

20 Northey Street, Salem

According to available evidence, this house was built in 1838 for William Nichols, a mariner, and his wife Abigail Osborn; and it was rebuilt c. 1885 for Asahel Quimby, a railroad engineer, in a restrained Italianate style.

In 1807, Northey Street was laid out as a development project undertaken by Abijah Northey, a merchant who owned the land here. At the end of Northey Street, the point of land was formerly known as Windmill Point, from a windmill that stood there in the 1700s. Northey Street then overlooked a large cove to the southwest, where the North River flowed in. In those days, the River came in and made a beach at the foot of the graveyard, so that Bridge Street did not continue southwesterly beyond Williams Street. By the 1840s, Bridge Street was extended to North Street, and was known then as Forrester Street. Northey Street ended at a bluff; and, across the River, beginning in 1817, were the works of the Salem Laboratory, where chemicals were made.

House-lots on Northey Street were sold off gradually. Few houses went up at first, but by the 1830s, several houses had been built hereabouts.

In the neighborhood lived William Nicholas (1778-1853), a sailor and ropemaker. In 1833 he was widower, with two children, William Henry Nichols, born in 1816, and Hannah A. (a.k.a. Harriet), born about 1822. On 12 October 1833, when he was 55, Mr. Nichols married Miss Abigail Osborn, 65, who thus became step-mother to the two children. At this time, the family rented a "small" house, owned by Capt. Aaron Endicott, on Bridge Street, near Saunders Street (see Salem "valuation directory" for period 1832-1838, microfilm). In 1836-7 William was working not as a mariner but as a ropemaker, and resided at what was then 97 Bridge Street (per 1837 Salem Directory).

Abigail Osborn, born in 1768, was a native of Danvers, and the daughter of Daniel and Abigail (Brown) Osborn of that town. About her life, little is known. She was likely a descendant of the Osborn family that had been settled in Danvers (known as Salem Village before 1752) since the 1600s, and one member of which, Sarah Osborn, had been hanged as a witch in 1692.

With their combined income, the Nicholoses were able to build a new house in their neighborhood. On land owned by Jere. Jewett Hale, on Northey Street, they had

the dwelling built in 1838. On 2 January 1839 Mr. Hale conveyed the lot to Mrs. Abigail Nichols (ED 314:11). The lot measured 34' on Northey Street, southerly 73' on land of Brown, easterly 34' on land of Honeycomb, and northerly on land of Osgood's heirs.

It is likely that the house was occupied, at first, by Mr. & Mrs. Nichols and Mr. Nichols' two children, William and Hannah. The valuations for ward two are instructive: in 1838 Wm. Nichols was taxed for a house at 10 Northey St., worth \$400; and in 1839 he was taxed for house, 12 Northey St., \$400. In 1840, we find William Nichols & Wm. Nichols Jr., house, Northey St., \$400. It is worth noting that the 1840 census (p.259) lists William Nichols as the only male in the family (in his 50s, sic), with two females, one in her 50s (sic; Abigail) and one 15-20 (Hannah). It is possible, per the 1840 census, that the house was also occupied by "A. Day" and family or "Mrs. Cook" and family.

William Nichols (1778-1853) was born in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, and became a sailor. Eventually he came to Salem, perhaps early enough to have sailed in the East Indiamen that went out on years-long voyages to the India, Sumatra, and China. Salem's commerce with the East was among the most lucrative businesses in America, and everyone prospered. Then came the Embargo of 1808, during which all trade was suspended for a year, in hopes of convincing the British to stop harassing United States shipping. The Embargo, which failed as a matter of policy and which brought Salem and other ports to a standstill for a year, was dropped in 1809, and Salem sailors resumed their lives at sea until the outbreak of the War of 1812 with Britain. In that year he married Sally Millett of Salem. For three years, most Salem men went privateering; and Mr. Nichols was likely among them.

Post-war, the Salem merchants rebuilt their fleets and resumed their worldwide trade, slowly at first, and then to great effect. A new U.S. Custom House was built in 1819, on the site of the George Crowninshield mansion, at the head of Derby Wharf. Into the 1820s the foreign trade continued prosperous; and new markets were opened with Madagascar (1820), which supplied tallow and ivory, and Zanzibar (1825), whence came gum copal, used to make varnish. This opened a huge and lucrative trade in which Salem dominated, and its vessels thus gained access to all of the east African ports. Perhaps Mr. Nichols served as a crewman or mate on voyages to those places. In the Nichols family, William and Sally had two known children: William H., born 10 Oct. 1816, and Hannah A., born about 1822. They may have had others who did not survive to adulthood.

The pre-war partisan politics of the town were not resumed post-war, as the middle-class “mechanics” (artisans) became more powerful and brought about civic harmony, largely through the Salem Charitable Mechanic Association (founded 1817). Salem’s general maritime foreign commerce fell off sharply in the late 1820s. Imports, which were the cargoes in Salem ships, were supplanted by American goods, now being produced in great quantities. The interior of the country was being opened for settlement, and many Salemites moved away to these new lands of opportunity. To the north, the falls of the Merrimack River powered large new textile mills (Lowell was founded in 1823), which created great wealth for their investors; and in general it seemed that the tide of opportunity was ebbing away from Salem. In an ingenious attempt to stem the flow of talent from the town and to harness its potential water power for manufacturing, Salem’s merchants and capitalists banded together in 1826 to raise the money to dam the North River for industrial power. The project, which began with much promise, was suspended (before construction began) in 1827, which demoralized the town even more, and caused several leading citizens to move to Boston, the hub of investment in the new economy.

