



HISTORIC
SALEM INC

24 Buffum Street

Built for

Ernest F. Symonds

Book-keeper

Descendant of James Symonds

Renowned 17th-century furniture maker

Built in 1897 on land granted to John Symonds,
a master joiner from Norfolk, England

Researched & written by

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I. The Property, 1665-1736

Throughout Salem's early history, North Salem was primarily an agricultural area known as the North Fields (or Northfields) which was largely undeveloped. Development arrived here in the mid- to late 1800s as the population of Salem grew, but the area did not reach the density it has today until the 1930s, later than many other parts of the city.

In *A Storm of Witchcraft*, historian Emerson W. Baker explains how the common division of land in medieval England, with small villages surrounded by fields for farming divided into private ownership, was brought in Salem:

Farming was a cooperative activity; the villagers agreed what to plant and when to harvest. This tradition continued in Salem, where most early settlers lived on the neck on a one- or two-acre house lot. North Fields lay, logically enough, across the North River, to the north of the Neck, and South Fields sat to the south of the South River. Residents of the Neck made a daily trek to farm the ten-acre strips or lots they owned in one of the fields.”¹

In the early twentieth century, the antiquarian Sidney Perley studied the deeds of early Salem in order to construct a map of Salem as it would have appeared in 1700, which was assembled and edited by the historian James Duncan Phillips in 1937. This map and Perley's study of the area provide a sense of how it may have appeared at the turn of the eighteenth century.

Perley states that “when the North field was laid out is unknown, but it must have been before the town records were begun. Apparently most of the original lots consisted of ten acres each.”²

A road, roughly following the path of School Street today, went from the horse pasture in northeast Salem to Trask's mill in what is today Peabody. The “highway leading into ye North Field” was roughly equivalent to North Street. Surrounding both sides of this highway was the

¹ Baker, Emerson W. *A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.

² Perley, Sidney. *The History of Salem, Massachusetts, Vol. I: 1626-1637*. Salem, Sidney Perley, 1924. Print, p. 315.

land of a joiner named James Symonds. It was on Symonds' land that Symonds' descendant built 24 Buffum Street two centuries later.

Symonds land was bordered to the west by a strip of farmland owned by Caleb Buffum, a carpenter. Farther west was the vast tract of Jonathan Corwin, a merchant and magistrate, and beyond that, the land of Robert Buffum, where Mack Park is today. To the east, Symonds' tract was bordered by John Bliven, a husbandman. When John Bliven died in 1704, his inventory listed a ten-acre lot "joyning to James Symonds Land" worth £55, and an additional ten-acre lot adjoining the horse pasture worth £35. His inventory also lists 3 cows, a calf, 8 sheep, and a "breeding sow," giving a sense of the livestock which may have been grazing in the area.³ Like the Buffums, Bliven was a Quaker.

Farther east, smaller tracts of farmland belonged to brothers Joseph and Jeremiah Neale and their sister, Lydia Hart, widow of the mariner Jonathan Hart.⁴ Another lot farther away belonged to Joshua Buffum, a carpenter. According to Perley's research, James Symonds had the only house in the North Fields, built in 1665 roughly where the Shell Gas Station is on North Street today, at number 111.

The Symonds family were master joiners who "dominate[d] the furniture-making trade in Salem."⁵ Art historian Benno Forman first attributed several prominent examples of seventeenth-century furniture to the Symonds in the 1960s, using evidence from the family's probates.⁶ John Symonds, James' father, was a joiner who emigrated from Norfolk, England to Salem in the 1630s,

³ Essex County Probates, Probate #2646, 1705. p .5.

⁴ Perley, Sidney. "Part of Salem in 1700: #34" *The Essex Antiquarian*, Vol. 13. 1909. p. 37.

⁵ Willoughby, Martha H. "Patronage in Early Salem: The Symonds Shop and Their Customers." *American Furniture*, 2000. pp. 169-84. Chipstone.org.

⁶ Forman, Benno M. 1968 "The Seventeenth-Century Case Furniture of Essex County". M.A. University of Delaware Winterthur Program in Early American Culture

and trained his sons and other apprentices in the trade.⁷ John died in 1671, but his sons, James and Samuel, continued the trade into the early eighteenth century.

The pieces attributed to the Symonds workshop are among the finest and most desired furniture pieces which survive from the seventeenth century. Their signature item is a type of intricately carved valuables chests, usually measuring around 17 inches tall and 17 inches wide and 9 inches deep. These pieces tend to be constructed of red or white oak and white pine, with decorative moldings in red cedar, black walnut, and maple.

Many prominent museums with collections of Early American decorative arts have pieces attributed to the Symonds workshop. The Winterthur Museum in Winterthur, Delaware has a valuables chest monogramed for T.B. & S.B. from 1676.⁸ The Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston has a chest of drawers from the late seventeenth-century.⁹ The Metropolitan Museum in New York City has two valuables chests, one made in 1679, likely for Ephraim and Mary Herrick, and another made in the last quarter of the seventeenth century.¹⁰ The Peabody-Essex Museum in Salem has a valuables cabinet belonging to Joseph and Bathsheba Pope from 1679, painted a reddish black color.¹² The museum purchased the chest at auction at Christie's in 2000 for \$2,422,500.¹⁴ The Pope cabinet is directly attributed to James Symonds. The Peabody-Essex

⁷ "Salem Witch Bureau" Massachusetts Historical Society Collections Online, https://www.masshist.org/database/viewer.php?item_id=2309&pid=15

⁸ "Chest of Drawers (Spice Box or Chest)" Winterthur Museum Collections, <http://museumcollection.winterthur.org/print-record.php?srchfld=irn&name=7688&port=40138>

⁹ Massachusetts Historical Society.

