# Salem incorporated

POST OFFICE BOX 865

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970 / PHONE (617) 745-0799

17 River Street

House of BENJAMIN BECKFORD, fisherman
by 1757
possibly 17th century

Research by, Joyce King Nov. 1983

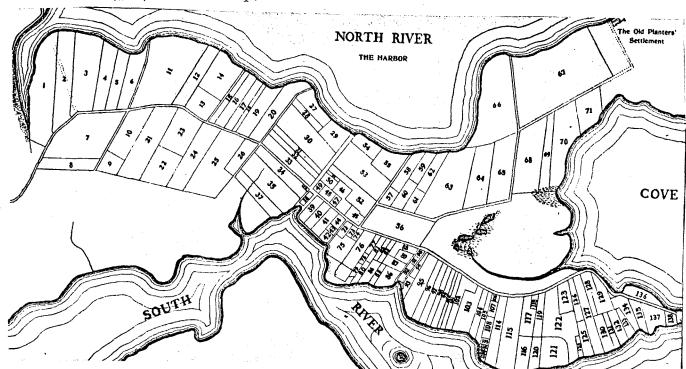
"to preserve Historic Sites, Buildings and objects, and to work for the education of the community in the true value of the same." Since there is very little documentary evidence directly relating to this house before 1757 architectural evidence must be used to date this house. Chamfered beams, nogging in the north wall and other details indicate an earlier building. I would suggest calling in an expert on 17th century construction from the Soc. for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

Joyce King

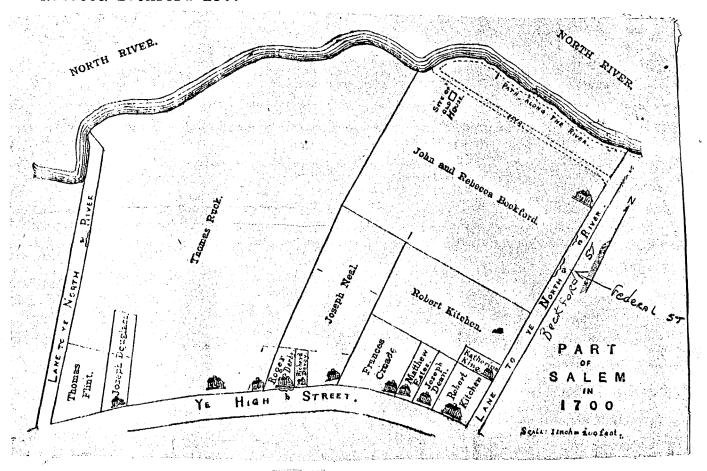
"River street was called a way in 1739; road, 1773; private road, 1778; lane, 1782; and River street in 1796." (Essex Antiquarian, Vol. 7 pg. 116)

Although the name River street hardly seems to apply to this high and dry road today, during Salem's early history this was a way bordering on a beautiful, broad river, clean and so deep that vessels were built and launched at the head of it. The area around River street was known as Cape Driver, for the land which jutted out into the river was occupied by the Driver family. At the end of this street was a sandy beach where carts passed to gather sea-weed and sea-grass. A large sand bank was favorite playground.

The land on which this house stands was very early owned by Thomas Trusler (#14 on the map):



The land is described in the Essex Antiquarian as the John and Rebecca Beckford lot:



John and Rebecca Beckford House.§ That part of this lot lying east of the dashes was owned by Thomas Trusler, who died March 5, 1654. His widow Elinor Trusler died in 1655, having devised the house and lot to her son Edward Phelps. Mr. Phelps lived in Newbury, and, for twenty-five pounds, he conveyed the estate to Thomas Robbins of Salem July 2, 1657. Upon Mr. Robbins' decease, before 1694, the estate descended to his niece and heir Rebecca Pinson. Mr. Pinson died in July, 1695, having devised his estate to his wife Rebecca. In the inventory of his estate, the house, barn and land were appraised at one hundred pounds. Mrs. Rebecca Pinson survived her husband, and married secondly, Joseph Boobier of Marblehead; and, for thirty pounds, they conveyed to Rebecca, daughter of William Pinson, and wife of John Beckford of Marblehead, Jan. 11, 1698-9, the estate then being in the possession of George Hacker, as tenant. Mr. and Mrs. Beckford removed to Reading, where he was a yeoman : and conveyed the house and land around it to their son John Beckford, jr., of Salem, shoreman, July 23, 1739.\*
The house was probably gone soon after.
The exact site of the house, as it stood in 1700 is uncertain, it may have been on the narrow way some two hundred feet westerly of the place where it is marked on the map.

That part of the lot lying west of the dashes was a part of the Richard Bishop lot, and was devised in the nuncupative will of Mr. Bishop, who died in 1674-5, to his son Thomas Bishop for his life and the remainder in fee to the latter's son Richard Bishop. Thomas Bishop lived in Manchester, and was a wheelwright. For forty pounds, he conveyed it to Robert Kitchen of Salem Dec. 22, 1691.† Thomas Bishop's son Richard released his interest in the estate to Mr. Kitchen Feb. 7, 1692-3.† Richard Bishop's house stood upon the northern end of the lot, according to his will, but was probably gone before the latter date. Mr. Kitchen apparently conveyed the lot to John and Rebecca Beckford about 1700, and it was thenceforth a portion of the Beckford lot.

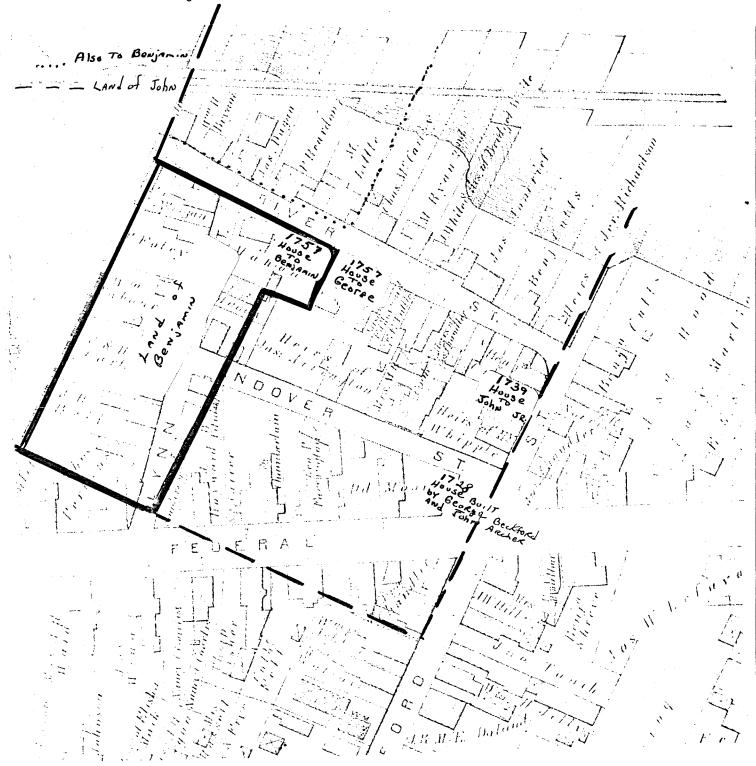
1698/9 Jan. 12 - Joseph Boobier of Marblehead and Rebeckah Boobier his wife relict of William Pinsent, late of Salem and executrix of the late will of said William Pinsent, sold the "messuage" containing about three acres of land with a dwelling house, barn and out housing to John Bickford and Rebeckah his wife. Rebeckah was the only child of the late William Pinsent. (book 13 page 62) (appendix A early documentation and genealogy data)

John Beckford (Bickford), the son of George and Christian Beckford, was born at Marblehead about 1674. His occupations were recorded as fisherman, brickmaker, shoreman and yeoman. Mr. Beckford married Rebecca Pinsent, the daughter of William and Rebecca (Greene) Pinsent, on Feb. 8, 1697/8. The couple settled in Salem where on Dec. 8, 1717, he and wife Rebecca were baptized and received to the First Church with seven of their children.

