# Salem Incorporated

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23 WINTER STREET: BUILT IN 1827 FOR SAMUEL ROBERTS, MASON

Research by Rory Goff, Historic Salem, Inc. October 15, 1990

### 23 WINTER STREET: BUILT IN 1827 FOR SAMUEL ROBERTS, MASON

23 Winter Street lies upon the 17th-century land lot of Major William Browne, Jr. (1639-1715/6), merchant; it was bounded on the west by the way "to the ferry" (now Winter Street), on the north by the estate of John Neal (whose heirs had sold Major Browne his lot in 1681/2: Essex Registry of Deeds, Book 6, Pages 41; 51), on the east by the "ancient highway" (now Pleasant Street), and on the south by the Common (See Map of Salem in 1700). This lot consisted of between one and two acres.

It was conveyed by Browne's grandson, William Browne, Esquire (1709-63), to Nathaniel Andrew of Salem, shopkeeper, for £75 on March 25, 1749 (E. R. D. Book 93, Page 128). In his will, proved February 22, 1762, Nathaniel left the lot (appraised in his estate inventory at £63.6.8) to his son John Andrew (or Andrews), who included it in his tan yard, abutting the tannery of his brother Jonathan to the south and east (See Map of Salem About 1780).

Benjamin F. Browne, writing in 1869 his reminiscences ca. 1798-1810, remembered "no house, but a shop near David Roberts' new house [23 Winter St.], which had been removed from the north side of the Common, and which was kept by a widow, Lydia Maley ... . Mr. Joseph Franks [Joshua French?], a wealthy foreigner, dwelt near, and had a nursery of Lombardy poplars. On all, or nearly all, this land, from Pickman street to Brown street, was the tannery of John Andrew, grandfather to the late Governor Andrew and brother of Jonathan, who had the tannery on the Andrew street land. John was bred a jeweller and had his shop ... nearly opposite to Walnut street. He was not successful in business, and removed to Maine, where he died in 1791. ... The tannery was continued in my early days, and was carried on by a foreman for Jonathan Gardner ..." (Essex Institute Historical Collections, vol. 50, p. 7).

John Andrew went bankrupt in 1784, evidenced by the mortgage from John Andrews, silversmith and jeweller, to Abraham and John Watson, gentlemen, December 5, 1784, including "... about two acres of land in Salem ... with the dwelling house now in the occupation of Joshua French as my tenant and the tan house yard and all other buildings, improvements, fats [sic], conveniences and utensils proper for the craft and business of a tanner ..." together with 1200 sides of leather and 800 rawhides. The land was "bounded easterly on land of Benjamin Pickman and southerly on the garden belonging to the public-work-house of the town of Salem ..." (E. R. D. Book 143, Page 1; mortgage discharged by John Watson, June 27, 1809).

Apparently the land came into the possession of John Andrew's brother Jonathan Andrew, because Jonathan Gardner and Samuel Cheever bought the land of John Gardner, executor of Jonathan Andrew's will, on December 12, 1788 (E. R. D. Book 151, Page 130?).

Samuel Cheever, tanner, sold his share to Jonathan Gardner, merchant, on April 3, 1792, for £200: including "the buildings Vatts tools and implements of all kinds;" the land bounded 198 feet westerly on "the highway leading from Salem Common towards Essex bridge" (now Winter Street), 285 feet northerly on land of John Gardner, 165 feet easterly on land of Benjamin Pickman and on "a way" (now Pleasant Street), and 248 feet southerly on the garden of the workhouse (now Salem Common) (E. R. D. Book 154, Page 189).

On October 7, 1825, Jonathan's heir William F. Gardner, merchant, conveyed the property "with the several buildings thereon" to William Roberts, mason, for \$7,000; the land now bounded 197'6" easterly on Winter Street, 250'6" northerly on land of Samuel Roberts and David Robbins, 171'2" westerly on Pleasant Street, and 222'2" southerly on Brown Street (E. R. D. Book 238, Page 241). William Roberts (1784-1872) began building several brick dwellings on the land (presumably fronting on the Common), but went bankrupt and the land and buildings were assigned to Isaac Cushing, jr., George H. Smith (two of his creditors), and Perley Putnam on February 18, 1826 (E. R. D. Book 241, Page 92).

