

Historic Salem Incorporated

7 CAMBRIDGE STREET SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970 / PHONE (508) 745-0799

19 Briggs Street

Built for

David G. Batchelder, Manufacturer

1871

Research by
Rory Goff
August, 1989

19 BRIGGS STREET
PART ONE: THE LAND

BOOK 14 PAGE 305

DATE- July 19, 1703

CONSIDERATION- 11 pounds

GRANTOR- Thomas Archer of Salem, potter

GRANTEE- Christopher Babbige [Junior] of Salem, cordwainer

DESCRIPTION- "... a certain piece or parcel of land situate in Salem ... lying near and adjoining to the Common or Training Field in Salem, being in breadth Four poles and a half, in length about Seven & Twenty poles, bounded to the Land of Madam Anne Broadstreet to the North, to the Land of Benjamin Archer to the East, to the Land of Benjamin Archer to the South, and to the Land or Common to the West, be the Land more or less containing three quarters of an acre."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- None

BOOK 15 PAGE 186

DATE- August 6, 1703

CONSIDERATION- 17 pounds

GRANTOR- Benjamin Archer of Salem, cooper

GRANTEE- Christopher Babbige Junior of Salem, cordwainer

DESCRIPTION- "... a certain piece or parcel of Land containing Eighty poles or Rods of ground ... bounded with the Land of Madam Broadstreet to the North, with a highway to the East, with the Land of Benjamin Archer to the South, and with the Land of the said Christopher Babbige to the West ..."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- "The which ... parcels of Land [here and in Book 14, Page 305] is part & parcel of the Land of my said father John Archer, deceased."

NOTE-

In the above two transactions of July and August, 1703, Christopher Babbige [or Babbidge, or Babbage] purchased a strip of land about 74 feet wide and nearly 800 feet long, embracing the current lots along the northwest side of present-day Briggs Street, from Pleasant Street on the southwest to Webb Street on the northeast. As mentioned above, the land was originally owned by John Archer (1638-1693), a cooper. (See Map, "A Part of Salem in 1700.") He and his wife Bethiah (Weeks) had nine children, two of whom were Benjamin (1665/6-170_), cooper, and Thomas (1671-1703), potter, the grantors of the deeds above.

Christopher Babbige (1678-1755) married Lydia Marston in 1705, and had seven children, one of whom was also named Christopher (? -1752), a mariner. He married Anstis [or Anstiss] Crowninshield (b. 1727) in 1749, and had a daughter, also named Anstis (1750-1834). She married, in 1772, Captain Robert Stone (1744?-1817).

BOOK 152 PAGE 156

DATE-	December 15, 1790
CONSIDERATION-	120 pounds
GRANTORS-	Robert Stone of Salem, distiller, and Anstiss, wife
GRANTEE-	Thomas Briggs of Salem, ropemaker
DESCRIPTION-	"A piece of land in Salem ... containing one acre two quarters and nineteen poles and one half, bounded ... westerly on the Common ... , there measuring one hundred and four feet ten inches, southeasterly on land of Benjamin Brown forty-six poles eighteen links and three-quarters, easterly on land of Joseph Vincent six poles three links and one half, and northwesterly on land of William Brown forty-six poles and one link ..."
PREVIOUS REFERENCE-	" ... which piece of land hereby conveyed and descended to said Anstiss in the division of the estate of her Grandfather Christopher Babbage ..."

DATE- August 5, 1791

CONSIDERATION- 5 shillings, "but more especially for the affection and fatherly love which I ... bear unto my beloved son-in-law Thomas Briggs and my daughter Anne his wife as also for divers other good causes and considerations me moving ..."

GRANTORS- Joseph Vincent of Salem, ropemaker, and Elizabeth, wife

GRANTEE- Thomas Briggs of Salem, ropemaker

DESCRIPTION- "... a piece of upland and flats adjoining in Salem ... beginning at the northeast corner of said Briggs land and running by the land of William Brown to low-water mark in Collins Cove (so called), and thence southeast twenty-four feet and thence southwest to said Briggs land and thence twenty-four feet by land of said Briggs to the first-mentioned bounds."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- "... being part of the lot ... which I purchased of Captain Joseph Hodges ... 28 day of April 1779 ..."

