

***15 Hathorne Street
Salem***

According to available evidence, this house was built for Alva Kendall, stair builder, in 1840. It remained in the Kendall family until 1888.

On 10 May 1839 Alva Kendall, Salem “carpenter,” for \$250 purchased from Mrs. Margaret Savage and her daughters “a certain strip or parcel of land situate on Circus Street in said Salem,” fronting westerly on Circus Street 170’ 4”, southerly on Neal’s land 212’, easterly on Pickering’s land, and northerly on Orne’s land 280’ (ED 313:63). Circus Street would be re-named Hathorne Street in 1841.

Alva Kendall (1805-1874) was a native of Thetford, Vermont, where he was apprenticed as a boy to learn the “art or mystery” of carpentry. He was the son of Benjamin Kendall and Sibyl Cummings, who married in 1795 may have gone to Thetford from Dunstable, Mass. Alva learned his trade well, and was especially proficient at the difficult job of building stairs and staircases, which required engineering as well as carpentry skills. Once he had served out his apprenticeship, he became a journeyman, free to go where he would to ply his trade. Wherever else he may have resided, he was in Salem by 1836, when he married Priscilla Wellman Preston, the daughter of John Preston and Sarah Driver. They would have at least two children, William, in 1841, and Sarah, in 1850 (she died young).

In the 1838 valuation records of Salem, Alva Kendall was credited with “lot of land, 8 Circus Street, \$200” in ward three. This indicates that in 1838 he had already purchased the land from the Savages, but had not yet received a deed to it. The 1839 valuation gives the same information, but adds the note “Broad,” probably meaning that he resided on Broad Street. In 1840, the valuation records credit him with “lot land, unfinished house, Circus Street, \$200” and in 1841 the record is “unfinished house, Hathorne, stair builder, \$800,” and in 1842 “house, 11 Hathorne, \$800.” Alva Kendall’s house, therefore, would appear to have been built in 1840, when, at the time of the valuation, it was under construction but not complete enough to tax him on anything but the land. By 1841, though still “unfinished,” it was complete and he was being taxed for it. It was built in an unusual early “Gothic” style, in which a steeply pitched roof is the salient external feature, as is a handsome Greek Revival frontispiece. The interior finish is typical of the early milled “corner block” casings of the time. It is notable that the house was built early enough that it has fireplaces (rather than stove chimneys) and visible corner posts with box moldings, strongly suggesting that its frame is post-and-beam rather than balloon or platform style.

Circus Street was the first name of Hathorne Street (new name as of 1841), since the circus, when it came to town, would, after its parade through the main streets, set up its tents here in the open fields.

Mr. Kendall was a success as a stair-builder in Salem, which was, at that time, a place where much residential construction was going on. Salem's economy was completing the shift from maritime to industrial, and many people were moving in to work in the tanneries and factories. In this neighborhood, the Pickering family and others were laying out streets and selling off lots in what had long been large agricultural holdings. Every new house needed flights of stairs, and Mr. Kendall did a good business. By 1850 he had a carpenter's shop on Endicott Street, overlooking Salem's Mill Pond (as did the foot of Hathorne Street). At that time, Salem's inner harbor still ran in from the sea, past a bridge connecting Lafayette and Central Streets. It swung southerly in front of the Post Office site, taking up all of what is now Riley Plaza traffic rotary, and ended at a dam at the foot of Endicott Street. The beautiful expanse of the Mill Pond ran southerly from the dam for a considerable distance toward what is now Jefferson Avenue. The Eastern Rail Road tracks ran right on top of the Mill Pond; and the Salem train station, at the foot of Washington Street on the inner harbor, was a huge, double-towered granite edifice symbolizing the pre-eminence of new industries in the old port city. Throughout the latter part of the 19th century, the manufacturing interests would fill in the Inner Harbor and the Mill Pond, and nothing would be left of the central city's old "downtown" relationship to the water.

Land values rose in Salem as building went forward. In 1842 Mr. Kendall sold a piece of his homestead land for \$250, the same price he had paid for the whole parcel in 1839. In 1845 he became the mortgage-holder on a homestead in Norman Street, and in 1848 he became owner of the mortgage property, which he sold for \$2100 in 1852 (ED 459:46). In that same year, he joined with three neighbors in purchasing a parcel on Hathorne Street across from his house, but in 1853 he sold his interest in that lot (ED 461:281).