### Beckford children:

George born July 5, 1700
John born Sept. 15, 1702
Rebecca born Feb. 26, 1705
William born March 4, 1706
Bethiah born Feb. 2, 1708
Benjamin born Aug. 30, 1711
Ebenezer born May 18, 1715
Priscilla born Aug. 8, 1717
Mary born Nov. 22, 1719
Sarah born Dec. 18, 1721

Over the years John and Rebecca sold portions of their homestead to their sons. By 1757 the entire three acres had been doled out with a large lot including a dwelling house (17 River St.) being sold to Benjamin Beckford:



1757 March 21 - As shown, John Beckford, formerly of Salem then of Reading, and Rebekah his wife sold "a Dwelling House and a Lot of Land under & adjoying in Salem af in ye occupation of ye sd Benjamin containing about one hundred seventy two poles & an half of their late Homested" to Benjamin Beckford. (book 104 page 122) (appendix B)

Benjamin Beckford, fisherman and yeoman, was born on Aug. 30, 1711 and married Mary Collins, on Dec. 6, 1733. (Mr. Beckford is first taxed for real estate in 1735, apparently as a tenant. Other than being in Ward 4 the location of this real estate is not known.)

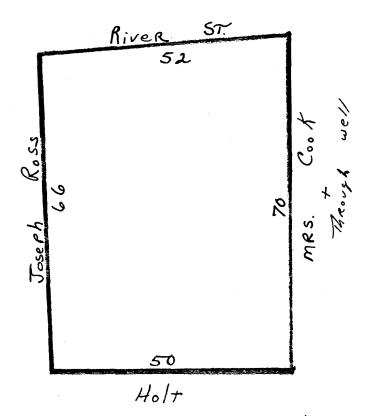
Benjamin and Mary had children: Mary, Benjamin, Adoniram, Hannah,
James and George.

Benjamin Beckford married as his second wife, Lydia (Cheever) Legro Norris, on Oct. 2, 1750. Mrs. Norris' children were Sarah, Elizabeth, James and Henry Norris.

1773 May 28 - Benjamin Beckford, a member of of the Society of Friends, died and was buried in the "plain and decent manner of Friends" in the Friend's Burying Ground. In his will, Lydia was devised "the entire use of two chambers in my House and of the small garden by it and as much room in the cellar, garret and wood-house as will be sufficient for her use, so long as she shall remain my widow." Three house lots were granted from the "Bridge Lot" and the residue, both real and personal, were devised to his son Benjamin Beckford. (appendix C)

1778 - Much of the estate was sold by Benjamin Beckford Jr. and in April 1783 he was sued by Joseph Southwick. An appraisal of the property was made. This house (17 River St.) was described as "an Old house and the land under it & adjoining to it in said Salem containing about three poles be it more or less bounded Northerly on the afores lane west on Phillips's land Easterly on the yard where the well stands southerly on the widow Bickford's Garden." (appendix D) (Lydia Beckford also sued, appendix E)

1796 Sept. 6- Benjamin and Sarah Bickford sold the land, dwelling house and other buildings to Lydia Bickford for the sum of \$34:



(appendix F)

1804 Jan. 28 - Lydia Beckford died at the age of 100 years, 5 months. The Rev. William Bentley made note of Mrs. Beckford in his diary:

31. This day I had an opportunity to enquire of the daughter of the late Lydia Beckford respecting her deceased mother and I ascertained the following particular facts. Lydia Beckford, who was buried yesterday, was in her family name Lydia Chever. She was born in the house which was possessed by her Brother Peter Chever, till the present generation. And by Capt. Prat who bought it but afterwards removed to Orford, N. H. It was sold & he moved into Oliver street. It stood on the N.W. side of the Common at the entrance of what is now called Oliver street, has been carried back & enlarged. It was 50 feet in from the road. The door entered on the western side, room & bedroom front. It was of two low stories, & had a kitchen behind. At 17 years of age Lydia married Mr. Legro whose grandchild now lives. She had but one child by Legro. At 26 years of age she married Mr. Norris, a Brother to the Grandfather of the present generation & descendant of the Minister & Schoolmaster. By him she had four children, of which only one remains, who is married to John Archer. At 37 she married Benjamin Beckford, but by him she had no children & she had lived about 31 years a Widow, chiefly with her daughter and as a Nurse chiefly among her own posterity. From the account of her daughter she had full health through life. She was a woman of the full size, muscular, not fat, but fleshy, strong, patient of labour, equal yet persevering, not aspiring, yet active, & contented. The family of Chever still continue name. Nothing has been sold by persons of the name. The late deceased is an example that early marriage does not necessarily shorten life. Her husband Legro came from Cambridge. Her husband Benjamin Beckford was Brother to the Aged & venerable Deacon Beckford, who has died since I came to Salem, & was the father of Eb: Beckford, &c. & many children.

By will (#2284), written Oct. 26, 1796, Lydia Beckford bequeathed all of her estate, both real and personal, to John Archer and his wife Elizabeth (daughter of Lydia).

Capt. John Archer was a coaster, fisherman, mariner and shoreman.

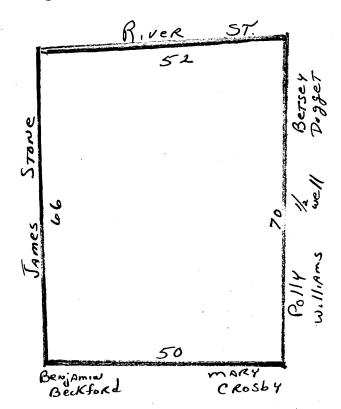
He married Elizabeth Norris on June 28, 1758. Elizabeth died on

April 3, 1814 at the age of 80. Captain John Archer died on Sept. 18, 1819.

1828 April 19 - The heirs of John Archer sold the land and dwelling house to John Archer, cabinetmaker and James Archer, mariner.

John Archer then sold his rights to James Archer "the same conveyed to Lydia Beckford on Sept. 6, 1796." (book 247 pages 269-270)

1830 April 29 - James and Elizabeth Archer sold the land and dwelling house to John Snelling:



(book 257 page 23)

Captain John Snelling was a native of Newfoundland, but resided in the U.S.A. since 1784. Captain Snelling died on June 28, 1833 at the age of 60. His wife, Lydia (Archer) Snelling died on Oct. 1, 1833 at the age of 57.

1834 April 14 - The heirs of John and Lydia Snelling sold the land and dwelling house to Susan Marston for the sum of \$540. "The same estate John Snelling bought of James Archer on April 29, 1830." (book 273 page 297)

1836 directory

17 River St. - Susan Marston, tailoress

1842 directory

17 River St. - Susan Marston

John Phelps, sash and blind maker at 12 Federal St. (this shop was located in the rear of the Peirce Nichols House.)

### 1850 census

Susan Mar	rston	age	67	•	born	Mass.
2nd family	1					
Michael I	Barry	11	30	currier	11	Ire.
Eliza	ti	11	<b>2</b> 9		Ħ	Mass.
Sarah	tt	11	5		11	11
John H.	11	11	3		11	11
Margaret	11	11	16			

1853 tax

Susan Marston 3 houses  $(15\frac{1}{2} \text{ River}, 17 \text{ River})$  and 10 Lynn streets.

1857 Nov. 22 - Mrs. Susan Marston died leaving a will in which many monetary bequest were made (appendix G). The property was to be sold to fulfill her wishes.

1858 tax

17 River St.

James May age 50

Estate of Susan Marston - \$1,200

1858 Sept. 1 - The heirs of Susan Marston sold the dwelling house and land to Thomas Perkins. Mr. Perkins was a wealthy merchant having his residence at 124 Federal St. The real estate assessed to Mr. Perkins was: 124 Federal St. valued at \$3,000; Brick storehouse \$400; 7 Ash St. \$2,000; 10 Lynn St. \$1,000; 17 River St. \$600; 21 North St. and a lot of land on Walter St. no value given.

