

# Historic Salem incorporated

P.O. BOX 865 SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970 / PHONE (508) 745-0799

126 FEDERAL STREET

Built for  
NATHANIEL CHAMBERLAIN, bricklayer  
in 1782

Research:

Mark Nystedt  
December, 1992

The house at 126 Federal Street was built by Nathaniel Chamberlain, bricklayer, in 1782. The property had belonged to the Ropes estate on Essex Street when the laying in of Federal Street seperated this parcel from the main part of the estate. Benjamin Ropes sold this back parcel of land to Nathaniel Chamberlain in April of 1782 for 99L12s (see, Edward Stanley Waters, Some Old Estates, Essex Institute Historical Collection, Vol. XVI, 1879, pg47; and ECRD bk141 pg35) The deed which conveyed the adjacent property, at the corner of Lynn Street, from Jonathan Waldo to Jacob Ashton and Samuel Putnam (ECRD bk191 pg292), confirms this, as that property bordered Nathaniel Chamberlain's property.

Deeds and wills conveying the property from Nathaniel Chamberlain to the present owners are as follows:

April 1 1822

Nathaniel Chamberlain to my son, Benjamin Porter Chamberlain of the Island of Cuba, merchant  
\$1600  
ECRD bk228 pg187;

June 16, 1856

Benjamin Porter Chamberlain to John Calef, merchant  
\$2,900 (now occupied by Rev. T. H. Shahon)  
ECRD bk546 pg128;

March 1876

John Calef to David P. Ives  
\$500 & \$2500 mortgage  
ECRD bk950 pgl19;

October 15, 1879

David P. Ives of Lynnfield to Mary Dayton, wife of Isaac Dayton  
\$3,500 & \$2,500 mortgaga  
ECRD bk1026 pg11;

December 3,1915

will of Mary Dayton conveyed the property to her niece, Mary E Rowley  
ECPC bk736 pg219;

July 18, 1934

William D. Chapple and Robert F.Cameron of Salem, Executors of the will of Mary Elizabeth Rowley to  
Robert F and Agnes M Cameron  
\$2,000  
ECRD bk2998 pg402;

May 19, 1960

Robert F Cameron, widower, of Salem to Robert E and Ruth L. Cameron  
consideration paid  
ECRD bk4668 pg237;

April 28, 1986

Christine Miller of Peabody, Roberta E. Lineham of Salem, and Mary M. Cameron of Medford, administrators of the estate of Ruth M. Cameron to Roger W. and Carol O. Hedstrom of 62 Washington Square South, half interest, and to Bryce O. Suydam of 4 Bowden Street, Marblehead, half interest  
\$160,000

ECRD bk8225 pg155;

December 2, 1986

126 Federal Street Condominium Trust Master Deed filed  
ECRD bk8663 pg207;

January 28, 1987

Hedstrom, Hedstrom, and Suydam, trustees of 126 Federal Street Condominium Trust to  
James M. Keefe of unit 1, 126 Federal Street  
ECRD bk8774 pg251.

Low who married his sister were Druggists in Salem and afterwards in New York. Thos. was born Dec. 31, 1790 and died at New Orleans Oct. 1818, unmarried. (See Vol. 4 of these Collections Page 76.)

11. Aaron Porter was a native of Salem, son of Aaron and Eunice (Hathorne)\* Porter. Aaron senior was a currier, and had his shop and dwelling in South Salem, near where Mill and Lafayette streets intersect. Aaron Jr. left Salem in early life and died abroad.

12. John P. Babbidge was a native of Salem, son of Benjamin and Mary (Phippen) Babbidge. Benja. was a retired shipmaster, but lost most of his property by endorsing for a relative, and went to sea again as master of a vessel in 1811 and was not heard from. His wife died March 7th 1812. John P. was 4th Captain of the Rangers and afterwards went to sea. He died August 2d 1826, of Yellow Fever, at City Point Virginia, where he had gone to take charge of a ship. He married Sarah daughter of Francis Pulsifer.

13. William Babbidge son of John and Sarah (Becket) Babbidge, was a native of Salem and cousin to John P. His father was a boat builder and was of the firm of Hawkes and Babbidge, ship builders. He lived to the remarkable age of 93½, having died March 26 1860 and his wife July 19, 1856, aged 82. Wm. died August 27th, 1816, unmarried. (See Vol. 4 of these Collections Page 9.)

