

Chapter VIII

FREEMAN'S PURCHASE
METHOD OF DIVIDING AND SETTLING COLONIAL LANDS
THE ORIGINAL GRANTEES
FIRST LOT OWNERS TO 1710
FALL RIVER'S WEST END

Freeman's Purchase

What is known as the Freeman's Purchase included the land which extends northerly from Bedford Street in Fall River, to the southerly line of Berkley at a brook (known as Stacey's creek) which empties into the Assonet River. A colonial law had allowed freemen to "seek out lands for the accommodation of them and their posterity", but in July 1655 it was decreed that this law should not be effective after June 1656. Prior to that date Freetown was "sought out" by Captain James Cudworth, Josiah Winslow, Sr., Constant Southworth and John Barnes, and on July 3, 1683 (Vol. 6 p 96) colonial authorities authorized the issuance of a deed to them which covered that territory. The deed bears date June 10, 1686, and in form it was a deed in "free and common soccage" to them for the use of themselves and their associates, e. g. the other freemen whose names are of record. As this deed has never been published I annex an abstract. It was supplementary, in accordance with the law, to a deed from the Indians, which bears date April 2, 1659, and names as grantors Osamequin, Wamsutta and Tattapanum. Wamsutta was Osamequin's oldest son, Tattapanum (also known as Weetamoe) was Wamsutta's wife, and as Squa Sachem of the granted territory she made strenuous objections to the sale until she was placated with a separate consideration. Wamsutta signed the deed as the agent of or as co-Sachem with his father. It is supposed that his father was absent at the time because his signature is not affixed to the document. Of this deed I also annex an abstract.

Annexed Abstracts

The method of dividing and settling the colonial lands, as adopted by Plymouth Colony, i. e. requiring, in addition to a colonial grant, deeds from the Indian owners for a consideration which was subject to approval by the colonial officers, varied much from the method followed in other colonies. The Plymouth method was the only proper one, as is evidenced by an opinion of the United States Supreme Court handed down by Chief Justice Marshall in the case of *Johnson vs McIntosh*, reported in 8 Wheaton at page 543. Among other material statements, the Court says —

“by discovery the rights of the Indians were not disregarded but were necessarily impaired, they were the rightful occupants of the soil with a legal and just claim to retain possession and use it according to their own discretion, but their rights of complete sovereignty were necessarily diminished, and their power to dispose of it at their own will was denied by the fundamental principle that discovery gave title”.

Whether or not we like the reasoning and this conclusion, that, by decision of our highest Court, was the law.

I am therefore annexing, as material to this study, a rather complete abstract of both of the Freeman's deeds. After the close of the Indian war the native tribes were decimated, were moved onto Indian Reservations and their lands were sold by the colony to meet in part the expenses of the war. Hence there was no Indian deed covering the Pocasset Purchase.

Abstract of Indian Deed, dated April 2nd, 1639

Grantors: Ossamequin, Wamsitta, Tattapanum (Ossamequin did not sign)

Grantees: Capt. James Cudworth, Josiah Winslow Sr., Constant Southworth, John Barnes and 22 others and their heirs:

“all the tract of upland and meadows lying on the east side of Taunton river, beginning or bounded toward the south with the river called the Falls or Quequechand, and so extending itself northerly until it comes to a little brook, called Stacey's Creek; which brook issues out of the woods, into the marsh or bay of Assonate close by the narrowing of Assonate Neck, and from a marked tree, near the said brook, at the head of the marsh, to extend itself into the woods on a northeasterly point four miles, and from the head of said four miles on a straight line southerly until it meet with the head of the four mile line at Quequechand, or the Falls aforesaid, including all meadows, necks or islands lying and being between Assonate Neck and the Falls aforesaid, (except the land that Tabatacason hath in present use) and the meadow upon Assonate Neck, on the south side of said neck, and all the meadow on the westerly side of Taunton river from Taunton bounds round until it come to the head of Weypoyset river, in all creeks, coves, rivers and inland meadow not lying above four miles from the flowing of the tide in.

