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23 Briggs Street

Built for
John Goodhue
Fisherman
and his wife
Anna Preston
c. 1740

Researched & written by
Robert Booth

October 2019

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9 North Street, Salem, MA 01970
978.745.0799 | HistoricSalem.org
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Owners & Occupants
23 Briggs Street, Salem

By Robert Booth, PHS, Oct. 2019

According to available evidence, this house stood facing Salem Common at a point somewhat south of the corner of now-Briggs Street (which did not then exist). It was evidently built c. 1740 for John Goodhue, fisherman, and wife Anna Preston. In 1843 Mrs. Anna (Briggs) Baldwin had it moved to its present spot by contractor Daniel H. Jewett; and Mr. Jewett added a back ell at that time.

The actual date of construction of this house is unknown. It is "Georgian" in style and interior, and there is no evidence that it is a First period (pre-1730) house.

The early history of the land involves large parcels. Nathaniel Beadle, Salem cordwainer (shoemaker), had assembled a homestead by two purchases, in 1702 and 1707. The original site of the house was included in the larger homestead.

On March 7, 1701/2 for 20 li Beadle purchased from Samuel Gardner a one-acre parcel bounded s.w. the town common, s.e. on land of George Hodges, n.e. partly on Hodges land partly on the town's land, and n.w. on land of Benjamin Archer (ED 27:228). Probably he proceeded to build a house on that piece of land.

On Aug. 20, 1707, for 6.17.0 he bought from the estate of John Archer a 70-pole parcel of upland, bounded on the common training field 1.5 poles (25'), s. on Beadle's land 46.5 poles (about 767'), e. on a highway in the occupation of George Hodges, 1.5 poles and 2' (27'), n. on land sold to Christopher Babbage Jr. 46.5 poles (ED 29:241).

Nathaniel Beadle Jr. (1675-c.1713), cordwainer (like his father), married Elizabeth Sharp in 1694 and they would have seven children. He was prospering when he bought the land in 1702 and built a house thereon, and then added the parcel at the north side of the homestead lot. The lot ran from the common almost all the way to Collins Cove, but was butted on the east by a road laid out by George Hodges through his back land, along the shore of the cove. Nathaniel Beadle died c. 1713 and his widow Elizabeth married a man from Connecticut and moved there with some of her children.

We do not know the appearance of the Beadle house, but it was not this one. It would have been built in the typical "First Period" style, with chamfered posts and beams, perhaps embellished with other forms of carving. The visible frame of the current house bears no traces of First Period construction. In addition, we do not know the

exact site of the house on the lot: it may have fronted right on the street, or stood back from it, etc.

The Beadle homestead was sold to William Bartoll, shipwright, in 1716. In Jan. 1716 the estate of Nathaniel Beadle for 77 li is sold to William Bartoll, Salem shipwright, the dwelling house and 1.75 acres (not bounded), formerly Nathaniel Beadle's homestead (ED 30:188).

William Bartoll (b. 1691) was the son of Robert Bartoll & Sarah/Mary Beckett of Salem. William and wife Mary (nee Felt) and family had lived in Salem for some years, he being a partner shipwright with John Becket. By 1732 the Bartolls had moved to Falmouth, York County, Mass. (now Portland). They did not plan to return. In July, 1732, Mr. Bartoll sold his pew in the East Parish (Salem) meeting house (ED 62:15); and in 1734 he sold his former Salem homestead, house, barn, and land, for 240 li to blockmaker Bonfield Felt, his brother-in-law.

It seems unlikely that William Bartoll, presumably with plans to move to Maine by about 1730, would have built a new house on the homestead lot. The year 1730 is about the transition point between the First Period vernacular style and the new style (now known as "Georgian") which took hold locally in the 1730s, in which the frame was not exposed but was covered in box mouldings, or, if it was exposed, was finished at the edge not in a chamfer but in a bead. It is possible but not likely that William & Mary Bartoll had a new-style house built just before departing for Maine.

In November 1734: William Bartoll, Falmouth, York Co., shipwright, for 240 li sells to Bonfield Felt, Salem blockmaker, the house, barn, 1.75 acres (bounded as in Felt to Goodhue) (ED 64:254).

On Feb. 15, 1734/5, Bonfield Felt, Salem blockmaker, with the consent of his wife Margaret (Armstrong) Felt, for 250 li sells to John Goodhue, Ipswich fisherman, a Salem dwelling house and one and three-quarter acres of land bounded west on the common or training field, north on land of Christopher Babbage, east and south on land of Hodges (ED 68:2).

Of John Goodhue we know very little. He is the one who married (27 March 1732) Ann Preston at Chebacco (now Essex), per Ipswich Vital Records. There is no listing of any children born to them in Ipswich or Salem, but the records with record to births can be spotty.

On Jan. 12, 1735, John Goodhue, Salem fisherman, made an agreement with John Preston, Salem mariner, that "in consideration of the love and affection which he beareth toward Ann his now wife,"

John Goodhue and his heirs will continue seized of the messuage (house and land) in Salem bounded westerly on the training field (etc.) for John Goodhue's natural life and after his decease to the use of Ann for her natural life provided she remains his widow and immediately after her death or marriage the property was to go "such children between them begotten (ED 70:104). In this "settlement," which had the effect of a will, John Goodhue and John Preston, probably his brother-in-law—both Ipswich men have moved to Salem by 1735—are establishing the future ownership of the homestead here. After John's death, it would go to Anna, and after her death it would go to their surviving children or children's heirs.

As regards John & Anna Goodhue's building this house, it is speculation. We have a dependable list of all houses built between 1750 and 1773, inclusive; and this house is not on it. It is too early in style, as to moldings etc., to be built in the 1780s or 1790s ("post-colonial") and few houses were built post-1773 because of the impending war and then the war itself. Evidently it was built in the 1730s or 1740s (probably the latter) for John Goodhue & wife Ann Preston, as their home.

Presumably John Goodhue continued in Salem as a fisherman, almost certainly a skipper of fishing schooners faring out to the fishing grounds of the Gulf of Maine and Nova Scotia, and later, perhaps to the Grand Bank of Newfoundland. They would spend months at a time at sea. I have found no records of activities specific to Goodhue.

The catches of fish, brought back to Salem, were "made" or "cured" in "fishyards" along the waterfront, operated by the "shoremen" who owned the yards and the vessels. There, on the "fish flakes" or "fish fences" (low racks made of wood frames and sticks) the fish, split into two fillets, was laid out by the thousands in the wind and sun, until it was cured (dried out and stiffened) so that the buyers, the merchants of Salem and Boston, could ship it overseas. The best cured fish ("merchantable fish") went to Europe to feed the Catholic populations, while the not-so-good ("refuse fish") was sold in the Caribbean.

It seems that John Goodhue and Ann Preston did have one surviving child, Anna Goodhue, who, on April 16, 1772, would marry Benjamin Brown, in Salem. Presumably Mr. Brown moved in here; and evidently they had a son Benjamin born right away, or perhaps he was from a first marriage.

Note: In a deed of April, 1779, from Joseph Hodges to Joseph Vincent, of land adjoining, the bounds are given as starting at the s.w. corner

by land of Goodhue (ED 138:5). This indicates that the property (locus) had remained in the ownership of the Goodhue family.

On Sept. 1, 1783, the estate of Ann Goodhue of Salem was probated, intestate (#11151). This may have been Mrs. Brown's mother, presumably Ann (Preston) Goodhue.

Benjamin Brown was a cabinet-maker in the 1780s. His involvement, if any, in the Revolutionary War 1775-1783 is unknown (there were several Benjamin Browns in Salem). He and Henry Rust purchased the old court house, on a site 50' by 30' adjoining the meeting house of the First Church, at the corner of now-Essex and now-Washington Streets. They built a large brick store thereon and in 1787 divided its ownership (ED 148:88, wherein BB is termed "cabinet maker").

By the 1790s Benjamin Brown had become a "trader," which usually meant a grocer. In the 1790 census, we find for this neighborhood the following heads of household: Benjamin Brown, Joseph Vincent, Francis Boardman, Thomas Briggs, Hannah Webb (p. 583). From this, we may surmise that the Benjamin brown were residing here.

On Sept. 26, 1792, Benjamin Brown, Salem trader, and wife Anna, for 14.2.0 sell to Joseph Vincent, ropemaker, a piece of land 14.1 poles in area at the southeast corner of the most southerly part of their lot (ED 156:6).

A week later, on Oct. 2, 1792, Mrs. Anna Brown conveys to her husband Benjamin (via son Benjamin 3rd, Salem trader) the buildings and land bounded w. on the Common or way on the east side of the Common, n. on land of Thomas Briggs, e. on land of Joseph Vincent, s. on land the Browns sold to Vincent, e. on the same, s. on land of Joseph Vincent back to the street (ED 155:109).

On 13 Sept. 1793 Rev. William Bentley wrote in his diary, "Brown on the Common is selling off his house and real estate in town, to go to a farm he has purchased in Andover. One of your unaccountables. Brown's store is contracted for at 500 li but at long payments. The rise of real estate is visible."

On Sept. 14, 1793, for 420 li, Benjamin Brown, Salem trader (wife Anna releasing her interest) sells to Thomas Briggs, Salem ropemaker, the buildings and land, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres, bounded west on the Common or way (as bounded in the 1792 deed) (ED 156:240)

Bentley's comment (Sept. 16): "Briggs has contracted for Brown's house on the Common and the outbuildings and land at 420 li."

Whenever it was built, and for whom, the house now (1793) belonged to Thomas Briggs, ropemaker.

Thomas Briggs (1758-1803) was born in Little Compton, Rhode Island, on Feb. 10, 1758 (EIHC 4:7). He had come to Salem by 1784, when (on June 20) he married Anna Vincent, daughter of Joseph Vincent, a prosperous ropemaker. They would have one child, Anna.

In December, 1790, for 120 li Thomas Briggs, Salem ropemaker, had bought from Anstiss, wife of Robert Stone, distiller (she being an heir of C. Babbage), a parcel of about one acre, bounded west 104' 10" on the way by the Common and about 46 poles long, bounded s.e. on land of Benjamin Brown and n.w. on land of William Brown, and butting e. 6 poles 3 links on land of Joseph Vincent (ED 152:156). Thomas Briggs proceeded to build a ropewalk on this land (if he hadn't already done so), a ropewalk being a very long one-story shedlike building in which cordage was spun out of raw hemp. Most of the cordage was used for the rigging of ships, which was a lucrative business in Salem in the 1790s and onward.

In August, 1791, Joseph Vincent, for fatherly love and 5 shillings, gave part of his back-land, on Collins Cove, to his son-in-law Thomas Briggs, ropemaker (ED 153:141). This was probably done to allow Briggs to extend his ropewalk to the water.

Therefore, as of 1793, Thomas Briggs owned a combined parcel, with ropewalk and house thereon, fronting perhaps 200' on the way past the Common and running back to Collins Cove. Standing to the north of this house was also evidently an old building, maybe used as a barn, formerly used as a bake-house by Benjamin Brown.

