

### *134 Federal Street, Salem*

**According to available evidence, this house was built in 1800 for Benjamin Blanchard, hair-dresser, who became a dry-goods dealer in the 1820s. The house built in 1800 has a balanced five-bay façade fronting on Carpenter Street; and by 1823 Mr. Blanchard had added on to the westerly side of the house a structure whose first floor was evidently used as a store.**

Benjamin Blanchard (1770-1843) was born in Medford on 8 September 1770, the son of Aaron Blanchard (1722-1785) & Tabitha Floyd. Benjamin was the youngest of nine, including an older brother Aaron Jr. born in 1751. When he was a boy, at the age of 12 or 13, he was apprenticed, evidently, to learn the trade of a barber, or hairdresser. In addition to hairdressing and shaving, barbers often treated minor ailments, and also made or repaired wigs. In those days before running hot water, most men went every day to the barber to be shaved.

Once he had served out his apprenticeship and become a journeyman, Benjamin came to Salem. He met and courted Margaret Brown of Herbert Street, the sister of James Brown, a mariner, and the daughter of William Brown, deceased, of an old Salem family. The couple married on December 4, 1791. In the town valuations of 1792 Benjamin is listed in ward three, with Aaron Blanchard (likely his older brother) and is taxed on a shop and for a small income. In ward three in 1793, Benjamin is taxed on part of a house & shop (\$125 value) and stock worth \$50.

By 1793, aged 23, he had a barber's shop on Essex Street, westerly of Washington Street about a third of the way toward North Street; in 1793 Benjamin Pickman described it as "a small shop occupied by Mr. Blanchard the Barber" (EIHC 6:106). By 1800 or so, Benjamin had moved his operation to a different site on Essex Street: west of the Nathaniel Ropes house (Ropes Memorial, which then stood on the street-front) was a row of four shops: Blanchard's was most westerly, and then, going east, were those of Mark Pitman, cabinet maker; Nathaniel Lang, saddler; and Stephen Driver, boot and shoe maker (EIHC 21:216, Oliver Thayer's "Early Recollections").

The Blanchards' first known child, Margaret, was born in 1795, and would be followed by six more between 1791 and 1814. In 1798 the Blanchards shared a house belonging to Ezekiel Cheever (evidently 314 Essex Street) with Marcy

Gibbs (see 1798 Federal Direct Tax listings). In the 1800 census the Blanchards are listed at that same house.

**Benjamin Blanchard** (1770-1843), b. 8 Sept. 1770, Medford, son of Aaron Blanchard & Tabitha Floyd, died of palsy 19 Aug. 1843. He m. 4 Dec. 1791 (Salem) **Margaret Brown** (1774-1841), bp. 1774, St. Peter's Chh., d/o William Brown, died of cancer, 12 April 1841. Known issue:

1. Margaret, 1795, m. 1838 Pierce L. Wiggin
2. Elizabeth, 1797, m. 1829 Samuel Emery
3. Benjamin, 1799, m. 1825 Jane L. Heussler
4. Priscilla, 1803, m. 1827 William Wallis
5. Joanna, 1806
6. William Brown, 1808, probably died young.
7. Sarah Brown, 1814

Benjamin Blanchard had come to Salem because it was a very prosperous seaport, and had become so soon after the 1783 end of the Revolutionary War. In some places, the post-war loss of the former colonial connections and trade routes was devastating; but in Salem, the merchants had the money and the enterprising spirit to push their ships and cargoes into all parts of the known world. Shut out of all British empire ports, Hasket Derby, William Gray, Eben Beckford, and Joseph Peabody led the effort to open new markets. In 1784, Derby began trade with Saint Petersburg, Russia; and in 1784 and 1785 he dispatched trading vessels to Africa and China, respectively. Voyages to India soon followed, and then to the Spice Islands (Sumatra, Java, Malaya, etc.). In 1798 trade opened with Mocha, Arabia, which supplied coffee. Salem merchants built more and larger vessels, and by 1800 Salem was among the greatest trading ports in America, with some of the wealthiest merchants. It was at this time (1792) that Salem's first bank was founded: the Essex Bank was followed by the Salem Bank (1803).

The attractive new-comer Benjamin Blanchard partook of the general prosperity, and had a popular and lucrative business.

The strength of the new Republic and its sea-borne commerce were tested first by France, in a "false war" from 1798 to 1800, and then by Britain. In both instances, American vessels were boarded, harassed, and even impounded. However, Yankee seafarers had no fear of these others; they added guns to their vessels, and the Salem owners and masters aggressively expanded their trade to the farthest

ports of the rich East. Salem cargoes were exceedingly valuable, and wealth was piling up in Salem's warehouses and bank accounts.

In 1800, Salem was still a town, and a small one by our standards, with a total population of about 7,000 souls. Its 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 ran to the North River) and Essex (particularly between what are now Hawthorne Boulevard and North Streets). In the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, Salem's commercial prosperity would sweep almost all of the great downtown houses away (the brick Joshua Ward house, built 1784, is a notable exception). 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, backlands for the Pickerings on Broad Street and the old estates of Essex Street. The Common was not yet Washington Square, and was covered with hillocks, small ponds and swamps, and utility buildings and the town alms-house. All would soon be transformed.

The town's merchants were ready to put some of their wealth to work at home. In Samuel McIntire, they had a local architect who could help them realize their desires for large and beautiful homes in the latest style. In the next ten years, neighborhoods would be developed with handsome high-style houses for Salem's large number of suddenly rich merchants and shipmasters. While a few of the new houses were built in the old Essex-Washington Street axis, most of the new construction took place on or near Washington Square and on Chestnut, Federal, and upper Essex Streets. The architectural style (called "Federal" today) had been developed years before 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 upon his return from England 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, a carver and house-carpenter, was quick to pick up on the style, and to adapt it to Salem's larger lots. McIntire's first local composition, the Jerathmeel Peirce house (on Federal Street), contrasts greatly with his later Adamesque compositions. The interiors of this Adam style differed from the "Georgian" and Post-Colonial: 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 pilasters (as with the so-called Assembly House, a McIntire composition).

By the turn of the year 1800, Benjamin & Margaret Blanchard, with three children and a prosperous business, were in a position to build a fine residence on fashionable Federal Street. A man named Ebenezer Shillaber was in the process of opening a new road to the North River and selling off lots; and on January 13th for \$600 he sold the northerly corner lot to Benjamin Blanchard, barber (ED 141:166). On that lot, 40' on Federal Street and 126' on Shillaber's land (now Carpenter Street), Mr. Blanchard immediately had a new three-story house built in the latest style: three stories high, balanced façade, hip roof, with elegant interior moldings and trim. While there is no direct evidence that Samuel McIntire (who died in 1811) designed or worked on the Blanchard house, it is certainly possible that he did. In his book **Mr. Samuel McIntire, Carver, Architect of Salem**, Fiske Kimball notes that a 20<sup>th</sup>-century owner of this house, the architect Philip H. Smith, installed in this house some elements salvaged from a house on Lafayette Street built for Enoch Dow in 1807-9. Kimball identifies the Dow house as likely to have been the work of McIntire, albeit his evidence was circumstantial rather than direct. Kimball's book has illustrations, taken from #134, showing the chimney-pieces that were taken from the Dow house. It would be interesting to know if the Blanchard house chimney-piece decorations are carved from wood or are applied "compo," since McIntire worked as a wood carver. Kimball does not identify the other elements, if any, that may have been appropriated from the Dow house by Mr. Smith.

The house was finished by August, 1800, when, in a deed of nearby property, it is mentioned as "the new dwelling house of Benjamin Blanchard"(ED 167:31).

Salem's commerce created great wealth, which in turn attracted many newcomers (like Benjamin Blanchard) from outlying towns and even other states. The ferment of the times is captured in the diary of Rev. William Bentley, bachelor minister of Salem's East Church (it stood on lower Essex Street). Mr. Bentley's 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. On Union Street, not far from Mr. Bentley's church—and a few doors from Mrs. Blanchard's girlhood home--on the fourth of July, 1804, was born a boy who would grow up to eclipse all sons of Salem in the eyes of the world: Nathaniel Hawthorne, whose father, a mariner, would die of

fever while on a voyage to the Caribbean in 1808. This kind of untimely death was all too typical of Salem's young seafarers, who fell prey to malaria and other diseases of the Caribbean and Pacific tropics.

In 1801, a Benjamin Blanchard, Salem "baker," served as attorney to Alex Walker, a mariner, in the matter of Mr. Walker's grandmother West's estate (ED 179:188). It is not certain that this Benjamin Blanchard is the same as the owner of #134; if so, either he had branched out briefly into baking, or there was another Benjamin Blanchard who was a baker, or the term "baker" was a slip for "barber," which seems more likely. There was another Benjamin Blanchard in Salem, as described by Mr. Bentley; but that one was a butcher, and lived in the East Parish, and was a notorious wastrel.

In 1806 Benjamin Blanchard, hairdresser, served as attorney for his brother-in-law, mariner James Brown (ED 179:267); and in January, 1807, the Benjamin Blanchards and the James Browns for \$900 sold the Brown homestead on Herbert Street (ED 179:267). In religion, the Blanchards were Baptist; and Mr. Blanchard at some point was chosen deacon of the church. His high standing is underscored by his serving in 1811 as the administrator of the estate of his deceased neighbor George W. Martin (ED 191:302); and in 1814 he would serve as attorney for William Haskell, a mariner (ED 207:67).

Salem's boom came to an end with a crash in January, 1808, when Jefferson and the Congress imposed an embargo on all American shipping. Their hope was to bring about conditions in which England would agree to terms in which free trade could be conducted peacefully; but the Embargo soon proved futile, and nearly ruinous in Salem, whose commerce ceased. Under these circumstances, local politics—the Republicans (mostly mariners) versus the Federalists (mostly merchants)—turned virulent. The East Parish seafarers, led by the Crowninshield family, loyally supported the Embargo until it was lifted in spring, 1809. Shunned by most of the other Federalists for his support of the Embargo, the great merchant Billy Gray took his large fleet of ships and moved to Boston, where he switched from the Federalist party and soon became Lt. Governor. Diminished by many vessels and much wealth by Gray's removal, Salem resumed its seafaring commerce for three years, but still the British preyed on American shipping; and in June, 1812, war was declared against Britain.

Most of the New England towns opposed the war as being potentially ruinous and for the benefit only of the western war-hawk states. In Salem, forty privateers were immediately fitted out, manned by Marblehead and Salem crews, who also served

on U.S. Navy vessels, including the *Constitution*. In addition, Salem fielded companies of infantry and artillery. Salem and Marblehead privateers were largely successful in making prizes of British supply vessels. While many of the town's men were wounded in engagements, and some were killed, the adventure and possible riches of privateering kept the men returning to sea as often as possible. The first prizes were captured by a 30-ton converted fishing schooner, the *Fame*, and by a 14-ton luxury yacht fitted with one gun, the *Jefferson*. Of all Salem privateers, the Crowninshields' 350-ton ship *America* was the most successful. She captured 30-plus prizes worth more than \$1,100,000 in 1812 money.

Salem erected forts and batteries on its Neck, to discourage the British warships that cruised these waters. In June, 1813, off Marblehead Neck, the British frigate *Shannon* defeated the U.S. Navy frigate *Chesapeake*. Almost a year later, in April, 1814, the people of Salem gathered along the shores of Salem Neck as three sails appeared on the horizon and came sailing on for Salem Bay. These vessels proved to be the mighty *Constitution* in the lead, pursued by the smaller British frigates *Tenedos* and *Endymion*. The breeze was light, and the British vessels gained, but Old Ironsides made it safely into Marblehead Harbor, to the cheers of thousands.

On land, the war went poorly for the United States, as the British captured Washington, DC, and burned the Capitol and the White House. Along the western frontier, U.S. forces were successful against the weak English army; and, as predicted by many, the western expansionists had their day. At sea, as time wore on, Salem's vessels often were captured, and its men captured or killed. After almost three years, the war was bleeding the town dry, and the menfolk were disappearing. Hundreds of Salem men and boys were imprisoned in British prisons and at Dartmoor Prison in England.