The trustees subdivided the land, and on June 1, 1827, sold Lot No. 10 to Samuel Roberts of Salem, bricklayer, for \$1850. This lot, "with all the buildings thereon situated," was "bounded Southwesterly on Winter Street about fifty-eight feet ..., Northwesterly on other land of said Roberts about one hundred & fifty feet, Northeasterly on a strip of land now owned by David Robbins about forty-eight feet and Southeasterly on a new Street lately staked out [Pleasant St. Ave.] ... about one hundred & fifty feet to the first bounds ..." (E. R. D. Book 244, Page 198).

Originally from Hamilton, the Roberts family had moved to Salem early in the nineteenth century. Samuel Roberts, like William, was a charter member of the Salem Charitable Mechanic Association, founded in 1817. After purchasing this land, Samuel Roberts (1768-1835) immediately built a house at No. 23 Winter Street, which he and his wife Martha (Stone) Roberts (1775-1845) and children Nehemiah, David, Martha, Harriet, Lucy R., and Charlotte then occupied, though title was conveyed to Samuel and Martha's oldest son, Nehemiah:

BOOK 244 PAGE 307

CONSIDERATION- \$100

GRANTOR- Samuel Roberts of Salem, bricklayer

GRANTEE- Nehemiah Roberts of Salem, mariner

DESCRIPTION- "the following described lot of land with the dwelling

house and other buildings thereon viz. bounded Northwesterly on land of Nathaniel F. Safford about one hundred and fifty feet, Northeasterly on the strip of land belonging to David Robbins about forty-eight feet, Southeasterly on a New Street, twenty feet wide and running from Winter to Pleasant Street, about one

hundred and fifty feet, Southwesterly on Winter

Street fifty-eight feet or thereabouts ..."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- "... intending thereby [to convey] all the property that

was conveyed to me by a deed ... from Isaac Cushing, Perley Putnam & George H. Smith ... June 12, 1827, Book 244 Leaf 198 [except for a \$1400 mortgage to Mary Archer, Book 244, Page 198, June 12, 1827, discharged Sept. 2, 1849, to David Roberts; and a \$493.93 mortgage to John Stone, Book 245, Page 281,

June 13, 1827, discharged June 24, 1843]."

NOTE- Nehemiah Roberts was born in Hamilton on December

9, 1800. He became a master mariner, commanding the brig Edward in 1829 (which was damaged in a gale and condemned at Rio Grande in 1830). He married Hannah W. Osborn on March 13, 1833; in December, 1834 they had Caroline E. (whose children would eventually inherit No. 23 Winter Street from her uncle David). Nehemiah died at sea June 21, 1841, of fever contracted in Sumatra, while serving as first officer on the ship Caroline Augusta. Six years earlier, he had sold the house at 23 Winter Street to his

brother David:

BOOK 285 PAGE 114

DATE- July 15, 1835

CONSIDERATION- \$100

GRANTOR- Nehemiah Roberts of Salem, master mariner [and

Hannah, his wife]

GRANTEE-

David Roberts of Salem, esquire

DESCRIPTION-

"... a certain lot of land with the Dwelling House and other buildings thereon, ... bounded as follows viz., Northerly on land of Nathaniel F. Safford and Israel Ward Junior, Easterly on land of Philip Lord, Southerly on a new street, twenty feet wide, and running from Winter to Pleasant street, and Westerly on Winter street ..."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- "... intending to convey ... the premises as conveyed to me by Deed of my late father Samuel Roberts, dated July 23 A.D. 1827 ... Book 244 Leaf 307 ..."