14. Benja. Porter Chamberlain son of Nathaniel & Amy (Porter) Chamberlain. She was from Danvers, New Mills. Nath. was a mason and lived in the house now occupied by John Calef on Federal street. Benja. when a youth was clerk in the grocery store of Samuel Very, at Buffum's Corner. In early manhood, he went to Cuba and remained there

several years. Returning to Salem, he settled down as a merchant residing in the house on Federal street, now occupied by Stephen A. Chase; but doing business in Boston; in the neighborhood of which he now lives. He married Eliza S. Smith of Portland Maine and survives her.

15. Joseph Very, son of Ephraim and Abigail (Rowles) Very. Father was a Shipmaster. Joseph was a Painter and settled in Eastport, Maine, where he died. Born in 1792. (See 2nd Vol. of these Collections, Page 37.)

16. James Bullock, now by authority of the Legislature known as James Ballard. By trade a Coach painter. Lives in Lafayette street, South Salem. Son of Isaac and Elizabeth (Boyd) Bullock. Married Eliza Cotton Archer, daughter of Col. Samuel A., and she is now living. (See Vol. 4 of these Collections, Page 137.)

17. Benjamin Bullock, twin brother of James, was a Harness maker. Died unmarried.

18. Jesse Smith, son of Aaron & Lucy (Baker) Smith, was a native of Ipswich, but came young to Salem and learned the watch maker's trade of Benja. Balch, whose copartner he afterwards was, now carries on the same business on Essex street, opposite Barton Square. He was born 12th Decr. 1789, and married Priscilla Treadwell whom he survives. (See Vol. 3 of these Collections, Pages 211 and 212.)

19. John Punchard, son of Samuel & Alice (Poor) Punchard, was clerk in a store. He removed to New Hampshire and married Sarah, daughter of (Malthus Ward) of Haverhill N. H. He was a stationer and lived in Boston and removed to Florida. He was

born August 28th, 1791, and died in Jacksonville, Florida, August 27th, 1831.

20. Stephens Baker, son of Joseph & Lucy (Stephens) Baker of Beverly. He came from Beverly to Salem and learned the business of a jeweller from Jabez Baldwin. He was born Nov. 14th, 1791 and is now living in Beverly. He married Adeline, daughter of Capt. Asa Batchelder of B. He went to Wilmington N. C. in 1816 and after remaining there about two years returned to Beverly and kept a shop for the sale of jewelry, stationery, medicines &c. He was many years Post Master and Justice of the Peace. A few years since, he removed to Sheffield, Illinois, but has lately returned to Beverly.

21. George Dean Jr., native of Salem, son of George and Sarah (Phippen) Dean and cousin to John P. Babbidge No. 10. Was a clerk in Salem and died in Boston Jan'y 10th, 1830, unmarried. Born 1791.

22. John Trumbull, son of Nathaniel and Hannah (Picket) Trumbull, born in Salem Jan'y 29th, 1790. Married Hannah, daughter of Pelatiah Brown. His father came to Salem from Charlestown Mass. and his mother was from Beverly. John was a Tailor and removed to Londonderry N. H. where he died Nov. 8th, 1824.

23. John W. Archer, son of Samuel and Sarah (Woodbury) Archer. Born in Salem 1790, and married 16th October 1821, Deborah H. Little of Beverly, was a mariner and afterwards had a book store on the corner of Essex and Elm streets, moved to Alton, Illinois and is now living. (See 3 Vol. of these Collections, Page 255.)

24. Edward Orne, son of Josiah and Alice (Allen) Orne. His father was a shipmaster and merchant and his mother a daughter of

Capt. Edward Allen. Edward was born in Salem in 1790. Married 1st—Williams niece of Samuel Williams the American Banker in London, and 2nd a southern lady. He settled in Mississippi, and died at Hernando in that state April 7th 1845. (See Vol. 3 of these Collections Page 178, and also Vol. 4 Page 87.)

25. Wm. Archer, son of Wm. and Mary (Daland) Archer was a clerk to his uncle John Daland, and afterwards kept a grocery store for himself, married Eliza Daniels. Has been an insurance agent and manager of a Loan and Fund Association. Born August 13th, 1791. I have before expressed my indebtedness to him for many facts in relation to these notices.