¹⁰ "Cabinet" The Metropolitan Museum of Art Collection Online, <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/1076>

¹¹ "Chest of Drawers" The Metropolitan Museum of Art Collection Online, <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/2005>

¹² "Valuables Cabinet, 1679" Peabody-Essex Museum Collection Online <http://explore-art.pem.org/object/american-decorative-arts/138011/detail>

¹³ "Valuables Cabinet, 1679" Peabody-Essex Museum educator's guide, <http://teh.salemstate.edu/educatorsguide/pages/pre-contact-pdfs/Pope%20Chest.pdf>

¹⁴ "The Joseph and Bathsheba Pope Valuables Cabinet," 21 January 2000. Christie's, <https://www.christies.com/lotfinder/Lot/the-joseph-and-bathsheba-pope-carved-and-1729638-details.aspx>

Museum also owns and displays the Putnam Family Cupboard from 1680, also attributed to James.¹⁵ A chest which descended in the Trask family, from around 1690, also attributed to James, sold at Southeby's in 2011 for \$37,500.¹⁶

When Symonds died in 1714, his executors determined that his real estate “will be spoiled to devide it there being nine Children to have shears in it.”¹⁷ Subsequently, Thomas, Joseph, and Benjamin Symonds relinquished their shares of the real estate to their brother John.¹⁸

The dwelling house was valued at £40, the barn and the shop were valued at £11. The “westerly lott with ye highway,” where 24 Buffum stands today, was valued at £45. The easterly lot and some adjoining marsh were valued at £52. Symonds owned another 30 acres of land, split evenly between lots described a pond, an orchard, and a hill. These were valued respectively at £43, £43, and £50. Along with some other small lots, Symonds' total real estate added up to £323, a sizeable sum.¹⁹ His moveable goods offer a picture of his work: a level, wedges, two small old saws, an old auger, a glue pot, and a mortise chisel. His other possessions of value were silver, a “small peice of Gold,” two old skillets, and a silver spoon. In total, the rest of his estate came to £29..1.²⁰ A second, more detailed inventory placed the value of “his dwelling house part of a barn an old shop and ten akres land” at £137.

The second inventory gives a clue as to the appearance of Symonds' early house. The first floor consisted of the “Great Lower Room,” with a feather bed. The second floor featured the “Best

¹⁵ “Putnam Family Cupboard, 1680”, Peabody-Essex Museum Collection Online <http://explore-art.pem.org/object/american-decorative-arts/108889/detail>

¹⁶ “The Important Trask Family Pilgrim Century Oak, Maple and Walnut Chest with Drawer, attributed to the Symonds Shop, Salem, Massachusetts, probably James Symonds, circa 1690” Sotheby's. <http://www.sothebys.com/en/auctions/ecatalogue/2011/important-american-including-american-stoneware-assembled-by-mr-and-mrs-edwin-hochberg-n08710/lot.225.html>

¹⁷ Essex County Probates, Probate #27083, 1714. p .4.

¹⁸ Ibid. p. 6.

¹⁹ Ibid. p. 5.

²⁰ Ibid. p. 7.

Chamber,” with a mix of feather and straw beds, a great deal of furniture (4 chests of drawers, 2 cupboards, 13 chairs, 3 tables, a joined stool, a box, and a trunk), 2 hourglasses, and some books. For animals, Symonds owned 30 “old sheep,” 15 lambs, an “old hors,” 3 pigs, and 5 1/3 cows. This second inventory left the valuation of real estate at £323..10, but raised the value of his other property to £94..14.²¹

II. The Property, 1736-1836

John Symonds died in 1729, “the principal part” of the estate laying “in lands in the North feild in Salem”²² His real estate came to £315..13..4.²³ In apportioning John’s widow, Sarah Foster Symonds, her customary third of the estate, some clues are given to the appearance of the Symonds house in 1729. Sarah is to have “the easterly lower room in the Dwelling house, the Leantoo Chamber, [and] the westerly third part of the Sellar.” Clearly either the house that James Symonds built in 1665 had been improved upon or a new house had been built in the interim. A new barn is mentioned, which Samuel Symonds built.²⁴

In 1736, James Symonds, aged 19, and Anna Symonds, aged 15, both the children of John, chose Joseph Pickering to be their legal guardian, as they were minors.²⁵ Sarah Foster Symonds died in 1743.²⁶

Phillips’ speculative map of Salem in 1780 shows only Robert Foster’s blacksmith shop and an empty space in the area called “Buffum’s Hill.”²⁷ James Symonds was a mariner who

²¹ Ibid pp. 10-12.

