



The Israel Gates House, built prior to 1805, is a storehouse of history.

Staff Photo by Julie Tippo

663 Longmeadow Street: A History

Sydney Leavens
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Introduction

Most of the remaining possessions of the first families of Longmeadow, Massachusetts are carefully preserved by the Longmeadow Historical Society. "Do Not Touch" signs lie on the old silk quilts and the colonial furniture on display in the Storrs house. Locked away in the basement are the photographs and birth certificates, wills and occasionally even letters and diaries of some of the oldest families of the town, and indeed, often of the country as well. The genealogy room of the Storrs' library is also locked, and can only be opened under supervision and upon the presentation of legitimate photo identification. Longmeadow historians guard such items because they realize that they are priceless. Each article tells of a time and people centuries ago, the memory of which could not be preserved in any other fashion.

However, perhaps the most visible keys to the past in Longmeadow are the ones that are most ignored for the stories they might tell. The town's beautiful colonial homes have witnessed two centuries of town history. They have served as the backdrop of life in a colonial town and of life in suburban Longmeadow. The roads before them have changed from dirt to pavement, the transportation from horse and wagon to sports car. Wood stoves have been replaced with coal, and coal with electric, oil, or gas. Family after family has come and gone, each adding to the character of its house.

While these lived-in antiques are often carefully maintained, their unique histories are often forgotten as time and families march on. Any history that remains is usually oral and unreliable. And, while the most famous people of the colonial era can be traced by their accomplishments and their, and their contemporaries', writings, the common man was lost when the last person who knew him died.

I chose to research the history of my family's home, 663 Longmeadow Street (commonly known as the Israel Gates House) because I felt that doing so would benefit both me personally and the town as a whole. I have always wondered about the people who lived in the house before me. Most of my childhood has occurred under its roof, and I am amazed that my house was the center of the lives of people centuries before me.

But researching my house does more than satisfy my own curiosity. It puts the history of Longmeadow into a new perspective. Rather than studying a single event in history or a particular time period, I have studied an otherwise randomly selected chain of people, connected over two hundred years only by their living their lives in my house. My house's history represents the progression of time; it also brings to light the life of common people from the beginning of our country. My house is not one of the better known houses in Longmeadow -- it did not house the likes of Stephen Williams or Mary Ann Booth -- but its people were also individuals whose voices deserve to be heard.

Above all else, this project has given me a greater respect for my colonial house, and I hope it will do the same for readers of this paper. Whether I was mapping the genealogy of the Bliss family, or reading through the diary of Charles McQueen, I felt almost as though I had known the people. I drew connections with them beyond the mutual ownership of a house. I share Julia M. Bliss' passion for history. Like Israel and Sumner Gates almost 200 years before me, I play the cello (then referred to as the Bass Viol). The project has proven to me that behind the microwaves and refrigerators, the televisions and carpeting, lie the spirits of people who fade into the ages unless searched for.

My project was made easier by the extensive work of June Guild over the nearly 30 years that she owned the house before my family. She had pored over deeds and wills to trace the possession of the land back to the Jonathan Ely Grant. However, her records were jumbles of notes, and before I could further the work I had to decipher her notes, to follow her footsteps until I could understand her train of thought, very much as one would piece together a puzzle. Library records are also incomplete and the records at Storrs' unreliable, as she left many of her original hypothesis (often slightly off the mark) in the folder with her later findings. Through my project, I hope to update and correct all public information, as well as to expand upon the lives of the people themselves.

Author's Note: All information used in this report can be found in the Family Histories in the Storrs' House, the 663 Longmeadow Street file also kept at Storrs', and the Genealogy room of Storrs' Library.

663 Longmeadow Street ~ a history

The possession of the land upon which 663 Longmeadow Street currently rests traces back to Jonathan Ely, who obtained the property in a grant which "granted to Jon Ely a Lot of twenty seven Rod wide on the east side of the Country Road bounded south by Nath Burt Sen his Land North by Daniel Cooley Jun provided it does not prejudice any former grants." On July 10th, 1749, Ely left the majority of his land and homelot to his son Nathaniel in his will. Nine years later, on February 9th, 1758, Nathaniel sold the 26 acre homelot to Henry Bliss for 460 pounds. In his will of February 18th, 1761, Bliss left the land pertaining to 663 to Rubie Bliss.

