

16 Cross Street

Built for John F. Wells Railroad Carpenter and his wife Maria L. Weeks in 1876

Researched & written by Robert Booth

September 2019

Historic Salem, Inc. 9 North Street, Salem, MA 01970 978.745.0799 | HistoricSalem.org © 2019 Owners & Occupants 16 Cross Street, Salem

By Robert Booth, Sept. 2019

According to available evidence, this house was built for John F. Wells, railroad carpenter, and wife Maria L. Weeks, as their family residence in 1876.

On 2 Oct. 1876 Mrs. Hannah B. Cornelius for \$800 sold to John F. Wells a lot of land running n.e. 57' 2", s.e. 52' 6" by land of the grantor, s.w. 57' 9" by Cross Street, and n.w. 53' 2" by Saunders Street (ED 961:108). The lot had been sold as part of a larger lot in 1864 to Mrs. Cornelius; at that time Cross Street was known as Short Street; in 1846 that same double lot had been sold to Alonzo Cornelius (ED 663:104, 371:122). Mr. Wells immediately took out a city permit to have this house built: two stories, wood, pitched roof, footprint 18' by 38', corner of Saunders and Cross (this and other such historic building permits, available in 2011 at the time of the "Form B" submitted to the Mass. Historical Commission, cannot now be found at the Salem city offices, per inquiry by Robert Booth).

John F. Wells had come from Portland, Maine, to Salem, as early as 1874, evidently in connection with the work he did as a car-builder for the railroad. The large Eastern Rail Road car shop and grounds, where the railroad cars were built, was situated on Bridge Street. He was then (1874) residing at 19 Mall Street, Salem, off the Common (per Salem Directory)

Wells was a native of Maine. In 1860 (per census, house 915, Portland), John F. Wells, 22, was a bachelor railroad employee in Portland living at the family home with his father Samuel, also a "railroad employee," and stepmother Mary, and his younger siblings Samuel, Ellen, and Sarah. John married Maria Louise Weeks; on Oct. 1, 1865, the couple had a child, Elizabeth, nicknamed "Birdie." In 1870 John, a carpenter, was listed with his family at Portland by the census-taker (house 371). Maria L. (Weeks) Wells was born in Portland in 1840, the youngest sister of 10 siblings, six boys and four girls.

The Salem to which the Wellses came c. 1874 was completing its transition from a seaport to a center of manufacturing and transportation. In 1870 Salem received its last cargo from Zanzibar. By then, a new Salem & New York freight steamboat line was in operation. Seven years

later, with the arrival of a vessel from Cayenne, Salem's foreign trade came to an end. After that, "the merchandise warehouses on the wharves no longer contained silks from India, tea from China, pepper from Sumatra, coffee from Arabia, spices from Batavia, gum-copal from Zanzibar, hides from Africa, and the various other products of far-away countries. The boys have ceased to watch on the Neck for the incoming vessels, hoping to earn a reward by being the first to announce to the expectant merchant the safe return of his looked-for vessel. The foreign commerce of Salem, once her pride and glory, has spread its white wings and sailed away forever" (Rev. George Bachelder in *History of Essex County*, II: 65).

John F. Wells (1838-1918), son of Samuel Wells of Portland, Maine, died in Boston on Aug. 1, 1918 (buried Evergreen Cemetery, Portland, Maine). He m. Maria Louisa Weeks (1840-1920), dtr. of Joshua F. Weeks (1793-1875) & Elizabeth Ingersoll Mitchell (1795-1883). Known issue:

- 1. Elizabeth I. M. ("Birdie"), 1866, d. 1 May 1883.
- ______, died young. *
- 3. Ada L., 1878, pianist, teacher, m. (Boston) 21 Nov. 1900 Oscar B. Gilmore, bookkeeper.

Salem continued to prosper in the 1870s, carried forward by the leather-making business. In 1874 the city was visited by a tornado and shaken by a minor earthquake. In the following year, the large new Pennsylvania Pier (site of the present coal-fired harborside electrical generating plant) began receiving large shipments of coal, most of it shipped by rail to the factories on the Merrimack. In the neck of land beyond the Pier, a new owner began subdividing the old Allen farmlands into a development called Salem Willows and Juniper Point. In the U. S. centennial year, 1876, A. G. Bell, with his laboratory in Salem, announced that he had discovered a way to transmit voices over telegraph wires.

In this decade, large numbers of French-Canadian families came to work in Salem's mills and factories, and more houses and tenements were built. The better-off workers bought portions of older houses or built small homes for their families in the outlying sections of the city; and by 1879 the Naumkeag Steam Cotton mills would employ 1500 people (including hundreds of children) and produce annually nearly 15 million yards of cloth. Shoe-manufacturing businesses expanded in the 1870s, and 40 shoe factories were employing 600-plus operatives. Tanning, in both Salem and Peabody, remained a very important industry, and employed hundreds of breadwinners. On Boston Street in 1879, the Arnold tannery caught fire and burned down.

In the 1880s, Salem kept building infrastructure; and new businesses arose, and established businesses expanded. Retail stores prospered; horse-drawn trolleys ran every which-way; and machinists, carpenters, millwrights, and other specialists all thrived. In 1880, Salem's manufactured goods were valued at about \$8.4 million, of which leather accounted for nearly half.

Per the records of the 1880 census-taker (house 179) the occupants of this house were John F. Wells, 42, working as a carpenter, wife Maria L., 39, and daughters Elizabeth, 13 (she had a case of measles at the time) and Ada L. two. By 1882 he had become a car inspector for the Eastern Rail Road and was working in East Boston (see 1882-3 Salem Directory).

On 1 May 1883, Birdie (Elizabeth) Wells died of hepatitis at the age of 16 years, 7 months. One can only imagine the grief of her parents and younger sister Ada, five.

In April, 1886, Mr. Wells sold the homestead to William F. Fischer, of Salem; the bounds recited in the deed were the same as those in the 1876 conveyance (ED 1171:285).

The Wellses left Salem and did not return. They moved to Boston, where John would remain a railroad car inspector. Between 1900 and 1910 they would move to Melrose (see 1910 census), where they may have remained. Mr. Wells would die on Aug. 1, 1918, aged 80 years; his widow, Maria, survived him and would die in 1920.