²² Essex County Probates, Probate #27092, 1729. p. 8.

²³ Ibid., p. 19.

²⁴ Ibid., p. 23.

²⁵ Essex County Probates, Probate #27084, 1736. p. .2.

²⁶ Perley (1924), p. 393.

²⁷ Phillips (1937), supplemental map, “Map of Salem, About 1780.”

attended Rev. Barnard's meetinghouse, where he owned 1/3 of a pew. James Symonds died in 1790. He may be the James Symonds, a ship's cooper, who died on a ship returning from Aux Cayes, Haiti, under Capt. Jonathan Tucker.²⁸ His estate was left to his widow, Mary, John Symonds III, a shoreman, and John Symonds V, a yeoman.²⁹ James Symonds' house, barn, well, along with a half an acre "situated in the North Fields" were valued at £80. An adjoining 3 ½ acres was valued at £29:15, a half acre opposite at £6, and two acres of pasture on the main road in the recently-independent town of Danvers, £9. His land totaled 6 ½ acres worth £124. His personal estate included 6 silver tea spoons, a silver spoon, nine earthenware plates, two teapots with cups and saucers, a cross-cut saw, two flat irons, a hand saw, an ax, two small arms, and a number of small articles and clothing, totaling £30:2.³⁰

John Symonds' nephew, Nathaniel Symonds, became a potter and married Jane Phipps. Nathaniel's oldest son, William was born around 1749. William Symonds, a cordwainer and potter, married Eunice Gardner in 1772. His oldest son, William Phipps Symonds I, was born in 1773.³¹

III. The Property, 1836-1897

Benjamin Ropes Symonds I was born in 1801 to William Phipps Symonds I, a merchant, and Margaret Ropes, who were married in 1798. Benjamin's older brother, William Phipps Symonds II, was born in 1799 and became a cordwainer and a shoemaker. William married Nancy Phelps in 1825, they had five children, only two of whom survived to adulthood. William died in

²⁸ *Vital Records of Salem, Massachusetts to the End of the Year 1849*. Salem: The Essex Institute, 1916. Deaths, p. 262.

²⁹ Essex County Probates, Probate #27085, 1790. pp. 4-5.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ Perley (1924), p.395.

1850 and Nancy died in 1887.³² His younger brother, Ephraim G., became a cordwainer, and married Priscilla Ellen Quiner of Beverly in 1834. He died in 1885 and she lived until 1906.³³

Benjamin R. Symonds I married Elisabeth R. Shatswell April 11, 1829 and they had six children together. Benjamin Ropes Symonds II, the oldest, was born in Nov. 22, 1829, followed by Thomas Shatswell, Joseph, George C., who died in infancy, and Elisa S.³⁴ In 1842, the couple were living at 101 North Street and Benjamin R. Symonds I was working as a cordwainer.³⁵

Buffum Street was developed in 1836, when the estate of Jonathan Buffum, who owned the left side of Buffum Street from what is today number 13 to number 41.³⁶ Buffum, a tailor and yeoman, built the Federal mansion at 25-27 Buffum Street around 1818.³⁷ Buffum died aged 81 in 1835.³⁸ His children inherited various houselots, which they sold off. The left side of Buffum Street developed quickly. Buffum's daughter, Anna Frye, sold a lot to Mark Sanborn, a tanner, teamster, and hair dealer, around 1836.³⁹ In 1844, Jonathan's son Edward Buffum built a house at 21 Buffum Street.⁴⁰ 17 Buffum Street, the house directly across from number 24, was built in 1849 by Joseph Towne, a bookkeeper on land that had passed rapidly from Israel Buffum to Mark Sanborn to Nathaniel Horton.⁴¹

An 1851 map of Salem by Henry McIntyre, shows only two houses on the right side of Buffum Street between Randall and Mason, that of N. Horton at 22 Buffum and C. Buffum at 16

³² Perley (1924), p. 398.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ 1842 Salem Directory, p. 101.

³⁶ MHC MACRIS, SAL.1424, "16 Buffum St.- The Caleb Buffum-Nathaniel Very House."

³⁷ MHC MACRIS, SAL.1397, "25-27 Buffum St.- The Jonathan Buffum House."

³⁸ Vital Records, Deaths, p. 123.

³⁹ MHC MACRIS, SAL.1391, "15 Buffum St.- The Mark Sanborn House."

⁴⁰ MHC MACRIS, SAL.1394, "21 Buffum St.- The Edward Buffum House."

⁴¹ MHC MACRIS, SAL.1392, "17 Buffum St.- The Joseph Towne House."