In 1830 occurred a horrifying crime that brought disgrace to Salem. Old Capt. Joseph White, a wealthy merchant, owned and resided in the house now called the Gardner-Pingree house, on Essex Street. One night, intruders broke into his mansion and stabbed him to death. All of Salem buzzed with the news of murderous thugs; but the killer was a Crowninshield (a local crime-boss who killed himself at the Salem Jail), hired by his friends, Capt. White’s own relatives, Capt. Joseph Knapp and his brother Frank (they were executed by hanging). The results of the investigation and trial uncovered much that was lurid about Salem, and more of the respectable families quit the notorious town.

Salem’s remaining merchants had to move quickly to take their equity out of wharves and warehouses and ships and put it into manufacturing and transportation, as the advent of railroads and canals in the 1830s diverted both capital and trade away from the coast. Some merchants did not make the transition, and were ruined. Old-line areas of work, like rope-making, sail-making, and ship chandleries, gradually declined and disappeared. Well into the 1830s, Salem slumped badly. As has been noted, William Nichols, a sailor, was working as a ropemaker by 1836—by that time, he was scrambling for whatever work he could get, aged 58, in a diminishing economy. Ropemaking was conducted off Bridge Street in long low sheds called ropewalks, in which the rope-fibers were twisted on cranks until they formed the rope and cordage used as rigging on sailing vessels. It was not lucrative work for the “line-spinners” or “rope-makers” who

operated the equipment, but at least it provided income, and was under a roof in the bad weather.

Despite all of its woes, Salem was chartered as a city in 1836. City Hall was built in 1837-8 on Washington Street and the city seal was adopted with an already-anachronistic Latin motto of “to the farthest port of the rich East”—a far cry from “Go West, young man!” The Panic of 1837, a brief, sharp, nationwide economic depression, caused even more Salem families to head west in search of fortune and a better future. Salem had not prepared for the industrial economy, and had few natural advantages. The North River served not to power factories but mainly to flush the waste from the many tanneries (23 by 1832) that had set up along its banks. Throughout the 1830s, the leaders of Salem scrambled to re-invent an economy for their fellow citizens, many of whom were mariners without much seafaring to do. Ingenuity, ambition, and hard work would have to carry the day.

One inspiration was the Salem Laboratory, already noted, which was Salem’s first science-based manufacturing enterprise. At the plant built in 1817 on the North River, the production of alum and blue vitriol was a specialty; and it proved a very successful business. Salem’s whale-fishery, active for many years in the early 1800s, led, in the 1830s, to the manufacturing of high-quality candles at Stage Point, along with machine oils. The candles proved very popular. Lead-manufacturing began in the 1820s, and grew large after 1830, when Wyman’s gristmills on the Forest River were retooled for making high-quality white lead and sheet lead (the approach to Marblehead is still called Lead Mills Hill, although the empty mill buildings burned down in 1960s).

These enterprises were a start toward taking Salem in a new direction. In 1836 the Eastern Rail Road began operating between Boston and Salem, which gave the people of Salem and environs a direct route to the region’s largest market. The new railroad tracks ran right over the middle of the Mill Pond; the tunnel under Washington Street was built in 1839; and the line was extended to Newburyport in 1840, with tracks running right under the bluff at the end of Northey Street (where they are today).

This house, in 1840 was #10 Northey Street, was sometimes #12 in other years. Its value went up to \$600 in 1841, when the house was #12, but it was #10 again in 1842 and 1844. Per the 1842 Salem Directory it was #11 Northey Street, residence of Wm. Nichols (no occupation given). Per the 1846 Directory, William Nichols, mariner, resided at 10 Northey, and William H. Nichols, cooper, lived at 72 Essex Street. In 1849 William “Nitchels” was taxed for the house at 10 Northey worth

\$600, where Wm. H. Nichols also resided. In 1850, William ("Nichols" in Directory, "Nitchels" in valuations) was at 10 Northey and Wm. H. Nichols was at Essex Street.

William H. Nichols (1816-1902), the son of William Nichols and his first wife Sally Millett, had been apprenticed c. 1829 to learn the cooper's trade. In 1843 he married Elizabeth Gauss of Salem; and in 1845 she gave birth to a boy, whom they named William H. Jr. (she had another son, Albert, in 1849). The young couple had lived here with his father, step-mother, and sister for at least a year or two before moving into a new house. William H. Nichols was industrious and successful as a cooper, and soon took a partner, Mr. Florence, and had a cooper's shop at Brookhouse's Wharf, where they did business as Nichols & Florence, making barrels as containers for goods that were shipped overseas (see 1846 Salem Directory). William H. Nichols had a long life. He survived his first wife, Elizabeth, and married, second, Martha E. Hayes (born 1820). He remained a cooper, resided on Essex Street, and would die in 1902, on April 7th, in his 86th year, and be buried at Harmony Grove cemetery.

Here on Northey Street in 1850, the house, worth \$600, was home to two families, that of William Nichols and that of Cyrus Thompson. Mr. Nichols, 66, was listed as a mariner, born in Upper Marlboro', Maryland, with his wife Abigail, 69, and his daughter Hannah, 28. Living in the other unit were Mr. Thompson, 32, a carpenter born in Farmington, Maine, his wife Susan M., 36, born in Mass., and their children Edward W., five, born in Farmington, and Mary F., two, born in Mass. (1850 census, Salem, ward two, house 9).