The new owner, William F. Fischer, a Civil War vet, was married and a father. He earned his living as a tailor.

Born in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1835, probably christened Wilhelm, William was the son of Georg Fischer and Fredericka Muller. He and his parents came to Salem between 1856 and 1858; and William was a Salem tailor when, on Oct. 1, 1861, he enlisted in the 23rd Mass. Infantry Regiment as a private, assigned to Company F. He was promoted to corporal, and was mustered out Oct. 13, 1864. In 1890 he would get a pension from the government. The 23rd was a Salem regiment, known as "Whipple's Jewels," and has a memorial at the head of Winter Street, near the Common.

As a brave soldier on a three-year enlistment, and a member of Company F, Mr. Fischer "took part in all the battles of the regiment" (per obituary, Salem Evening News). The 23rd first fought at Roanoke Island, NC, in February, 1862, and next month was engaged at New

Berne, NC, a bloody conflict where Lt. Col. Henry Merritt of Salem was killed. They would fight in seven more battles that year. Early in 1863 the men sought the enemy around Charleston, SC; and they ended the year at Newport News, without having seen combat. They took a steamer to Portsmouth, Virginia, early in 1864—William was promoted to corporal in January—and in April, as part of the Star Brigade, under General Hackman, they fought at Smithfield, taking casualties. On May 16, at Drury's Bluff, the Brigade was outflanked in the fog and in the battle had 23 men killed and 51 taken prisoner, including General Heckman. In June, 1864, at Cold Harbor, Virginia, they fought under Gen. U. S. Grant. The well-entrenched Rebels slaughtered the Union soldiers, thrown against them in futile charges. At night William's tent was pierced by three bullets, and in action he was hit in the back by a flat piece of a spent shell (per obituary). After fighting in minor actions through the summer, Corporal Fischer was at the end of his enlistment and was released from service in September, 1864, just before the regiment was hit with an epidemic of vellow fever. How happy he must have been to get home!

He resumed his career as a tailor. In September 9, 1867, in Salem, William Fischer, 31, married Mary Philoma Ryan, 25, the daughter of John & Catherine Ryan and a native of North Whitefield, Maine. He opened a merchant tailor's shop at 218 Essex Street, selling fabrics and tailoring clothes; and he would conduct this business until just six months before his death in 1910 (per obituary).

William Frederick Fischer (1835-1910), born 5 Oct. 1835, Stuttgart, Germany, son of George Fischer & Fredericka Muller, died 28 Aug. 1910. He m. 9 Sept. 1867 Mary Philoma Ryan (1838-1910), b. February, 1838, dtr. of John & Catherine Ryan of N. Whitefield, Maine; died 25 May 1910 (buried Greenlawn Cemetery with husband). Known issue:

- 1. George Francis, 1868-1908, m. 1896 Helen T. Short; had issue.
- 2. _____, died young.
- 3. Annie Martina, Nov. 1880, died 1935 at Andover.
- 4. Gertrude, Oct. 1882, m. Albert Curtis; died 1944.

By the mid-1880s, after the Fischers moved in here at #16, Salem was a robust manufacturing city, with thousands of people in need of tailoring services—so presumably William did not lack for customers. The Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company mills at the Point employed 1400 people producing 19 million yards of cotton cloth annually, worth about \$1.5 million. The city's large shoe factories stood downtown behind the Railroad Depot and on Dodge and Lafayette Streets. A jute bagging company prospered with plants on Skerry and English Streets; its

products went south to be used in cotton-baling. Salem factories also produced lead, paint, and oil. At the Eastern Rail Road yard on Bridge Street, cars were repaired and built new.

In July, 1886, the city was roiled by a massive strike against the leather factory owners in Salem and Peabody. For several months, thousands of workers followed the leadership of the national Knights of Labor, remaining off the job and holding out for a ten-hour day and other concessions; but the manufacturers imported men to do the work, some from Maine and Canada, and kept going. The Knights paid the striking workers at first, but eventually ran out of money; and by October and November the cold weather was causing a problem for street-level strikers who had families to feed and keep warm at home. Violence was common: blood flowed, and bones were broken. One man died. The strikers finally lost, and many of them lost their jobs and their homes.

In 1887 the Salem streets were first lit with electricity, replacing gaslight. The gas works would move from Northey Street to a larger site on Bridge Street in 1888, opposite the Beverly Shore.

The Fischers' son, George F., got a job as a salesman for the National Lead Company, headquartered in Boston, for whom he worked his whole life (per obituary). He was an amateur actor, and in March, 1891, appeared in the farce, "A Box of Monkeys" (per "The Visitor," 11 March 1891, p. 191). He evidently went to work in Manhattan, where he met Helen T. Short, 25, a native of Brunswick, NJ. In June, 1896, they were married; and by 1897 they resided at 15½ Cross Street, across from his parents and sisters.

More factories and more people required more space for buildings, more roads, and more storage areas. This space was created by filling in rivers, harbors, and ponds. The once-broad North River was filled from both shores, and became a canal along Bridge Street above the North Bridge. 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 (the Custom House had opened there in 1805) disappeared under the pavement of Riley Plaza and New Derby Street, and some of its old wharves were joined together with much in-fill and turned into coal0-yards and lumber-yards. Only a canal was left, running in from Derby and Central Wharves to Lafayette Street.

In 1900 William Fischer, 63, who had his tailor shop at 218 Essex, lived here (#16) with wife Mary, 62, and daughters Annie, twenty, who did not work, and Gertrude, 18, a stenographer at the lead company where

her older brother, George, worked as a salesman. George, 31, then resided nearby at #2 Saunders with wife Helen, 31, and their children W. Frederick, 2, and Mary, 1 (per census). The George Fischer family moved to 28½ Gardner Street. In November, 1908, after a couple of weeks of headaches, George, 39, died on the 21st of a cerebral hemorrhage, leaving his wife and children.

Salem kept growing. The Canadians were followed in the early 20th century by large numbers of Polish and Ukrainian families moving into the Derby Street neighborhood, and by Sicilians, in the High Street neighborhood.