Consideration: twenty coats, two rugs, two iron pots, two kettles and one little kettle, eight pair of shoes, six pair of stockings, one dozen hoes, one dozen hatchets, two yards of broadcloth and a debt satisfied to John Barnes which was due from Wamsitta, before the 24th of December 1657, all being to us in hand paid.

Deed of full warranty, according to the tenure of East Greenwich, in free soccage, not "in capite" not by "knights service".

Witnesses: Thomas Cooke, Jonathan Brigd, John Sassamon.

Abstract of Colonial Deed, Dated June 10, 1686—Recorded June 19, 1696

Grantor: Thomas Hinckley, Governor

under power of his office and Order of Court made in 1636

Grantees: James Cudworth, Josiah Winslow, Constant Southworth and John Barnes

"in behalf of themselves and others, their heirs and assigns forever, according to their respective rights and "proprietties" therein to be holden as his manner of East Greenwich in free and common soccage, and not "in capita", not by "Knights Service", yielding and paying to our Sovereign Lord one-fifth part of the "oare" of gold and silver, and one other fifth part to the president and Council, according to the tenure of our grant.

Grant, all the uplands and meadows lying and being on the East side of Taunton River from Assonate Neck to Quequechand, at a place commonly called the "ffalls", and so extending into the woods four miles, and bounded northerly by the bound line of the town of Taunton and southerly by the line at the "ffalls" which is the bounds between it and the lands of Pocasset, bounded easterly by a straight head line, which rangeth from the said bounds of Taunton at the four miles and aforesaid unto the head of a line at the "ffalls", and also all those meadow lands which lie between Sippican bounds and the Purchaser's grant, or easternmost bounds of Cushnea alias Dartmouth, excepting all former grant or grants".

(Colonial Seal)

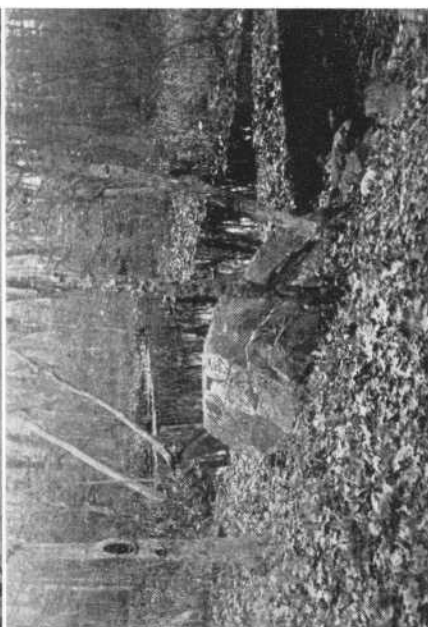
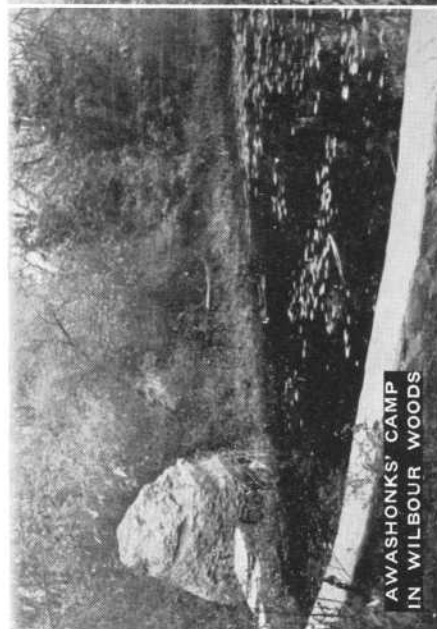
The purchased land was divided into twenty-six lots, running northerly, in numerical order from Bedford Street. Each lot had a frontage of about one-third of a mile on the Taunton River and extended back from the river a distance of four miles. These tracts were assigned by lot. A highway was laid out along the easterly end of the purchase.