NOTE-

Tax Valuations show that David Roberts' house at "21" (now numbered 23) Winter Street was appraised at \$1200 from 1827 through 1846; the value jumped to \$2000 in 1848, to \$2500 in 1849; and to \$3,000 in 1850, implying either a belated adjustment for 5% inflation, or that the house may have been significantly rebuilt at that time; perhaps the ell to the east represents an original portion. The Map of Salem in 1851 shows the house with its modern "footprint." In 1855 the value again rose, to \$3,500. In 1862 house and land were valued separately, with house at \$1,800 and land at \$1,600; in 1866 (the year Roberts became Mayor) the house was reappraised at \$3,000, and the land at \$1,800: was the house remodelled again? Benjamin F. Browne, writing in 1869, referred to "David Roberts' new house" (see above, p. 1), but he may have meant "new, relative to 1798." From 1868 to 1872 the house was valued at \$3,300 and the land at \$2,000 (1868-1870) and \$2,400 (1871-1872). From 1873 through 1876 the house was listed at \$3,800 and the land at \$3,000. We know that many of these increments reflect simple appreciation, as the dimensions of the land remained the same (53' x157' or 8,321 sq. ft.) throughout this entire period, and it doubled in value in 16 years.

"Portraits in the Essex Institute" tells us David Roberts "was born in Hamilton, Massachusetts, on April 5. 1804, the son of Samuel and Martha (Stone) Roberts .... He attended the Salem Latin Grammar School, where he fitted for Harvard College, from which he graduated in 1824. ... As a youth Mr. Roberts enjoyed

the companionship of Nathaniel Hawthorne, with whom he was on the most intimate terms. His chosen profession was the law, the study of which he pursued under the tutelage of the Hon. Leverett Saltonstall. At the end of three years he took offices in Salem, where he enjoyed a successful practice. ... During the later years of Mr. Roberts' life, while retaining his residence in Salem he removed his practice to Boston, where he remained until ill health caused his retirement. He was always active in Salem's civic affairs, a member of the Common Council, 1877-1879, and of the Board of Aldermen in 1851. In 1833-1834 Mr. Roberts was elected to the State Legislature, and in 1866 chosen Mayor of Salem, serving until his resignation on September 26, 1867. He was the author of several works on legal subjects, notably that entitled A Treatise on Admiralty and Prize. His home for nearly a lifetime was at 21 [now numbered 23] Winter Street, Salem, where he died, unmarried, on March 19, 1879." (Essex Institute Hist. Coll., vol. 72, pp. 141-142)

In his will, David Roberts left his estate to his sisters (who had lived at 23 Winter Street with him), and upon their deaths to his brother Nehemiah's daughter, Caroline E. (Roberts) Leach, and to her children.

Caroline Roberts married Hon. Henry C. Leach: a native of Manchester, Massachusetts, who had served in the Colorado senate and was director of Salem's Asiatic National Bank, trustee of Salem Savings Bank, president of the Salem school board, director of the Essex Institute, and president of the Boston Baptist Social Union.

Upon Caroline's death at her home on Northey Street on February 18, 1896, the following day's Salem Evening News reported, "She was a most estimable woman, respected by all with whom she came in contact, a loving wife and tender mother. She leaves a husband and two sons, Henry R. and N. Osborne Leach, both of whom have reached man's estate. She has been an attendant at the First Baptist Church for years, or at least while making her home in Salem. She was accustomed to spend her summers at her husband's residence at Manchester-by-the-Sea."

Upon inheriting the estate of 23 Winter Street, her children made the following two conveyances:

BOOK 1678 PAGE 98

DATE-

July 7, 1902

CONSIDERATION-

\$1 and other valuable considerations

GRANTORS-

Henry R. Leach [and his wife, Mabel J. Leach] and N.

Osborne Leach, of Salem

GRANTEE-

William D. Chapple of Salem

DESCRIPTION-

"... a certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon situated in said Salem and bounded and described as follows: Southwesterly on Winter Street, northwesterly on land now or late of Ives, and land now or late of Simonds, northeasterly on land of said Simonds and land now or late of Perkins and southeasterly on

Pleasant Street Avenue so called."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- "Being the same premises devised in the will of David Roberts, deceased to Carline E. Leach and her children forever, after the termination of certain life estates to the sisters of said David Roberts, all of whom are now deceased; the said Henry R. Leach and N. Osborne Leach are the only children of the said Caroline E.

