Salein Salein Incorporated

POST OFFICE BOX 865

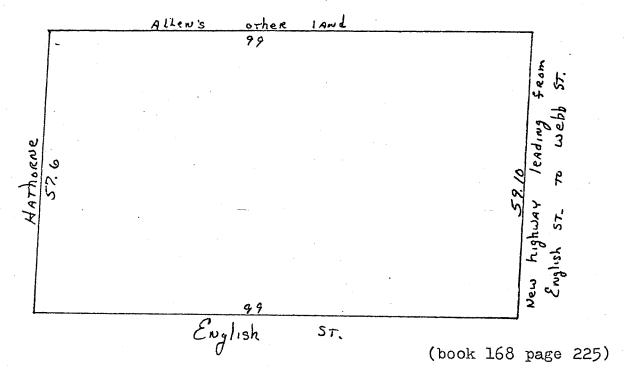
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970 / PHONE (617) 745-0799

41 English Street
Built for,
ELIZABETH GRAY, widow of JOHN
by the year 1806

Research by,
Joyce King
July 1981

"to preserve Historic Sites, Buildings and objects, and to work for the education of the community in the true value of the same." English Street, originally called English's lane, was laid out over the land of Philip English and others about 1697. The lot on which this house stands was part of the land owned by Mary English in 1684/5. (appendix A).

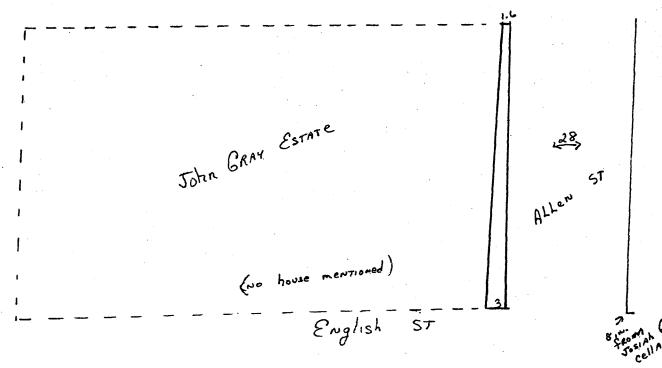
On June 25, 1801 John Gray, a Salem mariner, purchased a plot of land on English Street from Capt. Edward Allen for the sum of \$400:



John Gray was born in Salem in 1771 and married Elizabeth Brown on Nov. 3, 1794. The couple, with their children Eliza (b.1795), John (b.1797) and William B. (b. 1799) were living on Barton Ct. when they purchased the lot on English St. Mr. Gray intended to build a home on this lot upon his return from the next voyage. Unfortunately, Mr. Gray died of a fever on March 7, 1802 while in Batavia. The news of his death was not received in Salem until July 31, 1802 (appendix B, also Rev. Bentley's Parish List of Deaths).

An inventory of Mr. Gray's estate (probate #11612) indicates that the value of the English St. lot was \$300. The item with the greatest worth was 2881 pounds of coffee, at 18¢ per pound, total value \$518.58. This was undoubtedly the money Mr. Gray intended to use to finance his English St. house (appendix C).

On Oct. 4, 1804 Allen Street was accepted by the city as a public way. The John Gray estate was awarded a \$10 compensation for a small wedge of land needed for the width of the newly formed street:

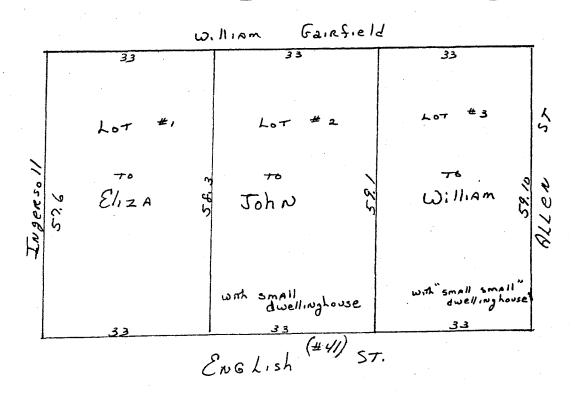


(town records for 1804)

Elizabeth Gray died on May 15, 1806. In his list of Parish Deaths, Rev. William Bentley made note of her death "Elizabeth, widow of John Gray. Fever, 33 years. Husband died in 1802. She was a Browne, married at 21. Left two sons and an infirm daughter. Not long sick. English street."

