

Built By  
JOHN CHANDLER  
Housewright

By 1788

7 River St.  
Salem, Mass.

By Joyce King  
6 July 1978

## 7 River Street

This pitched-roof, gable-end-to-street house was built by John Chandler, housewright by 1788 on what is now known as River Street.

River Street was called a way in 1739; road 1773; private road 1778; lane 1782; River Street in 1796. (Essex Antiquarian, volume 7 page 116)

The lot on which this house stands was part of a large tract of land owned by the Beckford family for many years. When the Beckfords sold off this land, most buyers bought one lot on the south side of the lane and one across on the north extending to the river. This was the case when on 3 Aug 1784 John Beckford, yeoman, sold for 41 pounds 6 shillings to John Chandler, housewright; a lot of land (no buildings) containing 12 3/4 poles:

North - on lane 49'2"  
East - on Ebenezer Beckford 68'  
South - on John Beckford 50'5"  
West - on Asa Killam 70'

Also a lot containing 10 1/2 poles (no buildings)

North - by stone wall and flats 49'  
East - on Ebenezer Beckford 58'  
South - on lane 49'  
West - on Asa Killam 59'

This deed for two lots was not recorded until 6 Apr 1790 when John Chandler and wife Sarah sold the second lot to William Ferginson, taylor. (no buildings) (Registry of Deeds, book 151 page 159)

The Salem tax records for the year 1788 show John Chandler taxed for a house and land, this is the first mention of a house. In 1790 a Federal census was taken, John Chandler was the head of the family containing 1 free white male of 16 years and upward (including head of families), 3 free white males under 16 years and 2 white females. (next to the family of Asa Killam)

John (b. 25 Mar 1752) had been an officer in the Revolution and he and his family attended the North Church. (records of the North Church 1772-1872) John married Sarah Dodge (b. 7 Jul 1753) but apparently not in Salem. The Chandlers had three sons: John Jr., Benjamin and Joseph D. also one daughter Sarah.

On 5 Jun 1804 John made his will: after all debts and charges of his funeral were paid he gives "unto my two sons John Jr. and Benjamin one dollar to be divided between them", to beloved wife Sarah 1/3 of the estate and for the term of her natural life all real estate to support her and minor son Joseph D. but if she remarries or at her death the estate to go to children Joseph D. and Sarah or the survivor. (Probate #4942) John died 4 Mar 1821 of the palsy, leaving the house in the hands of Sarah, the executrix.

# 4942  
Will of  
John Chandler  
1821

In the Name of God, Amen. I John Chandler of  
Salern, in the county of Essex, Newscright, considering  
the uncertainty of this mortal life, and being of sound  
and perfect mind and memory, Blessed be Almighty  
God for the same: Do make and Publish this my  
Last Will and Testament, in manner following, to wit:  
First. It is my Will that all my Just Debts and the  
charges of my funerals, be paid by my Excutrice  
herein After named, as soon as may After my decess  
stern, I Give unto my two Sons, John Chandler junr.  
and Benjamin Chandler, One Dollar to be divided  
between them — Item I Give to my Beloved  
wife Sarah One third part of all the rest and remain-  
der of my Goods Chattles and personal Estate, to Use  
and Dispose of as she shall think fit. Also I Give to  
my said wife for the Term of her Natural Life, the  
Income and improvement of all my Real Estate &  
likewise the Use & improvement of the residue of the  
personal Estate, to Enable her to support herself and  
my son Joseph Dodge Chandler a minor, untill he  
comes of full Age. Provided she shall so Long con-  
tinue my Widow, but if she should marry again,  
my Will is that two thirdparts of all my Real  
Estate, and the residue of the personal Estate, herein  
before given to my wife, be held and possessed by  
my two Children, nameley, Joseph Dodge Chandler  
and Sarah Chandler, in manner herein After mention-  
ed, and the Other third part of said Real <sup>Estate</sup>, the impro-  
vement & income I Give to my said wife during  
her Natural Life. — Item, I Give and Bequeath  
unto my two Children, Joseph Dodge Chandler and  
Sarah Chandler and their Heirs and Assigns forever  
all the Real and personal Estate herein before given  
to my said Wife, during her Natural Life, to each of  
them an Equal Share therein. The possession of which  
they shall take at the Marriage and Death of my said  
wife, which ever shall first happen: moreover if  
my