Per the 1850 census of Salem (house 684), the residents here were Alva Kendall, 42, stair builder, his wife Priscilla, 37, their son William H., 8, and their daughter, Sarah P., born in August, 1850, along with Mary B. Phippen, 20, who was probably a mother's helper. There was a second family residing here too: William A. Stevens, 28, grocer, and wife Abba, 20. Near neighbors were Ebenezer Buswell, a shoe dealer, and Charles Elwell, a carpenter, and their families. The Kendalls' daughter, Sarah, evidently did not survive childhood, and their only surviving child would be William H. Kendall, who attended Salem public schools and graduated from the Hacker School on Dean Street.

Note: in 1866, 1872, and 1873 Mr. Kendall would sell off other pieces of the southerly part of his homestead land.

Salem continued prosperous throughout the 1850s, based on the output of its tanneries (Boston Street area) and other industrial enterprises. Mr. Kendall, his reputation secure as a master workman, partook of the general prosperity. It is likely that he and his family attended the City's cultural events, such as concerts and lectures at the Lyceum. Mr. Kendall was also a Freemason, having joined the local lodge in 1845 (EIHC 3:260).

In 1860 (per census, house 3035) the house was occupied as a two-family. In one unit were the Kendalls, Alva, 55, stair builder (owned real estate worth \$2000, personal estate worth \$1500), Priscilla, 47, and William H., 18. In the other unit were John Wardwell, 23, carpenter (\$250 in personal estate), wife Mary J., 22, and son George P. Wardwell, one. Near neighbors were the Thompsons (corner of Broad Street) and the Glovers. John Wardwell and family had resided on Broad Street in 1859; they would reside here in the Kendall house on Hathorne Street through 1866; by 1869 the Wardwells had moved elsewhere.

In 1861, the Civil War began. The Kendalls' son, William, 19, enlisted in the Salem Light Infantry (EIHC 26:272). Late in 1862 he enlisted as a private in Company A, 50th Regiment of Mass. Volunteer Infantry, for a nine-month hitch. The unit, under Capt. George D. Putnam, was transported south in a vessel so decrepit that it nearly sank off North Carolina. They were transferred to a better ship, and arrived in New Orleans (then held by Union forces) in January, 1863. Soon they were in Baton Rouge, and then (May, 1863) they participated in the futile assault on Port Hudson, where 1500 Union men were killed and wounded. William survived, and returned with his outfit to Salem (EIHC 3:260). He then entered the Quartermaster's Department of the U.S. Army at South Carolina, serving at Hilton Head and Beaufort until the close of hostilities. He then returned to Salem and resided here with his parents and worked as a clerk in William Archer's auction house and real estate agency on Washington Street (see obit for WHK).

In 1870 (per census, house 256) the house was occupied by Alva Kendall, 65, retired, with real estate worth \$2500 and personal estate worth \$7800, Priscilla W., 58, and Sarah Preston, 40, perhaps Mrs. Kendall's much-younger sister. The Kendalls' son, William H. Kendall, 27, a bachelor bookkeeper, boarded nearby (house 257).

Mr. Alva Kendall died of pneumonia on 5 April 1874, at the end of his 69th year. Mrs. Priscilla Kendall continued to reside here with her son William, who, in January, 1875, entered a partnership with Charles B. Fowler, as successors to the recently deceased Mr. Archer. As Fowler & Kendall, they did business at 139 Washington Street and 34 Front Street as commission merchants, auctioneers, and insurance and real-estate agents (see Salem Directory). The partnership was a success for some years.

Mrs. Priscilla W. (Preston) Kendall died on 9 June 1881, aged 68 years. Her remains were interred with those of her husband in a family tomb at Broad Street graveyard.

