED 829:25). Mr. Mott also purchased, for \$300, the right to use the easterly wall of the Silsbee house as a party wall (ED 829:25). The Motts moved from their home on Federal Street (#128) to this house, by 1872. Mr. Mott, 66 in 1872, was born in New York and was a well-to-do retail merchant. He and his wife Harriet had one child, a daughter named Mary Mott, 12 in 1872. Mr. Mott evidently had a son by an earlier marriage, John H. Mott, who moved into the 128 Federal Street house in 1872 (see 1872 Salem Directory; 1870 census, house 185, Ward Four). John N. Mott did not reside here for long, for he died by July of 1873, leaving a will in which he probably devised his property to his wife Harriet, with reversion to daughter Mary.

Mrs. Harriet (Silsbee) Mott owned the property here until her death in 1893, whereupon it went, evidently, to her daughter, Mrs. Thomas H. (Mary Mott) Kilduff, of New York City. Mrs. Kilduff owned the homestead, which was rented out, for 29 years.

During that time occurred the Salem Fire of June 25, 1914, which came up out of Blubber Hollow (Boston Street at Federal Street) and spread easterly, wiping out the houses of upper Broad Street, and sweeping through the Mill Pond neighborhood, then attacking South Salem and destroying scores of homes on and near Lafayette Street before raging through the tenement district. Despite the combined efforts of heroic fire crews from many towns and cities, the fire could not be turned: it smashed into the large factory buildings of the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company (Congress Street), which exploded in an inferno; and it rolled across the water to Derby Street, where the fire was finally halted, near the foot of the present Hawthorne Boulevard, after a 13-hour rampage. The conflagration had consumed 250 acres, 1600 houses, and 41 factories, leaving three dead and thousands homeless. 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,

In May, 1922, Mrs. Mary (Mott) Kilduff sold the house and land here to David Joyce of Salem (ED 2521:287). It was then bounded southerly by Washington Square (formerly Brown Street), easterly by Winter Street, northerly by n/f Vaughan, formerly Johnson, and westerly by Clark formerly Tabernacle Church Society. Thus ended the ownership of the Hodges-Mott family, which had continued from 1840 to 1922.

Mr. Joyce evidently rented out the house to tenants, for in 1924 (see Naumkeag Directory) the occupants here at 35 Washington Square North were James J. Donovan (and family, if any), and Charles H. Odell and wife Alice (and children perhaps). Mr. Odell was an insurance man with offices in Salem and another house in Swampscott.

By the 1920s, Salem was once again a thriving city; and its tercentenary in 1926 was a time of great celebration. From that time forward, Salem boomed right through to the 1960s, but 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 its share of fame arising from the commercialization of the witchcraft delusion, but also from its great history as an unrivalled seaport and as the home of Hawthorne and McIntire. Most of all, it remains a city where the homes of the old-time merchants, mariners, and mill-operatives are all honored as a large part of what makes Salem different from any other place.

Coda.

This spot is a site of the witchcraft delusion of 1692; but that connection had been forgotten by the 19th century. Where this house now stands, once stood the house of Ann Poindexter, executed as a witch in 1692.

The antiquarian and historian of Salem, Sidney Perley, Esq., identified the locations of Salem's early house-lots and the history of their ownership. In his article, *Salem in 1700, No. 15*, which appeared in *The Essex Antiquarian, Vol. 8, 1904*, he identified this corner lot as the site of the residence of Jacob Poindexter, a blacksmith, who purchased the corner lot here in 1668 from Thomas Watson and built the house probably that year.

Note: Jacob's surname was a tough one for 17th-century scribes: they wrote it as Poindexter and Poindexter, but also as it was evidently pronounced: Poodeter (as it is spelled in some of the witchcraft trial records), Pudeator, Pudeater, Puddater (the last two as in his will, signed with a mark, and his probate), even Pudding-eater, and in every other possible way (see Essex County Quarterly Court Records for the 1600s). The name was somehow accepted as "Pudeator" in the 20th century, but that too is misleading: the "u" sound was not "yew" but "oo," and the "eater" sound was not "ee-ay-tor" but "eter". There were evidently no other Poindexters or Poodeters in Essex County.

Jacob Poindexter (1642-1682) was in Salem by 1666, aged 24, working as a blacksmith. He married Isabel Mosier in October, 1666. She was troubled and trouble-making; and she died suddenly in March, 1677. After that, he married Ann Greenslate, the much-older widow of Thomas Greenslate (also Greenslid), who had died in 1674. Ann had children John, Thomas, Ruth, Samuel, and James Greenslate. Her son John (born by 1660) became a glover (glove-maker), and purchased a small house and land on Winter Street (formerly the house of old Thomas Watson) from his step-father, Jacob Poindexter, in 1681. Her son Thomas Greenslate also lived in Salem.