At last, in February, 1815, peace was restored.

Post-war, the Salem merchants rebuilt their fleets and resumed their worldwide trade, to great effect. A new Custom House was built in 1819, on the site of the Crowninshield mansion, at the head of Derby Wharf. Into the 1820s the foreign trade continued very prosperous; and new markets were opened with Madagascar (1820), which supplied tallow, and Zanzibar (1825), whence came gum copal, used to make varnish.

Salem men tended to join clubs and military companies as a way of socializing and protecting their interests. The Salem Charitable Mechanic Association was

founded in 1817 to serve the needs of those who worked with tools or machines (“mechanics”); and Benjamin Blanchard was chosen one of the Association’s trustees (EIHC 121:50). At that time he was identified as being a Federalist in politics, and a regular candidate for Town Assessor on the Federalist ticket (ibid).

At that same time, in November, 1817, Mr. Blanchard was chosen agent (manager) of the Salem & Danvers Aqueduct Company; shortly afterward he was also chosen clerk of the corporation (see EIHC 2:110). The Aqueduct Company had been founded in 1796, at which time Salem was poorly supplied with water, and had no “soft” water at all for washing clothes, other than in rivers. The idea of the Company was to pipe spring water to Danvers and Salem through bored-out logs. In 1798 the Company built a small open reservoir (“fountain”) atop Gallows Hill; and in spring, 1799, the water began flowing into Salem. In 1804, facing the need to replace the log-pipes, the great merchant Joseph Peabody agreed to secure the Company for \$20,000. The work went forward, with logs of 5” bore running past Benjamin Blanchard’s shop to Richard Ward’s house (the “Witch House”) on Essex Street. In 1816 the Company decided to discontinue all branches “leading to manufactories such as distilleries, tan-yards, tallow-chandlers, soap-boilers, brewers, curriers, (and) bathing-houses and stables.” In 1817 a new reservoir was built downtown on Sewall Street; and Mr. Blanchard was hired as Agent, and then became Clerk. In 1819, water for families being insufficient, the Company contracted with the Salem Iron Factory to erect a log-boring mill to hollow out the logs (which had been hand-hollowed before then). In November, 1818, Mr. Blanchard went to New Hampshire to procure 15,000 feet of large yellow pine logs, and in 1822 he went to Boston to procure iron castings, or rings, with which to join the logs. In 1829 the Company purchased a lot of land at the end of Carpenter Street, near the North River, as a spot on which to store logs. In 1830 Joseph Peabody became president. All proceeded smoothly, from 1821 to 1834, with regular dividends issued. A potential rival firm was dissuaded from organizing in 1834, and Mr. Blanchard effectively carried out his duties for most of the rest of his life.

Per valuations, Benjamin Blanchard (ward four) in 1820 was taxed on a house & shop valued at \$1200, and had stock worth \$200 and an annual income of \$100. The same was true through 1822; and in 1823 he was assessed for “house & shop in it, \$1000” with \$200 stock and \$200 income. It is not clear how long he had the shop here on Carpenter Street, but it is highly likely that the shop was conducted from the addition on the west side of the original house. The addition also had residential space upstairs. His son Benjamin Jr., then 23, was also a trader, and was assessed for \$200 stock, \$200 income, and had part of a shop (no value listed).

By 1824 and 1825 Benjamin Jr.'s part of a shop was valued at \$400. He may have been in business with his father. In 1825 Benjamin Jr. married Jane Heussler; in 1826 he was assessed for part of a house and part of a store, \$1000, and his father for house & shop, \$1000. In 1827 Benjamin Jr. (he probably resided here) was assessed for a large store, \$900, and his father for a house, \$1000. Benjamin Blanchard Jr. also worked as Secretary of the Salem Marine Insurance Co. (EIHC 122:75).

In the early 1820s, Benjamin Blanchard left off his hairdressing and became a trader, meaning a dealer in goods. In his case, he opened a dry goods store in 1824 as Blanchard & Wallis in the Franklin Building (site: Hawthorne Hotel), where Col. Hovey had once had his store. This was probably a partnership between Mr. Blanchard and William Wallis, his son-in-law (see A. J. Archer, Salem *Gazette*, 21 Feb. 1890). Sometime after 1826 the store was moved to a new stand on Essex Street, near Washington, in the eastern part of the first floor of the First Church building, erected 1826. About that store, "the story is told that a lady, one day looking at some dress goods and hearing the price, said 'Isn't that rather high?', whereupon Mr. Blanchard threw the goods to the upper shelf and answered, 'They are higher now, Ma'am.'" (see A.J. Archer, Salem *Gazette*, 31 Jan. 1890).

In February, 1824, Mr. Blanchard, trader, for \$200 purchased an interest in property on Carpenter Street and in North Salem that had belonged to a Mr. Hartshorn (ED 234:196). The Carpenter Street parcel bounded southerly on Mr. Blanchard's own property. For a total of more than \$900 he bought up the remaining rights in that property in 1824; and he also purchased for \$300 William Farrington's life-estate in a house on Federal Street (ED 235:141), which he would sell back to Mr. Farrington in 1829 (ED 250:150).

In 1824 and 1825 he sold off or exchanged some of the North Salem property that he had bought (ED 237:254; 236:228). On Christmas Eve, 1824, he sold the house to the west of this one, with its land, to Mrs. Worcester for \$1,000 (ED 237:225).

Salem's general maritime foreign commerce fell off sharply in the late 1820s. Imports, which were the cargoes in Salem ships, were not so much needed now that American goods were now being produced in great quantities. Commercial canals were used to transport goods from place to place, turnpikes were built, and the interior of the country was being opened for settlement. People moved west, some from Salem. To the north, the falls of the Merrimack River were powering large new textile mills, which created great wealth for their investors; and in general it seemed that the tide of opportunity was ebbing away from Salem.

At that time, Salem people looked for opportunities in other parts of the country. In 1828, Benjamin Blanchard Jr.'s brother-in-law, Capt. Jonathan P. Felt (husband of Margaret Heussler) decided to buy property in North Carolina that was known to have small amounts of gold on it. Capt. Felt, Benjamin Blanchard (Sr.), and four others formed the Salem Gold Mine Company and raised \$5,000 to buy the land and make arrangements to begin mining it (EIHC 122:69-89). By the end of 1829 the Company had given up on its gold-mining, although the owners seem not to have disposed of the land. Capt. Felt would try again for gold in Virginia later.

In 1830 occurred a horrifying crime that brought disgrace to the town. Old Capt. Joseph White, a wealthy merchant, widowed and childless, resided in the house now called the Gardner-Pingree house, on Essex Street. One night, intruders broke into his mansion and stabbed him to death. All of Salem buzzed with the news of murdering thugs; but the killers, as it happened, were Crowninshields and Knapps, members of Salem's elite class and relatives of the victim. A Crowninshield committed suicide, and two Knapps were hanged. Salem was tainted by the investigation and trial, and some of the more respectable families quit the town.

The advent of railroads in the 1830s diverted both capital and trade away from the coast. Salem's merchants had to move quickly to take their equity out of wharves and warehouses and ships and put it into manufacturing and transportation. Some did not, and were ruined. Many moved to Boston, the hub of investment in the new economy. In 1833, Benjamin Blanchard Jr. would move to the city of Philadelphia, which became his new home.

Despite setbacks and uncertainties, Salem was chartered as a city in 1836. City Hall was built 1837-8 and the city seal was adopted with an already-anachronistic Latin motto of "to the farthest port of the rich East"—a far cry from "Go West, young man!" The Panic of 1837, a brief, sharp, nationwide economic depression, caused even more Salem families to head west. Salem had not prepared for the industrial age, and had few natural advantages. The large-scale factory towns of Lowell, Lawrence, and Haverhill, had the powerful Merrimack to drive the machinery of their huge textile factories, but Salem had only the lower part of the North River, which served mainly to flush the waste from the many tanneries (23 by 1832) that had set up along its banks. Throughout the 1830s, the leaders of Salem scrambled to re-invent an economy for their fellow citizens, many of whom were mariners without much sea-faring to do. Ingenuity, ambition, and hard work would have to carry the day.

One inspiration was the Salem Laboratory Company, Salem's first manufacturing enterprise, a maker of chemicals since 1819. At the plant in North Salem on the North River, the production of blue vitriol (copper sulphate) and alum were specialties; and it proved a very successful business. Salem's whale-fishery, active for many years in the early 1800s, led, in the 1830s, to the manufacturing of high-quality candles at Stage Point, along with machine oils. The candles proved very popular. Lead-manufacturing began in the 1820s, and grew large after 1830, when Wyman's gristmills on the Forest River were retooled for making high-quality white lead and sheet lead (the approach to Marblehead is still called Lead Mills Hill, although the empty mill buildings burned down in 1960s).

These enterprises in the 1830s were a start toward taking Salem in a new direction. In 1838 the Eastern Rail Road began operating between Boston and Salem, which gave the people of Salem and environs a very direct route to the region's largest market. In this year, Miss Margaret Blanchard, still unmarried at 43, married (as his second wife) Pierce L. Wiggin, a mason who later became the superintendent of the Salem & Boston Turnpike. The E.R.R. 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.

Perhaps Benjamin & Margaret Blanchard took a ride on the new railroad. By 1840 they were quite old: Margaret was 67, and Benjamin was 70, and probably retired from the dry-goods business, although still serving as "agent" (manager) of the Aqueduct Company. In 1841, Mrs. Margaret Brown Blanchard died, with what affect on her husband and long-time companion can only be imagined.

Mr. Blanchard probably passed his time in visits with old friends, the doings of his children and grandchildren, and walks in the neighborhood. Not far away, at the foot of Flint Street, a bridge was being built over the North River, which would open that part of North Salem to residential development. No doubt Mr. Blanchard, the old Aqueduct agent, took an interest in this construction project, which went forward in 1843.

On 19 August 1843 Mr. Blanchard, afflicted with palsy, followed his wife into the grave. He was 73 years old.

In the inventory of his estate, taken 8 Nov. 1843, this "dwelling house and land in Federal Street" was valued at \$2700. Mr. Blanchard also owned two pews in the First Baptist meeting house (\$60), five shares in the Salem Turnpike & Chelsea Bridge company (\$300), one share (\$400) in the Salem & Danvers Aqueduct

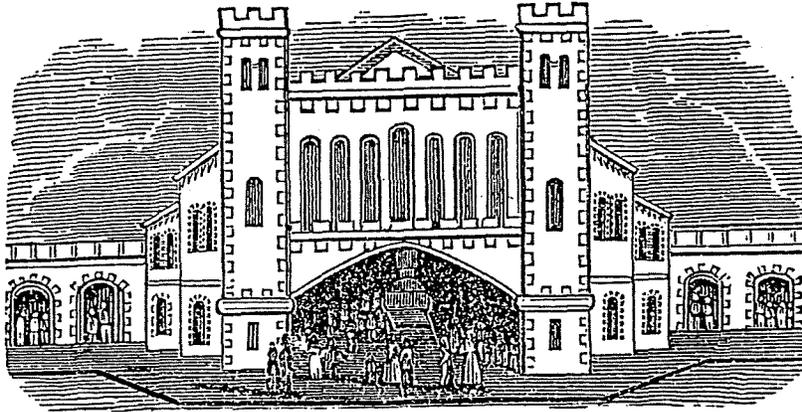
Corporation, one share (\$40) in Salem Mechanics Hall, and notes payable by Michael Shepard (\$1000) and Mr. Blanchard's son-in-law William Wallis (\$600). At the end of his life, he occupied a first-floor front room of the house, a front (second-story) chamber, a small chamber, and a kitchen and pantry; and he had sundries in a small upper chamber, the garret (attic), a small lower room, and the closet. The inventory (appended) lists his furnishings in each of these rooms.