26. Nathaniel Ladd was not a Salem boy. I think he was learning the cabinet maker's trade from one of the Sandersons in Federal street, but he left Salem in a few years and I know no more of him.

27. Peter Gerard was born in Boston of French parents. They carried him to St. Domingo, where they lost their lives by the insurrection of the blacks and massacre of the whites. Peter was secreted by a black man, who found means to put him on board of a vessel bound to the U. States. Arriving in Salem, he was protected and educated by a French resident named Peter Barras. He was a very intelligent and well behaved boy and young man. He learned the trade of a Tailor and went South. I heard of him afterwards as living in Charleston S. C. and, well to do in the world, but I know not his later history.

28. Stedman Atherton was not a Salem boy and did not remain here long and I can not trace him since.

Samuel, but as he died before his mother; about 1728 (she about 1740), it went to his sons Roger and Samuel, who in 1741 sold it to Roger Peele. He was unfortunate enough to lose it, or a part of it, by sundry executions, about 1748, to Samuel Ropes<sup>4</sup> and John Beckett, the former of whom bought the latter's portion, his own being the western strip, and Beckett's the eastern; and then added the middle portion with a house, etc., upon it, by purchase from Robert Peele in 1749, who, I think, was a son of Roger.

Ropes sold it in 1773 to Richard Derby, the son of the Richard to whom had been bequeathed the other or eastern part of the homestead, to which we now come. This was of about the same depth as the other, and 26 feet in width, and inherited probably from his father. By this purchase from Ropes he became owner of the whole original homestead. The deed of a part of this to Benjamin Ropes, mentioned in "Ropes' Family," I think must have been a mortgage, which was afterwards discharged, and probably the sale mentioned there of a part of the next estate from John<sup>3</sup> to Samuel<sup>3</sup> was of the same nature. This Derby land was in 1796 the property of Jacob Very. In 1801, when Monroe street was laid out, it was "over land on Essex St. belonging to Capt. Lawrence & Esqr Manning." In 1846 the western portion was land of Hannah Wallis, whose shop was on the corner until about 1866, when it, together with the two-story dwelling next above, were removed or demolished by Mr. Bertram, the owner of the land, which was added to his grounds.

The next property, that which now forms the lower corner of Monroe and Essex streets, we read was John Darland's homestead in 1678. It appears afterwards belonging to Joseph Neale, who was afterwards of Newcastle, Penn.; in 1709, and deceased in 1716; he married

Judith, a daughter of Richard Croade, whose estate lay next east of his. This homestead extended from a point about three feet west of the eastern corner of Monroe street to a point east about 116 feet, which would be perhaps in front of the western half of the present house of Mr. Johnson. It was of an irregular shape, at about a distance of 93 feet back from Essex street making an angular turn and running west, behind the Derby land to the Ruck land, and then stretching north 247 feet, and beyond what is now Federal street.

It was sold Nov. 7, 1709, by his brother and Attorney Lieut. Jeremiah Neal to the brothers John<sup>3</sup> and Samuel<sup>3</sup> Ropes; the latter, father to the one who owned for a time the Derby land adjoining. At this time it was bounded north by land formerly Bishop's and Robbins', and east at its northern part by land of Mr. Robert Kitchen.

The brothers divided it, and in 1734 exchanged portions; Samuel taking the western and John the eastern, and here were their homes. Samuel married a daughter, Lydia, of Joseph Neal and thereby inherited, and also bought of the other heirs small portions of the next estate, his wife's grandfather Croade's, after the death of his widow Frances in 1716. He died about 1762, and his real estate, about half an acre with a dwelling-house, went to his son Benjamin.<sup>4</sup>

He reserved the part of the estate which was the immediate homestead, extending from Essex street north about 152 feet, but sold the next lot north, in 1781, to Nath. Gould, 27 rods in size and fronting on the southern side of Federal street. The piece on the other side, which had been cut off by the laying out of the latter street, he sold in April, 1782, to Nath. Chamberlain. It was next east to that of Mr. John Appleton, sold him by widow Jane Ropes from the Ruck or Sibley estate, and was