Jacob Poindexter died in November 1682, having willed all of his property to his wife Ann for her "natural life." He also forgave a debt from his step-son John Greenslate (also, Greenslid). After Ann's death, four of her children were each to receive 5 li, and the rest was to go to Jacob's cousin, Isaac Puddeter. His estate was a valuable one, and included "two dwelling houses, one barn, & shop, with about three acres of land and an orchard in it," worth 210 li, along with his blacksmith's tools, two cows and 7 swine, "barley, gardens tuff, and stalks," corn and beans, clothes, furniture, molasses, a gun, lumber, and debts due from Samuel Very, Ensign Bancroft, John Bliffen, Jacob Barney, Rice Edwards, and Coker William Dodge. The estate's total assets came to about 278 li, against debts of about 93 li.

After Jacob's death, Ann lived here for another ten years, a widow, with grown children and grand-children nearby. She was evidently peaceable enough, for there is no court record that describes her involvement in any trouble. She was arrested as a witch in the spring of 1692, when she was about seventy. She was accused of making images of afflicted girls, bringing them the Devil's book to sign, etc. Lt. Jeremiah Neal suspected her of bewitching his wife, whom she had come to visit, "pretending kindness," when Goody Neal was ill of smallpox. Samuel Pickworth testified that he was walking near her house, and she "passed

by me as swift as if a bird flew by me.” John Best said that Ann had bewitched his wife, who had died. John Best Jr. said that Ann had “chided” him for driving her cow back when he was herding his family’s cows; and from this he had concluded that she was a witch. Others, whom she had never met, claimed that her apparition tormented them.

After being found guilty, Ann addressed the court. “That whereas your poor and humble petitioner, being condemned to die, and knowing in my own conscience that I shall shortly answer it before the great God of Heaven, who is the searcher and knower of all hearts, (states) that the evidence of the Bests (John and John Jr.) and Samuel Pickworth ... were all of them altogether false and untrue, and, besides, John Best hath been formerly whipped and likewise is recorded for a liar. I would humbly beg of your honors to take it into your judicious and pious consideration that my life may not be taken away by such false evidence and witnesses as these be. Likewise, the evidence given in against me by Sarah Churchill and Mary Warren I am altogether ignorant of and know nothing in the least measure about it nor nothing else concerning the crime of witchcraft for which I am condemned to die, as will be known to men and angels at the great day of judgment. Begging and imploring your prayers at the throne of grace in my behalf; and your poor and humble petitioner shall forever pray, as she is bound in duty, for your honors’ health and happiness in this life and eternal felicity in the world to come.”

It may be imagined that her children worked hard to have her freed; and they (or someone) succeeded, for—evidently—the authorities released her. She should have followed the lead of the Philip Englishes and other Salem families, and fled out of the colony; but she was (of course) innocent, and she thought herself safe enough in staying here. But the constables came for her and she was arrested again, and on 22 Sept. 1692 she was executed by hanging at Gallows Hill, along with Samuel Wardwell, Martha Corey, Alice Parker, Mary Parker, Mary Easty, Margaret Scott, and Wilmot Redd. Right after the executions, Ann’s minister, Rev. Nicholas Noyes, was heard to say, “What a sad thing it is, to see eight firebrands of hell hanging there.”

The homestead here thereupon descended to Isaac Poindexter (per Jacob’s will); and William Browne, a merchant, owned it by 1700. Perley says that the house was gone by 1713. If so, the site had been empty for more than 50 years when Samuel Cheever came along and built a new house in 1769.

--5 May 2001, Robert Booth for Historic Salem Inc.

Glossary

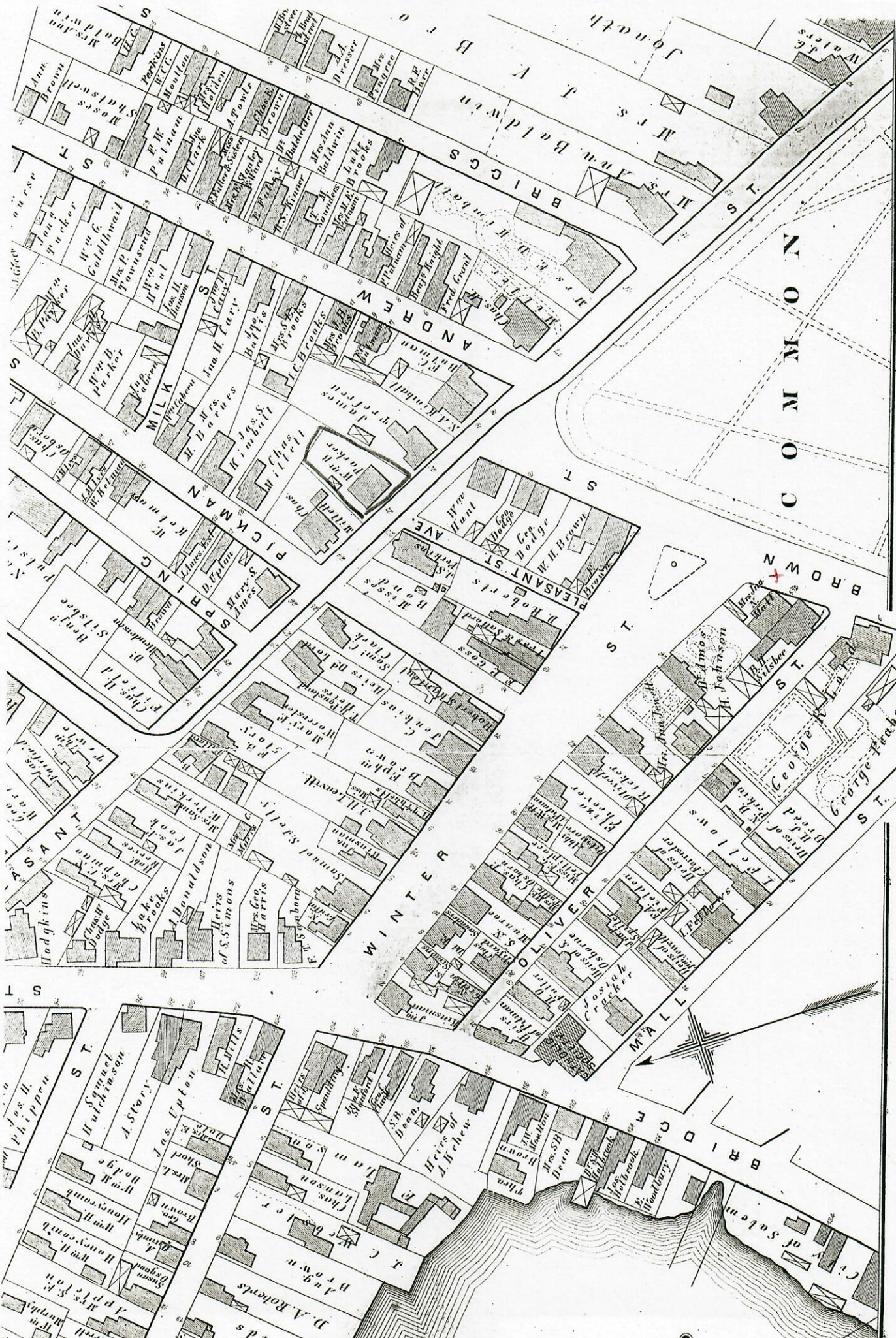
#1234 refers to probate case 1234, Essex County probate

