

TO: HISTORIC SALEM, INC.

FROM: Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Powers

REFERENCE: 384 Essex St., Salem, Ma. - HISTORIC PLAQUE

Research indicates that the above building sometimes referred to as The East India House and The Sprague-Stearns House was built by Captain Joseph Dean in 1706. In considering the historic plaque, we feel historically correct in placing the following:

BUILT BY

CAPT. JOSEPH DEAN

1706

Other alternatives were possible. Most people in Salem today know this house as The East India House. This was, indeed, an exciting part of its heritage. In 1929, it was named The East India House by Dr. John Ballou, who was living there at that time. It was run as an Inn and a Tea Room during the following period and was so named, according to Mr. James Ballou, because of their grandfather who had many artifacts of the East India trade period. It is also sometimes referred to as the Stearns-Sprague House. This refers to the period between 1774 and 1929 when Colonel Joseph Sprague and his decendents, the Stearns' owned it. Major Sprague, who later became a Colonel, was one of the leading spirits on the patriot side when the British arrived in Salem in February, 1775.

In our five years of ownership, we have always referred to it

as the East India House. The connotation reflects the style and flavor of the period of the house and keeps us in touch with its origins.

March 11, 1976

TO: HISTORIC SALEM, INC.

REFERENCE: Building at 384 Essex St., Salem, Ma.
Sometimes known as the East India House, Stearns-
Sprague House

FROM: Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Powers

Certain questions existed as to the exact date when the building at 384 Essex St., Salem, Ma. was constructed. Through a thorough research and investigation of documents filed at the Registry of Deeds, Essex Cty., Probate Ct., Essex Cty, and The Essex Institute, we confidently conclude and confirm that Captain Joseph Dean, did in fact, build said house between 1705 and 1706. We submit the following evidence:

1. Records of Essex Probate Court show that Capt. Joseph Dean died in 1709. His estate was inventoried in 1710 and showed, among other possessions, his dwelling place. (see inventory)
2. Records at The Essex Institute indicate that a large tax increase occurred between the years of 1706 and 1707.
3. Documents at The Essex Institute indicate that Joseph Dean married Elizabeth Flint in 1697 and had four children between 1697 and 1709. This information is confirmed in deeds at the Registry of Deeds.
4. Deeds at the Essex Registry of Deeds show that Thomas Flint conveyed the said lot to Joseph Dean, for 30 lbs. on May 7, 1706.
- 5.. The Essex Institute's copy of Historic District Comm. findings show said building dates 1706. Many other references site building date 1706 or circa 1706.

Weaving the above facts together one has to conclude the following: The building that now rests at the corner of Essex and what has become known as Flint Street, formerly Dean's Lane, was constructed by Joseph Dean before 1707 for his wife, Elizabeth (Flint), and family, on land sold to him by his father-in-law, one Captain Thomas Flint. As you know, Salem residents at that time were inclined for financial reasons, not to disclose the possession of valued property which might be taxed by the crown. Joseph Dean died in 1709. His estate inventoried in 1710, listed his dwelling place. Obviously then, the building was constructed prior to his demise. One can logically conclude when observing the tax records, the inventory and appraisal of Joseph Dean's estate and the fact that he had four children between 1697 and 1709, that the building was constructed between 1705 - 1706 and that he first paid tax to the crown on the building and property in 1707.

OWNERS OF 384 ESSEX STREET, SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth Spooner on May 11, 1672 sold to: (Ek. 5 Lf 69)

(Westerly from a lane that leads from Main St. to North River northerly and easterly by land of Jos. Douglass and southerly to Main St. ...)

CAPT. THOS. FLINT who, on May 7, 1706, sold to: (Ek. 18 Pg.182)

("containing 60 pole" of ground more or less being about 3/4 part of that land which I formerly bought of Elizabeth Spooner late of Salem, died having sold the other 1/4 part thereof to Edmond Bridges, late of Salem, aforesaid deed & said piece of land hereby sold being abutted and bounded as followth: westerly with a lane that leads from Main St. and ye North River, northerly and easterly with ye land of Jos. Douglas and southerly with ye Main St. to have and to hold ye said piece of parcel of land with all...")