William F. Fischer made his last will on June 18, 1910, giving all of his property to his daughter Annie M. Fischer, unless she should marry, in which case it was to go in thirds to her, her sister Gertrude, and the children of their deceased brother George. After Annie's death, the property was to go to the others named. William died in his 75th year, on August 28, 1910, after a short illness, mainly of prostate cancer. He left his wife Mary and two adult children. His daughter-in-law Helen, widowed, and her children had moved to then-328 Lafayette Street. But soon, evidently, they would move into #16.

George Francis Fischer, 1868-1908 (died 21 Nov. 1908), m. 1896 Helen T. Short, 1868-1948? (evidently died Swampscott, 29 March 1948). Known issue:

- 1. William Frederick, 1898, m. Mary E.
- 2. Mary F., 1899, m. Rufus H. Knight of Marblehead.
- 3. Karl, 1902, a bachelor.

By the eve of World War One, the bustling, polyglot city supported large department stores and factories of every description. People from the surrounding towns, and Marblehead in particular, came to Salem to do their shopping; and its handsome government buildings, as befit the county seat, were busy with conveyances of land, lawsuits, and probate proceedings. The city's politics were lively, and its economy was strong.

On June 25, 1914, in the morning, in Blubber Hollow (Boston Street at Proctor), a fire started in small wooden shoe factory. This fire soon raced out of control, for the west wind was high and the season had been dry. 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 of

The Point. Despite the combined efforts of heroic fire crews from many towns and cities, the fire overwhelmed everything in its path: the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company factory complex exploded in an inferno. At Derby Street, just beyond Union, 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 had insurance, some did 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 they undertook several urban-renewal projects (including Hawthorne Boulevard, where old houses were removed and streets widened).

In 1920, #16 Cross was occupied by the widow Helen T. Fischer, 46, and her children W. Frederick, 22, a bank auditor, Mary, 20, a bank clerk, and Karl, 18, the office manager of a lead company (1920 census, house 83). Their aunts (co-owners) lived in Andover: Annie M. Fischer and Gertrude, wife of Albert Curtis, who worked at a lead works. The sisters lived out their lives in Andover.

In December, 1924, electricians began wiring the house, evidently for the first time (ED 2626:99).

Salem was once again a thriving city; and its tercentenary in 1926 was a time of great celebration. The Depression hit in 1929, and continued through the 1930s. Salem, the county seat and regional retail center, gradually rebounded.

In 1930 (per census) this house (#16) was the home of the widow Helen T. (Short) Fischer, 59, and sons William F., 32, assistant manager of a lead works, and Karl, 28, manager of the same. Evidently they had taken over the lead works with which their father had been associated.

In May, 1942, the Fischers sold the property to Richard L. & wife Margaret A. Freyman (ED 3293:270).

Salem prospered after World War II through the 1950s and into the 1960s. General Electric, Sylvania, Parker Brothers, Pequot Mills (formerly Naumkeag Steam Cotton Co.), Almy's and Newmark's and Webber's department stores, various other retailers, and Beverly's United Shoe Machinery Company were all major local employers.

In April. 1946, the Freymans sold the premises to Thomas M & James J. Kelly (ED 3457:418). In Oct. 1963 Kelly sold to Stanley & Shirley Mikulski (ED 5114:513). In March 1964 Mikulski sold to Aleksy & Marie Skomurski

(ED 5158:253). In September 1997 Skomurski sold to Skomurski Family Trust (ED 16873:263). Since then: July 2004 Skomurski to Jukka P. Heikka and to Colleen F. Woods; Feb. 2012 Heikka and Woods to Michael Phillips & Cynthia Glennon.

Glossary & Sources

A figure like (ED 123:45) refers to book 123, page 45, Essex South Registry of Deeds.

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

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

MSSCRW refers to the multi-volume compendium, Mass. Soldiers, Sailors, & Marines in the Civil War, 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, and the Salem Directory and later Naumkeag Directory, with data 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 newspapers, 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

Know all men by threse Greents that & Hannah & Cornelius of John in 16 & Cornelius the County of Geres and Commonwealth of Massachuretts in consideration of by February eight humbred dollars to one paid by gotneth wiells of said its how the receipt while. of is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant bargain, sell, and somey unto the paid wells this heirs and assigns forever, a certain lot of land literate in said Paleno Grunded and described as follows. Beginning or Saunders street at a point fifty shree feet two inches from lower street, there aumning North eneterly gifty seven feet and two unclass; therees turning and running douth. exeterly by other land of brantors fifty two feet and eige inches; thence turns ing and running Forthwesterly on brosst street fifty seven feet and nine functions to Samuelers street; themes by said Samuelers street offty three fact and two inclus to the point begun at Being a part of the premises convey ed to me by Williams O. Thayer by deed dated March the A.D. 1864, and recording with been deeds to Deets B. 663 Se. 104, to which reference may be had . To have and to hold the granted primites, with all the privileges and appentenances-thereto belonging to the pairs point John F. Wells and his heirs and assigns, to their ours we and belief former. and but berely, for myery and my heirs executors and administrators covenant with the said grantee and his heirs and assigns that I am lawfully reized in free imper of the grantest premites, that they are free from all incumbrances that I have good right to sale and convey the harme as aforesaid, and that dwill. and my heirs, executors, and administrators shall Warrant and Degends the came to the said grantee and his heirs and resigns fremer against the lawfue claims and demands of all persons. In withrest where of the said Hannah Dr. Cornelius hereunto set my hand and esal this sword day of October in the geowone-thousand right hundred and swenty sin Blannah B. Cornelius Figured exaled and delivered > in greener of 6. Fladymonds Sbournovinealth of Abossachusetts. Essesses Oct 2nd 1876. Then personally appeared the above named Farmaly & Commelius and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be her from act and dead before me J. A. Gillis gustice of the Trace Essen, es. Heid. Oct. 3.1876. 4 m. before 9 A. No. Fee. 860. by Gilm Thoun Seg.