Thomas Briggs was smart to have moved to Salem. By the 1790s, the new foreign markets—and the coffee trade, which would be opened in 1798 with Mocha, Arabia—brought great riches to the Salem merchants, and raised the level of wealth throughout the town: new ships were bought and built, more crews joined more shipmasters, new shops and stores opened, new partnerships were formed, and new people moved in. Salem's first bank, the Essex Bank, was founded in 1792, although it "existed in experiment a long time before it was incorporated," per Rev. William Bentley. From a population of 7921 in 1790, the town would grow by 1500 persons in a decade. At the same time, thanks to the economic policies of Alexander Hamilton, Salem vessels were able to transport foreign cargoes tax-free and essentially to serve as the neutral carrying fleet for both Britain and France, which were at war with each other.

Two of Thomas Briggs' account books survive, in the collection of the Phillips Library, PEM (see sample pages, appended).

In the late 1790s, there was agitation in Congress to go to war with France, which was at war with England. After President Adams' negotiators were rebuffed by the French leaders in 1797, a quasi-war with France began in summer, 1798, much to the horror of Salem's George Crowninshield family (father and five shipmaster sons), which had an extensive trade with France, and whose ships and cargos in French ports were susceptible to seizure. The quasi-war brought about a political split within the Salem population. Those who favored war with France (and detente with England) aligned themselves with the national Federalist party, led by Hamilton and Salem's Timothy Pickering (the U.S. Secretary of State). These included most of the merchants, led locally by the Derby family. Those who favored peace with republican France were the Anti-Federalists, who later became aligned with Jefferson and his Democratic-Republican party; they were led locally by the Crowninshields and Whites. For the first few years of this rivalry, the Federalists prevailed; but after the death of Hasket "King" Derby in 1799 his family's power flagged.

In 1799, as the US Navy frigate "Essex" was being built, Thomas was given a large piece of business in providing the cordage for the mizzenmast, and his father-in-law Joseph Vincent got the same for the foremast (see p. 201, Ralph D. Paine, "Ships & Sailors of Old Salem").

In 1800, Adams negotiated peace with France and fired Pickering, his oppositional Secretary of State. Salem's Federalists merchants erupted in anger, expressed through their newspaper, the *Salem Gazette*. At the same time, British vessels began to harass American shipping. Salem owners bought more cannon and shot, and kept pushing their trade to the farthest ports of the rich East, while also maintaining trade with the Caribbean and Europe. Salem cargoes were exceedingly valuable, and Salem was a major center for distribution of merchandise throughout New England: "the streets about the wharves were alive with teams loaded with goods for all parts of the country. It was a busy scene with the coming and going of vehicles, some from long distances, for railroads were then unknown and all transportation must be carried on in wagons and drays. In the taverns could be seen teamsters from all quarters sitting around the open fire in the chilly evenings, discussing the news of the day or making merry over potations of New England rum, which Salem manufactured in abundance." (from Hurd's History of Essex County, 1888, p.65).

The Crowninshields, led by brother Jacob, were especially successful, as their holdings rose from three vessels in 1800 to several in 1803. Their bailiwick, lower Derby Street, seemed almost to be a foreign country: in the stores, parrots chattered and monkeys cavorted, and from the warehouses wafted the exotic aromas of Sumatran spices and Arabian coffee beans. From the wharves were carted all manner of strange fruits and blue and red patterned china and piles of gorgeous silks and figured cloths. The greatest of the Salem merchants at this time was William "Billy" Gray, who owned 36 large vessels—15 ships, 7 barks, 13 brigs, 1 schooner. Salem was then still a town, and a small one by our standards, with a total population of about 9,500 in 1800.

Its fierce politics polarized everything. The two factions attended separate churches, held separate parades, and supported separate schools, military companies, and newspapers. Salem's merchants resided mainly on two streets: Washington (which ended in a wharf on the Inner Harbor, and, above Essex, had the Town House in the middle) and Essex (particularly between what are now Hawthorne Boulevard and North Street). The East Parish (Derby Street area) was for the seafaring families, shipmasters, sailors, and fishermen. In the 1790s, Federal Street, known as New Street, had more empty lots than fine houses. Chestnut Street did not exist: its site was a meadow. The Common was not yet Washington Square, and was covered with hillocks, small ponds and swamps, utility buildings, and the almshouse. As the 19th century advanced, Salem's prosperity would sweep almost all of the great downtown houses away (the brick Joshua Ward house, built 1784, is a notable exception).

The town's merchants, among the wealthiest in the country, had, in Samuel McIntire, a local architect who could help them realize their desires for large and beautiful homes in the latest style. While a few of the many new houses went up in the old Essex-Washington Street axis, most were erected on or near Washington Square or in the Federalist "west end" (Chestnut, Federal, and upper Essex Streets). The architectural style (called "Federal" today) had been developed by the Adam brothers in England and featured fanlight doorways, palladian windows, elongated pilasters and columns, and large windows. It was introduced to New England by Charles Bulfinch in 1790. The State House in Boston was his first institutional composition; and soon Beacon Hill was being built up with handsome residences in the Bulfinch manner.

Samuel McIntire (1757-1811), who was self-educated and who made his living primarily as a wood-carver and carpenter, was quick to adapt the Bulfinch style to Salem's larger lots. McIntire's first local

composition, the Jerathmeel Peirce house (Federal Street), contrasts with his later Adamesque designs. In place of walls of wood paneling, there now appeared plastered expanses painted in bright colors or covered in bold wallpapers. The Adam style put a premium on handsome casings and carvings of central interior features such door-caps and chimney-pieces (McIntire's specialty). On the exterior, the Adam style included elegant fences; and the houses were often built of brick, with attenuated porticoes and, in the high style, string courses, swagged panels, and even two-story pilasters. The best example of the new style was the Elias Hasket Derby house, co-designed by Bulfinch and McIntire, and built on Essex Street in 1797-8 (demolished in 1815), on the site of today's Town House Square.

A new bank, the Salem Bank, was formed in 1803, and there were two insurance companies and several societies and associations. The political and commercial rivalries continued. The ferment of the times is captured in the diary of Rev. William Bentley, bachelor minister of Salem's East Church and editor of the *Register* newspaper. His diary is full of references to the civic and commercial doings of the town, and to the lives and behaviors of all classes of society.

Thomas Briggs had been a success in Salem, but his success seems to have done him in. He died on March 10, 1803, aged 45 years. On that day, Rev. William Bentley wrote in his diary, "This day died our neighbor Thomas Briggs. He came, a rope maker, from Rhode Island, about 25 years ago, to Salem. He worked with Mr. Vincent and married his daughter. He was assisted in erecting anew ropewalk, and had great success; but, relaxing from industry, and living with every indulgence of good cheer, he left the vigour of a firm constitution, remained prey to disease for several years, and finally died very old at 45 years. A fanatic in opinion, as well as in high life, he gave great satisfaction to his friends at death." On March 12, he wrote, "Was buried that singular man Mr. Briggs. He insisted upon a mahogany coffin, to be buried in his own ground (on north side of Briggs Street), to be attended by his own sects and to have a minister of his own demonization, when he could not read or write, and was as ignorant, except of his own occupation, as a man in civil society could be.

Thomas Briggs left a highly detailed will (appended). This house and most of his property he left to his wife, with instructions to remove the ropewalk and sell off some of the land. Briggs Street already existed, in part, and was called Briggs Court.

In 1804 the ropewalk was dismantled, and much of it was moved to Bridge Street, where a Mr. Stickney opened a cordage-making business.

The Briggs's daughter Anna married Jabez Baldwin, a prosperous jeweler. In 1809 or so the Baldwins built the large brick mansion on the south corner of Briggs Street and Pleasant Street fronting on the Common (the street now known as Washington Square East was then known as Pleasant Street).

Mrs. Anna (Vincent) Briggs may have moved in with them, or may have stayed on in the old house (this one) for a while.

By 1811 the former Thomas Briggs house was leased by John White Treadwell, a supercargo (business agent) on merchant vessels. He was married to Susan Farley, of Ipswich. His mother was one of the daughters of Capt. John White, of 83 Essex Street, Salem (house now stands on Curtis Street).

John W. Treadwell handled the sale and purchase of overseas goods evidently for his cousins, Stephen & Joseph (Jr.) White, who had just built adjoining mansions on the north side of Washington Square (#31 and #35). His daughter Susan wrote later, "The house in which I was born was a small very old-fashioned one on Pleasant Street, the longest street, on the north side of the Common near what was then Briggs Court, the owner of the land being Mrs. Briggs, the mother-in-law of Mrs. Baldwin, who in 1814 (sic) built the square brick house on the corner of the Court to the west side of which my father soon after removed... The small house in which I was born was removed down Briggs Court toward the water and near a small family burying ground." (see book "Witches' Breed" for passage)

At the time of Susan's birth, her father JWT was in Havana on board the 135-ton brig "Success." This vessel had departed Salem on 23 Nov. 1810, under Capt. Tobias L. Porter, with Jacob Holt as mate and a crew of five plus cook. Treadwell had played the same role on the same vessel on a voyage to Germany (Tonning), departing 11 April 1810 (Salem Crew Lists, Mystic Seaport). He also voyaged to South Africa and Cape Verde. His papers may be found at the Phillips Library, PEM.

J. W. Treadwell later became cashier (manager) of the Merchants Bank, whose president was Judge Joseph Story, brother-in-law of the Whites. He was a part-owner of many merchant vessels, investing with his White relatives. As she says, the family did not stay in this house for long and moved into one side of the brick house.

In July, 1818, Mrs. Briggs and the Baldwins, for \$5160 sold to Hon. Nathaniel Silsbee the land fronting west on Pleasant Street 83' and

south on Briggs Street 316.5' where it bounded east on more land of Mrs. Anna Briggs. He would build his large mansion thereon. Jabez Baldwin would die of dropsy at 42, on Nov. 8, 1819.

In "Youthful Recollections of Salem," written in 1869 about his memories of Salem in 1798-1810, B.F. Browne (EIHC 49) recalls a great deal about Salem Common and environs, including the business of ropemaking and the families of Vincent and Briggs, as well as the launching of the frigate "Essex" in 1799, for which Thomas Briggs provided much of the cordage for the lines and rigging (see appended pages, 206-209, 289-293). His memoir of the Common before being landscaped, and the activities of militia training day, are also notable (pp. 298-9, 301).