NOTE- Thomas Briggs (1758-1803) was born in Rhode Island, but came to Salem ca. 1778 and worked for Joseph Vincent (1738-1832), who had moved to Salem from Kittery before the Revolution, and had established a ropewalk southeast of (present-day) Briggs Street. In 1783, Thomas Briggs married Joseph's daughter Anna Vincent (c.1766-1842). Briggs later went into business for himself, buying the above two plots and laying out Briggs Court along the southeast side (now Briggs Street, but then extending only about two-thirds of its present length from the Common), and his work-house and ropewalk near the northwest side (near the back of the odd-numbered lots on Briggs Street). The second plot, purchased of his father-in-law Joseph Vincent, gave him access to Collins Cove, and so he extended his ropewalk on pilings out into the Cove, as Vincent had done (see "Map of Salem About 1780").

NOTE (Continued)-

Between Briggs Court and his ropewalk, Briggs laid out a private cemetery and also a nursery of poplar trees. Promenaders in the 1790's were wont to stroll down Briggs Court, rest on the bench at its end, and refresh themselves with cakes and ale bought of an elderly lady who kept a small house near the bench.

From this one might gather that Mr. Briggs was of a retiring nature, but not so: Reverend Bentley noted in his Diary, Nov. 25, 1793, "St. Catherine [ropemakers' patron saint]'s day celebrated with uncommon shew & noise, guns firing, flags displayed, etc. Mr. Briggs is the chief author of such folly. Mr. Vincent made no exhibition on the occasion." And again, for January 23-24, 1794: "A Second Guinea Captain has died this season ... The news produced a bonfire in the Common, in all the rain & the people were alarmed, supposing it to be a building in flames ... Great blame cast upon the contriver of the bonfire ... The whole disgraceful and unseasonable. One Briggs was the promoter, & gave the Liquor."

When the frigate Essex was built in 1799, Joseph Vincent's ropewalk supplied the cordage for the foremast, and Thomas Briggs's provided the rigging for the mizzenmast. The hemp cables were carried to the frigate from Briggs's ropewalk, on the shoulders of 200 men, accompanied by the American flag and by "Yankee Doodle" on fife and drum.

Upon Briggs's death on March 10, 1803, Reverend Bentley noted, "[Briggs] had great success, but relaxing from his industry, & living with every indulgence of good cheer, he left the vigour of a firm constitution, remained a prey to disease for several years, & 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." And upon his burial on March 12, "He insisted upon a mahogany coffin, to be buried in his own ground, to be attended by his own sects & to have a minister of his own denomination, when he could not read or write, & was as ignorant, except of his own occupation, as a man in civil society could be."

NOTE (Continued)-

Shortly after Briggs's death, the ropewalk was sold and moved to Bridge Street, and the land passed to their only daughter, Ann Briggs (1786-1876). In 1804 Ann married Jabez Baldwin (1788-1819), who was born in Connecticut but moved early to Salem, where he learned his trade as jeweller (silversmith, clockmaker, etc.). A man of much enterprise, Baldwin had by far the largest stock in Salem at his shop on Essex Street and, after the War of 1812, established the firm of Baldwin & Jones in Boston as well.

Subsequent to 1806, Jabez Baldwin built the brick house on the south corner of Briggs and Pleasant Streets, a little north of where Ann's father's house had been. After Jabez's death in 1819, his widow Ann Baldwin continued to live there. She sold the ropewalk land (on the north side of Briggs Street) piecemeal, retaining the plot of 19 Briggs until 1871, whereupon she sold it to the man who immediately built the present house upon it.

Part Two of this report traces the history of the house.

19 BRIGGS STREET
PART TWO: THE HOUSE

BOOK 833 PAGE 286

DATE- August 3, 1871

CONSIDERATION- \$833.12

GRANTOR- Ann Baldwin of Salem, widow

GRANTEE- David G. Batchelder

DESCRIPTION- "A lot of land on Briggs street in Salem, bounded viz. beginning at the southwest corner of land of Charles E. Brown, and running northerly by said Brown, seventy-eight feet ten inches, thence westerly forty-five feet to other line of said grantor, thence southerly seventy-eight feet two inches, to said Briggs street, and thence easterly forty-five feet to the point begun at, containing 3532 1/2 square feet."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- None

NOTE- The Salem tax records for 1871 have a pencilled note for David G. Batchelder, assessing his new house at 11 Briggs Street. The house retained this address until 1888, when it became 19 Briggs St.