William Nichols, who had probably retired from the sea years before, fell ill of kidney disease in 1853, and died on July 17th. He left his widow, Abigail, 75, his son William, 36, and daughter Hannah, 31. He was buried in a cemetery lot belonging to Charles Osgood. One wishes to know more about the life of this seafaring man who left his native place in Maryland and made a new life in Salem.

At the time of Mr. Nichols' death in 1853, maritime commerce was ending and new lines of business were arising in Salem. The tanning and curing of leather was a very important industry by the mid-1800s. It was conducted on and near Boston Street, along the upper North River. There were 41 tanneries in 1844, and 85 in 1850, employing 550 hands. The leather business would continue to grow in importance throughout the 1800s. In 1846 the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company completed the construction at Stage Point of the largest factory building in the United States, 60' wide by 400' long. It was an immediate success, and hundreds

of people found employment there, many of them living in industrial tenements built nearby. Also in the 1840s, a new method was introduced to make possible high-volume industrial shoe production. In Lynn, the factory system was perfected, and that city became the nation's leading shoe producer. Salem had shoe factories too, and attracted shoe workers from outlying towns and country areas. Even the population changed, as hundreds of Irish families, fleeing the Famine, settled in Salem; and the men went to work in the factories and as laborers. At that time the Catholics worshipped at St. Mary's Church, which stood nearby at the corner of Bridge and Mall Streets.

In the face of all this change, some members of Salem's waning merchant class continued to pursue their sea-borne businesses; but even the conditions of shipping changed, and Salem was left on the ebb tide. In the late 1840s, giant clipper ships replaced the smaller vessels that Salem men had sailed around the world; and the clippers, with their deep drafts and large holds, were usually too large for Salem and its harbor. The town's shipping soon consisted of little more than Zanzibar-trade vessels and visits from Down East coasters with cargoes of fuel wood and building timber. By 1850 Salem was about finished as a working port. A picture of Salem's sleepy waterfront is given by Hawthorne in his "introductory section" (really a sketch of Salem) to **The Scarlet Letter**, which he began while working in the Custom House.

The symbol of Salem's new industrial economy was the large twin-towered granite train station, built in 1848-9 on filled-in land at the foot of Washington Street, where before had been the merchants' wharves. The 1850s brought continued growth: new churches, schools, streets, stores, etc. More Catholic churches were built, and new housing was constructed in North Salem and the Gallows Hill areas to accommodate the workers. A spur railroad line came in from Peabody (South Danvers), past the end of Northey Street, and turned down Saunders Street, where it crossed Bridge Street and ran on to Phillips Wharf, where the trains freighted coal and carried it all the way to the factories of Lowell.

All of this enterprise had little effect on the people in this house. Mrs. Abigail Nichols was about 85 in February, 1854, when she mortgaged her homestead for \$250 to William Stimpson, a Danvers baker who may have been a relative (ED 490:193). At that time, this entire area was purely residential, on both sides of Bridge Street, except for a gas works that had been built at the end of Northey Street, northwest of Woodbury Court. The gas works produced the gas for lighting Salem's streets.

In 1855, this house was occupied as a two-family. In one unit resided Abigail Nichols, "83," and Hannah A. Nichols, "28" (both ladies made themselves younger than they were); in the other lived Joseph Burnham, 54, a mariner, wife Eliza, 54, and son Charles F., 21, also a mariner (1855 census, ward two, house 138, families 209,210). The Burnhams were probably originally from Essex, Mass. In this year, 1855, Mrs. Nichols took out another mortgage, for another \$150, with Mr. Stimpson.

In January, 1859, Mrs. Nichols again mortgaged her homestead, for \$104.95, to Dr. William Williams (ED 582:112). It is possible that Dr. Williams was securing a debt to him for medical services.

By the spring of 1860, the Burnhams had moved on and the house was occupied by two families: in one unit lived Abigail Nichols, 90, and Hannah Nichols, 30 (sic); in the other lived Crispus Roads, 68, a shoe-maker, Mary C. Roads, 42, and a boy, Simon A. Buxton, five (1860 census, ward 2, house 1926). Per the 1861 Salem Directory, Mrs. Abigail Nichols, widow, resided here at "10 Northey".

The Civil War began in April, 1861, and went on for four years, during which hundreds of Salem men served in the army and navy, and many were killed or died of disease or abusive treatment while imprisoned. Hundreds more suffered wounds, or broken health.

In 1863, with the war still raging, Mrs. Abigail (Osborn) Nichols died here at the remarkable age of 95. The story of her life and its important incidents, now unknown, would no doubt be of the greatest interest. Her step-daughter continued to reside here in the house at "10" Northey Street. Mrs. Nichols had made her will on 31 December 1858, in the presence of her neighbors Nathaniel Appleton, Elizabeth M. Brown, and Sally Luscomb. In it, she had devised all of her property "to my beloved daughter-in-law (note: old term for step-daughter), Hannah A. Nichols, and her heirs and assigns forever, in consideration of her filial regard and valuable services to me in my old age during a long series of years." Mrs. Nichols named as executor of her will Stephen Curran, chemist and superintendent of the Salem Laboratory, across the river. The inventory of the estate, taken in 1865, listed the homestead as worth \$965.70 and the personal effects at \$21.25. (see Abigail Nichols probate documents, #48166, 1865, books 424:67, 237:1642).

The war continued, and the people of Salem contributed greatly to efforts to alleviate the suffering of the soldiers, sailors, and their families; and there was great celebration when the war finally ended in the spring of 1865.

