

24 Andrew Street

Built for  
CAPT. JOHN FAIRFIELD  
Merchant  
1806

Home of  
THOMAS GOSS  
Spanish Mariner

Research by Robert Booth  
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## 24 Andrew Street

This house was built in 1806 for Capt John Fairfield, merchant, as the home of Thomas Goss, Spanish mariner.

Before 1800 this lot was part of a large swampy tract owned by the Andrew family; they sold it to Deacon William Browne, who operated a tannery here for several years (his son and tannery partner Benjamin had married Elizabeth Andrew). After the creation of the Common about 1800, he laid out Andrew Street, dividing his land into large lots. On 29 Sept 1802 Deacon Browne (1734-1812) for \$1000 sold a large lot and part of a nearby house to his son Benjamin Browne (172:87). Benjamin divided this tract into houselots, and on 22 May 1805 for \$290.38 granted this 35' x 98' lot to Capt John Fairfield, a wealthy Salem merchant (178:123).

Capt Fairfield (b. 1772) caused this house to be built on the lot as an investment. He had his own large mansion house, and never lived here. Almost certainly the tenant of the house was Thomas Goss, a Salem mariner, to whom Capt Fairfield sold the homestead for \$700 on 28 July 1806 (179:43).

Thomas Goss (1753-1829) was born in Spain, and as a young man came to Salem, where he followed the sea. His original surname may have been Garcia. In the summer of 1779 he married Abigail Bullock, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Stileman) Bullock of Salem, and they had at least three children who survived to adulthood. In 1791, along with hundreds of others who were not native to the town, Thomas Goss "of Spain, mariner," was ordered to leave Salem. Evidently this order was not carried out in full, and most of these people remained in Salem, living lives of value and importance to the community which had tried to expel them. Thomas Goss and family remained here.

The valuation records of Salem never acknowledged the Goss family's presence in ward two; this may have been because they rented out a floor of their house to another family, who was assessed for the taxes thereon -- although this is just speculation. Town records or no, Thomas Goss did own and occupy this house for more than 22 years. On 29 Jan 1818 Mr Goss, who never had very much money, mortgaged his homestead for \$150 to Daniel Millett, a Salem tailor (214:293). Mr Goss died of pneumonia on 30 Jan 1829, aged 75 years. His widow Abigail continued to live here on the basis of her dower right, although the mortgage was not repaid. The earliest extant Salem Directories (those compiled in 1836 and 1841) confirm the fact that Mrs Goss resided at what was then 22 Andrew Street. She died on 3 June 1843, aged 87 years.

Soon after the death of Mrs Goss, on 13 Oct 1843 Mr Millett (the mortgagee) for \$425 sold the homestead to Capt John Daniel Clark (b. 1804), a Salem sea captain (339:259). The next day Mr Millett, as mortgagee for \$425 released his rights in the mortgage to Capt Clark, and the Goss heirs for \$1 released all their rights therein as well (339:226, 254). Capt Clark, his wife Mary (Pedrick), a native of Marblehead, and their two daughters now moved into the house. Of his seafaring career, this is known: in 1854 and 1855 Capt Clark was master of the 198-ton bark Lawrence, owned by the Fabens brothers of Salem (EIHC 40:239); in 1856 he commanded the 220-ton bark Zotoff, also owned by the Fabenses (an oil painting and watercolor of this vessel are owned by the Peabody Museum of Salem), (EIHC 42:107). On 10 Mar 1864 Capt John D Clark transferred ownership of the homestead to his wife Mary, via straw M. B. Mansfield (663:180, 181).

After the death of Mrs Clark, the homestead was inherited by daughter Mrs Charlotte A Rea of Salem, who, on 1 June 1889, for \$2430, granted the premises to Mr & Mrs Edward Foley of Salem (1250:519). Mr Foley died possessed of the homestead on 1 Jan 1912 (he owned two other houses on Andrew Street), at which time this estate was valued at \$2700 (#112532). On 26 Ap 1912 the executor of Mr Foley's will sold the estate to Mrs Mary A Terrell of Salem (2145:435). She died possessed of house and land (worth \$2800) on 22 Sept 1929 (#188806). The administratrix of her estate on 17 Nov 1942 granted the homestead to Mr & Mrs William Tyburc of Salem (3318:495).

On 30 June 1944 the Tyburcs granted the premises to Mr & Mrs James T Pierce of Salem (3375:260). After the death of Mr Pierce the title came to his widow Mrs Inez Irene Pierce, and on 21 Aug 1975 for \$19,000 she granted the premises to John Hyland Jr and Peter K Strout of Salem (6174:316).

On 27 May 1977 Messrs Hyland and Strout for \$37,000 granted the premises to the current owners, Mr & Mrs Robert A Murphy of Salem (6353:295).