MR. JOSEPH DEAN who, died on Dec. 29, 1709

(Probate court; will & Inventory dated Feb. 5, 1711 listing "Dwelling house...60 pole of land, about 36 rod of land by John Simpsons"

Joseph Dean married to Elizabeth Flint (mar. 1697) had 4 children. The property in question passed to the only son, Joseph ("Joseph the Hatter") Joseph, the Hatter married Elizabeth Bowers. They had 3 sons. Upon the demise of Joseph, the Hatter the property was bequeathed to 2 of his sons: Joseph and John.

JOSEPH (The Hatter) & ELIZABETH DEAN sold to: (Bk. 124 Pg. 254,55)
Apr. 7, 1767

("about an acre bounded northwest, Main St. westerly, southerly - way leading to Great Pasture so on land of Nathaniel Ropes, esq. and east and northeast partly on land of Matthew Mansfield & partly on land of Billings Bradish as the same as now fenced being the same land contained in Edward Flint's deed of July 14, 1744

JOHN & SARAH DEAN & JOSEPH DEAN, who sold to:

JOSEPH SPRAGUE from JOHN DEAN on Oct. 24, 1774 (Bk. 134 Pg. 54

"...(same description as above)...also the easterly & northerly parts of my said Father's homestead land conveyed to me by the same deed bounded westerly on a lane, called Dean's Lane, 35' northerly, 85' & easterly 125' & 1/2' on land late of Joshua Hicks deceased now of James Grant & Mary his wife, to the Main St. southerly on the Main St., 53 1/2' to the center of the front of said homestead land from which center the line runs northerly to a stake in the center of a line

drawn from said Dean's Lane on the west to said Grant's land which lies on the north side of said homestead & from said stake the line runs westward to Dean's Lane aforesaid keeping said distance of 35' from said Grant's land on the north as aforesaid. Also the easterly end of my said Father's mansion house divided from the remainder by the west side of the Great Entry till you come to the uppermost chamber or garret floor...

JOSEPH SPRAGUE from JOSEPH DEAN on Feb. 21, 1775:

(Bk. 123 Pg. 220)

"...Westerly part of house & land under same and thereto adjoining situate in said Salem which were conveyed to me by Father and Mother, Joseph Dean & Elizabeth, his wife, Bk. 124, leaf 255, bounded south on Main St. about 53 $\frac{1}{2}$ ', west on Dean's Lane, so-called, 139' & north and east on land & the other part of said dwelling now belonging to Joseph Sprague which he lately purchased of my borther, John Dean, by a deed in which the several boundaries on said east and northerly sides of premises are partially described in Bk. 134, Lf. 54.

(Joseph Sprague's daughter married Dr. William Stearns. Upon Joseph Sprague's death, the Stearns' move into the house.)

STEARNS DECENDENTS to FRANKLIN BALLOU on Nov. 12, 1930:

SALEM FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK on July 31, 1937:

SARAH S. BALLOU who deeded it to JOHN B. MARY E. BALLOU on March 5, 1959:

(Bk. 5239 Pg. 161)

who, on Jan. 15, 1965, sold it to:

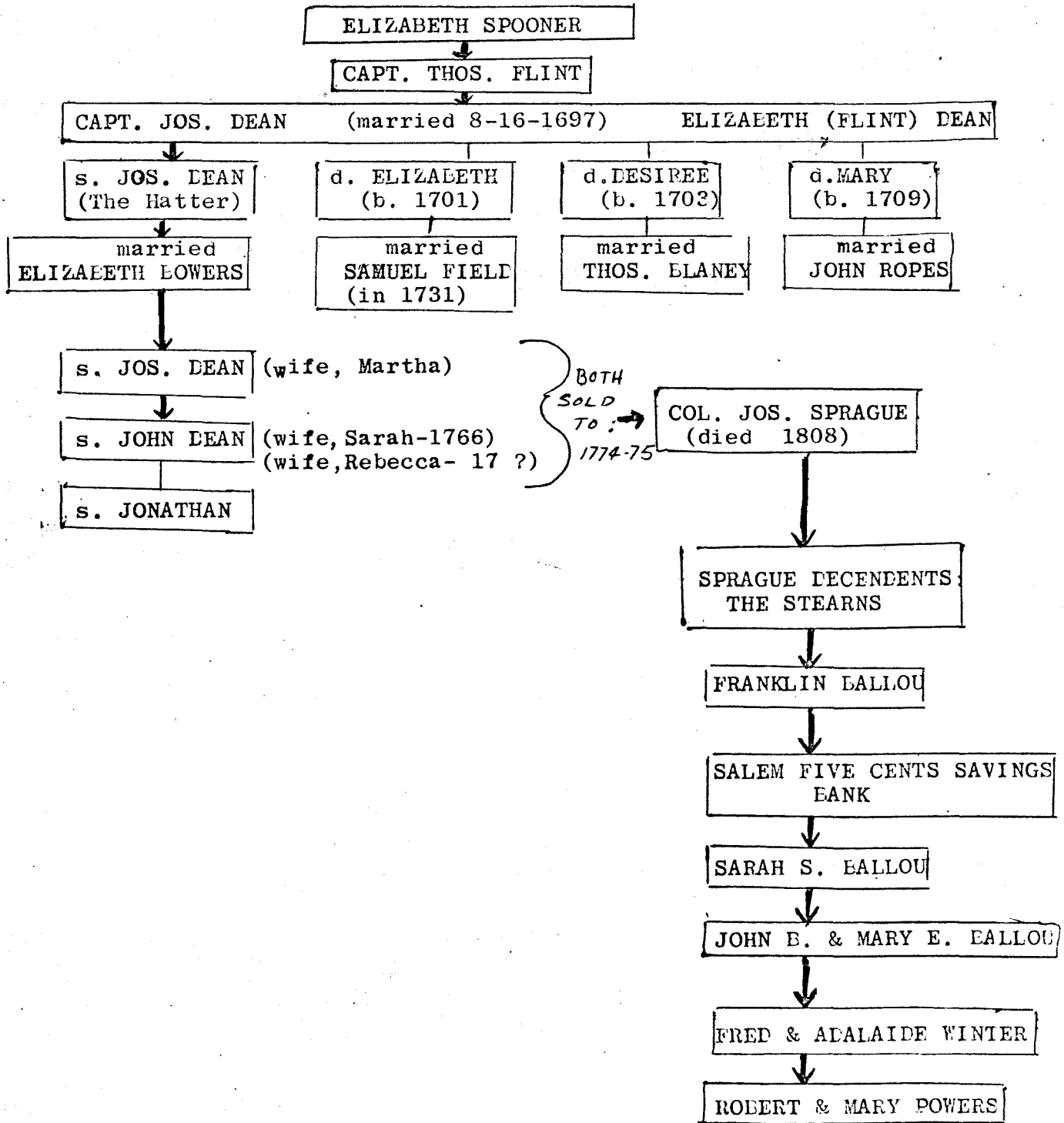
FRED & ADALAIDE WINTER, who on March 10, 1971 sold to:

ROBERT & MARY L. POWERS, the present owners.

(Bk. 5750 Pg. 203)

bounded and described as follows: southeasterly by Essex St 93.07 ft.; westerly by Flint St. by 2 courses, 22.48 ft. & 131.29 ft.; northerly by land now or formerly of Stearns 74.25 ft.; easterly by land now or formerly of Silsbee or Lougee, 119.87 ft.

FAMILY TREE OF 384 ESSEX ST., SALEM, MA.



Inventory of the estate of ^{the late} Joseph Dean late
of Salem in County of Essex Massachusetts Deceased
taken and appraised by us of Subscribers January
25th June Dominion 1710