In June, 1844, the other Blanchard heirs sold the homestead here for \$2,000 to their unmarried sisters, Joanna and Sarah B. Blanchard (ED 346:14). They would remain the owners for the next 22 years, during which the house was rented out, while they (evidently) resided with their older sister Elizabeth and her husband Samuel Emery & family, nearby on Federal Street (e.g. 1855 census, house 217, ward four, Emerys and Blanchards). In 1846, a tenant here at "58 Federal Street" was Rev. Thomas D. Anderson, the minister of a local church (see 1846 Salem Directory). The McIntire Atlas, 1851, identifies this house as inhabited by "W.A. Brown"—William A. Brown, 30, Boston merchant, Phebe, 27, and children Anna, 4, and Alice, one (1850 census ward 4, house 171). The Browns resided here briefly; they also resided on Buffum Street, and at 50 (old number) Federal Street.

In the 1840s, new companies in new lines of business arose in Salem. The tanning and curing of leather was a very important industry by the mid-1800s. It was conducted on and near Boston Street, along the upper North River. There were 41 tanneries in 1844, and 85 in 1850, employing 550 hands. The leather business would continue to grow in importance throughout the 1800s. The lack of river power was solved by the invention of steam-driven engines, and in 1847 the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company began operations at Stage Point in the largest factory building in the United States, 60' wide by 400' long. It was an immediate success, and hundreds of people found employment there, many of whom lived in tenements built nearby. Also in the 1840s, a new method was introduced to make possible high-volume industrial shoe production. In Lynn, the factory system was perfected, and that city became the nation's leading shoe producer; but Salem built shoe factories too, and attracted shoe workers from outlying towns and country areas. Even the population changed, as hundreds of Irish families, fleeing Ireland's famine, settled in Salem; and the men went to work in the factories and as laborers.

In the face of all this change, some members of Salem's waning merchant class continued to pursue their sea-borne businesses; but even the conditions of shipping changed, and Salem was left on the ebb tide. In the late 1840s, giant clipper ships replaced the smaller vessels that Salem men had sailed around the world; and the clippers, with their deep drafts and large holds, were usually too large for Salem

and its harbor. The town's shipping soon consisted of little more than Zanzibar-trade vessels and visits from Down East coasters with cargoes of fuel wood and building timber. By 1850 Salem was about finished as a working port; and its glory days were over. Hawthorne, in his "introductory section" of **The Scarlet Letter**, which he began while working in the Custom House, gives an amusing picture of the drowsiness of Salem's once-bustling waterfront.



The symbol of Salem's new industrial economy was the large twin-towered granite train station, built in 1848 on filled-in land at the foot of Washington Street, where before had been the merchants' wharves extending into salt water. The 1850s brought continued growth: new churches, schools, streets, stores, etc. Catholic churches were built, and new housing was constructed in North Salem and the Gallows Hill areas to accommodate the workers. In March, 1853, several streets were re-named and re-numbered, including the consolidation of County and Marlboro Streets into Federal Street. This house was renumbered from 58 to 134. In 1855 or shortly before, this house was first occupied by Augustus J. Archer, 45, a dry-goods dealer, and his family (see 1855 Salem Directory, also 1855 state census, house 215). He would reside here for the rest of his long life.

Augustus J. Archer (1810-1898) was the son of Col. Samuel Archer (1768-1813). Col. Archer had begun his career as a barber but had become a merchant, in which business he borrowed heavily, dealt widely, and pursued his ambitions prodigally and successfully. He became the commander of the Salem artillery regiment as well as an extensive speculator in lands and goods. He would become notorious for his business practices; and after his eventual failure he abandoned Salem for Boston. Col. Archer & his first wife, Susannah Babbidge (died 1807), had nine children, but few survived to adulthood, and none of the boys; they resided at 80 Washington Square East. He married, second, in 1808, Deborah McNutt (1779-1860), the daughter of Martin McNutt & Rebeeca Stuart of Liverpool, Nova Scotia (EIHC 4:137), and by her had a daughter Agnes in 1809, Augustus Joseph in 1810,

and two more daughters, Caroline (1811-1817) and Mary (1813-1815) who died young. They resided on Washington Square South (#38).

Col. Archer died in Boston in 1813, and Augustus and his sister and mother evidently returned to Salem, where he was placed in the keeping of Col. Amos Hovey (1757-1838), a soldier of the Revolution and Salem dry goods merchant who had a store on Neptune Street (foot of Hawthorne Boulevard) and later in the Franklin Building (site, Hawthorne Hotel), next to which he resided with his wife, Deborah, who may have been related to Augustus' mother (EIHC 4:77). Col. Hovey was the Colonel of the Salem Artillery Regiment, as had been Gus' father. Augustus spent some years at that trade, working at the Hovey store, which was a front room in the brick Benjamin Dodge house, on Essex, just east of Central, and which had a stove in it that had come from a British ship captured in the Revolution (A.J. Archer, in 31 Jan 1890 Salem *Gazette*). A. J. Archer then went off as a teenager to Andover to work in the mills. When he had had enough of that, he returned to Salem and worked for Col. Hovey, and then worked for Thomas W. Downing, another Salem dry goods merchant, with a store in Derby Square until 1845.

During his early years, Augustus J. Archer was interested in things military. He was tall and poised, and made a good impression, like his late father. In October, 1827, he joined the Salem Light Infantry, and in 1833 became its clerk. In 1839 he was elected a First Lieutenant. He never had to fight in a war, but enjoyed the social and civic aspects of the local military company. He also enjoyed singing, and joined the Salem Glee Club; later, he would be choir-master of the First Church, a chorister of the North Church, and a member of the Salem Oratorio Society. He remained a bachelor until after he turned thirty.

In 1837, he and his mother Deborah resided at 24 Church Street; and he worked as a clerk at T. Downing & Co. at 211 Essex Street. About 1840 Mr. Downing offered Mr. Archer a partnership, and he took it. The company name remained T. Downing & Co. through the 1850s, then Downing & Archer, then Archer, Downing & Co., and finally A.J. Archer & Co.

In May, 1841, Mr. Archer married Mary Jane Waldo, 20, of Charlestown, Mass. He, his bride, and his mother moved from Church Street to Liberty Street, where they rented a house, #10, from John Kinsman. In 1845 T. Downing & Co. erected a commercial building at 173 Essex Street (see A.J. Archer piece, *ibid*, 31 Jan. 1890). Although he had begun the marital estate rather late in life, Augustus

Archer and his wife Mary Jane would have seven children between 1842 and 1859, and all of them would survive to adulthood except for Agnes (1846-1852).

By 1850, the A.J. Archer family had moved to Federal Street, and evidently resided at 51½ Federal Street (old numbering) as tenants of Mrs. Robert Saunders. Residing with Mr. & Mrs. Archer and their four little girls were Mr. Archer's mother, Deborah, 71, and a mother's helper, Mary Shanley, 21, born in Ireland (see 1850 census, house 531).

**Augustus J. Archer** (1810-1898), born 14 July 1810, son of Samuel Archer & Deborah McNutt, died 11 May 1898. He m. 11 May 1841 **Mary Jane Waldo** of Charlestown (1821-1894). Known issue:

1. Caroline Emily, 1842, m. 1883 M. Denman Ross
2. Emily Waldo, 1844, died 23 Feb. 1923.
3. Agnes Deborah, 1846, d. 30 Nov. 1852.
4. Mary Waldo, 1848, m. 1870 Charles H. Doe.
5. Charles Frederic Waldo, 1851, m. 1875 Annie L. Moore.
6. Ada Louise, 1856, d. 13 Jan. 1876.
7. George Augustus, 1859, m. 1893 Alice M. Clarke.

In December, 1857, the store of Archer & Downing was invaded by burglars, who carried off \$2000 in goods, mainly black silk (see newspaper story appended). In the following year, 1858, the company put up a new brick commercial building on Essex Street, east of Central Street. The building still stands.

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. At that time, the house here was occupied by A.J. Archer and family, including Mary R. Waldo, 67 (perhaps his mother-in-law) and a mother's helper, Ellen Buckley, 25, born in Ireland (1865 census, house 396).

In 1866, for \$4250 Mr. Archer, who had lived here for 11 years as a tenant, purchased from the Misses Blanchard the homestead here (ED 706:101); as it had been since 1800, the lot ran 40' on Federal Street and 126' on Carpenter Street. In

that year he ran a large advertisement in the Salem Directory, with the image of steam paddle-wheel ship and featuring "foreign & American dress goods," and "woolen cloths, of English, French, German, and American manufacture."

Through the 1860s and 1870s, Salem continued to pursue a manufacturing course. The managers and capitalists tended to build their new, grand houses along Lafayette Street (these houses may still be seen, south of Holly Street). For the workers, they built more and more tenements near the mills of Stage Point. A second, larger, factory building for the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company would be added in 1859, and a third in 1865; and by 1879 the mills would employ 1200 people and produce annually 14,700,000 yards of cloth. The shoe-manufacturers kept expanding, and by 1880 Salem would have 40 shoe factories employing 600-plus operatives. More factories and more people required more space for buildings, more roads, and more storage areas, to say nothing of more clothes and more fabrics from Archer's store.

Salem kept building infrastructure, and new businesses, and expansions of established businesses. Retail stores prospered, and machinists, carpenters, millwrights, and other specialists all thrived. In the 1870s, French-Canadian families began coming to town to work in Salem's mills and factories, and more houses and tenements filled in what had been open areas of the city.

In July, 1879, Mr. Archer conveyed the homestead to his wife Mary (ED 1020:88). In 1880, Mr. Archer, 69, and family resided here. Some of the children had grown and gone off, including Charles, 29, who had gone to Boston and would become a notable journalist. Of the children, still residing at 134 were Emma (Emily), 36, and George, 20, a clerk. Also here were Mrs. Archer's sister Charlotte & Phebe Waldo, 54 and 49; also boarders George Barker, 36, a merchant, wife Annie, and young son Barron; also servants Ellen Neagle, 39, and Margaret Dunlea, 17, both born in Ireland (census 1880, ED 235, p.12). Miss Emily W. Archer became a teacher of music, and taught here at the house.

Mr. Archer went into semi-retirement in the 1880s. He gave up the dry-goods business, and became a real-estate and insurance broker. He also indulged his antiquarian interests. In 1890 the Salem *Gazette* ran his reminiscences of "Essex Street, 1820," in four installments (see appended copy). His son Charles would inherit his writing talent, and would make his living as a Boston journalist. In 1891 Mr. & Mrs. Archer resided here with their daughter Emily, who gave music lessons here, and with their son George, a train dispatcher for the B&M R.R. (he would move to Medford in 1898).

Mrs. Mary Archer died in 1894, having willed the house to her daughter Emily W. Archer. Mr. Archer lived well into his eighties, and died on 11 May 1898. In May, 1900, for \$4025 Miss Archer sold the homestead to J. Foster Smith and his wife Josephine J.C. Smith of Salem (ED 1608:336). Mr. Smith was an officer and manager of the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company, located on Stage Point, off Congress Street. His article about the history of Stage Point was published in the Essex Institute Historical Collections.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century large numbers of Polish and Ukrainian families settled in Salem, primarily in the Derby Street neighborhood. By the eve of World War One, Salem was a bustling, polyglot city that supported large department stores and large factories of every description. Its politics were lively, and its economy was strong.

After withstanding the pressures of the new industrial city for about 70 years, Salem's rivers began to disappear. The once-broad North River was filled from both shores, and became a canal along Bridge Street above the North Bridge. The large and beautiful Mill Pond, which occupied the area south of Riley Plaza to Loring Avenue, was filled in and buried beneath streets, storage areas, junk-yards, rail-yards, and parking lots. The South River, too, with its epicenter at Central Street, was filled and used for coal-yards and lumber-yards until only a canal was left, running from Derby Wharf to Lafayette Street and a little beyond.