Rubie Bliss' sale of the land to Richard Woolworth on September 20th, 1764 for 176 pounds may be of some importance in that the deed specifically mentioned the inclusion of the "buildings thereon." Perhaps one of these buildings was what now forms the back "ell" of the house, the house with which the hatter's shop was combined when it was removed from the Green in 1831. In any event, it is obvious that the smaller parcel on which 663 now stands did contain some sort of residence by the latter years of Richard's ownership. On November 3rd, 1785, when Richard sold three acres of the land to his oldest son, Azariah, (age 34 at the time) he specifically mentioned that the 160 pound sale included the "homelot where Azariah now dwells." (See document A)

Azariah, a shoemaker, built and ran the Woolworth shop. Some of his shoes were even shipped outside of the community. He is perhaps best known, though, for having first brought potatoes to Longmeadow. He married Rebecca Field when he was 26. Of their six children, only one, William (b. 1788) was born after Azariah had ownership of the land and he was possibly the first to be born in the building that forms the back "ell" of the modern 663. Equally possible, he might have built the house in 1773 when he married

Rebecca and began his own family. Indeed, the couples' first child, Rebecca, who died at age three in 1777, might have been the first to die in the house. Their fifth child, Fanny, (b. 1785) married John Gaylord (b. 1780). (Centennial 1883)

Gaylord apparently bought the land and buildings on which 663 now stands upon his engagement to Fanny. He bought the homelot for 150 dollars on January 25th, 1805, four months before their May wedding. Gaylord was 25 and Fanny 20 years old at the time.

While popular myth attributes the original ownership of what is now the front of the house at 663 to Israel Gates (hence the reference to the house as the "Israel Gates House"), John Gaylord, Azariah's successor, seems to have been the first. Prior to his marriage of 1805, Gaylord set up his own millinery shop on the Green, and that building was to become the front of 663. While the Longmeadow Historical Society records place the construction of the home at around 1805 (Document B), the shop might be traced farther back than that. In the precinct records of February 17, 1795, which

"voted Captain Calvin Burt have the consent of this town to take up a piece of ground thirty feet square beginning six feet south of the Hatter's shop..."

clearly indicate that there was a hatter's shop in existence at that time. Further, a paragraph later it appears the town consented to grant Eliab Washburn land to erect an additional hatter's shop (Document C). Whether either of these shops and the front of 663 were one and the same is unclear, but at age 15, Gaylord would not have likely been its owner. Either another person owned the hatter's shop that was to become 663 or Gaylord built another shop in the first one's place.

The four surviving children of John and Fanny, Samuel Gaylord, (b. 1800), John Jenison (b. 1808), Fanny (b. 1810) and Robert (b. 1813) were all born and lived in the house until the family moved to Ohio in 1814. The couple's third child died nameless at birth in 1809. Gaylord sold the house upon leaving town to Israel Gates in 1814 for 750 dollars. No further information was available on the family after they relocated to Ohio. (Centennial, 1883)

Evidence suggests that Israel Gates, who was in his mid twenties at the time of his purchase of the house, came from Preston, Connecticut. There is evidence of family there, a Ms. Eunice Gates, in the 1700's. Gates' deed to the land in Longmeadow entitled him not only to the existing residence, but to the hatter's shop as well, for which he, being a blacksmith, had no use in its then current form. Gates had the hatter's shop moved by Almon Parker and attached to his own house to accommodate his large family of seven children. However, a desire for more living space might not have been the only reason that the shop was moved. It was at this time that shopkeepers were evicted from the green at the expiration of their leases, when the shops came to be viewed as eyesores. (Reflections of Longmeadow, p. 19)

Both Israel and his brother Daniel Gates were identified as Longmeadow blacksmiths in a deed dated November 1st, 1824, and theirs was a small shop in back of the church chapel. Perhaps it was Israel, then, who was the blacksmith who overstayed his 40-year lease, unchallenged, and subsequently charged the parish several hundreds of dollars to relinquish his right. (Reflections of Longmeadow, p. 19)

In spite of this apparently hard-nosed bargain, Gates did not appear to be a man to go against the church. Records indicate that, along with the money he collected as a blacksmith, Israel collected money from the Parish for "services rendered." Perhaps these services were those of musical accompaniment, as Israel was known to play the viol bass that is now on display in the Storrs' house. His youngest son Sumner was also musical, as town records of 1850 and 1851 indicate that the town payed him to lead the choir and for violin strings. Sumner also served sexton in 1851. His wife sang in the church choir for 33 years. Another of Israel's sons, Israel Gates Jr, worked at the Springfield Armory and served as City Councilman the year the town of Springfield became a city.

