

Historic Salem incorporated

OFFICE AT OLD TOWN HALL

POST OFFICE BOX 865 SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970 / PHONE (617) 745-0799

30 ENGLISH STREET

Built for

WIDOW MARTHA RICE

CIRCA 1800

Research by,
Joyce King
June 1985

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

30 ENGLISH ST. (formerly #9 English St.)

BOOK 164 PAGE 80

DATE - June 5, 1798

CONSIDERATION - \$180

GRANTOR (seller) - Martha Rice widow, administratrix of the estate of David Hilliard

GRANTEE (buyer) - John Becket

DESCRIPTION - East end of a dwelling house with small piece of land

PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Being late John Mascoll's
North - Abigail Masury
East - English St.
South - Clifford Crowninshield
West - other part of house

BOOK 164 PAGE 80

DATE - June 5, 1798

GRANTOR (seller) - John Becket

GRANTEE (buyer) - Martha Rice, widow

DESCRIPTION - The same premises as described above

The old dwelling house was probably taken down shortly after 1798 as it is not mentioned again after that date.

Martha Rice, the widow of Edward, had her small dwelling house built on the site sometime after the June 1798 sale. The exact date can not be determined at this time. Since she was a poor widow, her tax must have been abated as her name does not appear on the tax list.

Rev. William Bentley mentions this house in his diary on December 24, 1816.

"Martha Rice, pr. sick. Some internal cause of exq. pain. She is a daughter of Mr. Hilliard of the Old Rope Walk which ran between Becket & English streets & he had a house in English street upon the site of which this d(aughter) has a small dwelling H. She has two children, a Son and D. but not able to afford her any assistance."

Martha Rice, widow died on July 19, 1826. (see probate appendix A)

BOOK 312 PAGE 194-5

DATE - 1832 (recorded in 1839)
GRANTOR (seller) - The heirs of Martha Rice
GRANTEE (buyer) - William Webb 3rd
DESCRIPTION - All real estate of our grand-
mother, Martha Rice
North - William Manning's Ct.
East - English St.
South - Widow Hill
West - William Foy

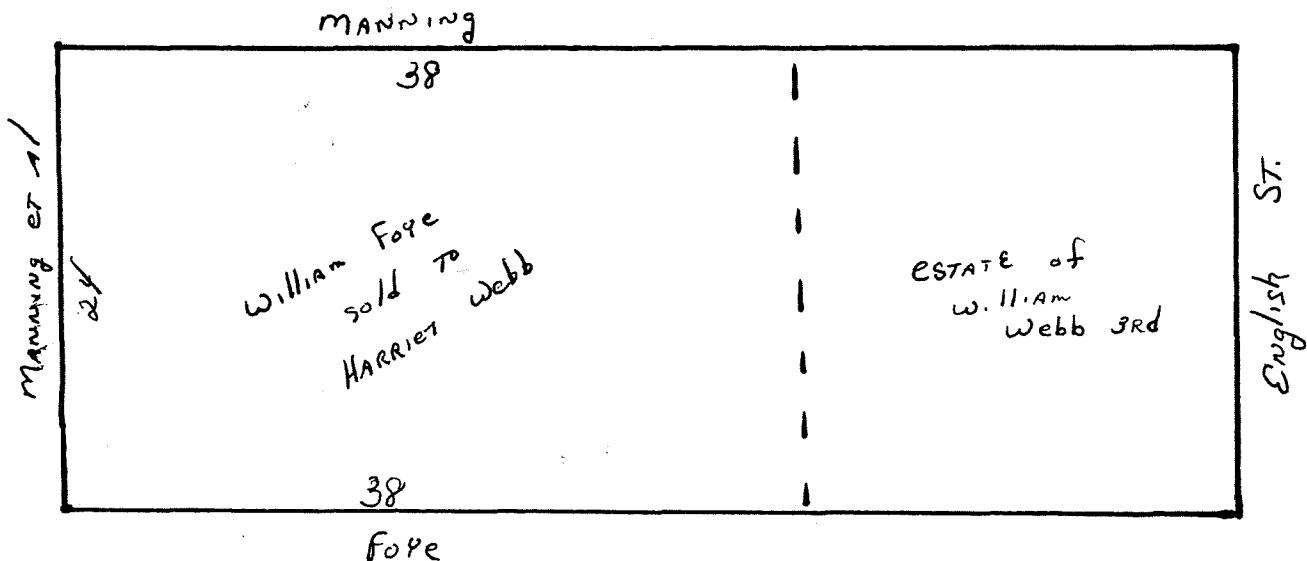
William Webb 3rd died in March 1836. His real estate was listed as "small dwelling house and land adjoining in English St. \$450". (probate #29088)

BOOK 312 PAGE 194

DATE - October 8, 1838 (recorded in 1839)
CONSIDERATION - \$25
GRANTOR (seller) - Thomas Needham administrator of the estate of William Webb
GRANTEE (buyer) - Harriet Webb
DESCRIPTION - Lot of land and dwelling house

BOOK 312 PAGE 196

DATE - February 22, 1839
CONSIDERATION - \$1
GRANTOR (seller) - William and Hannah Foye
GRANTEE (buyer) - Harriet Webb
DESCRIPTION - parcel of land



Harriet Webb died on November 29, 1862. Her real estate was listed as - "one piece of land and house on English St. \$450" (probate #56469)

BOOK 665 PAGE 138

DATE - April 14, 1864
CONSIDERATION - \$1
GRANTOR (seller) - Eben W. Kimbal of Boston
executor of the estate of
Harriet Webb
GRANTEE (buyer) - Sarah W. Buxton wife of Charles
DESCRIPTION - All real estate belongin to the
estate - a house and land #9 English
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Being the homestead of Webb

(Probate of Harriet Webb #56469 - Real estate: 1 piece of land and house on English St. valued at \$450)

BOOK 1056 PAGE 134

DATE - April 27, 1881
CONSIDERATION - \$600
GRANTOR (seller) - Sarah W. Buxton of Pelham, Ma
wife of Charles W. Buxton
GRANTEE (buyer) - David Foley
DESCRIPTION - Lot of land and buildings
#30 English St.
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Being the same premises conveyed
to me by Eben W. Kimball exc.