On June 25, 1914, in the morning, in Blubber Hollow (Boston Street opposite Federal), a fire started in one of Salem's fire-prone wooden tanneries. This fire soon consumed the building and raced out of control, for the west wind was high and the season had been dry. The next building caught fire, and the next, and out of Blubber Hollow the fire roared easterly, a monstrous front of flame and smoke, wiping out the houses of Boston Street, Essex Street, and upper Broad Street, and then sweeping through Hathorne, Winthrop, Endicott, and other residential streets. Men and machines could not stop it: the Mill Pond had been filled, so the enormous fire was able to cross over into South Salem and destroyed the neighborhoods west of Lafayette Street, then devoured the mansions of Lafayette Street itself, and raged onward into the tenement district. Despite the combined efforts of heroic fire crews from many towns and cities, the fire overwhelmed everything in its path: it smashed into the large factory buildings of the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company (Congress Street), which exploded in an inferno; and it rolled down Lafayette Street and across the water to Derby Street. There, just beyond Union Street, after a 13-hour rampage, the monster died, having consumed

250 acres, 1600 houses, and 41 factories, and leaving three dead and thousands homeless. Some people had insurance, some did not; all received much support and generous donations from all over the country and the world. It was one of the greatest urban disasters in the history of the United States, and the people of Salem would take years to recover from it. Eventually, they did, and many of the former houses and businesses were rebuilt; and several urban-renewal projects (including Hawthorne Boulevard, which involved removing old houses and widening old streets) were put into effect.

The Smiths did not always reside here (sometimes they lived in the country); and they rented the house out to tenants from time to time. In 1916 the occupants here were Frederick W. Broadhead, an insurance man, and wife Edith P. and their children (if any). By the 1920s, Salem was once again a thriving city; and its tercentenary in 1926 was a time of great celebration.

The Smiths' son, Philip Horton Smith (1890-1960), a Harvard graduate, was the next owner, and, as has been mentioned, it was he who installed parts of the Enoch Dow house in this one. He was a leading architect of his time, with an office in Boston. He specialized in Colonial Revival compositions and in historic renovations. John Goffe, executive director of Historic Salem Inc., researched Smith's life and works and wrote of them in connection with the rehab of Salem's Derby Square and Old Town Hall, the renovation of which P.H. Smith had supervised in the 1930s. Philip Horton Smith and Edgar T.P. Walker were partners in Smith & Walker, with Smith handling Colonial Revival work and Walker specializing in the Gothic Revival. Among Smith's notable commissions were the Hawthorne Hotel (1926), the Salem Post office, the Tabernacle Church, the "Pequot House" (the replica 17<sup>th</sup>-century house still standing at Shetland Park on Congress Street), and the bandstand on Salem Common. He also designed several houses built after 1914 in the burnt-out sections of Salem; and he supervised the restoration of various old churches, including the Old Ship Meeting House in Hingham. His firm also designed "Carcasonne," the Gove house, known as "The Castle," which stands on Marblehead Neck.

Aside from the national Depression, Salem boomed right through to the 1960s. Later owners of this house were the Walter R. Seiberts (1946, 3489:435), the Dennis Mavrogenises (3838:41), and the Edward Mellos (1970, 5687:544). Recently the house was subdivided as three condominium units.

Despite the arrival of suburban shopping malls and the relocation of manufacturing businesses, Salem has navigated its way forward into the present with success,

trading on its share of notoriety arising from the witch trials, but also from its history as a great seaport and as the home of Bowditch, McIntire, and Hawthorne. Most of all, it remains a city where the homes of the old-time merchants, mariners, barbers, traders, and mill-operatives are all honored as a large part of what makes Salem different from any other place.

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## Glossary & Sources

A figure like (ED 123:45) refers to book 123, page 45, Essex South registry of Deeds, Federal Street, Salem.

A figure like (#12345) refers to Essex Probate case 12345, on file at the Essex Probate Court, Federal Street, Salem, or on microfilm at Mass. Archives, Boston, or at the Peabody Essex Museum's Phillips Library, Salem.

Census records (censes were taken every 10 years from 1790 on, and in 1855 and 1865) are available on microfilm; they list the heads of households 1790-1840, and then list family members from 1850 on.

MSSRW refers to the multi-volume compendium, *Mass. Soldiers & Sailors in the Revolutionary War*, available at the Salem Public Library among other places.

MSSCRW refers to the multi-volume compendium, *Mass. Soldiers, Sailors, & Marines in the Civil War*, available 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, as have the Salem Directory and later Naumkeag Directory, which have information about residents and their addresses, etc.

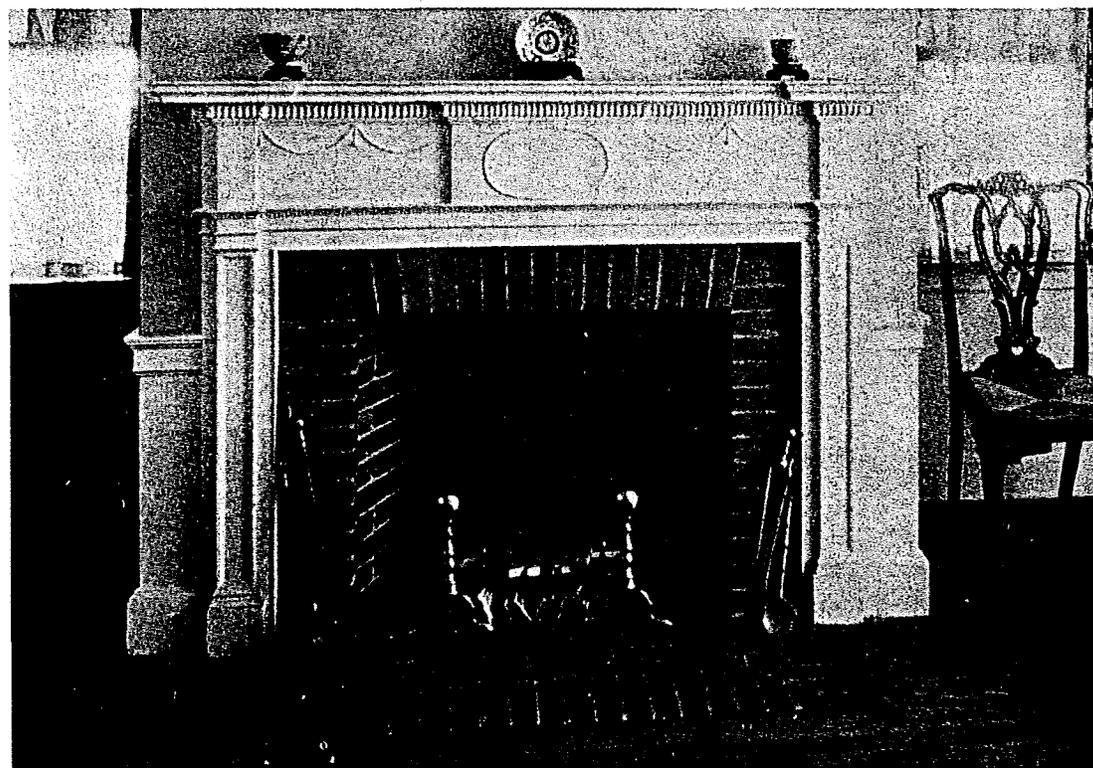
Sidney Perley's three-volume *History of Salem, 1626-1716* has been consulted, as has the four-volume *William Bentley's Diary*, J. Duncan Phillips' books, some newspaper obituaries, and other sources.

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





Figures 290 and 291. Mantel from the Enoch Dow House as installed in the house of Philip Horton Smith, Federal Street, Salem.

13 Jan. 1800 E. Skillaber to B. Blanchard, 141.166.

Skillaber  
to  
Blanchard

I in now all men by these presents that I Ebenezer Skillaber of Salem in the county of Essex  
 manner, with the consent of Deborah wife of said Ebenezer, who for the following consideration  
 and one dollar paid me by the grantee do quit my right to Dower in the premises - in  
 consideration of six hundred Dollars already paid me by Benjamin Blanchard of the aforesaid  
 Salem barber, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, have given granted bargained  
 sold conveyed and confirmed and by these presents do give grant bargain sell convey and confirm  
 unto him the said Benjamin Blanchard and his heirs and assigns forever. A certain piece of  
 land being in the aforesaid Salem, and is bounded as follows, viz. beginning at the southeasterly  
 corner of the premises on Federal street, thence running westerly by said street forty feet  
 thence running northerly bounding westerly by my own land one hundred and twenty five  
 feet to a stake, thence easterly by my own land ninety eight feet eight inches to land of  
 John Appleton Esq, thence running southerly by said Appletons land one hundred and forty  
 feet three inches to the bounds first mentioned, the whole containing thirty two poles be the  
 same more or less - with the privileges of a good and sufficient cartway to the westward  
 of the aforesaid premises of at least twenty feet wide from federal street to the northward  
 so far as the northwest corner of the said premises, which way is to be laid out and left open  
 forever. So have and to hold the above bargained premises with all their privileges and appur-  
 tenants to him the said Benjamin Blanchard and his heirs and assigns, to the sole use of him the  
 said Benjamin Blanchard, and his heirs and assigns forever, and I the said Ebenezer Skillaber do  
 for myself my heirs executors and administrators, covenant and engage to and with the said Benja-  
 min Blanchard and his heirs executors administrators and assigns, that at the time of the delivery here-  
 of I am lawfully seized in fee simple of the above bargained premises, and that the same are free  
 of all incumbrances, that I have good right, full power and lawful authority to grant bargain  
 sell and convey the same to him the said Benjamin Blanchard and his heirs and assigns, to have  
 and to hold the same in manner and for the use aforesaid, and that I and my heirs will warrant  
 secure and defend the above bargained premises to him the said Benjamin Blanchard and his  
 heirs and assigns forever, against the lawful claims of all persons, In witness whereof we  
 the said Ebenezer Skillaber & Deborah Skillaber have hereunto set our hands and seals the  
 thirteenth day of January in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred - -  
 Signed sealed and delivered in presence of us } Eben Skillaber - - a seal  
 Benjn Watkins Jacob Sanderson - - } Debby Skillaber - - a seal  
 Essex January 14 1800 - Then the above named Ebenezer Skillaber acknowledged the  
 above instrument to be his free act and deed before me Richard Ward Just of Peace  
 Essex Rec Jan 15 1800 & recorded & exam'd by John Pickering Regr.

**INVENTORY AND APPRAISEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF**

*Benjamin Blanchard*

late of *Salem* in said county, *gentleman* deceased, as shown to us by the administrator

**REAL ESTATE**

Dwelling house and land on Federal street	\$2100.00
Room No. 66 in the First Baptist meeting house	50.00
Gallery par in First Baptist meeting house No. 66	10.00
	<u>\$2160.00</u>

**Personal estate**

Front room - secretary \$10.00 - table and light stand \$6.00	\$16.00
4 chairs \$2.50 - fire-st. \$2.00 - clock \$6.00	10.50
Carpet and backing \$12.00 - writing desk \$1.00	13.00
Crochery and glass ware Va. in closet \$8.00 - 2 crochets 10c	8.40
Looking glass \$2.00 - 12 napkins \$1.00 - table cloths \$2.00 - bot-books \$5.00	10.00
Front chamber - Bureau and glass \$5.00 - case drawers \$1.00	6.00
2 easy chairs \$3.00 - 5 painted chairs \$1.00 - carpet \$5.00	9.00
Bedstead and bedding \$15.00 - 15 pair sheets \$7.00 - quilt \$1.00 - pair bellows 25c	23.25
Small chamber - Emory chair, bedstead and bedding	5.00
Bedstead and bed, 7 chairs and table and glass	13.00
Stove and iron plate \$3.00 - furter and tin ware \$3.00	6.00
Strip carpeting and cabin \$3.50 - bedstead and bedding \$10.00 - 6 chairs \$1.50	15.00
Bureau \$3.50 - glass 25c - 11 silver spoons \$4.00	7.75
Sundries in small upper chamber	1.00
Do. in the garret \$5.00 - do. in small lower room \$3.00	8.00
Kitchen - 9 chairs \$1.80 - clock \$2.00 - contents of closet \$7.00	10.80
2 tables and desk \$2.00 - glass, bellows and andirons \$1.25	3.25
Pantry - Iron ware and sundries	12.00
5 pairs in Salem township and Chelsea bridge	300.00
1 do. in Salem and Dawson aqueduct corporation	100.00
1 do. in Salem Mechanics hall do.	10.00
Michael Shepards note \$1000.00 - William Wallis do. \$600.00	1600.00
	<u>\$2519.95</u>

Brought forward. Amount of real estate,	\$	2160.00
Amount of personal estate,	\$	3519.95
	\$	<u>5679.95</u>

Dated at *Salem* this *eighth* day of *November*, A. D. 1843.  
*Michl. Shepard, admr.* }  
*Mijah Northey* } **Committee.**  
*Robert Peela* }  
*Saml. Cook* }

Essex. ss. At a court of probate holden at *Salem* in and for said county, on the *third* Tuesday in *November*, A. D. 1843.  
*Michael Shepard,*

Administrator, presents the foregoing, and makes oath, that it contains a true and perfect inventory of the estate of *Benjamin Blanchard,* late of *Salem* in said county, *gentleman* deceased, in testate, so far as has come to his hands or knowledge, and that if any thing further shall hereafter appear he will cause it to be of record herewith in the probate office. - It is thereupon decreed, that the same be accepted, allowed and recorded.