Throughout the rest of the 1860s, Hannah/Harriet Nichols lived here alone (1865 census, ward two, house 166; 1870 census, ward 2, p. 46, house 318). Perhaps Hannah had decided to call herself Harriet; or it may have been the census-taker's error in 1870.

Hannah A. Nichols did not pay off the mortgages on the property. The Stimpson mortgage was transferred to John S. Jones, a cabinet-maker, in March, 1864 (ED 665:167). Mr. Jones evidently foreclosed on the mortgage by 1868 (reference to Book of Executions & Depositions 12:110, presently unfindable); and in January, 1870, he conveyed all of his interest in the property for \$791.50 to Asahel Huntington, a lawyer (ED 788:138).

Asahel Huntington, the lawyer who held the deeds to both mortgages, became the owner of the premises in 1870, but did not live here. Hannah Nichols, 48, who evidently had not worked or taken in boarders here for years, moved elsewhere. On 4 August 1870, for \$1000, Mr. Huntington conveyed the homestead to Asahel Quimby, a 35-year-old railroad engineer (ED 803:125); and Mr. Huntington took back a mortgage for \$800 on the same date (ED 803:126).

Asahel Quimby (b. 1835), a native of Hooksett, New Hampshire, had married Margaret Baker; and they had children Charles, Willis, and Myrtle. The family came to Salem after the Civil War; and in 1869 Asahel was working as an engineer for the Eastern Railroad and he and his family resided at 13 Lemon Street. In 1870 he purchased the Nichols house, and eventually remodeled it, perhaps c. 1885, although it is not known exactly when the remodeling occurred. An inspection of the house shows that the original 1838 underpinning is in place (heavy hewn beams and cog-cut joists), and that the foundation dimensions date from the 1838 house. Upstairs, however, there are no traces of framing or detail from the original date of construction, although some of that frame may be embedded in the walls.

Through the 1860s and 1870s, Salem continued to pursue a manufacturing course. The managers and capitalists tended to build their new, grand houses along Lafayette Street (these houses may still be seen, south of Holly Street). For the workers, they built more and more tenements near the mills of Stage Point. A second, larger, factory building for the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company would be added in 1859, and a third in 1865; and by 1879 the mills would employ 1200 people and produce annually 14,700,000 yards of cloth. Shoe-manufacturing also continued to expand, and by 1880 Salem would have 40 shoe factories employing 600-plus operatives. More factories and more people required more space for

buildings, more roads, and more storage areas. Salem kept building infrastructure; and new businesses arose, and established businesses expanded. Retail stores prospered, and machinists, carpenters, millwrights, and other specialists all thrived. In the 1870s, French-Canadian families began coming to work in Salem's mills and factories, and more houses and tenements were built in what had been open areas of the city. They settled primarily in South Salem. Northey Street and environs was a "Yankee" neighborhood, in general.

Mr. Quimby remained a railroad engineer, and he and his family resided here at "10" Northey Street for many years. Unfortunately, his wife, Margaret (Baker) Quimby, died in the 1870s. Mr. Quimby married, second, a young woman from Nova Scotia by 1879. In spring, 1880, this house was occupied as a single-family residence, the home of Asahel Quimby, 45, a railroad engineer, his new wife Mary, 27, born in Nova Scotia, his son Charles T. Quimby, 22, a railroad fireman, daughter Myrtle S., 14, and new daughter Minerva M. Quimby, one (1880 census, ED 232, p. 17). Evidently Minerva did not survive infancy.

By 1881 Asahel's son Charles, who lived here, was working in the repair shop, on Bridge Street, of the Eastern Railroad. By 1884 Charles was again a fireman on the railroad and was residing nearby at 3 Smith Street; and two years later Charles too was a railroad engineer and residing two doors down on Northey Street. At about this time, perhaps, the house was completely remodeled. In November, 1884, for \$800, Asahel Quimby mortgaged the premises to Charles Quimby of his home town of Hooksett, New Hampshire (ED 1140:236); and in June, 1886, Asahel Quimby mortgaged it again, for \$1300 to his neighbor, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Brown (ED 1174:215). These mortgages would have raised more-than enough money to rebuild the house.

The house was a two family by 1885-6: in one unit lived Henry L. Tadgell, a salesman in the store at 162 Essex Street, and family, and in the other unit lived Mr. & Mrs. Asahel & Mary Quimby and their son Willis M. Quimby, employed by the B&M Railroad, and their daughter Myrtle S. (who would, evidently, marry a Mr. Johnson) (see 1886 Salem Directory).

In the late 1880s, Mr. Asahel Quimby evidently decided to move to New Hampshire; and in December, 1890, Charles T. Quimby took over the Brown mortgage (\$1300) and thus became the owner of the homestead (ED 1297:385). In 1891, the house at "10" Northey Street was a two-family: here resided Charles T. Quimby, railroad engineer, and his wife Elizabeth Carmichael Quimby; in the other unit resided Miss Carrie F. Lucas, a teacher at the Phillips Grammar School,

and the two Dwyer sisters, Mary E., a copyist at the Court House, and Susan E., a dressmaker with her shop in the house (see 1890-1 Salem Directory). In the 1890s the street numbers were changed and made permanent, and this house received the number 20. In 1893, the residents here were the C.T. Quimbys and the family of Edwin A. Hall, a shoecutter in a shoe factory; and in 1897 the occupants were the C.T. Quimbys and Mrs. Lucy A. Wood, widow of John Wood, and whatever family she had (see directories for 1893/4 and 1897/8).