BOOK 1619 PAGE 476

DATE - September 27, 1900
CONSIDERATION - \$1 and other valuable consideration
GRANTOR (seller) - David Foley
GRANTEE (buyer) - Charles Cousins
DESCRIPTION - Land and building #30 English St.
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Being the same premises conveyed to
me by deed of Charles W. Buxton et ux

BOOK 1619 PAGE 477

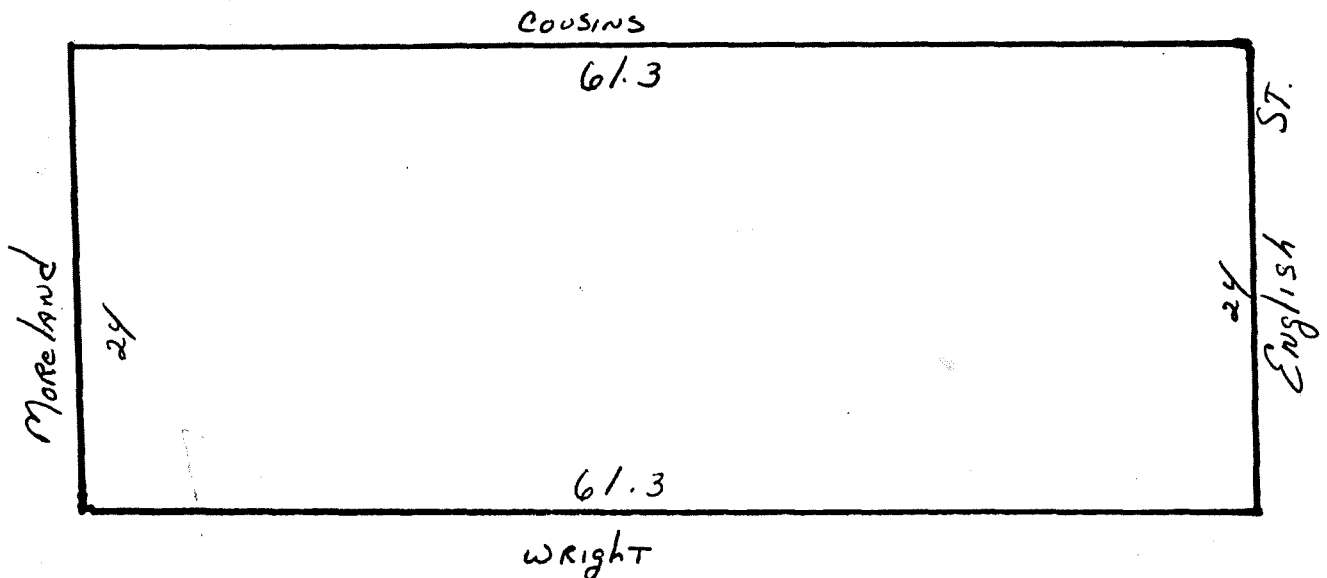
DATE - September 27, 1900
CONSIDERATION - \$1 and other valuable consideration
GRANTOR (seller) - Charles Cousins
GRANTEE (buyer) - Margaret F. Foley
DESCRIPTION - Land and building #30 English St.
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Being the same premises conveyed to
me by deed of David Foley of an even
date

BOOK 1833 PAGE 545

DATE - July 18, 1906
CONSIDERATION - \$1 and other valuable consideration
GRANTOR (seller) - Margaret Foley
GRANTEE (buyer) - Jacob Rubinovitz
DESCRIPTION - Land and building #30 English St.
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Being the same premises conveyed to me said Margaret Foley by deed of Charles Cousins Sept. 27, 1900

BOOK 1835 PAGE 327

DATE - August 9, 1906
CONSIDERATION - \$1 and other valuable consideration
GRANTOR (seller) - Jacob M. Rubinovitz of Boston
GRANTEE (buyer) - John P. Dwyer and Mary S. Dwyer
DESCRIPTION - Land and building #30 English St.
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Same premises conveyed to me by deed of Margaret Foley July 1906



BOOK 2675 PAGE 110

DATE - April 22, 1926
CONSIDERATION - none given
GRANTOR (seller) - Ellen A. Clark of Peabody
GRANTEE (buyer) - Fremont Czerniawski
DESCRIPTION - Land and building
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Being the same premises conveyed to me by Mary E. Dwyer by deed March 28, 1924

BOOK 2696 PAGE 522

DATE - September 13, 1926
CONSIDERATION - none given (mortgage \$15,000)
GRANTOR (seller) - Fremont Czerniawski
GRANTEE (buyer) - Fremont and Julia Czerniawski
DESCRIPTION - Land and building
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Being the same premises conveyed to me by Ellen A. Clark on April 22, 1926

BOOK 6545 PAGE 26

DATE - December 1, 1978
CONSIDERATION - \$18,500 (mortgage \$15,000)
GRANTOR (seller) - Wanda H. Casabona administratrix of the estate of Julia Czerniawski
GRANTEE (buyer) - Robert C. Bramble trustee
DESCRIPTION - Land and building
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Being the same premises conveyed by deed of Fremont Czerniawski

BOOK 6607 PAGE 1

DATE - June 29, 1979
CONSIDERATION - none given
GRANTOR (seller) - Robert C. Bramble, trustee of
Cook Realty Trust
GRANTEE (buyer) - Robert C. Bramble of Allyn Realty
Trust
DESCRIPTION - Land and building
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Being the same premises conveyed to
me by deed of Wanda H. Casabona
administratrix of the estate of
Julia Czerniawski on Dec. 1, 1978

BOOK 6607 PAGE 2

DATE - June 29, 1979
CONSIDERATION - \$31,000
GRANTOR (seller) - Robert C. Bramble, trustee
GRANTEE (buyer) - Linda K. Bumagin
DESCRIPTION - Land and building
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Same premises conveyed to me by deed
of Robert Bramble trustee of Cook
Realty Trust

BOOK 7562 PAGE 24

DATE - October 26, 1984
CONSIDERATION - \$93,000
GRANTOR (seller) - Linda K. Bumagin
GRANTEE (buyer) - John P. and Katherine H. Debo
of Arlington, VA
DESCRIPTION - Land and building
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Same premises conveyed by deed of
Robert Bramble trustee as recorded
in deed book 6607 page 002

To the Honorable *Daniel A. White* Esquire, Judge
of Probate for the County of Essex.

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

Inventory and appraisement of the Estate of

Mathew Rice *Widow*

as shewn to us by the administrator

REAL ESTATE

House and Land 280.00

Personal Estate

Bed bolster and pillows	12.18	Box of flowers	41.00
Bedstead & straw bed	1.00	Pewter, silver pieces	75
Bed quilt 2.25 for sheet	3.50	Lot of cutlery	40
Blanket	1.00	Lot of plates	50
Four pillowcases	.80	Three forks & spoon	40
two table cloths	.99	two large bottles &c	50
Four towels	20	Basket and contents	25
ten handkerchiefs	.50	water bowl & can	20
Six pair hose	.60	Banish	.17
Three pairs	1.75	Box of chocolate	1.00
Twelve under garments	1.50	Ten garments & trunk	8.00
Shoes & vests	40	Chest & contents	1.50
Leath gloves &c	25	Box of rice	.50
Bag of sundries	30	atchet	10
Hammers & caps &c	50	Carpet & rug	75
Case of Drums	2.75	Lot of old iron	50
Brick table	2.00	two silk gowns &c	4.00
Do - do	1.00	Palin	.25
table & light stand	.50	tub of pork	50
Ten chairs & cushions	2.00	two pots butter & lard	50
Two carpet & thermats	1.00	Tubs & tubs	50
Lot of books	.33	Wood and bark	.500
Shovel, tongs, and iron	1.25	Hor and Ase	20
Bellows and crane hook	.30	Cash bank notes good	45.00
Trunk and Coffin	1.20	Do Do Bad	5.00
Warming pan	.50		
Looking Glass & spec	.55		
Iron wash	1.00		
Copper Tea kettle	.75		
Pestle and mortar	.75		
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Carried forward	41.00		

\$ 112.93

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Joseph Swasey,
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wn on the map,
of Joseph Swa-

land of Edward Harnett and Ric: Lambert,
April 9, 1655.* This lot included the
lots of Mary Webb, Sarah Bartoll, John
Becket, Samuel Phippen, John and Mary
Marston, Jacob Fowle, Daniel Webb and
Estate of Job Hilliard, as shown on the
map. The dwelling house stood on the
Mary Webb lot on the street, where its
site is marked on the map. This land
was a field, called, in 1671, "Job's field."†

In the sketches that follow, after 1700,
titles and deeds referred to pertain to the
houses and land adjoining and not always
to the whole lot, the design being, after
that date, to give the history of the houses
then standing principally.