David Batchelder (c.1814 -1877) was born in New Hampshire, and came to Salem about 1846, when the Salem Directory listed him as "laborer, Forest River Lead Comp., house S. Salem." By 1850, he was foreman of the Forest River Lead Co. He lived at 88 LaFayette until 1857, moving then to 3 Holly St., where he remained. By 1869 David Batchelder was superintendent of the new Salem Lead Co. Upon his death in September, 1877, the Salem Evening News said, "He was one of our most active and intelligent businessmen, and for twenty years has occupied an influential position in the community. [He] had those positive traits of character which command success in life, and also traits of disposition in private intercourse which engaged the confidence and esteem of numerous friends."

NOTE (Continued)- By 1872 his eldest son, David Jr. (1849-1885), also worked at the Salem Lead Co., and in 1874 was assistant superintendent. It was this son who lived at 11 (i.e. 19) Briggs Street from 1872 until his father's death in 1877, when he in turn became superintendent of the Salem Lead Company, and rejoined his widowed mother and his younger brother George E. (born c. 1859) at 3 Holly Street.

BOOK 1042 PAGE 260

DATE- August 21, 1880

CONSIDERATION- \$1

GRANTORS- Mary P. Batchelder and David G. Batchelder, the widow and son of David G. Batchelder, late of Salem

GRANTEE- George E. Batchelder, another son of said deceased

DESCRIPTION- "A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon situate in ... Salem on Briggs Street ... and bounded as follows: beginning at the southwest corner of land now or late of Charles E. Brown ... [then same until] ... land now or late of Ann Baldwin ... [then same as previous deed]"

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- Ann Baldwin to David G. Batchelder, dec'd, dated Aug. 3, 1871

NOTE- George E. Batchelder owned but never lived at 11 (19) Briggs; he continued to live at 3 Holly Street with his mother, while studying law 1881-1883, and while practicing law in 1884-5 in the Post Office building at 118 Washington Street. By 1886, he moved to Amesbury. His older brother David had moved to a new house on Roslyn Street by 1881, and died in 1885. David's obituary in Salem Evening News, March 24, 1885, states he was "one of the best-known citizens of Salem, and respected by all who knew him ... The lead mills are closed today in respect to his memory. Mr. Batchelder was a prominent society man, and belonged to the American Legion of Honor, Pilgrim Fathers, Royal Arcanum and Essex Lodge of Masons, chapter and commandery. He leaves a widow and two children; his age was 34 years. [He] was insured ..."

DATE- January 9, 1912

CONSIDERATION- \$1 and other valuable considerations

GRANTORS- Mary E. Hickey and Anna L. Hickey of Salem

GRANTEE- Lewis F. Cass of Salem

DESCRIPTION- "Beginning at southwest corner of land now or late of Peter J. Kiernan et al. and running northerly by said Kiernan's land seventy-eight (78) feet ten (10) inches to land of Mary E. Stanley; thence westerly by said land of Stanley and land of heirs of Mary J. Foley and Harriet E. Skinner forty-five (45) feet to land of heirs of Reuben Arey, thence southerly by said land of Arey seventy-eight (78) feet two (2) inches to said Briggs Street; thence easterly on said street forty-five (45) feet to point begun at."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- "Being the same premises conveyed to Mary Hickey mother of the grantors, by deed dated October 1, 1886 and recorded ... B. 1182 P. 150."

DATE- January 9, 1912

CONSIDERATION- \$1 and other valuable considerations

GRANTOR- Lewis F. Cass

GRANTEE- Mary J. Cass

DESCRIPTION- A one-half interest in the above deed

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- "The same premises conveyed to me by Mary E. Hickey et al. by deed of even date ..."

NOTE- In 1912 Lewis Cass was a clerk at Daniel Low & Co., and living at 19 Briggs until 1921, when he moved to New York. Mary J. Cass, widow of Lewis H. Cass, was presumably his mother. She lived at 19 Briggs, together with several tenants, until December, 1924.

