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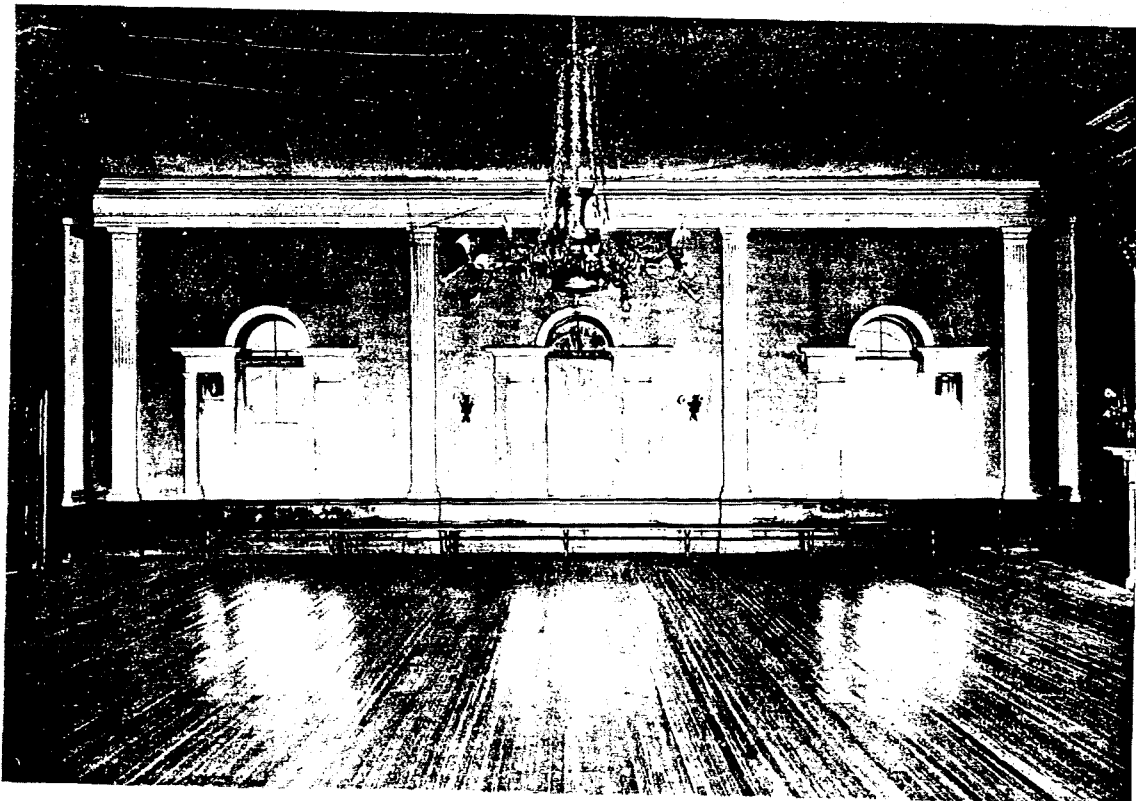
A QUICK GLIDE THROUGH

HAMILTON HALL

9 Chestnut Street

Material gathered by,
Joyce King
October 1985

*to preserve Historic Sites, Buildings and objects,
and to work for the education of the community
in the true value of the same."*



Figures 267 and 268. Hamilton Hall, 7 Cambridge Street.

History of
HAMILTON HALL
by
James Duncan Phillips

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HAMILTON HALL

THE HALL OF THE FEDERALISTS

BY JAMES DUNCAN PHILLIPS

AN ADDRESS BEFORE THE COLONIAL DAMES OF
MASSACHUSETTS IN HAMILTON HALL, MAY 22, 1947
(*Revised and Enlarged*)

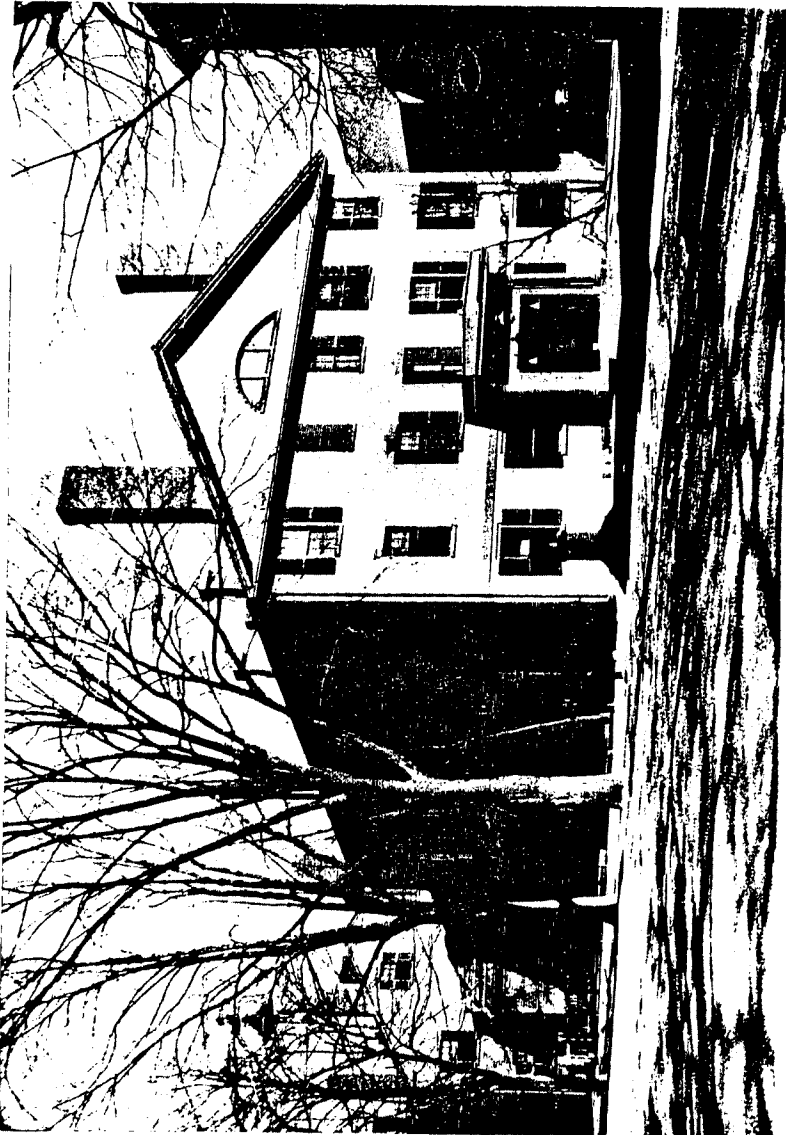
The history of the building of Hamilton Hall seems to be somewhat clouded in mystery. The date of its building has been set from 1805 to 1808, and there doesn't seem to be any definite evidence of when the building was started or when it was completed, nor is there any clear information as to who the architect might have been or who the prime movers were in the construction of the hall.

The most definite information comes from two deeds in the Essex Registry of Deeds.¹ In the first of these deeds dated June 14, 1806, David Neal grants to Stephen Phillips a strip of land approximately twenty feet wide, running from Cambridge Street eighty-six feet easterly, which is stated to be bounded northerly by land of the proprietors of the new assembly house. The second deed, dated June 24, from Jonathan Neal to Stephen Phillips grants the land previously stated to belong to the proprietors of the new assembly house, eighty-two feet along Chestnut Street and sixty-seven feet along Cambridge Street and approximately rectangular. These two pieces of land for which Captain Stephen Phillips paid \$2150 undoubtedly cover the property now belonging to Hamilton Hall. In the second deed which was dated July 24, 1806, is mentioned "the assembly house now building." Four months later, namely on September 4, 1806,²

¹ Book 179, p. 2, and book 179, p. 42.

² Essex Registry, book 199, p. 25.

HAMILTON HALL
Salem, Massachusetts



Stephen Phillips granted both pieces to Benjamin Pickman and Pickering Dodge and others, the partners in the new assembly house, but this deed was not put on file until July 25, 1812. The reason why this deed was not filed probably has to do with the fact that the incorporation of this hall was opposed by certain factions in the Massachusetts Legislature because it was a dance hall. The suspicion arises, however, whether the opposition was not to annoy the Federalists rather than the high moral ground, but anyway it was several years before the hall was incorporated and meanwhile it was held by individual gentlemen as partners.

It will be noticed that in this deed in 1806, it mentioned the "assembly house now building" which would seem to show that it was unlikely to have been opened before 1807. Mrs. M. C. D. Silsbee in her *Half-Century in Salem* says that it was opened in January, 1805, which is probably impossible. In the *Salem Gazette*, December 9, 1806, the subscribers were invited to attend a meeting at Mr. Crombie's tavern, which probably indicates that they wanted to raise some more money. On September 11, 1807, the hall was used for an auction and on October 2, all persons were warned to present any claims they had against the new assembly house. The name "Hamilton Hall" is apparently first used in Bentley's Diary, October 13, 1809.

It is very easy to attribute this building to McIntire, but there is no documentary evidence that McIntire had anything to do with the building of it so far as has been at present discovered. The carvings on the outside of the building, however, strongly resemble some of McIntire's work and the assumption easily grows up. However, it must be remembered that some of the finest houses in Salem were not built by McIntire, as for instance 29 Chestnut Street, and that there were other builders in Salem perfectly capable of fine building. Also, when one considers all the beautiful mantels and beautiful stairways in Salem, it is a physical impossibility that McIntire could have carved them all, and that therefore there must have been other wood carvers in Salem who closely approached him in taste and ability.

When someone asked me whether the hall was named after the town of Hamilton and, if so, why, it was brought home to me that it was necessary to explain a little of Salem history of the period in order to enable a person to understand the situation. Our country was founded by a group of able and very practical men and more of these men came from New England than from any other part of the country. There were 231,000 enlistments in Washington's Continental Army. Of these, 118,000, more than half, came from New England and 68,000 came from Massachusetts. In other words, Massachusetts, including the Province of Maine, supplied more than one-third of Washington's fighting force.

The leaders of New England, ably seconded by men of the same type in New York, Philadelphia, Virginia and South Carolina, as well as other colonies, when they found that the Articles of Confederation didn't work, applied their practical brains to the organization of a constitution, and their work resulted in the frame of government under which this country has lived and prospered for one hundred and fifty years. But that was not enough. Just as Jefferson's Declaration of Independence, with its high-sounding phrases, would undoubtedly have resulted in the hanging of the Rebels for treason if Washington's ragged Continental Army had not made that declaration good with blood and toil, so the Constitution of the United States would not have succeeded had it not been for the strong grip which the men, later stigmatized as Federalists, took on the situation and proceeded to organize a working frame of government. With all this practical working out of the problem, Jefferson had very little sympathy. He had been in France while the Constitution was being written and the strenuous work of getting it adopted being done. He came home in time to serve for three years in Washington's Cabinet and, finding himself out of sympathy with the men who were trying to make the government work, resigned and devoted himself to attacking the government and Washington in a more or less underhanded way through the medium of a scandalous newspaper, the *Aurora*, in Philadelphia. If he did

not contribute to the *Aurora*, he certainly sympathized with it.

The pillars of Washington's administration were Alexander Hamilton of New York, who had been a colonel of artillery in the Continental Army, and Timothy Pickering of Salem, who had been Washington's commissary general, than which no more thankless task could ever be assumed by an unselfish patriot. Alexander Hamilton's great reports on the currency and on manufactures resulted in the strong organization of our monetary system, while Timothy Pickering, after he took over the State Department from Jefferson, wrote a series of state papers defending American rights which were masterpieces of clearness, strength, and logic.