John Swasey House. Joseph Swasey of
Salem, seaman, owned this lot and the
lots of Joseph Swasey adjoining, of Abigail
Masury, and of Thomas Mascoll, as early
as 1658. Upon this lot he built a dwelling
house before 1661. He conveyed the
house and lot to his son John Swasey of
Salem, mariner, April 2, 1689.‡ John
Swasey died in 17—; and the house was
gone before 1763, when his heirs disposed
of the land.

Joseph Swasey Lot. This lot belonged
to Joseph Swasey as early as 1658. He
died in or before 1709, and his adminis-
trator, for fifteen pounds, conveyed the
lot to Joshua Tyler of Salem, mariner,
May 10, 1717.§

William and Abigail Masury Lot. This
lot was owned by Joseph Swasey as early as
1658, and he conveyed it, in consideration
of love, to his daughter Abigail Masury
and her husband William Masury and to
the heirs of the body of Abigail April 21,
1688.|| Mr. Masury died before 1717,
and she continued to own the lot in 1734.

Thomas and Mary Mascoll House. This
lot was owned by Joseph Swasey as early
as 1658, and he conveyed it, in considera-
tion of love, to his daughter Mary Mascoll
and her husband Thomas Mascoll of Salem,

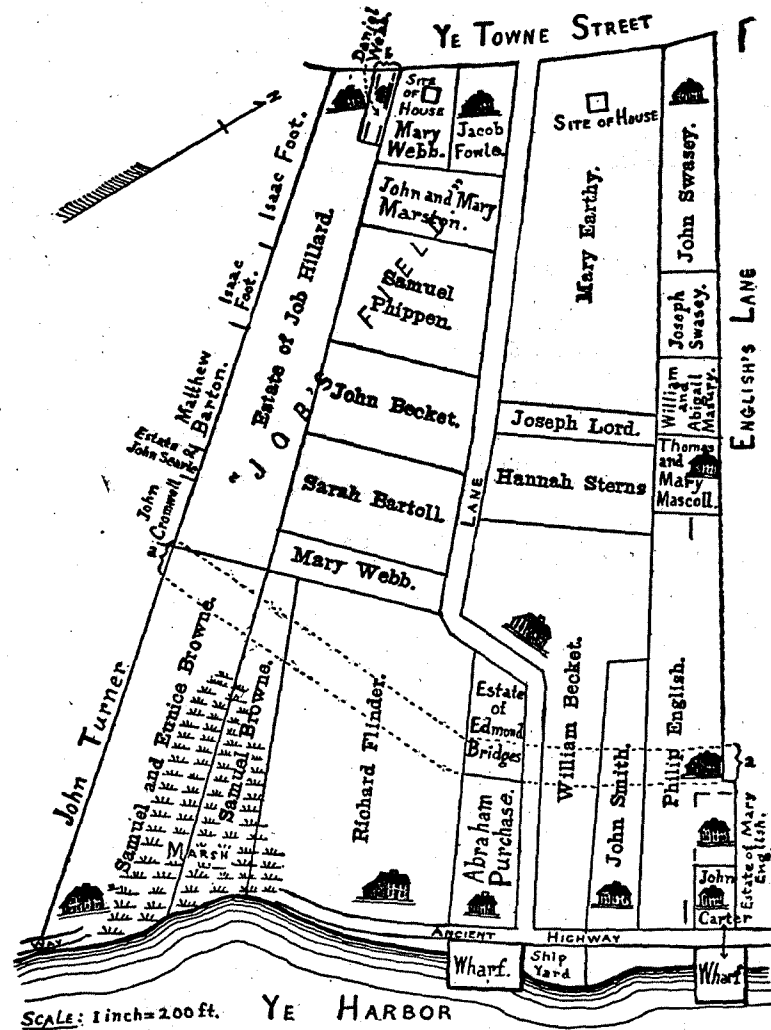
*Essex Registry of Deeds, book 1, leaf 26.

†Essex Registry of Deeds, book 3, leaf 114.

‡Essex Registry of Deeds, book 24, leaf 244.

§Essex Registry of Deeds, book 32, leaf 137.

||Essex Registry of Deeds, book 16, leaf 7.



PART OF SALEM IN 1700. NO. 22.

lem, carpenter,
of Salem, ship-
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it, lying between

mariner, April 20, 1688.* Mr. Mascoll built a house on the lot, and they resided there until their deaths, which occurred before March 10, 1721-2, when administration was granted upon his estate. Their house and land were appraised at one hundred pounds. The sons, John and Joseph Mascoll, both of Salem, the first being a mariner, and the second a shipwright, divided the house and lot between them by deeds, Sept. 16, 1729,† though an agreement to the same effect had been made Sept. 8, 1725.‡ John had the easterly end of the house, and Joseph the westerly end.

John Mascoll, for thirty-three pounds, six shillings and eight pence, conveyed his part of the house and land to Samuel Webb of Salem, mariner, Dec. 6, 1754.§ Mr. Webb, for forty-six pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence, conveyed his part of the house and lot to William Crispin of Salem, mariner, Jan. 29, 1765.¶ Mr. Crispin, for a similar consideration, conveyed the same estate to David Hilliard of Salem, rope maker, Aug. 6, 1765.¶ Mr. Hilliard died possessed of the lot and the east end of the house and the barn before July 11, 1792, when administration was granted upon his estate. The half of the house and land that belonged to it were then appraised at twenty-one pounds, three shillings and four pence. His administratrix, for one hundred and eighty dollars, conveyed the same estate to John Becket of Salem, gentleman, June 5, 1798;** and on the same day and for a similar consideration he conveyed it to widow Martha Rice of Salem (the administratrix of the estate of Mr. Hilliard).**

The westerly half of the house and the remainder of the lot were conveyed by Joseph Mascoll, for one hundred and forty-three pounds, to Zachariah Curtis of

Salem, cordwainer, Feb. 11, 1734.* Mr. Curtis died possessed of the lot and westerly end of the house before Sept. 24, 1763, when, for thirteen pounds, six shillings and eight pence, his daughter Abigail Curtis of Salem, spinster, conveyed two-fifths of the same to Clifford Crowninshield of Salem, ropemaker,† Ebenezer Curtis of Salem, hatter, son of the deceased, for twenty-six pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence, conveyed three-fifths of the same to Mr. Crowninshield March 30, 1767.‡ Their widowed mother, Abigail Curtis of Salem, joined in each of these deeds.