Leach, now dead."

NOTE-

"This coneyance is made for the purpose of barring

the estate tail created by said will."

BOOK 1678 PAGE 99

DATE-

July 7, 1902

CONSIDERATION-

\$1 and other valuable considerations

GRANTOR-

William D. Chapple of Salem

GRANTEES-

Henry R. Leach and N. Osborne Leach of Salem

DESCRIPTION-

Same as above

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- "Being the same premises conveyed to me by Henry R.

Leach, and N. Osborne Leach by deed of even date

herewith."

NOTE-

The following year, Osborne Leach sold his half of the

estate to his brother:

BOOK 1724 PAGE 46

DATE-

November 2, 1903

CONSIDERATION-

\$1 and other valuable considerations

GRANTOR-

Osborne Leach of Manchester

GRANTEE-

Henry R. Leach of Salem

DESCRIPTION-

Same as above

PREVIOUS REFERENCE-

"Being the premises described in a deed to myself and the said Henry R. Leach from William D. Chapple dated July 7, 1902 ... Book 1678, Page 99 and in which deed I am described as N. Osborne Leach, my said name having been legally changed to that of Osborne Leach

... ."

NOTE-

Henry Roberts Leach (b. September 8, 1871), office clerk, attended Salem public schools and joined the firm of George G. Russell & Co., grain dealers, but retired several years before his death at age 39. The Salem Evening News (August 5, 1911) reported that Henry, "one of the well-known young men of Salem, died at his home, 23 Winter street, this morning, after a long illness. ... He was active always in public affairs, served three years as a member of the common council, was a member of the Republican city committee and its secretary several years, a member of the Second Corps Cadets, ... and he was a member of the Veteran Cadet association at the time of his death. He was a past grand of Fraternity lodge, I. O. O. F., a member of Essex lodge, F. & A. M., Washington Royal Arch chapter, Winslow Lewis Commandery, K. T., Salem council, Royal and Select Masters, and the Salem Billiard club....

"Mr. Leach was a most exemplary young man, one who followed close in the footsteps of his honored father. He scorned the wrong, and was ever ready to lend a hand and give his loyal support to every measure for the public good. He was of a very quiet and unobtrusive nature, and he easily made for himself friends of all with whom he came in contact, and he retained them. He will be greatly missed, and his passing is deeply regretted. He married Miss Mabel J. Mann, and she survives him. He also leaves two sons, Henry G. and Robert M. Leach; a daughter, Miss Helen Leach, and a brother, Osborne Leach."

BOOK 2171 PAGE 37

DATE-

September 4, 1912

CONSIDERATION-

\$1 and other valuable considerations

GRANTOR-

Mabel J. Leach of Winchendon, county of Worcester,

Massachusetts

GRANTEE-

Martin T. Field of Salem

DESCRIPTION-

Same as above

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- None

NOTE-

Dr. Martin T. Field was born in County Cork, Ireland, on November 9, 1875, son of John Field and Nora (O'Mahoney) Field. As a young boy he came to Beverly, where he attended the public schools. He decided upon a medical career, and attended Greenwich academy in New York, where he was salutatorian of his graduating class. He entered Villanova college, where he was a member of the baseball and football teams before receiving his A. B. degree. He acquired his M. D. degree from Harvard Medical School, graduating cum laude in 1901.

Dr. Field was appointed city physician in Salem in 1902, and a member of the board of health in 1905, whereon he exerted great effort in fighting tuber-culosis. His labors resulted in a pamphlet, "The story of tuberculosis, man's greatest enemy," which was

adopted for school use in many parts of the United States, and for which he received world-wide attention.