The defeat of the Federalist Party was undoubtedly due to their own quarrels. Honest, obstinate, tactless Adams quarrelled with Hamilton and Pickering, who were perhaps equally tactless, and imperiled his own election in 1802. When that election occurred, however, it turned out that Adams actually had more votes outside of the state of New York than he had in 1798, but that able and wily Tammany politician Aaron Burr put in strenuous work in the city of New York and carried the city for Jefferson and himself. The New York City votes turned the scale in the New York Assembly which then chose the presidential electors, and so the New York vote went to Jefferson and Burr. In other words, this election often proclaimed as a great uprising of Jeffersonian democracy was actually a Tammany manipulation of New York City where a majority of two hundred and twelve votes resulted finally in Jefferson's election.³

Whatever else may be said about Jefferson, there is no question but that he was a master politician, and he did not propose to have any future election of himself left to such chance as the last one. He inaugurated the Spoils System at once which resulted in the turning out of most of the Federal officers and the replacing of them with deserving Jeffersonians. He extended the idea of the yellow journalism of the *Aurora* to every important city in the country and established Jeffersonian papers. We acquired

³ Channing, *Hist. of U. S.*, vol. 4, p. 236 *et seq.*

the *Impartial Register* in Salem. Both of these things increased the power of the machine politician when the Tammany idea was extended to other places to break the power and independence of New England merchants, and that is where the Embargo came in later.

Here in Salem the town was considerably divided by a lot of petty squabbles and lawsuits, and especially by a breach between the two great families of Derby and Crowninshield. The Derbys were strong Federalists in root and branch, but the Crowninshields had been very much displeased because Secretary Stoddert had refused to buy two of their ships for the French War of 1798, and they seem to have held that grudge for years. Roughly, the division in the town placed the Derbys, the Pickerings, the Pickmans, the Dodges, the Wards, most of the Hodgeses, and Jacob Ashton, Stephen Phillips, and Captain Saunders in the Federalist column along with many others, while the Crowninshields, the Whites, the Waterses, and to a less bitter degree, the Silsbees and the Boardmans in the Jeffersonian column. The bitterness between the two factions soon began to take form, and Bentley says that in January, 1803, the friends of the Crowninshields were crossed off the Assembly list. The men didn't worry much about it, but the ladies were furious. This apparently went on, for two years later the Jeffersonians organized their own Assembly. Dr. Bentley, who was the high priest of the Jeffersonians and whose vigorous support of Jefferson did more than anything else to create the division, charges it all to the Federalists.⁴ But, inasmuch as the Federalists considered it necessary to build a hall on Chestnut Street, one wonders whether the exclusion wasn't working the other way.

The old concert hall in which the assemblies had been held was apparently a building near the corner of Lafayette and Charter Streets, but no description of it has been found. It is alluded to as the concert hall and the assembly hall. It was probably torn down a great many years ago. In the midst of all the friction, the Federalists had moved away from the lower part of the town. Chestnut Street was built up as a Federalist street, flanked

⁴ Bentley, III, pp. 2, 201, 203.

right and left by Hamilton Street and Pickering Street. The center of its social activities was rightly named Hamilton Hall. The other new main street was christened Federal Street. There was a pretty sharp geographical division between Federalists and Jeffersonians along the line of the present tunnel.

Right in the middle of all this friction and hard feeling came one of the dramatic events of American history. Aaron Burr, Jefferson's vice-president, and chief supporter, challenged Alexander Hamilton to a duel and killed him. Anyone with his own opinion with regard to dueling can judge whether this was premeditated murder or not, but Burr undoubtedly removed from the American scene the great organizer of the future prosperity of America and a man who could have given untold service to the country, in years to come. Year by year the organization of the Jeffersonian party had become stronger and stronger. The Federalist organization was not nearly as skillfully devised. The group denounced as the "Essex Junto" were a group of very able Federalists who undoubtedly discussed things together, but there wasn't any such organization, actually.

Hamilton Hall once built found itself precipitated into the middle of the worst crisis of the Jeffersonian epoch. Word came to Salem in December, 1807, which was about the first year of the hall probably, that an absolute embargo had been laid on all commerce. No ship should sail in the overseas trade, and the bonds required of coasters and fishermen that they would return to American shores were so severe that no fishermen could afford them. The result was that commerce absolutely stopped. The ships of the Baltic fleet and the Mediterranean fleet, as they returned to Salem, were tied up and abandoned. The Indiamen as they came in with rich cargoes were added to the deserted array. Seamen and masters were turned adrift without employment. As Salem lived exclusively on the overseas trade and its collateral activities of shipbuilding and cordage making, etc., it meant absolute poverty for the town. All this was supposed to be for the sake of punishing England and France for their oppressive measures toward our trade, but Joseph Story, who went to Congress in the spring of 1808 ostensibly as

a Jeffersonian, wrote to William Fettyplace that the Administration had not the slightest intention of removing the Embargo and if the merchants did not want to have their trade permanently discontinued they would better do something about it.⁵ Timothy Pickering had written a very able letter to the Massachusetts legislature condemning the Embargo and urging that every step should be taken to oppose it. A committee was organized March 25, 1808, to fight it.

This was a very strong committee and endorsed Christopher Gore for Governor and, curiously enough in view of subsequent events, William Gray for state senator. Gray's action in running on one platform and then pursuing a directly opposite course after election foreshadowed many similar courses of action in the Democratic Party.⁶ Among the resolutions adopted by the committee were:

Resolution 2 That we consider the Embargo as a most grievous measure—which ought not to have been adopted.

Resolution 4 Endorsing Timothy Pickering and his letter to the Massachusetts legislature.

Gray's subsequent action was diametrically in the very opposite.

The opening shot of the campaign was a great dinner to Timothy Pickering on May 27. A carriage was sent to bring him from Wenham. A hundred and twenty gentlemen on horseback met him at Beverly Bridge. Ships in Beverly and Salem Harbors were decorated and salutes fired. Senator Goodhue presided at the dinner held in Concert Hall, while General Derby, Colonel Pickman and Judge Prescott were the vice-presidents. Josiah Quincy was one of the speakers. The whole essence of the celebration was summed up in one of the toasts, of which there were some twenty-four, which was "let the seamen return from the spade to the capstan and the philosopher from the chair of state to his closet."

One year of the Embargo was enough. The storm of protest had reached Congress with a force that could not

⁵ Life and Letters of Joseph Story, 165.

⁶ See Alfred Smith's deadly parallel column of the Democratic platform of 1931 and Roosevelt's subsequent course of action, for instance.

be suppressed. The Massachusetts representatives in Washington were doing noble work and in the spring of 1809 the Embargo was repealed. Benjamin Pickman⁷ wrote in his dairy, "Jefferson's wicked, tyrannical Embargo" has this day been repealed.

Within a year Massachusetts had been redeemed by the Federalist party and Governor Gore had been elected as chief Magistrate. He went on a tour to the District of Maine and on September 20, 1809, was met by a cavalcade of gentlemen and the Essex Hussars at Israel Thordike's house in Beverly. The ships at Beverly Bridge fired a salute, Russell's artillery fired another salute on the Common.

Thousands of people thronged the streets and "female beauty crowded and adorned the windows." There was a great reception at the Sun Tavern where he received the congratulations of all classes of citizens. Finally the Salem Light Infantry escorted him to Hamilton Hall where Timothy Pickering, the Senators, and Congressmen and many others welcomed him, and the usual long list of toasts were drunk. Some of these could not be understood without the background, but it will be remembered that at that moment the Austrian Archduke was attacking the Bonapartists in Italy, and therefore was a hero to the Federalists and anathema to the Jeffersonians. The account of the dinner says the following was received with feeling and applause—"the Archduke Charles, liberty, and the rights of man, Godspeed the Austrians."⁸

The Salem Light Infantry was a military organization organized by the Federalists, and they seemed to have adopted Hamilton Hall as their meeting place. Whether they also used it for drills is not evident, but they certainly used it for their social occasions. On July 4, 1811, they had a particularly enthusiastic party, and the Salem Gazette alludes to the company as "that pride of Federalism and soldiership, the Salem Light Infantry." One of the toasts at the dinner was particularly amusing—"Old Salem again bewitched; may those who exercise the black

⁷ Diary of William Pickman, 183.

⁸ Salem Gazette, September 20, 1809.



art soon boil in their own cauldrons." Music—Polly put the kettle on.⁹

The War of 1812 was as distasteful to the Federalists as the Embargo had been. Every attempt was made to foist the war on New England as a defense of sailor's rights, freedom of the sea, etc., whereas, as a matter of fact, it was pushed on by the warhawks in Kentucky to enable them to capture upper Canada.¹⁰ But, be that as it may, various things were done in Salem to increase the popularity of the two parties. After Captain Lawrence and Lt. Ludlow had been killed on board the Chesapeake off Boston Harbor, George Crowninshield took a brig to Halifax to bring back their bodies and a great funeral was held in Salem. Unfortunately, a certain element in the North Church prevented its use for the funeral and some bitter Federalists of the East India Marine Society refused to parade, but in general the Federalists honored the memory of two gallant officers, although they had no question about George Crowninshield's using the funeral for political purposes.

A month later, September 14, 1813, however, a better occasion presented itself. Commodore Bainbridge and Captain Blakely, who in the Frigate "Constitution" had captured the British Frigate "Java" in a well-fought fight, were invited to Salem. These distinguished guests, together with Colonel Sargent of the Boston Light Infantry, Major Sanders of the Salem Regiment and Captain White of the Salem Hussars were escorted through the town and were entertained at Captain King's Marquee on the common. At four o'clock the guests were escorted to Hamilton Hall and the "style and elegance of the decorations" were marvelous. In the center of a circle formed by the tables were erected a Naval Pillar surmounted by a bust of the immortal Washington entwined by an American Pendant (*sic*) and enscribed in letters of gold with the names of Bainbridge, Rodgers, Decatur, Stewart, Hull and others. At the head of the room under a decorated arch appeared a monument of white marble bearing the name of Lawrence. The front of the gallery from which was displayed

⁹ E. I. H. C. 26:169.

¹⁰ Channing's History of United States, IV; 456, 457.

the banner of the Company, was ornamented by representations of the six naval victories. As the keystone of the arch at the bottom of the Hall appeared in brilliant characters the name of our venerable commander-in-chief Strong (then Governor of Massachusetts) and in different parts of the room the names of Jay, Hamilton, Greene, Montgomery, Knox, Pickering and others.

After the cloth was removed, a number of patriotic sentiments were given as public toasts accompanied by appropriate music from a fine full band. The fourth toast was "The American Navy: the offspring of enlightened policy, the pride of the commercial states, the glory of our country." While Truxton's March was being played an American Ensign which had been suspended as a curtain before a recess at the foot of the hall, was removed and a ship of 24 guns was revealed under an elegant arch and a Federal Salute was fired from her in a very spirited and seamanlike manner. Then a parody on the famous British song *The Watery God* was sung celebrating the exploits of *our* navy. After drinking thirteen more toasts the Company adjourned.¹¹

The salute may have been fired in a spirited manner but it cost \$12 to repair the model from which it was fired.¹²

On July 4, 1814, another Light Infantry dinner was held in Hamilton Hall. The company met in the morning and escorted Leverett Saltonstall to the North Church where he delivered an oration. Dr. Bentley describes him as an insignificant young lawyer, but the oration was an excellent one, and then all proceeded to Hamilton Hall for a dinner of the usual dimensions.

Innumerable other great dinners have been held in Salem. On July 18, 1817, President Monroe came to Salem, but he dined in the Town Hall which had been recently opened. On August 8, 1823, just previous to his departure for Boston, Nathaniel Bowditch, Salem's greatest scientist was tendered a farewell banquet on his moving to Boston. This was a very distinguished affair on account of the number and variety of men of high stand-

¹¹ Salem Gazette, September 17, 1813.

¹² Marine Room of the Peabody Museum, p. 66.

ing who attended and contributed to the program.¹³ President Kirkland and Professor Farrar were there to represent Harvard. The Judges and lawyers of Essex County contributed a large quota. The medical profession sent its best men. The Pickering family appeared in force and these contained at least two distinguished scholars. The merchants for whom Bowditch's skill as a navigator had done so much were out in force. There were Peabodys, Wards, Dodges, Silsbees, Phillipses and many others. Of course the distinguished clergy were not absent. Benjamin Pickman presided and Judge Putnam and Honorable David Cummins assisted as vice-presidents.