The house was probably taken down soon after 1798.

Philip English Houses. This lot and the John Carter lot constituted the homestead of William Goose, who was admitted to the church here in 1637, and who died "many years" before 1664, probably in or before 1656. In 1664, his widow was distracted and unable to provide for herself. The town of Salem having been at great expense for her for eight years, complained to the court, which appointed the selectmen administrators of Mr. Goose's estate June 28, 1664. This house (which had been built prior to 1661) and the land were then appraised at fifty pounds. The Goose house was the one located midway of the lot on what is now English street. The administrators of Mr. Goose's estate conveyed the house and eastern half of the entire lot of Mr. Goose to John Clifford of Salem, rope-maker, Feb. 28, 1664-5;§ and the western half of the lot to John Goose of Salem, mariner, on the same day.¶ Mr. Goose conveyed his half of the lot to Mr. Clifford July 23, 1666.¶ Mr. Clifford, who had removed to Lynn, conveyed the Goose house and lot to Jacob Allen of Salem, mariner, Sept. 30, 1693;¶ and Mr. Allen conveyed the same estate to Philip English of

*Essex Registry of Deeds, book 18, leaf 9.

†Essex Registry of Deeds, John to Joseph, book 55, leaf 41, and Joseph to John, book 52, leaf 87.

‡Essex Registry of Deeds, book 47, leaf 120.

§Essex Registry of Deeds, book 101, leaf 90.

¶Essex Registry of Deeds, book 116, leaf 62.

¶Essex Registry of Deeds, book 150, leaf 167.

**Essex Registry of Deeds, book 164, leaf 80.

*Essex Registry of Deeds, book 68, leaf 114.

†Essex Registry of Deeds, book 112, leaf 167.

‡Essex Registry of Deeds, book 117, leaf 210.

§Essex Registry of Deeds, book 2, leaf 123.

¶Essex Registry of Deeds, book 2, leaf 126.

¶Essex Registry of Deeds, book 11, leaf 12.

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IV

Yankee Relations

AND NOW WE MUST TURN from the sea to the land, and go back a few years in time. The town directory of Salem for 1853 contained two entries pertinent to our story:

Webb, Mrs. Harriet, house 9 English St.

Marsins, Dominick L., mariner, boards 9 English St.

During the period of his voyages on the *Messenger* and the *Sea Mew*, Dominick had forsaken the Seamen's Boarding House of Ebenezer Griffin for the pleasanter surroundings of a private home. It was the prelude to another important change in his life. His landlady, who was the widow of a sea captain, William Webb 3d, had been forced since her husband's death to take boarders at the tidy gambrel-roofed house on English Street. In addition to her husband, Mrs. Webb had already buried three children, but the household still included two healthy and pretty daughters, Sarah and Martha, and a son, William 4th.

It will be recalled that Dominick Marsins already knew Martha Webb before he moved to English Street, and it was partly for her sake that he had anglicized his name in 1851. Their courtship must have been a long one, even by Victorian standards. (One of Martha's descendants remembers her grandmother's saying that she told Domenico Lagomarsino she would never marry a man with a foreign name.)

Another boarder at Mrs. Webb's was Charlie Buxton. A good deal of pleasant courting must have gone on between the two young men and the pretty Webb sisters; many strolls beneath the elm trees of Salem's streets and Common. Wedding bells soon rang out

for the youngest daughter Sarah and Charlie Buxton. For Dominick, however, the path of courtship was not so easy. Except for brief intervals, he was away at sea, but the most formidable obstacle to his intentions must have been Mrs. Webb. She was firm in her opposition to any match between her daughter and the young Italian she had taken to board in her house. Dominick was a foreigner and a "papist" which made him in her Yankee eyes less than desirable as a son-in-law.

On June 27, 1853 Dominick, by now a first mate, returned from his first voyage on the *Sea Mew*, and events moved swiftly, Mrs. Webb's objections to the contrary. Scarcely two weeks passed before this notice appeared in the July 12 edition of the *Salem Gazette*:

MARRIAGES, On Sunday evening (July 10) by Rev. Mr. Carlton, Mr. Dominick Marsinis (*sic*) to Miss Martha Webb.

The bride, born in Salem April 4, 1831, was twenty-two. The groom was twenty-six. Mrs. Webb's feelings may have been soothed somewhat since the Reverend Mr. Michael Carlton, who performed the marriage ceremony, was no priest but the minister of the Seaman's Bethel. Perhaps Dominick was no longer a Catholic.

The young people had over two months together before Dominick embarked again on the *Sea Mew* at the end of September. Very shortly, or perhaps, since the bride's mother felt as she did, immediately after their marriage, the young Marsins moved to lodgings of their own. Dominick was not the person to live in the house with a mother-in-law, even a congenial one, and Martha had a mind of her own, too!

On December 9, 1855, while he was absent on the *Sea Mew* to Africa, their first child, Harriet Evelyn, was born. Had Mrs. Webb been won over by her Italian son-in-law? Or was the baby's name, for her, the grateful and loving extension of an olive branch to a mother who surely "rallied around" when her young daughter was undergoing her first childbirth alone, with her husband far away?

Husband and father, Dominick Marsins was now very definitely no longer alone, for he was also son-in-law to two prolific Massachusetts families. From the time that he married Martha Webb,

the story of the Webb family of Salem and the Browns of Ipswich became entwined with his: Mrs. William Webb 3d had been Harriet Evelyn Brown of Ipswich.

The Browns had lived in Essex County since 1635 when John of that name arrived from England to become "the earliest settler in the Candlewood region of Ipswich to clear the forest and build his house." This first Brown house was "a dwelling containing only two rooms and the chamber above." Later, John built a larger, more commodious home which remained in the family through 1909, when Alvin Story Brown was the last of the name to live there. It is still standing, a fine looking red farmhouse, with numerous stout barns and outbuildings.

There were four generations of Browns between our Harriet and the first John, all meticulously accounted for in the Ipswich historical records, as his numerous descendants married Ipswich girls and populated the countryside indiscriminately with Browns and Brownes, as the fancy took the individual speller. (Those who today add that final e and feel superior to plain Browns, have only to look into the early records to be taken down a peg.) They were hardy farmers and weavers and mariners, for since Ipswich was long a port, many of the Brown men went to sea.

One of these was Stephen Brown 3d, father of Dominick's sometime landlady and mother-in-law. Ipswich produced a number of captain Stephen Browns (there were four between 1810 and 1825 alone), but Ipswich port records, like Boston's, have disappeared, so no positive identification of Harriet's father's commands can be made. Although Captain Stephen 3d roamed the seas in unidentified vessels, we can pin-point his activities on shore, for he married a townswoman, Elizabeth Potter, bought his wife's family homestead on the Old Bay Road for his own, and there sired twelve small Browns. That many children must have kept their hands very close to their sides, for the old Potter homestead is described in Ipswich records as "a small house." It stood until around 1960, when "progress", i.e. widening the highway that was once the Old Bay Road, necessitated the destruction of the last of the historic old houses on that side.

