

July 14, 1982

Mr. Richard Clemens
20 Oliver Street
Salem, MA 01970

Dear Mr. Clemens:

While doing research on other houses on Oliver Street, our house researcher, Joyce King, saw this notice about your house. She thought you would be interested in having it.

Sincerely,

Carolyn K. Tolles
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

1974

20 Oliver Street

Salem Register

April - May 1845

On Thursday June 5th at 11 o'clock will be sold at public auction, on premises, by order of Probate Court.

The new two story wooden dwelling house #20 Oliver St., with a new Barn in the rear, and the land under and adjoining, being about 40 feet front and 50 feet deep.

Also, a lot of land adjoining the above about 39 feet front and 50 feet deep.

The premises may be viewed and conditions known by applying at #4 Winter St.

APR. 13 1982

HISTORIC RESEARCH

BY
JOYCE KING
39 UPHILL ST.
SALEM, MA 01970
744-2580

DOCUMENTATION

20 Oliver St. Salem, Mass.

Deeds

Book PAGE

- 5903 11 September 7, 1972
 Philip G. Vener and Marilyn S. Vener trustees of the Phip Realty Trust Marblehead sell to Randolph and Ellen R. Dodge of Salem land and buildings at 20 Oliver St. bounded:
 on W. by Oliver St. 40.3'
 on N. by land of Vener 50'
 on E. by land of Vener 40.3'
 On S. by land of DuHaine 52.3'
 shown as Parcel 4 on plan reproduced below
 Being same premises conveyed Book 5849 page 606
- 5849 606 December 31, 1971
Philip G. and Marilyn S. Vener grant to Philip G. and Marilyn S. Vener trustees of Phip Realty Trust land and buildings bounded:
 on W. by Oliver St. 40'-4"
 on N. by land now or late of Kinsman 50'-4"
 on E. by land now or late of Cole 40'-4"
 On S. by land now or late of Munroe formerly Hovey 52'-3"
 Being a portion of the premises conveyed Book 5326 page 205
- 5826 205 October 22, 1971
Howard W. and Doris E. Cole of Beverly sell to Philip G. and Marilyn S. Vener land and buildings bounded: (this is a large parcel on Winter St.)
 Also another parcel of land and buildings (same description as above)
 Being premises conveyed to grantors by exec. under the will of Leland H. Cole
- 2716 342 March 28, 1927
Mary A. Cole, Samuel D. Cole, and Howard W. Cole all of Salem exec. under the will of Leland H. Cole dec. grant to Howard W. Cole and Doris E. Cole land and buildings in Salem described: (1st parcel on Winter and Oliver Sts.) 2nd parcel (same as above) See deeds Book 2339 page 508, 509, 510.
- 2339 508 August 21, 1916
 Harry W. Morgan, exec. under the will of David E. Saunders Jr. for \$1400 sells to Leland H. Cole of Salem 2 parcels (2nd one is described above)
 See deed Book 1008 page 2. Page 510: all the Saunders heirs release dower and all other rights.
- 1008 2 October 30, 1878
Charles Byard of Salem for \$1500 sells to David E. Saunders land and buildings bounded: on W. by Oliver St. 40'-4"
 on N. by Needham 50'-4"
 on E. by Needham and Hovey 40'-4"
 on S. by Hovey 52'-4"
 See deed Book 351 page 23 and 676 page 80.
- 676 80 November 3, 1864
Nancy and Betsy Jackson for \$5 release to Charles Byard cooper, of Salem land and buildings (same description as above) Being estate conveyed us by him Book 442 page 267.
- 442 267 April 2, 1851
Charles Byard for \$5 grants to Nancy and Betsy Jackson (same property)
- 361 23 November 17, 1845
John Bertram merchant of Salem for \$825 sells to Charles Bayard cooper of Salem land and buildings (same description) It being the estate purchased by me Book 355 page 158.

355 158 June 5, 1845

Lydia Needham adm. of the estate of James Needham late of Groton, dec. int. empowered by order of the Court to sell at public auction, for \$810 sells to John Bertram land and buildings bounded:
 on W. by Oliver St. 40'-4"
 on N. by Needham 50'-4"
 on E. by Needham and Hovey 40'-4"
 on S. by Hovey 52'-4"

Note: from here on back it gets harder to trace the house at 20 Oliver St. The next two deeds are on Needham property but not 20 Oliver St.