There were thirteen regular toasts, beginning properly with the president of the United States, then James Monroe. This was followed by one to the governor and then one to the town of Salem. The latter reflected a certain note of sadness which was evident in many of the voluntary toasts offered by various persons after the formal toasts had been disposed of. This toast to Salem was:

"The Town of Salem—She may boast the honorable but painful distinction of producing men whom her neighbors will not permit her to keep."

Among the voluntary toasts Dr. Bowditch himself offered an affectionate one to his adopted town and after he had retired the president offered one to Dr. Bowditch to which Judge Story rose to reply and concluded by proposing "Nathaniel Bowditch our most distinguished citizen—First of his countrymen in the walks of science: Second to no man on earth for purity and honor."

J. A. Peabody, Esq. proposed—The good people of Boston not content with their own capital, avail themselves of their neighbor's funds. This last draft on our stock of science has been duly honored.

This same theme of the contribution of Salem to the brains and ability of Boston ran through many of the twenty-five or thirty voluntary toasts.

T. C. Cushing proposed—The County of Essex—may the stock of intellectual wealth she is pouring into the capital, by an alternate reflex, bring back increasing treasures to her own shores.

¹³ Account in Essex Register, August 11, 1823.

F. Howes followed in a similar vein—The Infant City of Boston¹⁴—If at so early an age it can discern and appreciate the superior genius of a Bowditch, what a patron of science it will become when it comes to years of discretion.

Many other citizens were mentioned including the memory of Elias Hasket Derby but there was no mention of his great competitor William Gray.

Another most distinguished occasion in which the old Hall figured was the reception of General Lafayette¹⁵ on August 31, 1824. Apparently he was met at the Marblehead line by the Salem committee. Edward Lander was chief marshal of the procession with General Peabody, Nathaniel Silsbee, Jr., Jacob Crowninshield, Stephen C. Phillips, E. H. Derby, Jr., W. F. Gardner, Joseph S. Cabot and some fifteen others as aides. The general entered an elegant barouche drawn by four white horses. Accompanied by Judge Story, the president of the day and escorted by the cavalry and a cavalcade of citizens, he drove down Lafayette Street. The infantry companies and the sailors from the ships lined the hill approaching the bridge and saluted as the General passed. There were triumphal arches on the bridge and up Central Street. The procession passed through the principal streets to Washington Square where he received the greetings of all the school children. He then proceeded to the Lafayette Coffee House in Essex Street, where on a stage in front, Judge Story delivered an address of welcome and General Lafayette replied.

At three o'clock the General was escorted by the Salem Light Infantry to Hamilton Hall where he dined with three hundred gentlemen. Judge Story presided and the vice-presidents were Judge Putnam, Nathaniel Silsbee, Willard Peele, B. W. Crowninshield, John Pickering, Pickering Dodge, Perley Putnam, Leverett Saltonstall, John Glen King and Stephen White.

The hall was wonderfully decorated. Opposite the General's chair was the couplet—

“Welcome, welcome to the brave
To the homes he fought to save.”

¹⁴ Boston had only recently been incorporated as a city.

¹⁵ Salem Gazette, September 1, 1824.

In a recess above the chair of Lafayette was a bust of Washington crowned with a wreath of olive leaves and just below it an American Eagle held a laurel wreath above the head of the General.

There was a most distinguished group of guests. Beside the General, his son and his suite were General Dearborn, the Columbian minister to the United States, the venerable Colonel Timothy Pickering, Colonel Lee, the Governor of the Commonwealth and his aides, and General Wingate from Portland.

There were the usual thirteen toasts as well as thirty-seven more voluntary toasts proposed by guests.

These latter included—

The Honorable Timothy Pickering—the right hand man of General Lafayette.

The memory of Alexander Hamilton—champion of Lafayette at Monmouth and at Yorktown.

At five o'clock General Lafayette left for Ipswich and would have been escorted from the town, but as it was raining in torrents the general urged that the escort be excused and he left without ceremony.

This covers the notable events in the Hall during the first quarter of the nineteenth century but by no means all such events during its long history. Martin Van Buren when vice-president dined there as did Daniel Webster and many other notable men. Most of the more distinguished governors of the Commonwealth have seen the inside of the hall and probably all of the more famous citizens of Salem have been feted there one time or another, and it still maintains its prestige as the most famous dining place in the city with the meeting of that most distinguished company of ladies, the Colonial Dames of Massachusetts, on May 22, 1947.

Dancing in
HAMILTON HALL
by
Caroline H. King

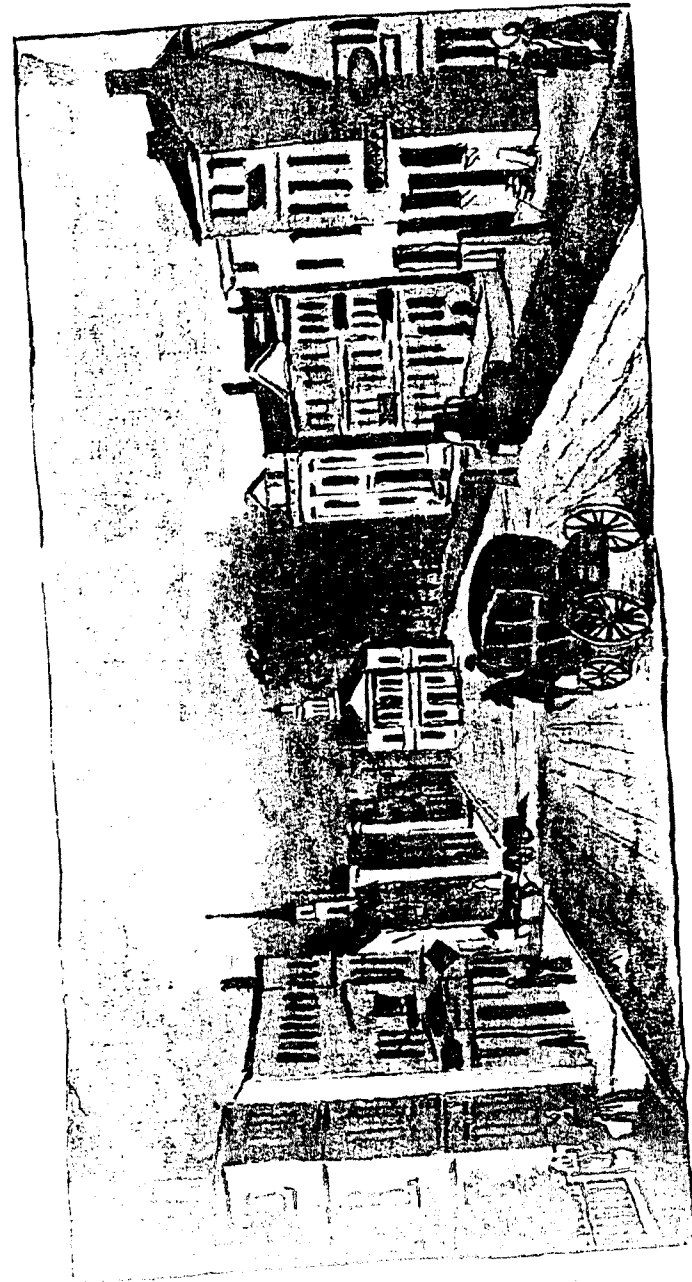
IV

Life of the Town

DANCING IN HAMILTON HALL

WHEN the time came for girls of my age to go to parties in Salem, and to give parties in return, I well remember the plain inexpensiveness of everything. The evening treat was almost always the same. Grapes and nuts and raisins, with sometimes whips, raspberry creams and calf's foot jelly made from the genuine article, while lemonade in glasses was often handed round during the evening. How proud I was of my first real party dress, a dotted India muslin, trimmed round the neck and sleeves with small wreaths of evergreen moss, studded with Roxbury wax work berries, made by my mother, who also made similar wreaths for my friend Lucy, but as she was fair and with blue eyes, her wreaths were starred with the white buds of everlasting flowers; and I can safely say that no two girls of the present day, decked out in all the elaborate complications of dresses just from Paris, ever had a more glorious time at their first party in Hamilton Hall than we had.

And here I must digress once more to say a few words of the Hamilton Hall of my youth. Of course the harmonious proportions of the noble room cannot be altered, but it looks so differently to me now. When I first went to parties, there was no gas in Salem, and the hall was entirely lighted with candles; candles in the central chandelier, candles in sconces, candles everywhere, shedding their soft mellow becoming light on the gay scene beneath them. Then there



Old View of Court Street

were four beautiful old convex mirrors in richly carved frames hanging on the walls. How often have I watched the Lilliputian duplicate of the brilliant picture below, shining out on their polished surfaces! Then two large roaring woodfires gave a home-like cheerful look to the hall on a cold winter's night. For the Assemblies the dais was covered with handsome rugs, with sofas and arm chairs for the older people, and the long arched windows were draped with damask and lace curtains. But the Old Hall looked its best at a Military Ball,—I think there was more trouble taken with such things in those days, when all the decoration was done by amateurs. There were no professional decorators then and the work was done by members of the military companies. Flags and gay draperies were used in profusion, quaint devices made from the muskets of the corps were on the walls, and the whole front of the music gallery was covered with brilliant coats of arms and other effective decorations.

Square dances and Country dances were the fashion then, and our Ball Programmes consisted of Quadrilles which were square dances, with four or five different figures; the Spanish Dance, a kind of slow half waltz; The Boulanger, an all round dance, and the Virginia Reel with which our balls always ended. There was also a country dance where each gentleman had two partners, but when the Lancers was first introduced into Hamilton Hall Assemblies, it was considered a great innovation! One of the figures of the Cotillion was called "Cavalier Seul" where a gentleman has to show off his steps alone in front of his partner and vis-à-vis. It must have been a trying moment for the lone Cavalier, and one evening I saw a smart dapper little man, who was very

proud of his agile dancing, and the smallness of his feet, gracefully going through his performance, directly under the full light of the chandelier, with his trousers turned up, and on his feet a pair of large muddy overshoes which he had forgotten to remove on entering the hall. Nobody could help smiling, but the fun became pathetic not to say tragic, when the smirk of satisfaction on the face of the little dandy suddenly changed to a look of horror and dismay, as he discovered the condition of his usually dainty little feet, and rushed from the hall abashed and mortified. He was a conceited little fellow who had come down from Boston, hoping to make a great impression on the pretty Salem girls, which he certainly did, though not exactly in the way he intended.