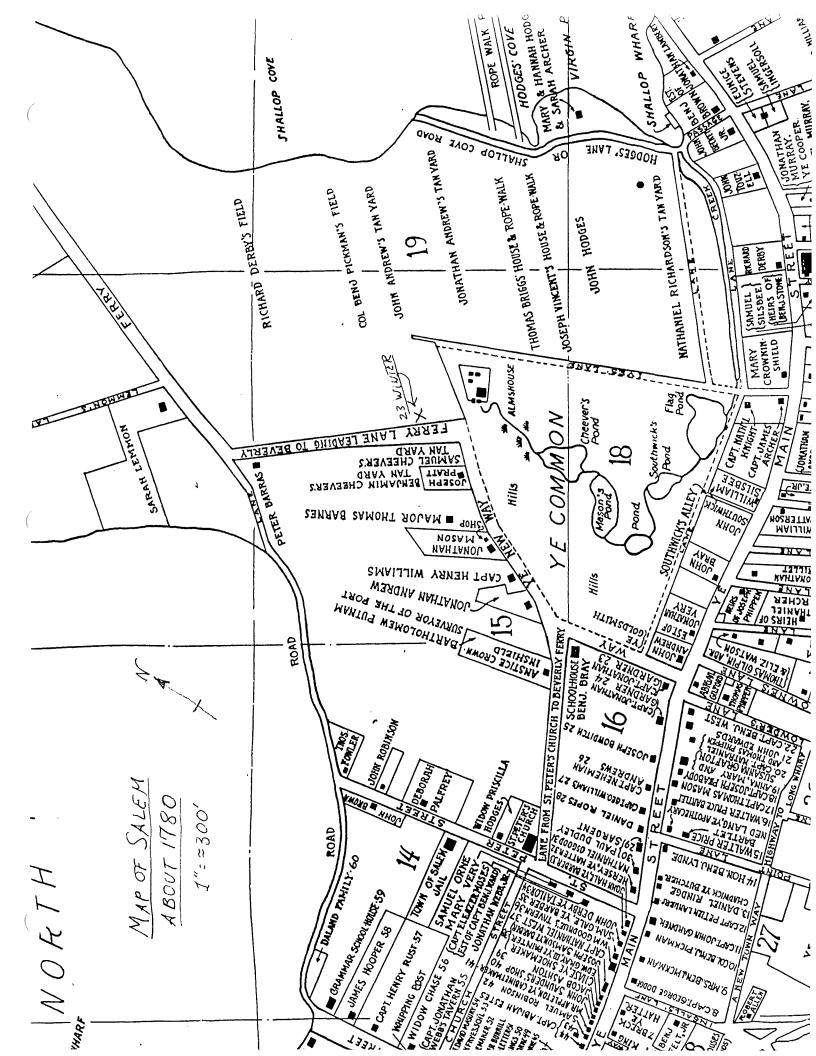
In 1906 he was appointed to the surgical staff of Salem hospital and soon became one of the leading surgeons in the North Shore area. In 1916, he gave up the general practice of medicine, concentrating entirely on the field of surgery, and in 1918 was admitted as a fellow in the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Field was also a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society for over 50 years, and was a member of the Harvard Club of Boston, the Salem Country Club, and the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

