# 46 Chestnut Street Salem

Built for

Mrs. Martha Luscomb Webb

1870

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On 3 May 1870 Mrs. Martha Webb for \$1300 purchased from Elizabeth Hodges a piece of land on Chestnut Street (ED 797:13). The lot fronted southerly 33' 3" on Chestnut Street, and bounded easterly 67' on land of J.B. Curwen, northerly 44' 6" on land of Lemuel Higbee, and westerly 65' on land of the King heirs.

The double house was built late in 1870, evidently, and certainly by 1871, in cooperation with James B. Curwen, who owned the easterly half of the new house. It was modeled on the so-called Second Empire style of architecture, made popular in France in the 1850s and 1860s, and featuring a mansard roof to create a third story of livable space.

Martha Tucker Luscomb (1804-1888) was born in Salem on Oct. 4, 1804, exactly three months after the birth of another Salem child named Nathaniel Hathorne, Jr. She was the daughter of a house painter, William Luscomb (1773-1820), and his wife Mehitable Mansfield (1774?-1825). Martha was the second-youngest of seven children, six of whom survived infancy. Her only brother, William G. Luscomb, became a merchant but died at Panama in 1826, probably of a tropical fever, at the age of 25.

Martha T. Luscomb married Stephen Webb (1802-1869) in 1831. He was the son of Capt. Benjamin Webb, and was employed, at that time, probably in a merchant's counting house; and he eventually became a bank manager and later an official with Internal Revenue. Stephen and Martha Webb resided at 81 Essex Street in the handsome old Hodges mansion, and had several children, the first of whom was named William George Webb, probably in honor of Mrs. Webb's deceased brother William G. Luscomb.

By 1850, Mr. Stephen Webb was the cashier (manager) of the Mercantile Bank of Salem, with real estate worth \$8100; he and Martha, 44, resided at 81 Essex Street with their children William G., 18, a clerk, Stephen, 15, John

F., 11, Martha, ten, and Isabella, two, and they had two Irish servants, Mary Callaghan, 34, and Margaret O'Leary, 15. In another part of that house resided their tenant, Capt. Emery S. Johnson, 23, a shipmaster, his wife Annie, 24, and Eunice Baker, 30 (per 1850 census, house 429).

The Webbs' sons, William George Webb and John Felt Webb 2d, became engaged in Salem's trade with the east coast of Africa, especially Zanzibar. This trade, which included dealing in slaves, was prosecuted by Capt. John Bertram, the eminent merchant, who employed other members of the Webb family as well. William G. Webb, a merchant with offices in the Asiatic Building, wed Annie P. Bertram, 21, in 1867. They resided at 38 Chestnut Street (see 1869 Salem Directory) at that time and afterwards.

Mr. Stephen Webb died on 2 May 1869, in his 67<sup>th</sup> year. Mrs. Martha Webb and her children soon made plans to re-locate to Chestnut Street, and entered into an agreement with James B. Curwen to share the costs of building this large double house in 1870-1.

Residing here in 1871 (per 1872 Salem Directory) with Mrs. Webb were her son, John Felt Webb 2d, 33, and her daughters Martha, 31, and Isabelle, 21. John F. Webb was named for an uncle, Capt. John F. Webb, who had been active in the trade with Zanzibar (he was U.S. Consul there for some time) and had spent most of his life abroad, dying in 1861—a character straight out of the novels of Joseph Conrad. The namesake was of a similar bent, and, like his brother W.G. Webb, went as a young man to Zanzibar, probably in the employ of Capt. Bertram. W.G. Webb went on to China, in the employ of Augustine Heard in the illegal opium trade; and it may be that J.F. Webb 2<sup>nd</sup> did the same.

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John Felt Webb Esq. did return from Zanzibar, however briefly; and he died at Bangor, Maine, in early December, 1876, aged 38 years (per Salem Register, 4 Dec. 1876). After that, the house was occupied by Mrs. Martha Webb and her two unmarried daughters, Martha and Isabel.

In the booklet *Notes on The Building of Chestnut Street* (p. 25), R.H. Wiswall and H.W. Belknap write that this house was "built by James B. Curwen and William G. Webb probably not much before 1870," and "in No. 46 lived William G. Webb, 1869, and the Webb family until 1914." The booklet is incorrect about the date of construction and the first occupants (in 1869-70 and after, W.G. Webb resided at 38 Chestnut Street; it was his mother and siblings who resided here). The inaccuracies appear to arise from the authors' lack of interest in the houses built "later" on the street.