Benjamin F. Browne ("Account of Leveling of The Common," EIHC 4) also reminisces that on Pleasant Street in his boyhood (c. 1800) were the Francis Boardman house (now #82 Washington Square East), then the house of ropemaker Joseph Vincent with his ropewalk in the rear running to the Cove; and next north of that a two-story house owned and occupied by Thomas Briggs; and north of that an old building which had been occupied by Benjamin Brown as a bake house. Briggs Street was not then opened. It was first a court, extending about two-thirds the length of the street. Briggs Rope Walk commenced at the place now occupied by Hon. Nathaniel Silsbee's house, and extended to the Cove." He also remembers Thomas Briggs, who donated \$30 for landscaping the Common in 1802, as follows: "He was a ropemaker and lived in a house occupying part of the site of the brick house of Mrs. Jabez Baldwin, his only child. The situation of the ropewalk has been previously described. It was removed in 1804 and formed part of Stickney's ropewalk in Bridge Street. He married Anna, daughter of Joseph Vincent." (EIHC 4:7).

It is likely that the house, in situ overlooking the Common, was leased to tenants from about 1809 to 1843.

On Sept. 3, 1842, Mrs. Anna (Vincent) Briggs died. Her only heir was her daughter, Mrs. Jabez (Anna) Baldwin, now a widow. Mrs. Baldwin had a plan for the old house, which was almost certainly being leased to tenants.

In 1843, this house was moved to its present location. Daniel H. Jewett, carpenter, is the source for this: In 1843, he wrote (in about 1890), "The first contract this year was with Mrs. Anna Baldwin. We removed the old Briggs house (which stood on Pleasant Street facing the Common) to Briggs Street and built an addition to it. The house is

now standing, it is numbered 23.” (see PEM, Phillips Library, for DHJ account of work).

The first tenants here appear to be Messrs. Reeves & Monies. This house was #13 (#15 was tenanted by Nathaniel Holden, sailmaker, of Holden & Oakes, sailmakers at 7 Derby Wharf; #19, there since before 1843, was tenanted by Kehews). #13 was tenanted by William Reeves, 49, ropemaker, and William Monies, laborer (per 1846 Street Book and 1846 Directory). Mr. Reeves was there in 1847 too; Mr. Monies was gone (per 1847 Street Book). By 1850 (per census) it was occupied by three families: those of George Gowan, 54, ropemaker (born in England) and wife Margaret, 50 (born in Ireland), Thomas Newhall, 25 (b. NB), and James Gowan, 25, Frances Gowan, 20, and Margaret E. Gowan, 11 (all born in Maine); Elizabeth Restell, 28 (born in Nova Scotia), and children Augustus E., 7, and Elizabeth 4; Mary Peach, 49, and Augustus L. Peach, 25, Sarah A. Peach, 20, with boarder John C. Butland, 28, born in NH.

Mrs. Baldwin continued to own the property, renting it to tenants.

Salem was evolving from a shipping port to a manufacturing and transportation center. In 1838 the Eastern Rail Road, headquartered in Salem, began operating between Boston and Salem, which gave the local people a direct route to the region’s largest market. The new railroad tracks ran right over the middle of the Mill Pond; the tunnel under Washington Street was built in 1839; and the line was extended to Newburyport in 1840.

The 1840s proved to be a decade of explosive growth in Salem’s leather industry, still conducted largely as a mass-production handicraft, and its new textile manufacturing, applying leading edge machine technology.

The tanning of animal hides and curing of leather, a filthy and smelly enterprise, took place on and near Boston Street, along the upper North River. In 1844, there were 41 tanneries; a few years later, that number had doubled and in 1850 they employed 550 workers. Salem had become one of the largest leather-producers in America; and it would continue to grow in importance throughout the 1800s.

In 1847, along the inner-harbor shoreline of the large peninsula known as Stage Point, the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company completed the construction of the largest steam cotton factory building in the world, four stories high, 60’ wide, 400’ long, running 1700 looms and 31,000 spindles to produce millions of yards of first-quality cotton sheeting and shirting. It was immediately profitable, and 600 people found

employment there, many of them living in new houses on The Point. The cotton sheeting of The Point found a ready market in East Africa, and brought about a revival of shipping, led by the merchants David Pingree (president of the Naumkeag company) and John Bertram.

In Lynn, the factory system was perfected, and that city became the nation's leading shoe producer. Salem had shoe factories too, and attracted shoe workers from outlying towns and the countryside. Even the population changed, as hundreds of Irish families, fleeing the famine in Ireland, settled in Salem and gave the industrialists a big pool of cheap labor.

The Gothic symbol of Salem's new industrial economy was the outsized twin-towered granite-and-brick train station—the “stone depot”—smoking and growling with idling locomotives, standing on filled-in land at the foot of Washington Street, on the site of shipyards and the merchants' wharves.

In general, foreign commerce waned: in the late 1840s, giant clipper ships sailing from Boston and New York replaced the smaller vessels that Salem men had sailed around the world. The town's shipping consisted of vessels carrying coal and importing hides from Africa and Brazil, and Down East coasters with cargoes of fuel wood and lumber. A picture of Salem's waterfront is given by Hawthorne in his mean-spirited “Introduction” to *The Scarlet Letter*, which he began while working in the Custom House.

Salem's industrial growth continued through the 1850s, as business expanded, the population swelled, new churches were built, new working-class neighborhoods were developed (especially at The Point, South Salem along Lafayette Street, in North Salem, off Boston Street, and along the Mill Pond behind the Broad Street graveyard); and new schools, factories, and stores were erected. A second, even-larger factory building for the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company was added in 1859, down at Stage Point, where a new Methodist Church went up in 1852; and many neat new homes, boarding-houses, and stores lined the streets between Lafayette and Congress. The tanning business continued to boom, as better and larger tanneries were built along Boston Street and Mason Street; and subsidiary industries sprang up as well, most notably the J.M. Anderson glue-works on the Turnpike (Highland Avenue).

As it re-established itself as an economic powerhouse, Salem took a strong interest in national politics. It was primarily Republican, and strongly anti-slavery, with its share of outspoken abolitionists, led by Charles Remond, a passionate speaker who came from one of the

city's leading black families. At its Lyceum (on Church Street) and in other venues, plays and shows were put on, but cultural lectures and political speeches were given too.

With the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860, it was clear that the Southern states would secede from the union; and Salem, which had done so much to win the independence of the nation, was ready to go to war to force others to remain a part of it.

The Civil War began in April, 1861, and went on for four years, during which hundreds of Salem men served in the army and navy, and many were killed or died of disease or abusive treatment while imprisoned. Hundreds more suffered wounds, or broken health. The people of Salem contributed greatly to efforts to alleviate the suffering of the soldiers, sailors, and their families; and there was great celebration when the war finally ended in the spring of 1865.

Through the 1860s, Salem pursued manufacturing, especially of leather and shoes and textiles. The managers and capitalists tended to build their new, grand houses along Lafayette Street (these houses may still be seen, south of Holly Street; many are in the French Second Empire style, with mansard roofs). Factory workers, living in smaller houses and tenements, wanted something better for themselves: in 1864 they went on strike for higher wages and fewer hours of work.

Finally, on 25 Oct. 1866 Ann Baldwin, Salem widow, for \$1100 sold to Mrs. Elizabeth S. Towle, the house and land bounded ns. 39'6" Briggs Street, s.w. 79' Charles E. Brown, n. 40.5' Fuller & Clark, e. 79.5' Holden (ED 713:9).

The Towles resided at 36 Pleasant Street and evidently rented out this house. He was a carpenter, and would die in 1876, having survived Elizabeth. On 8 June 1870 Abraham Towle & wife Elizabeth S. in her right for \$1500 sold to Anna K. Kimball, wife of Charles A., of Salem, the dwelling house and land, subject to mortgage; ED 816:188.

The Kimballs evidently resided here with their children. Mr. Kimball died and Anna married, second, Samuel A. Brown.

25 May 1889 Anna K. Brown (formerly Kimball), wife of Samuel A. Brown, sold the premises to William A. Campbell (ED 1249:336); and in January, 1896, W. A. Campbell sold the same to Hannah Campbell (ED 1469:345,347).

Thereafter, conveyances were as follows:

7 Dec. 1912 W. A. Campbell, a right, to Samuel A. Campbell (ED 2188:458).

11 Sept. 1937 S. A. Campbell to Margaret M. Rabbitt (ED 3297:543, also 2610:11, 2389:511).

2 July 1942 M.M. Rabbitt to Carl F. & Margaret L Melin (ED 3297:543)

21 July 1968: death of Carl Melin.

8 Aug. 2001 Margaret Melin executor of will to Douglas Denholm (ED 17528:279).

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

Felt to
Goodhue
1734/5

68:2

Bonfild Sheriff of the County of Essex
To all People to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting.
Know ye, That *I Bonfild Sheriff of the County of Essex*

For and in Consideration of the Sum of *four hundred and fifty pounds* lawfully received by me in hand before the Enfealing hereof, well and truly paid by *John Goodhue* Justice of the Peace for the County of Essex, his Heirs and Assigns

the Receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, and myself therewith fully satisfied and contented, and thereof, and of every part and parcel thereof, do exonerate, acquit and discharge *the said John Goodhue* Heirs, Executors and Administrators for ever by these Presents: HAVE given, granted, bargained, sold, aliened, conveyed and confirmed, and by these Presents, Do freely, fully and absolutely give, grant, bargain, sell, aliene, convey and confirm, unto *him*, the said *John Goodhue* Heirs and Assigns for ever, a certain

Messuages, Tenement, Site, and in London a certain
consisting of a Dwelling house and lane by the name
and three quarters of the said Lane and Lane do as follows
to wit the Lane of Cannon or Truincing Field Northward, on
East of Christopher Dabbeys and Eastwardly on the
East end belonging to the Mayor and Citizens of the City of London
to wit the Lane of Cannon or Truincing Field Northward, on
East of Christopher Dabbeys and Eastwardly on the

To have and to hold, the said granted and bargained Premises, with all the Appurtenances, Priviledges and Commodities to the same belonging, or in any wise appertaining to *him* the said *John Goodhue* Heirs and Assigns for ever. To his and their only proper Use, Benefit and Behoof for ever. And *the said John Goodhue* Heirs, Executors and Administrators, do Covenant, Promise and Grant to and with *him* the said *John Goodhue* Heirs and Assigns, that before the Enfealing hereof, *he* the true sole and lawful Owner of the above-bargained Premises, and lawfully seised and possessed of the same in his own proper Right, as a good, perfect and absolute Estate of Inheritance in Fee Simple: And have in *him* good Right, full Power, and lawful Authority, to grant, bargain, sell, convey and confirm, said bargained Premises, in manner as aforesaid: And that *the said John Goodhue* Heirs and Assigns, shall and may from Time to Time, and at all Times forever hereafter, by force and virtue of these Presents, lawfully, peaceably and quietly Have, Hold, Use, Occupy, Possess and Enjoy the said demised and bargained Premises, with the Appurtenances free and clear, and freely and clearly acquitted, exonerated and discharged of, from all and all manner of former or other Gifts, Grants, Bargains, Sales, Leases, Mortgages, Wills, Entails, Joyntures, Dowries, Judgments, Executions, or Incumbrances of what Name or Nature soever, that might in any measure or degree obstruct or make void this present Deed.