254 145 December 10, 1829

Benjamin Hall of Boston for \$362.50 sells to James Needham of Salem, tobacco dealer a strip of land 30' wide from Winter St. to Oliver St. (Book 255 page 74 from Hovey) bounded on the S. by Hovey and N. by land formerly Daniel Needham now James Needham

258 112 July 3, 1830

Indenture:- Israel Woodbury will build a 2 story house on land of James Needham bounded on E. by Winter St. 30'
 S. on James Needham's land 53'
 W. on " " " 30'
 N. on Thomas Hovey 53'

Woodbury is to live in the house; James Needham is to buy it within 5 years: it is to be annexed to an existing building of Needham's.

Note: the next three deeds relate to Daniel Needham's home; he was father of James and brother of Edmund. He was a tailor and his house was on Winter St.

212 290 March 18, 1817

Jonathan Archer adm. of the estate of Daniel Needham dec. int. being empowered by Court sells at auction for \$457.50 to James Needham Salem tobacconist land and dwellinghouse, shop and outbuildings bounded:

E. on Winter St. 64'
 S. on Enoch Silsbee 102'
 W. on Oliver St. 51'
 N. on land of Edmond Needham and land of John Howard Jr.

204 206, 207 June 17, 1814

Alice Needham of Berwick Maine: whereas Daniel Needham tailor of Salem did mortgage to her (Book 169 page 90) land and dwellinghouse bounded:

E. on Winter St. 3 rods 5 links
 S. on land late of Peter Cheever 6 rods 5 links
 W. on land late of Benjamin Lynde 2 rods 10 links
 N. on land late of Edmund Needham 6 rods 3 links

for \$250 in one year (interest added) for \$301.46 transfers the mortgage to Edmund Needham. 1817 James Needham pays off this mortgage to Edmund.

128 171 March 10, 1771

Edmund Needham mariner with the consent of his wife Sarah for £15 sells to Daniel Needham tailor a piece of land in Salem bounded:

E. on road 3 poles 5 links
 S. on land of Peter Cheever 6 poles 5 links
 W. on land of Benjamin Lynde esq. 2 poles 10 links
 N. on my own land 6 poles 3 links

Samuel Curwen's list of houses built in Salem in 1771 names Daniel Needham.

123 253 March 26, 1777

Peter Cheever for #6 13sh.4p. sells a 12' strip of land to Daniel Needham; this is to the E. of Daniel Needham's homestead and adjoins it.

111 261 May 21, 1764

William Norton of Beverly, mariner, for #15 sells to Edmund Needham of Salem, mariner, a lot of land in Salem bounded:

on E. by highway leading from trainingfield to ferry 7 poles 4'

on N. or N.W. by highway leading down to the North River 6 poles 5' from corner to land of Benjamin Lynde

on W. or S.W. by Lynde's land 4 poles 13'-9"

on S. or S.W. by land of Peter Cheever 6 poles 3' to highway.

Note: this last is the deed by which Edmund Needham acquired the land at Winter St. and Bridge St. and of which he sold the E. half to his brother Daniel in 1771. In the effort to find when the house on Oliver St. first appeared I checked the old tax records.

Edmund Needham was taxed for "house and land on Bridge St." and land and barn across the street. This was his homestead, and it was near the Windmill Point area which is now March St. Nowhere does the piece of land on Oliver St. show in his assessments. Daniel Needham was taxed for "house and shop". In 1812 Daniel Needham's name is no longer on the tax rolls, but his son James was assessed for "house and shop". This may have been Daniel's which was mortgaged until son James paid the debt off. There is no definite evidence of a house on Oliver St. being assessed until 1830 when James is taxed for "2 houses and shop 1600 small house on Oliver St. 400".

Attempts to locate the property in Probate records.

Probate #19199 Daniel Needham April 9, 1816 tailor dec. int.

His widow Hannah refuses to be the exec. She names Jonathan Archer. The oldest son Edmund agrees.

Inventory of real estate: house and land on Winter St. \$925

The deceased owed a lot of money including \$300 to his brother Edmund and other sums to numerous people. The estate was declared insolvent. His widow Hannah petitioned the court to allow her some money as she was in need. She was granted \$60.50. Needham's estate was ordered sold to pay off his creditors, and his son James bought it. After the sale the creditors received payment of only 21¢ on the dollar.