Mrs. Martha (Luscomb) Webb and her daughters Martha and Isabelle continued to reside here for many years. In 1880 (per 1880 census, ED 264, SD 60, p.39) Mrs. Martha L. Webb, 76, was "keeping house" here, while daughter Martha Webb, 40, and daughter Isabelle Webb, 30, were "at home," along with their servant, Anastasia Denney, 28, born in Ireland.

Mrs. Martha Webb died on Sunday morning, Christmas Eve, 1888, aged 84 years. Her obituary refers to her "fine social qualities," and to her being "refined and dignified, generous and affectionate," with "deep religious convictions." Her "faculties were preserved to the last" (per Salem *Gazette*, 25 Dec. 1888).

After her death, the property was inherited by her son William G. Webb and her daughters Martha and Isabelle. In February, 1892, W.G. Webb conveyed his interest in the homestead to his two sisters, Martha, and "Isabella" Webb (ED 1334:240).

The two Misses Webb never married. Martha predeceased Isabel, who died on 29 June 1913, aged 65 years. Isabel, born 6 June 1848, died here at home, and "was a lady very much esteemed" (obituary, Salem *Evening News*, 29 June 1913).

In October, 1913, the heir of the Misses Webb, their niece Mrs. Mary K. (Webb) Sanders, of Haverhill, sold the house and land to Mrs. Elizabeth J. Kiely of Salem, who resided here at least through 1935, by which time she

had died. The house remained in the Kiely estate through 1940 and probably beyond.

--Robert Booth for Historic Salem Inc., 4 Dec. 2000

#### Glossary

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### 3 may 1870 Elizabeth Hodges to Montha L. Welsh (z pages)

E. Sbodger dinow all men by these presents, Frat I, Elizabeth Mi. B. Webl - Hodges, of Saleme in the bounty of lessex and thate of Massicher- one x1. Inc? Excluse bone ( ette, in consideration of Universe hundred dollars paid by Mar 500 bonny and stamps.

through Webb of said Salem, the receipt whereof whereby acknowl-buneless. \_\_ edged, do heraby give grant, bangain, telle and convey unto the \_ ind Martha & Well and her heine and arright foreuer a eertain panel of landuttitated en bleetnitt. It in suid solem which - land will bought by the late Gamalul Hodger of Jorush 3. Burnel and Timothy Willman, and recorded in Essex Registry Books 357 & 284, bure 74 & 261, and bounded as follows Dis. Com. mensing at the southwest corner thereof on brestnit street, theme running Northerly by land of the hund of thermy Hing decented sixty from feet, thence enterly by land of Luncul Higher forty four. feet and eix inches, theree withinly by land of Jamel B. Gurwen,

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W. G, W chb 15 ch. W chb a-ar.

Fromour all men by these presents that 3, williams. Webb of dalem, Essey bounty, Massachusetts, in consideration of One Dollar and other valuable considerations had by Martha Webb and I sabella Webb, both of laid dolen, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby remise, release and forever quitains unto the each Martha Webt and I Rabella Webb, all my right, title, and interest in and to a certain parcel of land, situate in said dalew, and bounded as follows; Beginning at the continuestarly corner thereof on Chestmut direct, thence running northerly by land of Coharles Higher eighy-five feet, thence carterly by land of & encuelotique forty four feet and by makes, thence southerly by land of James B. Coursen sixty sever feet, and thence westerly by said Chestrul-Street thirty-three feet and three makes to the point begun cet; being the same forenceses concern were conveyed to ney recother, Marita, in Wille, by deed of Elizabeth it odges, dated May 3, 1970, and recorded with hissey Fouth Duties Deeds. Book 797, & cat 13. elly lille to each premises is derived by unwitance from my said mother, whose only heureal law in addition to muself, were the grantees herein-named To have and to read live granted premises, write all the princiages and appurhenances literato belonging, to this said other tha Webb and I sabilla Webb, and their i were and william. to their own use and vilroof forener, and I do hereby, for mujerif and my news, executors and administrators, covenant with the said grantees and their heirs and assigns, that live granted premises are free from all incumbrances made or suifered by me, and that I will and my heirs, executors and admin-Utrators eshall warrant and defend the same to the said grantees and their heirs and arrigus forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons claiming by, etrrough, or under me, but against-none other. And for the consideralton aforexaid, I, anne is. Well, wife of eard Welliams. Webb, hereby release unto the grantees and their heurs and assigns, all right of or to both dower and homestead in the granted formuses. In witness whereof we, the early william G. Webb, and annie B. Webb, hereunto let our hands and leads this fifteenth day of Nebruary in the year one thousand eight hundred and runety two. W. Geo. 75 esb annie 33. Webb digned, sealed and delivered tulusassaNo jo Allosunominos o vao 16, le nobru l' jo asusery mi Henry M. Goodrich J Essep, so. Neby 16th. 1892. Fien frer Emaily appeared the above-named William G. Webb, and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his free act and deed, before ne, Rujus B. Vifjord, Jr. Fuelice of the Beace.