# 4942  
John Chandler  
1821

"my said wife die before me, then I Give and Bequeath  
the whole of the Real and personal Estate before her in  
given to her my said wife, unto my two children Jos.  
Dodge Chandler, and Sarah Chandler and their heirs and  
assigns, to be held by them as Tenants in Common, in  
Equal Shares, and it is my will that if either of the said  
Joseph D. Chandler or Sarah Chandler, should die before  
me or my said wife, and before marriage, then the  
aforesaid Bequest given them to go to the survivor, and  
his or her heirs and assigns forever, and it is my will  
that my son Joseph Dodge Chandler shall be brought  
up and maintained out of my Estate untill he come  
to the age of twenty one years Old, in case my wife  
should die before her ~~own~~ <sup>own</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~me~~ <sup>me</sup>  
Lastly I do here by Complate &  
Appoint my said wife Sarah, Sole Executrix of  
this my said Will and Testament, hereby revoking  
all other and former wills by me made. In Witness  
whereof I have here to set my hand and seal the  
fifth day of June, in the year of our Lord One thousand  
and eight hundred and twenty one

Signed, sealed, published and  
declared by the above named John  
Chandler, to be his last will and  
Testament, in the presence of us, who  
have hereunto subscribed our Names  
as Witnesses, in the presence of the Testator

John Chandler

Witness:  
Samuel Sweetser  
Sarah A. Holmich  
Jonathan Vary

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Cessey, ss. At a court of probate holden at Salem in and for said county  
on the third Tuesday in May, A.D. 1821.

The foregoing instrument (purporting to be the last will and testa-  
ment of John Chandler, late of Salem in said county, housewright,  
deceased) having been duly presented for probate; and it being made  
to appear, that notice <sup>has been given</sup> according to order to all persons  
interested; Samuel Sweetser, <sup>Raymond Barwick</sup> and Jonathan Vary, <sup>of the witness</sup>  
es thereto subscribed, being present, make oath, that they saw the  
said John Chandler sign and seal the said instrument, <sup>and</sup>

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**INVENTORY of  
John Chandler**

# 4942  
1821

An Inventory of the estate of John Chandler, late of Salem in the County of Essex aforesaid, housewright, deceased, taken by us the subscribers, being first sworn, pursuant to the annexed warrant of the Hon. Daniel A. White, Judge of Probate for said County of Essex -

The real estate of said deceased, being a lot of land, dwelling house and out buildings, situate in River street in Salem in said County - - - - - \$730.00