Probate #19203 Edmund Needham November 16, 1819

His widow Sarah named Exec. Will drawn in 1809, gives all his property to his wife Sarah for her lifetime. After her death it is to be divided equally between his two married daughters Alice Sisby and Desire Dean. He makes explicit directions that Desire's share is not to be touched by her husband Jonathan Dean. (various documents in the Registry show him to be frequently taking out loans via mortgages: he was apparently always in debt) A codicil in 1815 gives Desire's half of the inheritance to two administrators who are to manage and invest it for her.

Inventory of real estate: house and land on Bridge St. \$1800

lot of land with barn on Bridge St. \$500

* * a lot of land with building thereon \$300

* * This is undoubtedly the house on Oliver St. Edmund Needham had no other property.

Information from the Diaries of Rev. William Bentley

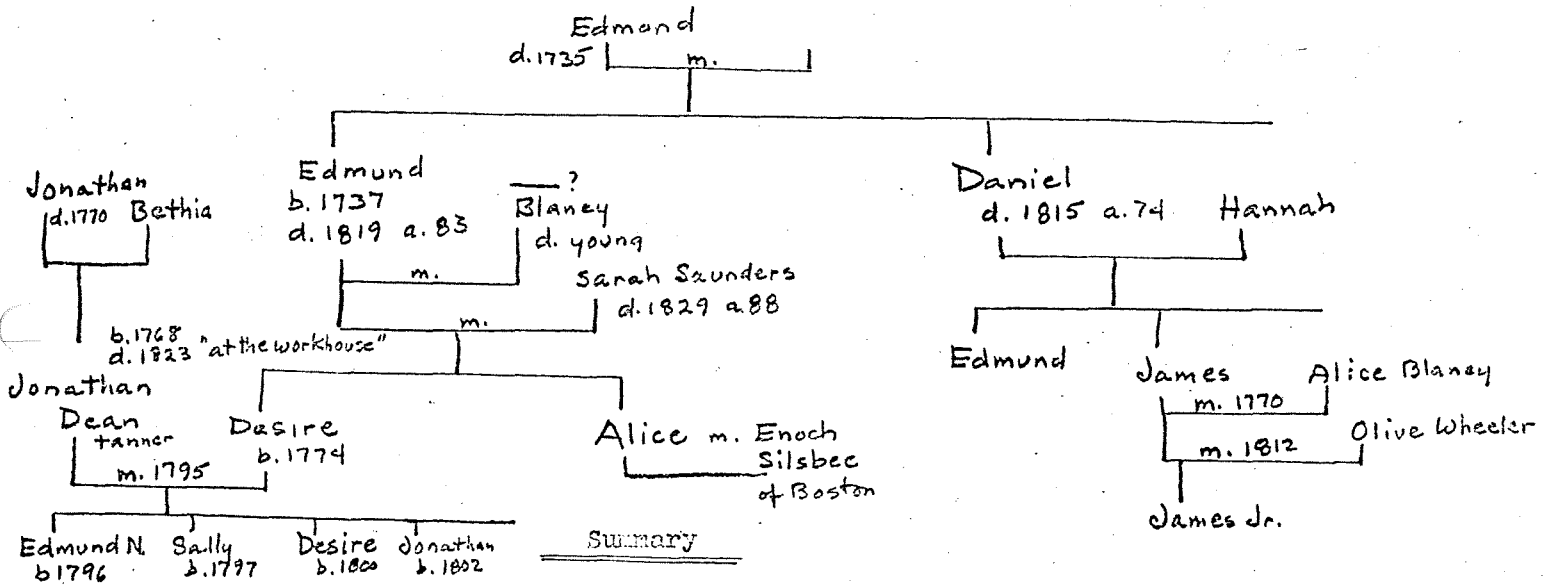
Vol. 2, page 468 "Oliver has opened a street from the Common to Needham's Lane and to the North River. Wright has finished a house in this street." (1800)

Vol. 4 page 614 Sept. 1819 "This day died my old friend Edmund Needham aged 82 - - - - left two daughters - Desire (Dean - three children) the other married Enoch Silsbee, many children. He was in the Society of Friends. His first wife a Blaney died young. His second wife a Saunders."