The four principal grantees named in the colony deed to the Freemen were prominent Plymouth freemen. Captain James Cudworth, afterwards General Cudworth, was from a distinguished family of English church men, and came to Plymouth in 1632. He was prominent in the colony; was for nine years assistant to the governor; commissioner of the united colonies for five years and deputy from Scituate for many more. He was captain of the train-band, or militia, but as he was opposed to the restrictions placed upon and the punishment of the Quakers he was left out of

office in 1658 when the Prence government was in control, and was disfranchised as "an opposer of the law and friend to the Quakers". In 1673 when Josiah Winslow was elected governor, Cudworth was recalled to public service but he at first declined, giving as reason that his wife, then 67 years old, had no maid and from weakness was forced to rise at day-break when a pipe of tobacco must be lighted for her and be three or four times renewed before she could get breath enough to stir; for that his hay was stacked where it grew; his winter's wood was to be laid in, and he had to go to mill, all with no helper but an Indian boy of thirteen. Finally he consented to return to the command of the train-band and was still in office when King Philip's war broke out. He was elected the first general of the colony with the pay of six shillings a day. After this time he was not permitted to return to his farm, for he served again three years as commissioner of the colonies; seven years as governor's assistant and was made deputy governor upon Winslow's death. In 1681 he was sent to England as agent of the colony and there died. His untimely death had a grave effect upon the charter which Plymouth Colony was then seeking, as thereafter it had no such able representative at the English Court. Cudworth's lot was the second lot north of Assonet Village. He did not personally settle there but his grandson lived there until his death in 1729.

The second grantee named in this deed was Josiah Winslow Sr. He was the son of Governor Edward Winslow and of his second wife, Susannah White, who was the mother of Peregrine White. Theirs was the first marriage in the colony. He had then been a widower seven weeks and she a widow twelve weeks. Born in 1628, Winslow was educated at Harvard, was a general favorite of the people, and was in command of the federated forces in the Narragansett campaign of 1675. Winslow's home was in Marshfield. He never lived in Freetown. He sold his lot to William Makepeace of Boston.

The third grantee named in the deed was Constant Southworth. He and his brother Thomas were both lot-owners. The children of Constant settled upon the 19th lot. These brothers were the sons of the wife of Governor Bradford, Alice Carpenter, by her first marriage. When she came to America to marry Governor Bradford, she left these two sons in England to complete their education. Constant came over in 1628. He never settled in Freetown, but he was a distinguished warrior and at the beginning of King Philip's war he acted as commissary despite his age of sixty-one years. Soon however he yielded that arduous place to Captain



Photographs by Phillips Whidden

Awashonk's Camp — Wilbour Woods

Benjamin Church who had married his daughter Alice, the namesake of her grandmother.

Captain Thomas Southworth was no less renowned as a warrior. He was also prominent as a churchman and was the only person, other than Thomas Cushman, who was proposed as Elder Brewster's successor. He was prominent in Plymouth, both as an assistant to the governor and as deputy from Plymouth, and for nine years was a colonial commissioner. He never settled in Freetown.