Buffum.⁴² Nathaniel Horton, a currier, built 22 Buffum in a late-period Greek Revival style in 1850.⁴³ Caleb Buffum, a shoe-maker, built 16 Buffum street as a Federal-style house with Italianate trim around 1845.⁴⁴

In 1855, Benjamin R. Symonds I worked as a grocer at 109 North Street and lived at 107 North Street, where Benjamin R. Symonds, Jr., boarded.⁴⁵ In 1869, Symonds I was working as a grocer at 79 Federal Street and living at 14 Barr Street.⁴⁶ Benjamin R. Symonds II was boarding at 1 Holly Street, along with Mrs. Lucy W. Holt and dressmaker Lucy Jane Holly in the home of Mrs. Nathan Poole.⁴⁷

In September of that year, Benjamin R. Symonds II purchased a plot of land on the corner of Buffum and Randall Streets from Nathaniel Horton for \$2,200. The parcel measured 150 feet by 99 feet square.⁴⁸

The *Atlas of the City of Salem* in 1874 shows the property at the southeast corner of Buffum and Randall streets as belonging to B.R. Symonds, with a house and another structure at the back of the property. Nathaniel Horton still owns the lot to the south.⁴⁹

Benjamin R. Symonds II was also a grocer. There were roughly nine grocers in Salem in 1855, and 73 in 1886.⁵⁰ Benjamin had retired by that later year, but three Symonds, cousins Joseph and Thomas, and Benjamin's brother, Thomas Shatswell, who all ran their own grocery stores on

⁴² McIntyre, Henry. "Map of the City of Salem, Mass. From an actual survey By H. Mc. Intyre. Cl. Engr." Map, 1851. Henry McIntyre, Salem, MA. Norman B. Leventhal Map Center, Boston Public Library.

<http://www.leventhalmap.org/id/15108>

⁴³MHC MACRIS, SAL.1422, "22 Buffum St.- The Nathaniel Horton House."

⁴⁴ MHC MACRIS, SAL.1424, "16 Buffum St.- The Caleb Buffum-Nathaniel Very House."

⁴⁵ 1855 Salem Directory, p. 145.

⁴⁶ 1869 Salem Directory, pp. 88, 135, 144, 161, 187.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Essex County Registry of Deeds, Deed 782:13. 16 Sep 1869.

⁴⁹ Busch, Edward. *Atlas of the City of Salem, Massachusetts. From actual Survey & Official records.* G.M. Hopkins & Co. Philadelphia, 1874.

⁵⁰ Salem Directory, 1886, p. 395.

North Street. With the exception of two grocers on Mason Street and Edmund F. Night at 86 North Street, all of North Salem was served primarily by the Symonds.⁵¹

He married Sarah Cox Fillebrown on July 13, 1856. They had four children, Benjamin R. Symonds III, born 1857, became a physician and married Ida E. Shapleigh in December of 1885. He died in October of 1912 and she was still living in 1924. They had four children, Walter Shapleigh, Bertrand Ropes, Helene, and Benjamin Shapleigh.⁵² James F. was born in 1860 but lived only until 1867. Apphia Chesler was born 1868 and married Arthur L. Pattee of Peabody in October of 1898.⁵³ The youngest child, Ernest F. Symonds, was born Oct. 3, 1872.

In the late nineteenth century, the foot of Buffum Street by the North River was an industrial area, with three curriers and a tanner occupying the area south of Mason Street in 1886.⁵⁴ Benjamin's cousin, Jonathan Shove Symonds, a city assessor, lived at the other end of the street at 67 Buffum Street with his son, George Gardiner Symonds, a paperhanger.⁵⁵

Benjamin R. Symonds II died April 22, 1890. The 1895-1896 Directory of Salem shows that 26 Buffum Street belonged to Mrs. S.C. Symonds.⁵⁶ Ernest F. Symonds, then 23, was a clerk at Salem National Bank, and lived at home. Sarah Cox Symonds died May 22, 1903, and the 1914 Directory lists 26 Buffum Street as vacant.⁵⁷ In 1915, John T. Street, a clerk, was living in the house.⁵⁸

IV. Ernest F. Symonds, 1897-1914

⁵¹ *Ibid.*,

⁵² Perley (1924) p. 401.

⁵³ Perley (1924) p. 400.

⁵⁴ Salem Directory, 1886, p. 32.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 351-352.

⁵⁶ Salem Directory, 1895-6, p. 109.

⁵⁷ Salem Directory, 1914, p. 417.

⁵⁸ Salem Directory, 1915, p. 391.

Ernest F. Symonds, the youngest child Benjamin R. Symonds II purchased the land on which he built his house from the estate of his late father for one dollar and other valuable consideration paid on June 5, 1897. His mother, Sarah C. Symonds, and siblings Benjamin R. Symonds III and Apphia C. Symonds, and Ida E. Symonds, Benjamin's wife.⁵⁹

The house at 24 Buffum Street first appears in the 1897 Atlas of Salem, as part of the estate of B.R. Symonds.⁶⁰ It is an eclectic and handsome Colonial Revival house, with a porch supported by six Tuscan columns and a Federal-style urn finial on the post at the top of the entrance stairs. Above the porch is a dentilled cornice. A half-turret runs up the left side of the façade to the second story. A bay window sits above the roof of the porch on the right side of the second story. The fenestration on the North side of the house is very interesting, with an oriel window looking onto 26 Buffum Street and a square diamond-paned window set into the exposed chimney. The eave has a modillioned cornice and the hipped roof featured two dormers.