1860	census	5					
	James	Lawrence	age	25	currier	born	Ire.
	Hannah	TT .	11	24		11	11
	John	11	11	1		11	Mass.
2nd	family						
	James Shortell	Shortell	11	29	currier	11	Mass.
	Mary	. 11	11	28		11	11
	Anna	11 1	11	5		11	11
	Ellen	11	11	4		11	11
	Thomas	11	11	2	•	11	tt

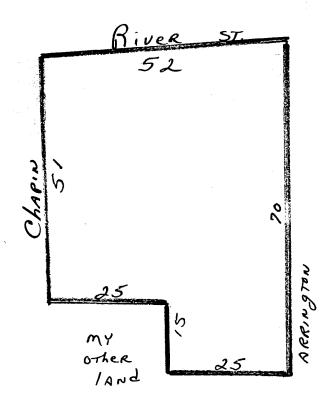
1866 tax

Occupant

Michael Kenney

Thomas Perkins
house \$35
land 35

1869 July 6 - Thomas Perkins sold the dwelling house and land to Ann McMahon. "The same purchased by Perkins except a jog piece 15'X 25' sold to Mary Jackson et al."



(book 776 page 162)

TOVO	census								
	Michael	McMahon	age	35	laborer	born	Ire.	(County	Clare)
	John	11	Ņ	25	currier	11	11		
	Bridget	11	11	20		11	11		
	Ann	11	11	66	keeps house	11	11		
2nd	d family								
	Henry Mc	Gee	11	30	butcher	11	İt		
	Margaret	11	11	28		11	11		
	William	11	11	9	months	11	Mass.		
	Margaret	tt	11	2		tt	Ħ		
	Mary Ann	11	11	4		11	11		

# 1872 tax

Occupant

Michael McMahon

Patrick Sullivan

John McMahon

Owner

Ann McMahon

house \$900 land 600 1880 census

	Michael	Boyle	age	40	currier	born	Ire.
	Anna	11	tt	25	keeps house	11	Nova Scotia
	Bessie	. 11	11	4	daughter	11	Mass.
	Charles	11	11	3	son	11	11
	Louisa	11	tt	1	daughter	11	Ħ
2	nd family						
	John McCa	abe	11	24	plumber	tt ·	N.H.
	Anne	11	11	22	keeps house	Ħ	Mass.
	William '	u ,	11	4	son	11	11

1884 August 4 - John "McMeahon" was granted a building permit to build an "addition" to the dwelling house at 17 River St. then became  $17\frac{1}{2}$  River St. (Building Permits at the Essex Institute)

1000 tax	
<u>Occupants</u>	<u>Owner</u>
John McMahon	Ann McMahon house \$1,100 land 400 addition 200
1887 tax #17 John J. McMahon Patrick Lynch	Ann McMahon house \$1,300 land 400
#17½ James Landers John Doyle	. *

1890 tax

#17 John J. McMahon Ann McMahon house \$1,300 #17½ James Landers land 400 Edward Morris John J. O'Keefe

1892 March 5 - Ann McMahon, the widow of John, died at the age of 90 years. John J. McMahon and Mrs. James Landers then became the owners of  $17-17\frac{1}{2}$  River St.

1900	census							Came to	II .S .
#17	Amos Sulli	van	age	77		born	Ire.	1860	0.0.1
	John Whitin	ng	11	25	grandson	11	Eng.	4	
	(illegible)	)	11	17	grand daughter	11	11	1884	
	Delia Leah	эу	11	43	laundress	11	${\tt Ire}_{\bullet}$	1873	
#172	John McMaho	on	11	52	city worker	11	11	1864	
	Katherine	11	11	42		11	11	1874	
	John	11	11	15		tt	Mass.		
	Patrick	11	11	14		tt	11		
	Annie	11	11	11		11	11		
	Mary	11	11	8	•	11	11		
	Katherine	11	11	10		11	11		
	Margaret	il	11	6		11	11		
2nd	family								
	James Lande	ers	11	44	currier	11	Irė.	1882	
	Bridget	11	11	48	variety store	11	11	1868	
	James	11	11	20	nephew, general labor	r 11	<b>,11</b>	1895	
	Ellen	11	11	17	niece, shoemaker	11	11		
	Minnie	11	11	13	niece, at school	11	11		

1905	tax
	<u>Occupant</u>
#17	Robert Carson
	Thomas Carson
	Charles Carson
#172	John J. McMahon
	James Landers
	John J. McMahon Jr.
	Patrick Landers

## Owner

Mrs. James Landers
John J. McMahon
house \$1,300
land 500

### 1910 census

#17	Edward Ja	.cobs	age	28	teamster	born	Mass.		
	Mary	11	11	27		11	11		
	Sara	11	11	2		11	11		
	daughter	no name	– ne	ew ł	oorn	11	11		
	Kathleen	Connelly	11	15	sister-in-law	11	11		
2nd family									
	John Robi	nson	11	42	blacksmith	11	Canada		
	Anna	11	11	30		11	<b>11</b>		
	Earl	**	11	7		11	11		
#17월	James Lan	ders	11	55	grocer (own shop)	. 11	${\tt Ire}_{\bullet}$		
	Bridget	11	11	53	·	11	11		
	John J. M	cMahon	11	66		11	11		
	John	11	tt	26	city worker	11	Mass.		
	Patrick	11,	11	24	fireman shoe fact.	11	11		
	Annie	11	11	22		***	11 .		
	Katherine	11	Ħ	20	stenographer	11	11		
	Mary	11	11	18	stenographer	11	11		
	Margaret	11	11	16		11	11		

1917 May 13 - James Landers died. This obituary notice appeared in the local papers:

"James Landers died at his home, 17½ River St. this morning. He was the son of Patrick and Ellen (Donnelly) Landers, and for years conducted a grocery store (10 River St.)."

He was born in Ireland and served as a member of the constabalary in his native land. He was a thorough student of the Emerald Isle and its history. He leaves a widow, Bridget (McMahon) Landers.

1972 July 26 - The property passed from the McMahon family when Rita McMahon sold the land and buildings (12 Lynn St. and  $17-17\frac{1}{2}$  River St.) to Laurence C. Post Jr. and Donald Koleman for the sum of \$20,000. (book 5880 page 170)

1975 Aug. 26 - Laurence C. Post Jr. and Donald Koleman sold the land and buildings at  $17-17\frac{1}{2}$  River St. to Nancy Witham. (book 6175 page 624)

1976 August 12 - Nancy L. Witham trustee of 17-17½ River St. Trust sold the land and buildings to Robert C. Bramble of Allyn Realty Trust. (book 6268 page 557)

Reference to book and page are deed books at the Registry of Deeds. Probate numbers are cases at Probate Court. Both offices are located in the same building on Federal St. All maps in this report are not meant to be exact, just for illustration purposes.

See were Rapporne January 4 to 1698 for mo Jose Rathrine 100 fleph Sewall Res. Joseph Brokier and Rebellan his wife to propriet on this wife his godgie de it known und all pan by Mosso projents that foreigh Bookies. This wife reliet of William Inifont later of falin Doces of Ficulting of of last will am Festament of his William Prisont Down For & me Porteraion of y Jun was of thirty pounds Current money of heary land No Show y said Joseph Brobibe & Soberlah Brobier well and huly par by John Bishford of Marbached & Roberback his wife Daughter of y Law Waian d'infont Doced & For I in conficeration that of Sad Brillford is This day Bocomo bound to y Jan Brobier & Rebelleth his wife to pay all of Debly that yet repraire Dwing from it Estate of San William proport Duced I To Law him-harmless relating to it Somo at also in Enforcion of of Right Title White which y Said John Billow & Robertes his Wifes hall to is Estate of of Said William Sinfert Dead of Jan Released Going his Only fails whether as he is hieres to him on by broke of y Isfativill of Vestament of said William Singent Dect or any other says What soewer Ofor & in all y Enfideracony aforest to florewith They of Said Sight o Soobier & & Cechal Bosbur his wife fire fully Mushed Estand of paid flaw Bargaind & For and dow Cylligle profort Give grunt Bargaine felt alion applyme let our of Sufizeme Entry Said John Bishford of Roberter fil Alfo Thin him Prochery arms & spignes For Sucr all That our Makings or Tommont Schusta in Palem yorkan boing bounded northwestery with often Thomas Kuch Northlashorly of Liner Southlastons on great Southwof