*D. A. White* JUDGE OF PROBATE  
*[Signature]* Registrar

1 June 1844 Blanchard heirs to Blanchards 346:14 2 pages.

D. L. Wigginton  
J. Blanchard et al.

KNOW ALL MEN by these presents, That We Pierce L. Wiggins of Salem in the County of Essex and State of Massachusetts, and Margaret his wife in her right, Samuel Emery of said Salem and Daisy his wife in her right, William Wallis of said Salem and Patsilla B. his wife in her right, and Benjamin Blanchard of Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania, in consideration of two thousand dollars to us paid by Joanna Blanchard & Sarah Brown Blanchard both of Salem aforesaid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the s<sup>d</sup>

Joannin & Sarah Brown on respective shares (being in the whole four undivided sixth parts) of the following described Messuage situate in & Sultan st, bounded southerly by Federal Street forty feet, westwardly by Carpenter Street one hundred twenty six feet, northwardly by land of Worcester ninety eight feet & eight inches, easterly by land of Korves one hundred and forty feet and three inches - or however otherwise the whole or any part thereof may be bounded. It being our intention to convey all our interest in the estate purchased by the late Benjamin Blanchard of Ebenezer Stillie be January 13<sup>th</sup> 1808. Recorded in the Essex Registry book 166 leaf 146 Together with all our interest in the Dwelling House and other Buildings therein. **TO HAVE AND TO HOLD** the above granted premises, with the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, to the said Joannin & Sarah Brown, their heirs and assigns, to their use and behoof forever. And We the said Grantors for ourselves and our heirs, Executors and Administrators do covenant with the said Joannin & Sarah Brown, their heirs and assigns, that we are lawfully seized in fee of the above granted premises, that they are free of all incumbrances, that we have good right to sell & convey the same to the said Joannin & Sarah Brown as aforesaid, & that we will and our heirs Executors and Administrators, shall warrant & defend the same to the said Joannin & Sarah Brown, their heirs and assigns forever, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons.

In witness whereof, We the said Pierce L. & Margaret, Samuel and Betsey, William & Priscilla B. Benjamin & Jane his wife, who hereby relinquish her right of dower in the premises, have hereunto set our hands & seals this first day of June in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty four.

Signer seals delivered in presence of us -

The words "Twenty five hundred twenty five"

being first read, & no alteration interlined

John H. Nichols, witness to Pierce L. Margaret }  
 Samuel's children -

Margaret B. Wallis, witness }

to William and Priscilla B. }

Pro. fact Deveraux - to signatures of }

Benf. Blanchard & Jane Blanchard. }

Pierce L. Wiggie . . . seal.

Margaret Wiggie . . . seal

Samuel Emery . . . seal.

Elizabeth Emery . . . seal.

William Wallis . . . seal.

Priscilla B. Wallis . . . seal.

Benf. Blanchard . . . seal

Jane H. Blanchard . . . seal.

2 July 1866 Blanchards to A. J. Archer, 706:101.

Know all men by these Presents, That we Joanna Blanchard and Sarah B. Blanchard both of Salem in the County of Essex & State of Massachusetts; single women, for and in consideration of the sum of forty two hundred & fifty dollars, to us in hand well and truly paid, at or before signing, sealing, and delivery of these presents, by Augustus J. Archer of said Salem the receipt whereof we the said Joanna & Sarah B. do hereby acknowledge have granted, bargained and sold, and by these presents do grant, bargain and sell, unto the said Augustus J. Archer our respective shares of the following described Messuage, situate in said Salem, viz; bounded southerly by Federal street, forty feet; westerly by Carpenter street, one hundred twenty six feet; northerly by land now or late of Worcester, ninety eight feet and eight inches; easterly by land formerly of Howes, one hundred forty feet and three inches or however otherwise the whole or any part thereof may be bounded. Being the whole of the estate purchased by the late Benjamin Blanchard of Ebenezer Shillaker Jan<sup>y</sup> 13 1800 recorded with Essex Deeds Book 166 Leaf 140. Our interest being partly as heirs of said Benjamin and partly under deed from Pease, S. Wiggins and others, dated June 1 1844 recorded with Essex Deeds Book 346 Leaf 15 to both which reference may be had. To have and to hold the said granted and bargained premises unto the said Augustus J. Archer his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to his their only proper use, benefit and behoof forever, and we the said Joanna & Sarah B. do vouch ourselves to be the true and lawful owners of the said premises and have in us full power, good right and lawful authority to dispose of the said premises in manner as aforesaid, and we do, for ourselves our heirs, executors and administrators, hereby covenant and agree to warrant and defend the said premises against the lawfull claims and demands of all persons whatsoever, unto him the said Augustus J. his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns. In witness whereof, we the said Joanna Blanchard & Sarah B. Blanchard have hereunto set our hands and seals this second day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty six. Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of us, Wm. S. Cleveland to both Samuel Emory } Joanna Blanchard seal  
Sarah B. Blanchard seal

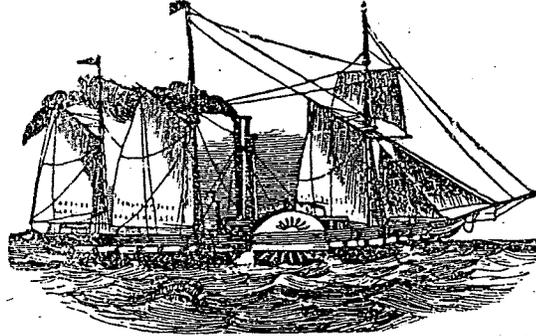
Essex ss July 2 1866 Then the above named Joanna and Sarah Blanchard appeared and acknowledged the above instrument to be their free act and deed

J. Blanchard et al  
to  
A. J. Archer.  
Two \$2 Conveyance  
One \$100 Surety Bond  
No Stamps  
Cancelled

Before me, Wm. S. Cleveland Justice of the Peace  
Essex ss. Recd July 5 1866 22 am before J. M. Reed by *John B. Bond*

**DRY GOODS.**

A. J. ARCHER & CO.,  
181 ESSEX STREET, SALEM.



*WOOLLEN CLOTHS, of English, French, German, and American manufacture. A fine and large assortment constantly on hand. Also,*

**FOREIGN & AMERICAN DRESS GOODS.**

Our stock is large, and we offer a choice selection in every branch of the business, well worth the attention of buyers.

**M. A. PORTER,**

**Watch Spring Skirt Maker,**

236 ESSEX STREET,

SALEM, MASS.

DEALER IN

**BUTTONS, BRAIDS, THREAD STORE GOODS,**

*Hosiery, Gloves, Corsets,*

**HANDKERCHIEFS, SMALL WARES, &c.**

**DARING BURGLARY.**—On Tuesday night last, probably between eleven and twelve o'clock, a most daring burglary was committed upon the extensive dry goods establishment of our neighbors, Messrs. Archer, Downing & Co., from which goods were taken to the amount of not less than *two thousand dollars*.

The operations of the perpetrators of this robbery were confined to the back part of the store, and the manner of their entrance and the assiduity with which it must have been accomplished, show conclusively that the work was that of adepts in the rascally art. In the rear of the store, the cellar is lighted by a window inserted on the underpinning below the surface of the ground, which receives its light from a sky-light obtained from a square open space extending about two feet from the wall, and of the exact width of the window. The window is protected by a row of perpendicular iron bars about one-half or two-thirds of an inch in diameter, and the sky-light is, besides, covered with horizontal iron bars somewhat thicker, inserted in a stone capsill. The entire arrangement is similar to that in front of the store, with ~~less~~ regard, of course, to the external appearance.

The entrance was effected by underpinning the outer stone, which was firmly imbedded in the ground, and rolling it over sufficiently to admit of an entrance.

One of the perpendicular bars which protected the window was then wrenched out and another was bent sufficiently to admit of a small person. The window having been pushed in, an admission to the cellar was gained. From here access to the interior of the store was very easy, a flight of stairs leading to a trap door in the floor of the store. This was closed at the time the entrance was gained, and covered by a wheelbarrow, which was, in the morning, found at the foot of the cellar stairs, having been used, evidently, to aid in the egress. The robbery was confined chiefly to plain black silks—those being the most difficult to identify; and of these two or three shelves were completely stripped. Other silk goods were, however, found spread upon the counter, which leads to the belief that the rascals made their escape, from some cause, in a more hasty manner than they had originally contemplated.

The escape was effected by passing over the land in the rear of the store and over two or three fences into the vacant lot on Charter street, where the covered wagon which received the goods was in waiting, and where it was probably seen by a neighbor who chanced to be up between eleven and twelve o'clock, but whose suspicions were not excited by the circumstance.

Some of the tools with which the entrance was effected were found near the cellar window, and a shawl was picked up near the fence over which the burglars passed as they made their escape. Messrs. Archer, Downing & Co., as will be seen by the advertisement in another column, offer a reward of five hundred dollars for the detection of the robbers.

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## The Salem Gazette.

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**SALEM:**  
RIDAY MORNING, DEC. 18, 1857.

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from "Mr. Samuel McIntire, Carver" by Fiske Kimball

### Enoch Dow House

151 Lafayette Street

Built 1807-1809; demolished about 1910

Principal owners: Dow, Osgood, Williams, Hurley

(Figures 287-291)

The attribution to Samuel McIntire rests on the style, and particularly on the resemblance to the Felt house built next door in 1809 from his plan.

The land was acquired by Dow on July 19, 1806 (180:29). The tax valuations on Dow's property are as follows:

1805	shop and half house		\$1200
1806	pt. house and 2 shops		1400
1807	pt. house and 2 shops	\$1200	
	house lot So. field	<u>150</u>	1350
	"Brick H"		
1808	House and Shop	1500	
	New Brick House, unfinished	<u>1000</u>	2500
1809	House & Shop		2600
1810	House & Shop		2600

The house in question, on the lot in the South Fields, was thus built in 1807-1809.

Enoch Dow died June 12, 1813. His inventory of July 29 (Probate Records 385:62) lists the property as "a brick house and outbuildings, together with the land" at \$5,000. All his real estate was sold by order of the court, June 20, 1814 (386:264). The house was later occupied by the families of Osgood and Williams, and by Mayor Hurley. It was demolished shortly before the Salem fire of 1914, which swept this area.

Most of its interior trim was then preserved, and much still survives. Some details belong to the Essex Institute. One mantel was placed by the late Henry Morrill Batchelder in his house nearby and destroyed in the fire. The remaining woodwork was later installed by Philip Horton Smith in his town house on Federal Street, Salem, and in his country house in Wenham. It is here illustrated by his kind permission.