William H. Kendall continued to reside here. In 1883 Mr. Fowler withdrew from their business partnership and Mr. Kendall continued on his own at 139 Washington as an auctioneer and (primarily) as a real-estate and insurance agent (see Salem Directories, advertising pages appended). He married Ellen Nichols or Nicoll, and in 1888 they moved to 285 Lafayette Street. On 1 December 1888 he sold the Hathorne Street homestead to Fred C. Brown of Salem (ED 1239:144). Mr. Kendall became a widower, and was extremely involved in Masonic societies. He would die on the 6th of September 1895, aged 54 years (see obit, "Noted For His Integrity," *Salem Gazette*). He left no offspring.

On 6 February 1889, the new owner, Frederick C. Brown, put the title of the homestead in the name of his wife, Mrs. Catherine E. Brown (ED 1242:47-8). Mr. Brown was a restaurateur and liquor dealer: he ran the Railroad Dining Rooms at 195 Washington Street (opposite the train station) and sold liquors (see advertisement, appended, from 1890-1 Salem Directory). He later moved his business to Summer Street, Boston.

In July, 1901, the Browns sold off a piece of the homestead that fronted 52.5' on Hathorne Street (ED 1648:177). Mr. Brown died during the next five years; and on 17 May 1906 the widow Catherine E. Brown sold the homestead to John T. Nolan, of Salem (ED 1825:185).

The new owner, Mr. Nolan, worked as a moulder in a shoe factory in Peabody. In 1914 the house—still numbered 11 Hathorne--was occupied by Mr. Nolan and by Mrs. Mary J. Abercrombie, a widow, and whatever family members may have resided with them. In that year occurred the great Salem Fire, which, on June 25, came up out of Blubber Hollow (Boston Street at Federal Street) and spread southeasterly, attacking South Salem and ending after a 13-hour rampage. It had consumed 250 acres, 1600 houses, and 41 factories, leaving three killed and up to 15,000 people homeless. The Fire had passed just to the west of Hathorne Street, and the residents here must have been very thankful to see it go.

The house today is in an excellent state of preservation, and retains all of its important early features, including the kitchen ell to the east, which is evident on the 1850 and 1874 atlases. A second, southerly ell was added in the 1930s (per the owner), but even that ell seems to be an extension of a room, or jog, indicated on the 1874 atlas.

John Mulkerrin and Dean Paul are the owners, having taken title in November, 1999, from Mary E. Pauli (ED 16051:196).

--Robert Booth, 8 Sept. 2000

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 street directories

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

EIHC refers to Essex Institute Historical Collections

10 May 1839 Savages to Kendall 313:63.

Know all Men by these Presents, That I,
Margaret Savage, Mary^H Savage and Anne Savage all of Salem
in the County of Essex, Singlewoman.

in consideration of Two hundred and fifty dollars to us paid by
Alva Kendall of the same Salem, Carpenter.

the receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge, do hereby give, grant, sell and convey unto the said

Kendall his heirs and assigns forever A certain Strip or parcel
of land situate on Circus Street in P. Salem and bounded
beginning at the Northwest corner thereof and running
Southerly on said Street one hundred and seventy feet 4 inches
to land of Seal: then turning at right angles and running
East & bounding South on P. Seal two hundred and twelve feet
to land of Pickering: then turning again at right angles and
running Northerly and bounding easterly on P. Pick-
ering untill you come to land of Mrs. Cane: then turning
at right angles again and running westerly ~~westerly~~ &
bounding Northerly on P. Cane two hundred & eighty feet
to Circus Street at the corner started from, or however
otherwise bounded or described.

To Have and to Hold the afore-granted premises to the said Kendall
his heirs and assigns, to his and their use and behoof forever.

And We do covenant with the said Kendall
heirs and assigns, that We are lawfully seized in fee of the afore-granted premises
that they are free of all incumbrances;
that We have good right to sell and convey the same to the said Kendall

And that We will warrant and defend the same premises to the said Kendall
his heirs and assigns, forever, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons.

In witness whereof We

have hereunto set our hands and seals this tenth day of May, in the year of our Lord
one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine.

Signed sealed and delivered
in presence of us,
R. H. French.

Margaret Savage, Seal,
Mary H. Savage, Seal,
Anne Savage, Seal,

Essex, ss. May 10th 1839.—Then the above-named

Margaret, Mary H. & Anne

acknowledged the above Instrument, to be their free act and deed,

before me, R. H. French Justice of the Peace,

Essex, ss. Received May 15. 1839. m.