Furthermore.

I, the said Bonfild Sheriff for *the said John Goodhue* Heirs, Executors and Administrators, do Covenant and Engage the above demised Premises to *him* the said *John Goodhue* Heirs and Assigns, against the lawful Claims or Demands of any Person or Persons whatsoever, for ever hereafter to Warrant, Secure and Defend by these Presents. *Witness* *the hand of the said Bonfild Sheriff and Margaret M. Justice* *the day of February Anno Domini 1734*

Shipped sealed & delivered in presence of us Bonfild Sheriff & Margaret Justice
Robert Groat Landlord
Margaret M. Justice
Essex

1793

B. Brown
to
T. Briggs
156. 240

Know all men by these presents that I Benjamin Brown of Salem in the County of Essex in consideration of Four hundred and twenty pound lawful money paid me by Thomas Briggs of Salem aforesaid and by these presents freely fully and absolutely give grant bargain sell alien convey and confirm unto him the said Thomas Briggs his heirs and assigns forever all that piece of land situate in said Salem containing about one acre and three quarters of an acre be the same more or less and all the buildings thereon said land and is bounded as follows viz. westerly on the common or way by the common then northerly on the land of said Thomas Briggs then easterly on land of Jos. Vincent then southerly then again easterly and way aforesaid or however otherwise bounded or equited to be bounded with the premises & appurtenances thereof to have and to hold the same to the said Thomas Briggs & to his heirs to his & their use and behoof forever and I do covenant with the said Thomas Briggs & 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 Briggs & to his heirs to hold as aforesaid and that I will warrant and defend the same to the said Thomas Briggs & to his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons. and Anna the wife of me the said Benjamin Brown for said consideration and one shilling more paid to her by the said Thomas Briggs doth consent hereto and grant & release to the said Thomas Briggs & his heirs her dower & right in the afore granted premises to the same to the said Thomas Briggs & his heirs & assigns against her & her heirs & assigns. In witness whereof we the said Benjamin Brown & Anna his wife here to put our hands & seals the fourteenth day of September A.D. 1793 Signed sealed & del. in presence of us
 Benjamin Brown De Seal
 Anna Brown De Seal
 John Archer Junr. Barn. Herrick
 Essex of Salem September 14th A.D. 1793 Then the within named Benjamin Brown and Anna his wife personally appeared and acknowledged the within written Instrument to be their free act & deed before
 Richard Manning Justice of the peace
 Essex Rec. Sept. 14. 1793 & recorded & exam by John Pickering Magr



Previous



Go to Book/Page:

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Additional References:

Electronic References

164:30
 Mortgage deed
 showing 1799
 signature
 of Thos. Briggs

same more or less, & bounded northeasterly on land of Joseph Moulton Junior one hundred & fifty eight feet, northwesterly on State Street forty nine feet, southwesterly on Temple Street one hundred & forty four & an half feet, & southeasterly on land of the said Joseph Moulton Junior forty nine feet, or however otherwise bounded, being the same that I purchased of Samuel Mulliken, together with a right & privilage in the well in N^o one, so called, for drawing water from time to time as occasion may require, To have and to hold the same to him the said Josiah Bartlett and his heirs to him and their wife and behoof forever and I do covenant with the said Josiah 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 in manner aforesaid and that I & my heirs will warrant and defend the same, to him the said Josiah & his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons. And I Betsey White wife of the said Gilman in consideration of the premises & five shillings already paid me by the said Josiah do hereby release to him & his heirs forever all my right of dower in & to the premises forever. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this nineteenth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety six -

his "they" heirs" interlined before sealing
 signed sealed and delivered in presence of } Gilman White & a seal
 Rich^d Pike Sally Humarwell. } Betsey White & a seal

Witness May 19th 1796 Then the aforesaid Gilman White & Betsey White personally acknowledged the aforesaid Instrument by them sealed to be their Deed - before me
 Rich^d Pike Just Pac

Murphy } Deeds Rec March 27, 1798 & recorded & examined by John Pickering Regr
 to }
 Briggs } Know all Men by these presents that I David Murphy of Salem in the County of Essex
 Hope maker, in consideration of the sum of four hundred and nineteen dollars and fifty
 seven cents to me in hand paid before the delivery hereof by Thomas Briggs of Salem aforesaid
 Hope maker, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, have given granted bargained and sold
 and do by these presents give grant bargain sell and convey unto him the said Thomas Briggs his
 heirs and assigns - a certain piece of land in said Salem containing in the whole about
 forty poles, with all the buildings thereon, and is bounded as follows, to wit, fartherly on Essex
 Street, westerly on land of Timothy Williams, northerly by a small creek next the common,
 so called, and easterly on land of John Masury, with the priviledges to the same belonging,
 being the same parcel of land which Phillips Cromwell by Deed recorded in the Records in
 Salem Lib^o 6th Folio 4th conveyed to Jonathan Prince. To have and to hold the said
 granted and bargained premises, together with the appertinances to him the said Thomas
 Briggs and to his heirs and assigns forever. And I the said David Murphy for myself, my heirs,
 executors and administrators do hereby covenant to and with the said Thomas Briggs and his
 heirs and assigns that at the sealing hereof, I am the lawful owner of said granted premises
 with their appertinances and stand seised thereof in my own proper right as a good
 estate in fee simple, that I have lawful right to sell the same as aforesaid that they are free
 of all incumbrances whatever, and further that I my heirs executors and administrators
 shall and will warrant and defend said granted premises unto the said Thomas Briggs and his
 heirs and assigns forever against the claims of all people. Provided nevertheless, if said
 David Murphy or his heirs executors or administrators shall pay said Thomas Briggs or his
 heirs, executor, administrator or assigns said sum of four hundred and nineteen dollars &
 sixty seven cents with lawful interest on or before the thirty first day of December which
 will be in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred then this Deed as also certain
 bond bearing even date with these presents given by said David Murphy to said Thomas
 Briggs of the penalty of eight hundred dollars conditioned to pay the first mentioned sum
 and interest at the time aforesaid, shall both be void otherwise shall remain absolute and I
 Abigail wife of the said David Murphy in consideration of one dollar paid me by said
 Thomas Briggs the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge do hereby release to him and his
 heirs all my right of dower in the granted premises. In witness whereof we the said David Murphy and
 Abigail his wife have hereunto set our hands and seals this twenty third day of March
 signed sealed and delivered in presence of us } David Murphy & a seal
 Rich^d Manning William Bournell - } Abigail Murphy & a seal
 Mark

Deeds Rec 12. 1799
 Acknowledged and signed and sealed to the same the payment of which the mortgagee gave receipt,
 & recorded as aforesaid - this 12th of Decr
 Witness John Pickering Regr

Thos. Briggs



Briggs, Thomas.
Ship Chandler's account book,
1789 - 1792.

Fam.
No.

T. Briggs
acct. bk.
1789-92

Thomas
Brigg
Batem
Repevalk
1792-99

T Briggs
sect. bk.
1792-99



2 pages for
 T Briggs
 acct bk -
 Debtor (Dr) +
 Creditor (Cr)
 Eben H. Derby

76 *Wth Elias. H. Derby*

1794.				
Aug	12	To 10.0.24 Cable	56/-	28.12.0
"	"	To 9.1.26 Ditto	"	26.11.0
"	"	To Splicing 2 cables	25/-	2.16.0
				<u>£ 57.19.0</u>
Dec	16	To 12.0.15 hawses for the Helix	54/-	32.15.3
"	"	To 21.2.21 Cordage to your floor	"	58.11.1 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	22	To Splicing cable for Helix	"	1.8.0
"	"	To 11.3.23 Ditto to D ^o	54/-	32.5.9
Jan	3	To 5.3.16 Cordage for the Prussia Ship	54/-	15.18.3
"	5	To 32 rd sheet for line	1/6	2.8.9
				<u>£ 143.7.1$\frac{1}{2}$</u>
Mar	7	To 3.0.26 Cordage a ^d for Derby	54/-	8.14.6
"	11	To 13 th cordage wormen	"	0.9.9
"	"	To 12 th marten	"	0.9.0
"	12	To 0.3.13 Cordage of Spungam	54/-	2.6.9
"	16	To 0.3.27 Spungam	"	2.13.6
"	"	To 18 th skinn marten	9/-	0.13.6
"	"	To 45 th boll rope	1/-	22.14.0
"	17	To 20.2.19 Cordage a ^d for new ketch	54/-	55.16.1
"	18	To 8.2.18 " " L. Parochie	"	23.7.8
"	"	To 69 th boll rope	1/-	3.9.0
"	24	To 0.2.5 Spungam a ^d Lapsel	54/-	1.9.1 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	"	To 3.0.20 Cordage a ^d L. Parochie Bottom	"	8.11.7 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	"	To 1.0.24 Spungam a ^d Cord for new ketch	"	3.5.7
"	26	To 45 th worming B ^o	"	1.10.1 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	30	To 1.2.7 Spungam a ^d Light Stone	54/-	4.2.4
Apr	3	To 0.3.7 " " New Ketch	54/-	7.3.1 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	4	To 12.3.10 Cable Light Stone	"	34.5.0
"	"	To Amt for from Feb 25	"	45.15.2
"	6	To 4.2.15 Cordage a ^d for L. Parochie	54/-	12.11.6
"	"	To 4.0.12 Spungam for new ketch	"	2.14.9
"	8	To 39 th sheet for line L. Parochie	1/-	2.8.0
"	10	To 2.3.10 fine Cordage a ^d for Prussia Ship	66/-	12.15.1
"	"	To 4.0.21 Cordage	54/-	11.7.0
"	11	To 0.3.14 " " L. Parochie	54/-	7.9.8
"	13	To 2.0.9 " " L. Parochie for new ketch	"	5.12.1 $\frac{1}{2}$
				<u>£ 72.18.1$\frac{1}{2}$</u>

Carried to folio 84

9-10
 12-11-11
 14-1-14
 16-2-14
 22-7
 23-7

Contra

1794
 Aug. 18 Pay Cash £ 57 19 0

£ 57 19 0

Dec. 20 Pay Cash 60 0 0
 1898 July 1 Pay Cash bro. from folio 80 15 0 0
 " 10 Pay Cardage & Cash to Ballance 68 7 1/2

£ 143 7 1/2

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The Ships and Sailors of Old Salem

make the name of America respected among the nations of the world. Your largest and longest trees are wanted, and the arms of them for knees and rising timber. Four trees are wanted for the keel, which altogether will measure 146 feet in length, and hew 16 inches square. Please to call on the subscriber who wants to make contracts for large or small quantities as may suit best and will pay the ready cash.

“Salem, November 23, 1798.”
“ENOS BRIGGS.