Following Israel's death, his wife Hannah remarried to Robert Silcox and sold the house to sisters Catherine L. and Harriet A. Bliss in 1870. That they signed the deeds to the property themselves was unusual. They had to sign an additional certificate declaring that their father had indeed died (d. 1866) and could not sign for them and that they were not married nor had ever been. That the two women at the ages of 36 (Catherine) and 31 (Harriet) had not married was certainly unusual, but whether they were crusading

feminists or victims of circumstance is not known. They did not marry in their lifetimes. They paid their own taxes as did any landowner. In 1891, for example, annual records indicate that their taxes on the house were \$7.74.

Both Harriet and Catherine taught sporadically in the Longmeadow school system. In the superintendent's report of 1866-67, Harriet received the second largest salary in her school district, after her male colleague Henry Butler. Her salary was \$184.40 to his \$240.00. However, she was not listed as a teacher in the annals of the year before or the year after. Likewise, Catherine appears to have taught in one isolated year. In the superintendent's report of 1877-78, she was listed as a teacher in the Primary Department and was praised as "earnest and devoted in [her] work." But she did not return the next year, nor had she taught the year before.

Possible explanations for these short tenures may lie in how schooling of the time period was viewed. The superintendent strove to find acceptable teachers who were the most cheaply paid. Such teachers were more likely to be found among the younger females who quickly married than among older, more experienced teachers. Indeed, it seemed that the teaching staff changed every term, as teachers married and left their positions. Because they never married, Harriet and Catherine would have been available for many years to teach. Indeed, Catherine was already in her 40's when she taught in the Primary Department. However, the school perhaps could not afford to keep teachers on staff who would demand more money than was available.

Another explanation could lie in the fact that the teachers were already quite mobile in the late 1800's. Many of Longmeadow's teachers are listed as coming from Springfield or even farther away. Harriet and Catherine may well have taught in other school systems, but those records would be very hard to trace.

A third possibility could be that the two were financially secure and taught only for the joy of teaching, or to help out when extra teachers were needed. It is possible that their father left them a great deal of money in his will, and their ability to pay taxes whether or not they were teaching in Longmeadow suggests that either they were secure enough financially not to depend on teaching or they had other sources of income, perhaps through teaching in other locations.

When Catherine died, her sister Harriet had already passed away. Catherine's will left 663 to her nephew, Charles McQueen, and to Julia Bliss, Flavia, Mary, and Jessie Garner. Charles was also the nephew of Julia Bliss and Flavia (formerly Bliss) Garner. His mother, Georiana Bliss McQueen, was their sister. In 1855 Georgiana had married Rev. George McQueen, a missionary of Corisco, in Western Africa where he died in 1859 when Charles was only two years old.

Charles went to school in Longmeadow and then to the Springfield high school until he left to be home-schooled at age 17. He soon began teaching sporadically while he earned a college degree at Amherst. Much of his early adulthood is revealed in a diary that he was given as a Christmas present in 1875. He wrote in the diary dutifully for the whole year of 1876. A seemingly average boy of the times, he enjoyed skating, writing often that he had had a "boss time," and singing classes, where he learned to sing popular tunes of the day like "You Bet." He played football in the spring and baseball in the summer.

Charles went to church every Sunday of the year and recorded who preached, what they preached, and how many people were in attendance. Often, he counted as many as 95 people in church, but on really cold days, he sometimes counted only a handful.

At 18 Katie Conklin, the girl whom he had been seeing for almost a year, and about whom he had written nearly every day in his journal, married another. Ironically, she married a descendent of Israel Gates, Charles S. Gates. Surprisingly, Charles McQueen's calls on her became more frequent, but at the close of the year he wrote "the great change [of the year] is the change of heart which I think I have experienced during the past year." (Charles McQueen's Diary, McQueen family records)

Charles' aunt Flavia Sophronia shared his devotion to God, becoming a missionary to Sivas, Turkey. She married in Longmeadow on January 21, 1880 to Frank E. Garner of Cornwall Connecticut. She was also a life member of the Woman's Board of Missions. (Document D)

It was Julia Marilla Bliss, however, who etched her name in history. She appears to have been extremely interested in American history. In 1876, Charles noted in his diary, she attended the nation's centennial celebration. It seems she was particularly

passionate about Longmeadow's history. In 1898, she published an article on the subject in *New England Magazine* which is now available in the Storrs' library's genealogy room. She taught school as well, and is listed as an assistant teacher in 1871, at age 33.

In November of 1909, Julia Bliss, Flavia and Charles McQueen sold 663 to Catherine and Harriet's nephew Walter Bliss and his wife Mary for one dollar and some other possessions. Flavia, who was a widow at age 68, shared her share with children Mary and Jessie Garner. Charles, who was 50, had already moved to Chicago.