On May 27, 1798, at the Old South Church in Ipswich, baby

Harriet was baptized and duly started on the right path. And she must have continued on it, minding her manners and being kind to old people, for in 1822, when she was twenty-four, she was named beneficiary in the will of David Brown, her father's first cousin, who died childless at the age of eighty-seven, leaving most of his estate to the town, but to Harriet "the rooms in the dwelling which were bequeathed to him by his father." (This plan of leaving different rooms in a house to different people was an established custom; William Webb's grandmother had been left "the East end of her father's house" on English Street in Salem. A foreshadowing of condominiums!)

Harriet's rooms could not, however, keep her in Ipswich. Two years later she forsook her birthplace, and skipped off with a young Salem sailor at least two years her junior. On March 25, 1824, Mr. William Williams, pastor of the Presbyterian Society in Salem, united in marriage Harriet Brown, who gave her age as twenty-five, to Mr. William Webb 3d, age twenty-three. The young couple went to live on Daniel Street in that busy little seaport.

While Salem was then a picturesque elm-embowered town, it was also a world port of importance, whose bustling waterfront is unrecognizable in its present deserted condition. There were foreign ports in those years in which the natives had only believed the map of America to consist of a vast commercial metropolis called Salem. Bearded sailors from distant lands moved about noisy Derby Wharf, hung around the handsome customhouse. This customhouse still stands proudly there, a museum now. It is the same building where for a space Nathaniel Hawthorne, as inspector for the port, chewed his pen and was miserable.

In this busy seafaring town, the name Webb was an old one. A common ending to any news item about a couple of another name was "she a Webb." William Webbs had grown on every bush from the town's early days, when on July 22, 1675, "att a towne meeting William Web Is Admitted an Inhabitant Into ye towne." There was a William Webb, contemporary with ours, and also a sea captain, who was so determined to hand on the whole name that he named three poor little babies in succession "William" until at last one of them lived, to grow up and name a son of his "William!"

There was even another contemporary captain William Webb, who had daughters Elizabeth, Harriet, and Martha, as did ours. They seem to have rung the changes on the same old names, over and over, and very few people were given middle names, which would have aided a researcher in positive identification.

But a number of facts have been clearly established. The William Webb 3d who was to be Dominick Marsins's father-in-law, was born in 1801, the son of William Webb, Jr., ropemaker. The family was living on Bridge Street when consumption carried off the father, William Jr., at the age of fifty. Since Mrs. Webb had also died within the past two years, probably of the same disease for it was the great killer of that time, William 3d at seventeen faced life as an orphan. He took the path followed by so many young men of those days in like circumstances: he went to sea.

Eight years and many unknown voyages later, on his maternal grandmother's death, he was named one of the seven grandchildren who were her heirs; the intermediate generation had been completely wiped out. This grandmother had been born Martha Hilliard, daughter of Mary and David Hilliard, owners of one of Salem's very early historic houses (called "the Thomas and Mary Mascoll house") at 9 English Street. Martha had inherited "the lot, barn, and East end of the house" from her father. She bought the West end also, tore the whole thing down, and built the two-story gambrel-roofed house that stands there now. (Although interesting from an historic viewpoint, it was probably by that time decrepit enough for such a fate.) This new house was the part of the inheritance that fell to William Webb 3d. Martha, Dominick Marsins's future wife, was just a year old in 1832 when her father moved his family into their new home on English Street.

William 3d had been a master mariner, but as the marine news gives in sailing notices only the family name of the master — very, very rarely a Christian name, since every third Salem captain at this time was a Webb, and every third Captain Webb was a William, it seems an impossibility to identify the vessel or vessels he commanded. There could not have been many of them for this young master mariner: at thirty-five he was dead. Here is a notice in the *Salem Gazette*. April 1, 1836:

DEATHS. On Wednesday, March 30, Captain William Webb, 3d, age 35. Funeral this afternoon, at 3 o'clock, from house No. 9 English Street. Friends and relatives are invited to attend.

The week after William's death, on April 7, 1836, the following paragraph appeared in the *Salem Gazette*:

Notice is hereby given that the subscriber has been duly appointed administrator of the estate of William Webb 3d, late of Salem, in the county of Essex, cordwainer, deceased, and has taken upon himself that trust by giving bonds as the law directs. All persons having demands upon the estate of said deceased, are requested to exhibit the same; and all persons indebted to said estate are called upon to make payment to Thos. Needham, admr.

Our sea captain, entitled such in his death notice on April first, on April seventh is called in a legal document "cordwainer"! In other words, a shoemaker! What happened to turn this young man, only thirty-five when he died, from the active, blustery life of a ship master whose word was law, to a shoemaker, crouching over his work in a shop on some Salem side street? Had the exposure to which a mariner is subjected undermined his health, and brought on the common scourge of consumption, of which his daughters and son were to die in the same house within a few years? Perhaps, incapacitated for his more robust calling, the now frail father had worked doggedly at a quiet trade up until the last to provide for his family.

When Captain William Webb 3d died in 1836 at the age of thirty-five, he left besides his wife Harriet, four little daughters: Elizabeth, twelve; Harriet Evelyn, ten; Mary, seven; Martha, five, and a son William, three. Mrs. Webb was also six months pregnant with Sarah.

In October, 1838, all the legal red tape connected with William's death seems to have been concluded, and Thomas Needham, administrator of the estate, made over the deeds for "a small dwelling house, etc., in English Street" to Mrs. Harriet Webb.

English Street, formerly called English's Lane, is one of the short, narrow little streets that lead from Essex, Salem's most important

thoroughfare, down to Derby Street and the waterfront. It was lined with the houses of mariners; not the imposing brick homes of wealthy merchants and captains such as are on the Chestnut street end of town; but modest, charming little two-and-a-half story, gambrel-roofed or salt-box frame houses of early New England architecture, presenting a gable end to the street, and facing their bit of a flower garden. The House of the Seven Gables was a near neighbor, only three blocks away on such another little side street. Even when the Webbs lived in Salem, the Seven Gables was an old house, for John Turner built it in 1668. Hawthorne's novel about it was to be published in 1851, two years before Dominick Marsins came to board around the corner on English Street. The Webbs must have read a novel about a house in their neighborhood with a good deal of excitement.

Some time between 1869 and 1872 the house numbers were changed. Number 9 English Street became number 30, which it is today. Harriet Brown Webb was not a flitter, such as her daughter Martha Marsins proved to be, but a steady occupant of number 9 English Street until her death. (Of course, she owned the house; Dominick and Martha were always renters.) Here, with her children dying around her, Harriet, now head of the family, battled bravely on to care for the ones that were left. She faced no small task in supporting herself and six children. The Salem directories of 1846 and 1850 give a clue as to how the little family managed to get along: "Webb, Mrs. Harriet, nurse, 9 English Street." In those years, there were no regulations about training and licensing of nurses; any neighbor woman with two willing hands and feet could offer herself in that capacity. Mrs. Webb also took boarders, one of whom was Dominick Marsins.