Roale Containing about Three aires more orless will it Carellan forms primiles out sing Sesure of privilege The t of any faither or other payment account "15 about nontioned doo fully & abfolishely Excuerate acquit 40 dichand Bicker & Lebukok his wife their Rier, & afiguit and Don'thereby fully freely of absolutely Give grant bargaine Unto y San gain Bickfor his hily Executory administrat & aprique of pathine or parall of Mowing land Ponfiffing Topo Scatale in Salem beforeand high of Bridge confining about Louth Esticity portal with Micholas Chattwell land I partly with Dwed Worterly & Fouthwesterly partly with land of if Flints & mostly on if with of home Bridge or how run of Same is ashoring bounded To Man 430 for of Said proflew or pieurof volan March & Sail Caforand matory Matoriourfor fines Both Stones mines Minerally & and appart onaines Therebilo belonging or anyways apperforming Involidate for Jeath of if The Robert Botter only Hom of the This have & alsigned For Ever more to his her & Siver proper the benefit of For Excended as an Elshe of Infordance in the Simple of the A Rebertat Boobier Voc for Our Selver our hing Executory of as deliver our him Erroudors of adminifit & Quenant of property Sikford & Seechal Bichford his wife their pas Execution administrators Manner following viz hear at & before of Enfeating hereof and Sight all Owners of fourgains premises & have full prover Tacofull blashouty to grant bargaine latters to not of Van is free of Clean of Cearly acquite from all funning What was shall said warrant acquit & reform your for Robertale me rolls may peauable Enjoyment of in parall here Trespectively and and at all times for Eucherester in & Resechal Brobus his wife hall percept

### EARLY HISTORY

Lot owned by Thomas Trusler.

Thomas Trusler lived on the westerly side of Beckford Street. He was in Salem in 1638, and probably came in 1629. In 1649, he was excused from training on account of his age. He married Eleanor, widow of ——Phelps. She may have been a Moulton, as he speaks of "father Moulton." He had a daughter in England in 1654. He died March 5, 1653-4; and she died before June, in the spring of 1655.

His widow Elinor Trusler died in 1655, having devised a house and lot to her son Edward Phelps.

Edward Phelps sold a dwelling house and three acres of land to Thomas Robbins. (book 13 page 61, see next page)

> Thomas Robbins first appeared in Salem in 1641, at the age of twenty-three;

and Walter Price2 had come from England in the spring, having brought with him a servant, named John Watkins, who died within six or seven weeks after landing.

Thomas Robbins was born about 1618; carpenter; married, first, Isabel ——, probably a widow, as she had a son in 1657; she died Oct. 9, 1674; married, second, Mary (Gould), widow of Richard Bishop March 11, 1674-5; probably no children; they were both living in 1681. Mr. Robbins had a sister, who married —— Greene, and had a daughter named Rebecca. The latter married, first, William Pinson Feb. 27, 1675-6; and after his death she married, second, Joseph Bubier of Marble-head Jan 1, 1606-7 head Jan. 1, 1696-7.

Mr. Robbins' estate descended to his niece Rebecca Pinson.

William Pinson, born about 1648, was a fisherman and husbandman; lived in Salem as early as 1676; married Rebecca Greene (daughter of sister of Thomas Robbins) Feb. 27, 1675-6; died July —, 1695; she married, secondly. Joseph Boobier of Marblehead Jan. 1, 1696-7; in his will he mentions William Pinson, minor son of his kinsman Thomas Pinson; children: 1. William, born March 26, 1677; 2. Rebecca; married John Bickford.

Mrs. Pinson married 2nd Joseph Boobier. The Boobiers conveyed the property to John and Rebecca Beckford.

The west portion of John Beckford's lot was early owned by Richard Thomas Bishop conveyed the lot to Robert Kitchen in 1691. (book 9 page 69) Robert Kitchen conveyed the property to Thomas Robbins in 1695.

<sup>a</sup>Richard Bishop was a husbandman; lived in Salem; married, first, before 1635, Dulzebella —, who was born about 1607; she died in Salem Aug. 23 (24), 1658; married, second, Mary Gould, July 22, 1660; she was born about 1611; he died in Salem Dec. 30, 1674; his widow, Mary, married Thomas Robbins; children: I. Mary, born about 1635; married John Darling (called John Barret or Barbant); 2. Thomas; lived in Manchester; wheelwright; married Lydia —; died Oct. 15, 1694; she was his widow in 1702; had children; 3. Nathaniel; lived in Easthampton, Long Island, N. Y.; was dead in 1686: 4. John; lived in Southampton, Long Island, N. Y.; husbandman; was living in 1686.

Towards Thelps to Tho Robbins Entred Jany 07:1693 Know all men by those projonts that I Edward Thelps of Herberry in the County of Essex for and in Consideration of Twenty fine pound In hand pail before the Ensealing hereof by Thomas Rolling of Salem have and doe by hofo profonts bargaine dell aliene asigne and Set over unto the Said Robbins his Keires Executors & Signes for Ever one Dwelling house bogether with three acres and half of Land more or Lofs wherein the Said house Standeth Situate and Lying between the house and Land of Richard Bishop and Le Lane on the Est butting upon the North River and thene up= = wards to the high way Southwards with all the appurhmances thereto belonging and doe hereby promise to defend the site thereof against all matter of flons from by or under me lay: = ing Claime unto the Same And Those Whereof I bind me ir ine Neivos Executorseadininish The 2 July 1657/ Forward Phelps & aseal ina & Sealed & Delinered Toward Shelps acknowledged this In Propones of a Writing Coefore the Court now InSalen = Elias Stileman

Ednand Mitchel sen 2 July 1657 / to be his act & Dade as attost: Elias Hileman Cer= in Joseph: Sewalt of

being intarlined

Heref Que on Queon august 11, 7,57 Pontoud & seamined

Frincipally, I first of all, I give brecommend my Soul into the Hands of God who gave it, and my Body to the Earth, to be buried according to the Direction given to my Executor hereafter named.

And touching the worldly Estate it hath pleased God to blefs me with, I give & devise the fame in the following manner.

In the first Place I give to my well beloved Wife Lydia my two best Beds & Bedding & Bedsteads, with a Suit of China; burtains, & burtain Rods, a high base of Drawers, & Desk, a walnut oval Table, one dozen of my best Chairs, including the Great-Chair, a brafs Kettle, a Warming San, my best dooking-glass, two square Tine Tables, a woollen, and a linen Inmning-Wheel a Sot Sot- Hooks & Tramel, a pair an troning Box & Heatons, Thewer's Toaster, Flesh Forty, Lamp, two Gandlesticks of Doy Andiron, a Shovel, & pair of Tongs, all my Sewter, except the two Gallon Basons, a meal-Chest, & great bup-Board; all the foregoing Articles forever, to her own Me. I also give her, in Lieu of her Dower, one Quart of new Milk a Day, Orie Sound of Butter, four Pounds of brown Sugar, two Quarts of Molapses, I fix Sounds of Beef or small meat, a Month, & fifty fix Sounds of Pork a year; all good in their Kinds, I to be delivered daily, monthly, I yearly, as they are given, by my executor herein after named, when requested, so long as she shall remain my Midow also the entire the of two Chambers in my House to the small Garden by lit & as much Room in the Collar, Garret & Wood-House as will be sufficient for her the too long as she shall give I devise to my Son-in Law Samuel Seters and my Daughter Hannah his Wife, I to their Heirs, a Lot of Land near the Town Bridge, in said Salem, where said Teters's House stands, the Lot to be four Joles in front, & to carry the same Width into the Rear, as far as the Channel of

the Sond called Bickford's Bond, bounding southeasterly on Land of the Reirs of my Brother George Bickford, & on all other Sides by my own Land. I also give to said Famuels & Hannah all that is charged to them or either of them in my Books, & Lischarge them from all Demands therefor. I also give & devise to my Grandson Adomiram Bich for This Heirs a House-Lot joining to that given as above to my Son Seters this Wife, on the Northwestern Side of it, to be three Rods & a half Rod in Front & to carry the same Width into the Rear as far as the Channel of the Sond aforesaid. But I give the Use & Profit thereof to my Son Benjamin Bichford during the Life of my Daughter Mary. I give & devise to my Grandson James Bichford, a House Lot of three Rods &a half Rod in Front, & to carry the same Width into the Rear as far as the Channel of the Sond aforesaid; this Lot his northwestward of that given as above to my Grandson Adoniram, & joins to it. But I give the Use & Profit thereof to my Son Benjamin Bick ford during the Life of my Daughter Mary. I give to my Grandson Robert Neal twenty Johns lawful money, to be paid him at the Decease of my Daughter many (if he survives her ) by my Executor herein after named All the Residue of my Estate, both real & personal I give I devise to my Son Bonjamin Bickford This Hoirs. And I appoint him fole Executor of this Will & Testament. And I hereby direct him to pay all my Delts, & the Legacies herein given; comfortably to support my Daughter Mary as long as she lives; I to bury me after the plain I decent manner of Friends, in the Friends Burying-Place in Salem: I having given to my said Executor so large a Portion of my Estate to enable him to bear thus Charges. Witness whoreof I hereto set my Hand Weal the seventh Day of May in the year of our Lord 1773. Signed Jealer, & declared Benjamin Bickford by said Testator to be his Plant Will & Testament, in Sresence of us,
Sixteen Horder being interland in the Paragraph
of the Begust to his Wife, I two Lines & three
word added to it [ Whis Heirs also interline above.]