ED 123:45 refers to book 123, page 45, Essex South Registry of Deeds

Salem Directory refers to the published Salem resident directories

Census refers to census records, taken house-by-house with occupants listed.

EIHC refers to Essex Institute Historical Collections



1874 Atlas shows the stable

At the County Court held at Salem: 28. November 1682 25th

The last will & testament of Jacob Pindexter, whoke in body, but of sound memory, prouided to the Lord, doo make this my last body to be buried, & for my out-standings, after my death, & sundrell, & sponcers, discharged, that the residue of my whole estate, both housing land & goods, for the use of my wife Ann, Pindexter during her naturall life. By my will is that if shee shall be before me the next year, shee shall freely forgiue him. my will is that the other four of my wiues children, that is to say the Giggles, and Ruth, & Samuell & Isaac Giggles, shall haue each of them fiftie pounds, & pay out of the estate after my death & death. my will is that after my death, & death, the former legacie paid, the remainder of my estate shall fall to Isaac Pindexter my cozyn, & after his death to the next that is neerer of relation, & so from one generation to another, further my will is that my louing wife Ann Pindexter shall be my sole executrix & haue desired my louing friends: Cozen Mr John Browne son in France, & John Mallow, to be the overseers of this my will. That they shall satisfie for any extraordinary charges, the mark of Jacob Pindexter

Witness my hand & seal this 28th day of November 1681
 Jacob Pindexter

The within named & subscribed executrix, viz. Mr John Browne & Francis Severy, came in to the County Court at Salem, 28. mo. 1682: & made oath, that they were present, when the within said Jacob Pindexter did sign & declare of his will, & that they know of no other will of his that they know of, & that they have subscribed to the within condition as witnesses: attest William Vorden Clerk

An Inventory of the estate of Jacob Pindexter, lately deceased, appoynted in October 1681, by the whose names are under subscribed

1 pair of Smiths Bellowes, 3 rd size	1 pair of Bickorne & Andwell 4 th size	07 10 00	
Small tools, 21 st size from 4 th to 12 th size	12 th size from 4 th to 12 th size	06 19 04	
1 brass for a pair of scales, 2 nd size	1 pair of stillies, & other small 20 th	01 04 00	
2 chaldron of sea Colo. 22 nd size	to chalc Colo. 50	04 02 06	
2 dwelling houses, 1 Barn, & shop, 10 th about 9 acres of land par. oarchard mit	210	00 00	
2 Cowes, 4 th size, 7 swine 7 th size, 12 th size, & coad of wood, 28 th size		10 01 00	
Barley, garden stuff & stalks, 20 th size	one bed & furniture 2 nd size	06 00 00	
1 cubord, 2 tables, 1 chest, & chair, 4 th size	awarming pen, pewter cask, 2 nd size	04 05 00	
1 warming cloath, & linen, 4 th size	to malleys & d. bannell 1 st size	04 00 00	
4 Hether, 2 iron pots & hatters, Dog Iron, 4 th size	2 tables, a gun & tubs, 2 nd size	04 04 00	
1 bed, 1 pillow, 1 seillett, 24 th size	Lumber, 10 th size	03 02 00	
Dues due to the off. of Jacob Pindexter		265 09 10	
on Sam ^l Wemy, son, 4 th size	Ensigne Ban craft, 34 th size	John Bliffon, 34 th size	03 18 00
Jacob Barnby, 20 th size	Rice Dward, 2 nd size	colder wry, Dog, 7 th size	03 07 06
The estate of Jacob Pindexter, as appears by the Inventory, 93. 01. 04 th		277 15 04	

Ann the executrix of the last will & testament of the above Inventory, upon her oath given to the true value of the above of her knowledge, & what of the estate now comes to her knowledge after ward, to ad to it, & give the court and the world, in court at Salem 23. 9. 82. Attest, William Vorden Clerk.