Salem City Directory 1837 (earliest one)

- Oliver St. East Side (starting from the Common end)
 - Scobie (note: this is the house that Wright built in 1800)
 - Willis
 - James Needham - house, to corner
- Winter St. West Side (from Bridge St. corner)
 - John Howard Jr,
 - James Needham - house, store
 - James Needham Jr,
 - Thomas Hovey - house

Needham Family Tree

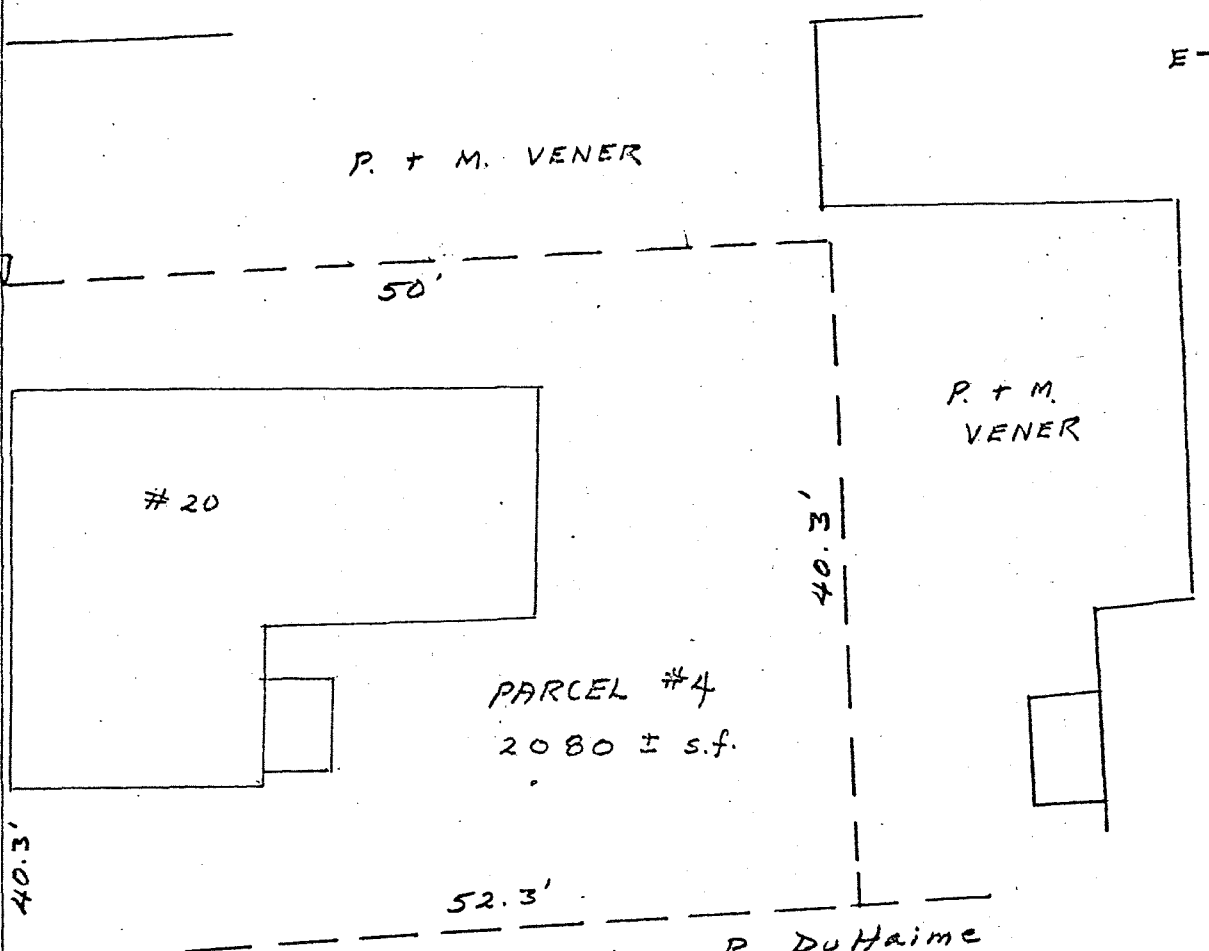


This has been a difficult house to trace. Edmund Needham bought "a lot of land" in 1764. The first document on which the house appears is the inventory of his estate in 1819. Oliver St. was laid out in 1800 and Bentley mentions one house being built that year. I believe the house was built sometime between 1800 and 1819. (most houses in towns were built on established streets. Winter St. is a much older highway, leading into Bridge St., both being in early deeds called "highway to the ferry".) It is possible that this house is an older house moved from another location to Oliver St. This was done fairly often in the old days, but it is impossible to trace. The style of the house is consistent with houses built in the late 18th and early 19th century.