1 eight day clock 26.00 Mahogany card table 4.00 8 colored chairs 4.00 - - - 34.00  
 3 waiters 1.00, 1 old carpet 6.00 brass fire sett 5.00 brass nose bellows 33cts - - - 12.33  
 Lot of glassware 2.00, 16 oz silver ware 18.00 Britannia tea pot & cream pot 1.25 - - 21.25  
 Lot of crockery 2.00, 1 maple table 75cts Mahozg desk 4.00, 2 sets knives & forks 1.00 - - 7.75  
 1 four feet Mahozg. & 1 round table 4.00 Looking glass 4.00 5 kitchen chairs 1.25 - - 9.25  
 pr iron dogs, shovel, tongs & brush 1.25, coffee mill, bellows & odd crockery 1.00 - - 2.25  
 Lot of tin and pewter ware 3.75 - 4 brass & 2 iron candlesticks & snuffers 2.00 - - 5.75  
 Lot wooden ware 1.50 Stone ware and bottles 2.50 Warming pan, skimmer & baster 1.50 - - 5.50  
 Floor brushes & broom 75cts Lot of iron ware & flats 5.00 Old fashioned case of drawers 3.50 - 9.25  
 6 chairs with cushions 2.00 Easy chair & covering 4.00 Large arm chair & cushion 33cts - - 6.33  
 Candle stand 75cts Small strip of carpet 1.00, 5 feather beds 22 lbs at 25cts 56.50 - - 58.25  
 1 low plain & 1st bedstead 1.00 piece of strip carpet 1.00, 3 low backing bedsteads painted 9.00 11.00  
 3 straw beds 2.25 - 16 pr cotton sheets 16.00, 18 pr pillow cases 4.50 - - 22.75  
 16 table cloths 12.00, 24 napkins 3.00, wearing apparel 30.25, silver watch 8.00 53.25  
 1 trunk & large chest 1.50 - 6 blankets 8.00 - 5 cover lids 7.00 pr brass top andirons 1.00 - 17.50  
 1 Bureau & table 1.75 Lot of books 1.00 Chamber glass 1.50 hearth brush 25cts - 4.50  
 3 chairs 50cts Lot carpenters tools 13.00 6 medicine chests 3.00, 10 window blinds 20.00 36.50  
 2 unfinished doors 1.00, 11 unfinished window sashes 1.00 - - - - 2.00

Personal estate \$319.41

One Pew, No 4 in the North meetinghouse in Salem - - - - - \$1049.41

Whole estate \$1099.41

For at Chandler's Exr

Elijah Sandersson

Millet

James Kimball

Appraisers

Essex, ss. At a court of probat. holden at Salem in and for said county on the first Tuesday

11 Sept 1835 Sarah (Dodge) Chandler died at the age of 82, the property was then shared equally by Joseph D. and his sister Sarah. (information on John and Sarah (Dodge) Chandler is sparse I have not been able to determine origin. Many men named John Chandler served in the Revolution)

Joseph Dodge Chandler (b. 14 Mar 1789) married Mary Mc Donald on 12 Jun 1827 in Salem. Three children were born to the couple: Joseph (died young), Joseph and John.

Salem Directory 1836 lists Jos. D. Chandler - druggist at 351 Essex St., house 7 River St.

Federal census 1850 - J.D. Chandler age 60 grocer			
	Mary	"	60
	Joseph	"	19
	John	"	17
	Sally	"	70

Sarah lived in this house with her brother Joseph and his family until her death in 1851. In her will written 24 Jul 1839 she left all her estate to her two nephews Joseph and John or the survivor, the children of my brother Joseph D. Her real estate consisted of 1/2 a dwelling house and out buildings on River St. "the same estate now occupied and improved by my brother and myself" (Probate #34889)

Federal census 1860 - Joseph Chandler age 71 grocer			
	Mary	"	69
	Joseph	"	29 prov. dealer
	John	"	26 clerk
	Mary Baker	"	16 milliner

(The Chandlers must have taken in a boarder after the death of Sarah)

Ten years after the death of his sister (Sarah), Joseph passed away 17 May 1861. His estate went to his wife Mary and son John (Probate #34883) (Their son Joseph must have died between the time of the 1860 census and the death of his father, he is never mentioned again)

In the clippings of Charles Archer, written for the newspaper in 1922, (Essex Institute Library) in his memory "Joseph D. Chandler was a very old man when I (Charles) came on the stage". He was the head of the establishment of an old fashion grocery store on Federal St. Joseph was succeeded by his energetic and bustling son John who years later built a modern grocery across the street at 107 Federal St. The store did a flourishing business.

# 34889  
Sally Chandler

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 therein named, having been first sworn, have made the following

Inventory and Appraisement of the Estate of *Sally Chandler*

late of *Salisbury* in said county, *Single Woman* deceased, testate, as shown to us by the administrator

REAL ESTATE.

One half a Dwelling House - *N. of River Street, Salem* - together with an outbuilding & the Land on lot 4, adjoining - Valued at - \$800.00

Personal Estate.