So enthusiastic was the response to the call for material that Master Builder Enos Briggs was obliged to have this advertisement printed:

“THE SALEM FRIGATE

“Through the medium of the *Gazette* the subscriber pays his acknowledgements to the good people of the county of Essex for their spirited exertions in bringing down the trees of the forest for building the Frigate. In the short space of four weeks the complement of timber has been furnished. Those who have contributed to their country's defence are invited to come forward and receive the reward of their patriotism. They are informed that with permission of a kind Providence, who hath hitherto favored the undertaking,

Next September is the time
When we'll launch her from the strand
And our cannon load and prime
With tribute due to Talleyrand.

“Salem, Jan. 1, 1799.”
“ENOS BRIGGS.

The great timbers for the ship's hull were cut in the “wood lots” of Danvers, Peabody, Beverly and other near-by towns of Essex county and hauled through the snowy streets of Salem on sleds drawn by slow-moving oxen, while the people cheered

The Building of the Essex

them as they passed. The keel of the frigate was laid on the 13th of April, 1799, and she was launched five months and seventeen days later, on the 30th of September, Master Builder Briggs saving his reputation as a prophet by the narrowest possible margin.

The *Essex* was a Salem ship from keel to truck. Her cordage was made in three rope walks. Captain Jonathan Haraden, the most famous Salem privateersman of the Revolution, made the rigging for the mainmast at his factory in Brown Street. Joseph Vincent fitted out the foremast and Thomas Briggs the mizenmast in their rigging lofts at the foot of the Common. When the huge hemp cables were ready to be carried to the frigate, the workmen who had made them conveyed them to the shipyard on their shoulders, the procession led by a fife and drum. Her sails were cut from duck woven for the purpose at Daniel Rust's factory in Broad Street, and her iron work was forged by the Salem shipsmiths. Six months before she slid into the harbor her white oak timbers were standing in the woodlands of Massachusetts.

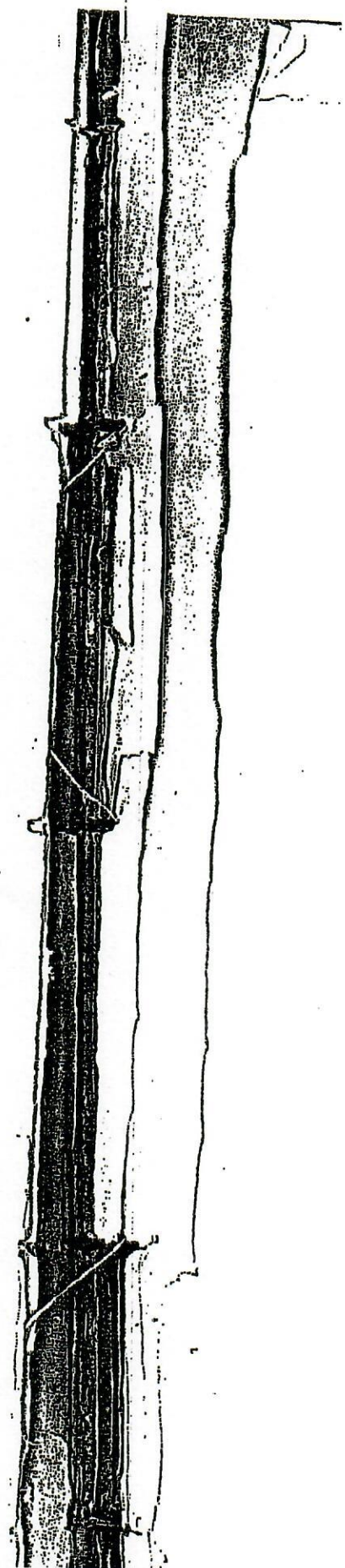
The glorious event of her launching inspired the editor of the *Salem Gazette* to this flight of eulogy:

“And Adams said: ‘Let there be a navy and there was a navy.’ To build a navy was the advice of our venerable sage. How far it had been adhered to is demonstrated by almost every town in the United States that is capable of floating a galley or a gun-boat.

“Salem has not been backward in this laudable design. Impressed with a sense of the importance of a navy, the patriotic citizens of this town put out a subscription and thereby obtained an equivalent for building a vessel of force. Among the foremost in this good work were Messrs. Derby and Gray, who set the example by subscribing ten thousand dollars each. But alas, the former is no more—we trust his good deeds follow him.

who had a dwelling house on it, which he sold, with about four acres of land to George Hodges in 1681. A century after this, Francis Boardman, a shipmaster and whose wife was a Hodges, bought of John Hodges part of this land and erected the dwelling house now owned by Zachariah Silsbee, his son-in-law. Benj. W. Crowninshield, who was Secretary of the Navy under Mr. Madison's administration, married his other daughter, and the son Francis survives. In this house Mrs. Abigail Rogers kept, in my boyhood, a school for young misses, and a famous one it was. Many misses of the wealthiest families of Salem were day scholars and many came from the neighboring towns and some from a distance as boarders. She was the widow of Nathaniel Rogers, who had been the master of the Latin Grammar School, and who was a native of Ipswich. I judge from what I heard of her, that she was a very cultivated lady, of good acquirements, a superior instructor, of great skill and tact in managing her school, and of indomitable energy and perseverance, who gained the love and respect of her pupils, and who reared a family of four boys to great respectability and usefulness.

The land north of Hodges' was early in possession of Nathaniel Beadle, and north of that, John Archer, in 1697, owned 3-4 of an acre of land. By covenant between his sons Thomas and Benjamin in that year, his estate was divided between them, and this lot is described as bounded west on the Common, north on Madame Bradstreet's land, and south on Nathaniel Beadle's. It underwent some changes in ownership after that before my knowledge of it. Next to Captain Boardman's house was a narrow vacant piece of land belonging to one of the Hodges family. It extended east to the water. Next to this, north, was the dwelling house of Joseph Vincent, with his rope-walk extending to the water, with a platform on piles, extending, I think about half way to the opposite shore of the neck. The workmen spun their lines the length of the walk, and when the weather permitted, to the end of the open platform. This and the neighboring walk of Thomas Briggs, were busy places in those times. All the work being then done by hand, and not by machinery, a great



number of men were employed in the walks, and when a cable was laid up at one of the walks, men from the others came to assist.

During the building of the frigate *Essex*, in 1799, I, an urchin, 6 years of age, was much interested in the proceedings in these two walks, which were in my neighborhood, and in which the cables and much of the cordage were made. I remember when a cable was carried from Briggs' walk to the frigate, we had quite a holiday in the neighborhood. Many workmen were there, arranged two and two, with a stick used in laying cables, and which I think was called a woolering stick, resting on the right shoulder of one and on the left shoulder of the other, on which the cable rested, proceeded from the walk, with the American flag displayed, preceded by one or more drummers and fifers, playing "Yankee Doodle," to the unlaunched frigate on the Neck. I have an impression that in some part of the journey, the cable slipped and wounded one of the workmen badly.

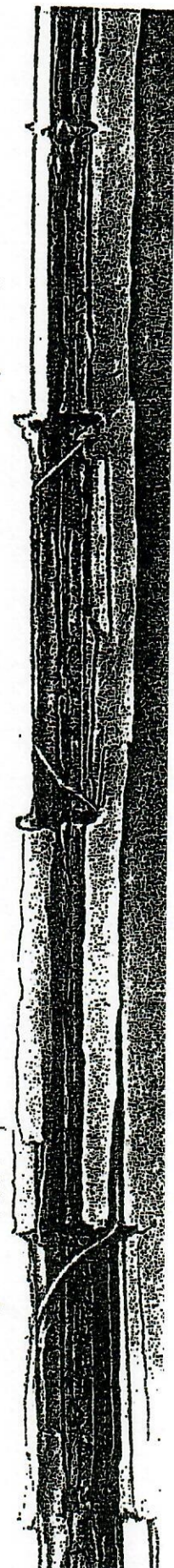
I remember the launch of the frigate *Essex*, which was built on Winter Island in 1799, by a subscription of our citizens, and presented to the government. Capt. Joseph Waters, father of Judge Waters, superintended her building. I have said that I remember her launch, but I have no distinct recollection of seeing her glide off the ways. I was on one of the ramparts of Fort Pickering, and was held up by my father to see her launched, but there was such a crowd of people between me and the ship, that I doubt if I saw her slip off. There were a few soldiers in the fort, for it was during our quasi war with France, and they were under command of Lieut. John Page, son of Col. John Page of this town. I remember coming up from the Neck through Derby street, and that the water had been over the street, and was then even with the tops of the wharves. In the file of the *Salem Gazette* of 1799, may be found the advertisement of Enos Briggs,—the builder of the ship, who came here from Pembroke, Mass., who lived at Stage Point, now Harbor street,—his house is still there,—and who was the builder of many of our best vessels,—the rythmical reading of which, I quote from recollection :

Next September is the time,
When we'll launch her from the strand,
And her cannon load and prime,
With tribute due to Tallyrand.

The successful cruise of this small frigate, commanded by Capt. David Porter, in the Pacific ocean, and her gallant defence, against the dastardly attack of two British men of war, and capture in neutral waters, form a bright chapter in American naval history.

It was during this time and while carrying cordage from one of these walks, that I for the only time saw Billy Dowst, the strong man of Salem. I copy from the Salem Gazette of July 21, 1801, the following notice of him:—

“He was a man of uncommon size and strength. He was nearly 7 feet high and weighed 300 pounds. The following instances will prove his great strength. He was on board a privateer in the revolutionary war, which got among the breakers off Cape Breton; when it became necessary immediately to cast anchor; but there being none upon deck, as many hands laid hold of one which was in the hold, as could get at it, but could not start it; Dowst pushed them aside, seized it himself, brought it on deck, carried it forward, and held it upon the timber heads while a cable was bent to it, when he threw it over, and saved the vessel and the lives of the crew, as they were on the point of dashing on the rocks. The anchor weighed seven hundred weight. At another time, eight or ten hands were sent to Becket's shipyard, from the well known privateer ship Grand Turk, to bring up a foreyard for the ship. Dowst was among them, but naturally of a dilatory disposition he did not at first take hold; the others shouldered it, but begun to stagger under it, and complained that there were not enough to carry it, Dowst laughing at them, told them he could carry it alone, on which they threw it down, and he took it up and carried it to the shop, without assistance. At another time, when he attended the fish flakes at Windmill point, he was directed by his employer to go for a jackass which was in an adjoining field. When Dowst got him to a partition fence, being in rather a lazy mood, to save himself the trouble of letting down the bars, he took the beast and lifted him over and then



got upon his back, and rode him to the place where he was to be employed. He once raised from the ground the anchor of the prize ship Rochampton, which weighed 1700 pounds and which four men had immediately before endeavored in vain to lift on a bet. Being at Bilboa last war, in a privateer, an English vessel came in, which had in its crew a professed bully, who was challenging every one to combat, and hearing of Dowst, sent a particular challenge to him. They met, and the Englishman, who was superior to our Sampson in the art of boxing, knocked him down three times, and the last time twisted his fingers into his hair to gouge him, when Dowst gave him a blow upon his arm which broke it, and with another blow broke in three of the bully's ribs, who it was said died of his wounds. Dowst, with his amazing strength, was remarkably good-natured and tender in his feelings, and rather of an indolent habit; but when he was roused to anger, or to exertion, his efforts were irresistible. He enjoyed through life a large share of health. For three months before his death he had been afflicted with the dropsy, but appeared to have considerably recovered, and the last day of his life he walked abroad the greater part of the day, according to his usual habit, but the next morning his wife found him dead in his bed."

