

*Seven Carpenter Street
Salem*

According to available evidence, this house was built as the orphanage of the Seamen's Orphan and Children's Friend Society in 1878, to the design of Aaron Goldthwait, architect.

The Seaman's Orphan & Children's Friend Society was founded "to ameliorate the condition of the fatherless and the widow" (per 1861 Salem Directory).

It had two predecessor organizations. One was The Seamen's Widow and Orphan Association, formed in 1833. The other was the Salem Children's Friend Society, organized in 1839 "for the purpose of rescuing from evil and improving the condition of such children as are in indigent and suffering circumstances and not otherwise provided for" (see 1842 Salem Directory, pp.123-4). Both were originally focused on assisting the people of the seafaring East Parish of Salem, in the Derby Street waterfront neighborhood. In 1839 the new Children's Friend Society's director was the tall, lanky, kindly Rev. Michael Carlton. For years before the founding of any society, Mr. Carlton and his wife had been taking in and caring for the orphaned children of seafaring families (see pp. 164-5, *Visitor's Guide To Salem*, 1927).

Michael Carlton (1795-1865) was born at Blue Hill, Maine, on 26 October 1795, died Salem 6 March 1865 (see *The Perkins Family*, EIHC 21:59-60, 1884, and *The Old Ladies Home* for information about Mr. Carlton). He became a Baptist minister, and in 1822 accepted the call of a parish in Hopkinton. He came to Salem and married Deborah Hunt, who soon died; and in 1833 he married Hannah Perkins (1800-1883) with whom he had four children. For several years, starting in 1837, he was pastor of the Seamen's Bethel Church on Herbert Street in Salem; and he was a missionary all week long to the sailors along the waterfront, notable as "the friend in need of the wretched and the poor," and known to the wisecracking boys of the waterfront neighborhood as "Gospel Tongs," plucking sinners from the flames.

Eventually, the Carltons' friends and admirers raised money to help the orphaned children. The Society itself was made up of well-to-do merchants and their wives, who shared their wealth with the families of mariners who had died ashore or been lost at sea, leaving widows, fatherless children, and sometimes, orphans. These seafaring men, employed by the merchants to sail their vessels, faced

dangers from storms, mischance, disease, and enemies at sea and on land. Often the sailors died in the service of the merchant, leaving little for the subsistence of their families. This is where the ship-owning merchant families stepped in, to be sure that no family in Salem would suffer from hunger or want.

In the early 1840s, Mr. and Mrs. Carlton resided on the north side of Charter Street in the handsome old Mason-Harraden house (now gone), and used a house nearby as an orphanage. Beginning in 1844, the orphans and perhaps some fatherless families evidently resided here in a house on the site of the present house at 7 Carpenter Street.

Then, in May, 1844, Robert Brookhouse, a very wealthy self-made merchant, donated to the Salem Seaman's Orphan & Children's Friend Society a piece of land with a house and buildings and half of a well, fronting 38' 4" on Carpenter Street and running back 100' (ED 345:6). Mr. Brookhouse had just purchased the property for \$1500 from the Salem Female Charitable Society (ED 344:187). It would appear that the Society was actually conveying the lot fronting 76' on Carpenter Street, although the deed mentions only one of the lots (the southern one, fronting 38' 4", with the house thereon).

The Salem Female Charitable Society, whose purpose was to help the poor and unfortunate, had purchased a house and land in 1808 from housewright Solomon Chaplin in 1808; that lot fronted 38' 4" on what is now Carpenter Street (ED 185:87). Mr. Chaplin had evidently built the house c.1806 after buying the land from David Lord (ED 180:25). In 1823 the Society purchased the lot to the north, also fronting 38' 4" on the street, from William Treadwell (ED 233:109). Gifford Court was not formally laid out (over part of the northerly lot) until the late 1870s.

The 1851 atlas shows this site as occupied by the building of the "Seamen's Orphan Asylum."

In 1870 the old orphanage was managed by Azubah Kilpatrick, 35, a native of Maine, assisted by Emma Bruce, 18, also of Maine, and with the help of a servant, Ellen Marr, 19. In the orphanage were 15 children (six boys) aged four to eleven, all of them born in Massachusetts (1870 census, ward four, house 253). The 1874 atlas shows the old Chaplin house (sold 1808 to the Female Society) in situ, numbered 9 Carpenter Street, owned by the "Children's Friend Society," with a shed or barn attached to it at the rear. Gifford Court did not exist as a formal roadway at that time, but its site was probably used as a passage-way.