It was a great event when the two Boston Bands, the Brass or the Brigade came to town to parade with either of the two crack Salem military companies, the Cadets or the Light Infantry. And it was considered no infraction of dignity for the most respectable citizens to follow round the town, marching after the band through its whole course, till the music stopped on the Common. I have often done this, proudly stepping along in the company of our first Mayor and President of the Common Council! In those old days there was great rivalry between these two military companies, the Light Infantry and the Cadets, the one being Whigs and the other Democrats—and once upon a time the Cadets gave a grand military ball, engaging this same delightful Brigade Band to furnish the music. My friend Lucy and I were wild to go to it, and rather encouraged by our fathers, teased our mothers so that they finally consented to let us go if we would promise not to dance. Now these

august fathers of the city and of us, though staunch Whigs and Light Infantry men, never could resist any opportunity of hearing good music, and, as we always believed, made their school-girl daughters an excuse for the necessity of their presence at this ball. As we entered, a march was being played, and we joined the gay procession as it filed round the hall, delighting in the spirited music which seemed to put wings to our feet. When it stopped, we sat down at one side, and for a time were well amused with watching the brilliant scene and the queer dancing. In those days everybody really danced, literally "took their steps." There were no round dances then, no languid walking through the figures of a quadrille, but everybody put all their spirit, and in some cases all their strength, into their dancing. Just opposite where we sat, a stout baker was dancing with his betrothed, who was our seamstress. That morning she had said to me,—“Oh, Miss Caroline, if you are going to the ball to-night, I hope you will see my Richard dance. He is wonderful! So large and so light!” And so she had brought her Richard over to display his accomplishments before us, and it was pretty to see her pride in her large and light lover, and her appealing glances at us, asking for our sympathy and admiration. He was a large man, and it *was* wonderful to see the agility with which he cut his pigeon wings, the lightness of his leaps and glissades and the grace with which he bowed to his partner. But though this amused us for a time, presently Lucy and I began to grow restless. The music got into our feet, which we could not keep still, and we longed for a chance to join the gay throng, and just as we felt we could not stand it any longer, there appeared before us a vision of scarlet and gold, who gracefully bowing,

invited one of us to dance, kindly offering to find a suitable partner for the other. It was one of the officers of the Cadets (I think the Captain), a famous beau in Salem Society, but only looked up to as a distant star by these two school girls. It was almost honor and glory enough to be spoken to by such a hero. But imagine our distress when our stern parents politely declined for us, saying we had only come to look on for an hour. I suppose our disappointment and despair must have been written on our faces, for the gallant Captain after a moment's hesitation said, "Perhaps then the young ladies will like to walk round the room with me before they go home, to get a better view of the dancing." In a moment we were on our feet, fearing that this too would be refused, but just then the band was playing deliciously, and the fathers were too much taken up with the music to attend to us. So we slipped off, and very grand we felt parading round and round the hall, and chattering and laughing with the splendid young officer. It was next best to dancing, and ended the evening very happily for us. In after years we came to know our benefactor very well, and have had many a laugh over our first ball.

About thirty-five years ago a Salem boy who was a freshman in Harvard, hearing by chance in the afternoon of a bright winter's day, that there was to be a military ball in Salem that night, forthwith invited a friend to drive to Salem with him, go to the ball, returning to Cambridge afterwards, promising him pretty partners, and a jolly time. But when after a very cold drive they arrived shivering in their party toggery at Hamilton Hall, what was the Salem boy's dismay, upon looking in at the gay scene from the

dressing room door, to see the well known scarlet and white of the Cadet uniform, and to realize that a "Military" Ball in Salem did not of necessity mean a Light Infantry Ball. But true to the traditions of family and friends who were all staunch Whigs, he instantly told his companion that their fun must end there, they must not set a foot on that Cadet floor, nor venture upon even one Democratic dance, and farther, that as this had been a stolen spree, he did not care to show himself at his own house, so there was nothing for them to do but to return at once to Cambridge. But at this the friend rebelled. He has told me since, that the glimpse he caught of the bright hall, with pretty girls dancing to the sound of entrancing music, and most attractive of all after that cold drive, the two great blazing wood-fires, was so inspiring that he declared he did not care whether it was a Cadet or a Light Infantry, or an Artillery Ball, he had come to dance, and he meant to stay. But the Salem boy was peremptory, for he knew that his father, who was an officer in the Light Infantry, would never forgive him, if he dared to take his chum into the hall and introduce him to partners, so their dispute finally ended by their sad return to the stable where they had put up their horse, and they were soon on their cold and melancholy way back to Cambridge, having had only one tantalizing glimpse of that Paradise, before whose entrance stood a scarlet and white Cadet Angel waving a Democratic Sword.

THE TOWN CRIER

The Salem Crier was a well known figure of my childhood. He was a tall thin old man wearing spectacles, and carrying a large bell which he rang loudly at the corner of

First Fair in Salem at
HAMILTON HALL
by
Caroline H. King

and silver heroes of the day. Though we often found that it was distance that lent enchantment to the view, and that under the nodding plumes and waving red horse hair of the warriors' helmets, smiled the face of some familiar friend, or perhaps of some well known unromantic shop boy. In the early afternoon the companies began to disperse, starting on their long marches home, and by sunset the show was over, the last rub-a-dub had died away in the distance, the cows came peacefully strolling down from the pastures, and Training Day was a thing of the past.

THE FIRST FAIR IN SALEM

In the winter of 1833 Dr. Howe came to lecture in Salem, giving a very interesting exhibition of the progress his blind pupils had made under his tuition, and adding an urgent appeal for aid. The charitable soul of Salem was stirred to its depths and many plans for raising money were discussed and rejected. At last a Fair was settled upon as the quickest and most available means of helping on the good cause. On February 1833, a number of ladies met together and formed a society, which at first held meetings at the houses of the members, twice a week, but which was soon obliged to adjourn to Hamilton Hall, so many were the applicants for work, and so great was the interest shown by all classes. It was the first Fair ever held in Salem, and a spirit of energy and charity seemed to rouse the whole town to action, and to a determination that it should be a success. I have the record of the Secretary of the Society, with a report of the proceedings at each meeting. It is a very amusing document, and a list of the things which were considered most desirable and salable at a Fair in those days would be

only laughed at now—indeed the very names of some of them are forgotten. What use could we make now of two dozen white linen and checked muslin mittens, or who would want four “tippoos,” or “A Temple to Friendship,” or any number of “Fannys,” or dozens of alumettes and alumette holders, and who would buy forty night caps now-a-days, or twenty linen cambric ruffled shirt bosoms, or “twelve gent’s stocks,” or four dozen “gent’s false collars,” or three black bombazine workbags? Then there were quantities of bead necklaces given or “donated” as the report says. At one time these necklaces were much the fashion in Salem. They were fearfully and wonderfully made in a frame, the woof being of strands of sewing silk, and the warp woven of beads forming different patterns. There used to be a story that a beautiful and eccentric young Salem belle went to a party with one of these chains in which the words “Forget-me-not” were woven in gilt beads on a black ground, worn like a *feronière* across her brow. But perhaps there is no one left in Salem now but myself who knows what a “*feronière*” was. It was a gold chain in the middle of which was a jewelled ornament, which was worn across the forehead. A queer, half-barbarous fashion suggesting eastern sultanas. There are dozens of pantalettes and embroidered silk aprons and “inside handkerchiefs” and quilled lace ruffs, and many other odd things unknown to modern toilettes recorded in the pages of this report, and dozens of hemstitched and embroidered grasscloth and linen cambric handkerchiefs, because in those days such things could not be bought in the shops. There are long lists of donations from Salem people whose names alone carry me back to my childhood, and whose gifts

smack of the old palmy days, when Salem ships visited all ports, and their captains brought home quaint foreign spoils to their native city. There are some of them, I give the words of the report:

- A pair of Russian Moccasins.
- Splendid foreign Bird.
- 2 Elegant Canton Cardcases.
- 3 sheets of beautiful Chinese flowers on rice paper.
- Spanish grandee in a beautiful car, drawn by a Moorish Slave.
- Model of a Gothic Church.
- 3 boxes of plaster Medallions from ancient works of Art.
- Pair of Japanned Screens.
- White crape Shawl richly embroidered.
- Six Mother of pearl cardcases.
- Six Carved Ivory Pincases.
- Two pairs Oriental Slippers.
- A Moss Grotto, with Cardracks to match.
- "A Doll dressed as an Indian Chief, presented by Mrs. Micklefield."

This last item brings vividly to my remembrance the majestic life-size figure of an Indian in brilliant war-paint and feathers, and full gay Indian toggery, who used to stand at the door of Micklefield's Tobacco shop on Central Street and who was the object of my childish awe and admiration—awe, because I was told that "when Micklefield's Injun hears the clock strike one, he steps down from his stand and goes to get his dinner," and until I was enlightened as to the joke, being always ready to believe any marvellous tale,

I have often been late at my own dinner, from futile lingering round the shop, in the vain hope of seeing that stately figure, bow in hand, march up Central Street. There have been other Indians in Salem since then, but they apparently belonged to a smaller and more insignificant tribe than "Micklefield's Injun," who, tradition says, was carved by MacIntyre, to whose artistic skill we owe so many of our fine Salem carvings.

Then all the shopkeepers contributed goods in their various departments, and Miss Hannah Putnam, the fashionable milliner of the day, sent a miniature stand with seven elegantly trimmed doll's hats and bonnets hanging upon it.

On Wednesday morning, the 9th of April, 1833, the Fair was opened. It was held in Hamilton Hall, which was decorated with flowers and evergreens, and on the Tuesday afternoon before, the public was admitted on the payment of twenty-five cents, simply to look at and admire the various tables, no sales being made, and for this exhibition the sum of \$84 was taken at the door. The next morning at 10 o'clock the Fair began and lasted until Thursday at noon, when the tables were cleared and the proud and tired lady patronesses counted their gains, and found they had taken three thousand dollars, which certainly was a wonderful amount for less than two months' work, and which is a noble testimony to the executive ability and generous spirit of the inhabitants of Salem nearly seventy years ago.

THE COURT HOUSE

In those days the Salem Court House was a square red brick building with white facings and a belfry standing directly in the middle of Washington Street, which was

A Tree's Story of
HAMILTON HALL

emitting war-whoops as they raced away, but, unfortunately, hesitating long enough to give the unstable tree a shake. A woman came to the door, shook her fist and stamped her foot, while the little tree shook from branch to root.

"If I could only tell her that they are hiding behind the lumber, she might do something," murmured the shaken tree. "They deserve a thorough punishment. I know every one of my roots has been loosened."

Men labored in the lumber-yard daily; the little shop was trundled from the corner to make room for the changes in the piles. The men used to say with a laugh, "There goes Miss Deland's house on wheels."

Much activity was now evident in the vicinity, and the tree felt that its fate was not such an unhappy one. A new edifice was being built on the opposite corner—a church—to house the congregation now using the old hall. One man was especially active, the skillful architect and wood-carver, Samuel Mackintire. The spire grew higher and higher, until the little tree, grown to be quite a sizable elm, wondered if it would not soon reach the sky. The lumber was now cleared; bricks and sand were brought; a cellar was dug not far from the tree. This proved to be a different sort of structure, but Samuel Mackintire was the leading spirit here, as he was across the street.

The tree watched its growth with great interest. This was a hall to replace the old one,—demolished to make room for the new church. Many stately gentlemen were also interested, and came daily to watch the progress of the walls. Often they would lean against the tree, which was now strong enough to serve as a support, to discuss the merits of the plans and the expenses entailed.

"Whoever heard of a group of staid citizens, in a quiet community, paying twenty-two thousand dollars to provide their children with a hall for dancing? Our ancestors would turn in their graves should they hear of it," laughed one.

"When a pretty daughter asks for something, what can one

do?" said another. "All they can think of now is dancing and frolicking. The young men will find them poor help-meets, I fear."

"Do not worry," said a third. "When the time comes the gay maids make as expert housewives as the sober drudges, and are vastly more entertaining. I am glad to have a new hall for dancing where everything will be fresh and clean. Mackintire's plans are good, and, as embellishments, his eagles and festoons cannot be surpassed."

"The Palladian windows are wide and will let in much light and air," said another.

"I am anxious to see the interior," said the first speaker, "for the balcony looks well in the plan, also the fireplaces. A great amount of wood will be necessary to heat the big hall."

"The four mirrors that I am expecting from Russia will be a great addition. A fitting companion the church will have in the hall. What will Parson Hopkins say to the gayety?"

The tree was tall enough to peep in at the wide windows and could watch the progress of the hall. Fluted pilasters supported a heavy cornice, which was surmounted by a groined ceiling. The mirrors were placed on the walls, and, to complete the picture, the fireplaces were filled with logs.

Hardly had the workmen finished, and the paint was barely dry, when ladies, young and old, were seen coming and going. They brought elegant rugs, sofas, chairs and hangings to decorate the severely plain interior of the hall. The dressing-rooms and the supper-room over them also received their share of attention. The gentlemen owners were most active, superintending the men who placed the furniture and fed the fires. As the tree watched the proceedings it quivered with excitement.