(To be continued.)

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HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS
OF THE
ESSEX INSTITUTE

VOL. XLIX.

OCTOBER, 1913

No. 4

YOUTHFUL RECOLLECTIONS OF SALEM.

WRITTEN BY BENJAMIN F. BROWNE IN 1869.

(Continued from Volume XLIX, page 209.)

St. Catherine's day was a gala day with the rope-walk. In the Romish calendar she is the saintly patroness of that class of women, who in legal phrase are denominated spinsters, but our ropemakers believed that the Virgin Catherine of Russia, to encourage the manufacture of cordage in her dominions, went to a rope walk and spun several lines with her own hands, and they therefore adopted her as the patroness of ropespinner, and the Romish festival of St. Catherine, 25th of November, as their day of celebration. On that day no work was done in the walks, but American and Russian flags were displayed from their roofs ad libitum. There were generally a procession in the early part of the evening, a salute at intervals from cannon planted on the common, and an entertainment by the owners in their dwellings to a circle of their friends and patrons, and a liberal table spread for the workmen in the walks, where song, story, wassail and mirth abounded.

"There was a sound of revelry that night."

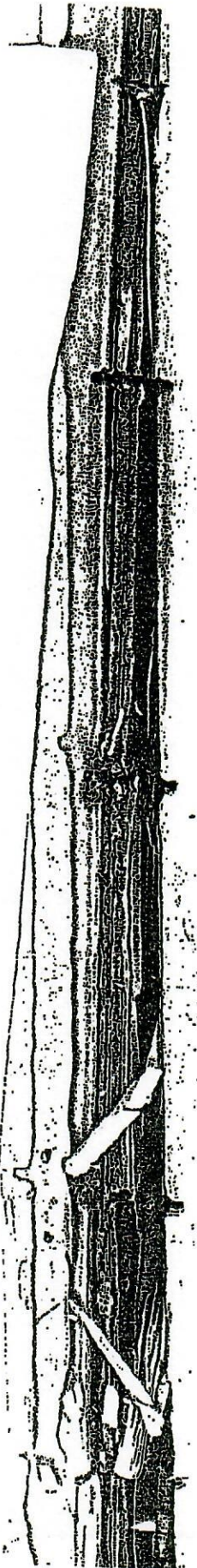
"Gunpowder treason was also generally celebrated by the

workmen of the ropewalk. This, as your readers probably know, was a celebration of the alleged attempt of Guy Faux or Fawks, to blow up the Parliament and destroy the royal family of Great Britain, 5th of Nov., 1605, and when by an act of Parliament was required to be spent in public thanksgiving by the churches and people subject to the English throne. There is no evidence that it was ever observed in our churches, but I think it was early made an occasion of fun and frolic by many of the people. A cart was provided, in which was placed an effigy to represent the pope, and another to represent Guy Faux, and in this cart were several musicians with drums, fifes and fiddles. The people assembled on the common, and at the proper time the procession started, composed of a large number of men and boys, among whom the ropemakers were conspicuous. The procession passed through various parts of the town, halting at residences and where crowds of people were assembled, and the music would sound, and a number of voices would strike up the refrain.



Don't you remember, the fifth of November,
Of gunpowder treason the plot?
I know of no reason, why gunpowder treason,
Should ever, ever be forgot.
Chink, chink, chink,
Give a little money, to buy a little drink,—

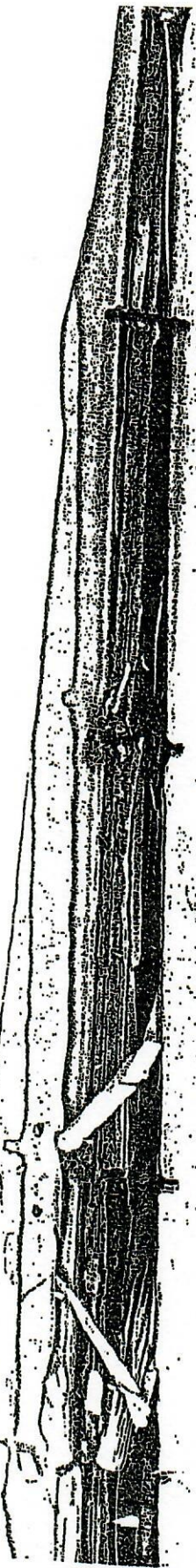
when a box or plate would be passed round and the contributions taken up. After passing through the town, the procession would go to the Neck or Great Pasture, where on some eminence were deposited a number of tar barrels and other combustibles, which were set fire to, and the pope and Guy underwent an auto de fe. The people then dispersed, and the leaders and musicians retired somewhere to be regaled with the chink, chink, chink, money. This celebration has dwindled down, to the burning on the hills, by the boys, of a few combustibles, which generally occasions an alarm of fire, and I believe even this was omitted the last 5th of November, when all the boys as well as men were too much interested in the election returns to think of the pope or Guy Faux, or the apocryphal history of the hellish plot.



Joseph Vincent, the proprietor of this ropewalk, was born in Kittery, in the State of Massachusetts, District of Maine, 7th March, 1738, and died at Salem, 6th November, 1832, having attained the great age of 94 years and 7 months. His father was Matthew Vincent, who was born in Tuscany, and came to Kittery in the palmy days of the Pepperells and Frosts, when Kittery and the opposite town of Newcastle, N. H., were very important fishing and commercial places. He was a boat builder, and he settled and married there. His son Joseph carried on the manufacture of cordage there, but was burnt out and came to Salem, before the war of the Revolution. He took a very decided and active part on the side of the patriots, joined the army under Washington, as a volunteer, equipped, at his own expense, a number of his apprentices, who joined the army, supplied the army before Boston with matchrope and the boats with cordage. He also supplied with cordage two sloops of war that were built at Newburyport. For all this he never received adequate compensation, taking in pay continental money which rapidly depreciated. He was a marked man in my day, for his generous hospitality, his perfect uprightness of character, his unostentatious charities, his great intelligence, and for the frank expression of his opinions. His son, Joseph, succeeded him in business in the same walk, and he possessed many of the characteristics of his father. He likewise attained to a long life, dying over 90 years of age.

Next to Mr. Vincent's on the north, lived his son-in-law Thomas Briggs, who was also a manufacturer of cordage. It was a small, but comfortable house of wood, but is not there now. His ropewalk was east of this, the head house being where the house of the late Edward D. Kimball now is. This walk likewise extended to the water, with a platform continuation over the water, like Mr. Vincent's. Briggs court, now Briggs street, was laid out by him, extending to about two-thirds of its present length. There was a bench at the bottom of it, for the rest of the numerous people who promenaded it, and for their refreshment, near it, a small house kept by a nice old lady named Mack, who sold cakes and ale. Brigg's walk was

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bought after his death, which happened in March, 1803, when he was aged 45, by Wm. Stickney, who removed it in parts to Bridge street. Mr. Briggs had a private cemetery, bordering on the court, in which several of his family were interred, and he had likewise a nursery for young poplar trees. There were several of these nurseries in the town, the poplar having been about that time introduced, and being a very graceful tree of rapid growth, was a great favorite, but its decay proved as rapid as its growth; it soon lost its beauty, and most of them were cut down and the nurseries abandoned. North of Mr. Brigg's house, stood the bakehouse of Benjamin Brown. I remember the bakehouse but not the man. He could not have been long gone, for he advertised ship bread and crackers for sale at his bakehouse near the Common, in 1791. I do not know anything more of him. Mr. Briggs left an only child, Anna, who married Jabez Baldwin, who erected the present Baldwin house. Baldwin was not a native of Salem, but came here a young man, and established himself as a jeweller, and kept his shop on part of the land where now is West place. He was an enterprising man, and kept a much larger stock of goods than any other person in the same line in town, and manufactured a large quantity of silver spoons and other articles of silver. He had a number of apprentices who boarded in his family, and as they passed two or three times a day over the Common, the path leading from the first opening in Newbury street, by the town pump, opposite the Franklin Building, to his house, was the best trodden on the Common. Two of his early apprentices are still living, viz.: George Baker, at Providence, R. I., and Stephens Baker, at Beverly, and also one who came a few years later, James Gould, at Baltimore. Mr. Baldwin built the brick house a little north of Mr. Brigg's house, subsequent to 1806, in which he afterwards lived, and in which he died, and which his widow and daughter now occupy. While carrying on business in Salem, Baldwin established in Boston, the house of Baldwin & Jones, of which Shreve, Stanwood & Co., are the successors. Baldwin's store in Salem, was entered by thieves the night of October 25, 1805, and jewelry worth \$3000 and over, stolen. This

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was a very large robbery for Salem, and, as I remember, caused much excitement. The robbers were never discovered, but some months after, about seventy of his watches, and a considerable part of his jewelry were found secreted in the garret of the small pox hospital in great pasture; and on the 19th of April, following, four boys discovered in a hollow tree in North Salem, into which they had chased a squirrel, the remainder of the watches. Mr. Baldwin died Nov. 8th, 1819.

I come now to Andrew street, of which I gave an account not long since in your paper and will now recapitulate. The land through which the street is laid out, was early the property of Capt. Joseph Gardner, son of Thos. G. the first settler. Capt. G. who is spoken of by the early chroniclers as the brave Capt. Gardner, commanded one of the Salem companies in the Narragansett fight, 1675. See Felt's Annals, 1st edition, page 251. In this fight he was slain. His wife was Anna, daughter of Emanuel Downing and brother to the famous Sir George D. She afterwards became the second wife of Governor Bradstreet, and as his widow sold it to Joseph Andrew, in February, 1710-11. In the deed it is described as a piece of land and low mowing land containing 3 3-4 acres, bounded south with land of Christopher Babbidge, east with a lane or highway though now within the fence running from Hodges' cove to another cove nigh Col. Higginson's pasture, north by land of Deliverance Parkman, and west by the Common or training field, being land which Capt. Joseph Gardner purchased of Wm. Browne, Esq. and Mr. Russell, and by his last will conveyed to me. John Gardner as administrator of Jonathan Andrew advertised this land for sale in 1788, as containing 4 1-2 acres, and the survey made by Gen. Gideon Foster in 1802, confirmed this last measurement. Joseph Andrew left this by will to his son Nathaniel A., and he bequeathed it to *his* son Jonathan A., who here carried on the tanning business, till his death, in 1781. The property was afterwards purchased by William Browne and sons, who carried on tanning here, until 1802, when Andrew street was opened, and the land divided into lots for sale. The tannery was where the

3rd Gtz
9 Feb 1869

site, which was afterwards owned and occupied by the widow Sarah Johnson, from Marblehead.