1769 P. Cheever to S. Cheever, ED 122:64.

To all People to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting.
Know Ye, That Peter Cheever of Salem in the County of Essex
Bordwainer with the Consent of Sarah my wife

*Peter Cheever
Sarah Cheever*

For and in Consideration of the Sum of thirty Pounds Lawful Money
to me in Hand before the Enfealing hereof, well and truly paid by my Son Samuel Cheever
of said Salem Mariner

the Receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, and my self — therewith fully satisfied and
contented; and thereof, and of every Part and Parcel thereof, do exonerate, acquit and discharge
him the said Samuel Cheever and his

Heirs, Executors and Administrators, forever by these Presents: HAVE given, granted, bargained, sold,
aliened, conveyed and confirmed; and by these Presents, Do freely, fully and absolutely give, grant,
bargain, sell, aliene, convey and confirm, unto him the said Samuel Cheever and his

Heirs and Assigns forever, A piece of Land in said Salem containing fifteen
Poles it being at the South easterly Corner of my Homestead and butting
Southerly or Southeastwardly by the Highway two Poles and eighteen
Links of y^e Chain Northeastly on the way to the Ferry (so called) four
Poles and two Links of the Chain North a little Westly by my own
Land three Poles and twenty Links of the Chain and West Southerly
by my own Land five Poles and seven Links of the Chain with the
Priviledges and Appurtenances thereof

To have and to hold the said granted and bargained Premises, with all the Appur-
tenances, Privileges and Commodities to the same belonging, or in any wise appertaining to him
the said Samuel Cheever & his

Heirs and Assigns forever. To his — and their only proper Use, Benefit and Behoof forever.
And I the said Peter Cheever

Heirs, Executors and Administrators, do Covenant, Promise and Grant to and with
him the said Samuel Cheever and his

Heirs and Assigns, that before the Enfealing hereof, I am the true, sole and lawful Owner of the
above-bargained Premises, and am lawfully seized and possessed of the same in my own proper
Right, as a good, perfect and absolute Estate of Inheritance in Fee Simple: And have in my self
good Right, full Power and lawful Authority, to grant, bargain, sell, convey and confirm said bargained
Premises in Manner as aforesaid: And that he the said Samuel Cheever and his

Heirs and Assigns, shall and may from Time to Time, and at all Times forever hereafter, by Force and
Virtue of these Presents, lawfully, peaceably and quietly Have, Hold, Use, Occupy, Possess and Enjoy
the said demised and bargained Premises, with the Appurtenances, free and clear, and freely and clearly
acquitted, exonerated and discharged of, from all and all Manner of former or other Gifts, Grants,
Bargains, Sales, Leases, Mortgages, Wills, Entails, Jointures, Dowries, Judgments, Executions, or Incum-
brances of what Name or Nature soever, that might in any Measure or Degree obstruct or make Void
this present Deed.

Furthermore, I the said Peter Cheever

for my self my Heirs,
Executors and Administrators, do Covenant and Engage the above-demised Premises to him the said
Samuel Cheever & his
Heirs and Assigns,

against the lawful Claims or Demands of any Person or Persons whatsoever, forever hereafter to
Warrant, Secure and Defend by these Presents. And said Sarah for said consideration

and a Shilling paid to her by the said Samuel doth consent hereto of release
to the said Samuel & to his heirs her Dowry of all her right in y^e same premises to hold same
to him & his heirs against her & her heirs & assigns In Witness whereof, I the said Peter
& y^e said Sarah do hereto put our hands and Seals y^e fifteenth Day of August

A.D. 1769
Signed sealed & Del^d in presence of us
(Each being interlined)
Benjamin Cheever
Margaret Pratt

Peter Cheever of a Seal
Sarah Cheever of a Seal

Essex s^e April y^e 7th 1770 then the within named Peter Cheever and
Sarah his wife personally appeared & severally acknowledged the within
written Instrument to be their free deed

before Joseph Brouditch Jur: o' Peace

Essex s^e Rec^d on Record April 14th 1770 & entered & examined
by J^{ms} Higginson Esq^r

1810 will of Samuel Cheever

Cheever. In the name of GOD amen. I Samuel Cheever, of Salem in the county of Essex and commonwealth of Massachusetts, merchant, sensible of the uncertainty of this mortal life, but of sound mind and memory, do make and publish this my last will and testament, in manner and form following, that is to say: —

First. I give and bequeath to my son Samuel Cheever jr. and to my daughter Sally Bickford the sum of five dollars each, to be paid them respectively within six months next after my decease.

