

Two Washington Street

This house was built, evidently, for Benjamin Pritchard, tailor, in 1754; about 1860 the first floor was rebuilt by Philip B and Joseph W Lindsey.

Very early it was part of the homestead lot of Francis Johnson, who had come to Marblehead by 1649. By 31 May 1679 Mr Johnson had moved to Boston, and on that date he granted a house and land here to Thomas Hawkins (1640-1721), a Marblehead tailor (5:88). Mr Hawkins became a slaughterer/butcher, and added a new addition which adjoined to the northwest of the old house. Thomas outlived his wife Agnes by many years, and was tended in his old age by his daughter Priscilla. He died in 1721, aged 81 years, possessed of a homestead estate consisting of the old part of the dwelling house (which stood where this house now is), the newer part of the house (to the northwest), a bake house, a slaughter-house, and the land, which was enclosed by a stone wall (#12958).

On 17 Sept 1723 the estate was divided amongst his four surviving children, of whom John Hawkins, a weaver then living in Watertown, received parcel #2, the old (southeast) part of the house together with its lot, which was roughly equivalent to the present lot; it bounded 26' 6" on the street now known as Franklin, and was 54' 6" deep. It should be pointed out here that at this time the modern Washington Street was little more than a path, so narrow that at that time there was another lot, of equal size to lot #2, to the northwest, with the new part of the house thereon—this is now the middle of the much-widened present Washington Street, in front of this house.

John Hawkins, weaver, returned to Marblehead; on 18 Ap 1728 he made an indenture with neighbor Richard Reith thet after his (John's) death and the death or remarriage of his wife Abigail, his house (the s.e. part of his late father's house) and its land would descend to his children James (who moved to Newport, RI) and Mary (who moved to Boston), (50:159).

On 14 Oct 1754 Mary Hawkins, Boston singlewoman, for 21.6.8 granted to Benjamin Pritchard, Marblehead tailor, a certain piece or parcel of land lying near the Old Meeting House (which stood across the street on the corner of Orne and Franklin), it being the former parcel #2, bounded 26' 6" on the street or highway to the northeast (now Franklin St.); there were no buildings on this land at the time (99:366). Mr Pritchard probably caused this house to be built thereon soon after the purchase, perhaps that fall or the following spring. Clearly, since both John Hawkins heirs lived outside of Marblehead, the old s.e. part of the Thomas Hawkins house had fallen down or been removed.

Benjamin Pritchard (1715?-68) had come to Marblehead as a young man, probably from Newbury or Gloucester. He found a need for his skills as a tailor, and settled here, marrying Charity Dodd of Marblehead on 15 Dec 1737. Where they first lived is a mystery, since he owned no land before 1754; perhaps they resided at her parents' house, or rented their own (in the 1748 tax list, the only one extant from that era, "Benja. Pritchett" was not assessed for any real estate). Wherever it was, they had eight children there, some of whom died young.

After building this house, there was a final child, Sarah, baptized 29 June 1755. By 1763, Mr Pritchard's eldest son, Benjamin Jr, had begun his own family; he was skipper of a fishing boat, while another son William became a tailor like his father. Life seems to have proceeded uneventfully for Benjamin Pritchard until the evening of Friday, 4 Nov 1768.

The Essex Gazette told the story: "About 7 o'clock the same (Friday) evening, Mr Pritchet, a credible inhabitant of this town (Marblehead), left a neighbour's house, in order to go home, with two earthen plates which he had bought there; the woman lighted him out, and begged him to be careful of the well; he answered that he knew well enough where the well was. He had gone but two or three steps in the dark before, as is supposed, he stumbled over a large stone near the well, and, he being lame, could not recover himself, but fell head-foremost into the well, and was found next morning, with his head in the mud at the bottom of the well and his feet just out of the water. This, 'tis said, is the second person that has perished in the same well!" (see Ashley Bowen's Diary, vol. I, p. 191). A sad end to the life of Benjamin Pritchard.

No administration was taken out on his estate, so we don't know as much as we might about his life and possessions. Undoubtedly his widow Charity continued to live here, as prob bly did some of her children. It is very likely that Benjamin Jr, the fisherman, lived here with his wife Elizabeth and their four children; he died, probably at sea, late in 1775 (22812). Mrs Charity Pritchard remained a widow nearly 30 years; she died on 11 July 1796, at an advanced age.