Salem, in the 1870s, was engaged in manufacturing. Factory managers and capitalists tended to build their new, grand houses along Lafayette Street (these houses may still be seen, south of Roslyn Street). For the workers, the factory managers built more and more tenements near the mills of Stage Point. The Naumkeag Steam Cotton had built a huge factory there in the 1840s; and a second, larger, factory building had been added in 1859, and a third in 1865; and by 1879 the mills employed 1200 people and produced annually 14,700,000 yards of cloth. Shoe-manufacturing also burgeoned, and by 1880 Salem had 40 shoe factories employing 600-plus operatives. In the 1870s, French-Canadian families began coming to work in Salem's mills and factories. More factories and more people required more tenements and buildings, more roads, and more storage areas.

In 1878, the Society voted to build a new and much larger orphanage on the site of the old one. Many donations were made toward the project, including \$5,000 from Mrs. Hemenway. John C. Osgood headed up the building committee, and working plans for the new building were drafted by Aaron Goldthwait.

The old house was removed and work on the new building commenced on April 16. The frame was raised on May 10, the roof and walls were on by May 25, and plastering was under way by June 27. C.H. Flint and company were excavators and masons. The stone work was done Mr. Merrill. R.B. Gifford won the general contract for carpentry (executed by the men at Ashby & Rowell), plumbing (by F.P. Goss), slating (by George Fowler), roofing (by J.D. & J.W. Eaton), and stair-building (by Henry Conant). Charles B. Brown won the contract for painting and tiling, while Frothingham & Fifield set the furnaces. Mr. Osgood superintended all the work.

The building was completed and furnished by October, and was dedicated in an impressive ceremony on the 24th. Many people and institutions had made special memorial donations and gifts, which were displayed throughout the downstairs rooms. The upstairs rooms were used as dormitories, and were equipped with iron bedsteads and white counterpanes. A play-room, hospital, nursery, bath, and rooms for matron and assistants. Downstairs were the administrative offices, dining room, etc. The dedication event included choirs, speeches, and a public inspection of the new building, which was thoroughly described in the newspapers of the time (see appended articles from the Oct. 26, 1878, *Salem Observer*, and the Oct. 28 *Salem Register*).

In the spring of 1880, when the census was taken, the Home was occupied by many children, as well as by the matron, Margaret H. Barrows, 34, a native of Maine. She was assisted by a staff who resided here too: her sister Abby Barrows, 30, Assistant Matron, nurse Mary Homer, 26, also of Maine, and servants Alice Havener, 23 (of Maine), Mary Nichols, 21 (of Mass.), and Dora Beton, 30 (of Nova Scotia). The Home took in small boys and girls, but not older boys; and no child was over 13. The older girls were Caroline Measly, 13 (b. Mass.), Nellie Patterson, 13 (b. Scotland), Clara Wentworth, 12 (b. Maine), Mary Cunningham, 12 (b. Mass.), Nellie Davenport, 12 (b. Mass.), Ella Wentworth, 11 (b. Mass.), Eva Brown, 11 (b. Mass.), Lydia Cresol, 10 (b. Mass.), and Mary Campbell, 12 (b. Mass.). The 9-year-olds were Carrie Wentworth, Winnie Smith, Jessie Parson (born in Mass. of Scottish parents; three younger sisters here too), Florence Cunningham, Alice Measly, and Sadie Davenport. Jennie Parson was the lone 8-year-old. The 7-year-olds were Mary Parson, Carrie Atkins, Emma Sanborn, Mary Allen, Annie Todd, Emma Terrill, Harry McNeil, Daisy Rowell. Six year-olds were Lizzie Ring, Robbie Thompson (b. Mass.), Fannie Taylor (b. Mass.). The fives were Jemima Parson (b. Mass.), Mabel Sanborn (b. Mass.), Sadie Todd, Mary Hamilton, Harry Welch, Mary Anderson, Hattie Coolidge. The littlest ones were Rudolph Nyburg, 4, and Carl Nyburg, 3, both born in Sweden, Frank Coolidge, 3 (b. Mass.), Emma Ring, 4 (b. Mass.), Emma Wentworth (b. Mass.), Proctor McNeil, 3 (b. Mass.), George Welch, 4 (b. Mass.), and Henry Morris, two (b. Mass.). For reference, see 1880 census, house 215.