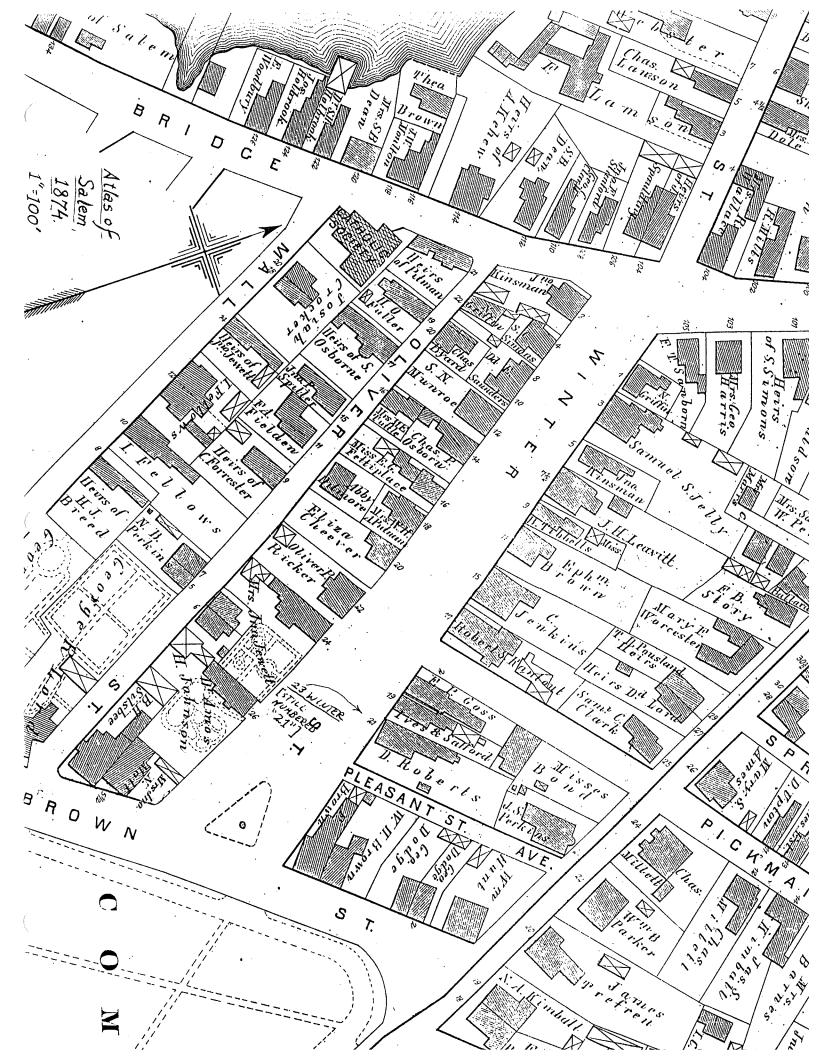
In his obituary, the <u>Salem Evening News</u> (May 23, 1958) called him the "Dean of Salem surgeons" and noted that he was observing his 56th year in medicine: "During his long service to the medical profession, [he] performed more than 15,000 operations and served on the surgical staffs of nine hospitals, including Salem, the Lynn and Union hospitals, Lynn; J. B. Thomas hospital, Peabody, where he was chief surgeon for seven years; Hunt Memorial, Danvers, where he served as senior surgeon for the past 30 years; Cable Memorial hospital, Ipswich; Anna Jacques, Newburyport; and the Addison Gilbert hospital, Gloucester. At the time of his death, Dr. Field was senior advisor at Salem hospital and senior consultant at Hunt Memorial hospital."

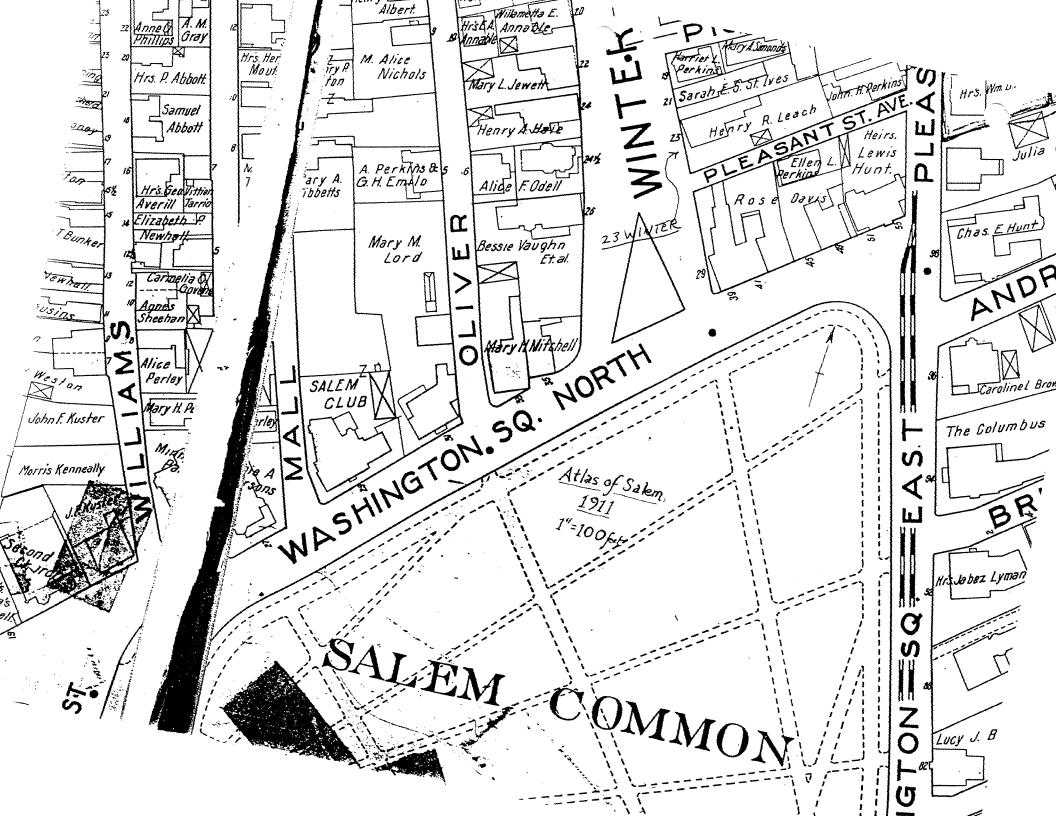
He was survived by his wife, Mary G. (Carney) Field, and by his daughter, Mary L. Field, director of volunteers at the Salem hospital, who was his executrix and inheritor of the house at 23 Winter Street.