BOOK 2124 PAGE 501

DATE- December 30, 1924

CONSIDERATION- None specified

GRANTORS- Lewis F. Cass and Mary J. Cass

GRANTEES- William J. Quinn and Catherine M. Quinn

DESCRIPTION- "[same as above, until]... to land now or late of heirs of Reuben Arey...[then same as above]"

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- Book 2124 Page 501, and Book 2123 Page 183

NOTE- William Quinn worked in McGee and Greary's flower shop on Crombie St; when his employers retired, he started his own gardening business. He and his wife moved to 19 Briggs in 1925. Catherine died in 1945; William retired in 1946, and his niece Helen Ryan moved in with him. William died in 1950, and left the house to Helen.

BOOK 3792 PAGE 270

DATE- December 22, 1950

CONSIDERATION- None specified

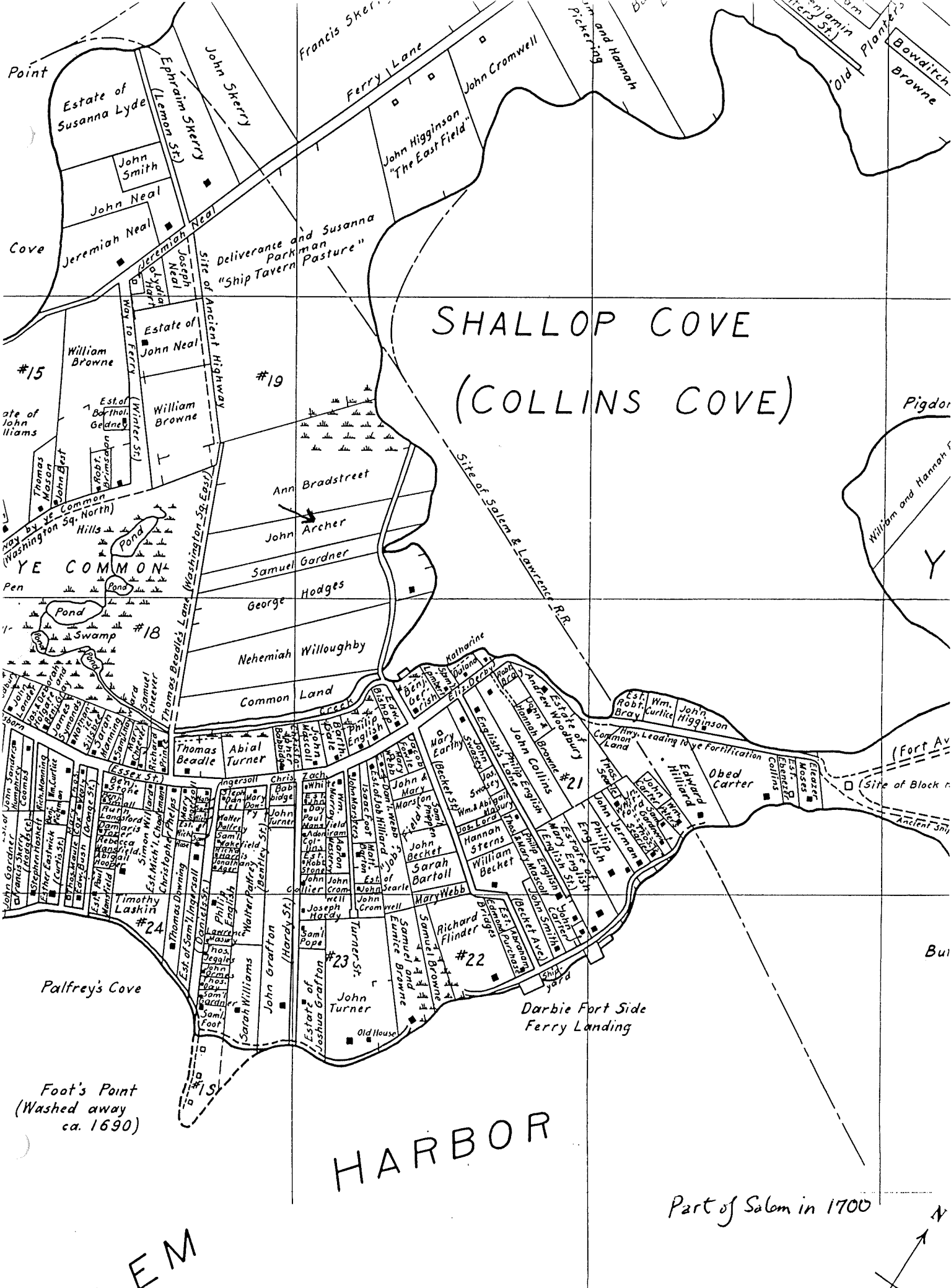