Perhaps the chief spirit was the caterer, John Remond, a young man from Curaçoa, who had been installed in an apartment on the ground floor of the building, with a great kitchen and cellar. The tree regretted not being able to see into the large kitchen with its huge brick ovens and fireplace, where fowls were turning on the spits, joints were baking in numer-

ous tin ovens on the hearth, while pies and cakes were being cooked in the brick ones which were built into the chimney.

The First Assembly in this Hall took place on the Thursday in Christmas Week, 1805

A band of negro fiddlers came and were placed in the balcony. At six o'clock the street was filled with carriages coming and going. The tree caught glimpses of matrons, in brocades, with headdresses of ostrich plumes; maidens dressed in delicate pinas and muslins; gentlemen wearing blue broadcloth coats, knee breeches, silk stockings, and ruffled shirts. When the dancing began, the tree could well see through the brightly lighted windows the intricate figures of the contra dances, the bows and courtesies of the minuets. The hall pulsed with the rhythm of the dancers and the music, which made the branches of the tree wave in sympathy.

Underneath these branches a man paced up and down, waving his arms and muttering: "Back to back and breast to breast, dancing their souls down to hell." The tree recognized him as the parson of the church across the way.

The Assemblies came often, but the tree never tired of watching the dancers or of hearing the orchestra.

One day a new type of music came up the street, which made the ground fairly tremble with its vigor. It was the Company of Salem Light Infantry, escorting His Excellency the Governor of Massachusetts, Christopher Gore. The Company halted at

1809 the foot of the tree, broke ranks and filed into the hall. The brilliant uniforms made a gay showing, with their blue coats and scarlet facings, white waistcoats and pantaloons, the gold crest in the caps adding to the splendor. These dazzling soldiers came frequently, and, at these times, the tree noticed that Remond would be unusually active. Vans arrived, having been driven over the road from Boston, loaded with exotic fruits and game; farmers came with produce; a live turtle would often be carried in to be made into the delicious soup

for which the caterer was noted; oysters, a new delicacy, were brought to tempt the palate.

1811 On the ground floor of the building were several rooms occupied by a grocery store. Drays filled with hogsheads, bags, and barrels came for the proprietor, John Gray, Jun. The tree, now tall enough to see the harbor, realized that these loads always followed the arrival of a ship. Men congregated around the tree and long discussions would take place as to the latest prices on bags of sugar, hogsheads of rum or molasses.

Commodore Bainbridges' Visit to Salem, September, 1813 One day the gay soldiers marched again to the hall; their heads held even higher than usual, the music sounding gayer. They were escorting no less a personage than Commodore Bainbridge, the gallant commander of the frigate Constitution. For days there had been a great commotion in the hall, and it had been wonderfully decorated with pillars and wreaths, arches and memorials. A grand dinner was served, brilliant speeches were made—the tree could not remember a more splendid banquet. The real climax came, however, when a curtain was pulled

aside, disclosing a miniature frigate Constitution with twenty-four guns, from which a salute was fired in a very spirited manner.

Lafayette's Second Visit to Salem, August, 1824 The greatest event of all came a few years later. The hall had never been so beautifully decorated; the ladies had never worked so hard to make it a bower of loveliness. Loads of flowers and evergreens were brought; wreaths and garlands were woven and draped around the mirrors, chandelier, and balcony. A great American Eagle held a crown over the chair which the noted guest was expected to occupy. Among the inscriptions were these:—

"Welcome, welcome be the brave
To the homes he fought to save,"

and—

"Où peuti—on être micux
Qu'au sein de sa famille."

THE TREE'S STORY

Notwithstanding a heavy rain, the street, as far as the tree could see, was crowded with people. When the soldiers and music came around the corner, from every throat burst forth the cry of "Vive Lafayette!"

* * * *

Many children came to dancing classes, for which there were numerous teachers. One, in particular, the tree noticed, who came for many years, a tall foreigner with a curly wig, named Papanti. He was never without his violin and often used his bow as a reminder to awkward boys and giggling girls that their deportment was not correct. Young people, also, came to attend the day-schools which were held in the lower rooms where the grocery store once flourished.

Changes came quickly now, and it became difficult to separate the rapid succession of events. Parties, fairs, plays, and concerts were held in the hall and supper-room; stores, schools, gift shops, music and dancing lessons in the rooms below. Remond lived and reigned for over fifty years in his apartments and brought up a family there. Other caterers followed, but none stayed for so long a period.

Like all people of a past generation the tree ponders on the new order. In the old days the parties, banquets, schools, and shops were managed and taught by men. All that is changed. Women (the word lady is no longer allowed) now direct the parties and often a man is not even allowed to peek into the hall. Women teach dancing and music; women run the shop; even the orchestra is often composed of women.

The tree thinks of the passing of the years and still wonders.

* * * *



Kindness of the Essex Institute

THE SOUTH CHURCH, SALEM
Destroyed by fire 1904

Dancing School in
HAMILTON HALL

MR. UPTON'S SCHOOL ❀ ❀

OF DANCING AND ❀ ❀ ❀
PHYSICAL CULTURE



33d Season.

HAMILTON HALL.

CORNER OF CHESTNUT AND CAMBRIDGE STREETS
SALEM, MASS.

2

Course
of
Instruc-
tion.

THE season of Afternoon Dancing School will consist of a course of twenty-four lessons, closing with the annual exhibition and reception. All members joining the class are expected to attend the whole term of twenty-four lessons and the full price of tuition must be paid on or before the third lesson. Past pupils who do not wish to attend the first twelve lessons will be permitted to attend the last twelve lessons.

The Mid-winter Reception will take place on the sixteenth afternoon.

Physical
Culture.
EMERSON
SYSTEM.

FOR the past five years we have successfully taught Physical Culture in connection with our Dancing School and find that the benefits derived from it cannot be overestimated. At a glance one can easily select those who have taken this course, for they are specially noticeable for their ease of manner, and graceful movement. This department is in charge of Miss Upton, who will receive children or adults for private or class instruction at any time. Members of classes wishing to receive private instruction may do so on application.

Private Classes. Arrangements can be made for Classes at Private Schools or Residences in or out of the city.

Satisfaction Guaranteed. Many of our pupils have been with us for seven years and more. That alone is a sufficient guarantee that the work accomplished is satisfactory.

Miss Upton
Boston Mass.
3/22/56

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271
1881

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1881

Evening Classes. THE Evening Class for Ladies and Gentlemen will commence on Monday, September 13, at 8 o'clock, and continue Monday nights through the season.

In this class beginners will receive special attention. Instruction in the Waltz at the first lesson. The new and most popular dances taught this season. We teach you to dance correctly.

Terms: Ladies, \$3.00; Gentlemen, \$5.00.



Instructors. *HENRY O. UPTON, } Teacher of Dancing and Department.
 MRS. HENRY O. UPTON, } Assistant
 J. HENRY UPTON, } Assistant and Pianist
 †HENRIETTA UPTON, } Teacher of Physical Culture.

*Member of National Association of Masters of Dancing.
 †Graduate of Emerson College of Oratory.



Style of Dancing. The style of dancing taught at this school is the leading style now in general use by all the associated teachers at home and abroad.



Fancy Dancing. Every season of Dancing School closes with an exhibition of Fancy Dancing. All members wishing to learn solos etc. for this occasion can do so by paying the extra charge.

Advantages of Attending Dancing School. IN this school, pupils not only learn to dance, but to conduct themselves in society, to walk and carry themselves properly. In short, they receive the proper training that is necessary for children to have in order to be pleasing. Many parents have sent their children to this school, not only to learn to dance, but to become accustomed to the ways of others who have learned the laws which govern society. It is not infrequent that at the first lesson, we cannot induce children to get up on the dance floor. They are timid and afraid. They lack confidence. We always conquer such cases and in a few lessons the timid ones are as eager to dance as any. We have had a number of cases where the children were nervous, and could not keep quiet. We have placed them in with the dancers and turned their nervous energy into physical exercise. They soon forget themselves, and their little minds are so intent upon acquiring the given steps, that all this extra energy which has hitherto been wasted, is turned into a new channel, and gradually controlled.



Calendar The school opens on Saturday, p.m., Oct. 23, 1897. for The last half begins on Saturday, p.m., Jan. 22, 1898. 1897-08. Session at 2.30 o'clock.



Cost of Instruction.	For the season	\$10.00
	Last half (for past pupils)	5.00
	Payable on 3rd afternoon.	
Private Lessons.	Single Lesson	\$2.00
	To Members of Classes	1.00
	Solo Dance	10.00
	Duo	\$15.00
	Trio	15.00

HENRY O. UPTON, Dancing, 54 Turner Street.
 IDA UPTON-PAINE, Artist, Studio, 252 Essex Street, Room 14.
 J. HENRY UPTON, Pianoforte and Organ, 252 Essex Street, Room 10.
 HENRIETTA UPTON, Elocution, Physical Culture, 252 Essex St., Room 9.

HENRY O. UPTON,

DAY CLASS IN DANCING

HAMILTON HALL, + OCTOBER 16, 1889.

PARENT'S TICKET.

This ticket will admit Parents and members of families only to Class Sessions. Please show this at the door.

Mid-Winter Reception

OF

Henry O. Upton's Saturday Afternoon

CLASS IN DANCING
AND PHYSICAL CULTURE.

AT HAMILTON HALL,

Salem, MASS

February 4th, 1893.

PROGRAMME.

1. *March, Circle and Waltz.*

2. *Quadrille.*

3. *Oxford Minuet.*

4. *Detroit.*

5. *Lancers.*

6. *Schottische.*

7. *Virginia Reel.*

8. *Quadrille Polka.*

We have in rehearsal, a number of beautiful fancy dances, to be given at the Closing Festival which will be held at the Cadet Armory. Due notice will be given.

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A WAXED FLOOR IN SALEM

By CHARLES FESSENDEN NICHOLS



INTERIOR OF HAMILTON HALL

"EXHIBITION DAY" in Hamilton Hall! It stands on the Street of the Beautiful Trees, proud of statesman's name and famed architect's construction: scene of early pomp, — a Lafayette ball traditional, as if inserted in a jewelled frame. And, indeed, Master Quicksilver, lurking behind the convex mirrors which overlook this vast hall, never forgets what dignity and beauty have been here reflected. And here are seated, in heirlooms clad, lining the circumference of the hall, people of approved ancestry, while the children

dance, even as witches once danced.

Not a Saltonstall but has promenaded here; and Lees gracile and Saxon-haired; and Endicott children rather tall and proud; and Peabodys, while it was still "Peabody or nobody" in the haughty town; with Forresters, Pickerings, Curwens, Phillipses, Cabots, Bowditches, Derbys, Rantouls, Kings, Robinsons, and Silsbees; and Hawthorne children, Putnams, Uphams, Peirces, Storys, Footes, Devereaux, Wolcotts, Huntingtons, Dodges, Dalands, Gillises, Pingrees, Pickmans, Hodges, Nicholises, Wheat-

lands, Gardiners, Ropeses, Bertrams, Brookhouses, and Wests.

The children glide past, serious — in fear of misstepping — there is no coquetry, sisterly and brotherly are glances and encircling arms, and he who would fain know All believes that the profound bows made by these little folk — bows in be vies and battallions, and at claiming and relinquishing partners, feet placed at perfect and required angles — demand all brain forces.

Yet, from time to time, a plash of bright sound, or little arms thrown upward, as if a fish dashed fins into the sunlight from an eddying pool.

Two sorts of little girls, the big who overtop their jerking little partners, and the innumerable fairies, prettiest in pink. Two boy sorts, type of the born gentlemen, elastic and deferential, versus the boys blasé or otherwise hopeless — aggressive, mean, and pallid.

I surmise that yonder matrons gently favor, in behalf of one or other little daughter, certain boys eligible, yet unaware.

My little girl's face! Most flushed of all; she is neither too tall, nor a pink bubble. Whenever she is near she

throws a loving look at me. It is her green ribband which, tied on this chair-back, has reserved and fiercely defended a seat for papa.