## AD RECENT DEATHS AND FUNERALS

Henry Roberts Leach, Well Known Young Man, Died Today After Long Illness.

TWM FUNERALS YESTERDAY

mary Ruberts Lesion, Henry Richerts Leads, one of their well-known roung men of Salem, died at his home. If Winter street, this marking, after t long liftees. Mr. Leach was born in Salem Sept. R. 1871, and wis the son of the late. Henry if and Carrie (Roberts) Leach. He attended the public schools, graduating from the Phillips and the High schools. He was afterwards a member of the firm of George. tills, is wards a member of the firm of George rashed G. Russell & Co., grain dealers, but has a retired several years ago.

hich he He was active always in public af-fairs, served three years as a mem-the ful-ber of the common council, was a member of the Republican city committee and its secretary several years, a member of the Second Corps Cadeta a member of the Second Corps Cadeta nine. Years, retiring as sergeant ma-jor, and he was a member of the Veteran Cadet association at the time of his death. He was a past grand of Fraternity lodge, I. O. O. F., a member of Essex lodge, F. & A. M., Washington Royal Arch chapter,

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rell was held in St. James tended. There were tributes. The burn was in burter Mary's cemetery

DO FLES BOTHER YOU?

. Thrifty housewives de-test flies, but at this season of the year it is almost impossible to keep them out of the house. You must fight them all the time, and it will pay you to buy your ammunition of ROPES. Read the prices:

The best liquid preparation for Bed Bugs, Water Bugs, Roaches, and all vermin.

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Not poisonous to human life, but

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**NEMO INSECT** POWDER can 20¢

This is the finest qualpowder. insect Ground from closed flowers and put up in sealed boxes, so keeping the full original strength. It will do twice the work of the ordinary Dalm'ation powder.

Nemo is the

BEST FOR FLIES

ROPES RELIABLE DRUG STORES LYNN--SALEM--BEVERLY

## CHRISTIAN ARMY REORGANIZATION

A fairly well-attended meeting was held in the mission room, 4 Central street, last evening for the reorganisation of the Christian Army. Tem-porary officers were elected as fol-lows: Horacs Burton, president pro-tem.; A. E. Lord, treasurer; Rev. T.

tem; A. E. Lord, treasurer; Rev. T.
A. Tuttle, secretary.
Meeting adjourned until the first
Thursday in September, when delegates from all other societies and
church organizations will be invited.
Suggestions for a name for the new
organization will be received by the

ecretary.
A gift of a beautiful bound Oxford Bible will be given the person selecting the name most suitable. than one sends in the selected name, the one whose selection is first the opened will get the Bible.