961.108

Therow all men by those Presents was I, John J. Wills of J. F. Wells Falen, in the boundy of Eases and bounsurealth of Moresachusetts, W. F. Fischer. in consideration of one dollar and other valuable considerations park. dry William F. Fischer of said Felow, the perceips whereof is hereby actuonibages, do hordry give, grand, bangain, sell and convey unto the said William F. Frocker a certain lot of Sund situate he said Falan Counted and described as of allows, viz. Requiring on Tambons street as a point fifty there feet two inches from lande Obient, throng running north existing lifty seven feet and two indies; there terring and running south easterly by land now of Late of Cornelius fifty two feet and six inches; themse terming and running south westerly on brooms street fifty seven fast and mine inches to Jamesers street, theme by said Familian street fifty those feet and two in these to the point begun at, mouning thousing to convey the damp premises conveyed to me by and of Harmah B. Cornelius by dood dolor October second, A.D. 1876. and reserreded in the tenses (Fouth) Registry of Deads, Book 761 deaf 108. To have and to hold the granted framers, with all the privileges and appuredenunces thereto belonging, to the baid William &. Finder and his theirs und assigns, to their owners and behoof forever . And I do hereby , for myself and my heire, excerutors, and administrators, coverant with the baid granter and his being and according that I am hunguely seized in you simply of the granted premises, that they was free from all inauntrances, that I have good right to sell and comey the same as aforeraid; and that I will and my hairs, revisentis, and administratoris elack warrant and defend the same to the said grantee and his Feirs and assigns forever against the lawful dains and demands of all parsons, And for the consideration aforesaid I Mouria & Wells wife of the said John F. Wells, do hereby releafer and the said grantes and his breica and assigns otheright of or belook down and homestoad in the granted premises. On will ness whereof I the said folm F. Wells because set my Rund and seal this twenty sixth day of April in the your one throwward eight hundred and eighty . lix. John J. Wells digned, sealed, and obit-a great in presence of Maria de Wells W" Ma Soil to love. I doomnome atthe of about actives to say so. April 26.1886. Then personally appeared the above named John It Wells and accumuladged the foregoing instrument to the his free ast and deed, defore me.

1171:285

Curtis et al to Freyman et ux

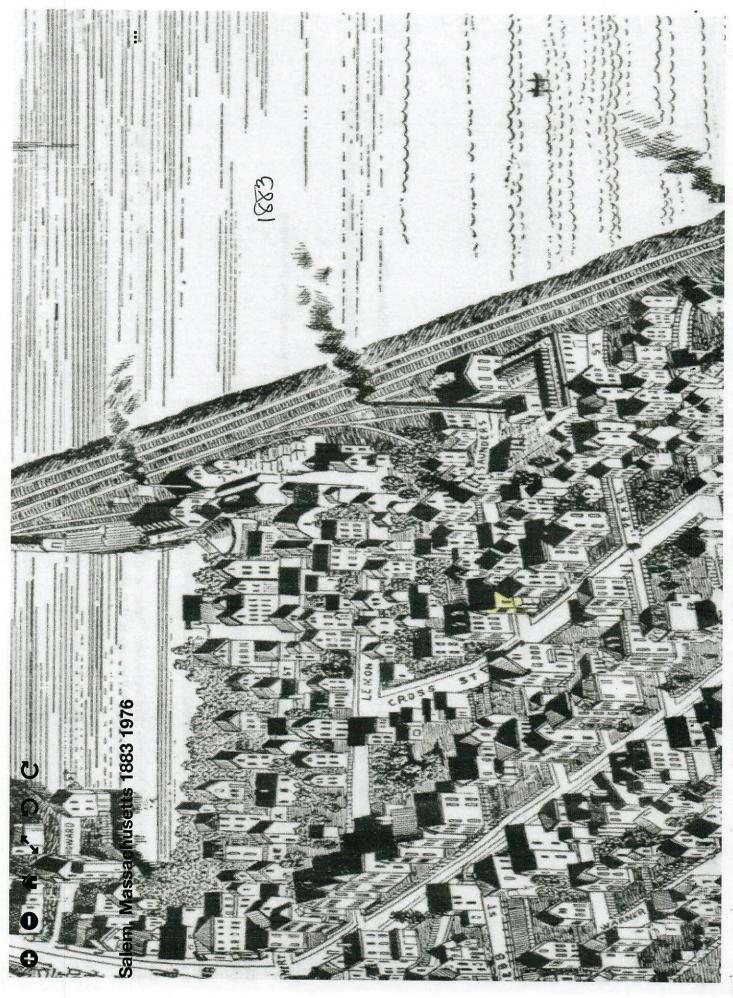
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3293:

We, Gertrude F. Curtis, widow, of Andover, Rufus H. Knight and Mary F. Knight, his wife, in her right, both of Marblehead, Karl Fischer, being unmarried, of Swampscott, all in Essex County, Massachusetts, and William F. Fischer, of St. Johnsbury, Vermont for consideration paid, grant to Richard L. Freyman and Margaret A. Freyman, his wife, and to the survivor of them as tenants by the entirety, both of Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts with QUITCLAIM COVENANTS ; he land in said SALEM with the buildings thereon bounded and described as follows: Beginning on Saunders Street at a point 53 feet 2 inches from Closs Street, thence turning and running Northeasterly 57 feet 2 inches; thence turning and running Southeasterly by land now or late of Corneliu! 52 feet 6 inches; thence turning and running Southwesterly by Cross Street 57 feet 9 inches to Saunders Street; thence turning and running by S unders Street 53 feet 2 inches to the point of beginning. See deed to William F. Fischer from John F. Wells dated April '26, 1886 and recorded in the Eslex South District Registry of Deeds, Book 1171, Page 288; the said Gertruib F. Curtis being the daughter of the said William F. Fischer and the said, Mary F. Knight, Karl Fischer and William F. Fischer being the grandchilds an of the said William F. Fischer, deceased. Also see probate on Annie M. Fischer, deceased. Subject to the taxes for the year 1942 which are to be apportioned. I, Mary E. Fischer, wife of said William F. Fischer release to said grantee all rights of dower and homestead and other interests therein. WITNESS our hands and common seal (seal) Karl Fischer this 14th day of May 1942. Rufus H. Knight THE COMMONWEALTH William F. Fischer OF MASSACHUSETTS Gertrude F. Curtis Essex ss. May 14, Mary F. Knight 1942 Then person-) Mary E. Fischer ally appeared the above named Karl Fischer and ack owledged the foregoing instrument to be his free act and deed, before me Esther M. Murphy Notary Public

My commission expires June 5, 1942.

