## Salem Salem Incorporated

POST OFFICE BOX 865

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970 / PHONE (617) 745-0799

10 Oliver Street

Built for,

BENJAMIN CHEEVER, tanner

by 1781

Moved to this site

in 1878

Research by,
Joyce King
Nov. 1981

<sup>&</sup>quot;to preserve Historic Sites, Buildings and objects, and to work for the education of the community in the true value of the same."

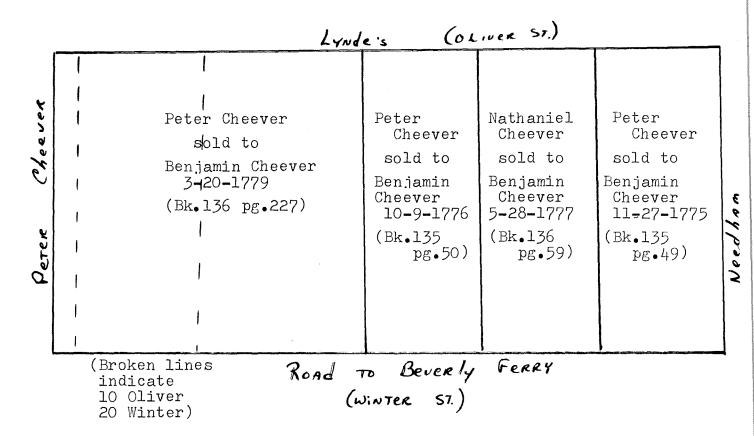
10 Oliver Street (formerly 20 Winter Street)

This house is described in the Salem Historic Commission District Study as: "This two-story plus pitch roof, wooden house faces the street. It has a central chimney and rough stone foundation. The three-bay facade is not balanced, and the simple pilastered entrance is near the north end of the front of the building. The molded window sills and projecting cap molding above the second-story windows are generally considered pre-Federal in style. There is a modern aluminum canopy over the front door."

The history of Winter street is given in the Essex Antiquarian, vol. 8 pg. 66: "Winter street was an ancient road. It was called a lane or highway in 1668: Road leading to Beverly ferry. 1705; Highway leading from the training field to Beverly ferry, 1705; Highway leading from the training field to Beverly ferry, 1760; the way to the ferry, 1769; Road 1771; Way leading to ferry lane, 1771; the ferry lane leading to Beverly, 1779; Ferry Lane, 1780; Ferry lane or the way leading to Essex bridge, 1793; and Winter street, 1795."

Very early the entire west side of Winter St. (including this lot) was owned by Jacob Pudeater, blacksmith. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Pudeater lived on this large parcel of land until the summer of 1692, when she was condemned as a witch and executed on Sept. 22, 1692, being about seventy years of age.

In 1746 Peter Cheever purchased the piece of land extending from the corner of Washington Sq. down to #10 Winter St. During the 1770's Peter sold portions of this land to his sons Peter, Nathaniel, and Benjamin. By 1779 Benjamin was the owner of a large parcel:

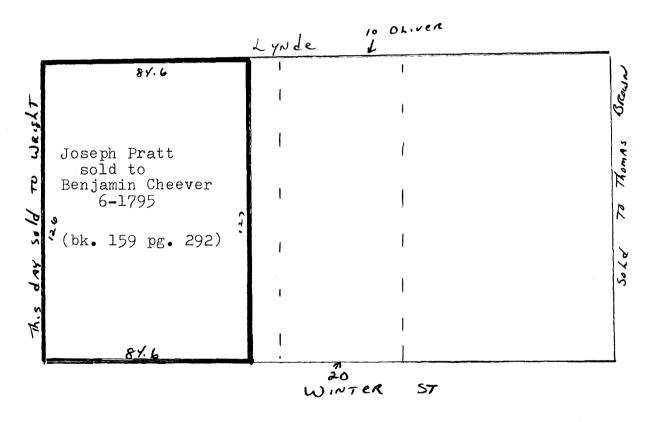


Benjamin Cheever was in the tannery business with his brother Samuel who lived on the corner of Washington Sq. and Winter St. The tannery occupied a large portion of Winter St. with many vats thereon. Benjamin is taxed in 1781 for a house, shop, factory and stock (prior to this Benjamin Cheever was taxed for portions of a house, but since he did not purchase the land on which this house stood until 1779, it seems plausible to assign the date in which he was taxed for a whole house.)