### Gideon Tucker House

129 Essex Street

Built 1808-1809

Principal owners: Tucker, Rice

(Figures 292-294)

Bentley wrote September 24, 1803 (III, 47): "This day the family house of Grafton, Essex Street just above Elm Street, was sold for 5000 dollars at Public Vendue." This was then an old house, which Colonel Benjamin Pickman had described in 1793 as "owned and occupied by three old maids, the Grafton's." Gideon Tucker, who bought it, contented himself at first with a new fence, as we see by the following bill:

134  
Federal

# Salem Gazette.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1890.

ESSEX STREET—1820.

THE CITY'S MAIN STREET FROM WASHINGTON TO UNION.

[Written for the Salem Gazette.]

The original Washington street commenced at the Rust building on the western corner of Essex street, and on the eastern corner was the hat store of Caleb Webster,—a low, three-story brick building having a hanging sign with a painting of a beaver building a dam upon it. East of this was a lane leading southerly, on which was the hat making establishment of Samuel Mansfield, and below, the large three story wooden building called the Marston building, in which was the office and freight depot of David Merritt & A. H. H. who ran wagons over the turnpike to Boston until the railroad was built.

At the corner of the First church stood the old pump, immortalized by Nathaniel Hawthorne in his "Rills from the Town Pump." The church built in 1719 was a three story structure, having a tower and steeple with a bell on the western end, and a front door on Essex street, with two galleries, one above the other. The upper was seldom used, and the last time was when Edward Everett preached, about the time he left college, when the church was filled to overflowing. The only method of heating was by stoves, burning wood, with long funnels reaching to the ceiling. It was customary in cold weather to carry foot stoves, even as late as 1825. The church had one of the earliest organs in the country, which was imported by E. H. Derby, Esq., and built by Avery, London, in 1800. It was considered a fine instrument in those days. Blind Dolliver was the organist for many years.

The pews were square, and each had a rail around it, supported by a small turned standard. Seats were made to turn up at prayer time, and the boys used to enjoy the clattering fusillade made when they were shut down, as well as occasionally twisting the standards to make them squeak.

The pulpit on the southern side was about eight feet high, with a sounding board suspended above it. The venerable Dr. Prince, however, needed no sounding board; he had a fine sonorous voice, and when he came out with "Rehoboam," and such words, it was very efficient, rich and musical.

The present edifice was built in 1826, with a granite basement of one story, in which were three stores—the western corner occupied by Whipple & Lawrence as a book

store, and the eastern corner by Capt. Churchhill, who opened a general commission store. After him Benjamin Blanchard took it for dry goods. The story is told that a lady one day looking at some dress goods and hearing the price, said "Isn't that rather high?" He threw the goods to the upper shelf and answered, "They are higher now, ma'am." The centre store was not popular, as the windows were very narrow, and it was often vacant. In the rear of this was the vestry, in which were stored the ancient furniture, hour-glass, etc., of the pulpit. Later, this store, having been enlarged by taking in the vestry, was taken by Moses Goldthwait, and then E. R. Ide.

Higginson square was laid out and named after this building was built. On the corner next the church stood a three-story wooden building, with the tailor shop of John Derby 4th, who soon after moved to South Andover and joined the firm of Puncbard & Derby. Alonzo G. Cornelius was with them as journeyman cutter. The chambers of this building were occupied by Benjamin Merrill and others, lawyers, and partly as a boarding house. In 1823 it was removed to the rear, and Benjamin Walker opened a restaurant, with liquors and lottery tickets in it. A brick building, erected by John Derby, Esq., took its place. In the first store was George Torrey, who dealt in dry goods. Mr. Henry Hale commenced his hardware business in the second, and John Tuttle had the next with boots and shoes. George Wheatland, Esq., took the chambers.

Then came the two brick buildings on Derby square, first occupied by Benjamin Pond in 1820, and Thomas Downing. Mr. Downing remained until 1845, when he removed to his new store opposite the Essex House.

Capt. Joseph Cloutman occupied it as a crockery, glass and hardware store. Then Thorndike Deland & Gilbert Newhall, auction and commission business, for a number of years. On the next corner was Wm. Dean & Co., Joseph Adams, a hardware store, still continued by their successors. Next, a dry goods store, by Eben Bancroft, and above Thomas Needham had carpet and furniture rooms. Next this was the estate of Dr. E. A. Holyoke, who died Mar. 31, 1839, aged 100 years, 7 months; a small building on the estate was occupied by Cushing & Appleton, books, and the chambers by the Salem Gazette, Ferdinand Andrews and Caleb Foote, proprietors.

On the death of Dr. Holyoke the dwelling was changed and occupied largely by Kimball & Sargent, cabinet makers and furniture establishment. This firm built up a reputation for superior workmanship and had many customers with large orders from Boston. On dissolving the business, Mr. Kimball removed to Boston, and has died within a

week or two in Philadelphia at his son's (with Lippincott & Co.), at the advanced age of 92. Capt. Samuel Tucker purchased the Gazette building, enlarged it, making two stores—J. M. Ives, library and books, and Kimball & Southward, boots and shoes. Mr. Kimball removed the business to Boston, and Mr. Southward became a portrait painter, with rooms over the bank on Central street. On the third floor the Gazette office remained until it removed to its present quarters in Hale's building.

The next is the brick building built by Benjamin H. Hathorne and William Gray, extending into Central street, and there occupied by the custom house until 1819, when the U. S. Custom House was built. On the corner of Essex street Cushing & Appleton, succeeded by James R. Buffum, as a book store, were located. William Hathorne had the western one; he was an importer of broadcloths and dry goods. The Salem Register was then established in its present quarters, Warwick Palfrey, Jr., the sole editor.

On Central street, Dana & Fenno had an office for the sale of lottery tickets and doing a general brokerage business, having a Boston connection. E. H. Payson had charge of this office and tells me he was the person who built the first coal fire in Salem. Mr. Dana had seen them in Boston and employed John Chamberlain, mason, to set a grate in his office; Mr. Payson built the fire, and says people used to come in by dozens to see it. One evening he went to bed leaving the blower up, having forgot to remove it; of course it became red hot, and so alarmed the passers-by that they rushed in hot haste to tell him his office was on fire. The insurance offices next adopted the grate, and it spread rapidly into general use. The first furnace in the city was put in by Mr. Chamberlain at his brother's, B. Porter Chamberlain, who owned and occupied the old assembly house on Federal street. The chambers and offices on Central street were occupied by the Salem Savings Bank, incorporated 1818; when first organized, Willard Peele was president, and Daniel Bray treasurer. Capt. Peter Lander and his son, Peter Jr., had a private insurance office for underwriters. Henry Pickering, Esq. had a law office. The Salem Courier, Charles Amburger Andrew, was started here Sept. 7, 1828; it was short lived. In 1839 the Salem Light Infantry had two rooms in the second story for their armory.

On the next corner stood a two story gable roofed house, owned by George Dodge, with a shop on the corner occupied by Mrs. M. T. Ward and Sally Stillaber; then an open space, the garden of Benjamin Dodge, whose house was brick, of three stories, end to the street. The front room was made into a store and occupied, 1825, by Gen. Ames Hovey. He had a stove with a history;—during the revolution, an American privateer

brought into Salem as a prize an English vessel bound to Quebec, having on board supplies for the British garrison, and among them were a number of these stoves. They were cast iron plates put together as a square box, 18 inches high, and long enough to burn wood two feet in length (coal stoves were then unknown), with a large oven over it designed for baking. Next comes the estate of Benjamin Pickman, Esq. (died 1843); on it the Salem Bank (incorporated 1803, Joseph Peabody president, John Moriarty cashier), building, having an open space around it, except on the side next the mansion house. It was of brick, two stories, and occupied in the rear by the bank; a stone slab pavement from the sidewalk led up to it, some 50 feet from the street, and then a long entry to the banking rooms. The front room was used by the Marine Insurance Company, Jacob Ashton, president, incorporated 1800. The hall above was leased by the E. I. Marine Society as a museum for their collections. Since the building was built, 1803; they occupied it until they erected their new building in 1824. Then the Salem Athenaeum and Essex Historical Society occupied it jointly for a number of years.

# Salem Gazette.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1890.

## ESSEX STREET—NO. 2.

BUILDINGS ON THE LOWER PORTION OF THE BUSINESS PORTION OF THE CITY'S MAIN STREET AT ABOUT 1820.

[Written for the Salem Gazette.]

The Pickman mansion was an elegant building, built by an English architect, in the style of about 1730. There is but one other like it in Salem and that is the Cabot house, now occupied by our late secretary of war, Hon. Wm. C. Endicott. The Francis Peabody house in Danvers, which was the headquarters of Gen. Gage, in the Revolution, is another, as was also the famous Hancock house next the State House in Boston.

Next to this was an old two story gable roofed house, occupied in 1820 by Jona. Ward, harness and trunk maker. He moved to St. Peter street when the building was demolished in 1824, to make way for the present Museum building, which was built by the E. I. Marine Society, having been chartered as the E. I. M. Hall Corporation. The society moved into its spacious hall, 50 by 180 feet, in 1825, the same now being filled with curiosities from every quarter of the globe, contributed by members of the E. I. M. Society, the accumulations of almost a century. They have also an extensive and very complete collection of specimens in every department of natural history.

The first floor was occupied by the Oriental Insurance Company, incorporated in 1823; Nathan Endicott, Esq., president, and Nathan Pierce, secretary; and the Asiatic Bank, incorporated June 7, 1824, Henry Pickering, president, and Joseph S. Cabot, cashier. Mr. Cabot was soon after elected president and Wm. H. Foster cashier. In the room in the rear of the insurance office was the post office, Eben Putnam postmaster; and in the southwest corner the Merchants Exchange and News Room, Nathan Pierce proprietor.

Next came the estate of Capt. Peter Lander; and next that of Gilbert Chadwick, provision dealer, a three story house with a milliner's shop in front, conducted by Mrs. Chadwick. The sidewalk and yard were paved with common flag stones one to four feet in diameter, of irregular shape and about four inches thick. Most of the sidewalk pavements of 1820 were of these stones, often thrown out of level by frost and exceedingly uncomfortable for pedestrians, especially those with stout feet or clogs. The barn on the Chadwick estate and also that of Peter Lander were burned in 1824.

The estate of Dr. B. L. Oliver was on the corner of Liberty street and extended through to Charter street. It was a low old fashioned house, and had a big knocker on the front door. The writer when a small boy was sent for the doctor, and after pounding away a long time finally opened the door and passed through the large parlor, which was without a carpet, and hung round, with (to him) fearful looking portrait, to the kitchen in the rear, where he found the two old sisters, both deaf, and gave his message. The doctor is remembered as an old man, given to snuff taking, and something of a musician and organist. A store had been added on front on the corner, and was occupied by John W. Archer, Henry Lambert as copy, for a book store and bindery. Mr. Archer afterward bought part of the brick building corner of Elm street now occupied by Dr. Jas. Emmerton, and remained there till 1831, then went to Illinois. On the death of Dr. Oliver, in 1834, the estate came into possession of John Kinsman, who built the Lynde block, and the dwelling houses on Liberty street.

On the eastern corner of Liberty street is the brick building then owned and occupied by Edward S. Lang, apothecary. Next was the estate of Nathan Pierce; a milliner's shop in the front was conducted by Mrs. Pierce, mother of the late proprietor. The estate of Willard Peete, Esq. came next and was succeeded by Capt. James W. Chever. Next came the brick mansion of Dr. Gideon Barstow, built by Dr. Little from Portsmouth. On his death it was bought by Dr. Barstow. Next was the brick dwelling of Gideon Tucker Esq., built by himself. He was the president of the Exchange Bank which was incorporated in 1823.

Then came the dwelling of Daniel H. Mansfield, a wooden house, and to the street, next Saml. W. Shepard. Dr. Geo. A. Perkins occupied the next. Mrs. James Kimball, widow of Jas. Kimball, once county commissioner, came next. On the corner of Elm street was the house of Capt. Thos. West, moved to the rear.