Five years after her death, the heirs of Benjamin Pritchard Sr divided the homestead estate in half: an imaginary line was drawn through the front door, running through the middle of the chimney and the back wall to the rear boundary; the two rooms, attic, cellar, and land northeast of this line were set off to Marblehead mariners John, Benjamin, Joseph, and William Pritchard, along with Mrs Charity Stacey and Mrs Elizabeth Pritchard and her minor children; the same lying southwest of this line went to Mrs Elizabeth Hermentage, Mrs Hannah Ireson, Mrs Lydia Billings, and Mrs Charity Tucker; each group received a piece of garden land to the southwest of the house (169:262).

That same day, 28 May 1801, the owners of the southwest half of the house and its land for \$290 granted the same to a Marblehead mariner, Ebenezer Reddan (169:262). He was skipper of a fishing vessel, and was successful enough to purchase 5/8 interest in the fine fishing schooner Polly. Skipper Reddan was obviously a man of some ability, and he and his wife Nancy furnished their southwest rooms in relative elegance. Unfortunately, fate put an end to Reddan's plans; he died, perhaps at sea, in the winter of 1806/7. At that time his southwest part of the house and land was valued at \$700; his share of the vessel came to \$2000, and his personal possessions amounted to a value of \$314.68 more--a very sizable estate for a young man then. To his widow Nancy was set off, for her dower use for life, the upstairs room ("the chamber") of the southwest half of the house, along with part of the attic and cellar (#23405). She married, secondly, George Bridgeo, by whom she had children, and, thirdly (?) Richard Girdler 3d. Evidently the Reddans had not produced any children, so his estate should have descended to his heirs at law, whoever they may have been. All that is known of the history of the southwest half from here on is that by 1860 it was owned by the brothers Lindsey.

Meanwhile, in the northeast half, the various Pritchards had informally divided that half into separate possession of the upper and lower rooms: John Pritchard owned the upper room, while, by 1827, the lower room was owned by William, Asa, and Hubbard Pritchard (perhaps others as well), who on 9 Jan of that year for \$30 released their rights therein to William Hawkes, Mhead yeoman. Mr Hawkes rented out this room, and owned it at his death in 1855. It came into possession of his son Benjamin Hawkes, who on 19 June 1860 sold the lower northeast room for \$225 to the Lindsey brothers, Joseph and Philip (766:285). The upper room remained in the possession of the heirs of John Pritchard.

Perhaps finding the first floor to be much out of repair, the Lindsey brothers evidently proceeded to rebuild the first floor in a modern style; they may even have jacked up the building to do so. Probably it was at this point that the old chimney was removed (its base still to be seen in the cellar) and the later style chimney installed. Joseph was a mason and Philip was a carpenter; they altered, expanded, and rebuilt many Marblehead buildings at this time and earlier. They were probably financing the job through a \$500 mortgage secured from William Knight on 2 Jan 1862, or possibly the work had already been done (632:159). It was almost certainly finished by 19 June 1862, on which date Joseph released his right to the building and land to brother Philip (1683:124).

Ten years later, after all the downstairs changes had been made, on 20 July 1872, Ebenezer R Pritchard of Marblehead for \$10 sold his right to the northeast chamber to Philip B Lindsey; in the deed the house is described as the "Pritchard house" and Eben's right is based on inheritance from his father John Pritchard (859:150). Possibly it was Eben R

Pritchard's unwillingness to sell this upstirs room that prevented the Lindseys from doing a thorough rebuilding of the house, upstairs and daown. It should be noted that Mr Pritchard, the last child of John and Alice (Reddan) Pritchard, was baptized on 30 Aug 1807, soon after the death of Ebenezer Reddan (former owner of the southwest half), for whom he was named.

Philip B Lindsey owned the premises for the rest of the century, renting it out until his death on 14 Aug 1900 (#86800). His only heir at that time was daughter Deliverance, wife of Dr Daniel D Gile; on 30 June 1902 for \$1500 she sold the place to Samuel K Stone of Mhead (1675:59). Mr Stone owned it a few years and died 26 Jan 1908, having willed it to Mary Hattie Moffett, a Mhead widow (#102681).

On 10 Nov 1910 Mrs Moffatt released the premises to herself via straw Joseph A Moffett (2054:109,110). By 1916 she had married a Mr Howe. She owned the premises more than 30 years, dying possessed of same on 11 Sept 1940, at which time the house and land were valued at \$2000 (#197655). The estate descended to her daughter by adoption, Mrs Kelley, widow of Maurice H Kelley of Marblehead, and she died on 1 May 1953 (#241081). The estate descended to her only child, son William H Kelley (b. 1935), then a minor.