Essex ss. Received May 15, 1942. 59 m. past 11 A.M. Recorded and Examined



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Salem, Massachusetts 1883 1976

Full Title

Salem, Mass. / L. R. Burleigh, del. J. Lyth, eng

Contributors

JLyth

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Publication Date

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Historic Urban Plans

Subject

Salem (Mass.) -- Aerial views -- Facsimiles (/digital/collection/agdm/search/searchterm/Salem%20(Mass.)%20--%20Aerial%20views%20--%20Facsimiles/field/subjec/mode/exact/conn/and)

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Perspective map not drawn to scale.; Facsimile.; Bird's-eye-view.; "Reproduced ... from a lithograph in the Essex Institute, Salem, Massachusetts."; Includes inset of "The Willows" and an index to points of interest.; Originally published: Syracuse, N.Y.: D. Mason & Co., 1883.

Type (DCMI)

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IVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

SALEM

16 CROSS STREET

Area(s)

Form No.

EI,IV

SAL.2883

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.	
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement for	orm.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Located at the northwest corner of Cross Street and Saunders Street, 16 Cross Street is a 2 ½-story dwelling with a cross gable plan. It rests on a brick foundation and is sheathed in wood shingles which do not appear to be original and may obscure cornerboards. The overhanging eaves end in cornice returns and are decorated by wooden brackets with pairs of brackets at the top of where there were once cornerboards. The rectangular window openings contain modern replacement 1/1 sash. The attic opening in the gable-front has a slightly curved cap. At the rear of the south elevation there is a second story, three-sided oriel window. The entry to the building is through the single-story enclosed porch at the junction of the two gables. It is also shingled with decorative brackets and rests on a brick foundation.

This house has seen only minimal alteration since its construction in the later 19th century. It is a contributing property in the Bridge Street Neck Historic District, listed on the National Register on July 19, 2002.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

There is no building on this site at the time of the 1874 map; the vacant lot was then owned by E. Woodbury. According to City Records on October 23, 1876 John F. Wells was granted a building permit to construct this two-story, wooden dwelling with pitched roof, measuring 18' x 38', at the corner of Cross and Saunders Streets. The first directory listing found for the address indicates that John F. Wells was living here in 1878. He was a carpenter for the Eastern Railroad Car Shop. The 1880 Census shows Wells was then 42 years old, living with his wife Maria and two daughters, one of whom had measles. By 1888 the house had been purchased by William Fischer. Fischer had emigrated from Germany in the 1850s and worked as a tailor. In 1900 he was 63 years old, living with his wife Mary and two daughters, Annie and Gertrude. Fischer is still shown as the owner on the 1911 map. By 1920 the house was occupied by his widow Helen and their three children. In 1930 Helen Fischer was still living here with her sons William and Karl, both of whom worked at the lead works. The property was sold by the Fischer family in 1942. Thomas Kelly owned by the house from 1946 to 1963. It was purchased by Marie Skomurski in 1964.

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U.S. Census, 1830-1930.

Walker Lithograph and Publishing Company. Atlas of the City of Salem, Massachusetts. Boston: 1911.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts atate very STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should a PLACE OF DEATH Salu Mo. 16 longs St.; 2 Ward) [If married or divorced woman or widow give maiden name, also name of husband.] RESIDENCE Registered No. 50 8 PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS A PERMANENT RE MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED (Write the word) M. daye COLOR OR RACE DATE OF DEATH (Day) male DATE OF BIRTH (Day) (Year) I HEREBY CERTIFY that I attended deceased from of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be str DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. See instructions on back of certificats. June , 1909, to aug 28, 1910, 7 AGE If LESS ther TE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK-THIS IS that I last saw home alive on Que 28, 1910, I day, hrs. and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at The CAUSE OF DEATH+ was as follows: (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work. Cystilis + nephritis (b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer). BIRTHPLACE (State or country) Contributory.. II BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) PARENTS LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (FOR HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS, TRANSIENTS, OR At place of death yrs mos. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (Blate or country) Every item CAUSE OF Important. Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death? former or THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLED PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL DATE OF BURIAL 1 (Address) \ L Con ADDRESS U Geo. W.J.u Salem



Ladies and Misses Sizes--White or Grey-Only

Airaordinary Value They're made et the Self yarns They're made of the self yarns; call style with prockets Most Sweaters at \$2.98 are their equal, \$1.98

Coat s des similar i ent at \$2.98. \$3.98. \$5 to \$6.75.

Sweaters.. Early Autumn Showing of Black Dress Goods



\$1.25 New Broadcloths, \$1. \$1.50' \$2. \$2.50. \$3.00 who have been interested in it giving eastern corner of the 'teranda up their spare time to this work of year.

A feature lacking at the present and its accommodations next time, but something that will be the Ward Three residents feel added as soon, as possible is a con-title ward three residents feel added as soon, as possible is a con-title ward three residents feel added as soon, as possible is a con-title ward three residents feel added as soon, as possible is a con-title ward three residents feel ward three residents feel ward three residents feel ward three residents feel will be more any went in so the bungalow, fifthe inside of the little will be more as when it is en house has yet to be finished, but his minished and in appealing next-w VETERAN TAILOR OFFER MADE BY

the Rebellion.

NEW BILL AT THE
THEATRE COMIOUE

The new pictures that the Theatre Comique management will offer for the first three days of the yeak will be expiration. The heading picture on the first three days of the yeak will be expiration. The heading picture on titled, "Old Glory," is a pictorial war, has ever been shown before the publications. The heading pictures that complete the bill are also very good, Among three are "Neille"s farm, "When we were in our teene," "Ancient mariner, and three grandchildren.

The new pictures that the Theatre complete the publication of the regiment. He was also that so the regiment as sold and the special points of the publication of the publication of the publication. The heading picture on titled, "Old Glory," is a pictorial war, has ever been shown before the publication of the publication of the publication. The heading pictures that complete the bill are also very good, Among three are "Neille"s farm, "wild story with a new ending," "When we were in our teene," "Ancient mariner, and "Ace of hearts." In the nuslical portion of the program, Mr. Grant will sing a catchy ballad entitled, "You look just like the cell it need to go to school with."