After withstanding the pressures of the new industrial city for about 50 years, Salem's rivers began to disappear. The once-broad North River was filled from both shores, and became a canal along Bridge Street above the North Bridge. The cove adjoining Northey Street was filled in from Bridge Street all the way to the railroad tracks. The large and beautiful Mill Pond, which occupied the whole area between the present Jefferson Avenue, Canal Street, and Loring Avenue, finally vanished beneath streets, storage areas, junk-yards, rail-yards, and parking lots. The South River, too, with its epicenter at Central Street (that's why there was a Custom House there in 1805), disappeared under the pavement of Riley Plaza and New Derby Street, and its old wharves (even the mighty Union Wharf, formerly Long Wharf, at the foot of Union Street) were joined together with much in-fill and turned into coal-yards and lumber-yards. Only a canal was left, running in from Derby and Central Wharves to Lafayette Street.

By 1899, Charles T. Quimby and his wife Elizabeth had moved in at their new residence, 1 Fairmount St. Here at 20 Northey lived Otis N. Douglass and Nelson F. Woodward, both motormen (probably trolley-operators), and their families.

In 1900, the house was a two-family income producer for Mr. Quimby. Here lived the families of William Shaw, 39, and Fred Stickney, 51. Mr. Shaw, a widower, worked as a dry goods salesman, and resided here with his son Harold J., 14, and a housekeeper, Jessie M. Watson, 31. Mr. Stickney was a freight brakeman on the railroad; he lived here with his wife, Caroline, 41, and their two daughters, Luella F., 20, a shoe-packer, and Bessie M., 18, who worked in a box factory (1900 census, ward two, E.D. 444).

In 1905, this house, owned by Charles T. Quimby, was valued at \$1700 and its land, 2842 square feet, at \$500 (1905 published Salem Valuations, p. 81). By 1912, it was occupied by Charles F. Lawson, fireman, and Jasper Roy, motorman, and their families (if any).

In the early 20th century large numbers of Polish and Ukrainian families came to Salem and settled primarily in the Derby Street neighborhood. By the eve of World War One, Salem was a bustling, polyglot city that supported large department stores and large factories of every description. Its politics were lively, and its economy was strong.

On June 25, 1914, in the morning, in Blubber Hollow (Boston Street opposite Federal), a fire started in one of Salem's fire-prone wooden tanneries. This fire soon consumed the building and raced out of control, for the west wind was high and the season had been dry. The next building caught fire, and the next, and out of Blubber Hollow the fire roared easterly, a monstrous front of flame and smoke, wiping out the houses of Boston Street, Essex Street, and upper Broad Street, and then sweeping through Hathorne, Winthrop, Endicott, and other residential streets. Men and machines could not stop it: the enormous fire crossed over into South Salem and destroyed the neighborhoods west of Lafayette Street, then devoured the mansions of Lafayette Street itself, and raged onward into the tenement district. Despite the combined efforts of heroic fire crews from many towns and cities, the fire overwhelmed everything in its path: it smashed into the large factory buildings of the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company (Congress Street), which exploded in an inferno; and it rolled down Lafayette Street and across the water to Derby Street. There, just beyond Union Street, after a 13-hour rampage, the monster died, having consumed 250 acres, 1600 houses, and 41 factories, and leaving three dead and thousands homeless. Some people were insured, some were not; all received much support and generous donations from all over the country and the world. It was one of the greatest urban disasters in the history of the United States, and the people of Salem would take years to recover from it. Eventually, they did, and many of the former houses and businesses were rebuilt; and several urban-renewal projects (including Hawthorne Boulevard, which involved removing old houses and widening old streets) were put into effect.

The Northey Street neighborhood was not directly affected by the Fire. In 1915 this house was a two-family, occupied by Homer H. Haydock and Roy D. Finnis, both firemen for the B&M Railroad, and their families.

Charles T. Quimby died on New Year's Day, 1918, leaving as legal heirs his widow Elizabeth A., his brother Willis M. Quimby, his niece Mabel Q. Johnson, all of Salem, and his nephew Chester A. Johnson, of Maine. His remains were buried at Greenlawn Cemetery. By his will of 1911 he devised all of his property to his wife Elizabeth, who thus inherited \$3540.62 in personal estate and \$7400 in real estate, including the homestead (house and land) at 1-3 Fairmount Street,

worth \$4,000, and this house and land at 20 Northey Street, worth \$3400 (#128593). Mrs. Quimby would live on at 1 Fairmount Street for nearly 12 years, and would die on 5 Dec. 1929.

In 1920 the house here was occupied by John J. Brady, a janitor, and wife Margaret and perhaps children, and by Horace L. Spiby, a window decorator, wife Theresa A., and perhaps children. By the 1920s, Salem was once again a thriving city; and its tercentenary in 1926 was a time of great celebration. The two families then residing here were headed by James A Varley, B&M Railroad carpenter (wife Jessie C.) and William C Scott, janitor (wife Bessie). From that time forward, Salem boomed right through to the 1960s. Eventually, the arrival of suburban shopping malls and the relocation of manufacturing businesses took their toll, as they have with many other cities. More than most, Salem has navigated its way forward into the present with success, trading on its share of notoriety arising from the witch trials, but also from its history as a great seaport and as the home of Bowditch, McIntire, Bentley, Pickering, Story, and Hawthorne. Most of all, it remains a city where the homes of the old-time mariners, mill-operatives, dress-makers, and railroad engineers are all honored as a large part of what makes Salem different from any other place.