Walter was 48 at the time of the sale, and was by no means new to Longmeadow. A direct descendent of Margaret Bliss who came to Springfield from Hartford in 1640, he took great pride in his community. According to his obituary, he was educated in Longmeadow and Springfield schools and was only 19 when his father died. He was the oldest of seven children, and undertook the management of the farm and became one of the most successful farmers in the area. He was an agent of the New Haven Road at Longmeadow when the station was the best paying for the size of its community anywhere along the line between Springfield and New York. At one time or another he filled most of the public offices in Longmeadow, serving as deacon in the church and singing in the choir as well. (Document E)

In 1915, the Blissesses sold the property to James B. Burbank and moved to Enfield, Connecticut. After only four years, James Burbank sold the house to Herbert L. Handy and his wife, Herrietta on July 28, 1919. Handy did much renovation to the house, adding a box bay in the dining room and a box bay in the breakfast room. A chimney was also removed that went through the center of the living room and between the two upstairs bedrooms. In a photograph taken in the early 1900's, these changes are apparent. (Document F, courtesy of June Guild) However, the Depression hit many families hard in the 1930's and the Handys were no exception. In July of 1936, Herbert Handy lost possession of the house and land to Western Mass. Bank and Trust Company. (Document A)

Western Realty Corporation sold the house to Roger B. and Doris Estey on April 29, 1939. Doris was a well known authority on antique furniture who lectured throughout

New England and founded the Estey Estate Sales Corporation. On May 8, 1962, Doris Estey sold the house to L. Curtis and June Irely Guild.

According to Longmeadow News on February 9, 1989, for the Guilds, "an interest in historic homes along with the expansive backyard was a selling point with the house." Indeed, June Guild invested years of research on her residence, pouring over deeds and wills, tracing genealogy and examining found antiques. It was she who first discovered that Israel Gates, who had been thought to be the first resident in the house, had been preceded by John Gaylord. With her husband and six children, she also added greatly to the house's history. The family held five weddings in the expansive backyard. Her own wedding to her second husband in 1983 was held in the First Church during the town's bicentennial celebration. They dressed in colonial costumes and held the wedding colonial-style. On June 30th, 1989, she and her husband retired to a blueberry farm in Heath Massachusetts and sold the house to Arthur Leavens and Laurel Brandt.

Soon after moving to Longmeadow in 1983 from Washington DC, Arthur Leavens became interested in the house at 663 Longmeadow Street. Coming from a family which arrived in Roxbury, Massachusetts in 1626, Leavens had always wanted to live in an antique colonial. On moving to Longmeadow, he and Laurel became friendly with Cynthia Guild, one of June's three daughters. When June decided to move, she called the Leavens family, and the house changed hands and generations.

The history of the house and the town whose history it represents are very important to both Leavens and Brandt. Though both are busy lawyers, Leavens has served on the town's School Committee for the past decade, and Brandt has served on the Historic District Commission. Also important is the spacious backyard. The family has three children and a large Labrador retriever and finds the space good for a game of fetch, a soccer game, or a softball game at the family's annual Fourth of July picnic. All too soon, it will be time for the house to change hands again, but until then, the Brandt/Leavens family is enjoying the time that it has.

Document A

Deeds and Wills Pertaining to 663 Longmeadow St.

<u>Book Page</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Grantor to Grantee</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Description</u>
Will	7/10/1749	Jonathan Ely to Nathaniel Ely, son		Leaves half of moveable estate and 3 rooms to ? . Rest of land + homelot to Nathaniel
Z 252	2/09/1758	Nathaniel Ely, Gntmn, to Henry Bliss, Ymn	460 pounds	Homelot, 26 acres, more or less. Includes other land
Will	2/18/1761	Henry Bliss to Rubie Bliss, Relict		All household goods and 2/3 of real estate, 1/3 to mother
3 298	9/20/1764	Rubie Bliss to Richard Woolworth	176 pounds	Homelot, 26 acres, and bldgs thereon
27 171	11/3/1785	Richard Woolworth to Azariah Woolworth	160 pounds	Homelot where Azariah now dwells, 3 acres more or less, also 1/2 part of my tanyard
44 504	1/25/1805	Azariah Woolworth to John J. Gaylord, Hatter	\$150	Northwardly part of homelot, 1 acre more or less, reserving barn thereon standing
57 466	4/19/1814	John J. Gaylord to Israel Gates	\$750	Homelot, buildings, one acre more or less
276 468	11/5/1870	Hannah Gates to Catherine and Harriet Bliss	\$1500	Lot of land, buildings, one acre more or less
778 522	11/1/1909	Julia Bliss, Flavia, Mary, Jessie Garner, Chas. McQueen, To Walter and Mary Bliss	\$1	Lot of land 45 x 480 Ft. (Side yard of 663)
1046 109	7/2/1919	James B. Burbank to Herbert Handy	\$1	3 parcels, 655, 663 and side lot above (Possession lost to the Western Mass Trust Co. In 1936)
1673 75	4/29/1939	Western Reality Corp. to Roger B. and Doris Estey	NA	663 Long. St