The brick building corner of Elm street was built by Benjamin West and Col. Archer. John Scoble, a crafty and crabbed Scotchman, had the first store. He was an importer of cloths and dry goods. After him in 1824 came Nathan Millett, tailor; in the chamber Capt. Saml. Lambert taught navigation and book-keeping. The eastern store was at one time occupied by Josiah Dow with dry goods, and it was known as Dow's long rooms. Then came Peter E. Webster and Timothy Brooks, who did a large business in groceries in 1825.

On the corner of Walnut street was the Gardner estate. John Gardner married Mary Peete, whose only daughter married Wm. Lemon, and his daughter married Wm. Leavitt. Mrs. Gardner lived to the advanced

age of 98, and the widow Leavitt, her grand daughter is now living at the same age, 93. On the eastern corner of Walnut street was the residence of Robert Stone, Esq., built in 1654. He moved to Chestnut street in 1823. It is still owned by his heirs, and was originally of two stories.

The Union Building, built by the Union Street Corporation, Benj. Pickman, President, 1808, had originally two stores in front and one on Union street. The Merchants Bank, incorporated in 1811, occupied the western until their removal to the Bowker building.

Politics ran very high and bitterly in 1810, and the voters, Federal and democrat, were evenly divided, 890 and 901, upon a poll of the house in Court street. The two or three banks then established were managed by Federal officers, and the democrats thought they were not fairly accommodated, and to establish the Merchants' Bank. B. W. Crowninshield was president, John Saunders cashier and John White Treadwell principal clerk.

The store on the corner was in 1820 occupied by Wm. Stearns as a grocery. It had been enlarged by the addition of the store on Union street. There are four dwelling houses in the block. One was taken by Capt. Samuel Lee Page, and another by Capt. Jos. Clewman; others unknown.

On the other corner stands the house built by Master Watson, in 1820 owned by Wm. Parker and occupied by Nehemiah Adams, father of Rev. Nehemiah Adams of Boston. He was a cabinet maker and had a three story shop on the corner of Brown and Williams streets.

On Essex street, opposite Union, stands the Crowninshield house where Dr. Bentley lived and died. The western half was occupied by Capt. Samuel Lambert. Next this was the small building where the Salem Register was printed, and then came the house of Gen. Amos Hovey, and he had in 1820 the store in the Franklin building, next his house.

many views of most of our programs, because specially certification could be the program that will revitalize the presently-stagnant B.C.D. The Practitioner.

# Salem Gazette.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1890.

## ESSEX STREET—III.

FROM THE FRANKLIN BUILDING TO THE WEST ESTATE, COMING UP.

The Franklin building was built in 1810. It is 123 feet on Newbury street, and 66 on Essex. Store No. 1 was occupied in 1822 by Erl Poor, dry goods, and in 1825 by Robert Cogswell; No. 2 by Samuel R. Curwen, dry goods; Nos. 3 and 4 by Alexander Hamilton, as an extensive dry goods establishment, in 1824 by Blanchard & Wallis, and in 1825 by Ephraim Felt, dry goods; No. 5 by John Tuttle, boots and shoes; No. 6 by Henry Whipple, book store; No. 7 by Thorndike Deland, auctioneer. In the chambers, S. B. Ives, in April, 1822, advertised a book bindery over S. R. Curwen's. In the fall, the Observer was started by the firm of W. & S. B. Ives in "Court street next to Michael Webb's." Mr. John Clark, afterward agent of the Merrimac mills, Lowell, had a flourishing school for boys in the northern end, and later Master Gerrish, from one of the public schools, opened a private school which was very successful. The halls and chambers were leased transiently as called for.

Thomas Needham in 1825 advertised an extensive furniture establishment, with carpets, near the Franklin building. Thorndike Deland lived in the three story white house on the western corner of Essex street, and about 1820 Dr. Oliver Hubbard had an office in it. The brick building next west was the residence of Capt. Joseph White, whose tragical death in April, 1830, is well known.

The Gardner estate, next, was the residence of Wm. F. Gardner. On the site now stands the Essex Institute building. The mansion was a white three story building, having in the front a lofty mulberry tree, and when the fruit was ripe those boys who were early risers found a luscious banquet on the sidewalk, and were often tempted to bring down more by the aid of stones, which sometimes "hit back." For some time

In the early summer mornings for several years Jethro Parsons, with his gang, was employed to sweep that part of Essex street from Central to Newbury street. The first sprinkling machine was introduced by Peter Edgerly in 1831.

The handsome three story white house of Joseph Peabody, Esq., with spacious grounds and out buildings, stood next. It had been the residence of William Prescott, Esq., father of William H. Prescott, the historian, who lived in this house. Plummer hall, in which is the Athenæum, now occupies this site.

The elegant brick building, with stately on the grounds in front, was built by Capt. Peabody for his son, Joseph Augustus, on his marriage with Louisa, daughter of Judge Samuel Putnam. After his death it was occupied by his brother, Col. Francis Peabody.

Next came a three story wooden building occupied by Mrs. Goodhue, mother of John Goodhue, as a dwelling and shop, then a small ten foot building four doors east of the sun tavern, where her son John had a jeweler's business. This was so completely buried in a violent snow storm about 1826, that it had to be dug out. Next was a wooden dwelling house occupied by James N. Archer, auctioneer in Derby square. Then a two story wooden building, where was the Union Marine Insurance office, incorporated 1804. Moses Townsend president, William Sage secretary, dissolved in 1842. Then came another similar building, occupied by Ephraim Felt, dry goods; Millet & Ward, tailors and woolens, east of Sun Tavern.

Then came the Sun Tavern, kept by Joseph S. Leavitt; 1822, the starting point for the Salem and Boston, hourly coaches, viz., 7, 8, 9 and 10 A. M., and 1, 30 and 3 P. M., with extras as wanted. They carried an average number of twelve passengers each, and with four horses were two hours and more on the road, returning from Boston at 11 A. M., and 1, 5, 6, 7 and 8 P. M. It was a familiar sight to see one of the proprietors racing, in a gig, with a belated passenger, to overtake the stage at the toll house on the turnpike—a wonderful contrast, in the travel now and then.

This tavern was demolished about 1826. It was built by Samuel Brown early in the eighteenth century, had brick ends and boarded sides plastered "ruif" with mortar and gravel, mixed with glass. A portion of this plaster, ornamented, is now in the Essex Institute. It was used as a dwelling house until 1800. William Gray then moved from it to his new brick mansion, now the Essex house. This was built by him upon the site of the original Sun Tavern, which was kept by Jonathan Webb, who moved into the house left by Mr. Gray and took his sign with him. Mr. William Manning undertook to build the present brick building, and after much delay it was finished in 1831. In 1842 Mr. Joel Bowker bought it, improved it, and it is now the property of his heirs.

The old house next the Mansion house was also part of Samuel Brown's estate, but in 1820 it was owned by Judge Putnam. It was occupied by John Simon, a Frenchman, who for many years kept the principal, if not the only confectionary shop in town. Over him was W. F. Ashton, a barber. He was a Frenchman and built a cottage on Dearborn street. Dea. Punchard occupied one of the

chambers over forty years. He was the treasurer of the Franconia Iron Mining Company. Simon resided in the house. A small building, ten or twelve feet wide, occupied the space between this and the next house. It had brick ends and was improved by Caleb Warner, jeweler. It is now a part of I. P. Harris' establishment. The white three story house on the corner of St. Peter's street was for many years occupied by Hannah P. Putnam, whose millinery establishment was famous. The next east in 1823 was the dry goods store of Abbott & Trumbull. In 1825 Isaac Newhall had it for dry goods. Solomon S. Whipple, Esq., (died 1842) occupied the rooms above as a dwelling house.

Essex place, as it was called, containing the two brick buildings each side of the Essex Coffee house, was built by the Essex Fire and Marine Insurance Company about 1815. They occupied the No. 1 portion opposite Central street. The front wall of this office stood back from the street ten or twelve feet. The roof projected and was supported on the front line by four lofty columns, forming a fine promenade beneath the roof, which was paved with stone slabs. It was a favorite lounging place for the young college boys and young men of leisure, who often met their young lady acquaintances here, and joined them for a stroll on Essex street. The insurance office was incorporated in 1803 and the company dissolved in 1829. The distinguished mathematician, Nathaniel Bowditch, was president, and Benjamin Pittman secretary.

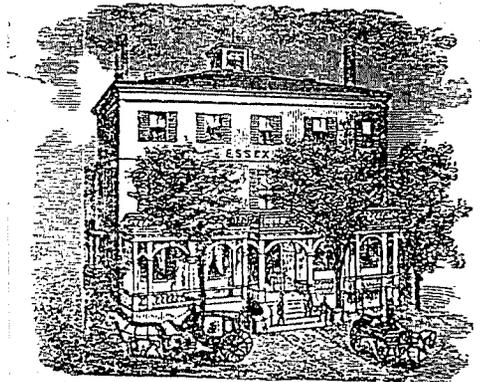
No. 2 Essex place was occupied by Francis Choate, dry goods, for many years; No. 3 by the Merchants Insurance office, and afterward by Asa Wiggin, tailor. The opposite corner was taken by the Salem Commercial Insurance office, George Cleveland president and William S. Cleveland secretary; the company was incorporated in 1818 (Benjamin G. Ropes secretary,) and dissolved in 1842. Next was the Exchange Bank, incorporated in 1823, Gideon Tucker president and John Chadwick cashier.

Over the Exchange Bank, James Frothingham, a young man from Charlestown, had rooms for portrait painting. He painted numerous portraits which were excellent in coloring. He had few equals in his art. He left Salem in 1825 and painted in Boston and New York, where he attained great celebrity.

The corner of St. Peter street was occupied by an insurance office, and the portion fronting on St. Peter street, was the post office, Jos. E. Sprague postmaster, who kept it for eight years. It was but fifteen feet front and about twenty-eight feet deep. Mr. Sprague was removed on the advent of General Jackson as president in 1824.

The Essex house was built by William for his private mansion. It was a large estate, extending on Essex street from the

corner of St. Peter street to the estate of N. West, Esq., and about half that length on St. Peter street. The out buildings were spacious and ornamental, and the grounds highly cultivated. Mr. Gray, as is well known, left Salem for political reasons in 1808. He sold the estate to the Essex Fire and Marine Insurance Company in 1814. The same year the house was taken by Plerce Stetson and opened to the public as the Essex Coffee house. It had a large sign, a picture of the building, suspended from a tall mast standing on the edge of the sidewalk, and which remained until decay compelled its removal (what became of the sign?) In 1822 it was kept by Joseph S. Leavitt, also of the Sun Tavern, and after the visit of Lafayette in 1824 was called the Lafayette Coffee house. In 1825 William Manning advertised the removal of the Stage Company's books and starting point from the Sun Tavern to the Lafayette Coffee house. It is now called the Essex house.



**ESSEX HOUSE,**

SALEM, MASS.

W. L. PALMER & CO., PROPRIETORS.

W. L. PALMER.

T. H. FARNSWORTH.

- Jan. 1876 -

# Salem Gazette.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1890.

## ESSEX STREET—IV.

### ESSEX HOUSE TO COURT STREET.

The estate next to William Gray's was that of Nathaniel West, Esq. It was also large, extending from Gray's to Jacob Ashton's estate, and through to Church street in the rear.

The mansion house was another handsome building, similar to that of Col. Pickman's, and was built in 1748 by John Turner, Esq., who sold it to Andrew Oliver, and Capt. West bought it of him. Its interior was artistically finished, having elegant carvings over the doors, windows and staircases, with ornamental fireplaces. The grounds around it were highly cultivated, having a delightful garden in the rear containing an English walnut tree, a rarity in this country and a great delight to the children.

Capt. West is remembered as a remarkably fine-looking old gentleman, tall and erect, wearing a suit of continental style, broad, skirt coat and small clothes, high-topped boots with tassels, ruffled shirt bosom, a cue and broad brim hat. He carried a gold-headed cane and was a distinguished figure on the street when taking his daily promenade. He resided occasionally upon his farm in Danvers and then in his Barton Square house. His son, Nath'l, Jr., was the last occupant of the mansion. He removed later to Indianapolis. When Capt. West built his Summer street block in 1833, he removed into the southern end and resided there until his death, in 1861, at the great age of 95 years and 10 months.