The first mention of a house on this land appears in the probate (#11598) of Mrs. Elizabeth Gray (appendix D). Along with the property Elizabeth inherited from her father, Benjamin Browne, is "A small house standing on land the estate of John Gray late of Salem dec^d. Situate on English Street Salem". Value \$200. By reading the inventory of her estate one is given the impression that Mrs. Gray earned a living as either a tailoress or shopkeeper (appendix D).

Benjamin Browne, brother of Elizabeth, was appointed guardian of the Gray children. On Nov. 1, 1806 Mr. Browne sold the Essex and Becket St. properties, but retained the English St. estate for the benefit of the heirs. It can not be determined who occupied the house during the children's minority. A division of the estate was made on June 23, 1820, 18 days after the youngest child, William, reached his 21st birthday:



The 1831 tax records for English St. show that John Gray Jr., (ropemaker) owned a house with a shop in it valued at \$300. William B. Gray also owned a house with a shop in it, plus one swine, total value \$200.

On Sept. 18, 1843 John Gray, ropemaker, and his wife Abigail sold for the sum of \$800 "To my brother William B., cordwainer, a lot of land on English Street with shop and two story dwelling house, being lots #1 (purchased from Eliza) and #2 in the division made in book 225 page 39." The Salem Street Books for 1844 substantiate this transaction:

English Street occupants

#13 (now 41) Joseph Papulla age 28 (real estate sold to Nathaniel Andrews age 27 William B. Gray \$800)

#15 (formerly 16 Allen St)
William B. Gray
John Gray

1849 English Street

#13 Frederick Hunt John Stanley Thomas Stanley

#15 William B. Gray William Gray Charles

The federal census of 1850 gives a closer look as to the occupants of the Gray estate:

#13 Elizabeth Stanley John W. "	age	53 24	tailor	born	Mass.
Thomas	11	22	carpenter	11	11
Elizabeth P."	11	15	· <u>+</u>	11	11
Mary E. "	11	lĺ		11	11
Margaret A. "	11	8		11	11
Sarah A. Goodhue	-11	16		tt	- 11
2nd family					
Frederick Hunt	11	39	engineer	11	11
Mary "	11	34	•	11	11
Mary M. "	11	15		11	11
Celeste E · "	11	7		tt	11
Almeda "	11	4		17	11 .
Frederick W.	11	1		11	**

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(1850 census cont.)
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#15 English Street

William B. Hannah	Gray "	age	61 49	grocer	born	Mass.
William	11	11	27	clerk	11	11
Charles	11	11	25	trader	11	11
Mary	11	11	23		. 11	11
Elizabeth	11	11	20		11	11
Daniel	11	11	19	mariner	11	1) .
Edward W.	11	11	17	cooper	11	11
John	11	11	16	-	11	11
Nathaniel	11	11	13		11	11
Margaret C.	11	11	10		11 -	11
Eliza	11	11	64		11	11

The tax records for 1855 indicate new tenants:

#13 Robert Peele Jr.
Daniel Ellis
Robert Peele 3rd
Francis W. Lyford

owner William B. Gray \$900

The 1860 census listing for #13 English:

	Edward Miller Louisa "	age	35 27	mariner	born	Sweden Mass.
	George E. "	11	4		11	11
	Nicholas	11	i		#1	tt .
2nd	family					
	Nathaniel Soley	11	25	stevedore	11 .	11
	Harriet E. "	11	22		11	tt -
	Ellen "	11	16		11	11

1866 tax records:

#13 John A. Welsh	age 32	owner	Wm B. Gray	
Thomas Hyfle	" 30		house value	\$400
		32 X 59	land value	300

1870 census

Mary Potter	age	58		born	Mass.
Martha "	11	30	no occupation	11	11
Mary A. "	11	21	works at printing	<u>, 11</u>	11
Samuel "	11	19	insurance office	11	11
Annie A. "	11	17	no occupation	11	11
2nd family			·		•
Catherine Welsh	11	65	keeps house	11	Mass.
John E. "	11	35	mariner	11	11

English Street was renumbered in 1870 as evidenced in the tax records:
#41 John A. Welsh age 36 owner Wm B. Gray house \$600
Samuel A. Potter age 19

1872 #41 Augustus Forness age 35 owner Wm B. Gray James Potter age 21

On Sept. 18, 1874 William Gray sold to his son-in-law, Augustus W. Forness, "The land and buildings which was set off to John Gray and which he subsequently conveyed to me by deed book 339 page 122." See plan (appendix E).