Aflat irons \$1: candlesticks, lamps De \$1:	. 2 in
8 lb. brass lamps 4. \$1.33 hamper, mill to . 75c	2.08
Copper pan 75c. small glass & 80c. tin kitchen \$1.	255
Twe buckets SDc. brass kettle \$2.75 chairs \$150	. 4.75 _
Casy chair \$4: 12 chairs \$5: 1 bed and bedstead \$16:	2A:
1 pair blankets \$1. copperplate bed curtains \$ 250	9.50
Counterpane and 3 quilt \$13- Thairs hillow cases \$1:40	- 14:40
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Watch \$5: Thaving apparatus &1. Thureau &1 -	. 13:
1 bureau swelled front \$92 2 glasses and case \$52	14:
Mair andirons 15 c. 3 small trunks \$1 -	1:75
I bedand covering with bedstead \$ 20:	-20:
I ditto ditto do do do Do	20.4
Yblankets \$350 3 nigs 750_	425
Bolster, cushion and old curtains 23:	3:4
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Dated at Salem January 11th, 1823. Seth Low; 40m Hathor	ne. Cahhraisevs.
Hom Hathorn Judith Barnard, administratrix. Mark Pitmi	an.
Essex, sv. At a court of probate holden at Salem in and for s	aid county on the his
Costo, so sua cour co province de des de Constante de la const	rontarin unescente the
Juesday in April, AD. 1823. Judith Barnard, administ	ret inventorie ak the
aforewritten, and makes outh, that it contains a trick and perf	Sterame docarsed
estate of Edward Burnard, late of Salem in said county, apr	Lil if I
intestate so far as has come to her hands or knowledge; and the	al, y any mang fur
ther shall hereafter appear, she will cause it to be of vecond	hevewelt in the fwo
bate office . It is thereupon decreed, that the same be accept	ed, allowed and re
corded.	A. White, f. fivo
Recorded from the original, and examined by North De	grayes, reguster.

### 23 Jan. 1856 will of Copt. Edward Barnard,

A Edward Branniard of Salum in the country of Essep , ship master being more in my usual health and of sound and disposing mind and memory do make this present writing to be my last will and testament as follows wis:

I order my executrix hereinoifter manned to pay all my just debts and reasonable, funcral charges out of my personal estate as soon as conveniently may be after my dicease:

First. As a token of my affectionate remembrance. I give to each of my two sous Edward and Thomas the sum of len dollars believing that they need less the senace property I am possessed of thou others who are dependent upon me:

Second. And after the payments aforesaid. I give all the rost, residue and remainder of my estate and property. real and personal, unto my beloved wife. Julia Barnard during her natural life; preaming that she shall extend the income. and any part of the principal which she may find, precessary to the income. and any part of the principal which she may find, precessary to the imaintenance of horself and children now prembers of my family, and at her decease, what remains of my said estate and property shall be equally divided among Julia Barnard, my wife is child, and my adopted child, and my own children Banjamin Ho. Barnard, and Elizabeth Barnard, to them, their heirs executors, administrators and assigns forever, in equal, shares, to whom I now give devise and bequeath the same after the decease of my said wife, as aforesaid.

And I appoint my said wife to be the executive of this will and hareby . revoke all former wills .

Su within whereof I the said Edward Barnard have hereuite set my hand and said this twenty third day of January AD our thousand, eight hundred and fifty six.

Synato water pullation and distance orders for the last of Barnard bear for the last of the Barnard bear for the last of the l

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E. Hodger Timow all men by these proceents, Frat I, Elizabeth Mr. B. Webl Hoodge, of Saleme in the bounty of Eurex and thate of Massicher one x1. me? sette, in consideration of thirteen hundred dollars, paid by Mur 50c. Comers, and then be the best will be the sound of the standard of the second of the se that be Webb of wid Salem, the receipt whereof a hereby acknowl-burele edged, do hereby give grant, bargain, ell and convey unto the and Martha & Wells and her heart and arright forever a cert tain panel of landuterated on bheetnest It in such solem which land was bought by the late Gamaliel Hodger of Joseph 3. Burnel and Timothy Willman, and recorded in Essex Registry Books 357 & 284, bure 74 & 261, and bounded as follows Des. Com. menering at the southwest corner thereof on Chestnut street theme running Mortherly by land of the head of thermy String deceased sixty five feet, thence enterly by land of Lenned Higher forty four. feet and ux inches, theree southerly by land of Jamel B. Gur wen,

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W. G. W chb lò ch. W chb ce-ce.