As to the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, of what kind and nature soever, I give, bequeath and devise the same to my beloved wife Sally Cheever; to have and to hold the same to her, her heirs and assigns forever.

Lastly. I do constitute and appoint my said wife Sally Cheever sole executrix of this my last will and testament.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this eleventh day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ten.

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the above named } Samuel Cheever. Seal.
Samuel Cheever to be his last will and testament, in the pres. }

ence of us, who at his request and in his presence signed our names, as witnesses to the same. Jeremiah Shepard, Henry Terry, John Saunders.

L.S. To all people, to whom these presents shall come, Samuel Stollen, esquire, judge of probate for the county of Essex within the commonwealth of Massachusetts, sendeth . . . greeting.

Know ye, that, on the eighteenth day of April, anno Domini 1814, the instrument, aforesaid, purporting the last will and testament of Samuel Cheever, late of Salem in said county, merchant, deceased, was presented for probate by Sally Cheever, the executrix therein named, then present John Saunders esquire, Jeremiah Shepard and Henry Terry, the witnesses thereto subscribed; who made oath, that they saw the said testator sign and seal, and heard him declare the said instrument to be his last will and testament, and that they all subscribed their names together, as witnesses to the execution thereof, in the said testator's presence; and that he was then, to the best of their judgments, of sound and disposing mind.

I do therefore, upon the aforesaid declaration of said subscribing witnesses to the said instrument, approve and allow of the same, as the last will and testament of the before named deceased; and do commit the administration thereof, in all matters the same concerning, and of his estate, whereof he died seized and possessed in said commonwealth, unto Sally Cheever, the before named executrix; who accepted of her said trust, and gave bonds, with said John Saunders and said Jeremiah Shepard as securities, to pay the said deceased's debts and legacies, faithfully to fulfil his will, and administer his estate according thereto, and render an account of her proceedings thereupon, when thereunto lawfully required.

In testimony whereof, I do hereunto set my hand and seal of office, the day and

1846 will of Elizabeth Hodges (2 pages)

I Elizabeth Hodges, of Salem in the county of Essex, singlewoman, being of sound and disposing mind and memory, do make and ordain this my last will and testament. I give, devise and bequeath to my sister Hannah Hodges, of Salem in said county, singlewoman, provided she shall be living at the time of my decease, all the estate, both real and personal, of which I may die seized and possessed, to have and to hold the same to her and her heirs forever.

But in case my said sister Hannah Hodges shall not be living at the time of my decease, then and in that case I do make the following disposition of my real and personal estate, viz.

I give, devise and bequeath to Benjamin F. Sibley and John F. Sibley, of Salem in the county of Essex, merchants, the sum of three thousand dollars, to have and to hold the same to the said Benjamin F. Sibley and John F. Sibley, their executors, administrators and assigns, upon the trust nevertheless, and to the intents and purposes hereinafter expressed, viz. that the said Benjamin F. Sibley and John F. Sibley shall invest the said sum of three thousand dollars in bank or other stock, or put out the same at interest on good security, and the income, interest and profits of said sum shall, annually, at such times and in such proportions, as they may judge expedient, pay over to Sally Allen, of Salem, in the county of Essex, singlewoman, during her life, for her sole use and benefit, and after the death of the said Sally Allen the said sum of three thousand dollars shall be divided and distributed by the said Benjamin F. Sibley and John F. Sibley, trustees aforesaid, to and amongst my nephews and names hereinafter named, and subject to such trusts, conditions and limitations as in hereinafter provided and established in relation to any share or shares of my said nephew or nephews in the real, personal and remaining of my estate.

The next sentence in my will is as follows: "I do make and give the sum of three thousand dollars to the said Benjamin F. Sibley and John F. Sibley, their executors, administrators and assigns, upon the trust nevertheless, and to the intents and purposes hereinafter expressed, viz. that the said Benjamin F. Sibley and John F. Sibley shall invest the said sum of three thousand dollars in bank or other stock, or put out the same at interest on good security, and the income, interest and profits of said sum shall, annually, at such times and in such proportions, as they may judge expedient, pay over to Sally Allen, of Salem, in the county of Essex, singlewoman, during her life, for her sole use and benefit, and after the death of the said Sally Allen the said sum of three thousand dollars shall be divided and distributed by the said Benjamin F. Sibley and John F. Sibley, trustees aforesaid, to and amongst my nephews and names hereinafter named, and subject to such trusts, conditions and limitations as in hereinafter provided and established in relation to any share or shares of my said nephew or nephews in the real, personal and remaining of my estate."

and desire in my last will and testament that is to say

I give, devise and bequeath unto my nephew Benjamin H. Silbee one sixth part of the said test. residue and remainder of my estate to him and his heirs forever.

I give, devise and bequeath unto my nephew John H. Silbee one sixth part of all the said test. residue and remainder of my estate to him and his heirs forever.

I give, devise and bequeath to Benjamin H. Silbee and John H. Silbee one sixth part of all the said test. residue and remainder of my estate, to have and to hold the same to the said Benjamin H. Silbee and John H. Silbee, their executors, administrators and assigns, upon the trusts and to the intents and purposes following, viz. the said sixth part to remain and be in the hands of said Benjamin H. Silbee and John H. Silbee for and during the life of my nephew William Silbee, the personal estate to be invested and kept at interest and the real estate improved or let to the best advantage, and the income, interest and profits of the said sixth part to be paid over annually to him the said William Silbee, and at his death the said sixth part to be divided in equal proportions to and among the heirs at law of the said William Silbee.