Tim. Pickering jun ?

Benj: Punchard

Jamuel Danchard 2256

An Inventory of the Estate of Benjamin Bichford late of Salern yeoman deceased Two Spinning Wheels 6/ Iron pot pot Hooks & Framel 46 pair andiron 2/6 - 13m Troning Box & Heater 2/6 Showers & Joaster 2/6 Flish Fork Lamp How bandle stick 1/6 - . 6. 6 Thorel & Tongs 3/ 29 to Pewter 29/ Meal-Chest 2/ Cup-board 1/6 1,15.6 Chest of Drawers & mall Trunk 7/ Friging Pan 1/6 Gridison 1/ Spit 2/. 3 \_\_ 14.6 Brufs Shellet 1/6 Jin Ware 4/6 Iron Baking Pan 21. Digh Kestle 2/ Jea Kettle 4-14-Two pair Tongs thoul 3/6 Bellows 1. Candle-Stand 1. Glas Hoochery Ware 5/. \_\_. 10. 6 Two large Sewter Basons W. Table Clothe & 3 Waphing 12 / Apparel \$4.3.0.0 Cheft, Box, Bedstend, Under Bed, 2 Bread- Tray, & 3 Sneal Bags Sichle 1/6 two Scytho 4/. Meal Chest 4/. 102 today Fish 10/. 00. told 2. 2.6.10 Tooking Glaf 5/ pair Anirons 7. Tramel 3/ two Guns 16/ Case & Bottle 4/8 1.15.8 Chest of Francers 2/8 Lig um Vita Boul II. Spoon Mould Marking \_\_ 6.0 Books 23/ fix Chairs 5/4 Lanthorn 2/ Scale & Weights 1/8 \_\_\_ 1.12.0 Steel-yerd 1/4 a Feather Bed & Bolster 30/ Bedstead 2/ paintowsheet 3/4 1.16.8 Iron brow 6! Beetle Hedges 31. two old dres 1/0 Spade 1/. bart Whulstof. 1.7.0 Small Saw 3/. Hand Sled 1/6 Iron Pot & Pot-Horks 3/. two bows £9.0/. 9.15.6 Two large Silver Spoons w. 2. 77. 20% a fmall Hig 10%. Homstead containing about 1/4 dere ofland, with if Building thereon 240. Tot of Land by the Foun Bridge \_\_\_\_\_\_ One Common Right & 4/5 the of one in the Great Partiere, at £10. - a Right of £ We having carefully viewed the Articles above mentioned, thewor to us by the I Executor, I have approved the same according to our best Shill I Judgment, as is above written. Salaron June 48th 1773. a lug! 1773 Benjamin Bickford Red! Achen Beckford Elect fluch. 2. 1749 Then Benj Bukford. Jim. Tickering jum. Ex. merented the afore written broade outh that Jhorridike Protect Journalist Thorridike Protection of Benj Bickford so far wither some to his hands Thorridike Protection of Benj Bickford so far wither some to his hands Benj Lynds flood:

Anough de the tis comprose shall hereafte appear Benj Lynds flood:

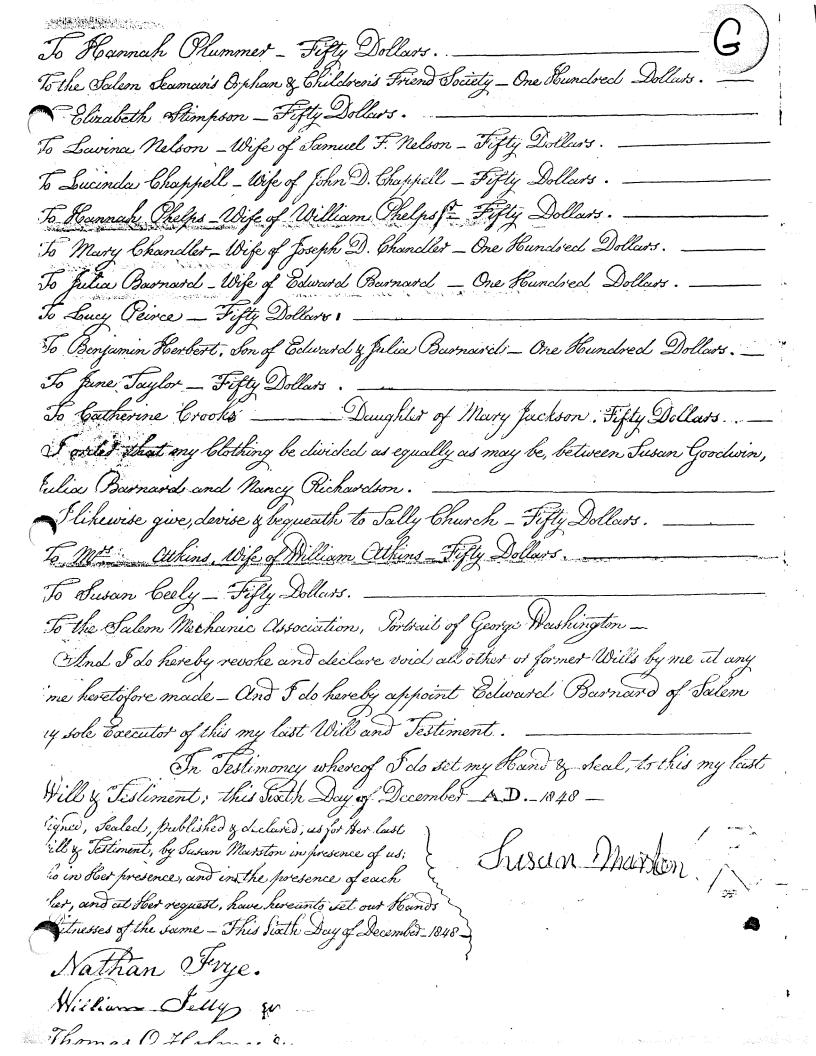
Esset for Common wealth of major Austro to the Meriff of our Country of your his under Sheriff or deputy Greeting Whereas Joseph South with of Danvers in the Country of Epoca Tanner By the Consideration of Our Justices of flommon Hear holden at Turwich for twithin our County of aid on the first tuesday of april last recovered Judgment against Bu comin Bilord late of Salam in Said lounty Condiner for the Sum of Bou - 141 thirty five pounds Swenteen Millings brine pence lawful money PAGE 125 Depit one pound fourteen Shillings beight pince lost of Suit asto us appears of record where of Exception remains to be done We commandy therefore that of the goods Chattels or lands of the said Resyamin within in Precent you lause to be paid & Salisfied unto the said fosigh at the Value thorofin Money the aforesaid Jums 237. 12.5 in the whole with one Indling & Six pence more for this Writte & thereof also to Salisfy your Self for your own fees & for want of goods chattels or lands of the said Injumintable by him Shown with your free inthe lace to take the body of the said Berjamin the the body of the said Berjamin thin commit unto our Goal in Salem Inswich or the body of the said Berjamin thim commit unto our Goal in Salem Inswich or the body form Jose aforesaid & detain in your listedy within our said Goal with the pray the full sums above mentioned with your fees or that he be dis 35..17.9 1.14.8 changed by the said Joseph the treditor or otherwise by Order of low hereoffil not I make returne of this writ with your doings therein in our Said Con Common Pleas to be holden at Salom within our County of Epox aforesaid upon the first Tuesday of December next Witness Benjamin Greenleaf Egathates the Eleventh day of October Anno Domini One thousand Seven hundred & cighty three The to October the 20 AD. 1783 person ally appeared Alefores Benjam in Dalund Heven good how & Suphen Cook Iwere Sworn affirmed athfully Impartially to appraise Such Real Estate & the rents of Real Istate such as Shall be Shown to them by the Creditor Southwich to Satisfythis Excusti on with all fees & set out the same as far as may be by meds browners We the Subscribers being chosen to Swom as above have differly viewed a small dwelling house with the land under badjoining to it in vaid sa lem together with the flatto to be used to low water indich the upland. Containing about dixteen poles be it more or less bounding Southerlyon the land leading toward the North River there measuring fifty eight feet Westerly on Drivers land Northerly on the North River Easterly on land of Joseph Solls the same being the land & building now Occupied by Mile Gool We have provinced an Old house & the land under it & adjoining to it in Said Salem containing about three poles be it more or less bounded Northerly on the afore? Tome westerly on Phillips's land Pasterly on the yard where the well stands Southerly on the widow -Bickfords Garden & have aboviewed said yard & well all Shewn to usby The Creditor Southwick as the property & Estate of the Deblor Berg amin Bichford to wit the said yard well as an estate to be used in Comon by the heirs of Binjamin Suford, the dettor being one of themy the him of Joshua Birford the reisedue of the fremiles being wholly the debters property & estate incumbred with the debters mothers laws Dower & Shown to us as Such lind we have apprised I first mentioned house land & flats with the use of the yard & well aforesoid in Comon at thirty three pounds lawful & have set there off by meets & bounds as aforesaid & we having found that it old house & the three pules of land afores cannot be divided & bet out by mats & bound; have apprised the roots afores cannot be divided & bet out by mats & bound; have apprised the roots thereoftoward dulisfaction of this inecition bless dore of Opinion that one years rent thereof is worth eight pounds nine Sullings & five pince and we have therefore sell of the estates engerovernents use & rents a forward in the whole apprised at & amounting to Forty one pounds rine tilling I five perce in full Satisfaction of this Execution Interest all fees losted charge in the whole amounting to the Same Sum Benj Daland Received of Birmsley Secrens Sinin & possession of the houses Istall & Rento a foresaid in full fatisfaction of this Execution & loto - Joseph ) Heji Took