The last of the grantees named in the colony deed was John Barnes, a far different type from the other grantees. He was the general storekeeper in Plymouth. I have examined the record of more than thirty cases in which he was a litigant before the general court, in most instances for the recovery of debt, but he was before the court for other reasons. On the 5th of October 1636 he was fined thirty shillings for sabbath-breaking; on December 1, 1641 he was presented for "exaction" in that he bought rye at four shillings a bushel and sold it for five "without adventure". He was acquitted. On March 2, 1641 he was presented for exaction in selling black and brown thread at five shillings four pence a parcel, but was also found not guilty. His store contained the standard measures of the colony for bushel, half bushel, peck and half peck and the various towns were ordered to establish standards in comparison with his. Barnes had an eighth ownership in the first ship built in the colony. On March 2, 1648 he was allowed to brew and sell beer "until the court sees reason to the contrary", and on March 1, 1659 he was licensed to keep an ordinary (tavern) at Plymouth during court times, but he evidently consumed too much of his own wares for there is record on October 3, 1665, that being lately detected of being twice drunk he was fined twenty shillings. On June 7, 1659 he was disfranchised for his "frequent and abominable drunkenness", and on June 10, 1661 the inn keepers of the town of Plymouth were prohibited by the Court from letting John Barnes have any liquor under penalty of fifty shillings. A coroner's inquest held over his body returned the verdict that he came to his death by a great wound caused by the horn of his bull while he was stroking the bull in front of his barn. Letters of administration upon his estate were issued October 29, 1671. The Indian squaw Weetamoe secured from Barnes' store the pots, kettles and the coats, shoes and broadcloth which furnished the consideration for which she finally and reluctantly signed the Freeman's deed, and probably also the consideration for which Barnes acquired his interest in the purchase.

He sold his lot on August 16, 1666. It included the major part (southerly portion) of Assonet village.

The first lot of the Freeman's purchase extended from the northerly line of Bedford street (east of Main street), and from the line of the fall river stream (west of Main street) to a line midway between Cherry and Locust streets. It included the southerly two-thirds of Ruggles park and crossed Ralph's Neck (east of the pond). It was drawn by Timothy Foster of Scituate.

Timothy was the only son of Edward Foster, a prominent lawyer, one of the "men of Kent" who settled on Kent street in Scituate in 1633, and became a freeman there in 1636.

Timothy sold his Scituate home in 1662 and then removed to Dorchester, though still retaining title to the Scituate farm. At various times he owned several of the proprietary lots in Freetown, Pocasset and Puncatuck. His transfer of the first Freeman's lot to Mary, the wife of Capt. Cornelius Briggs, is not of record. She may have been his daughter and so have taken by descent, though no Mary is named in the recorded list of his children. When Mary married Capt. Briggs on March 20, 1677 she was the widow of Samuel Russell. They conveyed lot No. 1 for one hundred and forty pounds on September 22, 1679 to William Earle, John Borden and David Lake (see Plymouth Records book 2, page 149), all of Portsmouth, R. I.

On August 3, 1687 David Lake, then named as a resident of Little Compton, conveyed his third interest to his co-tenants for forty-five pounds (see book 2, page 152). This deed states that grantee William Earle is his brother-in-law and that John Borden is his cousin-in-law.

On June 20, 1688 (book 2, page 174) William Earle conveyed his half of this lot as follows: two-thirds of a half to his "well-beloved son" Ralph Earle and one-third to his daughter-in-law, Mary Earle.

Ralph Earle took the north half and on June 21, 1716 he sold it to Constant Church, a brother of Col. Benjamin Church. Benjamin Church then owned the adjoining second lot.

In June 1710 there was a partition between these owners, John Borden took the south half (from about Franklin street) and extending westerly from Purchase street to the shore. This included a mill privilege. Subsequent doings with reference to this part of lot one is sketched under the title "Fall River's West End".

Fall River's West End

In early times Bedford Street was known as Central Street. A partially completed way which was an extension of Bedford Street to the west, was called West Central Street. The junction of these streets was called the Four Corners. To the west of Main Street the first Freeman's lot extended southwesterly to the fall river stream (or Quequechan river, which was the outlet of the Watuppa Lakes). A mill privilege was apportioned to this lot. It belonged to John Borden. Another mill lot (south of the stream), a part of the Pocasset purchase, was acquired by Benjamin Church and his brother. Considerable litigation developed about the water rights between those owning lands on opposite sides of the stream. There were thirty shares in the Pocasset mill lot. The Church family owned $26\frac{1}{2}$ shares and John Borden owned the other $3\frac{1}{2}$. The Bordens owned all the land north of the stream, and they built the upper mill at the Main street site. When there was a shortage of water they shut the water off from Church's lower mills. The trouble ceased when John Borden bought the Church shares.