Robert Booth  
2 Nov 1977

Fairfield  
to  
Goss

Know all men by these Presents that I John Fairfield of Salem in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts merchant, in consideration of seven hundred Dollars \_\_\_ me by Thomas Goss of Salem aforesaid mariner the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, do hereby give grant sell and convey unto the said Thomas Goss his heirs and assigns forever, a certain piece of land situate in Salem aforesaid containing about twelve Poles and five tenths of a Pole and is bounded as follows, to wit. Beginning at the Northwesterly corner of the land of Leonie Cobin, from Thence running Northeast thirty five feet to land late Thomas Patterson decd and bounded Northwesterly on Andrews street, then turning and running southeasterly ninety eight feet to land lately Thomas Briggs decd and bounded Northeasterly on said Patterson's land, then turning and running southwesterly thirty five feet to land of Leonie Cobin, and bounded southeasterly on land formerly of Thomas Briggs, then turning and running Northwesterly Ninety eight feet to Andrews street and corner first mentioned, and bounded southwesterly on said Cobin's land, together with all the Buildings thereon standing, and the privileges and appurtenances to the same belonging. I do have and to hold the granted Premises with the appurtenances to the said Thomas Goss, and his heirs and assigns to his & their use and benefit forever. and I the said John Fairfield, for myself my heirs Executors and Administrators do hereby covenant with the said Thomas Goss, and his heirs and assigns, that I am lawfully seized in fee of the Premises; that they are free of all incumbrances, that I have good Right to sell and convey the same to the said Thomas Goss, and that I will & my heirs, Executors and Administrators shall warrant and defend the same to the said Thomas Goss and his heirs and assigns forever, against the lawful claims and demands of any persons. and I Martha the wife of the said John Fairfield for the consideration of one Dollar paid me by the said Thomas Goss, the receipt whereof I hereby acknowledge, do release all my right to Dower or thirds in said granted Premises to him the said Thomas Goss and his assigns forever. In witness whereof we the said John Fairfield and Martha his wife have hereunto set our hands and seals this twenty eighth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and six.

John Fairfield — seal  
Martha Fairfield — seal

{ signed sealed and deliv<sup>d</sup> in presence of us. }  
Lucy Hubbard, Sully Leach } Essex Salem July 29. 1806. Then

The above named John Fairfield personally appeared and acknowledged the above Instrument to be his free act and deed. before me Richard Manning Jus. Peace Essex, Dec. July 31. 1806. Recorded and examined by Amos Choate Reg.

Entry in Rev. Wm. Bentley's Diary  
for 3 Sept 1812

3. Died William Browne, a Deacon, Warden of the Second Church, æt. 79. He came into office with Capt. B. Ward at my ordination in 1783 & they have remained nearly 30 years together & died together. Mr. Browne was in his youth for some time as a youth in the family of Dr. Amos Putnam of Danvers, who died lately at a very advanced age. In his youth he learned the Taylor's trade & was distinguished by the name of his occupation from the W. B. of the first family in Salem. He practiced his trade for many years at the head of Union wharf in a small building belonging to the Browne estate & afterwards used as a School house by Mr. Watson who was heir to that part of the estate by Capt. W. Pickering. Br. Browne then removed to a shop which he bought upon a waterlot at the foot of Curtis street below Derby street, & he purchased a house in Curtis street in which he lived above 30 years & in which he died. By engaging in a little shop & of an uncommon economy, he retailed groceries & kept boarders till he purchased the part of the Andrew Estate eastward of Washington Square, of the Town swamp above the Common. Here he carried on the Tanning business for several years with one of his Sons & upon the rise of real estate he laid out Andrew street & still possesses several lots & dwelling houses as well as other buildings upon it. He married three times & had three excellent wives. The first was Mercy White with whom he lived 30 years. He then married Phoebe Ganson who married a Porter, a Carlton & for her third husband Mr. Browne. She never had any children. His last wife, who survives him, was a Collins, & the widow Orne when she married him, she also had no children. He has left 9 children with g. children & gg. children. His elder son is in good reputation. Three daughters are widows. Three live with their husbands & the youngest unmarried. In the Church, Mr. Browne provided for the tables which he never neglected & the new arrangements were so well observed that we always had a sum for charity after all expenses. He was small in person, active, & on Monday last was in every part of the town. He said, since a turn last winter, he was often faint & he fainted last week in his field. His indisposition last winter seemed lethargic inclining to paralysis but without any visible effect after his recovery. It was of the same kind when he died. He lay Tuesday & Wednesday insensible & died this day at 11 a. m. A man of the best affections to his family & much maligned.

4. Mr. Browne buried this day from the expediency of such interment. A long procession of his posterity. The whole number amount to 68 surviving, whole number 81. We now have satisfactory evidence of the surrender of Detroit with a little army under Hull. We have pleas in his favour from the public but not his official account of the surrender. It is said his men were sick, ill provided, surrounded & such like things. It is a matter of great exultation to the public Enemy & too much humiliation to our Government, not to alarm even the vilest opposers it finds at home.