Crockery & Glass Ware	-	-	-	-	\$ 5.00
Case of Tools 5 \$	-	Bulthead, Prod & Baling 10 \$	-	-	16.00
Six Mahogany Chairs 5 \$	-	One Easy Chair 2.50	-	-	8.50
One Mahogany Table 2 \$	-	One Looking Glass 50.00	-	-	2.50
One Pine Table 50.00	-	One Pine Bureau 1.50	-	-	2.00
Brass & Irons, Shovel, Saws & Bellows	-	-	-	-	2.00
Trunk & 5 Blankets 5 \$	-	Four Quilts 5 \$	-	-	11.00
Trunk containing Sheets, Table Cloths &c	-	-	-	-	10.00
Books 2 \$	-	Silver Watch 5 \$	-	-	7.00
Cash 40 \$	-	Silver Linen, Spoons &c weighing 49 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>100</sub> - 49 \$	-	-	89.00
					<u>\$ 153.00</u>
Cornet 5 \$	-	1 Bag & 3 Mats 1 \$	-	-	7.00
					<u>\$ 150.00</u>

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and, when you

Federal census 1870 John Chandler age 36 grocer  
Caroline " " 29  
Mary " " 80 no occupation

John continued the family business and had married Caroline F. Edwards the daughter of Benjamin and Abigail R. (Feele) Edwards. The couple lived in the old homestead until 1874 when he built a new store and house at 107 Federal St. Mary lived in the house on River St. until her death 6 Sep 1875. The last of the Chandlers in residence since it was built almost one hundred years before.

After the death of his mother (Mary), John was the sole heir to the property. On 13 Jun 1878 John Chandler, whose residence was now the corner of Federal and Beckford Sts. applied for and received a permit to build a wooden barn at 7 River St. 5' x 10' (Permit book volume 1, now stored at the Essex Institute)

In the census of 1880 we find tenants John W. Brown age 57 an engineer born in N.H., wife Rachael age 63 born in Maine and Neta age 27 daughter born in Mass., living in the house.

John and Caroline did not have children. At the time of John's death 29 Jan 1903 we find the estate collecting rent of Jeremiah Mc Grath 7 River St:

29 Jan 1903 - 20 Feb 1903 \$ 7.10  
20 Feb 1903 - 20 Mar 1903 10.00

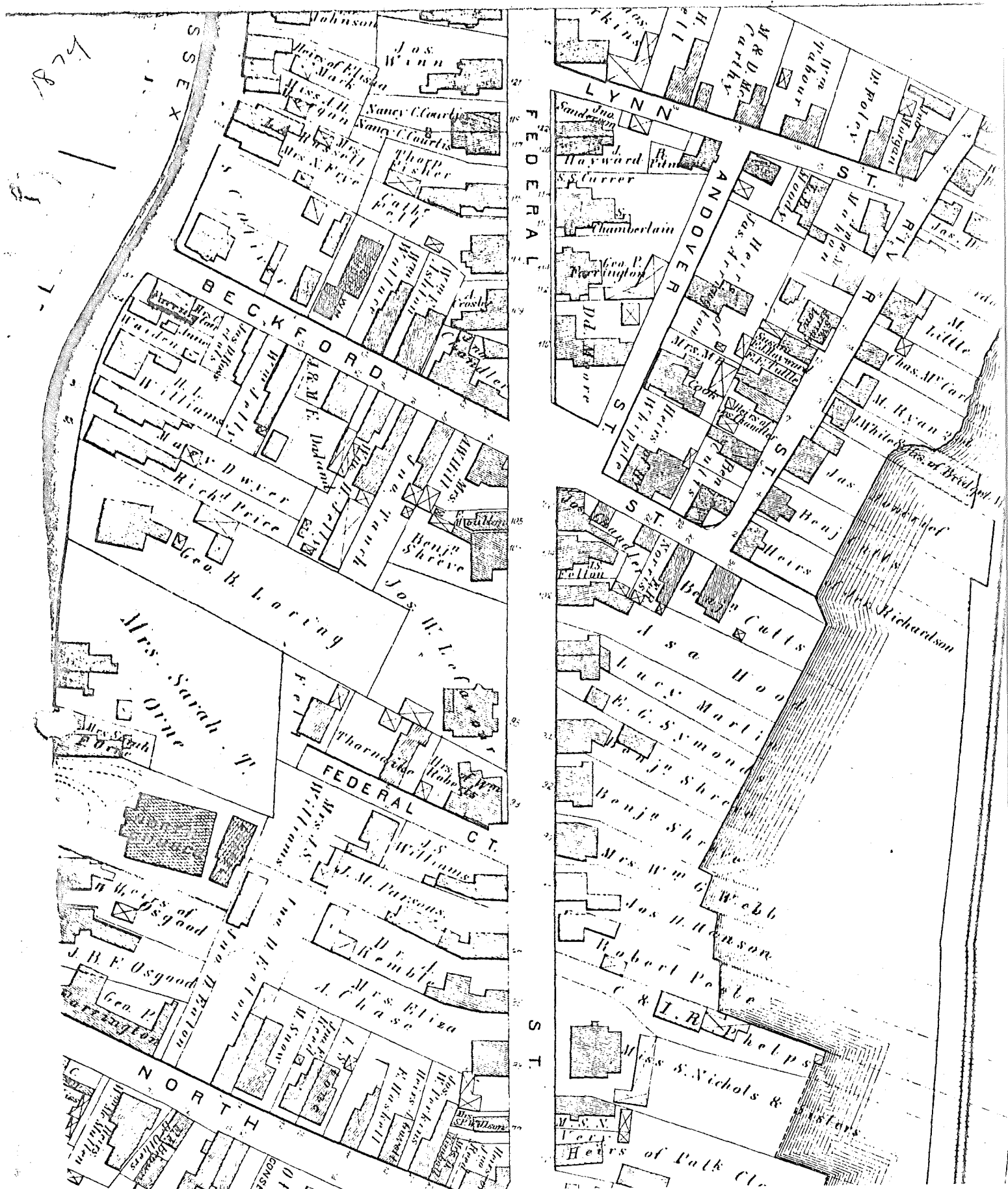
In his will John left to Caroline all furniture except my old-fashion tall clock, she is to use for her lifetime, then to pass to Wallace Chisholm, my executor and to my cousin Caroline \$1,000. The rest to Wallace A. Chisholm to hold and invest to pay income to wife Caroline, but not to sell the estate on corner of Federal and Beckford which I now occupy as my homestead and store, in the lifetime of my wife without her consent.

Inventory: dwelling and store and land S.W. corner of  
Federal and Beckford \$6,000  
house and land 21 Beckford \$4,000  
2 houses and land corner of Federal and Beckford  
\$4,800  
house and stable and land 7 River St. \$1,200

After the death of his wife a few bequestswere made then the rest was to be divided in equal shares between the Association for the Relief of the Aged and Destitute Women in Salem and The Salem Seaman's Orphan and Childrens Friends Soc.

Total personal property \$12,825.01 and real estate \$16,000.  
(Probate #91677)





Handwritten initials or numbers, possibly 'L 8'.

ESSEX

BECKFORD

FEDERAL

NORTH

FEDERAL

LYNN

ANDOVER

ST.

Mrs. Sarah Orne

J. B. F. Osgood

FEDERAL CT.

Mrs. Eliza Chase

Isa Wood

Lacy Martineau

W. G. Symonds

Benj. Shreve

Benj. Shreve

Mrs. Wm G. Webb

Jos. H. Hanson

Robert Peck

I. R. Phelps

Mrs. S. Nichols & Co.

Heirs of Talk Cl...