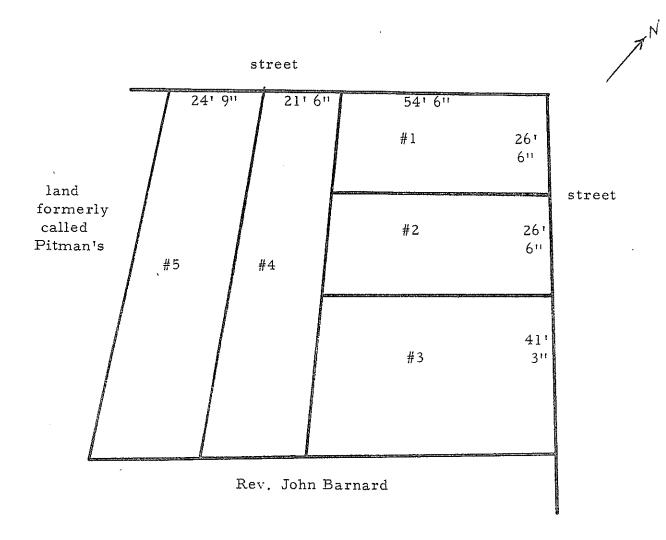
On 27 Jan 1960 Mr Kelley granted the premises to Mr & Mrs Richrad P Carpenter of Newton (4656:516). Ten years later, of New Hampshire, the Carpenters on 20 Feb 1970 granted the place for \$36,000 to Mr & Mrs John J Cassidy of Marblehead (5668:92). Three years later, 16 Aug 1973, the Cassidys for \$59,500 sold it to Mr & Mrs John M Fernberger of Marblehead (6004:687).

Finally, on 13 Aug 1977, for \$64,000 the Fernbergers granted the house and land to the present owners, Mr & Mrs Philip G Bourgeault (6386:78); the Bourgeaults live here with their infant daughter Sarah, residing on the second floor and renting out the first.

Robert Booth 21 Dec 1977

Notes: The name Hawkins was also spelt Hawkings, Hockins, etc. The name Pritchard was also spelt Prichard, but more often with the t in this town.

Rough Plan of Division of Eestate of Thomas Hawkins, 1723



RBooth

^{#1} to James Hawkins (new or n.w. part of house); James sold to Ellis, whose heirs in 1766 sold land & building to Ben Pritchard

^{#2} to John Hawkins (old or s.e. part of house); his daughter Mary sold the land to Ben Pritchard, 1754; present houselot

^{#3} to Priscilla Grant

^{#4} to James Hawkins, with a bakehouse thereon

^{#5} to Joanna Reddan, with slaughterhouse thereon

Many Huwkings to Benjamin Prichecord Oct 15th 1754

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Dissuarit to the warrant hereto annexed. We the Subscribers being first sworn) have Get of by meets and bound (as near as could (de) one third part of all the kowlestate of Ebencies Keddan late of. marblehead in the County of Epox princoman L'ercased, in Manner following towit, the chamber of the Southwesterie end of whouse situate mear the old meeting houselso called in fined man bichead (owned timproved by said Decease dat the time ofine Death) together with the northwestering half of the growthour the same also aprice or small part of the cellar under faid tind, dounded South casting By the collar wall extending from northeast to south west the whole Ength of the cellar Southwastering on the cellar wall and treasures four feet that from the Southeasterly wall, and to Continue said Weath from the Southwest wall to the brick aring foundation of the chimney, then Bortheasterly on said arch, then north westerly by the side of the arch diricks work textinds to the land dellar belonging to the other and of said house, then northeastily on said and dellar and extends from the with to the Toutherstory cultar wall agressed, together with the privacing of palsing trapaising from the cellar Stairs thince this the Prorthwesterly part of the collar winder said Southwest and of the said house, to the small frice or part of culture and now set of as a foresaid, The land on front of said South west end of the rouse with the way to the well of use thereof, the post door, Entry votein ways from cellar to garrett, and way into the garret and to the Scuttle Huse thereof, all which are to be dremain in common use for the oroners toccupants of the whole of the Southwest and of said house

heart for quartity & quality of all the Real estate of said Deceased, and we have set of the vame to Francy Reddani his widow, as her Dower in his Real estate, to hord to her During her natural life -

Witness our hunds this first day of December A.D 1807

August Norther

Northan Byroun Comt Sworn

Glossary:

Mhead: Marblehead li: pounds (money)

s: shillings d: pence

messuage: a dwelling house with outbuildings and land

moiety or halfendeal: a half part

ye, ym: the, them

Notes:

A figure such as (123:45) refers to Southern Essex County Registry of Deeds, book 123, page or leaf 45 (Federal Street, Salem).