Consumptive William Webb had left a legacy of death to his young family on English Street. In 1841, Elizabeth Webb at seventeen, Harriet at twenty in 1847, and Mary at twenty-three in 1852, all died of consumption. Mary, married to Stephen Curtis, left a little son, Stephen Jr., not quite three years old. In 1853, three months after Dominick came there to live, there was a fifth death: the only Webb boy, William IV, twenty and unmarried, whose room and double bed Dominick without doubt shared, coughed his young

life away. He had taken up his father's tools as a cordwainer, and the leather dust had helped him leave this world.

Ground 3, where the Webb interments had taken place, is located in Salem's Greenlawn Cemetery. The graves are placed as closely together as those in military cemeteries. They are on a lovely green slope, with no headstones, but at the foot each grave has a small circle of white stone with its identifying number.

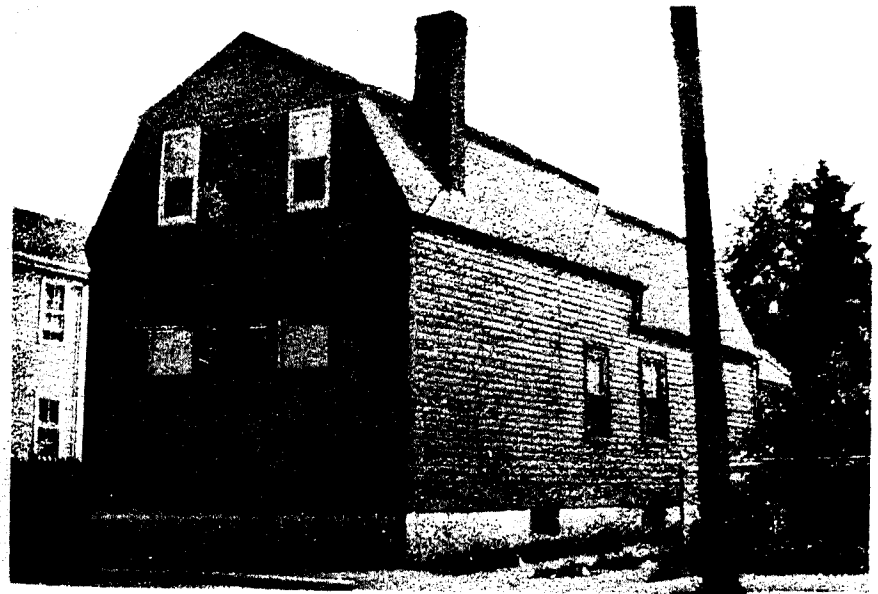
It was a deeply tainted house to which the new boarder came, but its inmates were unconscious of the fact. It was not until the twentieth century that the medical world began to understand the nature of the spread of consumption, and how to arrest it. So many homes were deathtraps, and once started it often ran through an entire family. An article in the *Salem Gazette* of December 15, 1846, ends with these words: "There is perhaps no disease with which our country is affected, which sweeps off annually so many victims, as that fell destroyer of the human race, consumption."



Captain Marsins
Master of the Barque *John Gilpin*, c. 1860



Martha Webb Marsins (*at right*) with her eldest daughter Harriet Evelyn, c. 1860



The small, gambrel-roofed house at 9 English Street, Salem (now number 30), where Dominick Marsins came to board with Mrs. William Webb



Martha Webb Marsins (*above*) with two of her daughters, Harriet Evelyn and Carrie Frances, c. 1865. *Below*, Cecilia Marsins, c. 1884, youngest of the three daughters, who became Mrs. Sydney Calvin Buck



The only definite item that we know of the Marsins family history during the year 1862 was the death of Mrs. Marsins's mother, Harriet Brown Webb. In the Salem town clerk's records is the entry:

Widow of William Webb. Died Dec. 8, 1862, age 64½, erysipelas. Harriet, born Ipswich, dau. of Stephen Brown. Interred: ground 3, range 7, grave 28.

She was the seventh member of that family of nine to be buried in Greenlawn Cemetery. The *Salem Gazette* of December 9, 1862, carried this notice:

DEATHS. On the 8th, Mrs. Harriet, widow of the late Capt. William Webb. Sixty-four years, 5 months. Funeral Wed. aft. at 2 o'clock at No. 9 English St., Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

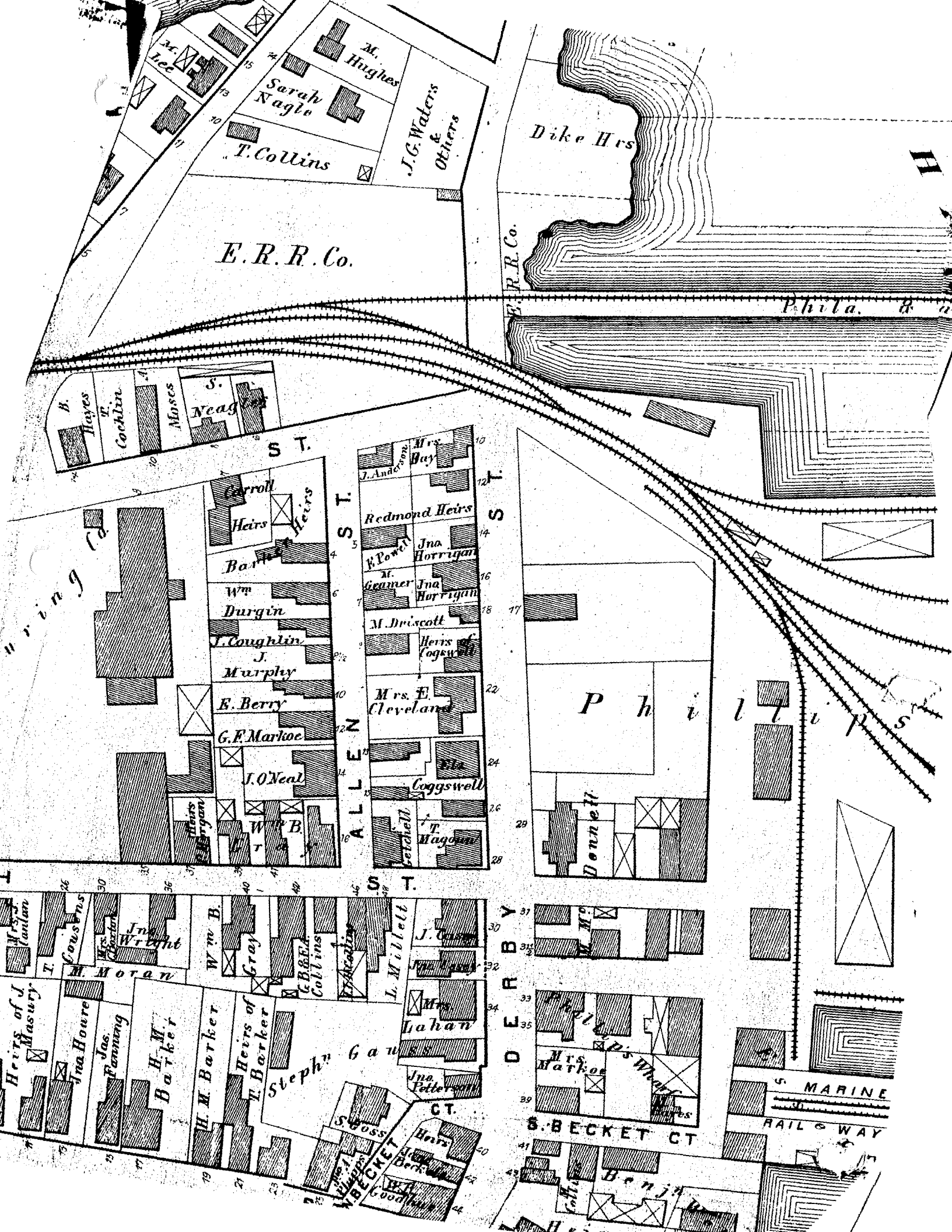
Mrs. Webb seems never to have forgiven her daughter Martha for marrying against her wishes. In her will, she left everything to her only other living child, Sarah, who with her husband was then making her home with her mother, and specifically stated that "nothing is to be given to my daughter Martha W. Marsins nor to my grandson Stephen Curtis, jr.," the son of her dead daughter Mary. It was definitely ill-will on Mrs. Webb's part, for a legacy, no matter how small, would have been welcome to Martha at any time. And young Stephen, left motherless at three, could have used a legacy from his grandmother too. Fortune must not have smiled too broadly on him, for his page in Salem annals is almost blank. After his exclusion from his grandmother's will, there is no further mention of him except once in 1869 when at the age of twenty he appears on a crew list of the barque *Sachem* for Zanzibar as a seaman.