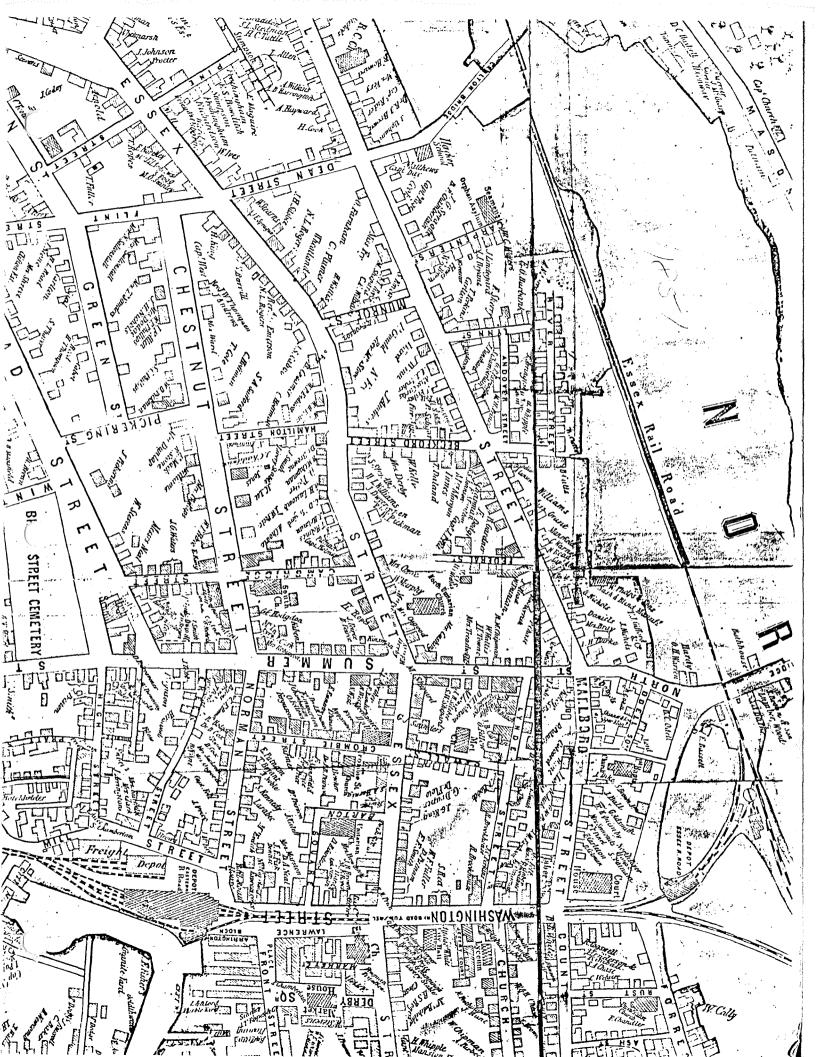
signed fealed & delive in preferce October. 17.11 ovell above named and acknowledged the fe Essex Commonwald & recorded & exam before in g Cetheir free act and Deed deposity greeting. Whe free widow by this co mon pleat holden at Salem list tuesday of Decem . 1783 recovered Judgment for the fund Millings lawful money damage & one poring fe at at to us appears of record whereo The good chattels or you cause to be paid and fater fied unto the fair sijded of in mo more for this writ fees and for w (a) Benjamin to Ge by him, thewn tento you or for y dia to fatirfy the furns jou to take the Gody of the faid Benjamin fail goal until he with your fees or that he Bedischarged by the fail fail not and make return of Court of Common pleas to Geho of Esacx asoreshid u of essen aforefait upon the first twesday of apor undred and eighty four Jany 5 1784 Then Benja Daland Addison Richardson & Stoph Parthfully & impartially to id County were fworm debton Benjamin within named as shall be sufficient to the fame by notes & bounds John Picker