Here I danced. Ah! the admirations, heart-burnings, colds caught, feet pinched, slyness toward our famous dance-master who was old, and we were sure he stuffed his legs: Papanti himself, irritably obsequious, with record of duels, and Colonel Peabody's endorsement: marvelously skilful at fiddling while himself stepping deftly in measure. Phrases come to my memory: "Allow me the pleasure." "Shall I have the German?" "Very excusable." Snatches suchlike are in this fanned air, and scent of oysters, and scent of oaken beams dusty and shaken by the dance. Hoof-tramping below, and the old family coachmen venture upstairs to look

softly in upon their young masters. Now I seek an ancient anteroom, of mirrors time-dimmed and deep windows dilapidating the strains of the distant music. The child-waltz mutters, sobbing as if in a shroud. I could weep (the old days are very dear), but the attendant seems curiously attentive.



HAMILTON HALL
Advertisements

SOME OLD ADVERTISEMENTS

The subscribers to the New Assembly House are desired to meet this evening at Mr. Crombie's tavern precisely at 7 o'clock on business of importance to them. *Gazette*—Dec. 9, 1806.

New Assembly House.

All persons having demands against the subscribers to the New Assembly House, are requested to exhibit their accounts without delay to

STEPHEN PHILLIPS, or
PICKERING DODGE, Committee.

TO LET—2 Stores on the ground floor of the above mentioned building. —Oct. 2, 1807.

Dancing Academy at the Assembly Hall.

Mr. Nichols, of Boston, respectfully tenders to the Gentlemen of Salem his proposals for instructing in Minuets, Hornpipes, Fancy, Allemands, Cotillion, and Contra Dances. He proposes to commence on Thursday next at 7 o'clock.

Mr. N. has taught much in Boston, in the most modern style, and approved steps; credentials of which may be seen by applying at the Bookstore of Messrs. Cushing & Appleton, where persons wishing to become pupils are desired to call and subscribe. —Jan. 15, 1811

Dancing School at the Assembly Hall.

In consequence of several solicitations, Mr. Nichols proposes to commence a school to instruct Ladies in a new and fashionable style of dancing.—The first lesson will be given on Thursday, at 2 o'clock.

SOME OLD ADVERTISEMENTS

John Gray, jun., informs the public that he has opened a Grocery Store under the New Assembly Room in Chestnut Street, opposite the Rev. Dr. Hopkins' meeting-house, where he intends keeping an assortment of Groceries & Country produce.

Rum per hhd. molasses.
White & brown Sugars per box.
Muscovado Sugar per bbl. of cwt.
Coffee per bag.
Bone middlings & No. 1 Pork per bbl.
A few barrels of excellent cider. —April 28, 1811.

John Gray, jun.,

Has, for sale, at his store in Chestnut Street, opposite the meeting-house

60 boxes Havana white } Sugar of a superior quality.
40 do. do. brown }

A few hhds. excellent flavored & high proof Rum.
Good retailing Molasses, per hhd. Cotton, per the bale, at a very low price and good quality. Excellent London Porter. Few of the first quality Cheese, and a general assortment of groceries,

also

Amesbury Factory Nails by the cask. —July 12, 1811.

"South Buildings in Salem."

The Proprietors of the South Buildings in Salem are hereby requested to meet at Hamilton Hall (so called) in said Salem, on Saturday the 25th inst. at 3 o'clock, P. M., for the purpose of making rules and by-laws for the management of said estate, of choosing officers of said Corporation for the year ensuing, of deciding on the number of shares into which the corporate property shall be divided, of determining the mode of calling future meetings of said Corporation, and of acting on any other business that shall be thought necessary.

WILLARD PEELE,
PICKERING DODGE.

—1820.

To Be Let.

The shops with the Cellars under them, in the South Buildings, Chestnut Street. Also several convenient Rooms for dancing in the upper part of the house. Apply to

GEORGE NICHOLS.

July 1, 1820.

Turtle Soup.

The subscriber will issue from his house on Chestnut St., this day from 12 to 1 o'clock, soup made from a superior fat Turtle, weighing over 200 wt.

His old customers and the public will be supplied as usual at 50 cts. per quart.

J. REMOND.

Nov. 15, 1820.

Hams, Cheese, Cider, &c.

John Remond has for sale

At his Store, South Buildings.

10,000 lbs., Virginia and North Carolina Hams, prepared expressly for shipping.

2,000 lbs., Shoulders, do. do.

4,000 lbs. Smoked Beef, (Albany Cured).

3,000 lbs. New Milk Cheese.

300 dozen Newark and Crab Apple Cider (wired and packed in Salt).

300 Glass Pots Pickled Oysters.

100 " " " Lobsters.

300 gallons Wine Vinegar, Suitable for American Market.

Also—constantly on hand Albany and Lansinburg Ale, &c.

N. B. Merchants and Masters of vessels supplied with Live stock as usual, at a reasonable notice.

—June 2, 1825.

PUBLIC DINNER

given at

HAMILTON HALL, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD., 1829,

to

HON. JUDGE STORY.

Bill of Fare.

FIRST COURSE.

Turtle Soup.
Boiled Hams.
Do. Legs of Mutton.
Do. Turkeys.
Beef-a-la-Mode.
Veal Fricandeau.
Pigeons Paelis.
Turtonge a-la-Braise.
Halibut-a-la-mode.
Baked Codfish.
Chicken Pies.
Oyster Do.
Le Maccarone Do.

SECOND COURSE.

Roasted Pigs.
Do. Bremen Geese.
Do. Mongrel Geese.
Do. Ducks.
Do. Wood-ducks.
Do. Beef.
Do. Chickens.
Do. Woodcocks.
Do. Plovers.
Roasted Pigeons.
Do. Ring-necks.
Do. Water-witches.
Do. Quails.
Do. Partridges.
Baked Calveshead.
Lobster Ragout.

PASTRY.

Lemon Puddings.
Tapioca Do.
Pies.

Plum Tarts.
Apple Do.
Custards.

PRESERVES.

Plums. Greengages.
Grapes. Peaches.

DESSERT.

Water Melons. Musk Melons.
Minorca Do. Nutmeg Do.
Citron Do. Pineapple Do.

Caterer

JOHN REMOND.

The Ladies' Fair will be held at Hamilton Hall, Chestnut Street, next Wednesday—should the weather prove unfavorable, the sale will be postponed to the first pleasant day. Doors to be opened precisely at ten o'clock, A. M., when the sale will commence and be continued through the afternoon and evening. At 12 o'clock A. M., some of the most valuable articles will be offered at Auction.—Price of Admission 12½ cents to be paid at the door. A poetical invitation to the Fair, written by Rev. Dr. Flint and catalogues of the articles to be sold, may be had at the different bookstores in town, and at Mrs. Harris' shop, Essex Street.

—Dec. 17, 1831.

Ladies Fair.

List of articles to be offered for sale comprises a variety to meet all tastes and exigencies. Our young bachelor brethren who are yet at a distance from their sixth lustre, will find infants' frocks, caps, robes, etc., to remind them of their duty, together with dickeys, stocks, and watch-guards, for their own use. The celibate of more than mature years, can obtain a nightcap that will not fail to procure pleasant dreams, and a "frightened bird" for an armorial device. Any young damsel who desires to know the stature, complexion, and profession of her future lord and master will have nothing to do but to consult a fate-flower or a fate-lady. The dandy will find butterflies; the dandizette, bird-cages; the housewife, thread cases, and everybody else, something useful or pretty or both.

Hamilton Hall.

Chestnut Street.

This establishment having been purchased by a new company, and undergone repairs, the interior of the same is so far completed that the subscriber is ready for the reception of Genteel Parties. The repairs and improvements already made; the

furnace which heats the entire Dancing portion of the building—entries, Supper Hall, etc; the improved Chandelier; new sofas; Ladies drawing-room new carpeted and furnished in a comfortable manner; a reduction of former price of Hall; strict adherence to a uniform price of Help, and every care taken to select and furnish the most careful and obliging attendants with the enchanting music of the Salem Quadrille Band, cannot fail to secure the patronage of a generous public. Did I say above, "Entrancing Music"? Yes, without fear of contradiction, during thirty years and upwards that it has been my privilege to conduct the affairs of Hamilton Hall, I have never heard from five instruments richer music set forth than I did on the evening of the 27th November, ultimo.—There is one fact that should be known and which is acknowledged by all who have performed there, that five pieces of music are better in Hamilton Hall than seven in any other Hall in the city.

As respects the subscriber who is still to conduct the affairs of the establishment suffice it to say that those who have had the pleasure for a long series of years, to participate in such matters, are the best judges of the style, comfort, etc.

REMOND.

N. B. With the extensive cooking apparatus and the other advantages of the premises. Families who do not wish to disarrange their houses,—or single gentlemen who are not at House-keeping—wishing to entertain their friends, can be accommodated at reasonable prices, and everything conducted in the family style.

J. R.

Salem, Dec. 16. 1844.

FOR SALE

The South Building is now offered for sale, with the land under and adjoining, containing about seven thousand feet. The building has three Halls, two of which have spring floors, suitable in every respect for Balls, Parties and Associations of all kinds. Said building is lighted throughout by gas, and heated with furnace. It is now in first rate repair. It has a large kitchen with aqueduct, closets and cooking apparatus, sufficient for cooking for one thousand men. Said estate is suitable for many purposes. For dancing the Hamilton Hall is unsurpassed in the state. It has likewise the benefit of a house apartment or tenement, where all cooking accomodations are on the spot which are necessary for all public Halls.

The building was throughly built by some of the best mechanics. It is supported by forty-one brick pillars, in its large and spacious cellar. It is fenced in front with iron fencing, and beautifully shaded by various trees and is one of the best situations for public meetings, whether for worship or more constant gatherings. It was built by some of the commercial fathers of old Salem for the very purpose it has to this time been used and anyone desiring to carry on a public place, suited to the refined taste that has originated and grown up here. It is well worthy their attention.

For further particulars concerning the above premises and terms of sale, application may be made to

John H. Nichols No 42 Washington St.

Any particulars concerning the materials and construction of the building reference may be had to James M. Brown Esq. who is thoroughly acquainted with the premises. (Salem Gazette May 18, 1865)

John H. Nichols
Auctioneer & Stock Broker
42 Washington St.
HAMILTON HALL

On Friday at 11 o'clock, will be sold by auction, on the premises, unless previously disposed of.

The substantial Brick Building known as the South Building, or Hamilton Hall, situate on the corner of Chestnut and Cambridge streets, with about 7000 sq. ft. of land adjacent.

The building is much needed for the purpose for which it hitherto been used, and at moderate expense it can without interfering with the present halls, be arranged for a Music Hall, in which case the sum of \$500 will be given for an Organ. It is likewise well calculated for a Church or a Theatre.

A plan, showing the proposed alterations may be seen at No42 Washington street. The premises can be examined at any time by applying to the auctioneer and will be open for inspection two days previous to the sale. (Salem Gazette July 17, 1865)

Short mentions of
HAMILTON HALL

Works in Architecture

any conspicuous feature, and having square-headed windows below, arched windows above. Whether McIntire was responsible for its general design cannot be determined.

Hamilton Hall

7 Cambridge Street

Built about 1805-1807

(Figures 267-270)

This handsome building has housed the Salem Assemblies for over a century and a quarter. The record books of the owners begin only with 1820, when they were incorporated as the Proprietors of the South Buildings, and it is difficult to establish precisely the history of its construction.

Apparently the stimulus to its erection came in the political schism between Federalists and Republicans which split the Assemblies in the year 1805, as Bentley describes (III, 2, 201, 203). The first reference in the *Salem Gazette* is one of December 9, 1806, asking the subscribers to attend a meeting, on business of importance, at Mr. Crombie's tavern. Judging humanly, we may suppose work was in progress and funds were running low. September 11, 1807 the hall was used for an auction, and October 2 all persons were advised to present claims against the new Assembly-house. October 29 Margaret Holyoke records her attendance "at Mr. T[urner]'s Ball at new Assembly Rooms." November 4, 1808, the proprietors of the new Assembly were requested to meet and receive a report of the committee relative to the expense of the House and furniture. The first reference I have found to the name Hamilton Hall, which marked the Federalist sympathies of the proprietors, is one in Bentley's diary October 13, 1809 (III, 468).