The land and buildings were transferred, by Augustus and Margaret Forness, back to William B. Gray on Nov. 14, 1876. "The same premises conveyed to me by William B. Gray on Sept. 18, 1874 in book 912 page 202."

1876 taxes:

#41 Samuel A. Potter owner Wm B. Gray house \$700 Dudley Sanborn land 400

The 1880 census gives a clearer picture of the Potter and Sanborn families:

2nd	Samuel A. Potter Martha E. "family	age	39 40	insurance agent sister keeps house	born	Mass.
	Edward Sanborn	11	34	laborer	11	11 -
	Abby A. "	11	30	wife keeps house	11	11
	Annie F. "	11	12	daughter at school	11	. 11
	Edward R. "	* 11	10	son at school	11	11
	William "	11	6	son	11	11
	Jennie "	.11	4	daughter	11	11 .

William B. Gray died on Feb. 18, 1887. The Salem Observer carried this obituary notice:

"William B. Gray, a venerable resident of down town, dropped dead in Danvers, yesterday morning, where he had gone to transact some business at the Savings Bank. He was 88 years of age and for a number of years kept a grocery store at the corner of English and Allen Streets. He was a man of sterling character and universally respected."

In the probate case (#64637) of William B. Gray a list of heirs is given:

Nathaniel A. Gray John Gray Caroline A. Florentine Mary C. Forness Edwin W. Gray William C. Goldsmith son daughter daughter grandson grandson

(appendix F)

On August 4, 1887 the heirs of William B. Gray sold at a private sale to Bridget Lahan 41 English St. (book 1203 pages 123-125). On Sept. 1, 1887 a straw deed was drawn with the sole purpose of correcting the previous deeds in which Honora Lahan was erroneously called Bridget Lahan (book 1204 page 522).

1887 tax records:

#41 James A. Hall machine agent Francis A. " clerk James S. Plummer painter

owner Wm B. Gray house \$500 land 300 (written in blue pencil Honora Lahan)

1895 taxes:

#41 John H. Lehan laborer age 54 William J. " shoemaker " 28 Edward J. " " " 26 Thomas J. " 21

owner Honora Lehan house \$700 land 300

1900 tax

William J. Lehan shoemaker owner Honora Hehan Edward J. " electrician (same value as 1895) Thomas J. " shoemaker Timothy J. Maroney teamster

On Feb. 1, 1901 Patrick J., John J., William, Edward and Thomas Lehan sold to Hannah M. Lehan, "all our right as heirs of our mother Honora Lehan." For title see book 1203 pages 123-125. (book 1633 page 238)

1905 tax

Edward J. Lehan electrician owner H.M.Lehan house \$800 William J. " laborer land 400 Thomas J. " electrician Joseph F. Langlois teamster

On Dec. 14, 1909 Hannah M. Lehan mortgaged the property to Thomas O'Shea, of Peabody, for the sum of \$1,200 (book 1998 page 96). Mr. O'Shea assigned the mortgage to the Naumkeag Trust Co., who foreclosed on the mortgage on Jan. 9, 1935 (book 3026 page 53).

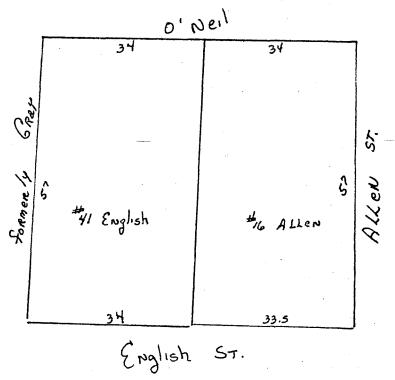
On March 16, 1935 the Naumkeag Trust Co. sold the premises to Leger and Eva Lavoie, husband and Wife (book 3028 page 458).