Ernest F. Symonds was a bank clerk. The 1897-98 Directory lists him as the bookkeeper at the Salem National Bank, which was at 114 Washington Street.⁶¹ A 1900 ad in the Salem Directory lists Symonds fourth among the personnel at the bank, after the president, the cashier, and the assistant cashier.⁶²

Ernest F. Symonds married Jessie M. Hatch on June 16, 1897 and they had three children, Sarah Cox, born June 2, 1901, Helen, born July 8, 1905, and an unnamed son, who was stillborn on Nov. 4, 1907.⁶³ By 1906, Symonds was working as a bookkeeper in Revere.⁶⁴

⁵⁹ Essex County Registry of Deeds, Deed 1515:443. 14 Jun 1897.

⁶⁰ 1897 Atlas of Salem.

⁶¹ Salem Directory, 1897-98, p. 333.

⁶² Salem Directory, 1900, p. 1263.

⁶³ *Ibid.* p. 401.

⁶⁴ Salem Directory, 1906, p 293.

In 1901, Ernest took out a \$3,500 mortgage against the property from Aroline C. Gove, a noted philanthropist and daughter of famous nineteenth-century marketer of medical concoctions Lydia Pinkham.⁶⁵ The document for the mortgage describes the property:

“Beginning at the southern corner thereof and running northeasterly by land now or formerly of Horton one hundred and eight (108) feet more or less to land of the estate of Benjamin R. Symonds; then turning and running northwesterly by said land of the estate of Benj. R. Symonds thirty seven (37) feet; thence turning and running southwesterly by land of the estate of Benj. R. Symonds one hundred and eight (108) feet more or less to Buffum Street, there turning and running south easterly by said Buffum Street thirty seven (37) feet to the point begun at.”⁶⁶

A 1911 Atlas shows 24 Buffum as belonging to E.F. Symonds,⁶⁷ and the 1914 Salem Directory shows Ernest F. Symonds as the owner.⁶⁸ In January of 1913, Ernest transferred the property to his wife, Jessie.⁶⁹

Bessie C.I. Hussey, 1914-1928

Jessie Hatch Symonds, wife of Ernest F., sold the property to Love B. Ingalls, in September of 1914.⁷⁰ Ten days later, Aroline Gove transferred the mortgage to Ingalls' daughter, Bessie C.I. Hussey.⁷¹ On December 1st, Bessie C.I. Hussey made “an open, peaceable, and unopposed entry on the premises described in said mortgage, for the purpose, by her declared, of foreclosing on

⁶⁵ Cutter, William Richard. *Genealogical and Personal Memoirs Relating to the Families of Boston and Eastern Massachusetts*, Vol. III. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1908. p. 1386.

⁶⁶ Essex County Registry of Deeds, Deed 1648:462. 7 Aug 1901.

⁶⁷ 1911 Atlas.

⁶⁸ 1914 Salem Directory, p. 317.

⁶⁹ Essex County Registry of Deeds, Deed 2193:176. 20 Jan 1913.

⁷⁰ Essex County Registry of Deeds, Deed 2274:220. 10 Sep 1914.

⁷¹ Essex County Registry of Deeds, Document 2271:100. 14 Sep 1914.

said mortgage for breach of condition thereof.”⁷² The 1915 shows 24 Buffum Street as vacant and states that Ernest F. Symonds had removed to Boston.⁷³ Love B. Ingalls, also referred to as Sarah L. Ingalls, was the widow of Seth H. Ingalls, and had previously lived at 129 North Street.⁷⁴

VI. Lucy B. Jones, 1928-1935.

In July of 1928, Bessie and Fred Hussey conveyed the property to Lucy B. Jones, wife of Ralph E. Jones, for consideration paid. The couple received a mortgage of \$7,990 from Salem Savings Bank at the time they purchased the house.⁷⁵ Ralph and Lucy Jones received a further mortgage of \$1500 from David V. Nason in September of that year.⁷⁶ Ralph moved between a number of jobs during his residency, beginning as an accountant in 1929,⁷⁷ then as a advertising manager 1930-1932.⁷⁸ In 1933, 1934, and 1935 he was a salesman in Boston.⁷⁹ In 1935, Salem Savings Bank took possession of the house.⁸⁰ Roland Stanley, treasurer of the Salem Savings Bank, attested that “default has been made in payment of interest and taxes.” An auction was held to sell the house, subject to “all unpaid taxes, assessments or other multiple liens.”⁸¹ The following year, Ralph returned to being an accountant and the couple moved to 77 Linden Street.⁸²

VII. Frank T. McDonald and Rachel G. Barry, 1935-1941

⁷² Essex County Registry of Deeds, Document 2280:477. 1 Dec 1914.

⁷³ Salem Directory, 1915, p. 395.

⁷⁴ Salem Directory, 1916, p. 300.

⁷⁵ Essex County Registry of Deeds, Document 2772:448. 16 Jul 1928.

⁷⁶ Essex County Registry of Deeds, Document 2781:473. 25 Sep 1928.

⁷⁷ Salem Directory, 1929, p. 181.

⁷⁸ Salem Directory, 1930, p. 336.

⁷⁹ Salem Directory, 1933-34, p. 213.

⁸⁰ Essex County Registry of Deeds, Document 3043:005. 23 Jul 1935.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Salem Directory, 1936, p. 212.