Presumably the Home continued to serve a like number of children for many years more. On 2 March 1887 Sidney W. Winslow of Beverly for \$1,010 sold to the Seamen's Orphan and Children's Friend Society a parcel of land in the rear of a Federal Street; and on this newly acquired land, probably in the summer of 1887, the Society built a hospital, which is now the house at 12 Gifford Court.

By that time, Salem's seafaring days were done, but widows and offspring were still in need of support. The Society still operated the orphanage, but its main purpose was to support marginal seafaring families in their own homes.

In 1890, evidently soon after the construction of the hospital here, the all-volunteer society was headed by Mrs. E.M. Proctor, who had the assistance of two vice presidents, a treasurer, a secretary, and more than a dozen volunteer "managers," who were responsible for monitoring the needs of various children and families. The medical advisors were Dr. Frank S. Atwood, of Federal Street, and Dr. C.A. Carlton. The matron was still Miss Margaret Barrows, now 44, assisted by her

sister; and the Society helped about 60 children from infants to those aged 18 years (per Salem Directory, 1890-1).

During these years, Salem kept building infrastructure; and new businesses arose, and established businesses expanded. Retail stores prospered, and machinists, carpenters, millwrights, and other specialists all thrived. After withstanding the pressures of the new industrial city for about 50 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 whole area between the present Jefferson Avenue, Canal Street, and Loring Avenue, finally vanished beneath streets, storage areas, junk-yards, rail-yards, and parking lots. The South River, too, with its epicenter at Central Street (that's why there was a Custom House there in 1805) disappeared under the pavement of Riley Plaza and New Derby Street, and its old wharves (even the mighty Union Wharf, formerly Long Wharf, at the foot of Union Street) were joined together with much in-fill and turned into coal-yards and lumber-yards. Only a canal was left, running in from Derby and Central Wharves to Lafayette Street.

In 1900 (per census), the orphanage was run by Margaret Barrows, 54, assisted by Miss Hatch, 25, Katie Cameron, 30, Mary Cobb, 27, Martha Thompson, 25, and Margaret Merithew, 17, with servants Nellie Evans, 27, and Tira Wentworth, 32. There were 48 "inmates," ranging in age from one to 17.

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.

On June 25, 1914, in the morning, in Blubber Hollow (on Boston Street opposite the end of Bridge Street), not far from this neighborhood, a fire started in one of Salem's fire-prone wooden tanneries. This fire soon consumed that 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 enormous fire crossed over into South Salem and destroyed the neighborhoods west of Lafayette Street, then devoured the mansions of northern 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 having left three dead and thousands homeless. Some people were insured, some were not; all received much support and generous donations from all over the country and the world. The Salem Fire 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.

By the 1920s, Salem was once again a thriving city; and its tercentenary in 1926 was a time of great celebration.

Eventually the organization's name was changed to the North Shore Children's Friend Society. On 13 March 1951, the Society sold all of its property on Carpenter Street and Gifford Court to two men, Louis P. Dandelen and Alexander Turkowski, both of Salem (ED 3810:381). The new owners subdivided the property.

At about that time, the arrival of suburban shopping malls and the relocation of manufacturing businesses took their toll on Salem, as they have with many other cities. More than most, 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 Derby, Pickering, Bowditch, McIntire, Bentley, Story, and Hawthorne. Most of all, it remains a city where the homes of the old-time residents and their families are honored as a large part of what makes Salem different from any other place.