GRANTOR- Helen M. Ryan

GRANTEES- Arthur Z. and Blanche H. Cecelski

DESCRIPTION- Same as above

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- Book 2624 Page 255, Book 2124 Page 501, Book 2123 Page 183.

NOTE- Arthur Cecelski began as a leather worker at Peabody's B.E. Cox Co. in 1929, became Local 21's business agent in 1944 and business manager in 1973, and president of the Leather Workers' International Union, and vice-president of the Mass. State AFL-CIO Labor Council. He retired in 1981, and died aged 72 in 1983, leaving the house to his son Arthur R. Cecelski and daughter Eleanore V. Birmingham, current owners of 19 Briggs Street.



SHALLOP COVE
(COLLINS COVE)

#15

#19

#18

#21

#24

#23

#22

Palfrey's Cove

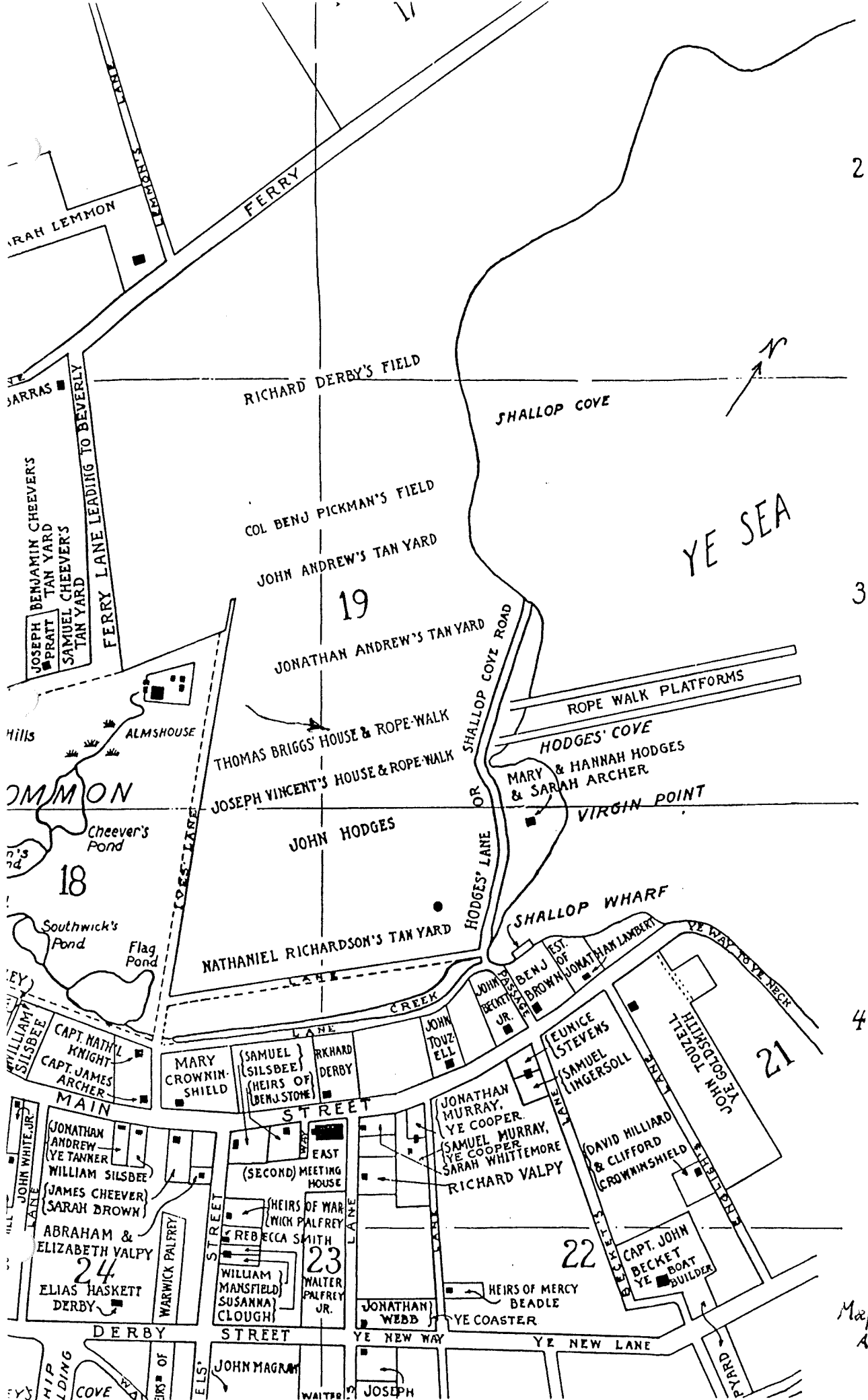
Foot's Point
(Washed away
ca. 1690)