I give, devise and bequeath to Benjamin H. Silbee and John H. Silbee three sixth parts of the said test. residue and remainder of my estate, to have and to hold the same to the said Benjamin H. Silbee and John H. Silbee, their executors, administrators and assigns, upon the trusts and to the intents and purposes following, viz. said three sixth parts to remain and be in the hands of said Benjamin H. Silbee and John H. Silbee for and during the lives of my nieces, Mary Silbee, Hannah Hodges Silbee and Corriet Elizabeth Silbee, the personal estate to be invested and kept at interest and the real estate improved or let to the best advantage, and the income, interest and profits of said three sixth parts of the said test. residue and remainder of my estate to be annually paid over to my said nieces, each one of my said nieces to receive the income, interest and profits of one sixth part of said test. residue and remainder of my estate during her life; and at the death of any one of my said nieces one sixth part of the said test. residue and remainder of my estate to be divided equally amongst the children of my said nieces, if she shall have any at her death; but in case any one of my said nieces shall die unmarried or without children, if any one of my said nieces shall die before me, then one sixth part of said test. residue and remainder shall be divided equally among my surviving nephews and nieces and the representatives of any deceased nephew or niece.

I hereby constitute and appoint Benjamin H. Silbee and John H. Silbee executors of this my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I the said Elizabeth Hodges have to this my last will and testament set my hand and seal this twenty third day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty six.

signed, sealed, published and delivered by the above named Elizabeth Hodges, as and for her last will and testament, in her presence, who, at her request and in her presence have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses.
Nathl. Lordje
Stephen H. Beck

Elizabeth Hodges Seal

Recorded from the original, and examined by
Prob. Sec. N. H. 1874

Nathl. Lordje, register

1849 inventory of estate of Elizabeth Hodges.

To the honorable *Daniel A. White* Enquire, Judge
of probate for the county of Essex.

Pursuant to a warrant from your honor, we, the subscribers, the committee therein named, having been first sworn, have made the following

INVENTORY AND APPRAISEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF

Elizabeth Hodges,

late of *Salem* in said county, *singlewoman,* deceased, testate, as shown to us by the ~~and~~ *executors.*

REAL ESTATE.

<i>1/2 of dwelling house in Salem</i>	<i>\$3000.00</i>
<i>Personal estate.</i>	
<i>1/2 of furniture in said dwelling house</i>	<i>\$800.00</i>
<i>1 share in Massachusetts cotton mills</i>	<i>1000.00</i>
<i>1 do. Hamilton manufacturing company</i>	<i>900.00</i>
<i>3 do. Merrimack do. do. \$3600.00</i>	<i>4500.00</i>
<i>1/2 do. Salisbury do. do. \$1125.00</i>	<i>3825.00</i>
<i>3 do. Newmarket do. do. \$2100.00</i>	<i>1000.00</i>
<i>10 do. Oriental insurance office</i>	<i>1000.00</i>
<i>4 do. Essex do. do.</i>	<i>400.00</i>
<i>12 do. Auburn and Rochester R. R. company</i>	<i>1008.00</i>
<i>12 do. Portland, Portland and Saco R. R. company</i>	<i>1120.00</i>
<i>13 do. Union street corporation</i>	<i>150.00</i>
<i>8 do. Marblehead bank \$760.00</i>	<i>1276.00</i>
<i>19 do. Atlantic bank \$516.00</i>	<i>2375.00</i>
<i>30 do. Merchants do. 1425.00</i>	<i>2375.00</i>
<i>15 do. Salem do. 1425.00</i>	<i>760.00</i>
<i>10 do. Naumkeag do. 950.00</i>	<i>571.40</i>
<i>4 do. Danvers do. 380.00</i>	<i>150.00</i>
<i>4 do. Warren do. 380.00</i>	
<i>Note of R. H. Silsbee \$2140.00</i>	
<i>do. do. and J. H. Silsbee \$380.00</i>	
<i>12 do. J. H. Silsbee</i>	
	<i>\$22,230.40</i>

Brought forward. Amount of real estate, - - - - - \$ *3000.00*
 Amount of personal estate, - - - - - *22,230.40*
 TOTAL, \$ *25,230.40*

Dated at *Salem* this *twentieth* day of *April*, A. D. 18*49*.
R. H. Silsbee,
John H. Silsbee, } *executors.*
J. F. Silsbee,
Nath. Silsbee jr., } *COMMITTEE.*
Stephen P. White,

ESSEX, ss. At a court of probate holden at *Salem* in and for said county, on the *third* Tuesday in *May*, A. D. 18*49*.
Benjamin H. Silsbee and John H. Silsbee, executors,

present the foregoing, and make oath, that it contains a true and perfect inventory of the estate of *Elizabeth Hodges,* late of *Salem* in said county, *singlewoman,* deceased, testate, so far as has come to their hands or knowledge, and that, if any thing further shall hereafter appear, they will cause it to be of record herewith in the probate office. It is thereupon decreed, that the same be accepted, allowed and recorded.