McIntire is not connected with the work by any document, but his close relations with the Derbys, who were the prime movers on the Federalist side, make it highly probable that he gave the design, and the exterior carvings show that he took part in the execution. The mantels have no carving, and we need not assume McIntire was concerned with these, which from their detail would seem to have been executed about 1809.

The records of the incorporated proprietors after 1820 show that the lower western part was not finished until 1824, and that a new front door (evidently the one on the west) was provided in 1845. There is a legend that a window once existed between the chimneys on the east, but structural examination shows the brickwork there to be undisturbed.

Unidentified Building

Designed about 1805-1809

(Figure 271)

The fine design of McIntire's is obviously for a business building, with shops to left and right of the entrance. The paper, of which other examples bear the water-marked date 1802, was also used for the drawings for the Salem Private Grammar School, 1807, and the Archer Building, 1809, so that the design may be supposed to be of the period 1805-1809. No clue to its identity has been found.

22 was 16.
Lydia Webb Es.

on Tibbis " " she was $\frac{32}{127}$

Of the above Edge Stones 69 feet 9 inches was furnished by Thomas Newhall & 42 feet 9 inches by Jacob Gulencia.

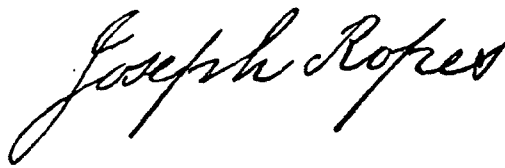
Edge Stones at
Hamilton Hall

4 This day Conant, John Hiple & others laid Second hand Edge Stones on the north side of Hamilton Hall on the south side of Chestnut Street. Said Edge Stones were formerly laid round the Old East Meeting house, and when the Society sold the land, and other stones which were under the old house, these Edge Stones were bought for the use of the City. And there is of straight ones on Chestnut Street 71 feet 8 inches, and on Cambridge Street 12 feet 2 inches, and one circular one on the corner which measures 5 feet 6 inches, one circular one at the east end of the line 3 feet 3 inches

Edge Stones
at
Cassins

6 This day Russell and White laid rough Edge Stones on the South side of Cleaver Cassins Estate in Linden Street. In this Lot of Stones there is 47 feet 6 inches in length, and they were furnished by Mr. Henry Newhall of Danvers.

He was tall and stately,—a man of strong and decided character. Here is his autograph. His integrity and courage were such that his



neighbors, when they had occasion to lean on anybody, thought themselves fortunate if they could lean on him. To trust him was an impulse of

nature. The Pied Piper of Hamelin had no more winning spell for children. For years he was the recognized file-leader of the Democratic, then known as the Jeffersonian or National Republican Party, at a time when, as Hildreth, the Federalist Historian, has said, "Salem was the headquarters of the Massachusetts Democracy." (Hildreth's History of the United States, Vol. III, p. 372).

Party spirit ran high in those days, and cropped out in business, in social, and even in religious matters. Judge Story, in 1813, was denied the use of the North Meeting House for his funeral oration on Lawrence and Ludlow. In many of the best houses of Salem his politics made him *persona non grata*. Dr. Bentley, who died in 1819, and who was a radical in politics as well as in religion, would not exchange pulpits with his co-religionists in this section because they were Federalists, and almost the only exchanges he ever made were effected with the Rev. Mr. Parish of Byfield, who, while he was a red-hot Calvinist, was also a red-hot Republican. A Federalist, whose mother had been a life-long member of the East Church and had died, would not invite Dr. Bentley to attend her funeral. Federalists who deserted their party during the ascendancy of the second Adams to follow Jackson, were cut on the street by their former partisans and business intimates. Two Assembly Rooms were maintained for social relaxation, one at the foot of Central, then Market Street, called Concert Hall, established over the New Market House of 1793 for the accommodation of the Jeffersonians who lived largely down-in-town (burnt in 1844 and replaced by the Phoenix Building) and another built in 1805 and called Hamilton Hall, but incorporated as the "South Building Association" because it was feared that, at that time, the name of Hamilton would make it impossible to engineer a charter through the Massachusetts State House.

We are prepared to learn that, in times like these, rigid party discipline was carried into town politics. Although we had been struggling for a City charter in Salem since 1805, we obtained one only in 1824. Until that year, town-meeting assembled at Town House Square before 1785, in the Washington Street Court House from 1785 until 1827, after that in the Town Hall, and at these gatherings, in critical times, the whole body of citizens was marshalled and much feeling

MAY 24. 1808

His Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth will visit this town, tomorrow, on his return to the metropolis.— It is pleasing to remark that in every part of the State which he has visited, he has been welcomed with tokens of marked respect. Preparations are making in this town to receive his Excellency in a manner comporting with the esteem in which his character is held by our citizens, the respect due to the first magistrate of a free State and the known hospitality of Salem.

The brilliant troop, the Essex Hussars, have with an alacrity which does them much honor volunteered to escort his Excellency into the town, and a numerous and respectable cavalcade of citizens, we are told, propose to accompany him from Beverly. His Excellency is said to partake of a dinner prepared on the occasion at Hamilton Hall.

EXERCISES AT HAMILTON HALL.

INCLUDING ADDRESSES AND CORRESPONDENCE.

AFTER the exercises at the Mechanic Hall the members and subscribers with their invited guests assembled at Hamilton Hall on Chestnut street for a lunch and social entertainment.

The hall presented an exceedingly animated and interesting appearance, and everything was well arranged and conducted with good taste. An orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Jean Missud, was stationed in the gallery over the entrance to the hall, and entertained the company, at intervals, with excellent music. On the wall opposite to the entrance, behind the President of the Institute, was suspended a portrait of Gov. John Endicott, and on each side were fac-similes of the colonial flags of Massachusetts and Connecticut, and on the table beneath were deposited several interesting relics of the colonial period.

The tables were laid by Mr. Edward Cassell, the well known caterer, and were handsomely decorated with a choice display of flowers, arranged beautifully in large bouquets, and a small one at each plate, with a neatly designed *carte de menu*, a fitting memento of the celebration. The lunch embraced more than a score of dishes, substantial and elegant.

(113)

I find by a perusal of the records, that there were many similar celebrations of Independence day, and some of them of quite an elaborate nature. I note one of them: July 4, 1821, after their meeting, "the members then repaired to Washington square, and with the citizens, formed a procession, and proceeded under escort of the Mechanic Light Infantry to the North meeting-house, where an address was delivered by Joseph E. Sprague, Esq." The services at the Meeting-House being closed, the members and invited guests were escorted to the Town Hall to dine, where they probably had some patriotic toasts and speeches, and to quote from the records, "the day closed in a manner honorary to ourselves and our common Country."

There were several very interesting anniversary celebrations, the first of any note occurring October 1, 1835, which was the occasion of the eighteenth anniversary of the Association. Of this celebration, the records give a very full account which I condense: On the day appointed the members and other citizens assembled on Washington square. The day was unusually fine. The procession was formed by Capt. Thomas Farless, and assistant marshals. It was long and respectable, having in its ranks the Lieut. Gov. Samuel T. Armstrong, acting Governor of the Commonwealth, with his Aids, and other State officers, and distinguished strangers, municipal officers of the town, and were escorted by the Salem Mechanic Light Infantry under command of Capt. James Chamberlain, to the South meeting-house where the exercises before a crowded audience were of a very interesting and satisfactory character. The programme included religious services by Dr. Brown Emerson, and Dr. John Brazer. There was music by a select choir, an address by Andrew Lunt, a member of the association, and an original ode by Jonathan Shove.

After the exercises there was a dinner provided at Hamilton Hall, of which some three hundred persons partook. Col. John Russell, the President of the Association, presided at the tables and there were some interesting after-dinner remarks, among the speakers being Lieut. Gov. Armstrong, Adj. Gen.-Dearborn, Hon. Caleb Cush-

ing, Judge Daniel A. White, Hon. Leverett Saltonstall and Gen. Hovey, and, concludes the Secretary's account, "the day passed off in a most pleasing and gratifying manner."

Ten years later, there was another celebration which took the form of a levee and was held in Mechanic Hall. The Salem Brass Band was in attendance and its music added greatly to the enjoyment of the occasion which was honored by the presence of several distinguished guests. Among these were Gov. George N. Briggs, Adj.-Gen. Henry K. Oliver, Hon. Daniel P. King, representative in Congress, Hon. Joseph S. Cabot, Mayor of the city, ex-Mayor Stephen P. Webb, Hon. S. C. Phillips, and many others.

Edmund Currier, President of the Association, presided, and there was some good speaking by several of the invited guests. Then followed dancing which was appreciated by the younger portion of the company.

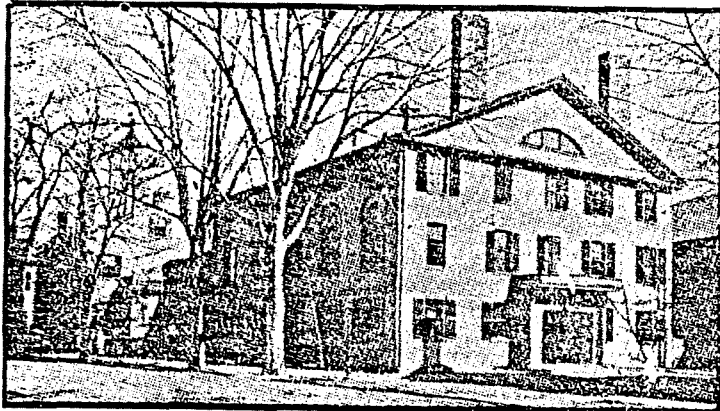
The following year there was a similar levee held in the Hall, which was held as a result of the successful gathering in 1845, and at which were present as guests a notable company of distinguished men.

The Secretary in his records speaks particularly of the decorations of the hall upon this last occasion. He says: "The decoration of the hall was unusually beautiful. The neatness and appropriateness of festoons, wreaths and scrolls were generally remarked. Besides the usual decorations there were some novelties such as the wrought vases of flowers and the ornamental mirrors. In the rear of the back gallery was a neat scroll containing the motto of the society,—Let prudence govern, fear not. The window underneath this scroll, was also arranged in a novel and beautiful manner. But the first object in beauty and pre-eminence was the spacious retreating arch or floral chamber which occupied most of the ample stage. It was composed of successive arches of evergreen, which diminished gradually as they receded, thus forming a large sylvan chamber, which was decorated with flowers, and contained in front of two large mirrors, several tasty pyramidal bouquets."

Hamilton hall, designed by Samuel Mackintire. Marquis de Lafayette dined here. 1824.

FUND FOR RESTORING HAMILTON HALL FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

Contributed by Those Who Have Attended
Salem Assemblies in Years Past; Exterior
Brick, Pillars and Entrance to Be Restored



FAMOUS OLD HAMILTON HALL, CHESTNUT STREET

Restoration of historic Hamilton hall to its original lines, that it may shine forth in its pristine glory when the 200th anniversary celebration rolls around, is now under way. The first step in this restoration has been accomplished, sand-blasting the front and Chestnut street side brickwork, which had been painted. Now come the carpenters and later the painters and decorators.

The rejuvenation of the famous old dance hall structure is expected to cost in the vicinity of \$1500, of which more than \$1000 has already been secured by the officers of the organization that owns the building, which is a corporation known as the "South Buildings in Salem." In the raising of funds with which to restore the structure a most novel scheme was devised and it has worked out to perfection.