1781 is also the year in which Benjamin sold house lots to Mr. Brown and Mr. Hovey. This gives credence to the notion that the land was being transformed from industrial to residential use at this time.

Benjamin Cheever (bpt. 1746) married Ruth Osgood on May 23, 1772. The couple had at least two children: Ruth (died on Nov. 13, 1792 from small pox inoculation) and Benjamin (b. April 11, 1775). Ruth Cheever, wife of Benjamin, died on July 16, 1783. Mr. Cheever, married as his second wife, Mary (Barr) Carde, widow, on April 22, 1784. They had children: Sarah, Priscilla, Eliza and Mary.

In June of 1795 Benjamin Cheever added to his land holdings when he purchased a lot of land from his brother-in-law Joseph Pratt:

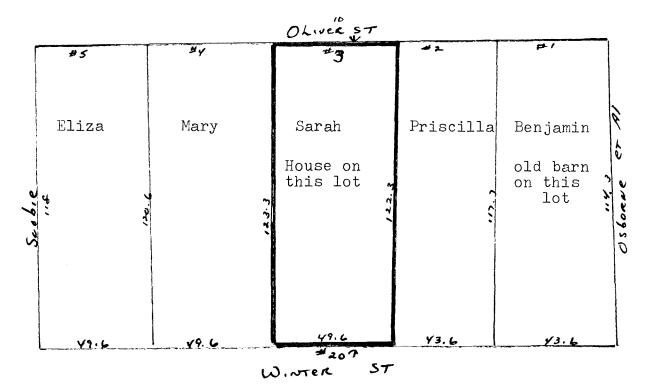


Benjamin Cheever died in January 1832 at the age of 85. In his will, written May 25, 1829 (probate #5206) Mr. Cheever bequeathed the use and improvement of all his real estate to his beloved wife Mary during her natural life. His daughters Mary Cheever, Priscilla Howard, Sarah Lewis and Eliza Cheever each received \$500. This was to be

paid 3 months after the decease of "myself and wife." All the rest to be equally divided between his son Benjamin and daughters Mary, Priscilla, Sarah and Eliza after the death of his wife Mary. Sarah's fifth share was to be put in trust for her sole and separate use and benefit during the life of her husband Dana and after his decease it was to be transferred to her for her sole use - but if his daughter should not survive him then and after her decease to pay the income to all lawful children. A codicil was made on March 9, 1830 revoking all previously willed to son Benjamin. "Now to grandson Benjamin Cheever of Portsmouth, N.H." (inventory appendix A)

Mary Cheever remained in the house until July 4, 1842 when she died at the age of 91. She had a paralytic shock a week before when she fell out of her chair at the breakfast table. (appendix B)

As per will of Benjamin, the estate was divided into five parts on Sept. 20, 1842:



As shown Benjamin Cheever's "mansion house" was on lot #3. This lot was assigned to Sarah Lewis, wife of Dana. Dana Lewis was born in Boston on Feb. 22, 1787 the son of David and Lydia (Newhall) Lewis. He was a tinsmith by trade also a captain in the Mass. Militia and was one of 19 owners of the vessel "Dart" in 1812. He married Sarah Cheever on July 8, 1813. Two children were born to the couple viz: Benjamin Cheever Lewis and Elizabeth Newhall Lewis (she married George N. Cheever on Sept. 7, 1848.) The Lewis family lived at 12 Winter St. prior to the death of Mary Cheever.