110
30
8
2
60

Imp^d - His Dwelling house containing and about 2 1/2 Acres -

60 Sixty poles of Land adjoining	
about thirty acres of Land by John Simpkins	15
his Wareing Apparell	6
Money and Bills of Credit	56
In Debt 33 at 8 p ^{ct}	15 1/2
Goods in Shop	57 1/4
In Hall 1 Large Suel Table w/ 2 Small Ditto 8/	1
1 doz. Iron Bottom Black Chairs 3 p ^{ct} Locking 4 1/2	36
1 p ^{ce} Iron Doyl 1 of Warming pan 1 of	1
1 Fire pan & Tongs 4/ 1 Stranell 2/ 1 p ^{ce} Bellows 2/	9
1 Candlestick 3/ 1 Glass & other ware 2/	6
In Kitchen 36 th Pewter 18 p ^{ct} 2 doz. pewt plates 18 p ^{ct}	4 1/2
1 Sm ^l Iron pot & hook 7/ 1 Spitt 2/	9
3 Sm ^l Brass Kettles 1 of Small Brass Ladle & Salmer 1/	19
1 Lanthorn & 1 Iron tin ware 5/ - Small Looking glass 1/	8
1 Sm ^l fine table of Boynt steel 12 th 1 p ^{ce} Iron Doyl 3/	7
1 send 12 th 1 Brass dish of 12 th 1 p ^{ce} Iron Doyl 3/	8
3 Candlestick & 1 Iron warming box 7/ 6 old Chairs 12 th 1/	13
Books 2 of 1 Law hamer & 1 Lex 9/	1 1/2
In Chamber 1 feather bed bedstead flowered Callico Curtains & a sheet	
white Callico Curtains Callico quilt three blankets	30
two pillows Tester & head cloth	
4 white Callico & muslin Curtains	13
1 1/2 Looking glass 5 th 1 Chest drawers 25/	6 1/2
1 Square table 25/ 6 Chairs 1 doz. 15 th flowered muslin	2 1/2
1 Cotton & Glass ware 11 of 2 Sm ^l Trunks 5/	2 1/2
1 p ^{ce} Brass hand grons 1 of fire pan & Tongs 3/ 1 p ^{ce} Brass 20 th	1 1/2
1 Sm ^l Iron bed blanket 1 doz. Rug & Pillow	1 1/2
1 pallet & 1 bed Cade & 1 chest 10/	12
1 Cotton Counter pain 25/ 6 p ^{ce} Cotton & Linen sheets 18 p ^{ct}	6 1/2
3 p ^{ce} fine holland sheets 50 p ^{ct} 3 p ^{ce} Curser ditto 35 p ^{ct}	12 1/2
2 p ^{ce} fine holland pillow cases 1 of 4 p ^{ce} Curser 7 p ^{ct}	2 1/2
5 p ^{ce} Cotton & Linen ditto 3 p ^{ct} 12 Towels 8 p ^{ct}	1 1/2
8 diaper Napkins 12 p ^{ct} 22 p ^{ct} Napkins 12 p ^{ct}	1 1/2
1 doz. Damast Napkins 48/ 4 table cloths 20/	3 1/2
In Chamber (Chamber) 1 feather bed bedstead pillows old horse gun Curtains	6
2 Blankets a Curlet - tester & head cloth	
1 Screen covered w th Linen & painted	1 1/2
2 old Trunks 5/ 1 Iron Chest 12 th	6
2 Gun Wood Pistol 4 of 1 Case of 1 p ^{ce} book 10/	2 1/2
1 Can Indian woman named Flora	30
1 doz. Ordinary Sugar 25 p ^{ct}	2 1/2
1 Large Smiths Anvil 10 p ^{ct} 1 bucket 10/	1 1/2
1 p ^{ce} Bell of 1 doz. Iron Traps 1 p ^{ce} Iron	12
6 heys of Salt 26 1/2 1 Gal Stear oil 20/	8 1/2

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Due from of
do Thomas De
Edm & Sambeth
To app in Sum

* Inventory dated
1/18/1710
Listing
"dwelling house"
+ slave (Indian)
"worth" 30 L

at 9 1/2
01 - 11 - 25

William Stearns House (East India House, 384 Essex Street
Owner: Mrs. Franklin Ballou 1971, March Robert Powers

"Among all the numerous tabernacle doorways and porches
which adorn (older) surviving Salem houses of the period
before 1793, the only one which we may confidently attribute
to McIntire is that of the William Stearns house . . ."
(Fiske Kimball).

Taken from: Essex Institute Historical Collections

April - July 1957

SAMUEL MCINTIRE

A BICENTENNIAL SYMPOSIUM