--Robert Booth for Historic Salem Inc., 14 Aug. 2002

1880 census

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Color	Birthplace	Occupation	Industry	Religion	Education	Reading	Writing	Signature	Marital	Spouse	Children	Notes
1	Robert B. Hays	W	30		Massachusetts								Married	Elizabeth	3	Worcester, Massachusetts
2	Wm. Hays	W	28		Massachusetts								Married	Elizabeth	2	Worcester, Massachusetts
3	Robert B. Hays	W	26		Massachusetts								Married	Elizabeth	1	Worcester, Massachusetts
4	Wm. Hays	W	24		Massachusetts								Married	Elizabeth	0	Worcester, Massachusetts
5	Wm. Hays	W	22		Massachusetts								Married	Elizabeth	0	Worcester, Massachusetts
6	Wm. Hays	W	20		Massachusetts								Married	Elizabeth	0	Worcester, Massachusetts
7	Wm. Hays	W	18		Massachusetts								Married	Elizabeth	0	Worcester, Massachusetts
8	Wm. Hays	W	16		Massachusetts								Married	Elizabeth	0	Worcester, Massachusetts
9	Wm. Hays	W	14		Massachusetts								Married	Elizabeth	0	Worcester, Massachusetts
10	Wm. Hays	W	12		Massachusetts								Married	Elizabeth	0	Worcester, Massachusetts
11	Wm. Hays	W	10		Massachusetts								Married	Elizabeth	0	Worcester, Massachusetts
12	Wm. Hays	W	8		Massachusetts								Married	Elizabeth	0	Worcester, Massachusetts
13	Wm. Hays	W	6		Massachusetts								Married	Elizabeth	0	Worcester, Massachusetts
14	Wm. Hays	W	4		Massachusetts								Married	Elizabeth	0	Worcester, Massachusetts
15	Wm. Hays	W	2		Massachusetts								Married	Elizabeth	0	Worcester, Massachusetts
16	Wm. Hays	W	0		Massachusetts								Married	Elizabeth	0	Worcester, Massachusetts
17	Wm. Hays	W	0		Massachusetts								Married	Elizabeth	0	Worcester, Massachusetts
18	Wm. Hays	W	0		Massachusetts								Married	Elizabeth	0	Worcester, Massachusetts
19	Wm. Hays	W	0		Massachusetts								Married	Elizabeth	0	Worcester, Massachusetts

NOTE 1 - In making entries in columns 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 to 23, an affirmative mark only will be used - i.e., /, except in the case of illiterate persons, column 11, when the letter "D" is to be used.
 NOTE 2 - Question No. 12 will only be asked in cases where an affirmative answer has been given either in question 10 or in question 11.
 NOTE 3 - Question No. 14 will only be asked in cases where a gainful occupation has been reported in question 10 or in question 11.
 NOTE 4 - In columns 7 and 8 abbreviations in the case of the month may be used, as Jan., Apr., Dec.

1970s cars (over)

Year	Make	Model	Color	Engine	Transmission	Drive	Condition	Notes
1970	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1971	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1972	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1973	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1974	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1975	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1976	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1977	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1978	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1979	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1980	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1981	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1982	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1983	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1984	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1985	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1986	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1987	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1988	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1989	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1990	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1991	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1992	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1993	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1994	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1995	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1996	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1997	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1998	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
1999	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
2000	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
2001	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
2002	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
2003	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
2004	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
2005	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
2006	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
2007	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
2008	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
2009	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
2010	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
2011	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
2012	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
2013	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
2014	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
2015	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
2016	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
2017	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
2018	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
2019	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...
2020	Ford	Mustang	Black	289	4-Speed	RWD	Good	...

*Historic Salem, Inc.
House History & Plaque Program*

If interested in commissioning a written history of your Salem house and having a plaque to identify its construction date and early owner(s), please fill in the blanks below.

NAME: *DAVIS, CROCKER, FRASER, BARRY*

NAME OF OWNER (if different from above):

CONTACT: tel. home 741-1191 tel. work 781-233-2550 mail _____

STREET ADDRESS:

7 CARPENTER STREET

DATE PURCHASED & FROM WHOM:

March 1999 become 7 Carpenter At Condominiums

HELPFUL INFO ABOUT

THE BUILDING (append copies if necessary):

This building was an orphanage, I believe in the 1800's and then became a nursing home. In January or February of 1999 there was an article in the Salem Evening News detailing the history and renovations that were going on. I was

The fee for a professionally prepared history and sign is \$350. Please send a check for that amount, made out to Historic Salem, Inc., with this form, to _____
(address)

The purpose of this program is to raise people's awareness of Salem's pre-1914 architecture and history and those who helped to make it. The final report on your house will have narrative and documentary sections. The narrative identifies the house's early residents and the events of their lives, and relates them to the larger events occurring in Salem and beyond. It is keyed to primary and secondary sources so that you may be assured of accuracy. Appended are copies of deeds, atlases, and (sometimes) inventories of furnishings. The plaque is produced by Historic Salem Inc., which will suggest its wording, subject to your approval.

*unable to find a copy. If you need to
speak with anyone please feel free to call
me - Karen Davis*

*Karen & Michael Davis
Sandy & Ken Crocker
Alacey & Henry Fraser
Mary & Dick Barry*