Jan. 24, 1946 Leger F. and Eva Lavoie sold the premises to Frank A. and Francis M. Fabello (book 3437 page 560).

Frank A. and Francis M. Fabello sold, the same property sold to them by Leger F. Lavoie et ux, to Christos and Mary Tillas on July 24, 1963 (book 5085 page 94).

In 1967 the Peabody Co-op Bank holder of a mortgage from Christo and Mary Tillas foreclosed for default (book 5425 page 493). On Sept. 28, 1967 the Peabody Co-op Bank sold to Clart Realty Corp. (book 5479 page 799). The title of this property, along with 18 other parcels were transferred to Nicholas J. Decoulos and then to Nicholas J. Decoulos as trustee of Garland Realty Trust on Dec. 20, 1978 (book 6552 page 402).

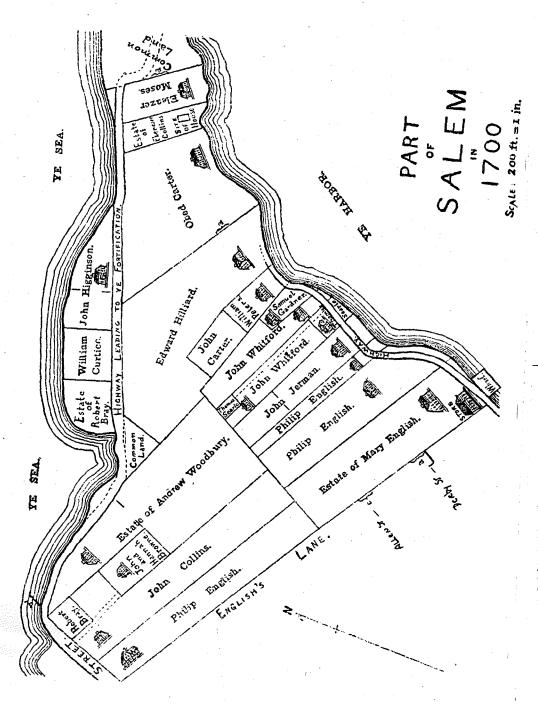
On August 14, 1970 Nicholas J. Decoulas, as trustee of Garland Realty Trust sold to Edward F. Preble, of 41 English St., two parcels:



(book 6621 page 352)

Note: Tax records seldom list widows, therefore the exact date of construction can not be determined. The earliest documented date of 1806 (Elizabeth Gray's probate) must be taken. The time span of 1802-1806 is a certainty.

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.



Estate of Mary English House (Blue Anchor Tavern). This house and lot were the estate of William Hollingworth before 1661. He mortgaged the estate to Mr. Philip Cromwell of Salem, for two hundred and fifty pounds, June 1, 1672;§ Mr. Hollingworth was lost at sea in 1677; and Mr. Cromwell, who was then a slaughterer, for the amount of the mortgage, conveyed the house and lot to Mr. Hollingworth's widow, Elinor Hollingworth, of Salem, it then being in her possession, March 4, 1681-2. Mrs. Hollingworth is said to have established the business of an innkeeper in this house, which became known as The Blue Anchor Tavern. She conveyed the house and land with the wharf and landing place, to her daughter

*Essex Registry of Deeds, book 7, leaf 55.
†Essex Registry of Deeds, book 1, leaf 6, and book 2, leaf 64.

‡Essex Registry of Deeds, book 2, leaf 104. \$Essex Registry of Deeds, book 3, leaf 160. #Essex Registry of Deeds, book 6, leaf 42. Mary English Feb. 17, 1684-5;* and died in 1690.

The tavern was probably conducted by her grandson Philip English as soon as he became of age (in 1705). Upon the death of his mother, in 1694, the estate descended to him. He lived in and conducted the tavern when he conveyed the land, house, warehouse and wharf for six hundred pounds, to Richard Derby of Salem, mariner, Feb. 24, 1748.† Mr. Derby took the house down about 1759.