During December 1863 Dominick was at home; nine months later, on September 21, 1864, Cecilia Margherita, the Marsins's third daughter, was born. She was given the entire name of the captain's long-dead Italian mother. Was he in America when the baby came? He was in Africa or on the way there when both of the others were

born, and was probably not on hand for this arrival either, for at some time during the year 1864, from the island of São Tomé, Portuguese possession off the southwest coast of Africa, he applied for a United States passport. As a private citizen living in Africa he would need this; formerly, as master of an American trading vessel, a passport seems not to have been necessary.

Either in 1862 or very early in 1863 Mrs. Marsins and the two children had moved to Swampscott. The Swampscott directories from 1865, through 1873 all give "Dominic Marsins, shipmaster" as residing on Burrill Street in that town. Eight years in the same house: a record for the peripatetic Mrs. Marsins! The Burrill Street house backed up to the B. and M. Railroad tracks; the little family left at home were not having an easy time financially.

Mrs. Marsins and the girls were there on Burrill Street, but the captain was in more exotic surroundings.



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M. Moran

Ina Wright

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Mrs. Caultan

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Mrs. Bay

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Carroll Heirs

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Ina Harrigan

Ina Harrigan

Jna Harrigan

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ENGLIST

DERBY

Mary W. Viewas
Lydia A. Cook
Annie S. Hill
Oscar Brown
John C. O'Donnell
Morrison Newman
Ann & Rogers
Anna P. Ridge
Sam'l. F. Messury
Mary A. Bessie
Bessie Bradstreet
Eliza M. Holt
Jennie McMath
Elizabeth Lovejoy
Win. H. Duch. Etal.

V.F. McKeown
Elizabeth Wood
Mary Ryan
John C. O'Donnell
Morrison Newman
Anna P. Ridge
Sam'l. F. Messury
Mary A. Bessie
Bessie Bradstreet
Eliza M. Holt
Jennie McMath
Elizabeth Lovejoy
Win. H. Duch. Etal.

Thos. E. Foran
Michael J. Murray
Kathleen E. Donohue
Salem Charlotte
J. J. Leahy
Don't L. Gorman
Geo. M. Henningson
Julia
F. & A. Lamalyah
John Moor
W. Jawornicki
Henry M. Barker
Julia Focht
Rose Bik
Frank Luizans

Francis T. Berry
Annie Bratkowski
J.N. Berry
Saran
Blanche
Annie S. Porter
Anna T. Hogan
Elizabeth S. Archer
Hrs.
Emily A. Bass
Lucille
Francis T. Berry
Thos. Brooks
Carmel
Martin
Kondkowski
Mary Rydzick
John Jandrasch
Anna Rydzick
Kate Sokol
W. Uszynski
Mary E. Gaswell
Francis T. Berry

Joseph
Elizabeth
John Foley
John Gorman
Mary A. Flynn
Hannah
John Lee
Fonnes
Sibersymovicz
Margaret Tobin
Michael
John Hayes
Max
Michael
John H. Goshman

John H. Kelley
Patrick & Kelly
A. Goshman
Michael Sullivan
Patrick & Kelly
A. Goshman
Michael Sullivan
Patrick & Kelly
A. Goshman

Thos. Bonditch
F. Szezzechowicz
Wm. F. Garr
Wojciech Felix
Max Rashken
M. Wiczorek
Alice Roche
Morris Roche
Don't Welch
Bridget Hyde
Wazil Nestor
W. Buckley
John H. Buckley
Michael Buckley
Bertem Home
for Aged Men
Antonio Whitkos
Mary J. Lenahan

John H. Kelley
Patrick & Kelly
A. Goshman
Michael Sullivan
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AMERICAN CITY

FO

AMES

PRUSAK SQ.

WEBB

MC DONALD SQ.

COUSINS

ALLEN-ENGL

ENGLISH

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10



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1857

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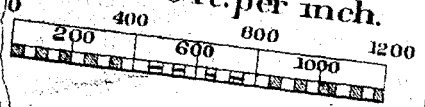


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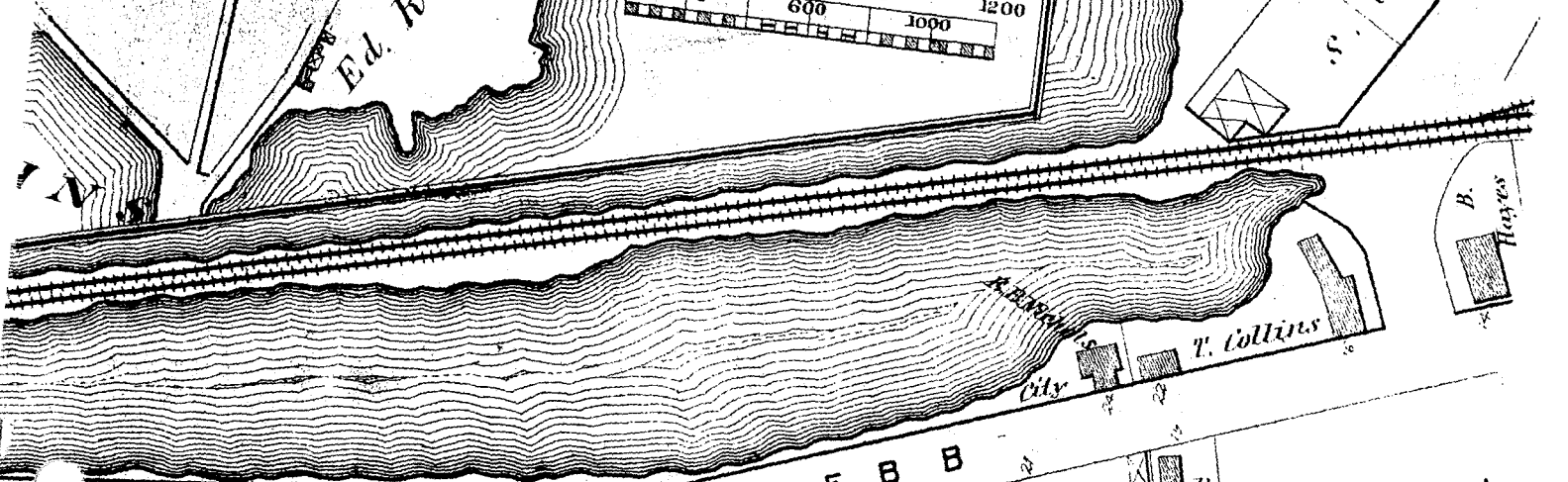
FARM
ISLAND