Sally Dee, researcher June 21, 1974

87.5' to Bridge St.

O. L I V E R
S T R E E T



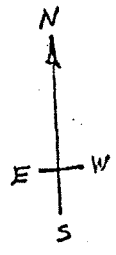
P. + M. VENER

P. + M.
VENER

20

PARCEL #4
2080 ± s.f.

52.3'
Joseph P. & Joan P. DuHaime



Plan of land in Salem
property of Philip G. & Marilyn S.
Vener

August 16, 1972

5. Finding Mr. Woodberry in one of the Western lots of Windmill point, making a Landing, said for Lumber wharf, I was desirous to know the former condition of the town in regard to Mills. Traske, at his mills on North River in 1640, was obliged to leave a passage for a Shallop at half tide. In 1712, he had leave to move his mill down to Spooner's or Symond's point. In 1713, Mr. Higginson was refused liberty to put a mill at Winter island. In 1733, the wind mill was brought from Elder Cop's hill in Boston, near where I lived, & Mr. Clough came with it. Mr. Gardner had leave next year, 1734, for a mill over Forest River, which now stands. In 1759 was a petition for the south mills in South river which obtained but the absence of the records of this period has concealed the history of the event. Before this time their last mills were established. Mr. Needham succeeded Clough in the charge of the Windmill after 1740, & Hooper succeeded him. The mill was useless after the South mills were established. Needham held one quarter of the property & took the mill house & a lot for it. Northey held the remainder when I came to Salem in 1783. Westward of Skerry & the potter's field & planter's marsh was the house near Locust street since so called, in which lived Lemon's heirs & which belonged to Jeremy Neal. Sarah Smith, a maiden, lived at the bottom of the same street. No other buildings were upon the mill lot. Needham bought for 13£ the lot south of the Road & west of Winter St. bounding upon Chever. He sold one lot to his Brother Daniel & Edmund sold part of another front lot to Peter Barras, now held by Capt. S. Endicott. The corner on Oliver Street he still holds for his Outhouses. It seems that at an early period Mr. Curwin was allowed to improve land in this quarter but I have not the history of the transfer having not yet seen the deeds for which I shall make enquiry of Northey's heirs.

7. Sunday. Respecting the Belleville Meeting House, Newbury, it is given that the Lightning struck it at 4 P. M. while most of the Male Citizens were busy at the Election of Gov. &c. The Lightning passed down the steeple & divided when it reached the house carrying the fire to both sides of the building & the wind carried the flames into the body of the house. The parish engine was small & little water near, but what the rain supplied, so that the bellfry where the fire first began could not be reached. The Cushions, books & some of the windows of the lower story were saved. It was thought one of the handsomest meeting houses in that neighbourhood & had not been standing long enough to suffer any decay. The greatest concern seems to be for the Pastor, since the building of the house was deemed unnecessary & only in anticipation of a prosperity which they probably will never reach.

8. Conversing this day with Mr. Northey he says his Father

purchased the Wind mill of the mill owners after they had sold the mill house & lot to the river westward to Needham. They held only part of the land. That the rest be bought of Judge Lynde. That Hooper & his Father kept the mill after Needham. That what stopped the mill was the planting of the Locusts in the field around. That it was all one mass of uninclosed moveable sand. That many years ago his father attempted to manure & fix it. That the south mill was older than he was being 75 & before 1740. That when a Child the mill House appeared old & was kept by Osborne. He confirms what Edmund Needham on the spot says that when Northey purchased, Watson, Diman & he thinks Saunders were Mill Owners at Windmill point. He remembers Jeremy Neal but nothing of Judge Lynde & of the first claims.