A figure such as (#12345) refers to Southern Essex County Probate docket #12345 (Federal Street, Salem).

EIHC refers to Essex Institute Historical Collections.

A split date such as 20 Feb 1702/3 is explained by the fact that before 1752 England and the Colonies used the Julian calendar (in which March 25th was the first day of the year), as well as our present Gregorian calendar; between 1 Jan and 25 Mar the date was often represented by the old year and the new, hence 1702/3. In 1752 the Gregorian calendar was formally adopted for Great Britain and its colonies; eleven days were lost in this transitional year, which is why we celebrate George Washington's birthday (11Feb 1731/2) on Feb. 22d.

Almost all Marblehead houses were built by carpenters called housewrights; it is largely a myth that the joiner's work was done by shipwrights or ship-carpenters--very few of them lived in Marblehead, which was not a shipbuilding center, and those who did were hard at work on vessels, not houses.

22-141 50 SHEETS 24-142 100 SHEETS 22-144 200 SHEETS

Monday Many years ago we once awroce this house. It was Still 2 family with my Mother on the 1st floor. I facina the write up + photo and hope you find them of Cuterest. Seisie Fernherger 4 Euclid 631-0444

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Your donations to help bring holiday cheer to Marblehead's elderly residents will be greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to the "Holiday Elderly Fund," care

of The Marblehead Messenger, Box 1 Marblehead or drop checks off at either the Council on Aging office or at the Nation Grand Bank.



ONCE UPON A TIME great seafood on lower Washington street.

Memory lane

with Harry Wilkinson

In the trolley car days Stone's Restaurant at 2 Washington street — just like the famous Adams House, Radell's and the Log Cabin — was a very popular eating place run for years by "Cracker" Stone.

Later William H. Howe and wife M. Hattie took over, retaining the name Stone's. The Howes had living quarters on the second floor.

In those happy times a customer could have a lobster stew for 15 cents, a fried clam plate for 15 cents and a slice of pie or a cup of coffee for a nickel. A complete fish dinner would be only 75 cents. No wonder patrons came from far and near especially on Sunday excursions in the good old summertime via the open cars.

After Bill Howe's death in 1937 the restaurant and rooms were made into apartments. A tragic fire there in May of 1953 resulted in the death from smoke inhalation of 40 year-old Mrs. Harriet Kelley who had been rescued by Fire Captain Wilbur Doherty.

Luckily the Franklin Street Fire House was just behind this building so damage was kept to a minimum. Fund has gotten an encouraging from residents and former lers so far this holiday season.

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Mitchell's and Mrs. Chandler's um up the thoughts of many who d to the Holiday Elderly Fund. here are many elderly people in ll receive needed personal items, and cash that result from so nts and former Headers donating

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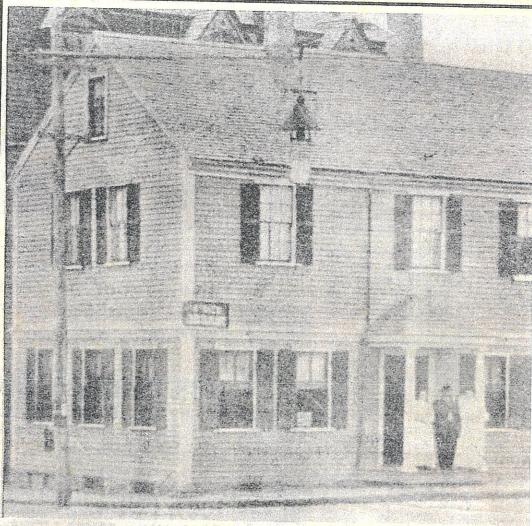
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A Wish," we've chosen to share hall:

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Marcia Bennett

A new address — a distinctive diffe

Established in 1872

orials



Opinion

Winner of awards for general excellence from the New England Press Association in 1975, 1976, and 1977.

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