NEW TODAY.

SPECIAL NOTICES

Highest Cash Priors
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IF you want a big car for a small price, write for a demonstration of the Mets 4 cyl. 22 h. p. runshout, full equipment. W. P. Hughes, local agent. 1 Barton sq.

Antiques.

I WANT to buy all kinds of astiques bousehold furniture, including chies and glass ware. James Nolas, 14 Washing-

Washington Honor Cris.

BEEF soup, sait den dinner ishbater all styles, broiled fresh mackered, fried clams, roast chicken, rib of beef, beiled dinner, pies, tapioca pudding, ice oream, watermeion cantaloupe. Home baket beans and brown bread.

Bed Men.
THE great settlem of Mass. will visit.
Nanimkeng tribs on the sleep of Time-tay, Aug. 5. Every member is expected to be present. Wm. H. Eling, mathem: Fred L. Prait, C. of R.

PLEASE and your artiers for proserving pluras now. See per ph. S. S. Rawell, 135 Andover st., Danvers Tel. 135-13.

FOR summer complaint and choicers, morbins Swee-De Gense is an enqualist, and a germatide and anti-formests, it stop univality conditions. Don't be without if. At druggists and a. 3.

JOHNNIE—"If you was: anything time do it yourself. If you want a sprained askie cured use illiand's returned.

SHOE HELP WANTED

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All Around Stitchers on Man's Shoes.

M. J. WORTHLEY. 198 ALLEY ST. WEST LYNN

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NEW TODAY

If you go away during the summer be sure to order The News sent to your stopping place. You have always read it at home and you'll want it while away. The cost is the same—a cent a day.

## Hot As Blue Blazes

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Blue fame is not fame. WOLF-GAS, the new highed gas which is sold in steel bottles and used just like any other gas herre in a gas store with a clear, blue fame which is literally "as bot as bine bisnes." WOLF-GAS is pure, clean, harmless gas. It is all gas. It opatains as wales or other impurity. It is non-personness and son-explosive.

## The Liquid Gas Ga., of Mass.

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## **AUCTION SALE**

## **- 1628**

IT PLEASANT

Will no mail at Prairie describing an According to the Control of Will per mad at Printing Monthly, song, of lifety be

Economic Top.





HENRY R. LEACH.

Salem council, Royal and Select Masters, and the Salem Billiard club. He was a member of the jury selected to try the alleged Lawrence grafters, but owing to his illness, he was obliged to give up, and the case went an with

Mr. Leach was a most exemplary young man, one who followed close in the footsteps of his honored father. He scorned the wrong, and was ever ready to lend a hand and give his loyal support to every measure for the public good. He was of a very quiet and unobtrusive nature, and he easigh the lly made for himself friends of all his connection with the company with whom he came in contact, and will spend the summer in Danvers. he retained them. He will be greatly missed, and his passing is deeply regretted. He married Miss Mabel J. Mann, and she survives him. He also will have charge in Mr. Larnie's abon leaves two sons, Henry C, and Robert by M. Leach; a daughter, Miss. Helen his Leach, and a brother, Osborne Leach.

Miss Mary J. G. Farrell.

The funeral of Miss Mary J G. Farthis forestoon. Requirem algn mass than celebrated, and many friends atbeautiful dional

James Biaks.

United Shoe Machinery Plant, Beverty, Aug. 5.—Henry Suilivan, tool room attendant at 1-A-N, has severed his connection with the company and

Thomas Larnie, foreman of the A-1 39 night shift, is expering his annual vacution. F. B. Folsom of A-2-46 arnes.

David Donahue of B-3 is enjoying cottage life at the Knights of Colum-tus cuttage at hilewood Lake.

ii.

3. Michael Brady of Foreman Somethurch and a department, G. f., will return church months for the for the past two weeks.

The United Show Machinery socort

ball team is at Huxbury today partic-It igniting in the Calestonia pinnte sports. Many from he 'Shue' see 41 The grave.

Some 100 reducts for the 17 5 M.

A. Reading sating rate Afforders.