9. In conversation with Edmund Needham, 80, on the spot, & B. Chever, over 70, heir to the grounds, I find that the whole lot from the Common belonged to the old Judge Lynde. That he sold as far as Needham's to Chever. His sons S[amuel] & B[enjamin] & S., wife of Joseph Pratt, possessed what he left. In his life time, for 18£, he sold to E. Needham or rather sold to Lander who sold to Morgan of Beverly, who sold in Chever's life time to E. Needham. E. Needham sold the lot bounding on Cheever to his Brother Daniel, for £13. 6. 8 & Daniel bought his southerly bounds from Chever. B. Chever, the son, sold the intermediate lots to Hovey & Brown who built upon them & also to Judge Story south of his own house. Pratt sold to Wright & Wright to Scobie. And the western length of the lot is now with Judge Lynde's heirs, Olivers, upon Oliver Street, excepting the front lots belonging to the two Whites. The Miller Needham, named Daniel, his father Edmund & the present incumbent Edmund. Robert was the name of the Mother's father, Robert Bufum. The Mill owners who set off Needham's lot made his longest lane east & west & after some questions it was settled when Edm. N[eedham] came into possession. The whole Lot therefore was Judge Lynde's. Northey bought Sara Smith's land & gave her a living in a house upon his lot. Fiske's heirs bought of Lemon & Putnam now holds as heir to Gen. J. Fiske. Hon. B. Lynde died Jan. 1745, æt. 79. His Son Judge L[ynde] inherited the estate & it fell to Judge Oliver who married the daughter. The mill house was one & an half Story & the present kitchen was a barn adjoining the house. E. N[eedham] raised the house & built the part which makes a right angle with the southern end.

11. A succession of events has directed the public attention to the fate of a family of Forrester. He came an Irish lad in service to W. Harthorne & afterwards married his daughter. By uncommon success in business he became one of the wealthiest.

18. Mr. Fettyplace found upon his lot, from a post hole, a Ring in high relief upon which was written H. Batters, ob. 7 Oct. 1730, act. 62, probably the wife of the third Edmund. Upon a visit to the spot I found it within one foot of the fence upon the new street laid out through the Lynde Lot, called Oliver street, north of the common, & the date is since said lots were in possession of the Lynde family. From Edmund Needham living near & who purchased part of Chever's purchase, I learn that Chever purchased on the whole west side of Winter street, of Lynde, since his day & he purchased of Chever the lots on which stand his Brother Daniel's house & the building north as far as his own. That the old house, bought by Jonathan Mason, was Best's house & is now standing. The old house of Chever was possessed by his son in law Pratt, & sold to Wright, Baker & removed on East side of Oliver's street. Lynde's Heirs still hold the lot back of Chever. Jona. Mason built his house, now standing, in front of his Mother's house taken down, and her land was from the Williams. Another Heir, the Hodges', sold to Coombs, Baker & beyond H. Williams held & on the Williams land is the present full built street of the name, all built since my time. Lindal owned next & as I suppose bought from Higginson after his death, upon payment of debts, &c.

was
on Wash.
Sq. N.

the
Common
and

19. Buried Mrs. Eleck from the Charity House on the Neck. The Sea serpent, so called, continues off Cape Ann. One was seen off Norway in 1746. We now find a record that one was seen in 1793 off Mount Desert, Maine, & before one had been seen at the Cranberry Island, S. E. of the same place. Capt. Crabtree who saw the first in 1793 mentions the sight before at the Cranberry as probably the first. The Serpent has been seen so often as to leave no doubt of the certainty of his existence. We more wonder that enterprise has not yet found the means to take him.

21. The Brig New Hazard was lost on the Goodwin Sands. The Capt. Isaac Andrews was drowned. She had 40,000 D. in specie insured, all lost. Owned by his Brother & Co. A Brother of the same man has lost his vessel in the West Indies. The elder Brother John inherits by a D. of Capt. Forrester & was famous in the co-partnership of Samuel Archer, the adventurer. The insurance upon the New Hazard will take 60 th. D. from the Merchants of Salem. The Sea (S[erpent]) has revived a tale that one Poland & Nic. Whipple were fishing in the Misery & Kettle Cove, 50 y ago & a large fish rising under their boat upset it & Poland was drowned. Mr. W. when taken up gave a doleful account of the fish which however did not molest them, nor appear to have had any design in what he did. The fish was a large one & swift. This Fish rests by winding his tail under him, as all the amphib[ians] sleep with their lower parts below the surface sloping to support their position. Capt. Henderson gave me a part of the foundation of Boston Old Wharf built in 1639. According to the plan of Boston, 1743, this wharf