Next the Mansion House were two swell front, two-story buildings, one occupied by Theodore Morgan & Son, jewellers and watch-makers, afterward by Stevens & Lakeman in the same business. They dissolved in 1830 and Eben K. Lakeman took a store in Holyoke place opposite. Next to him, I think, was Caleb Warner, jeweller, and next to him Wm. R. Horton, apothecary, who soon after went to Boston. The other swell front store was occupied by John Derby & Son, (T. Putnam Derby) tailors.

In 1833 Wm. Manning leased the Mansion House, and it was opened to the public about the time of Gen. Jackson's visit to Salem in that year, who made it his headquarters during his brief stay. Mr. Manning soon covered the land in the rear with mechanics' shops. The Mansion House was destroyed by fire in

Next was the estate of Jacob Ashton, esq.,

fine three-story white house which he inherited from his father-in-law. Mr. Ashton died in 1830, and the estate was then sold to Mrs. Hannah Batchelder, who altered it, making two stores, one of which she occupied with her daughters and continued her dry goods business. The other was taken by B. H. Ives and Frank Putnam for the book business. Mrs. Batchelder occupied chambers above as a dwelling house.

Next came the handsome residence of Hon. B. W. Crowninshield, secretary of the navy 1814 to 1818 and member of congress 1823 to 1831. He removed to Boston 1832. Then Richard S. Rogers, esq. occupied it. It was finally sold and became the foundation for Maynes Block.

Next to this is the brick building built "by order of the elder Timo. Pickering for his son Gardner," in 1772. In 1820 it was used for business purposes. One store was occupied by Abner and Henry Chase for a shoe store. This was afterwards, 1830, occupied by Jos. Frothingham for dry goods. The other store was the hardware store of Wm. H. Chase. Amasa Wilder had it at one time for dry goods. This estate has been owned by the Chase family since about 1800. In the rear was the livery stable of Wm. Osborn, afterward Smith & Manning. The wooden dwelling on the western side of this yard was once a sugar house owned by Benj. Pickman, esq. (the elder) and sold by him to Capt. Abiah Estes. He sold to him also the house in front, which used to project over the sidewalk, and his daughters occupied it. This house in 1820 was the property of Mrs. Grant who carried on a shop in the front room. In 1822 the shop was occupied by a tall mulatto barber, Joseph B. Minah. Mrs. Grant occupied chambers. The building was removed back in 1824 and first taken by Samuel Colman as a crockery and hardware store, "sign of the looking glass". He sold out to Edward B. Colman and Daniel H. Johnson, — Colman & Johnson. They dissolved the firm in 1826 and Daniel H. Johnson continued the business. Ezekiel Goss had the chambers as furniture store. Minah removed to Court street.

Next is the brick building built about 1800 by Henry Rust. In 1819 the eastern store was occupied by J. D. Chandler, drugs, medicines and groceries; he removed to the corner of Essex and Hamilton streets the same year. Miss Ann M. Rust, in the western store, carried on a first class dry goods and millinery store, advertising "came's hair shawls, silks, tees, &c." In 1826 the firm of Babbidge & Rust was formed, and continued the same business. They dealt largely in Moscow hawls, which were handsome, warm and durable and were very popular; even now occasionally one may be seen on our streets.

The two-story dwelling house back of the

rust building was formerly a shop in front, kept by Mrs. Brown, English goods. It was removed to make way for the brick building.

The brick building next was built by Eliphalet Kimball and Isaac Newhall in 1810, upon the site of the mansion house of the former owners, the Jeffreys, which was removed to Bridge street. The eastern store in the new block was occupied by Eliphalet Kimball, afterward Kimball & Cogswell, then Correy & Thornton, then Geo. Torrey alone, previous to 1830, when Joel Bowker, Jr. opened a dry goods store in it.

The western store was occupied by Isaac Newhall, then David Putnam for dry goods. The dwelling house above was first occupied by Mr. Kimball and then Mrs. E. Felt kept a boarding-house there.

The Stearns building comes next. It was built in 1792 by Benj. Pickman, Dr. Stearns and Jonathan Waldo, jointly. Pickman owned one-half and Stearns and Waldo the other. The land was bought of Ruth Jeffrey for £780, about \$3600. The building has a substantial brick wall dividing the Essex street part from that on Court street. It is said that when finished the Court street end was considered more valuable and possession was decided by lot. The choice fell to Pickman, and that part of the building which contains the Washington Hall is still the property of his heirs.

The northern store on Court street was occupied by Michael Webb, with "wines, brandy, gin, cheese," &c. He was also agent for the sale of loaf sugar, made up in pyramid form, from the sugar house on Ash street. Dr. Stearns occupied the front on Essex street, moving his business from the corner of Beckford and Essex street in Oct. 1792. It was subsequently made into two stores and his son, J. Brackett Stearns, took the corner, No. 1, for the apothecary business. In 1830 it was occupied for a short time by William Balch, dry goods. The eastern store, No. 3, was occupied by J. Harris Jewett, a remarkably fine baritone singer. He afterward went to Boston and formed copartnership with Eliphalet Kimball. (Kimball & Jewett) wholesale dry goods. Dr. Peabody, father of Elias P. Peabody, the distinguished writer and teacher of the kindergarten system of education, had an office over Jewett's store. After Mr. Jewett, Joseph Frothingham occupied the store, and after him Isaac H. Frothingham for dry goods. The entrance to the chambers and printing office of Wm. Ives, on the third floor, was between the stores Nos. 1 and 3. On the second floor Lawyer John Walsh had one office and Rufus Choate the other. The firm of W. & S. B. Ives was formed and advertised Nov. 1, 1829. Court street, next to Michael Webb's."

Observer, was first issued Jan. 6, 1823, and the *Hive* (juvenile) Sept. 27, 1823, lasted

two years. It is recorded that "Washington Hall was first used for a dinner given by the sympathizers in the French revolution. This was before the news of the beheading of Louis the 16th, and of the enormities immediately preceding and following the event in France." Capt. Benj. Ropes kept an eating-house in the basement on the corner. It was largely patronized by the farmers who brought their loads of wood and found their market on Court street. The street was lined on both sides with their teams, drawn by oxen and foddered on the street, especially if good sleighing.

A writer in 1793 says, "In the middle of Court street between Milliken's shop (now Northey) and Stearns & Waldo's brick store, stood, in my day, a watch house with a handsome wooden soldier, carved by Lemmon Beadle, on the top. On the soldier was the inscription in gold letters 'Anna Regina, 1712'."

"Opposite Mr. Derby's house (now Brookhouse) stood, in the centre of the street, an old wooden schoolhouse which was formerly the Court house and where the witches were tried."

Corrections.—The tailor's shop of Daniel Millett and Israel Ward, was in the same house with Mrs. Goodhue, opposite Liberty street. Two or three steps led up to each of them.

The size of the post office, on St. Peter street, was 15x18, not 23. Mr. Sprague was P. M. 1814 to 1829.

The name of Barber Ashton was Frank B., not W. F.

John Goodhue, not Warner, occupied the brick store, now part of I. P. Harris & Co's.

Mr. James Kimball had a chair manufactory in the Union building. The Adams Club was located there.

Benj. H. Hathorne, not Wm., had the store in Central building. Wm. was located in old paved street, (called old paved street as it was the first paved in Salem, 1773.)

Mr. John W. Archer, bookseller, left Salem for Illinois in 1836 not '31.

100,000. The lighting plant of  
ric Illuminating and Power com-  
ong Island City and many other  
equal importance were carried  
m. Within the past six months  
ded to his regular business an  
ral branch and has associated  
H. P. Graves, a very clever and  
omising young architect. Mr.  
also maintains an office at 29  
; New York.

taxes. In 1865 he resigned to become  
treasurer and manager of the Salem Sav-  
ings bank, holding this position until his  
resignation fifteen years later. Since that  
time he has been engaged in caring for  
his own property interests. Besides the  
two terms in the council already noted, he  
was a member of that body in 1892 and  
1896. He has also been a school com-  
mitteeman and a member of the board of  
overseers of the poor. He is thought to  
be the eldest of a numerous family of that  
name in Salem and can trace direct con-  
nection with Samuel Symonds of Ipswich,  
who was at one time acting governor of

**Charles E. Symonds.**

Senior member of the common



JOHN H. BICKFORD.



CHARLES E. SYMONDS.

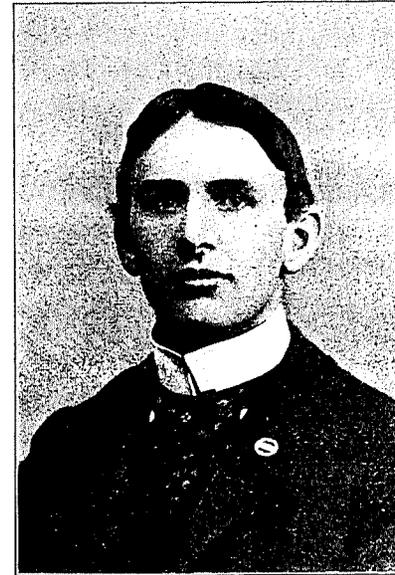
In 1897, Charles E. Symonds of  
has resided in Salem, with slight  
ions in early life, since his birth,  
1819. He left the high school  
teen years of age to engage in  
shoe manufacturing, continuing  
ne for over twenty years, and  
ring the probate office as clerk.  
a councilman for Ward 4 in  
l in the following year was chosen  
ard of principal assessors, resign-  
five years' service to accept the

Massachusetts. Mr. Symonds was born  
in the family mansion at the head of Buf-  
fum street, close by the Pickering school,  
and has resided in the house on the cor-  
ner of North and Dearborn streets for the  
past forty years.

**F. B. Broadhead & Son.**

Among the many large insurance firms  
in the city of Salem, none have better  
advantages for writing insurance policies

*From the above column  
Fred W. Broadhead*



F. W. BROADHEAD.

head, who is now conducting busi-  
ness under the firm name of F. B.  
Broadhead & Son, has the distinc-  
tion of being the youngest man in  
his line in this section, but his lack  
of years does not imply any cor-  
responding want in the thoroughness  
of his commercial training or ability.  
The foundation of this enterprise  
was laid ten years ago by the late  
Frederick B. Broadhead and in  
1893 his son, Fred W., was admitted  
to the firm, assuming full control  
upon the death of the senior mem-  
ber, Nov. 1, 1896. Through this  
office, several of the greatest insur-  
ance companies in the world are  
represented, and risks to any  
amount can be written. Mr. Broad-  
head has the agency for the Union  
Mutual Life Insurance company of  
Maine, incorporated in 1848, which  
has the reputation of being one of  
the most reliable and conservative  
concerns of this character in the  
world. In the fire line, risks are  
placed in the following well-known  
and powerful companies: Agricul-

*head of New York, incorporated*

in 1851; Hamburg-Bremen, of Han-  
burg, Germany, incorporated in 1854  
Manhattan, of New York, incorporat-  
ed in 1869; Thuringa, of Germany, incorpo-  
rated in 1853; Standish Life and Acci-  
dent Co. of Detroit, incorporated in  
1874; and United States, of New York  
incorporated in 1824. Mr. Broadhead  
also devotes some attention to real estate  
matters. His office is most convenient  
located on Essex street, near Washing-  
ton street, and there is every facility for the  
transaction of a large amount of the be-  
st class of business. He has proven him-  
self amply able to sustain the high repu-  
tation which became associated with the  
business in its earlier days, even increas-  
ing the same as its scope becomes en-  
larged.

**John B. Harding.**

Few men are better known in Sale-  
m than the subject of this sketch, John B.  
Harding, the veteran horse-shoer.  
It will be a surprise to many of Mr. Har-





ca. 1917

Philip Horton Smith (1890-1960)



ca. 1911

(Harvard graduation picture)