--Robert Booth for Historic Salem Inc., 3 Aug. 2002

Robert Booth

Glossary & Sources

A figure like (ED 123:45) refers to book 123, page 45, Essex South registry of Deeds, Federal Street, Salem.

A figure like (#12345) refers to Essex Probate case 12345, on file at the Essex Probate Court, Federal Street, Salem, or on microfilm at Mass. Archives, Boston, or at the Peabody Essex Museum's Phillips Library, Salem.

MSSRW refers to the multi-volume compendium, *Mass. Soldiers & Sailors in the Revolutionary War*, available at the Salem Public Library among other places.

MSSCRW refers to the multi-volume compendium, *Mass. Soldiers, Sailors, & Marines in the Civil War*, available at the Salem Public Library among other places.

EIHC refers to the Essex Institute Historical Collections (discontinued), a multi-volume set (first volume published in 1859) of data and articles about Essex County. The indices of the EIHC have been consulted regarding many of the people associated with this house.

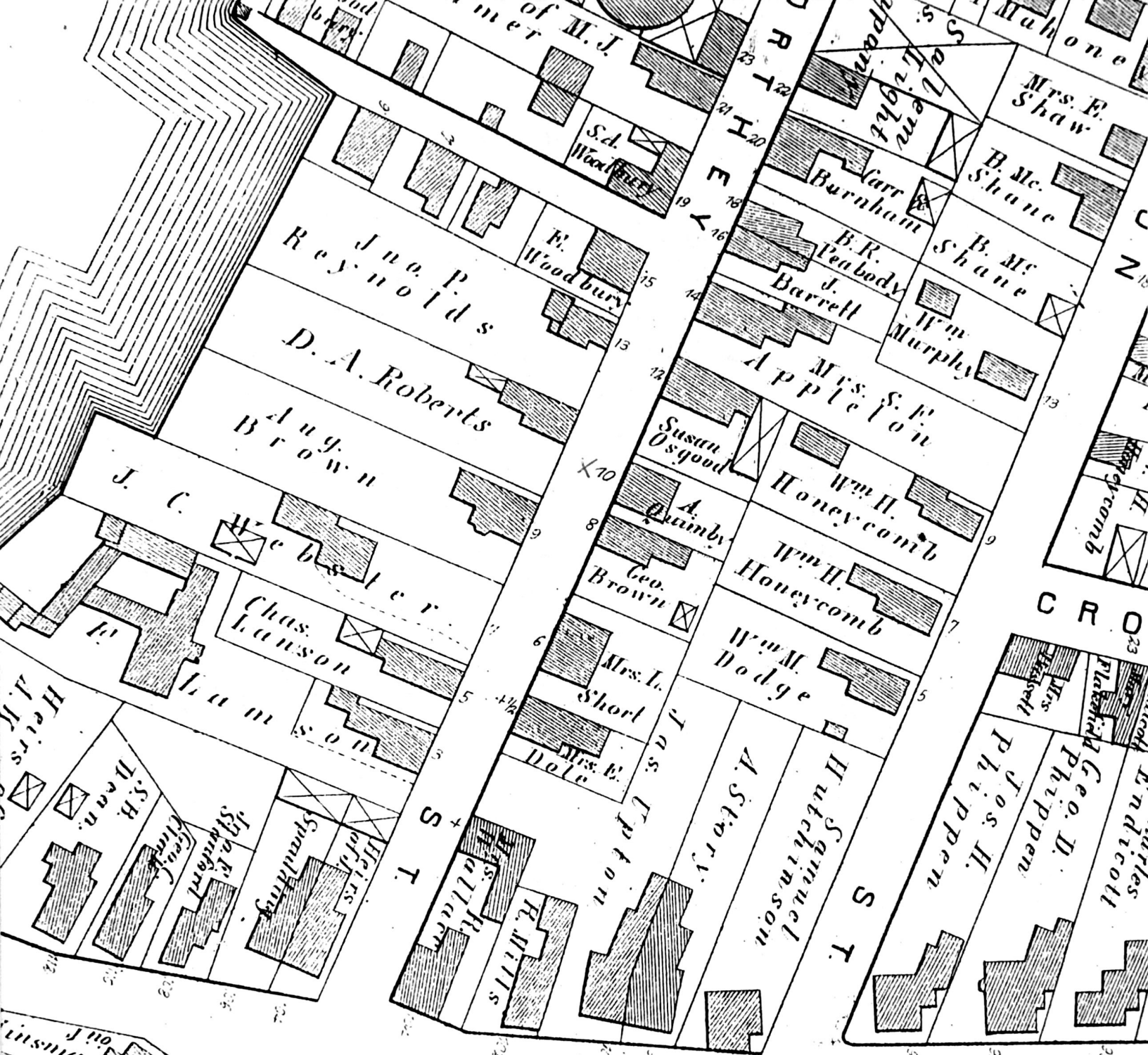
The six-volume published Salem Vital records (marriages, births, and deaths through 1849) have been consulted, as have the Salem Directory and later Naumkeag Directory, which have information about residents and their addresses, etc.

Sidney Perley's three-volume *History of Salem, 1626-1716* has been consulted, as has the four-volume *William Bentley's Diary*, J. Duncan Phillips' books, some newspaper obituaries, and other sources.