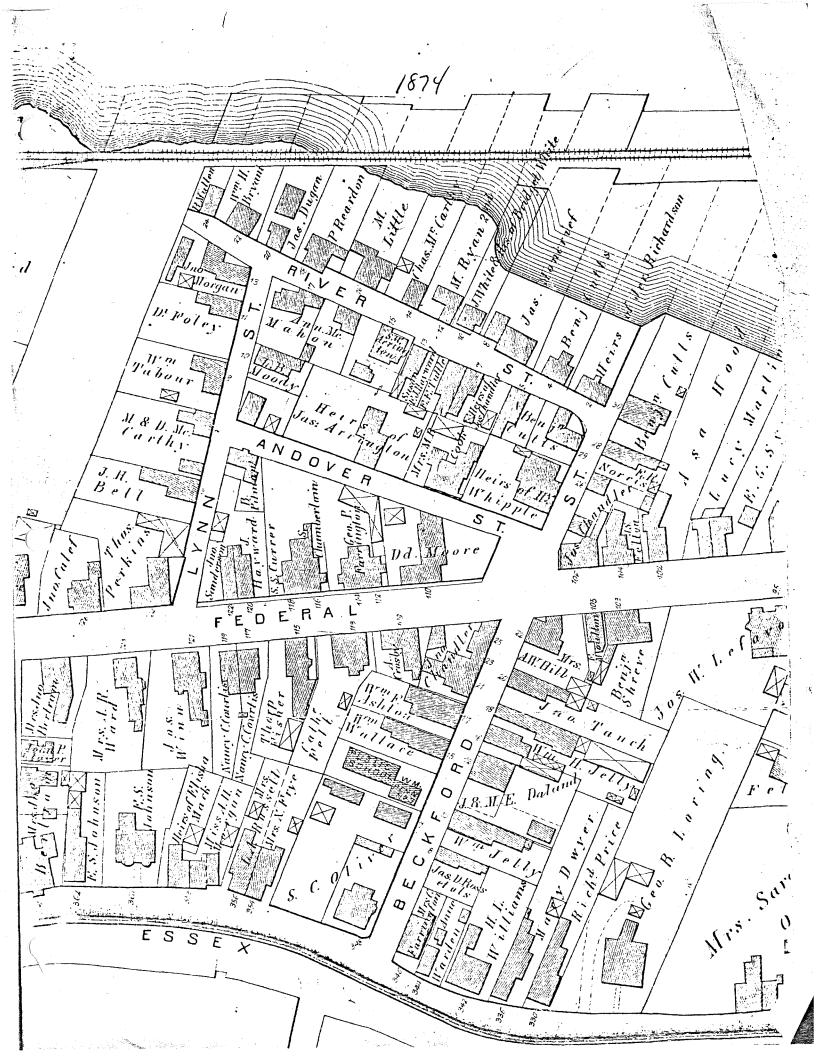
Bullfaviller Being Chofen and duly feworings herein mentioned have carefully vie Bichford debtor, We do apprine the fame at eighty throupound, with all the ap thereto belonging and have fet out the fance by miter and bounds in full fate tean for this execution and all fees it being eighty three younds and is feterated in the following manner, vis is Bechford, lane to the and to the cartward ( cand of the heis of george Beckford foutherly on land for Decrem Beckford to thelelestward on land of fellips and fo to the lane first excepting what priviledges are already granted, excepting the two fees which are in reversion for 3 Beckford at the decay of the I Lydia seckford with the priviledges which were granted to the I Lydia Beckford for the fitte is two chambers by her late hurband deceased willias witheft Berga Daland mand this fifth day of January 1784 Addison Richardson Stephen Cook 11 1784 This day rec possession of the house The alone mentioned of Bingley Stevens. Lydia X Beckford the fact faction of the lacention with fland 4 184 I have caused three indifferent discreet men freeholders in the aforefail to be fivore at afove one which was chofen by the Creditor vin Cook Being a Daland of Ddifon Richardson by myfelf, the debton affent & neglecting to chiefe one, who afterward, viewed the above def and which was flown to them & to me by the creditor to be the traffic of the debtor within named & I have extended their execution on the le as is above described & Counded by the appraison or by them appraised ighty three pounds which is the abovent of this execution of fees and delivered fersen & possession of the same to the creditor in satisfaction lecon all which appears by her receipt the other writings above I return this execution fatisfied. Brigatey Stevens Q Merill. Jesef Rec Oct 20.1792 of recorded of each by. Joly Tickering liege" his Indereture made and entered into this turnely from day of June in eyear of our Lord severteen hundred and eighty from between Larkin worldife of Beverly in the Country of Efree Efgin of the repart and Edmund les Cooper Thomas Saunders baker & Either history Hings Pike mariner and The his wife all of faid Beverly being all the him of I Im and Giles of faid Beverly laft of this other po art. Whereas the fair Lankin it is the fair Edmund giles decea owned & field in Soveratty certain parcels of Came trong in Beverly being in the Halfout oight acres and thirty eight poles which that purchased the fail Larkons 900 and the laid Edmine does all some word and theing for

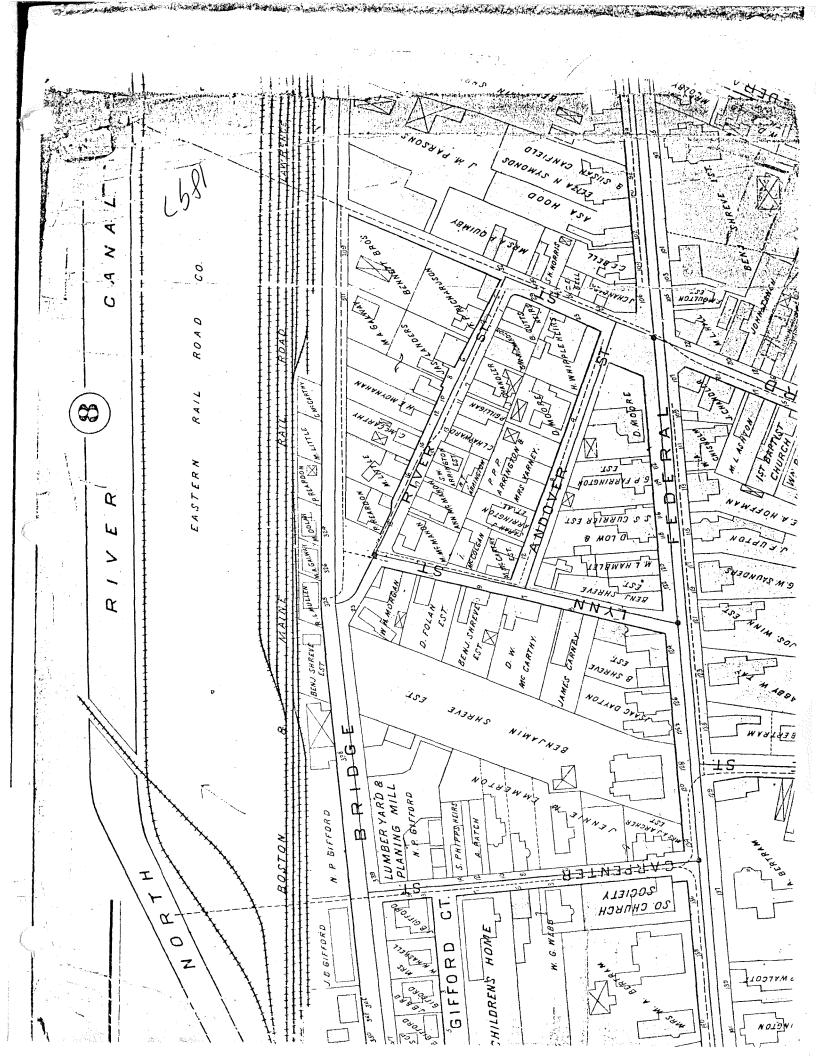
Mel August 38. 1996 Shen performally approared the Thornath Chapman P. Think rearred forcing the Junet Ir a forth howing their place Julia Chapman, Benja & Mitti Jackman & Jours Ruth Jackmin H Milia reframent by their Signed of Fair to Misso free John Banker Lefore me Sila Little gert Peace, Bay" Envir Jenney Book 160 to in be fingle interlind before figning is John Dickening But Acc Jest 6 1796 & recorded is earn by icalar of Salem in the Country of Effect cordin deration of therty four dollars paid the by Lydia is chord of Salam of reful windows to capt whereof I do acknowledge and for other good and valuable confidentions mil her months for any conveyed and do by these property grant felt and to faid faid land baing bounded at follows, to wit, casterly on river street fifty two see there on land of Mot Cook Jeventy feet, writerly on Story land fifty feet, northered on greph roll factor lix feet. To have and to hald the granted premiles with the appropries Militaria hour cacatton and aftigue forever and I the fill porigining do her his towards They are Chigue that then the former, quitty have and peaseably my ules twittight faint plating hundrance or desprise of me the fine trongent in an alique or of any other herry nor pursons by any way or means claiming or provided promise or any part of the flore by or wider on the flo B. want wife of fair Designation of one dellar paid me by and which is The property tights to the fore the granted do her by relyte and quitclain to her know he all my Vight to dower in the grantes Aremila. In others whereof we the fair The wife have learnes for some flower feat the first day of September 1017年 1016年6月 1017年9月1日 1116年 1月 feder is delitered in I Gird Jarah Beckler 1 1 3 ton Ger 5 1796 Then Benjamin Beach on Jarah Die ford a Knowledge The To distant Dich and Wood Justinger Here The Lee Just 6 1796 k 1 18 12 felo anis 3). Militaring