Homour all men by these present that 3, william 8. Webt of Salem, Essep bounty, Massachusetts, in consideration of One Dollar and other valuable considerations had by Martha Webb and I rabella Webb, both of land dolum, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby remuse, release and forever quitalain unto the eard Northa Well and I eabello Webb, all my right, title, and interest is and to a certain parcel of land, settate in said dalem, and bounded as forlows; Beginning at the couthwesterly corner thereof on Chestmut dtreet, thence running northerly by land of Coharles Higher sixty-five feet, thence carterly by land of & enculorization forty four feet and by makes, thence coultrarly by land of James B. Curwen sixty seven feet, and thence westerly by said Ohestmel-Street therty-three feet and three makes to the point begun at; being the same premieses inciencives conveyed to my mother, Moutrasi. Wieb. by deed of Elizabeth it odges. dated Nay 3, 1870, and recorded with live youth District Deeds, Book 797, & caf 13. My title to Each premises is derived by unwitance from my said mother, whose only heure at law in addition to myself, were the grantes herein-named. To have and to hold the granted premises, write all the princiages and appurhenances thereto belonging, to the said chartha Webb and I sabella Webb, and their viers and assigns. to their own use and believe forener. and I do hereby, for myself and my news, executors and administrators, covenant with the said grantes and their heirs and assigns, that the granted prenuses are free from all encumbrances made or suffered by me, and that I will and my hers, execution and advin-Utrators Shall warrant and defend the same to the said grantees and their heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons claiming by, through, or under me, but against-none other. And for the consideralion aforexaid, I, anne is. Webb, wife of eard Williams. Webb, hereby release unto the grantees and their heirs and assigns, all right of or to both dower and homesteads in the granted frameses. In withers whereof we, the early William G. Webb, and annie B. Webb, hereunto let our hands and leads this fifteenth day of shebruary in the year one thousand eight dde Dr. oal . W hundred and runety two. Tigned, sealed and delivered) anne 35. Webb steeliheassa No fo Allas wroming of own 16.6 no brull fo consery wi. Henry M. Goodrich J Essep, so. Neby 16th. 1892. Fren frer Emaily appeared the above-named William G. Webb, and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his free act and deed, before me, Rufus B. Vifford, Jr. Fustice of the Deace.

### 30-6ct 1913 MK Sonders to EJ Kiely

I, mary of Sanders, of Haverfull in Esser country. of trang, build natharable nos of attenues accounts Elizabeth J. Wiely of Salem in said country with warranty covenants the isnd in Salem aforesaid bounded as follows. a certain passel of land with the build lings thereon situated in calem aforesaid and bounded as follows. Responded at the southwest selly corner thereof on Chestnut St. thence running northerry by land of Charles Higher, northy fine (65. feet; thence turning and running Easterly byland of Semuel Angles, forty four (44) feet and soir (6) inches, thence turning and running southerly by land of James B. Curuen, neutry seven (6) feet, thunk turnteen List y plisteel grunner and grunnet St thirty three (33) feet and three (3) inches to the point begun at Being the same property conveyed by deed of William I. Well to Martha and I rabella Well, dated February 15, 1892, and recorded in the Esser South Dist Regetry of Deeds, Book 1334 Page \$240, and which I inherited as heir at law of the raid Martha Welf and as devisee under the will of said Isabella Well. I, Mathaniel & H. Sanders husband of said grantow, release to said grantee all rights as tenant by the curtisy and described wierest steerests where Western also all our hands and reals this 30th day of October 1913 Commonwealth! mary of Sanders of massachu. noise orebono L. R. Le lemantan bettle. Exercise circles 30, 1913. Then personally appeared the above mamed Mary N. Sanders and acknowle Edged the foregoing maternate to be her free act and Ideed, before me,

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Bracerson fecured november of undetermination fundadana

thirties, first, municipality and the peace.