Dr. William Bentley wrote, in 1791, of this house as follows: "At the eastward of English's lane near the water is a store enlarged, but originally built above one hundred years. A few yards above is the large cellar, the stones of which were sold six years since, but the steps remain, over which stood a very large house with peaks as English's below, and which was employed as a tavern by the name of the BLUE ANCHOR. It has been down above forty years and there was a store put over the cellar, which within a few years has been removed into North Fields. Beyond on the shore is to be seen the cellar of a house possessed by Mary Brown, the land being since sold to Capt. Richard Derby. On the west side of English's lane, opposite to the tavern, is a cellar upon which stood a house within the memory of the present generation. Beyond Brown's house and Whitford's, which is a house since built, about twenty years, and now standing, is to be seen the cellar of Webb's house, the land being yet in the family. There were three other houses before we came to the group upon the Point of Rocks, and one cellar is now to be seen upon the plain between the Block house ruins and the present enclosure upon the Point. The Blue Anchor was celebrated for Marblehead Campains."!

Doctor Bentley continued, in 1793: "Mary English was the only child of

William Hollingworth, who married Eleanor Story, from England. The family lived at the Point of Rocks, and Mary, the accused was born at the Blue Anchor, at the head of English's wharf eastward. The house afterwards a public house, and has been taken down about thirty-three years."*



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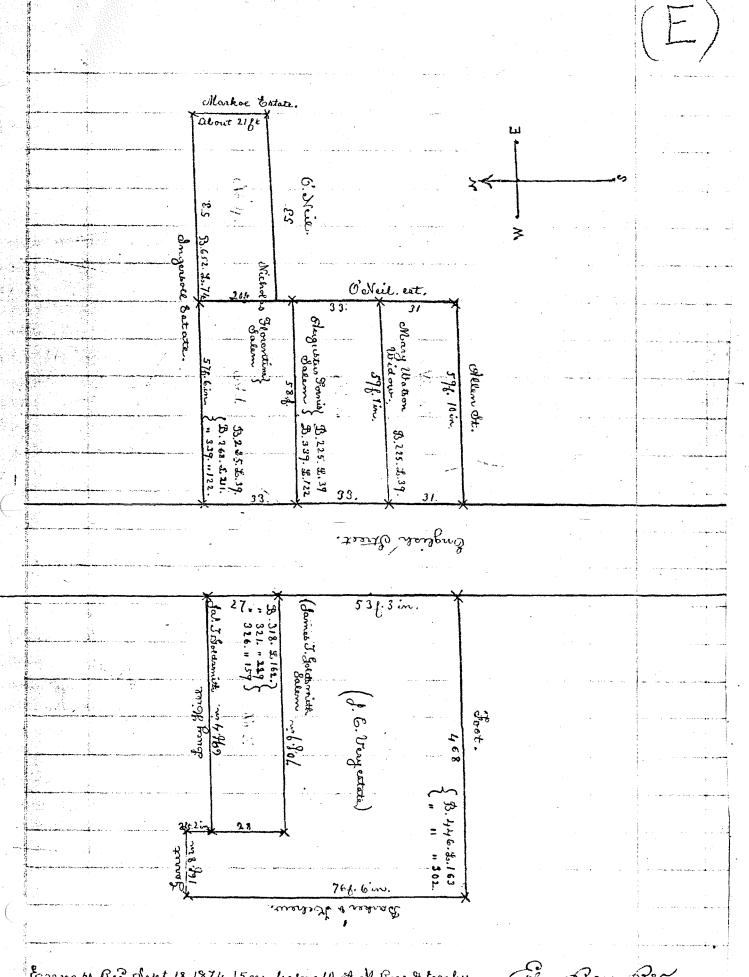
End he with his framily moved to the states of Country this was A tiresom fourny of Six Weeks by land the arived in the state of Ohio where he staid a short Time when he and his Jons Purchesed Lands in the State of Indiana where he continued untill his decease dies the 26-1847 and 79 years with living at the age of 74-96 posterity are numerous and settled in that state this eldest Jon however returned and is now an Emenent Phisition in the town of Middleton Elizabeth Brown