The 1850 census gives a close look at the Lewis household while at 20 Winter St.:

Dana Lewis	age	64	tinplate	worker	born	$\texttt{Mass}_{ullet}$
Sarah "	11	63		•	11	11
Elizabeth Cheeve	r "	29			11	11
George "	11	37			11	Maine
Martha Philips	11	18			11	N.S.

Dana Lewis died on June 22, 1853 at the age of 66. Sarah remained in the house and is listed as an invalid in the 1857 tax records with her property valued at \$1,500.

The 1860 census shows the dwindling household:

Sarah Lewis age 73 born Mass.

Elizabeth Cheever " 40 " "

Julia Griffen " 22 domestic " Ire.

The tax for 1865 indicates an increase in the value of the property:

20 Winter St.

Mas Dane Lewis house well \$1,000 lend well \$1

Mrs. Dana Lewis

house val. \$1,000 - land val. \$1,100

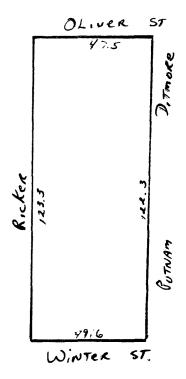
Elizabeth Cheever

The 1870 census:

Sarah Lewis	ag	e 83	keeps house		born	$\texttt{Mass}_{ullet}$
Elizabeth Carv	er(?) "	50	no occupation		11	11
Elizabeth "	11	7	at school	`	11	11
W. O'Rouk	11	23	servant		11	Ire.

Sarah Lewis died on May 8, 1873. In her will, written April 20, 1869, (probate # 45321) she bequeathed: "To daughter Elizabeth I give the homestead now occupied by myself and daughter with all the furniture and \$500 to expend for repairs on the house." Her son Benjamin C. and daughter Elizabeth were to share the remainder equally. On May 25, 1873 Benjamin wrote a letter to Elizabeth in which he says: "I believe the old dwelling place is yours by a will and as regards the other property, you have always managed it and I hope may long continue to do so regarding it as entirely your own." (appendix C)

On May 1, 1875 Elizabeth N. Cheever, widow, sold to Sarah W. Ricker, wife of Oliver P. Ricker, the land and buildings, free of the control of her husband, for the sum of \$4,800:



(book 927 page 53)

The tax records for 1875 substantiate this transfer and also gives evidence that Elizabeth had moved out of the old homestead:

20 Winter Street

empty

owner 0. P. Ricker - val. \$2,000

Oliver Ricker was granted a permit to build a wooden dwelling house 28 feet by  $41\frac{1}{2}$  feet, two and a half stories with a pitch roof on Feb. 9, 1878. The old house was removed from 20 Winter St. to the Oliver St. end of the property to make room for this new dwelling house. The Salem Street Books at City Hall confirm this move:

1878

- 20 Winter St. house in progress owner O.P. Ricker
- 61 Oliver St. (since renumbered 10) "house moved" " "

The first tenant of the house now called #10 Oliver St. was Frederick B. Browning age 30 and family. The 1880 census shows that the Brownings were replaced by the Leonards:

10 Oliver Street

James Leonar	rd	age	40	bookkeeper	born	N.S.
Bridie "		11	39	wife - keeps house	11	Maine
Harriet H.	11	11	(?)	daughter - epilepsy	11	Mass.
Herbert	11	11	7	son	11	11
Sadie E.	11	11	3	daughter	11	11
Margurette	ii.	11	1	daughter	ij	11

Captain Oliver P. Ricker died May 22, 1893. His obituary written in the Salem News gives an account of the Captain's life:

DEATH OF OLD SHIPMASTER AT HIS HOME ON WINTER STREET

"Captain Oliver Perry Ricker died very suddenly at his residence on Winter St. at noon yesterday. from heart disease. Captain Ricker

was born in Dover, N.H. about 74 years ago. At the early age of twelve he was thrown on the world to shift for himself. He took to the sea and made a number of voyages to different parts of the world, Zanziba, China, California and the Sandwich Islands being among the places he visited. He sailed for the firm of J.P. Farnham & Co. and Joseph Peabody of Salem. He made a voyage also in Puget Sound and adjacent places when no white man had a residence there in 1835.