Now, Neille N. wife of Joseph R. Towle, formerly of Salem, died at her word of the screen of the proposal of the cell of the proposal of the cell of the proposal of the proposal of the proposal of the cell of the proposal of th

Mrs. Joseph R. Towle.

Mrs. Nellie N. wife of Joseph R. Towle, formerly of Salem, dled at her home in Lowell. Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. Towle left Salem about 14 years ago, and had lived in Lowell ever since. Mrs. Towle was a member of Kenoza lodge. D. of P. of Salem. The funeral will be held from her late home Monday at 2 P. M., and the burial will be at Hampton, N. H.,

Mrs. Phoebe C. Holbrook.

Mrs. Phoebe C. Holbrook.

In the death of Mrs. Phoebe C. Holbrook who pussed away Monday last there is removed from our midst on who will be greatly missed not only from the home where she was the centre of every loving thought any care, but also by the many friends will have grown accustmed to blook for her familiar face at the window and the processes. have grown accustomed to flook for her familiar face at the window and receive her pleasant smile and kindly wave of the hand by way of greeting as they passed her door from day to

day.
Although kept in by her infirmities she nevertheless remained cheerful and bright, retaining always her keensense of humor and interest in all things, ever welcoming in her own gental manner all those who came to see her.

Though gone from our sight yet her memory will still live. A Friend, Salem, Aug. 28.

Mrs. Mary Emmerton.

Mrs. Mary Emmerton of this colled at the Beverly hospital is night after a short illness. She will taken seriously ill while stopp with her nice, Mrs. Mary E. New of Salem, at her cottage in-liamite and was taken to the hospital. Mrs. Mary E. Mew of Salementon of Baltimore, but hived in this city since the death her husband. She leaves beside hisee in finise in finis city a sister in Atlan Georgia, and two sisters in Detri Michigan. The late Elizafeth Leavitt of Salem was her sister. I funeral will be held at 17 Press street, Salem, Wednesday at oclocks.

Try an adv. in The News today; it will bring results.

ANSWERS CALL REV. FR. MURPHY

St. John's Free!

FUNERALS VIEWS ON SCHOOLS

William F. Fischer, known to at least three generations of Salemites as the Essex street affor, died at his home. 16 Cross street, yesterday late Corcention church, spoke on the illness, during which he, was a great sufferer. He had conducted a merchant tailor shop on Essex street for over 40 years, and retired from business not over six months age. He was born in Stuttgart, Wurterabers, Cet. 5, 1835. Just three monts to a day before his death his beloved with whole with benome the company F. 25d Massa-chusetts regiment. Whipple's iewels."

Oct. 1, 1861: was gromologic to corporal in January, 1864, and was discharged at the expiration of the regiment's term of service. In Oct. 1, 1861: was gromologic to corporal in January, 1864, and was discharged at the expiration of the regiment's term of service. In Oct. 1, 1861: was gromologic to corporal in January, 1864, and was discharged at the expiration of the regiment's term of the critical is determined more day than by his intellectual training, the leaves the character.

Don't fail to procure Mrs. Winslessorthing Syrup for your Children we cutting teeth. It soothes the costens the sums. allays all pain, cwind colic. and is the best remedy diarrhoes. Twenty-frve, cents a light

Mfg. Cut Price Shoe Store.

216 ESSEX STREET, SALEM

SPECIAL

FOR THIS WEEK

HALF PRICE SHOE SALE ON fords, 34 \$2

Men's Russia and Gun Metal fords, 55 \$2

Ladies' White Canvas Oxford 95¢ and \$1

Tadies' Russia Pumps France, 34 \$1

Ladies' Gun Metal Patent Oxfords and Pumps, 33 and

Ladies Gun Metal, Pate Oxfords and Pumps, \$4

Misses and Children's White vas Oxfords and Plimps, 75 and Special, Children's Barefoot dais, 4-8

dals, 4-8 Special Children's Barefoot tals, 81/11 Special Children's Barefoot dals 11½-2

William F. Fischer, Fought for Will Send All Boys Who Wish His Country in the War of High School Education to

DEATHS,

authorities all predict a great popularity of black for the coming fall and winter season.

AST UNITARIAN UNION SERVICE

lev. Peter Goldsmith Preached

chosen, the service was considered by Rev. Feter H. Goldsmith, was the the first church, the support had for the brocking doubt. Dr.

y foreness. The sached by Rev. Peter II. Goldsmith. D. of the First church, these needs in D. of the First church, these needs in T. of the First church, these needs in T. Anol, when they saw Him. They saw Him. they sake the Him. but some doubted. "It is interesting to more." Dr. oldsmith same "that there is more lith in relation than is to be found anything close. In Hiese wards of its left, the idea is well expressed, he majority worshiped the infinitity outled. It is well that Thomas to is well that there is doubt. ubted, it is well that there is doubt. "The Listory of early Christianity

Cut Out Breakfast Cooking

Easy to start the day cool and comfortable if

Post Toasties

are in the pantry ready to serve right from the package. No cooking, required; just add some ereamcald a little sugar.

r Bspecially pleasing these Summer mornings herries or fresh fruit.

One can feel cool in hot weather on proper food.

"The Memory Lingers"

FOSTEM CEREAL COZ LIGA Battle Creek, Mich.

was written by the orthodox, casy yond is but we can believe that it will believers. We do not know all about be fit for God's children, and we are Thomas. No one has ever written willing to lie down on the sustaining the history of doubt. The history of thought and feeling of God's goodness relicious deuth would be very interest. If we have experieded God's goodness may be in the attitude of liberal Chriss we know that we shall be where thantly the doubters have usually been (Sal is."

linteresting Sermon on "The Racking Doubt."