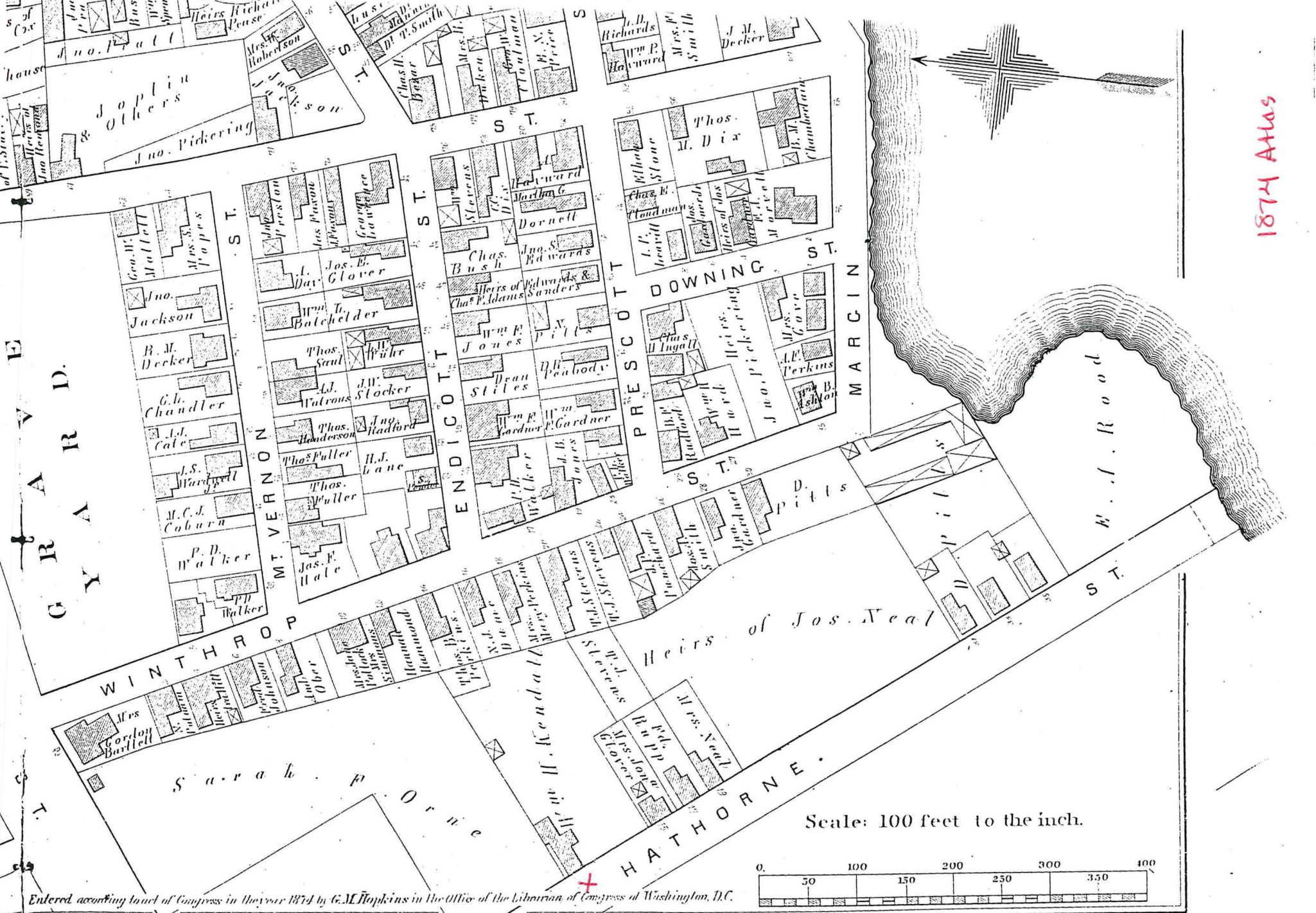
1 o'clock, P. M. Recorded and examined,
by R. H. French Register.

