

# North End's Bowenville Named for Early Family

Bowenville in the North End derived its name from one of the oldest families in the city, the Bowens.

They were forefathers of the present Bowen family, which continues prominent in affairs of Fall River. They are Treasurer J. Whitney Bowen of the Bourne Mills, Councillor Edward H. Bowen and Harold C. Bowen, the latter two identified with the Joseph A. Bowen Co., fuel dealers.

The first Bowen, Abraham, was a great-great-great-grandfather of the present family and served as first postmaster of Fall River, from 1816 to 1824. Another Abraham Bowen was a great-great-grandfather, whose brother, James G. Bowen, succeeded the elder Abraham in the postmastership, becoming the second to hold the position.

One member of the family in

about constructing a new schooner. One of their tools was a saw made from a barrel hoop.

## Schooner Is Launched

On Sept. 14, five months later, they launched the schooner Hope which was 45 feet in length on deck, 13 feet wide, and had a draught of three feet.

Although heavily ballasted, she fell over twice before being finally rigged.

Taking 25 of the crew, the captain then set out for Honolulu where he bought a new ship under the name of Captain Nathan Durfee. He returned to the island, picked up the missing crew and made sail for this city.

They arrived here on July 8, 1845—33 months after her departure.

In 1862, the bark Benjamin Franklin left on her maiden voyage and her return marked the end of the whaling industry here.

those early days, in partnership with a Dr. Turner, built a large house at Turner and Davol Streets, which they later utilized as a tavern.

As a consequence, that area became known as Bowenville, a name it has retained. Land acquisitions along the waterfront resulted in the hill at Central and Davol Streets being known as "Bowen Hill."

Border City and Mechanicsville were names applied after the textile plants of those names were constructed.

Steep Brook was named for the stream of that name in the Wilson Road area, which cuts under North Main Street.

The Chace is another locality named after a textile plant, the Chace Mills, formerly on Rodman Street.

Some question concerns origin of the name "Globe Village," but the opinion prevails it was named after the old Globe Print Works in that section.

"Below the Hill," the area west of South Main Street, came by its name because of the contour of the land. Two hills, Broadway and streets running West from South Main Street, led into the "below the hill" area.

Maplewood in the Stafford Road section came by its name because of the many maple trees in the area, and the Highlands because of its situation on the highest land in the city.

Many smaller areas, such as "Barberry Hill," "Crescent Park," "Pigtown," "The Bowery" and others acquired their names from general usage of earlier days, and many have since lost their identity with encroachment of housing facilities.