Recorded from the original, and examined by
D. A. White, JUDGE OF PROBATE.
Nath. Silsbee jr., REGISTER.

1851 B.H. Silsbee to Hannah Hodges, ED 451:299, (2 pages)

I know all men by these presents, That I Benjamin
H. Silsbee of Salem in the County of Essex, Merchant. In
consideration of one thousand dollars to me paid by Hannah
Hodges of said Salem, Singlewoman, the receipt whereof is
herely acknowledged, do herely give, grant, bargain, sell,
and convey unto the said Hannah Hodges & her heirs, — the
following described Messuage in said Salem viz. com-
mencing at the Southeast corner of the wall of the brick
dwelling house recently occupied by the late widow Mary
Silsbee, deceased. and running Northwesterly by the easterly
side of said wall to the back of said house, then westerly
eight inches to the west side of the wall of the house on
the premises herely conveyed; then by the west side of
said wall to the Southwest corner of Robert Upton's
estate, then Northeastly by said Upton to Winter Street
then Southeasterly, Southerly & Southwestly by Winter Street
and Brown Street to the point begin at, with the right of the
support of the East wall of the house of the grantor, as now
enjoyed, so long as said house of the grantor remains; and if said
grantors house shall be removed and not be rebuilt, he
covenants that he will convey to said grantee or her heirs
the land on which said wall rests and said wall if they
request it at such price as the parties may agree upon, and

~~In case of disagreement between said parties as to the assessors~~
of the City of Salem for the time being shall determine
and it is understood & agreed that the grantor & grantee
and their heirs are to have the privilege of the present
eaves droppings of their respective houses so long as said
houses shall remain but neither shall acquire any
other right or claim to the land under the projection
of the eaves, To have and to hold the above granted
premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances
thereto belonging to the said Hannah Hodges & her heirs
and assigns, to her & their use and behoof forever, and
I the said Benjamin H. Silsbee for myself and my heirs,
executors and administrators, do covenant with the
said Hannah Hodges & her heirs and assigns, that I
am lawfully seized in fee simple of the aforegranted
premises, that they are free from all incumbrances,
That I have good right to sell and convey the same
to the said Hannah Hodges and her heirs and assigns
forever as aforesaid, and that I will and my heirs
executors and administrators shall warrant and
defend the same to the said Hannah Hodges & her heirs
and assigns forever, against the lawful claims and
demands of all persons, In witness whereof, the
said Benjamin H. Silsbee and Elizabeth J. his wife who
for one dollar to her paid releases to said Hannah Hodges
and her heirs all claim to devise in the premises have
hereunto set their hands and seals this twentieth day
of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight
hundred and fifty one.

B. H. Silsbee. seal

Witness, signed and delivered by said } E. J. Silsbee. seal

B. H. Silsbee in presence of M. J. Lord. } Refex 33. Oct. 21, 1851. When person=

And by said Elizabeth J. Silsbee. } ally appeared the above named

in presence of John H. Silsbee. } Benjamin H. Silsbee

1871 Hannah Hodges executors to John N. Mott

We Benjamin H. Silbee and John H. Silbee both of Salem in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts executors of the will of Hannah Hodges late of said Salem single woman deceased by virtue of the power in said will given and in consideration of eleven thousand and five hundred dollars to us paid by John N. Mott of said Salem do hereby grant sell and convey to said Mott the real estate lying in said Salem which is bounded as follows, Beginning at the southeast corner on Brown street by land of said Benjamin thence running northerly by land of said Benjamin till it intersects with the southeast line of John's estate thence running easterly by land of John's late of Upton to Winter street thence running by several courses on Winter and Brown streets to the point begun at. Being the premises conveyed to said Hannah by said Benjamin by deed recorded in the Registry of Deeds for Essex South District in Book 451 p. 297. To have and to hold the same to said Mott his heirs and assigns with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging. In testimony whereof we the said Benjamin H. Silbee and John H. Silbee executors as aforesaid have hereunto set our hands and seals this eighth day of July in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy one.

Witness Geo. Wheatland

Essex, ss. July 11, 1871. Then Benjamin H.

B. H. Silbee } seal.

John H. Silbee } seal.

Silbee and John H. Silbee acknowledged the above deed by them signed to be their free act and deed. Before me Geo. Wheatland, Jus. Peace.

Essex, ss. Recd. July 11, 1871. 14 m. part 10 A. & M. Recs. Ex. by Ephraim Brown Ref.

1871 B. H. Silsbee to J. N. Mott.

B. H. Silsbee
to
J. N. Mott
One 50¢ R. Stamp.
Entry of Goods
Cancelled.

I Benjamin H. Silsbee of the City of Salem for Three hundred dollars to me paid by John N. Mott of said Salem do hereby grant and convey to said Mott and his heirs the land lying easterly of a line beginning at a point on Brown street at the middle of the wall separating my house from the house of said Mott and running northerly through the wall till it reaches the jog in said Mott's land. Granting to said Mott and his heirs the right to use the wall as a party wall so long as either house shall stand and reserving to myself and my heirs the right to use the wall as a party wall so long as either house shall stand. The caves to remain as they are so long as both houses stand. Signed and sealed this eight day of July in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy one
Witness Geo. Wheatland & B. H. Silsbee seal.