In 1936, 24 Buffum Street stood vacant.⁸³ The following year, a leather worker, Frank T. McDonald, and his wife, Florence E. moved in and remained until 1940. In that year, Mrs. Rachel G. Barry, a nurse at the Lamp Division of Hygrade Sylvania, moved in and lived there until 1942.⁸⁴

VIII. The Constantines, 1942-2004

Lawrence H. Constantine purchased the foreclosed property from the Salem Savings Bank in August of 1942, and secured a mortgage of \$5,200 from Harris S. Knight.⁸⁵ Lawrence H. Constantine, a car salesman, married Katherine L. Donovan between 1926 and 1929⁸⁶. Katherine had been born January 28, 1900. In 1926, Constantine was at Broad Street market and lived at 46 Broad Street.⁸⁷ By 1929, he had gotten a job as a salesman at McKenzie Moto Company at 65a Bridge Street, where he worked until 1936.⁸⁸⁸⁹ In that year, he became the president of Naumkeag Chevrolet, which was at 17 Canal Street.⁹⁰ By 1952, he had become the President and General Manager of Naumkeag Chevrolet, a role he continued in until his death in September of 1960.⁹¹⁹² Harris Knight, from whom Constantine received a mortgage was the treasurer of Naumkeag Chevrolet and chairman of the board of directors of the Merchants National Bank of Salem.⁹³

The Constantines had three daughters, Muriel, born in 1922, Rosamund, born in 1924, and Anne, born in 1933.

⁸³ 1936 Salem Directory, p. 412.

⁸⁴ Salem Directory, 1940, p. 31.

⁸⁵ Essex County Registry of Deeds, Deed 3308:145, 15 Aug 1942.

⁸⁶ Salem Directory, 1926, p. 260; Salem Directory, 1929, p. 216.

⁸⁷ Salem Directory, 1926, p. 260.

⁸⁸ Salem Directory, 1929, p. 216.

⁸⁹ Salem Directory, 1930, p. 56.

⁹⁰ Salem Directory, 1937, p. 89.

⁹¹ Salem Directory, 1959, p. 162.

⁹² Essex County Registry of Deeds, Deed 16697:170, 20 Mar 2001.

⁹³ Salem Directory, 1959, p. 305.

Muriel received a teaching degree from Salem State College in 1944 and began teaching at the John Brown Elementary School in Manchester, Massachusetts. In 1946, Muriel married Capt. Raymond H. Bates, who was in the United States Navy.⁹⁴ Raymond's father, George J. Bates, served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1918 to 1924, and then served 13 years as the mayor of Salem, from 1924 until 1937. From 1937 until his untimely death in an airplane crash in 1949, Bates was a United States Representative from Massachusetts.⁹⁵ Bates' son, William H. Bates, took Bates' office and occupied it until his untimely death in 1966.⁹⁶ Raymond, subsequently, was the son and the brother of a Representative in Congress for almost thirty years.

Raymond and Muriel Bates purchased a house on Trinity Road in Marblehead for \$36,000 on June 3, 1968.⁹⁷ She lived there until she passed away in 2013.

Rosamund Constantine also received a teaching degree from Salem State College and taught elementary school. She married Henry J. Rodden, who was a salesman for Armour & Co., a meat wholesaler at 260 Bridge Street.⁹⁸ She lived much of her life in Beverly but moved to Colorado, where she passed away in Castle Rock in 2009.⁹⁹

Like her two sisters, Anne L. Constantine also became a school teacher. She married Harold Sabean, a salesman. She passed away in 1966 at age 33.¹⁰⁰

Katherine deeded the land to her daughters, Rosamund Rodden and Muriel Bates, as joint tenants in 2001. Katherine L. Constantine passed away in April of 2004, at the age of 104.¹⁰¹

⁹⁴ Obituary, "Muriel Constantine Bates, Nov. 11, 1922- April 19, 2013," Murphy Funeral Home, Salem.

⁹⁵ "BATES, George Joseph (1891-1949)." Biographical Directory of United States Congress.

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=B000232>

⁹⁶ "BATES, William Henry (1917-1966)." Biographical Directory of United States Congress.

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=B000239>

⁹⁷ Essex County Registry of Deeds, Deed 5532:755. 3 Jun 1968.

⁹⁸ Salem Directory, 1949, p. 244.

⁹⁹ Obituary, "Rosamund A. Rodden, September 16, 1924-October 2, 2009", *The Salem News*.

¹⁰⁰ "Anne Constantine Sabean" Findagrave, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/47024221>

¹⁰¹ Essex County Registry of Deeds, Deed 28914:11. 8 Sep 2009.