1897-1902; Mrs. Thomas Belknap, 1906-1907; Charles

A. Brown and his widow, 1907-1938.

The remaining houses on the street are of more recent

No. 42 No. 42 Chestnut Street, now occupied by Mr. Charles S. Coxe, 1929-1939, was built by Miss Maria Ropes in 1858, designed by Foster & Emerton. After her death it was purchased of the Ropes estate by Tobias H. Hanson in 1879 for \$5300 and occupied by him to 1894. Later occupants were Mrs. E. O. P. Sturgis, 1895-1900, Mrs. C. H. Hagar, 1913-1916, and J. Foster Smith, 1921-1924.

Nos. 44-46 This wooden block now occupied by Mr. Arthur P. Sullivan, 1929-1939, and Mrs. Looney, 1909-1939, was built by James B. Curwen and William G. Webb probably not much before 1870. They drew lots for their houses and Mr. Webb took the western half, No. 44 was occupied by Charles Eugene Fabens, 1872-1874; James H. Davis, 1876-1882; Mrs. N. C. Upton,

1884-1887, and George Abbot Furness, 1893-1904. No. 46 In No. 46 lived William G. Webb, 1869, and the Webb family until 1914.

tervals was occupied by her until her death, when it was unoccupied until John Pickering and his family moved Stephen G. Wheatland in 1896, and with occasional in-No. 30 No. 30 Chestnut Street was built by Mrs. there in 1937.

No. 48 The last and newest house on the street was built in 1909 by Miss Emmerton, and purchased and occupied by Mr. Francis A. Seamans until his death. ir works a tremslag of Cleganis St hy RHW 1939 E.I.

Aflat irons \$1: candlesticks, lamps Ve. \$1: 8 lk. brass lamps Ve. \$1:33 hamper, mile Ve. 45c	2:08	
Copper pan 75c. Small glass 4.80c. tin ketchen \$1:	255	, Zaki i
Twe buckets SDc. brass kettle \$275 chains \$150	. 4.75	
Easy chair \$4: 12 chairs \$5: 1 bed and bedstead \$15	_24	is gra grander 198
I pair blankets \$1. copperplate bed curtains \$250	950	
Counterpane and Squilt \$13: Thairs fullow cases \$140	: 14:40	n with
Hopairs sheets \$1130 wearing apparels \$150	8630	
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Thureau swelled front 49: 2 glasses and case 45:	14:	Shir Lagran
I have and won the Damall town & Mi	175	
Ibedand covering with bedstead \$ 20:	20:4	
l'ditto ditto do do do 20:	20:0-	
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	\$ <u>519</u>	8:40
Dated at Salem January 11th, 1823. Seth Low,	7	
TO THE PERSON OF	ne, Capprais	evs,
flaith Barnard, administrative. Mark Vitm	ian,	
Cosser, sv. Itta court of probate holden at Talem in and for	vaid county on the	z first
Tuesday in April, A.D. 1823 Judith Barnard, adminis	tvatriy, presents	the
aforewritten, and makes oath, that it contains a trice and per	ket inverstory of	the
estate of Calivard Bournard, late of Salem in said county, ap	ottiecavy, deceas	cd,
intestate so for as has come to her hands or knowledge, and to		
ther shall hereafter appear, she will cause it to be of vecond	hevewith in the	fwo-
bate office: It is thereupon decreed, that the same be accept	ted, allowed and	lve-
corded.	A. White, f.	Junob.

### 23 Jan. 1856 will of Copt. Edward Barnard.

Solvarit Brannierd of Salem in the country of Essex , ship master being move in pay usual health and of sound and disposing mind and memory do make this present writing to be my last will and testament as follows was .

I order my executrix hereinafter manned to pay all my just debts and reasonable funeral charges out of my personal estate as soon as conveniently may be after my decease:

First. As a token of my affectionate remembrance. I give to each of my two sous Edward and Thomas the sum of ten dollars believing that they need less the senale property I am possessed of than others who are dependent upon me:

Second. And after the payments aforesaid. I give all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate and property, real and personal, unto my beloved wife. Julia Barnard during her natural life; meaning that she shall expend the income and any part of the principal which she may find necessary to the income and any part of the principal which she may find necessary to the income. And any part of the principal which she may find pecessary to the income. What remains of my said estate and property shall be equally divided among Julia Barnard, my wife is child, and my adopted child, and my own children Barjanier to Barnard, and Elizabeth Barnard to them their heirs executors, administrators and assigns forever, in equal shares, to whom I mow give devise and bequeath the same after the decease of my said wife as aforesaid;

And I appoint my said wife to be the executivity of this will , and harely , revoke all former wills .

In witness whereof I the said Edward Barnard have hereuite set my hand and said this twenty third day of January, AD. one thousand, eight hundred and fifty six

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