The "cleft rock" (a very high granite ledge) projected so far into West Central street that there was only a narrow path between the rock and the stream. Westerly from the rock West Central Street had been laid out as early as 1803. The land was then still owned by the Borden family but there were only two houses on it. One (on the north side) was owned by Nathan Borden. The other (on the south side) was owned by Daniel Borden. By 1812 several new houses had been built on the north side of the street and to the west of the Nathan Borden home. On the south side Marshall Warren's house had been erected at a substantial distance to the west of the Daniel Borden home. The cleft rock was a prominent part of the landscape and of very considerable height. Both the rock and the falls were mentioned in the Plymouth records at a very early date. The rock extended on both sides of Main street, and the cleft is supposed to have been within the limits of the street.

From Central street to Pocasset street, Main street was much narrower than it is today. After the great fire of 1843 it was materially widened and it now passes over the foundation of "Bridge" Mill. A sketch of the changes at this point is shown by the annexed plan loaned to me from the records of the Fall River Historical Society.

In 1826 the town of Troy (which was then the name of Fall River) re-surveyed, platted and extended Central street easterly from the Daniel

Borden house to the Four Corners. This layout is shown by a plan which I also annex. It was taken from the files of the City Engineer's office.

This section of Fall River extending from Elm street on the north to the fall river stream, and from Main street westerly to the wharves came to be called the "West End". When the Fall River Iron Works Co. was about to be organized (1825), the lots along Central street which had not previously been sold for private houses, were acquired by that corporation and by corporations which were organized to build the Anawan and Pocasset Mills.

At the southwest corner of the Four Corners was the Pocasset company's store building, a two story building with barn roof. The north-westerly corner could not then be fully utilized, because West Central street was laid out closely around the edge of the cleft rock, but just westerly of that corner the house of Major Bradford Durfee had been built and there the rock had been somewhat quarried down, but the Major's house was elevated over the extreme westerly portion of the rock (See sketch of street layout) and long double steps or stairs led down over the rock from his front door. At that time there was no other house on the northerly side of West Central Street. On the southerly side, a little over twenty rods from the corner, was the house of Daniel Borden then still standing, and about twelve rods westerly of that a house occupied by Samuel H. Westgate. The only other house on the southerly side of Central Street was that of Joseph Warren which stood on a quarter acre lot, with a frontage of $6\frac{1}{2}$ rods, and it commanded a fine harbor view from the high hill which overlooked the falls river stream. He sold it to Marshall Warren by two deeds on May 3, 1826. Joseph was a carpenter and Warren was a machinist. There was a very steep drift way leading from the easterly end of this lot to the fall river stream. The Warren house was located (which was on Pocasset Street) directly north of the "White Mill". At a later time this house was turned around and altered into a tenement house.

From the west end of the Proprietors' Way (Central Street) forked ways led northerly; the east fork extended up over the bank following the line of the present Elm Street, and the westerly fork ran down the bank over where are now the tracks of the railroad, until it reached the bottom of the bank at the wharf company store. At the store there was a hair-pin turn, and the way extended southerly again along the line of the present Davol Street. It was not possible to cross over the fall river stream either to the west or to the south, so the way followed the river bank along under

the hill. At these early times Davol Street was known as Bowen street. (Mr. Bowen built the first coal yard and coal wharf).

About 1810 a stone pier, known as Long Wharf, was built at the northerly turn of the way off what is now Davol street. At first it was called "Long Wharf"; then "Slade's Wharf," and the hill was at first called "Slade's Hill," afterwards "Brayton's hill" and still later "Bowen's hill".

The falls river emptied into a basin which extended considerably easterly of the present viaduct. The river basin may be roughly described as in shape of an eye spectacle, with the nose piece to the north; the easterly and larger basin abutted the lower falls of the river at its extreme easterly side. Here, on the Central street side of the falls, was the grist mill of Holder Borden and on the Anawan Street side was the saw mill of Thomas Borden. A little northwesterly of each was a wharf, and there was a store near the home of Col. Richard Borden. At this point (which later became within our memory the location of the round or engine house of the railroad and also the Fall River railroad station), land was filled into the cove and in 1821 the first buildings of the Fall River Iron Works were there built, but there was no incorporation until 1825. The first building was at the westerly end of Metacomet Pond, which was at the second falls.