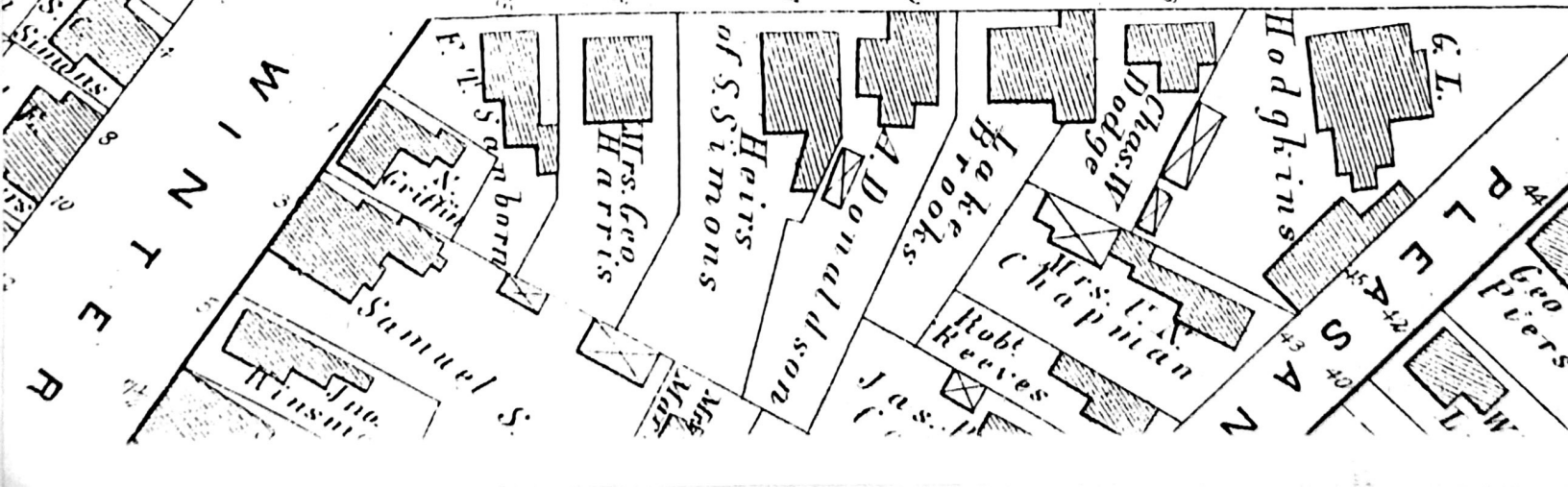
Salem real estate valuations, and, where applicable, Salem Street Books, have also been consulted, as have genealogies.

There is much more material available about Salem and its history; and the reader is encouraged to make his or her own discoveries.

--Robert Booth



1874 Salem Atlas



copy of will of Abigail Nichols (1858), probated 1865.

I, Abigail Nichols of Salem in the county of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts
wider, being of sound and disposing mind and memory, hereby declare this to be my last will
and testament, revoking all former wills by me at any time heretofore made.

After the payment of my debts, I give, devise and bequeath, my whole estate, real, personal
and mixed, of what ever nature and character situated, whether in reversion or remainder to my
beloved daughter in law Hannah D. Nichols and her heirs and assigns forever, in consideration
of her faithful regard and assistance to me in my old age during a long series of years.

And I hereby appoint Stephen Brown of Salem aforesaid, executor hereof.
In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 21st day of
December in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty eight.

Witness my hand and seal at Salem, the 21st day of December 1858.

Abigail Nichols

Math. C. Goodell
Stephen Brown
John C. Brown

A. C. Goodell

Probated 23rd July 1865.

~~Signed sealed and delivered in presence of Thomas M. Simpson } Essex, Jan. 18, 1854. Personally appeared Abigail Smith above named, and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his free act and deed, before me,~~

~~Thomas M. Simpson Justice of the Peace~~

~~Essex, Dec^r Feb. 27, 1854. 12m before W. M. Dyer, Esq. by John Brown Esq.~~

490:193

25 Feb 1854
mortgage

Abigail Nichols
to
Wm. Simpson

assigned
B. 665. L. 167

Exon. for 800m
B. 702. L. 109.

ss. 752. L. 252

ss. 788. L. 138.

Know all men by these presents, That I, Abigail Nichols of Salem in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, widow, in consideration of two hundred and fifty dollars to me in hand paid by William Simpson of Danvers in said County, baker, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said William Simpson, and his heirs and assigns forever, a certain piece of land with the buildings thereon, situate on Northey street in said Salem, bounded and described as follows, viz. westerly on Northey street, about 34 feet (thirtyfour feet, southerly on land of Brown about seventy three feet, be the same more or less, easterly on land of Honeycomb, about thirtyfour feet northerly on land of the heirs of John Osgood, about sixty eight feet, or however otherwise the same may be bounded, being the same piece of land which Jere J. Hale conveyed to me by deed bearing date the second day of January A.D. 1839, and recorded in the Essex Registry of Deeds Book 314 leaf 11. To have and to hold the above granted premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging to the said William Simpson and his heirs and assigns, to his and their use and behoof forever. And I the said Abigail Nichols, for myself, and my heirs, executors and administrators do covenant with the said William Simpson and his heirs and assigns, that I am lawfully seized in fee simple of the aforegranted premises; that they are free from all incumbrances; that I have good right to sell and convey the same to the said William Simpson, and his heirs and assigns forever, as aforesaid; and that I will, and my heirs, executors, and administrators shall warrant and defend the same to the said William Simpson, and his heirs and assigns forever, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons, Provided nevertheless, That if the said Abi