For about 15 years he was in the ship brokerage and ship chandlery business in the Sandwich Islands being part owner of a fleet of vessels trading between the islands and San Francisco and the north-west coast. He was also interested in the whaling business. While in business in the islands he made considerable money, but most of this was swept away by unfortunate ventures. He was at one time in the ship chandlery business on Derby St. and was also connected with William Pickering in the coal and lumber business.

In 1873 he was elected alderman and in 1874, 1875 and 1876 he was president of the Salem water board. About a year after his term of office expired in the water board he went to California and the Sandwich Islands remaining away for about three years. He then returned to Salem and has resided there ever since.

Capt. Ricker was not a member of either marine society in Salem.

He was a man of varied experience and commanded the respect of all

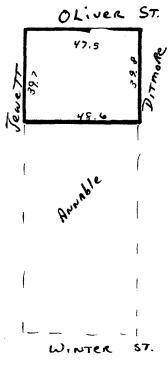
who knew him. He retired from active sea life nearly 40 years ago."

Mrs. Ricker died two years later on Nov. 29, 1895. The Salem News carried this notice:

"Mrs. Sarah Ricker wife of the late Capt. Oliver Ricker died at her home 20 Winter St. at the age of 77. Funeral from her home Monday at 10 o'clock."

In her will (probate # 78462) Sarah W. Ricker bequeathed her house on Winter St. along with all furniture to Martha P. Piper. The house at 10 Oliver St. was left to her niece Hattie C. Piper, thus the division of the original lot #3.

On March 17, 1896 Hattie C. Piper, of Newburyport, sold the land and buildings 10 Oliver St. to E. Augusta Annable. "Being that portion of the premises conveyed by Elizabeth N. Cheever to Sarah Ricker. Devised to me by said Sarah."



(book 1474 page 206)

Mr. Annable died on Nov. 26, 1908. The property on Oliver St. was devised by the will of E. Augusta Annable to his son Harry C. Annable. Mr. Annable sold the land and buildings 10 Oliver St. to Mary C. Cooney on Aug. 9, 1912. (book 2164 page 35)

On Nov. 2, 1931 Gertrude M. Cooney, administratrix of the estate of Mary A. Cooney sold to Harry D. Clifford the land and buildings 10 Oliver St. for the sum of \$3,000. (book 2902 page 268)

On Nov. 2, 1931 Harry D. Clifford, unmarried. sold to Anna Russell the land and buildings 10 Oliver St. "The same conveyed by deed of Gertrude M. Cooney." (book 2902 page 269)

On July 27, 1948 Henry L. and Anna L. Russell sold the land and buildings 10 Oliver St. to Harry L. and Mary F. Noyes the present owners. (book 3615 page 155)

Notes: The Essex Institute has in its manuscript collection a detailed account of the Benjamin Cheever estate. (Cheever-Howard family papers)

Reference to book and page are deed books at the Registry of Deeds. Probate numbers are cases at Probate Court. Both offices are located in the same building on Federal St. All maps in this report are not meant to be exact, just for illustration purposes.