IX. 2004 to the Present

Aaron A. Sasseville, a construction worker, and Tara, his wife, purchased the home from Rosamund Rodden and Muriel Bates in 2005.¹⁰² After 2009, the property was owned for short periods of time by various well-to-do professionals as the houses' property value rose. Katherine Curley, a journalist, and Matthew Kazman, a software specialist, purchased the property in 2009 and sold it three years later to Paul Helms, an editor, and Jane Helms, a publisher.¹⁰³ Paul and Jane Helms moved to Roslindale and sold the property in 2014 to Sarah N.K. Teasdale, a physician, and Pedro Poitevin, a mathematics professor at Salem State University.¹⁰⁴ Teasdale and Poitevin moved to Marblehead and sold the property to Danielle K. Capalbo in December of 2017.¹⁰⁵

X. Summary

24 Buffum Street is a fine Colonial Revival house built in 1897 by Ernest F. Symonds, a middle-class bank clerk and book-keeper, on land that had belonged to his family over two centuries before. After Symonds' mortgage was foreclosed, the mortgage holder's mother, a widow, purchased the house and lived there for 13 years. In 1928, an aspirational accountant and his wife moved in, but as he shuffled between jobs they were unable to keep up with their mortgage payments and taxes, so the house was repossessed in 1935. The bank rented the property to a series of two working-class tenants, a leather worker and then a nurse at the Sylvania plant in the years leading up to World War II. Lawrence Constantine, the president of Salem's Chevrolet dealership for over twenty years, purchased the house and raised three daughters who became teachers.

¹⁰² Essex County Registry of Deeds, Deed 23393:406. 24 Feb 2005.

¹⁰³ Essex County Registry of Deeds, Deed 28914:11. 8 Sep 2009.

¹⁰⁴ Essex County Registry of Deeds, Deed 33461:345. 1 Aug 2014.

¹⁰⁵ Essex County Registry of Deeds, Deed 36424:435. 17 Dec 2017.

Constantine's widow, Katherine, lived in the house until 2004, when she died at age 104. She lived at 24 Buffum Street for over 60 years and experienced the whole twentieth century in Salem. After the Constantines, a construction worker owned the property for a short period, followed by short residences by upper-middle-class and upper-class professionals.

TABLE 1- Ownership History of 24 Buffum Street

Date	Conveyed to	Conveyed by	Amount	Book	Page
17 Dec 2017	Danielle K. Capalbo	Sarah N.K. Teasdale and Pedro Poitevin	\$593,000	36424	435
1 Aug 2014	Sarah N.K. Teasdale and Pedro Poitevin	Paul C. Helms and Jane Helms	\$512,000	33461	345
14 Dec 2012	Paul C. Helms and Jane Helms	Matthew Kazman and Katherine M. Curley	\$462,500	32019	61
8 Sep 2009	Matthew Kazman and Katherine M. Curley	Aaron K. Sasseville and Tara C. Sasseville	\$430,000	28914	11
24 Feb 2005	Aaron K. Sasseville and Tara C. Sasseville	Rosamund A. Rodden and Muriel C. Bates	\$365,000	23993	406
26 Mar 2001	Rosamund A. Rodden and Muriel C. Bates	Katherine L. Constantine	-	16997	170
15 Aug 1942	Harris S. Knight (Mtg.)	Lawrence H. Constantine	\$5,200	3308	145
15 Aug 1942	Lawrence H. Constantine	The Salem Savings Bank	-	3308	144
23 Jul 1935	The Salem Savings Bank	Ralph E. Jones and Lucy B. Jones	-	3043	5
25 Sep 1928	David V. Nason (Mtg)	Ralph E. Jones and Lucy B. Jones	\$1500	2772	448
16 Jul 1928	Lucy B. Jones, wife of Ralph E. Jones	Fred Hussey and Bessie C.I. Hussey	Consideration Paid	2772	448
14 Sep 1914	Bessie C.I. Hussey (Mtg)	Aroline C. Gove	-	2271	100
10 Sep 1914	Love B. Ingalls	Jessie Hatch Symonds	Consideration Paid	2274	220
20 Jan 1913	Jessie Hatch Symonds	Ernest F. Symonds	Other considerations	2193	176

7 Aug 1901	Aroline C. Gove, wife of William H. Gove (Mtg.)	Ernest F. Symonds	\$3,500	1648	462
5 Jun 1897	Ernest F. Symonds	Estate of Benjamin R. Symonds	\$1 and other considerations	1515	443

T O W N R E C O R D S

O F

S A L E M , M A S S A C H U S E T T S

V O L U M E I

1634-1659

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SALEM, MASS.
THE ESSEX INSTITUTE
1868

own towns, not repugnant to the laws and orders here established by the General Court; as also to lay mulcts and penalties for the breach of these orders, and to levy and distrain the same, not exceeding the sum of xx^s; also to choose their own particular officers, as constables, surveyors for the highways, and the like; and because much business is like to ensue to the constables of several towns, by reason they are to make distresses, and gather fines, therefore that every town shall have two constables, where there is need, that so their office may not be a burthen unto them, and they may attend more carefully upon the discharge of their office, for which they shalbe liable to give their accompts to this Court when they shalbe called thereunto."

The following copy of the first records of Salem is from the original. The spelling, punctuation, &c., will be strictly preserved, and passages erased or interlined in the original will be retained, and indicated by being enclosed, the former between brackets and stars, and the latter between double parallels.

The missing portion of the Book of Records from Oct. 1, 1634 to Dec. 26, 1636, is supplied from the Book of Grants.

Extract from the Book of Grants.

[The first part of the Book of Grants, from which this extract is taken, is in the handwriting of Emanuel Downing.]