1 Dec 1888 W. H. Kendall to F. C. Brown 1739:144. (2 pages)

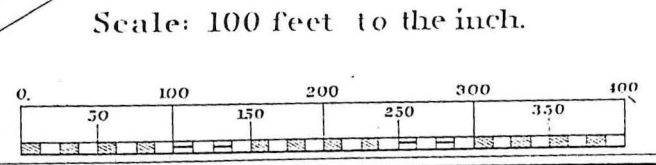
Know all men by these Presents that I, William
H. Kendall of Salem, County of Essex, Commonwealth of Mas-
achusetts, in consideration of one dollar and other good and valu-
able considerations paid by Fred C. Brown of said Salem, the receipt
whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant, bargain,

sell and convey unto the said Fred. G. Brown, his heirs and assigns, the following described parcel of land with all the buildings standing thereon situate on Hobartone street, in said Salem and bounded and described as follows, viz: Beginning at the double west corner on Hobartone St. by land of Glover, thence running north westerly by said Hobartone St. one hundred and seven and six tenths (107 ⁶/₁₀) feet to land now or formerly of Dame; thence bearing and running north easterly by said land of Dame, two hundred and twenty eight and eight tenths (228 ⁸/₁₀) feet to land of Perkins; thence bearing and running south easterly by said land of Perkins and land of Dame, eighty seven and seven tenths (87 ⁷/₁₀) feet, thence bearing and running north easterly by said land of Dame twenty six and seven tenths (26 ⁷/₁₀) feet to land of Symonds formerly Perkins; thence bearing and running south easterly by said land of Symonds forty nine and seven tenths (49 ⁷/₁₀) feet to land of Stevens; thence bearing and running south westerly by said land of Stevens, one hundred and twelve and five tenths (112 ⁵/₁₀) feet to land of Glover, thence bearing and running north westerly by said land of Glover, twenty seven and nine tenths (27 ⁹/₁₀) feet, thence bearing and running south westerly by said land of Glover, one hundred and four tenths (104 ⁴/₁₀) feet to Hobartone street the point begun at, being the same estate inherited by me from my father Alva G. Kendall deceased. To have and to hold the granted premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, to the said Fred. G. Brown and his heirs and assigns, to their own use and behoof forever. And I hereby, for myself and my heirs, executors, and administrators, covenant with the grantee and his heirs and assigns that I am lawfully seized in fee simple of the granted premises, that they are free from all incumbrances, that I have good right to sell and convey the same as aforesaid; and that I will and my heirs, executors, and administrators shall warrant and defend the same to the grantee and his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons. For Witness, whereof I the said William G. Kendall having no wife herewith set my hand and seal this first day of December in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty eight.

Signed, sealed, and deliv. } William G. Kendall Seal
in presence of } Commissioner of Massachusetts. True
Samuel A. Johnson. }
w. December 29. 1888. True personally appeared the above named Wm G. Kendall and acknowledged the



Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1874 by G. M. Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington, D.C.

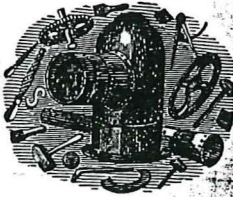


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Street, cor. Slater's Court, or at his Residence,
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BY, COR. LIBERTY ST., SALEM.

Iron Castings
OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,
Made of the
BEST MATERIAL.
STEAM
AND WATER PIPES,
EVERY SIZE, OF CAST OR WROUGHT IRON.



WHEELS, AND PULLEYS, of any
size required, put up to Order.
A variety of Machine and Blacksmith Work, promptly
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Superior Cast Iron Screws for Raising Buildings, always
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 liabilities, - - - \$7,004.62

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per cent, 1 yr.; 40 per cent, 3 yrs.; 60 per cent, 5 yrs.

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GEORGE F. BROWN,

DAVID MOORE,

CHAS. S. NICHOLS,

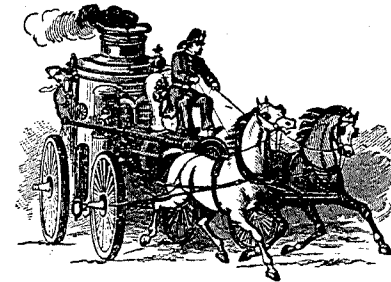
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THOMAS QUINN,

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