The racking Doubt. There is no need of doubt. Many been that there is no need of doubt. Many few been burned because they have been burned to doubt. Many few been burned to doubt. There has been a traditional to doubt. The new pictures that the Thea the because of those who dared to doubt. Only by the been burned to doubt. The beat burned to doubt. Only by the been burned to doubt. The

Honest, Racking Doubt

test doubt, the racking doubt, tiete hes more faith than in half the ereads. We ought to say Thomas, blessed those who

and "Ace of hearts."
In the musical portion of the pre-serom, Mr. Grant will sing a catchy ballad entitled, "You look just like the girl I used to go to school with," while Miss Tebbetts will render a pleasing song entitled, "Twinkle little ster" We like to be with the majority, Doubt is characteristic of the age. There is a greater number of doubt-ing people than ever before who dare Doubt is the hand-

to stand alone. Doubt is the hand-meiden of truth.

The people of this time who doubt maiden of totals.

"The people of this time who doubt are among the best people of the world, people of the world, people of the world, people of the purest minds and lives. If trees ever was bundlity it less in the minds of men and women of this age who dealt. They are truth seekers and bamanitarisms. Such doubt is helpful but it is helpful only when it stirs the age. If there in any blight, it is only when men wring their hands. The harm is not in the doubt, but that prepile should remain in the doubt.

"Many people who have attained freedtlinking have stopped. They are like those who have been in the woods and have felled the trees and do not think to opered the stumps, bear away, the underlinesh, till the soil or refer new benighings in which the may enter, and may say further that they will build still more first they will build still more

Beautiful Structures. What we need is to come out of our doubt, to place beyond it, to come into

curity. "Doubt as to the existence, the nu Thought as to the existence, the nuture of God, whether or not He communicates with us, doubt of-life moral character, doubt whether He carestor us of this planet, and concern as to what shall happen to us next year, are materials for doubt. How shall we face bur doubts? There are three kidns of things: Those which we know, which we shall doubt.cand which we shall never know. The first are the things that are truly necessary and those we doubt and shall never know are not necessary. There is proof present every

sary. There is proof present every-where that goodness is best. We need squarely to reject much. What is where that goodness is besta. We need squarely to reject much. What is called doubt is oftentimes uncertainty. Why should we care to disturb ourselves about many things of no account to us? (What we want are the essentials. There are some doubts that we will have to settle by acknowledging that they can not be demonstrated. How can we demonstrate life? How can we prove God? (Men have tried, and have failed. Goff can not be demonstrated.) but the den he have tried, and have failed. Got can not be demonstrated, but He dan be experienced.
"We can not tell what the life be-

Dinner Sets

\$1.00 to \$5.00

Our line of Decorated Dinner Sets is one of the largest Essex County to select from. We have over 30 stock patterns that can be matched for years. Other Dinner Sets of 112 pieces, from \$7.50.

Geo. W. Fuller

275 Essex Street, Salem If you have a room to lef advertise it in The News.

Thanksgiving dinner will be prepared on a I range this year. Our sales of them have been reasing every day. You will save a lot of rry by getting a range that will bake, broil ect in every detail before you begin your

J.L. LOUGEE CO.

Complete House Furnishers. 77-281 Essex St., Cor. Crombie-St.

222222222

EHEAD. DANVERS BEAT **WOBURN HIGH**

chanics Fair Will tht After a Suciness.

OCAL

ov. 21-Although there

ane is building a new McQuestson on the s house at the Neck. Junior Drum corps, headquarters to the corner of Union and

has closed his store street. be paid at the Nation-

Tuesday next.
3' club of the Univernad made plans for a
be held in the vestry An orchestra will be st evening, and the of Salem will present

ent the second night.
election of officers of
urse association will be afternoon in the Epis-

the Churches.

vice will be held in St. consist of morning Haynes 3, a sermon by the rector, in at 10.30. The holy will be calebrated at the Mobbs of M ay hour, 9 o'clock.

S.—Rev. William Parteucharist at 8. Morning
sermon at 10.30. Even-

and address at 7.
'reaching by Rev. J.
ws at 10.30; subject, "No without a recognition of el service at 7 with ser-pastor; subject, "Some call for gratitude,"

—Preaching by Rev. Taylor at 10.30; subject, ith." Special Thanksgiv

s of the Junior Union at are invited to attend. gregational.-Preaching by

w. Barnett, Ph. D., at tt. "God's gifts limited by pacity." Gospel service in at 7 with sermon by the ject, "Victory over the

Preaching by Rev. Peter ith at 3.30; subject, eping faith with God?"

Danyers, Nov. 21-Danvers

Danyers, Nov. 21—Danvers High beat Woburn High at football on the Danvers grounds, vesterday, 45 to 0.

At Woburn won, 5 to 0, but Danvers had a weaker team and the players were not in good condition. Woburn is not in good condition. Woburn is the only eleven that has beaten Dan-

crowd at the Mechanening there was good
nd meny sales made.
There was nothing to it but Danthis afternoon will be
the rife range
the range when they made their distance, the
last evening, and ag
the Richard M. Cook
Tucker are tied for
Tucker are tied for ball on downs. Capt. Haynes and J. Kerans made several of their famous runs. Haynes reeling off nearly 60 yards for a touchdown. C. Kerans made two fine quarterback runs and Pitman did good line bucking. Great tackles were made by Poor, Cronin and others. All the local players did et and has removed to stiff work and each contributed much to the big score.

New football, so-called, was not played to any extent. Woburn tried the forward pass a few times, but made it illegally in two instances.

Woodman made a pretty play when Danvers blocked a punt and he captured the ball and put it over the Danvers

Lineup and summary: Lineup and summary:
Danvers high—Woodman le, Perkins
It, and Cook It, Learoyd Ig, Perley c,
Hart rg, Cronin rt, Poor re, C. Kerans
qb, J. Kerans lhb, Capt. Haynes rhb,

qb, J. Kerans Ino, Capt. Haynes Filb, Pitman fb. Woburn high—Duncan le, O'Brien It, Carroll lg, Portal c, Sleeper rg, Burke rt, Hubbard re, Trull qb, West

Haynes 3, Woodman. Goals from touchdowns—J. Kerans 5. Referee and umpire—Ferguson Mobbs of Winchester. Linesmen—Field judge—Stone of Kansas City. Timers—Lord and Dean. Time—20 and 15m halves.

FREE LESSON APPRECIATED.