On the corner of Essex and Pleasant streets, the house now standing was occupied by Capt. James Archer who commanded a coasting sloop between Salem and Boston, and by his sister, widow Millett. This had been the house of Deacon Prince, of the East church, and in this house, it was said, the Council at the ordination of one of the pastors of the East church was held and the delegates were entertained. The house on the corner of Pleasant and Bath streets was owned and occupied by Capt. Nathaniel Knight, who was a shipmaster and afterwards wharfinger of Derby wharf. It was not a modern house then, and is not much altered in appearance now. Some houses were built in Bath street, after the Common was levelled, and I remember among their inhabitants, widow Roundy, from Beverly, mother of Capt. Charles, —Jonathan Mansfield, a tailor from Lynn, and whose shop was on Water, now Derby street,—and Mr. Harvey Brown, a teacher, who was one of three male children at a birth, and who all lived to an advanced age, Eppes, the last survivor, having died in Boston, November, 1868. I also recollect a family named Flint, and the three-story house occupied by Col. Samuel Archer, and later by Capt. Henry Elkins, who had been a shipmaster, and afterwards a Judge of the Court of Sessions, and was then Naval Officer of the Port of Salem and Beverly. His only child, Harriet, married Col. Enoch Cutler, of the U. S. Army. In 1791, Capt. Elkins commanded the brig Harriet, of Salem, which was wrecked in the Texel, March 21st of that year, and he alone of the ship's company was saved. He was saved by clinging to a horse which swam ashore.

Previous to 1802, the Common was uninclosed, and horses, cattle, ducks, geese, hens, and stray pigs, had free range. There were five small ponds, very shallow and muddy, two others had been previously filled up. There were several hillocks, and the southeast corner was always inundated after a heavy rain, and after the subsidence of much of the water, a considerable pond remained, which

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was called Flag pond. Mr. Bentley says he had seen the men who had cut flags and hoops on the Common, and also that Madam Babbidge before named said that she had frequently picked her basket of berries on it. At the close of the last century the militia of Salem had become disorganized and was destitute of officers. At the last regimental parade, it is said, that but one commissioned officer appeared on parade, and he a captain. In the spring of 1801, orders were issued by General Gideon Foster, commanding the Division, to a number of influential gentlemen of the town, to enroll all subject to military duty, to form them into companies, and to call meetings for choice of officers. This was done, and at a meeting of these officers E. Hasket Derby was elected to the command of the regiment, and Wm. Prescott and Benjamin Pickman as Majors. Mr., afterwards Judge Prescott, was then a lawyer in Salem, and here his son, the historian, was born. Col. Derby was a very public-spirited gentleman, and immediately agitated the project of levelling the Common. A subscription was started by him, in which he was liberally seconded by the citizens; a generous sum was subscribed, the town granted permission, and the work was commenced and vigorously pursued under the direction of Col. Derby. The work of levelling was completed the following spring, and the land was sown with oats. The earth taken from the hillocks was sufficient to fill up the ponds. The whole was enclosed with a railing of oak, and the walks were planted on each side with a row of young poplar trees. There were four gateways, north, east, south and west. The west and east gates were highly ornamented with arches, carvings, etc. (particularly the west one), which were designed and executed by Mr. Samuel McIntire, a very ingenious mechanic and architect of Salem. These were erected some three or four years after the levelling and railing. At the completion of the work in 1802 the Common was called Washington Square, although the word Square as applied to it is a misnomer, as the form is more nearly a triangle. Among the items of expenses were, *twenty dollars for drink.*

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cows go home from the Neck, though it was then in the forenoon. The total darkness lasted about four minutes. Many stars were seen, and the morning star shone very bright.

The Common on a general training day or other public gala day presented a very animated scene. Refreshment tents were planted on each side of Newbury street, both sides of Bath street, and on the south side of Brown street, in which were for sale various kinds of spirituous liquors and various kinds of food and confectionery. In some, fiddles and other musical instruments were being played to attract customers, to the music of which men and boys would be dancing without. Of more humble character, would be tables and stands of oysters and other commodities, to which customers were called by loud outcries. Gambling tables, dice boards, and roulette and wheel-of-fortune tables, not sparsely varied the scene. Here might be seen boys and men throwing props, pitching coppers, and gambling in various ways. Fights were not infrequent, and attracted large crowds, to whom a cracked pate or a bloody nose seemed to give great satisfaction. Spirituous liquors were freely served to the man or boy who could pay for them; there was no other restriction, and as may be well imagined, the fruits of intemperance were apparent. Those times are happily gone, and it is hoped never to return, though I must confess that I thought them jolly at the time. Happy was the boy then who had a pistareen (20 cents) in his pocket on training morning, and happy he, who had escaped the temptations of the day, if his pockets were lighter, could lay his head on the pillow with no unquiet reflections and could enjoy a quiet and refreshing sleep; less happy he to whom the sober second thought of the morning came with the parched mouth, the aching head, and the rue of the previous day's debauch. We have improved in external decency since that time, and I hope in morals. Salem has improved in many things since that time, maugers and croakings of those who have indulged in the habit of croaking till it has become morbid—people who were born bilious and have bad digestion.

Thos Briggs will & codicil fr Probate Ct, copy book.

Exam of Dr Daniel Hayes Rogr before me J. Mollen 9 Dec 1802

Priggs... In the Name of God Amen. I Thomas Priggs, of Salem in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being weak in Body, but of sound mind, perfect memory, do make and publish this my last will and Testament in manner and form following. ——— Infirmities. I do give and bequeath my soul to God my maker, beseeching his most gracious Acceptance of it through the merits and mediation of my compassionate Redeemer Jesus Christ our Lord, and not being truly to the Earth from whence it was taken. ——— and as for my Real, desire it may be decent at the discretion of my Executive hereafter named; ——— and as to my worldly Estate, I give and devise in the following manner. ——— Infirmities. It is my Will that all my just debts and the funeral Charges be paid as soon as may be after my decease by my Executors.

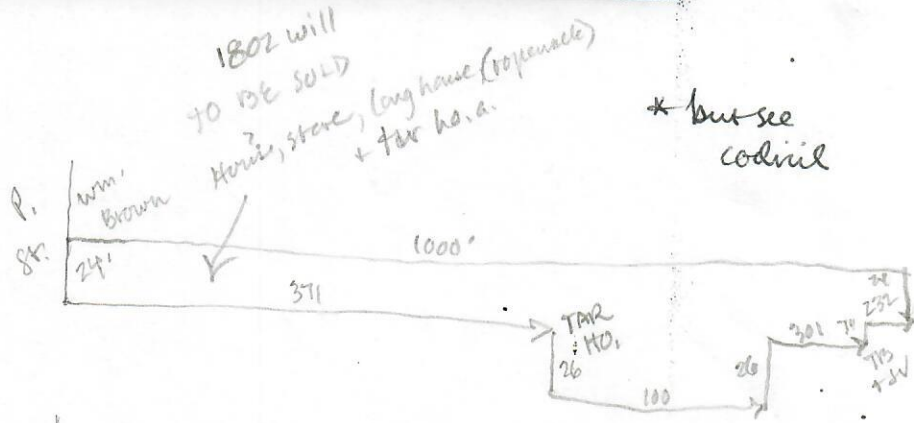
I Item I will and devise by order and empower my Executors herein after named to sell and dispose of the following real Estate as soon as may be after my decease, namely, my homestead long so called the Hope Well and Farm house adjoining together with the land warden and adjoining the same situated in Salem aforesaid and is bounded as follows to wit; beginning at the S. Westerly Corner of William Proctor's Land, then running S. Easterly for forty four feet and seven inches and bounded S. Westerly on Pleasant Street, then running N. S. E. three hundred and twenty one feet to my Farm house, then S. Easterly twenty six feet and two inches, then N. S. E. one hundred feet, then N. Westerly twenty six feet two inches, then N. S. E. three hundred and one foot and three inches to the Land of Joseph Weneat, then N. S. E. seven Inches, then N. S. E. two hundred and thirty two feet to the S. Westerly End of the Bridge that stands on my flatts, and bounded southerly

9 Dec 1802
THOS. BRIGGS
WILL.

①

① Item - extra to sell the upweck, farm house, & specified land*

farm house



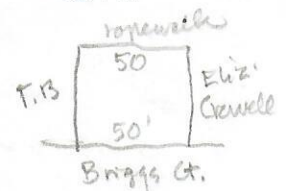
yearly by my other land and partly by the Land of Joseph Vincent then remaining
N. westerly across the said walk twenty four feet on a parallel line with the fence
as it now stands to the Land of William Brown, then remaining on a tract of land
of 3/4 of an Acre and Street and a narrow strip mentioned and bounded N. westerly by
Land of said Brown. Also the N. side adjoining bounded N. westerly on the State
of said William Brown, N. Easterly on Collins Cove so called, S. Easterly on the State
of Joseph Vincent together with the Bridge or Walk standing thereon, and all
the premises thereto belonging; Also the four Barges of a convenient way for
passage for Cattle to pass from Thomas Street through Briggs Cove (so called) there
land and six feet deep, then to run N. Westly to the said Barr House, which said
said way shall be kept open and unincumbered forever. Also on the 11th Feb. 1800 and
within that belongs to the Hope Walk and Barr House a public road up giving
thirty days notice of the time and Place of the sale, then of beyond writing the
same in one of the Salem and one of the Boston News papers then weeks
successively before the said date of sale, and this first time for my own
the heirs of the name to make sale of my land that adjoins Briggs Cove (so
called) in such sole and in such easy and manner as they shall think best, so to
do, that is to say, all the said land shall remain after it is sold otherwise, and all the
the same as being by the sale of the same real Estate and the 1/2 to be put out
in full and good and sufficient security giving the purchase money to the said pro-
perty to do the balance of the obligation, and to make and execute a good and
sufficient deed or deeds for the same according to Law. Also I give and bargain
unto my only daughter Anna Briggs and her heirs born of her body lawfully
begetting, forever, my ten shes of land situated in said Town lying at the N. Easterly
End of Briggs Cove (so called) and on each side of said Cove, and is bounded as fol-
lows, to wit, beginning at the S. Easterly Corner of said Cove, then running S. westerly
by the side of said Cove, then N. Westly on the said Cove, then running S. Easterly on
a right angle to the end of Joseph Vincent's land, then N. Easterly to the end of the
Cove, then N. Easterly to the said end, then off to the Hope Walk and bounded
on the East of said Hope Walk, then N. Westly by a line running parallel with
the S. Easterly End of the said Hope Walk, then S. Easterly to said Es-
quire Vincent's land, and bounded southerly on said Cove, also all the part of said Cove
being and lying to the N. East of said parallel line aforesaid. The said Anna
to my said daughter Anna Briggs one thousand dollars to be paid her, and the said
sum of the above said sole, when she arrives the age of eighteen years or at the
time of her marriage, which of those times shall first and next happen.