The spit of land extending between the two eyeglasses of our imaginary spectacles was unoccupied, but on the smaller or westerly cove were the "salt works". Salt was then made by evaporating salt water. The entrance to the entire basin was through a narrow opening which was a tide way, which was located at what is now the "arch" at the foot of Central Street. There was then a wood-slide through which cord wood was slid to a wharf from which it was loaded into small vessels and shipped for sale in Newport and Bristol where the local supply of wood was very limited. As the tide-way could not be entered at low tide, all vessels had to wait off what is now Bowen's Wharf for a favorable tide before they could enter the basin.

In 1803 (the year in which Fall River was set off from Freetown and separately incorporated) there were only eighteen dwelling houses in Fall River, six (6) on North Main Street — Charles Durfee, Daniel Buffinton, John Luther, Abner Davol, John Cook and Mary Borden; four (4) on East Central Street (Bedford street), Nathan Bowen, Perry Borden, Seth Borden and Elihu Cook; two (2) on West Central Street — Nathan Borden and Daniel Borden; five (5) on South Main street, three occupied by Bordens and two by Braytons; and one (1) at the shore belonged to Thomas Borden, who operated a saw mill there.

In 1804 Fall River had become Troy but I find no further record of the number of dwellings in the village until 1812 when it contained thirty dwellings. The total population was then three hundred, but there were three saw mills, four grist mills, one fulling mill, one blacksmith shop and several small stores. A small three-master schooner carried merchandise, and a few sloops carried cord wood from the wharf in the basin at the foot of the falls. Most of the shipping was done from one of the northern ferries. There was one at Brightman Street and others at Steep Brook.

The census of 1820 showed that Troy contained fifty dwelling houses and five hundred inhabitants.

As late as 1826 there were only four houses on Central Street, that of Bradford Durfee on the north side and those of Daniel Borden, Samuel H. Westgate and Joseph Warren on the south side.

The principal activities of Col. Richard Borden and Major Bradford Durfee were confined to the period between the close of the war of 1812 and the great fire of 1843 (thirty-two seasons). The Major died in that year.

We have another report of the residences and stores on Central street in Fall River, which I term the "west end", as of 1834, which was only eight years after the time when there were only four residences there. Between the house of Major Bradford Durfee and the Four Corners Dr. Nathan Durfee had erected a brick front drug store. On the corner was the store of B. W. Chace, and between that and the drug store was a building; the basement of which was used as a Congregational meeting house. There also was Nathan Borden's small burial ground. Next west of Major Durfee's substantial residence which he maintained as a boarding house (the best in town), was Stone Lane, on which several stone cottages had been erected a large part of the material of which came from the widening of Central Street and the cutting down of the cleft rock. These stone houses were chiefly used by mill workers or for boarding houses. On the easterly side of Stone Lane and in the rear of Major Durfee's residence, was the residence of his sister "Aunt Hannah Durfee". Westerly of Stone Lane were two small cottages, one of them occupied by S. K. Crary, Esq., who was the town clerk. Beyond the Crary house was Town Avenue, which at that time extended only a short distance northerly from Central Street. Later it was widened and became an extension of Durfee Street. At the north-west corner of this avenue and Central Street was the "Town House". It had been built in 1825, moved to this location from Brightman Street in 1836 when a second story was added. In the lower story, at the corner, a fire hand-engine (the Mazeppa) was kept, while in an adjoining room

was the "town lockup". The Town Hall and the town offices, as well as the Custom House were upstairs.