The idea was that of J. Newton Smith, one of the directors of the corporation, now abroad. When the officers of the organization began considering plans for raising the necessary amount of cash with which to make the old hall look as it did when built more than a century ago, Mr. Smith came forward with his idea and it was received with enthusiasm. He believed that if a letter were addressed to all those persons who had in a term of years attended the assemblies and informants conducted by the organization, seeking small contributions for the purpose of restoring the hall, that a sufficient sum would be realized to accomplish the desired result.

Mr. Smith's plan was followed and it was not long after the letters were sent out that responses showed he had the right idea. It was stated in the communications that no large sum was desired, simply small contributions. Outside of a few donations of \$25 and \$50, all the others were of small denomination and to date they have mounted up to more than \$1000, with more expected.

The unique part of it all has been that

Senders of Contributions

come from all over this country and from many distant parts of the world, England, Continental Europe, Hawaiian Islands and elsewhere. The sen-

The sand-blasting just finished removes a coat of paint that has covered the front and Chestnut street brick walls for something like a generation. Previous to that time the red brickwork stood out boldly as an example of the old-style Flemish bond type of construction. Oddly enough the back or rear wall and the southerly side wall which are also of brick and the same type of work, never were painted. These do not show, however, as do the front and Chestnut street side. The sand blasting was done by the Waples Co. of Roxbury and following this the brickwork was pointed where necessary.

Carpenters are now to do their part. Samuel J. Reid of this city, who makes a specialty of restoring old buildings, has been given the contract to make such carpentry changes as are desired. The doorway at the main entrance on Hamilton street is to be cut back, two more pillars added, one on each side, and a new door installed, so far as possible like the original one. The arched windows, which now show a few large plates of glass, will be changed for others which will henceforth carry the small panes characteristic of buildings a century or more ago. The trimmings of the windows will be painted white, the blinds repainted green and everything will be made to look spick and span.

On the Chestnut street side, above the arched windows and hardly to be noticed is a fine example of the artistry of Samuel Mackintire, Salem's renowned architect, who designed the building. The decorative scheme here shows an American eagle with outspread wings, holding an American shield. The eagle is to be gilded, the shield to be done in red, white and blue and the festoons and other decorative effects done in white, bringing out

The Beauty of Design

to the best advantage.

All of this work is being done under the direction of William G. Rantoul, architect, who has given his services gratis to the corporation. Richard D. Sanders is president of the building organization, Claude H. Knowlton, treasurer and secretary, and the directors are Rodman A. Nichols, Oscar J.

Hamilton hall was built by subscription in 1805 and a corporation was formed in 1820, a charter being granted to Willard Peele, Pickering Dodge and others. It originally cost \$20,000, which was a lot of money at the time.

The building has been known as "Assembly hall, because it was erected for the express purpose of providing a place for the holding of select dancing parties. The so-called assemblies have been held all these years until comparatively recently, when the parties have been known as "Informals." However, they perpetuate the old assemblies in every way.

The hall was named in honor of Gen. Alexander Hamilton, friend of Washington, who had many admirers in Salem among the federalists, although he died as a result of mortal wounds in a duel with Aaron Burr, the year before the hall was built. In the Revolutionary war he served as a captain of artillery and became commander-in-chief of the American army in 1799. He was President Washington's secretary of the treasury and held the office from 1789, when the U. S. government first began to function, until 1795. He visited Salem, June 20, 1800, while making a trip through New England probably on a military inspection tour.

Chestnut Street

was laid out in 1796 and the old South church was erected in 1804-05, or about the time the idea of building Hamilton hall was conceived. The first assembly took place in the hall before the paint had hardly dried. This was on the Thursday before Christmas, 1805. It was a gala occasion and was attended by the elite of aristocratic old Salem. A band of negro fiddlers provided the music for the dance and the caterer was John Remond, a young man from Curacao.

At 6 o'clock that evening the street was filled with carriages coming and going. Matrons in brocades with head dresses of ostrich plumes, maidens dressed in delicate pinas and muslins, gentlemen wearing blue broadcloth coats, knee breeches, silk stockings and ruffled shirts were to be seen in number, and all enjoyed themselves, executing the intricate figures of the contra dances and the bows and curtsies of the stately minuet.

Many notable functions have taken place in old Hamilton hall in its time. On May 24, 1808, a public dinner was tendered Timothy Pickering in the hall by his many admirers as a "tribute of respect for his character and of gratitude for his long, faithful and ill-requited services to country." The Salem Light Infantry observed its eighth anniversary in the hall on Sept. 14, 1813, but the greatest event was a reception to Lafayette in August, 1824. The Essex Institute observed the 200th and 250th anniversaries of the landing of Gov. John Endicott here too.

Chestnut Street

This famous street was laid out in 1796. In the stately mansions that line each side, have lived these distinguished citizens: Francis Cox, Rev. Charles Cleveland, Pickering Dodge, Humphrey Devereux, Nathan Endicott, Jonathan Hodges, Asahel Huntington, William A. Lander, John O. Lee, George Nichols, Willard Peele, Thomas Perkins, Stephen Phillips, John Pickering, Dudley L. Pickman, William A. Rea, Nathan Robinson, Thomas Sanders, Leverett Saltonstall, Nathaniel Saltonstall, John B. Silsbee, Benjamin Shreve, Ichabod Tucker, Dr. J. Francis Tuckerman, Amos Towne, Rev. James W. Thompson, Nathaniel West, William G. Webb and Rev. Edmund B. Willson.

Hamilton Hall Repair Work Starts Soon

Proceeds From Last Year's
Chestnut St. Day to Help
Finance Extensive Project;
New Heating System

The South building on Chestnut street, Salem, popularly known as Hamilton hall, which is the name of the beautiful ballroom situated on the second floor, will be repaired and renovated during the coming summer. This work will be done with the proceeds of Chestnut Street day, held on June 25 last year.

A committee of three, Mrs. Ralph Lawson representing the ladies' committee which did so much to make Chestnut Street day a great success; George E. Benson, president of the Chestnut Street associates, and J. Newton Smith, representing the directors, have been working since last summer on long-range plans, which, when accomplished, will modernize the facilities of the building without destroying any of its architectural beauty, and will create another historic monument of which all citizens of Salem may be justly proud.

This building was erected 140 years ago, and since then very little has been done to improve its service fa-

cilities. During the past 25 years, the outside has been restored and a new roof put on. Also, new floors have been laid in the ballroom and in the supper room, but a thorough examination has revealed that much repair work is needed, together

With a New Heating System
Re-wiring is also necessary.

When all of this is paid for, it is expected that enough money will be left to redecorate the ballroom and the entrance hallway, but it is obvious that more funds will have to be raised to complete the work which the committee has in mind.

The corporation which owns the building is named "The Proprietors of the South Buildings in Salem" and is

probably the second oldest corporation in Massachusetts. The stockholders are all people interested in preserving this fine old building. No dividends have been paid for 40 years as earnings are not sufficient to operate and maintain the property.

It is hoped that when the service facilities are improved, the income will be sufficient to maintain the building as it should be, and that is all that the stockholders expect, but at present assessments rather than dividends are the rule.

The architect in charge is J. Radford Abbot of Andover and A. James Walsh is the contractor for the work, which will be in full swing early in June.

Salem Evening News

May 1948

Vice Consul Of France to Visit Salem

North Shore Friends of
France to Present M. de
Montalembert at Recep-
tion in Hamilton Hall

A significant event in the spring social season on the North Shore will be the presentation of the present French vice-consul in Boston, le Comte de Montalembert and Madame de Montalembert, in Hamilton hall's Lafayette room Sunday afternoon, May 15.

The affair will be sponsored by the North Shore "American Friends of France" and interested friends.

Max de Montalembert was born in 1914 at Chaumont, Haute Marne. His family originates from Bourgogne. His father was a colonel in the regular French army. From 1937 to 1939, M. de Montalembert was attache at the French consulate at Southampton, England. During the last war he was mobilized into the French air force as a sergeant, and after the French-German armistice he returned to Dijon and resumed functions at the ministry of foreign affairs in Paris in 1944. M. de Montalembert was assistant delegate at the San Francisco conference in 1945 and was appointed to the personnel division of the ministry of foreign affairs. He was a member of the cabinet of M. Bidault, the French foreign minister in 1947, and was nominated to his present post as vice consul in Boston in August, 1948.

The reception is part of a plan to establish on the North Shore an active "Friends of France" group, which will be affiliated with the French center in Boston and bring Americans in touch with the intellectual, cultural and social life of the new France as she takes her reborn place in the framework of international affairs of culture and progress.

Accompanying M. and Mme. de Montalembert to Salem will be Albert Chambon, the French consul in New England. M. Chambon is

No stranger to Salem as he, too, was received in the Lafayette room of Salem's famous hall a few months ago. With M. Chambon's co-operation the North Shore Friends of France propose to bring to Salem occasionally in the future French lecturers, personalities and products of the cinema so that old cultural ties will be re-established between these two republics which have long had friendly associations.

Sustaining membership in the Friends of France will offer to all interested the numerous gala events offered at the French center in Boston which is a rallying point for all French and French-American institutions and groups in New England.

Among those planning for the coming reception to M. and Mme. de Montalembert are Miss Alice G. Feenan, Mrs. Elizabeth Bolger, Rev. and Mrs. Bradford E. Gale, Mrs. George Hunt Ingraham and Dr. and Mrs. Edward A. Rushford.

Other sponsors of the North Shore Friends of France group are: Miss Albertine Vanasse, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Chamberlain, Mr. and Mrs. Philip L. Morency, Mrs. Henry P. Benson, Mme. Jean Bourgoïn, Mr. and Mrs. Paul S. Bauer, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Heintzleman, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Audet and Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Sibley.

Hamilton Hall
July 25
**Hamilton Hall
Attracts Many
Salem Visitors**

**Chestnut Street McIntire
Masterpiece Arouses Much
Admiration Since Being
Opened to the Public**

Citizens of Salem and Essex county to whom Hamilton hall on Chestnut street is a familiar name, may be surprised at the interest and admiration this Samuel McIntire building is arousing since it has been opened to the public week-days this season.

Built for purely social purposes and completed in 1805, the hall is still used for the leading social events of the city and county, but never until this summer has it been opened to the increasing number of visitors who are finding Salem a treasure house of architectural gems.

Perhaps one of the greatest attractions lies in the fact that most of Salem's old houses are still private homes and will be for many years to come.

Visitors from 26 States have registered at Hamilton hall in the new and beautifully redecorated Lafayette room and not one has failed to express appreciation of its charm and of the perfect proportions and the beautiful simplicity of the assembly room named in honor of the man who was destined never to visit it, Alexander Hamilton.

One of the first guests stood silent as he crossed the threshold and stepped from beneath the musicians' balcony. He was a man in his sixties. Then, quietly he remarked: "It reminds me of the kaiser's ballroom, only here there are no huge stoves covered with china to conceal their ugliness. I am glad to have seen this and to be here in Salem where so much history has been made. My parents came to this country from Germany when I was just a boy. This is my country. I want to know it better and better. I live in California now and like it very much but I have also lived in other sections and I am proud of every part of it. I want to see as much of Salem as possible for this is my first visit and one I shall not forget."

Another visitor to the hall, eager to walk along Chestnut street for the sight of its private homes, and then on to other of the historic buildings was a young GI. His appreciation became even more understandable when he said with a bit of apology for his apparent enthusiasm: "You see architecture is my hobby, and this is

Really a Revelation
to me. I've never seen any of McIntire's work before."

No detail was too small to interest him. And before he left he admitted a bit shyly that though he was going into the advertising business for his living, he meant to keep up his hobby because—well—because he just felt "that way" about it. One could imagine Samuel McIntire giving him an encouraging nod as they strolled in spirit about the gracious rooms, craftsmen of different centuries but of like ideals and ambitions.

In sharing its memories and its beauty with the youth of today as well as with the older generations, Hamilton hall is contributing to make past history real. Seeing the homes, churches and gathering places of their ancestors where history was made makes the past more real than any book can make it or any history lesson present it.

The hall is open for the season from 9.30 A. M. to 5.30 P. M., Monday through Saturday.