Massachusetts\_ Widow, being sick and weak in Bocky, but by the goodness of Good, of sound and disposing Mind and Memory, do make, constitute and declare this present writing to be my last Will and Testament in form and Mann following\_ That is to day: Torder and direct that all my just Debts and rea = - sonable Funeral charges shall be faid by my Executer, herein after named, out of my Personal Estate, as soon as may be after my Decease and as to all the Estate, Real and Personal, Houses, Lands, Goods and Effects whatsoever of which I shall die seized and possesed, I do hereby give; Levise and bequeath the same and every part thereof as follows - West - \_\_\_\_\_\_ To my Brother, Obraham Hendall and His Wife, the Income of One Thousand Dollars, during their Lives - after their decease, to go to bity of Salem as a fund. the Income of which to go to the support of Old Men & Women. To my Brother, Thomas Hendall of Farmington, State of Maine - One Hundred To the Children of my Sister, Obigail Ingalls of Townsend (Massachusetts) Five Dollars to each of them. To the Children of my Sister, Sellen Durant, Ten Dollars to each of them . To my Neice, Mary Jackson - Fifty Dollars. To my Neice, Susan Lounson - Three Foundred Dollars. To Ephreim Prown and Ais three Sons. Three Hundred Dollars, to each of them To my Neice, Susan Goodwin of Boston - One Hundred Dollars. To Neincy Richardson, Wife of Jeremiah Richardson, One Hundred Dollars . To the Sumaritan Society, of Salem \_ Fifty Dollars. To the Seaman's Wiclow and Dynan Ossociation of Salem - Fifty Dollars. To the Wiclow, Mary Dowis - Fifty Dollars. To the Widow, Abigail Dimond - Fifty Dollars. To fulice, Daughter of Edward & Julia Barnard\_ One Sundred Dollars. To Sophice Grover - Fifty Dollars. To abraham Jackson - Fifty Dollars. -To Moses and Ellen Upton - Fifty Dollars to each of them. To Lucy Unn Russell \_ Twenty five Lollars. \_\_\_\_











Samuel Simonds (sometimes Symonds) was born in Salem, the son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Cook) Symonds, on Feb. 26, 1793. He married Sarah Skerry on Dec. 31, 1816. The couple made their home at what is now 131 Bridge St. Their children were:

Sarah E. b. July 27, 1817 b. June 26, 1819b. July 16, 1821 Samuel C. William b. Feb. 1, 1824 Edward A. b. March 18, 1826 Mary C. b. Oct. 1, 1828 Charles b. Feb. 16, 1831 Ellen M. Caroline b. Sept. 29, 1833 b. Oct. 5, 1835 George W.

Mr. Simonds, painter, hardware dealer and later grocer, died on August 27, 1863. His obituary notice, in the Salem Gazette, simply reads: died at age 70 years, 6 months.

It appears that the buildings, on the land when Mr. Simonds purchased it, were removed by him shortly after the sale in 1836. The architectural style of this house is definitely Greek Revival and is described in the <u>Salem Historic District Study Committee Investigation</u>, page 14 as:

#137 Bridge Street RATING: TWO PERIOD: GREEK REVIVAL This is a two-story plus pitch roof, wooden house with its gable end to street. The entrance in the Greek Revival style is in a small ell to one side of the house and is reached by passing through a covered portico with columns which are later than the Greek Revival period. There is a triangular shaped window in the peak of the gable end.

This is confirmed by the deed from Mr. Simonds to Nancy Babbidge, on Jan. 24, 1838. He sold the land and buildings "as house and woodhouse now stand." This phrase is used to indicate a change since the last transaction. The house first appears on the tax records in 1837 when it is penciled in at the end of the listings.

Ann Babbidge h(ouse) Bridge St.

Samuel Symonds is taxed for h(ouse) \$2,300 (131 Bridge)

land under shops (this is crossed
out in pencil to show that he no
longer owns the land.)

### 1850 census

Warren G.	Rayner	age	33	commission	merchant	born	${\tt Mass}_{f o}$
Catherine	11	11	30			11	11
Kate L.	. <b>11</b>	11	7			11	11
Anna K.	11	11	5			11	11
J. Warren		11	3			11	
George F.	11	11	1			11	11
Nancy Babb	oidge	11	60			11	tt
Margaret @	Quinney	11	12			11	11

### EAST CHURCH (Dexter Clapp)

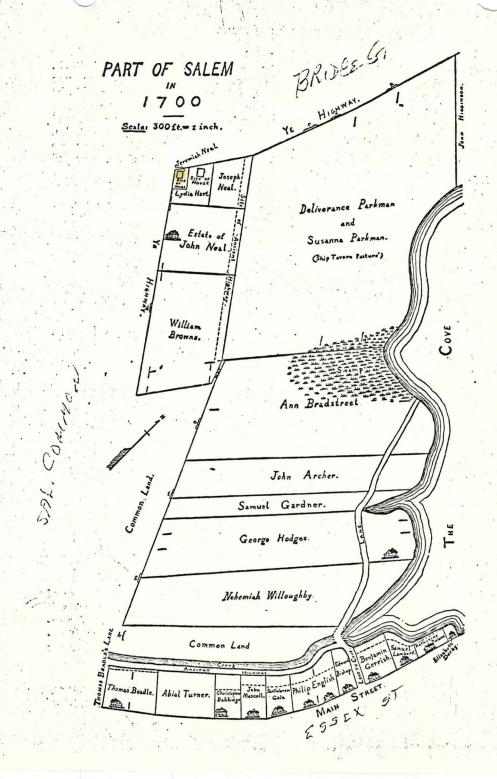
"Rev. Dexter Clapp, installed as colleague with Dr. Flint December 17, 1851, was born July 15, 1816, in Easthampton, Mass.; graduated at Amherst College, 1839, and at the Cambridge Divinity School in 1842; was ordained pastor of the Unitarian Church in Savannah, Ga., November 26 1843, and continued in the ministry there for a few years, after which he was settled over the Second Church in Roxbury (First in West Roxbury) five years. He was minister of the East Church twelve years, till February, 1864, when he resigned on account of ill-health. He died July 26, 1868. During his ministry in Salem his society was united and strong. It was with sincere regret that his resignation was accepted. He was a spiritually-minded man, an earnest preacher, and a high ideal of ministerial duty made both his pulpit and his pastoral services acceptable and effective."

(History of Essex County, by Hurd)

Parkman of Salem, merchant.\* Mr. and Mrs. Parkman owned the lot a number of years after 1700.

Jeremiah Neal Lot. This was a portion of the ancient Tuck lot, which was owned by Nicholas Howard, a fisherman, in the early settlement of the town. On this corner was his dwelling house. depositions of Edward Gaskin, aged about seventy, and Francis Skerry, aged sixtysix years or thereabouts, severally testify "that Nicholas Hayward had to his Knowledge a house plott, on which he ye said Hayward did live uppon, when he came first to Salem, this sd house plott scituate & lying in Salem, upon the west corner of John Neales land, which lyeth as I goe from Salem Ipswich ward on the right hand: this abouesd p'cell of ground or house plott being bounded on the east or south east corner with the well w'ch was in ye sd house plott, & westerly neere upon a square home to yo sd Neales now standing fence by the road, & from ye sd well neere upon a square to ye sd Neale's now standing fence sotherly, & further he saith not. Taken upon oath 22:3 mo: 74. Wm. Hathorne Assistant."† Mr. Howard (or Hayward) removed to Beverly (then called Cape Ann Side) about 1641. but retained the house and lot. house was probably gone soon afterward. After his death, his son Nathaniel Hayward of Salem, for twenty shillings, conveyed the lot, namely, "that house plott which yet is well known yt my father Nicholas Hayward did live on, when he did live in Salem towne," Dec. 14, 1681.† The narrow strip on the southwestern side of the lot, being about two feet wide at the southern end and running to a point at: the other end, was granted to Jeremiah Neale Jan. 24, 1681, as hereinafter stated. 1 Mr. Neale owned the lot until after 1700.

Lydia Hart Lot. This lot was a portion of the Tuck lot, which was owned by



<sup>\*</sup>Essex Registry of Deeds, book 13, leaf 102. †Essex Registry of Deeds, book 6, leaf 35.

<sup>‡</sup>Book of Grants, Salem Town Records, page