Westerly of Town Avenue was a blacksmith shop, and the dwelling house of the blacksmith, "Father Healy". Father Healy had a very large family and one of his descendants was Joseph Healy, who became a prominent citizen and manufacturer. Between the Healy house and the end of the street, was the residence and hotel of Captain Sanford. To the west of his house, overlooking the harbor, was his orchard, and an outside ten-pin alley and a recreation ground, which were used by his numerous guests and customers.

The southwest corner of Main and Central Streets was known as "Cotton's Corner"; it was "the store" of the town, owned by John S. Cotton but located on land of the Fall River Manufactory. It was a general and very elaborate dry goods and grocery store and drew patronage from surrounding towns. Market produce and vegetables were sold by the farmers of the district from the sidewalks in front of the store.

Cotton got into litigation with his landlord, the Pocasset Mfg. Co., because the mill had dug a drain from the pond which flowed into his cellar. Records of the Supreme Court in Boston show in the settlement of this suit Cotton conceded the right of the Company to flow the pond to its then level, and that he released his rights to burial in the Nathan Borden burial place. This burial place seems to have been on the northerly side of Central Street about one hundred and forty-five feet westerly from Main Street, where there was formerly a narrow way known as Clinton Street.

On the south side of West Central Street and to the west of the Cotton store was the residence of "Squire Ford", where his first wife, "Aunt Dorcas", kept a "ladies" shop. Near this place at a later time Samuel Shove built a large drugstore and adjoining that was the grocery store of Lovell and Durfee. Westerly from Squire Ford's home (in the order named) was the town's only paint shop which was owned by I. and D. Leonard. Then came a tin shop owned by Messrs. Wilcox and Wardwell; and after that came the Smith meat market and an adjoining fish market. Next beyond the markets was the Dunbar house and a "genteel boarding house" kept by one Burroughs. This was called "genteel" because only overseers and engravers could afford to pay the two dollars a week which was then asked for board, though ladies could get accommodations for as little as a dollar and a quarter. On Camden Street was the Methodist Meeting House, of which Father Taylor was pastor. It was only a few steps from Father Taylor's church to the river below where his baptismal

ceremonies were held. Near the meeting house was the house of Marshall Warren and then came the way which led from Central Street to the shore at the lower falls. This way was very steep and from the river it followed up east on the north bank past the several falls, re-entering Central street at Inch street. Along this way was the earlier residence of Col. Richard Borden, opposite the wharf, and also the residence of Mr. Holder Borden near his grist mill. These were at the lower fall of the river. Across the river to the west of the grist mill was the saw mill and adjacent wharf of Thomas Borden. Along the river, but nearer to Main Street, was a small water-wheel or wash wheel which raised sufficient water from the river bed to its southerly bank to allow housewives to get water for laundry purposes. After the fire of 1928, Philip D. Borden located the "post" of this "wash wheel".

The store at the northwest corner of Main and Central Streets, operated by Benjamin W. Chace, was edged into the big cleft rock without any cellar. Here hardware and pots and kettles and some groceries were sold. It was located on the dower land of Widow Mary Borden. She had sold the land surrounding this corner (which she bought from Enoch French) to Samuel Sanford in 1843. Sanford "failed", and his assignees sold it to William Morton in 1857; Morton sold it almost immediately to Solon Richardson, who built the Richardson house and the Central house upon it. Richardson sold both lots in 1886 to William Durfee and Robert Cook. At one time the Richardson house was known as the Exchange Hotel or the City Hotel and all stage coaches passing through Fall River made it their stopping place. William Durfee (first generation) bought the corner lot measuring thirty feet by forty-four feet in 1803 for the small sum of two hundred dollars, the low price being due to the fact that it was covered so completely with this granite boulder, or "cleft rock". His grandson tells me that the neighbors said this purchase was "crazy" — that it was fit only for the purpose for which the lovesick Indian maidens formerly used it, viz: to throw themselves from the cliff into the falls below.