Jos. Winn

Nancy Courtis

Nancy Courtis

Phoebe Fisher

John Bell

John Bell

John Bell

John Bell

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John Bell

John Bell

John Bell

John Bell

John Bell

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John Bell

John Bell

M. & D. McCarthy

Wm. Hubbert

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Richardson

Salem News 30 Jan 1903 - The death of a well known grocer, John Chandler, for years kept a store on the corner of Federal and Beckford Sts. Died at his home 107 Federal St. He was a graduate of the Hacker School. Leaves a widow.

29 Feb 1912 the Salem Seaman's Orphan Soc. and Association for Relief of Aged and Destitute Women of Salem sell for \$1 and other valuable consideration to Jeremiah McGrath the land and buildings:

North - by River St. 49'2"  
East - by Benjamin Cutts 68'  
South - by Cooke 50'5"  
West - by Tuttle 70'

as residuary legatees under the will of John Chandler.  
(two separate deeds, book 2131 pages 532-4)

On 5 Dec 1924 Frank McGrath and Margaret I. Maguire sold to Catherine G. McGrath and Nellie J. McGrath the same estate sold to our late father Jeremiah McGrath (book 2624 page 398)

Margaret E. Maguire aquired the whole estate by deed 18 Dec 1963 and Probate #150393. She then sold to David H. Warner. ( book 5233 page 479)

David Warner sold to Joseph F. and Joanna L. Schappa on 12 Mar 1965 (book 5251 page 334)

30 Oct 1972 Joanna L. Schappa by power #315813 heirs sold to Robert Ledoux.

16 May 1973 Robert Ledoux sold to John H. and Carol P. Carr Jr.

Reference to book and page are deed books at the Registry of Deeds and Probate numbers are found in Probate Court, both located in the same building on Federal St.

were born.  
Ann Baker.  
18, 1749;  
28, 1751;  
born October  
born Janu-  
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y, April 3,  
1768; died  
, 1769. 10.

Benjamin Ed-  
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aptain John  
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o, 1777, at  
Children:  
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or nephew  
1800, died  
Abigail R.,  
h Peele of  
alem. Chil-  
y 17, 1837;  
: i. Mary,  
died William  
January 6,  
mbull; chil-  
h 22, 1889;  
iii. Franklin  
, Jr., Janu-  
born April  
andler (see  
November 8,  
Cowne, now  
children: i.  
widow; ii.  
H. Brown,  
Benjamin,

families of  
e descended  
immigrants  
Chandler, of  
at Duxbury,  
dren: Sam-  
a, Mary and  
at Duxbury  
Narragansett  
was taxed  
list of those  
and in 1644.

Samuel Chandler, of Duxbury, was taxed there in 1632; married at Dorchester, December 21, 1644, Sarah Davis, died before November 17, 1683, at Duxbury. These four Duxbury Chandlers were apparently related. Another branch of the family traces its ancestry to John Chandler, a shoemaker, who was admitted a freeman May 13, 1640; apprenticed his son John to William Webb, baker, of Roxbury, January 28, 1640-1; the son died at Roxbury, December, 1660; removed to Concord; was a petitioner of the Nashaway plantation in 1615; admitted an inhabitant of Boston in 1647.

The genealogy of Dr. George Chandler shows that William Chandler, of Roxbury, had the largest posterity. William was admitted a freeman May 13, 1640, the same day that John was admitted. There are other reasons for thinking John and William of the same family. Another branch of the family settled later at Newbury. John Chandler, late of the island of Jamaica, died at Salem, December 1, 1765, and Sarah Adams, who cared for him in his last illness, and was doubtless his landlady was appointed his administratrix with Nathaniel Reeves and Josiah Hayward as sureties on her bond. The probate does not indicate that he was married. Nothing but the similarity of name indicates that he was related to the family mentioned below. Dr. George Chandler, in gathering the material for the genealogy accumulated much correspondence and data of the other Chandler lines, and was unable to trace any relationship between the family given in this sketch and any others of the name.