The fourth Daughter of Benjamin was born March 16 1771 The was Married to John gray November 3.1794 by Mar Bentley. Mr Gray was born in Salem and Grand son of Safet John Batten he followed the Seafairing business From A youth and was well Qualified for A Ship master he made a number of Juccefoful voyage to the East indies As mate and in 1801 he bought it track of land in English Street intending to Build at the return of another voyage He went mate of the Thip Henry belonging to bapter John Derby and Bommanded by Eapt John Barton with The promise of going Master the next voyage He Died at Bétavia March 7. 1802 aged 32 years he left one daughter And two Jons aged 7.5 &3 years his Widow Survived him But four years only his youngest Son now owns and Occupies the Premices Furchesed by his Father His Widow died Mary 15th 1806 aged 35 years

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Elizabeth Gray fate of Julem in duck The similar lighth part of a Piece of Land Situate on there street comes of germine street Salein containing in that Two Poles with the house & Barn therson one unitivided Lighth Part of a Pice of Land Situate one unitivity of the Street Valern Containing about Steven Political & a Sinal hause Vanuing on Land the Grate of John gray = 50 Later of Jalem de Situate on English Street Julem one methorney desh 8 10 one Aftenchot Table 3 4/20 one Stand Table 4/50 one Light Stand 2/ 6.00 Siz fan back Chairs Al one glafs 21 15-00 two bedsted, underboay cords 174 one fauthentines Bolter & 13 after one forther land a specious is 74th @ 100 16 bref and from of the sect to Tongs 1900 Poellows /75, 9 Theets 4/50 Mellow Court 27-20 Batche work Luilt 1/7 2 Luilt 1/20 1 Blinkst 1/ 3 Carpets 24 * Table Clothe 175 Wearing appartel 29/2 Pictures 130 = 10 Macra hackless to Town poors 1/60 sollier watch Stand with cortoca 2/ Haff a Crockery was mens lempar al 24 Breakfort Table so b Burch Chairs 1/50 : Emder on a Shoull willings 24 & Iron patter w Backe Kettle 1/25 The tex dich /30 Timesone 2/50 Hateron /20 knives & forks & spoonsh pendon currilles woodax 150. 92 yarra Base @for Bellevalia-24.37 6/4 19 mars Conting @ 20 1/19 and Former Coth @ 3) 6.69 16 / Lutre @ 08 10% yards down ago forcest Clast @ 10 Among Carin ex 138, 2 yard, carinar 2/14/23 Junidom 2/19/7 15 12 Pattern & 1/2 36 gard Chints @125 51% garde Charle @168 - 5 7 24 h dementer @/25 ton h Limiter @/10 88 & India Cotton @/15 18 \$ Carrover 4102 25/1 2 minutes 0/10 24/2 5 4/2 to fachet latternscept 210 2 Laclie 3/18. 49 ouch afis Thankuichights - 1624 Custed @/19 212 Chop @ 122 To The Striped Cotten timer @ 20 41, 8 Cotton Check @ 18 6.38 89.16 States a/12 9 6 Miss agroves the 10 6 Stacking @/64 9.83 16 M. Manu Mittons of 13 10 hanker things (450 7 de @/30 5-95 Landence of @125 46 16 gallesed 1/20 16 16 Thoes 7/25 4.44 Arres fuellity burdens 1/50 8 hurre Paper 196 In Pices Tape 184 516 Telk gloves 2/26 20008 button 175 3.84 A grace button 2 1 1 Mark Haying Con \$ 2/25 Just button 38 4+48 1.55 Joan 100 pieces Course Nankeen Of 48 munkanet 140 4.24. 3814 3 Callanines @ 15 Junders Hop Cloathe 10/50 3.80 Lelevin weight 1/50 Conster/50 Old cost 1/80 Para el Pork 81 Old Tim Chart to 2 Bies Rilbarra 50 83202.5 Cost on hand 100 dollarimbank bills cos my vilk & Threed | 58 11 hankershief 25 \$ 652.22 Joseph 18 July 1806 res Buch That



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Book 912 Page 203

Schedule of Real Estate in Detail.

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[This Schedule should be divided into at least four classes: 1st, household furniture; 2d, shares in corporations; 3d, promissory notes and other securities; 4th, property employed in business, 9c.]

Schedule of Personal Estate.

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