HARBOR

Part of Salem in 1700

EM





Map of Salem
About 1780



C O M M O N

100' = 1"

Atlas of the
City of Salem
1897.



GLOUTMAN FANNING
78 76 74 72

W.J. CONLON
82 80 38 34 32
J. FANNING
J. FANNING

WEBB

ANDREW ST.

CHARLES ST.

EMERTON ST.

FORRESTER ST.

ANDREW

BRIGGS

CHARLES

BOARDMAN

EMERTON

FORRESTER

WASHINGTON

SQ.

E.B. CLOUTMAN

J. CAREY

U.S. JOHNSON

E. FOLEY ET-AL

L.P. FULLER

L.H. WARD

E. STANLEY EST.

E. FOLEY

R. SKINNER

E.L. PHILDRICK

M. STEVENS

E. PUTNAM

R. KNIGHT EST.

F. GRANT EST.

C. LERMAN

MRS. F.D. KIMBALL

R.F. BARR

U.G. PERKINS EST.

E.G. MOULTON EST.

N.J. HOLDEN

H. CAMPBELL

W.A. CLAPP

M.E. HICKEY ET-AL

R. CAREY

A. PODELL

S. W. PEASE

H.A. DAVENPORT

S. YOUNG

S.B. SIMONDS

J. ABELLYMAN EST.

G.E. CURTIS

J.H. FOLSON

L.F. DRESSER

S.R. PINGREE

R.F. BARR

H.A. DAVENPORT

S. YOUNG

S.B. SIMONDS

J. ABELLYMAN EST.

W.J. CONLON

G. CRANE

A.I. LIEBSCH

R. DIEBELL

J.R. TREADWELL

M.M. SMITH

W.A. CLAPP

W.A. CLAPP

JAS. FANNING

A.J. TUFTS

J.J. DONOVAN

J.W. HART

F.L. PORTER

W.A. CLAPP

S.J. GOODSPEED

S.S. MERRILL

MRS. W.L. BOWDOIN

W.A. CLAPP

G.A. NEAL

W.O. ARNOLD

JAS. FANNING

A.G. BARKER

W.A. CLAPP

G.A. NEAL

W.O. ARNOLD

JAS. FANNING

A.G. BARKER

W.A. CLAPP

G.A. NEAL

W.O. ARNOLD

MARY-ROSE

G.W. LOVETT

E.C. STEVENSON

S. NEWHALL

G.E. JELLY

W.A. CLAPP

C.R. CHOATE

H. PAGE

A.M. GRITILL

C.A. HILL

B.F. HILL

WM. HART

W.A. CLAPP

G.A. NEAL

W.O. ARNOLD

JAS. FANNING

A.G. BARKER

W.A. CLAPP

G.A. NEAL

W.O. ARNOLD

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G.A. NEAL

W.O. ARNOLD

JAS. FANNING

A.G. BARKER

W.A. CLAPP

G.A. NEAL

G. L. YPTON

E.J. GRIGGS

J.H. KROGH

W. NEWHALL

G.E. JELLY

W.A. CLAPP

C.R. CHOATE

H. PAGE

A.M. GRITILL

C.A. HILL

B.F. HILL

WM. HART

W.A. CLAPP

G.A. NEAL

W.O. ARNOLD

JAS. FANNING

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