(I) John Chandler, probably the immigrant ancestor, settled in Boston, where he followed his trade of ship carpenter or shipwright. He is said to have had a brother Samuel who married at Boston, September 18, 1735, Mary Peck. The name of John's wife is not known. Children: i. John, mentioned below. 2. Jacob, settled at Nantucket; children: i. Samuel, lived in Baltimore, Maryland, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Richmond, Virginia; ii. Ruth; iii. Daughter. 3. Joseph, painter, lived on Charter street, Boston; children: i. Joseph, born December 19, 1775, died February 5, 1811, married Martha Smith; ii. William, born January 12, 1778, died June 18, 1833, married Sally Harrison; iii. John, born November 20, 1779, died July 1, 1803, married Dolly Baker; iv. Elizabeth, born January 31, 1782, married Nathaniel Nottage; v. Mary, died young; vi. Mary, born July 2, 1785, died



May 28, 1845, married Samuel Townsend; vii. Samuel, born August 3, 1787, died March 30, 1854, married Rebecca Hiler; viii. Benjamin, born August 8, 1789, died June 19, 1857, married Mary Hiler; ix. Sarah, died young; x. Jacob, born July 27, 1794, lost at sea, unmarried; xi. Sarah, born September 11, 1796, married Henry Richardson; xi. Alexander Smith, born March 13, 1798, died December 15, 1855, married September 18, 1823, Alice Henderson, who died April 10, 1857, aged sixty years (his son, Dr. Thomas H., whose office was at 222 Tremont street, Boston, and who compiled much of this record, married Sarah C. French and had Henry H., William H., James T. and Victor L. L. Chandler). 4. Sally, married Alexander Smith; removed to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

(II) John Chandler, son of John Chandler, was born about 1745. He was a carpenter or housewright by trade, and lived in Salem, Massachusetts. There was a John Chandler in the revolution, in Captain Mills' company, Colonel Joseph Vose's regiment, 1777, aged twenty-five, complexion fresh, hair sandy, born in Ireland. If this is our John Chandler it determines the ancestry of the family, for this soldier was undoubtedly Scotch-Irish. John Chandler bought land in Salem August 3, 1784, of John Bickford, part of which land adjoined land of Asa Killam and Ebenezer Bickford. He and Loammi Baldwin, both housewrights of Salem, bought of Samuel Symonds land at Northfields, Salem, on the road from the north bridge to New Mills in Danvers, May 24, 1797. He died in 1804, and his will was dated June 5, 1804, bequeathing to wife Sarah and children John, Jr., Benjamin, Joseph Dodge and Sarah. Joseph Dodge was a minor. John, Jr., is called Stockbridge by Dr. Thomas H. Chandler. Children: John, Jr., Benjamin, Joseph Dodge, Sarah (Sally).

(III) Joseph Dodge Chandler, son of John Chandler, was born about 1800. He was educated in the public schools of Salem, and engaged in business there as a retail grocer, following that calling with success during all his active life. He was a Unitarian in religion, a well-known and useful citizen. He married, June 12, 1827, Mary MacDonald, at Salem. Children: 1. Joseph, born about 1830. 2. John, mentioned below.

(IV) John Chandler, son of Joseph Dodge Chandler, was born in Salem, in 1834, and died there January 31, 1903. He attended the common schools of Salem, and at an early age began to work as clerk in his father's grocery

store. He was ambitious to do business on his own account, and in 1861 embarked on an enterprise of his own, establishing a grocery store at the corner of Beckford and Federal streets. He was fortunate in his business. He had the necessary experience, knowledge and foresight, the sound judgment and sterling character that brought him substantial rewards for his industry and activity in business. He had an attractive personality, winning friends readily by his kindly and democratic manner and sympathetic nature. He belonged to no clubs or fraternal organizations; he divided his time between his business and his home. He was active in the North Unitarian Church and a generous supporter of its work. He married, October 26, 1865, Caroline F. Edwards, born at Salem, April 26, 1840, daughter of Benjamin and Abigail R. (Peele) Edwards (see Edwards). They had no children.