## INVENTORY AND APPRAISEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF

Cheever

late of Salam in said County, Januar deceased, - testate, as shewn to us by the Administrat Executors

REAL ESTATE.	
The Homesteads, with all the Buildings 5.5	TO., -D
Sersonal Estate.	
Garpeto Trug, 10: _ Looting Elass, 3:_	13.
Fire Set 5: _ Tea Table 1:_ P Chairs, 2.70	8.70
3 Japan Waiters, 1.75 34 large & Small silver 5 poons 2403. 24: -	25.75
Brittania Sea pots, Godfee- pot & Candle sticks	4.
Lot Grockery and Flass Mare	4, ~~
2 Dining Tables and Lightstando	2 25
Dining Table ? - Mahogany Desky 4'	6. ~
1/2 dog. Chairs, 4:50 Looking Flass, 1:50	6 . ~
Straw Garpet 1 - Fire Set Bellows & Brush 3.50	4.50
Bible + other Books, 7:50 - Had Dask + 3 Tables 4:	650
Looking Flass, 50 - Garpet 3- Kitchen Fire Set 1	4.50
I pair Fire Forckets, 150 - 7 Chairs, 1.75	3 25
Bureau + Looking Slass 4:50 - 4 Bedsteads 4:	8.50
Field Bedstead + Bed Dress, 9- 5 Quilts, 5:	14.~
4 Feather Beds + 4 Under Beds	45. ~
15 pair Sheets, 11.25 - 1 dez pair Pillow Gases 2.	13.25
5 pain Blankets, 12: Looking Plass, 250	14.50
2 Thests Draws, 5' - 5 Frinks, 5'-	10
limit Chain & Pine Chest 1 - 1/2 dos Table Clothe 6.	, j. ~
1 dog Naphins 1.50 - Lot of honives & Forks 4	5.57~
Let of Soin & Tin Mare, 4: - Small let Crockery 1. yr.	5.75
at y 1100den 11 are 2 - Let of Tanter 1.56	3.50
of the Hettles, 730 - Scales & Scale Bean 3:	_
Lit of Mights, old Iron te the in Ship 8'- Lot of Garden wither Than	9.50
Lit of Mights, old Iron te the in Ship 8 - Lot of Garden wother Tuly 275.	1025
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	Winds
Amount brought forward	2 45 26
Promissory Notes: is. 3206.	2 55 2i
	. *
A Note signed by Stephen Whitmore, for 1.000	
Do. do. do	
To. John Forrester 3.000. ~	
20. Jesse Dianchards	
To. Mary Freed 650: ~	
Do. Thomas Hovey 500	
To Nathaniel Treads 400. ~	and the same of th
Do William Wallis 400. ~	
20 David Robbins 400. ~	
To. Jos hua Raymend 200. ~	
Do. Malthus D. Mard 500 ~	
Do. Joseph Fardner 120	
Do. Peter E. Webster. 800	
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Do. Daniel Foster fun 450	
Do. Dana Dawis 50. ~	
21. Denjamin Eksever, Jun. 418. 05	
Do. Som B. Konight	12.408. 05
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Gash, definited in Bank of Feneral Interest	1.066.
$\mathcal{O}$	20.189.25
<u> </u>	

**文** 美金数和

Vear Eliza you have no deret hear (by Mary Leller) of the Death of Godes Afectionate ellotter on the 4th inst offer a conten ment one week. The no doubt had a paraletic Shock, when The fell out of her Chair, at the Breakfast table us the did not theath destinetly. offer, the Lay on her back all the time breathing hard, but Died apparantly easy, at 4 a m. monday. I mil her very much. as I was in com hany with her most every Evening, & when I' look vito that bed room, I can hardly realize that your mother is not there, . & hope The is weller off, Ther gone where the wiched cease from troubling & the weary on al rest. The out liv'd all her aggucentance; a her trind was aone. The has not known the for over a year, or meether had any recolection of her Children, Sothat we cannot . Amourn. To hurch aspense taken in home of Life, Illound?