3
I then give and do guarantee unto my beloved heirs and to their heirs lawfully begotten
forever a piece of land situated in said Town for a burying ground or yard for them
and their heirs as follows, to wit, in said Town for a burying ground or yard for them
and their heirs as follows, to wit, first and next, a piece of land, sufficient
the Condition that they and their heirs shall keep the same in good sufficient
Repair, which piece of land is bounded N. Westly on Briggs Cove (so called)
then running S. Westly, and N. Easterly on the said end of the said
Cove, N. Westly on the said end, then off to the Hope Walk, and there
measuring fifty feet, and N. Westly on my other Land and all the way
that there shall be a suitable Gate in the Center of the front Thence in the Front
aforesaid, and always kept in good Repair. And that my Will shall be
in full effect; I hereby direct my Executors to make the following a Condition
in the sale of any lot of land adjoining the said Burial ground on the S. Westly
side and to bounded S. Easterly sixty feet on the Cove aforesaid, S. Westly on
my other Land, N. Westly on the said end of the Hope Walk, sixty feet; and
that the purchaser or purchasers and their heirs and assigns shall forever
keep and maintain a good and sufficient fence to be with built and close on
the front of said Burial ground and on the Cove, to be with built and close on
Gate in the middle thereof and the partition fence on the S. W. side, one half
on the N. W. and N. E. sides. And where there are as many Coffins deposited
in said Burial ground as may conveniently lay there, my Will and I
hereby direct, that it may remain unincumbered forever, and if default should
be made thereof, the same to be forfeited to my next lawful Heirs, who

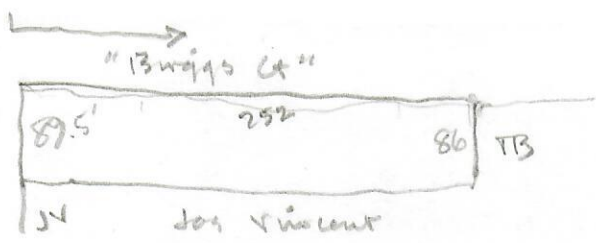
priv. of a convenient way
Briggs Ct.

2
2 to Mrs Anna Briggs Jr.
2 lots at the end of B. Ct.
+ on both sides thereof

3
2 buying ground
on B. Ct.



to Mrs. Ann's land on both sides of Briggs Ct.



11/25/2019

Massachusetts,

189/216
 214 who shall the same hold to the use of my beloved wife Anna, one thousand dollars, also one third part of the value of all my household furniture, and the Choice things according to the appraisement and division of use, and dispose of in her life, she shall think fit. Likewise I give to my wife for the term of natural life, the Income of my portion and of attorney dwelling house which I now live in, the Land under and joining with the buildings thereon, and is bounded as follows, to wit, beginning at the N. westerly Corner of Joseph Thomsens Lane of then running eighly some feet and six Inches N. westerly to Briggs Court (so called) and bounded westerly on Pleasant Street, then N. Easterly two hundred & fifty two feet & bounded N.W. on said Court, then N.E. Easterly six feet to Lane of said Street and bounded N.E. on my other Land, then N. westerly to Pleasant Street and bounds first mentioned and bounded N. Easterly on said Lane to the old furniture and the Rest and residue of my Goods, Chattels and personal Estate whatsoever, and such part of the principal arising from the sale of that part of my real Estate which I have herein or do or to be so that any should be necessary, as may enable her with that part of the personal Estate herein given her and with the Income of said property which she now practices to live in a manner equal to, but not in a more expensive, style of expenses than she does now, ... Provided she shall so long continue my Widow; ... But she shall not marry again, my Will is, that my said wife shall only have the use and enjoyment of one half part of my said dwelling house and houses adjoining her natural life, keeping the same in good Repair, and that the other half part of said real Estate and the other two thirds of the Income thereof for my said wife's term given to my wife for the term of her natural life shall be held & enjoyed by my said daughter Anna Briggs joint and her heirs as aforesaid at the marriage or death of my said wife, which ever shall first happen; ... And if my daughter Anna should die without issue in her minority and with issue born of her body lawfully begotten, I give and bequeath the same unto my lawful heirs and their heirs lawfully begotten forever. Lastly I do make and constitute Anna Briggs my said wife sole executrix of this my last Will Testament and here by revoking and disannulling all former Wills by me made, ratifying from now this and no other to be my last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this ninth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand and eight hundred and two.

signed, sealed, published and declared by the above named Thomas Briggs to be his last Will Testament in the presence of us, who have subscribed our Names as Witnesses in the presence of the Testator.

Thomas Wedel, Elizabeth Palfrey, John Watson.

Witnesses Thomas Briggs of Boston in the County of Suffolk in the State of Massachusetts of the County of Suffolk in the State of Massachusetts do hereby certify that the above and duly executed my last Will Testament was in writing bearing date the ninth day of December Anno Domini 1892 and was read to the Testator and do direct the same to be annexed thereto and to be taken as part thereof; ... And notwithstanding I have in my said Will directed my said beloved wife Anna to sell the House which I have herein or do or to be so that any should be necessary, as may enable her with that part of the personal Estate herein given her and with the Income of said property which she now practices to live in a manner equal to, but not in a more expensive, style of expenses than she does now, ... Provided she shall so long continue my Widow; ... But she shall not marry again, my Will is, that my said wife shall only have the use and enjoyment of one half part of my said dwelling house and houses adjoining her natural life, keeping the same in good Repair, and that the other half part of said real Estate and the other two thirds of the Income thereof for my said wife's term given to my wife for the term of her natural life shall be held & enjoyed by my said daughter Anna Briggs joint and her heirs as aforesaid at the marriage or death of my said wife, which ever shall first happen; ... And if my daughter Anna should die without issue in her minority and with issue born of her body lawfully begotten, I give and bequeath the same unto my lawful heirs and their heirs lawfully begotten forever. Lastly I do make and constitute Anna Briggs my said wife sole executrix of this my last Will Testament and here by revoking and disannulling all former Wills by me made, ratifying from now this and no other to be my last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this ninth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand and eight hundred and two.

And it is also my intention, not intended as she may deem proper ... and it is also my intention, not intended as she may deem proper ...

(4)
 to w. Anna for life the use of the ho. + its land, furniture etc; white his widow

Codicil 2 mar 1803
 wife Anna can sell buildings (openell, forke) there can be moved off the land...

with standing any Expressions or Expressions or description of Bounds of any part of my
 real Estate mentioned in my said Will, that the said Page or Court way there in men-
 tioned leading from Priggs (now so called) to the said Barr House shall be kept
 open and unincumbered forever. He Willing whosoever it shall hereunto set my
 hand and seal this second day of March Anno Domini in the year of our Lord one
 signed, sealed, published, declared by the said Thomas Priggs and Codicil to be annexed to his last Will and Testament in presence of,
 Samuel Webb, Elder of the Congregational Church, John Watson.

And I call to witness these presents the Honorable Samuel Hollis Esq. Judge
 of the Superior Court of the County of Essex within the Commonwealth of
 Massachusetts sendeth Greeting. That on the twenty ninth
 day of March Anno Domini 1803 the Testaments known as the last will and
 Testament of Thomas Priggs late of Salem in said County of Essex deceased were presented for
 Probate by Anna Priggs the Testatrix therein named, then present John Watson
 and Elizabeth Priggs daughters of the said deceased together with the said first written
 Instrument and Codicil, who made oath that they saw the said Testator sign and
 seal the said first written Instrument and Codicil and heard him de-
 clare the said first written Instrument to be his last Will and Testament and
 the said Codicil to be part and parcel thereof and that they the said John
 and Elizabeth with Samuel Webb subscribed their names to the said first written
 Instrument and Codicil in the presence of the said Testator and Codicil in the said
 Testator's presence; and that he was of the respective times of executing the said
 Instruments of sound and disposing mind to the best of their judgment; and
 do therefore upon their oaths and declarations of the said Testatrix Elizabeth
 Priggs to the said first written Instrument and Codicil, approve and allow of the same, as
 the said will and Testament of the before named deceased and do certify
 the said will and Testament to be in all respects the same as the same concerning and of
 his Estate whereas the said will and Testament in said Commonwealth
 unto Anna Priggs the Testatrix named therein with and with the said Elizabeth
 the said will and Testament in order to the State of said deceased according to the
 will accepted of her said Testatrix and given to her with Elizabeth Priggs her
 and Joseph Vincent junr as Executors to be held in Inventory by the
 twenty ninth day of June next and to render an account by
 the twenty ninth day of March 1804. In witness whereof I do hereunto
 set my hand and seal of Office the day and year first above written.

Exam'd for Daniel Noyes Esq. J. W. Hollis
 Esq. Administration of the Goods & Estate of Benjamin Burdick late of Lynn Burial
 in said County of Essex deceased. In which said Inventory was granted to Elizabeth Priggs who
 gave bond with James Gardner Esq. and Abigail Ham. del. junr as Sureties to ex-
 ecute an Inventory by the twenty ninth day of June next and to render an ac-
 count by the twenty ninth day of March 1804. This twenty ninth day of March
 Anno Domini 1803.

Exam'd for Daniel Noyes Esq.
 an Inventory of the Estate of Mr. Benjamin Prutman late of Salem Mariner. Prutman
 deceased, as appeared by us the Subscribers
 the Land-writer and adjoining situated in Church Street in Salem } 8000
 Salem March 25th 1803.
 John Allen Clerk }
 Joseph H. H. H. } Committee sworn
 Samuel Chace }
 Robert Thayer }

Exam'd for Daniel Noyes Esq.
 an Inventory of the Estate of Mr. Benjamin Prutman late of Salem Mariner. Prutman
 deceased, as appeared by us the Subscribers
 the Land-writer and adjoining situated in Church Street in Salem } 8000
 Salem March 25th 1803.
 John Allen Clerk }
 Joseph H. H. H. } Committee sworn
 Samuel Chace }
 Robert Thayer }

1843.

The first Contract this year, was with Mrs. Anna Baldwin. We removed the old Briggs House, (which stood on Pleasant Street facing the Common), to Briggs Street, and built an addition to it. The House is now standing, it is numbered 23. We done quite an amount of work for the Railroad this year. In October we bought a lot of land, on Briggs Street, and commenced building a house for ourselves. We got the outside finished in December. The House is now numbered No. 13. and is owned by a Mr Odell. I bought N. Kinomans interest in the house in 1844, Lived in, from 1845, to 1852, I then sold the house to Luke Brooks for 2600 dollars, he lived in the house until he died about 1884, when it was purchased and is now occupied by the present Owner. My sister Eunice was married in the month of May this year. About this time I joined the Franklin Hook and Ladder Co, and got tired of it in two years service, and then resigned.