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Abigail Nichols, or her heirs, executors or administrators, shall pay unto the said William Stimpson, or his executors, administrators or assigns the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars, in one year from the date hereof, with interest from date semiannually, then this deed, as also a certain promissory note bearing even date with these presents, signed by the said Abigail Nichols, whereby she promises to pay to the said William Stimpson the said sum and interest at the time aforesaid, shall be absolutely void to all intents and purposes, but otherwise shall remain in full force. In witness whereof, I the said Abigail Nichols have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty fifth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fiftyfour.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of me, Thomas M. Stimpson } Abigail Nichols Seal
Essex, Salem February 25. 1854. Then personally appeared the within named Abigail Nichols, and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be her free act and deed; before me

Thomas M. Stimpson Justice of the Peace

Essex, Dec 27. 1854. 12 m. before P.M. Reed J.P. by Ephm. Brown Esq.

Know all men by these presents, That I, the within named James Blood, in consideration of three thousand five hundred dollars paid me by Newman Brown, the receipt whereof I hereby acknowledge, that I have received in full satisfaction of the within deed, so that neither I, nor any person claiming under me shall have any right, title or interest to the within described premises by virtue of the within deed of mortgage forever. In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand and seal this 25th day of February A.D. 1854. Signed & sealed in the presence of John Cook J.P. Essex, February 25th 1854. Then the above named James Blood acknowledged the above to be his free act and deed

Before me, John Cook Just. of the Peace

Essex, Dec 27. 1854. 23 m. past P.M. Reed J.P. by Ephm. Brown Esq.

Discharge
James Blood
to
Geo. J. Granger
see
B. 439, p. 298.
James Blood, seal, in presence of ... Esq.

Know all men by these presents, That I, George Granger of Newburyport in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, merchant, in consideration of the sum of six thousand dollars to

Geo. Granger
to
Newman Brown

803:125

Executed in presence of } Commonwealth of Massachusetts
C. A. Hayward } Exec. u. July 28. 1870. Then personally
appeared the above named Nathan Brown and acknowledged
the foregoing instrument to be his free act and deed

4 Aug 1870

before me, Charles A. Hayward Justice of the Peace
Exec. u. Rec. Aug. 6. 1870. 13m. past 9 a. m. Rec. Ex. by E. H. Brown Secy

U. Huntington
&
A. Quimby.
Two 50c. Entries of
goods stamps
needed.

Know all men by these presents, That I, Asahel
of Salem, in the County of Essex, in consideration of one thousand
dollars paid by Asahel Quimby of said Salem, the receipt whereof
is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and
convey unto the said Asahel Quimby, a certain parcel of land
with the buildings thereon, situate on Northey Street in said
Salem, being numbered 10, and bounded and described as fol-
lows, Westerly on Northey Street about thirty four feet, South-
erly on land of one Brown, about twenty three feet more or less,
easterly on land of one Honeycomb, about thirty four feet, North-
erly on land of the heirs of John Osgood about sixty eight feet,
or however otherwise the same may be bounded; being the
same estate conveyed to Abigail Nichols by J. Jewett Hale, re-
corded in Essex Reg. of Deeds Book 314 leaf 11, and the same con-
veyed by said Nichols in mortgage to William Williams deed re-
corded B. 582. d. 112, and assigned to me by deed dated 2^d day of Aug.
59, and the same estate conveyed to me by John S. Jones by his
deed recorded in Essex, South District. B. 788. d. 138, reference thereto.

To have and to hold the above granted premises with
all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, to the
said Asahel Quimby his heirs and assigns, to him and their heirs
and behoof forever. And I the said Asahel Huntington for my-
self and my heirs, executors and administrators, do covenant
with the said Asahel Quimby his heirs and assigns, that I
am lawfully seized in fee simple of the aforesaid premises;
that they are free from all incumbrances, that I have good right

over

to sell and convey the same to the said Ababel Quimby his heirs and assigns forever as aforesaid; and that I will and my heirs, executors and administrators shall warrant and defend the same to the said Ababel Quimby his heirs and assigns forever, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons.

In Witness Whereof, We the said Ababel & C. L. Huntington, wife of said Ababel Huntington, in token of her release of all right and title of or to both dower and homestead in the granted premises, have hereunto set our hands and seals this fourth day of August in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and seventy

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of Geo. R. Lord M. E. Walker

Ababel Huntington seal
C. L. Huntington seal

Essex. 11 August 4. 1870. Then personally appeared the above

named Ababel Huntington and acknowledged the above instrument to be his free act and deed;

before me, Geo. R. Lord Justice of the Peace.

Essex. 11 Aug. 6. 1870. 3 o'clock P.M. Geo. R. Lord Esq. John Brown Esq.

~~I know all men by these presents, That I Ababel Quimby of Salem, in the County of Essex, in consideration of eight hundred dollars paid by Ababel Huntington of said Salem, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Ababel Huntington, all that certain parcel of land situated on Northey Street in said Salem, with the buildings thereon, this day conveyed to me by said Huntington and recorded therewith in the Registry of Deeds, Essex South District, reference thereto for description and boundaries. So have and to hold the above granted premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, to the said Ababel Huntington his heirs and assigns to him and their use and behoof forever. And I the said Ababel Quimby for myself and my heirs, executors and admin-~~

A. Quimby
to
A. Huntington
two 50c. Entries
of goods stamps
canceled.

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