Essex co. July 11th 1871 Then Benjamin H. Silsbee acknowledged the within deeds by him signed to be his free act and deed. before me Geo. Wheatland Jus. Peace.
Essex co. Recd. July 11. 1871 14m. part 10 A. N. Rec. & Cop. by Ephraim Brown Ref.

John Cousins + Phil M. Riley
Water Bureau & Co. (1919)

The Colonial Architecture of Salem

height of all three stories. This and some of the detail of the interior finish show the influence of Greek revival tendencies. An intrusive glass conservatory of recent origin under this columnar veranda mars the former imposing effect of the columns. The ornate Corinthian entrance porch, referred to in detail in the following chapter, is the most elaborate and one of the most admired in Salem, and properly forms the center of interest of this imposing façade. As in the case of several other brick residences, the walls have been painted. Within, the house is notable for its fine wood finish, scenic wall papers and antique furniture, to which further reference will be made in Chapter VIII.

The Silsbee-Mott house, a two-family, semi-detached structure at Number 35 Washington Square and Number 2 Oliver Street West, erected in 1818, interests the student of architecture for its unusual arrangement, made necessary partly by the irregular shape of the site, and partly in conformity with the scheme of building two separate but adjoining houses on a double corner site. The left-hand or Silsbee portion has an L-shaped plan with an entrance on Oliver Street, while the right-hand or Mott portion has an oblong plan with an entrance on Washington Square East, as shown by the accompanying photograph. It will be noticed that this latter entrance, located as it is at the side where this part of the house adjoins the other, lends a pleasing sense of unity and balance to

[96]

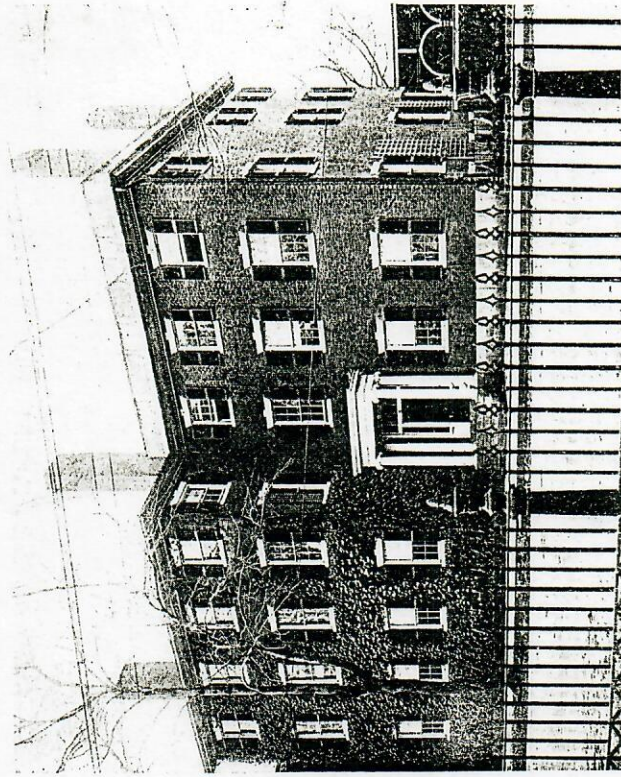
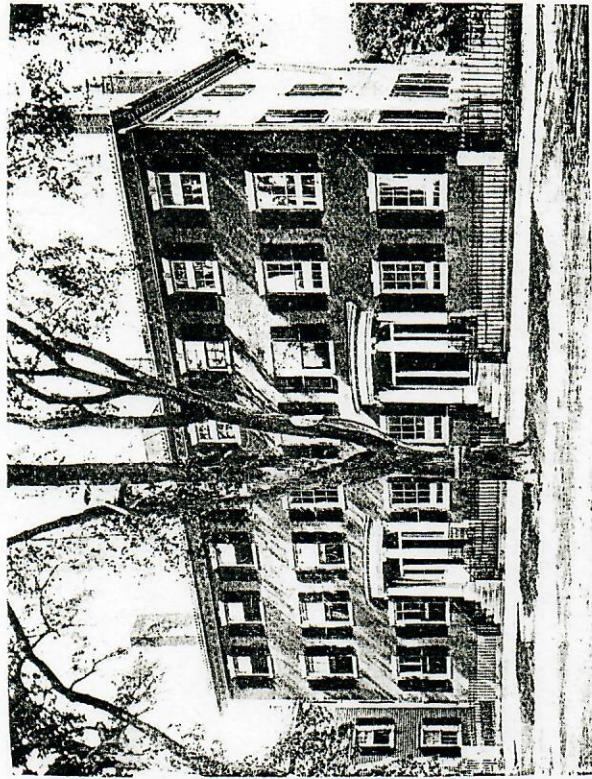


PLATE XLII. — Mack-and-Stone Houses, 21 and 23 Chestnut Street. Erected 1814-1815; Silsbee-Mott House, 35 Washington Square West. Erected 1818.