The first street west of Main street, connecting with Central street and running northerly was Green street. It was soon well built upon. Along the rear of the Green street lots on the easterly side, was a stone wall between which and Main street was the large house lot of Major Durfee's later years. The location of the present west Bank street was to the south of Major Durfee's land, but Bank street was then a private way, extending no further than Stone's Stable. To the north of the Major Durfee lot was the Nathan Slade house extending to Elm street. Dexter Wheeler of Troy

A plot of a highway laid out by the selectmen of the Town of Troy from the four corners of the village of Fall River westwardly unto the east end of the proprietors road that leads from the Daniel Borden house in said village unto the landing place at the shore or salt water, thence through said proprietors way or road to the landing aforesaid - and also from the west end of said proprietors road northwardly unto the northward bounds of the lands in possession of the Pocasset Manufacturing Company.

Surveyed and Plotted by order of the selectmen of Troy, February AD 1826.
By *Samuel Borden*

Enoch French
Ezekiel Borden
Thomas
Selectmen
of
Troy



West end of proprietors way Joseph Warren's House
N 50 W 50 Rods together with
addition of 2 Rods at noted at
the west end.



DRIFT WAY

House of Samuel
H. Westgate



Daniel Borden House



Bradford
House

FOUR CORNERS



House belonging to
Fall River Manufactory

Post Road

1/4" = 100'

Fall River's West End, 1826

Bark Mill

Sketch of Fall River Four Corners

Giving a view of North and South Main Streets
About the time of the great fire of

July 2, 1843

FALL RIVER, MASS.



Troy Mill

Pocasset Block

SOUTH MAIN ST.

Gangway

POCASSET STREET

Post Office
and
Athenaeum

Fulling Mill

Water Wheel

Quequechan
(Fall River) River

Race Way

Bridge Mill

Pond

Troy Store

J.D. Burt

L.L. Barnard

C.B. Vickrey

Clam House

Citizens Savings

Bank

Clark Shoves

Mother

Avis Rounds

Lander Borden

(BEDFORD) CENTRAL STREET

Allen Cabinet Work

D. Stillwell

John S. Cotton

Esg's Ford's House

Samuel Shove

Flat Rock

WEST CENTRAL STREET

Bowen's Corner

Cleft Rock

John S. Cotton

Benjamin Earl Books

Dr. Dufflee
Drugs.

Fall River Four Corners

conveyed this lot to Nathan Slade of Somerset in 1831. It was five rods wide. After the death of Slade it was sold in 1853 to Mary B. Young. She was then the wife of Jeremiah S. Young, a manufacturer, but before she married Mr. Young she was the widow of Bradford Durfee. She and her son inherited his estate. He died in 1843 due to over exertion at the time of the "Great Fire". There was litigation concerning his estate. He had apparently made a will which he had either destroyed or had been lost. An attempt was made to prove this will by copy, but it was disallowed on December 5, 1843. In February of 1845 his widow, Mary B. Durfee, was appointed the administratrix of the estate. It was a very large estate and she was deemed to be the richest woman in these parts. The grounds of her estate were very elaborate; I have attended a lawn-party there.

At the westerly end of the estate, near Green street, were three stone houses which were either used by her servants or rented to other people. Leading down to those was a private way, which was called Borden Avenue, long since discontinued. An entrance to her grounds was also by way of the private lane which is now west Bank street. Between Borden Avenue and this last named lane was a building which faced North Main street, and was known as "Union Hall". Mrs. Young owned and used this building for private school and public uses. The school rooms were on the upper floor. It was moved to Portsmouth Grove (near the coal mines) at the time of the Civil War and was there used as a hospital. The B. M. C. Durfee Bank building was erected in 1888 when she and her brother, John S. Brayton, organized and maintained a private banking house known as "B. M. C. Durfee & Co." The building at the corner of Elm and Main Streets was the old Y. M. C. A. and gymnasium and south of that was the homestead of Mrs. Young, built close to the street with shutters at the windows. All of these were on the lot now occupied by the Fall River Public Library and the Armory. A few trees now upon this lot were there during Mrs. Young's lifetime.