I feel it my cluly as Executor to the State, to informs you how the affairs Stand, I have taken cared in the Martin a hair not Lost a dollar. I my marting informs you how the affairs staw, o we inform you have how the Affairs staw. I my handleges, the fortherwing. viz \_ notes & mortgages \_\_\_\_ 8818115 Cashin Manamheas Bank 6720.41 15.538.46 Bothaves in ellercontile Bouch on 2000. 20 11 in Essex Prider - 3200 (as approx d'in 1853, " personal do 4 unitare de 25570 heal artate 11.335.20 26.873.66 Hu first approcisal was - 25.506.89 - -How will be a Lop on the Turn bile of day. 115 fa Share and " " " " " Essere Pridre Say 100 n Mare Vone Henre of interest to add, the Real Estate. Merry Jays. your Father. call'd it & Lotts , & we think dome Juliere time to have it approard deperate each Lot. us it was all apprais'd togather before, The Legacy to each of the boughter of book, was by will to be paid in go days, after the beath of your mother. least as it is on hand. I am ready to pay it over when duly rall'o for, you can forward me a nevelet for it, and I'can bay it over to many, or as you May direct. bestafs the Dr or all of your will come on and we Should be very happy to decique, you will please write me your views, about all. - the remainer of the personal property of Shall be able Juan to chettle. I it well be newsary for the Heirs Ho Shaves in Banks & Turn pile can be devided equally,

I tathe I with the agent of the This felse to Oa he days the Shares are worth 40 to 15 ilellous 3 Tales of yo Chares brought 32/ Llalety. 2 Thaves " 30%. the Bank Chaves, are not werth par. There is very little Bank Hoch dold; holders are ancions of Sell, but no buyers. owing to a des trust, the 420,41 beionging to the Estate, I had to remove to Day, from - the Bank of Bent Interest. to the Naciambreag, owing to an expere lately. The directors having one half of the Capital -day 200,000 - I they will have to wind it who the vert of our Banks Hand firm. I Should be very Anuch gratified to have. the Dr as your agent. Son Wolman as Showis trustee I being Cheever as trustees to his fatter, here. and with elary & me to adjust the afficiens as I want every thing, appentauring; to be done Fairly, Ylonerally, & Pleasantly; & & have no coult but it will be; there is some morey in the Bank belonging to your motter at spect due in October Many has the Book & a note of good, du from eller, James Bertrius, as he pays the interest regular! x I'know it would be very inconvenient for him to pay now it will be better to make 4 notes of 75%for each one, if there is any other information. about the Estate that you wish to know, I Shall always be haply to inform you to hancy Barr continues very dich indeed & Dangerous Letter d'Ray is librewise Siche, vest all well Love to all your att. Mro

Fullahassee, May 25-1873-

Dear sister,

Darah and many have mitter to you recently and now I have to say in regard to ourselves that we are all up + about the' feeling rather drooping, probably in account of the hot weather - Mucany in the hall standing how at 81 - + that is about the Cortes - place in the house \_ We may as well make up our minds to take a long spile, say five months, of this kind of water and to take it easy if we can -In your last to me I think you had determined to change the seeme for a white, I hope you have selected, some cost term fortable place in which to spend the time while off & that - you may be greatly benefited by the try You mentioned motelles name in connexion with the settlement of the Estate of our Mother & you seemed to write for my approval - Mow I have to say that So far as John can twice assist you in any thing medd by you of course I shall feel gratiful to him and it is for you to decide if you will ask his

I believe The old dwelling assistance or notplace is your by a love and as regund, the other property, you have also along managed it and I hope may long continue to do do Eigurding it as entirely your own, asto The funcie expunes of our late deur nexther I fully agree with you that they should be paid larg - Thave no idea what they will am't to but if you will inform me on this fromt & presents Mican are required I will endeavour to have is fortherming - I don't think any formul administration mud be gone through with but if such a evense is necessary to enable you to duly control all matins connected with the estate they I would have you take our the letters yourself, & then summing mind my & invest where there is a probability, of best returns for your own benefit & I shall be glad to know that what is left, with what you had previously will afford you a moderate share of this worlds comforts -Monday 26th may I left this much to be free to day, we Continue were - Weather hot - The Catterpellar is reported to be on several plantations, if they make such havor as they did list year we may consider ourselves as "gone report Sove of all to you all throm your aff-bottom BCD.