The first of the 8th moneth 1634

One the 4th day seaventhnight next the Market at Salem [is to] begyn, and to continew from 9 a Clock in the morning [until] 4 of the Clock after noone.

19. of the 11th moneth 1634

After discourse about deviding of 10 acre lotts, Its ordered that the least family shall haue 10 acres, but greater families may [haue] more according to y^r numbers

out & sett vp togeather shall pay a fyne or penaltie of five shillings for every such trespas, soe left as aforesaid except such trees as grow in their own opp lott or grownde, And if any fell any trees wthin the said limits and lett them lye vnoccupied for the space of one moneth, that yt shalbe lawfull for any other man observing the order aforesaid to take the said tree to his owne opp vse ;

The Informer to haue one halfe of the fyne, the other to the towne.

By the towne representative the 20th of the tenth moneth 1636

Its ordered that m^r Hathorne shall haue one howse lott of an acre on this side the Rocks towards the Mill† being the sixt lott from the Marshalls howse and to be laid out by the former layers out

Original Record, Dec. 26, 1636 to July 12, 1637.

[This, which is the earliest of the *original* records now in existence, is in the handwriting of Ralph Fogg, and is called by him the "Waste Book." The frequency with which erasures and interlineations, and short-hand minutes occur in it, show that it was intended to be more fairly and correctly copied out into another book, but if such a book was used, it is now lost. Ralph Fogg at this same time kept the records of the Quarter Court for Salem, then just established; and there he first used a waste-book and then copied out the record in a corrected form, into another book. (See Essex Inst. Hist. Collections, vol. vii, p. 238, Note.) The short-hand minutes have, with some difficulty, been deciphered, and their meaning, though as it happens of no special importance, will be given as they occur. There may be seen in a letter from Edward Howes to John Winthrop, jr., Nov. 23, 1632 (Mass. Hist. Collections, 4th ser., vol. vi, p. 481) an alphabet of short-hand characters, very similar to that used by Ralph Fogg, described as invented by Mr. (Rev. Thomas) Archisden. The writer of the letter remarks that "they are approved of in Cambridge to be the best as yet

† This was a corn mill owned by Capt. Trask, and was near where the Essex Depot is in South Danvers. Capt. Trask, in 1640 built another mill about half a mile lower down the river, and soon after removed it to a place (now Frye's Mills) a mile below the first mill. See Essex Registry, book 20, leaf 124.

invented; and they are not yet printed nor common." The system of short-hand used by John Hull in his Diary, and ascribed to Theophilus Metcalfe as the inventor (Am. Antiq. Soc. Col. III, p. 279), is evidently founded on that of Mr. Archisden; and this, with some variations continued to be used by ministers and others for more than a century. Though of course inferior to the modern system, it was, in its original form, remarkably simple and ingenious.]

Ann^o 1636

3

	Mr Roger Connant f. †	200	} G.
	[* Pasca ffoote f.		
	Jn ^o Woodbury f.		} Granted
	Humphry woodbury *]		
	Jn ^o Woodbury	200	
	Peter Palfrey f.	200	
	John Balch f.	200	
po. to fol. 10	[* Cp. W ^m Traske fr	100	
	Ric ^d Norman		
	& son Jn ^o Norman *]		
	Jn ^o Sweet	00	
po. to foll. 9.	[* Jn ^o Hardy f.	50	☞
to 9.	W ^m Allen f.	40	
	Jn ^o Gally *]		
	Cp. Endicot f.	200	G
to 9.	[* W ^m Walcot f.	40.*]	
	Mr Read f.	300.	G.
to 10.	[* Mr Gott f.	75.	
to 9.	Geo : W ^{ms} f.	40.	
to 9.	Peter woolf f.	50.	
to 10.	Ric ^d Raym ^t f.	[180.]	
to 9.	Sam : Archer f.	40.	
to 10.	Ric ^d Brakenbury f.	75.*]	
	Mr S. Sharp f.	300.	Gr. as p [14]
to 10.	[* Jn ^o Horne f.	75.	
to 10.	Law : Leech f.	100.*]	
	Robt. Leech	2035	
	<u>2385</u>	2015.	

3

[* Samuell More f. 50 to 9

Ric ^d Norman	20 acres
Robt Pease	10 acres
John Pease	20 acres
ffrancis Perry	20
Joseph Pope	
m ^r w ^m Pester	
Jonathan Porter	20
John Pikworth	20
John Pride	[20]
Geo : Roaps	
Tho : Reade	10
Tho : Roots	20 acres
Josua Roots	20 acres
Tho : Ringe	
James Standish	20
James Smith	20
John Stone	10
John Shepley	20 acres
mich : Shaffen	20
Elias Stilman	30
widow Smith	
John Symonds	20 acres
ffrancis Skerry	20 acres
mich : Sallowes	20
m ^r Smith	150 acres
m ^r John Thorndik	100 acres
Abram Temple	next m ^r Johnsons.

Phillip Virrin	
w ^m Vinsent	
Ric ^d Waters	10 acres
m ^r Ric ^d Walker	40 acres
Stukley Wescott	
Abram Warren	20
Tho : Watson	10 acres
Humphrey woodbury	40 acres