SUB-PLAN.

Scale: 600 ft. per inch.



Ed. Rowell



ST. JONATHAN

ESSSEX

Good

Pucker

Heirs of J. Saul

Mrs. Dalrymple

Wm H. Nichols

Heirs of Wm H. Nichols

STER

WEBB

INDIA MANUFACTURING

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BECKETT

Heirs of Jno. Saul

Nichols

E. B. Hunt

Mrs. Sullivan

Wm H. Nichols

Heirs of J. Cantan

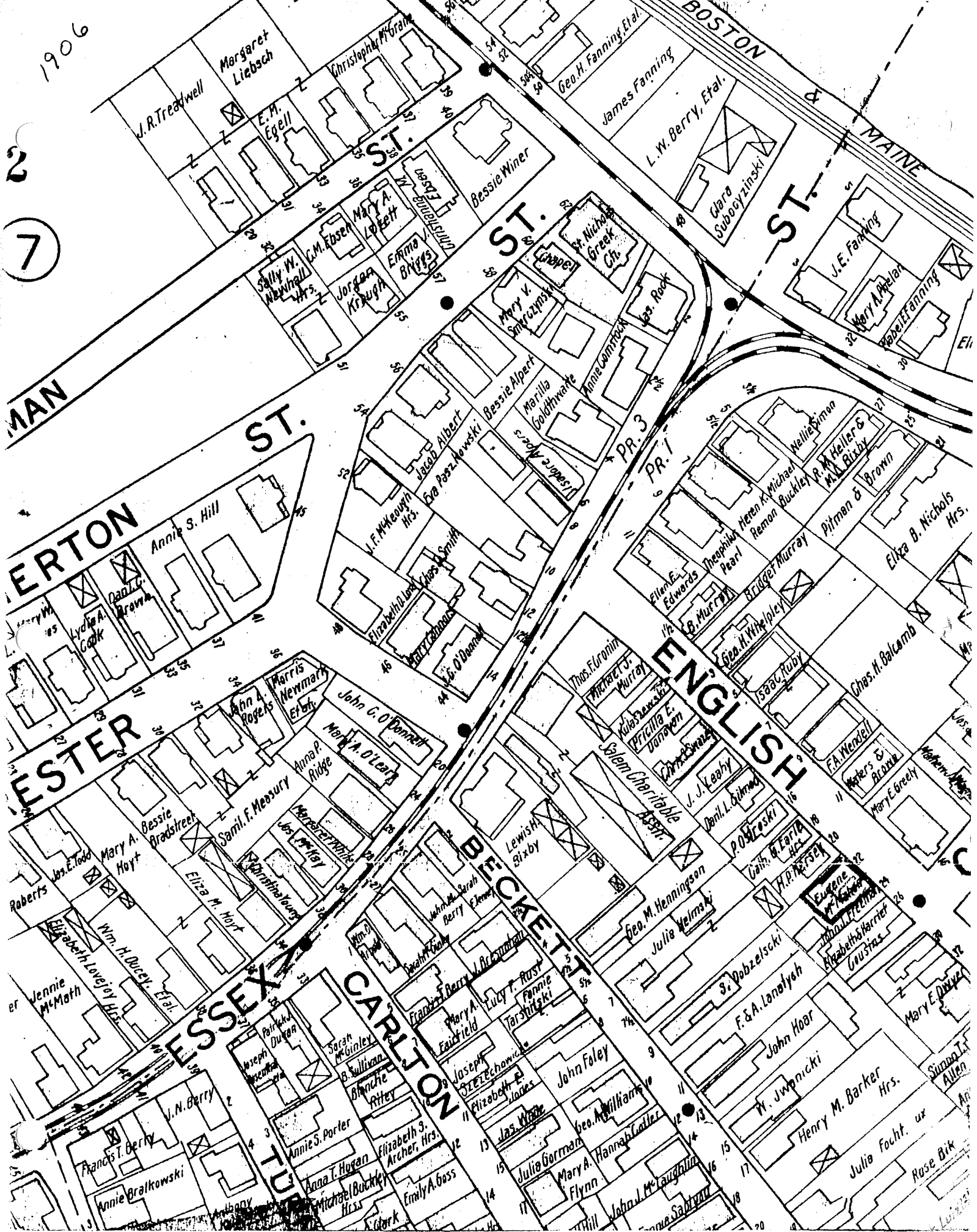
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A. B. Russell

P. Bassen

Stowe

1906
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ESSEX ST.

TU ST.

CARLTON ST.

ENGLISH ST.

BOSTON

MAINE

J.R. Treatwell

Margaret Liebisch

Christopher M. Brain

ST.

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Annie S. Hill

Lydia A. Cook

Mary A. Hoyt

Eliza M. Hoyt

L.N. Berry

Annie Bralkowski

Sally W. Newhall Mrs.

Jordan Krugha

L.F. McKeown Mrs.

Elizabeth Lusk

John A. Rogers

Eliza M. Hoyt

Annie S. Porter

Anna T. Hogan

L.M. Ebsen

Erma Briggs

Jacob Albert

Elizabeth Lusk

Morris Newman

Eliza M. Hoyt

Sarah G. Gingle

Elizabeth S. Archer Mrs.

Mary A. Love

Erma Briggs

Evie Posz. Nowski

Elizabeth Lusk

John G. O'Donnell

Eliza M. Hoyt

Joseph E. Zechowicz

Elizabeth S. Archer Mrs.

Bessie Winer

Mary V. Smyczynski

Bessie Alpert

Elizabeth Lusk

John G. O'Donnell

Eliza M. Hoyt

Joseph E. Zechowicz

Elizabeth S. Archer Mrs.

St. Nicholas Greek Ch.

Mary V. Smyczynski

Marilla Boldzwane

Elizabeth Lusk

John G. O'Donnell

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Joseph E. Zechowicz

Elizabeth S. Archer Mrs.

James Fanning

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Marilla Boldzwane

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Elizabeth S. Archer Mrs.

L.W. Berry, Etal.

Mary V. Smyczynski

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Elizabeth S. Archer Mrs.

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