A goodly number of bright children gathered at the Coots school of elo-cution, to attend the free lesson to children given there yesterday after-

Breathing, vocal and physical culture exercises were participated in by all the little ones, while Helen Pierce, Florence Standring, Sallie Phillips, Doris Glies and others gave recita-tions. All seemed to thoroughly entions. All seemed to incrousing joy the hour thus spent and displayed considerable aptitude along these

The class will begin a course of 12 lessons next Friday at 4 P. M. Further particulars may be learned by inquiring at the school.

HERE AND THERE CLUB.

eping faith with God?"

—Preaching by Rev. Edheld an old fashioned quilting bee at held an old fashioned quilting been at held an old fashioned and held an old fashioned and held an old fashioned and held an

before closing the office to enable, the city clerk to verify the names on the lists and find a sufficient number

The day the city officials visited Foxboro insane hospital, Supt. Tracky of the Salem almshouse was asked by Mrs. Neff, wife of the superintendent. Mrs. Neff, wife of the superintendent, if he could tell what to do for her horse, which had "gone lame," and which she had sought to cure in various ways as advised by reterinarians and blacksmiths without avail. Mr. Tracey examined the horse's foot and found examined the norse's foot and found a small corn there and gave direc-tions for treatment. A letter received by one of the party on the trip states that the horse is "all well." Precinct officers who served at the recent state election will be paid

recent state election will be paid

Monday.

Petitions have been filed from every ward in the city asking that the question of adoption of the primary election plan be placed on the ballots for the forthcoming city elec-

A marriage license was issued yes-terday to Abel Madore, 24 Gardner street, and Antoniette Damon, 12 Naumkeag street.

AND FUNERALS

George Francis Fischer died at his home, 28½ Gardner street, this morn-ing, after a brief illness. He suffered from severe headaches the last two weeks, but Thursday afternoon while in the cars coming from Boston he was stricken with a severe shock, and was stricken with a severe shock, and on arrival at Salem was taken immediately to his home. He was unable to raily, and he passed away at 1 o'clock this morning.

Mr. Fischer was born in Salem, Nov. 14, 1868, and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. William in Fischer his

and Mrs. William F. Fischer, his father being the well known tailor. The son was educated in the Salem public schools, graduating from the High school. For over 30 years he had been employed in the sales department of the National Lead company of Boston, and was a trustworthy man in every way. He was greatly esteemed, had hosts of friends, and was devoted to his home. He was a member of Hathorne council, Royal Arcanum. He leaves a widow, three children, father, mother and two sisters, the last named being Misses Gertrude and Annie M. Fischer, all of Salem. ment of the National Lead company

Mrs. Mary Abble Dayton,

The funeral of Mrs. Mary Abbie Dayton was held at her late home, 15% Williams street, yesterday atternoon. Many friends attended. Rev. C. R. Crossett of the Adventist Christian church officiated, and there were beautiful floral tributes. The burial was in Harmony Grove ceme-

Mrs. Lizzie L. Eldredge.

Funeral services over the remains of Mrs. Lizzle L. Eldrades who died in Orleans, last Wednesday, were hald in Orleans, last work wouldn't want, yet wouldn't we tended. The burial was in Harmony Grove cemetery by Undertaker Full.

ciation fair, the Toot-Moy, will give for easy work, wannations of all who a public whist party at Now and soon, expert advice, sample question and Hooklet 422, describing positions and good prizes will be offered.

When the toot-Moy, will give for easy work, wannations of all who are too controlled to the foreign and the controlled too civil Service school, washington D.C.

FATHER MATHEW ELECTION.

The Father Mathew T. A. society

8 FOR 25¢

ROPES DRUG COM

Buy-Nipissing

to \$25-00 within 60 days. La Rose is a Buy. Chamber price will make you big profits. Temiskaming is a Buy make blg profits from a small investment Buy Lucky Bo Oun advice on Cobalt stocks has made money for our client Boys bought at 25 cents will make more money for its the above have made. Remember, we are Specialists in (stocks and accept orders to Buy or Sell any of the active

W. H. GLIDDEN & CO., 218 ESSEX STREET, SALEM.

NEW TODAY.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

OYSTERS

35c PER quart, common, 40c per quart
sclected; Saturday only, Newcomb's
Oyster house, 24-26 Derby sq., Salem.
Tel. 223-14.

Children's Class.

ELOCUTION class for children will meet next Fridey afternoon Nov 27. at a o'clock sharp, at the Coots Shool of Elocution, 237 Essex st.

Summer Street Social Club
WILL hold its second sunlight party in
Perry's hall. Danvers, Thanksgiving
afternoon. Graham's orchestra, fine
time. All to the morry.

A \$ saved is a \$ sarned. Umbrellas for Christinas gifts, direct from the factory and save one profit. Place your orders now. Engraving free. Standard Umbrella Co., 175 Washington St., opp B. & M. station.

Elegant Vose Plane,
UPRIGHT, nearly as good as new; cost
4400. Must be sold; only \$150 cash. Call
soon. Pauling, Rear 27 Hathorne st.

Plane Bargains.

SMITH-AMERICAN upright plano,
7 1-8 octaves, full-size, only \$70, easy
terms. Rolfe's music, store, 221 Gabot
st., Beverly, Plane tuning, regulating
and repairing; work guaranteed.

Victor Talking Machines.

ALL the latest styles and records. Gat ready for Thanksgiving. Lefavour's 168 Essex'st.

ROGERS upright plane; \$50; Chicker, ling \$65. Woodward-Brown plane \$79; \$5. down and \$1 week. E. F. Sullvan, 22-24 Ralroad eve. Bewelly.

Mothers, Kasex County, USE Parent's Friend for croup and all-children's folds; safe, sure. At all drusgists. Made by Jos. H. M. Edwards, Salem.

WANTED.

Bartholomew Whelton died at his home. Basford's court, Peabody, yes, terday afternoon after a short illness, patents and avery one interested in mechanics and avery one interested in the was a morocco dresser by trade, the leaves a widow and two sons.

NOW AND THEN WHIST.

Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Merritt and Mrs. Poole, in charge of three of the tables at the coming Now and Then association fair, the Toot-Moy, will give a public whist party at Now and Then halls—Monday evening, when and Booklet 422, describing positions and sond Booklet 422, describing positions and

WANTED Information

onase

Till sup Call ear desirabl