Doris Estey sold to L. Curtis and June Irely Guild on May 8, 1962

June Guild sold to Arthur Bowen Leavens and Laurel Helen Brandt on June 30, 1989

Document B

If indeed the hatter's shop that became 663 Longmeadow Street was the one referred to in 1795, then the blue star it bears is erroneous.



#22 The Israel Gates House - Before 1805
663 Longmeadow Street

The earliest known resident of this home was John Gaylord, whose ownership can be traced to 1805. Oral tradition is that the house was a millinery, which stood on the Green before being moved to its present site. Once moved, it was joined to a house already on the site. This early house, built in the mid-1700's, can be seen today as the east wing of the building.

Israel Gates, a blacksmith, lived here until 1870. He was noted as a player of the bass viol presently on exhibit in the Storrs House.

Document C

If the hatter's shop(s) in these 1795 documentations and the hatter's shop that became 663 Longmeadow Street are one and the same, then the house can be traced back further than 1805

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the Hatter's shop for the purpose of erecting a building for carrying on the Duck Manufactory and that the Town consent s^d Silcocks improve this ground for the space of forty years.

February 17, 1795. Voted that Cap^t Calvin Burt have the Consent of this Town to take up a piece of Ground thirty feet Square beginning six feet south of the Hatter's shop and to extend west in a Parallel Line of s^d shop for the purpose of erecting a Store to promote the Commercial Interests in the Town. Voted that Eliab Washburn have the Consent of this Town to improve a piece of Ground in the Street of thirty feet Square next north of Rob^t Silcock's Duck Manufactory House for the Purpose of erecting a Hatter's shop on the same. Voted that Jabez Colton have the Consent of this Town to occupy a piece of Ground in the Street Thirty feet Square next north of the Ground purposed to be occupied by Eliab Washburns s^d Ground to be improved by s^d Colton for erecting a shop.

This point seems to mark the awakening of the town to the danger from such leases, for we find no further votes of this nature after the following :

April 6, 1795. Voted that this meeting do reconsider the vote passed Febr^y 17, 1795 granting liberty to Jabez Colton to build a shop in the Street.

The necessity, however, which the people coming from the East Part for Sabbath service experienced for having suitable horse-sheds, caused the following among other votes :

February 16, 1796. Voted. That this Town Consent that Sundry of the Inhabitants of the East part of this Town have liberty to erect an Horse House in the Meeting House lane, and that Messrs Ethan Ely, Hezekiah Hale, Elijah Burt, David Burt, and Sam^l Keep be a Com^{tee} to view the Ground and report what place in Said Lane will be the most Suitable for Said Horse House.

March 8, 1796. Voted that the People in the East Part of this Town have liberty to erect an Horse House on the North side of the Meeting House lane sixty feet in length and Said Horse House to adjoin the fence of Mr. Sam^l Williams and to extend as far toward the Main Street or Country Road as to be parallel with the East side of Said Williams Upright House.

THE PRECINCT RIGHTS IN THE SPRINGFIELD MEETING AND SCHOOL HOUSES which they had abandoned in becoming a separate Precinct, are the subject of occasional solicitude :

January 23, 1718. Voated to Chuse Sum men to undertake in behalf of the precinct to Consult and inquire for advice and Council as to the precinct's proceeding to petition the Town for Some allowance or Recompense for our Right in the Meeting hous and School hous.

February 10, 1719. Voated to chuse sum men to petition the Town in behalf of the precinct for some allowance for our Right in the Meeting hous and School hous in the Town plot.

March 9, 1719. Voated to chuse sum men to petition the Town in behalf of the precinct for sum allowance out of the Town Treasuery towards building a school hous in Longmeadow and too to petition the Town platt together with Chickapuy and Skipmuck Defin^{ct} from the other precincts for sum allowance for our Right in the Meeting hous in the Town platt afore^s; and those thatt ware chofen for that purpose ware Ensⁿ Sam^l Keep Lef^t Joseph Cooley Lef^t Ephraim Colton.

Document D

Flavia Bliss became a lifetime member of the Woman's Board of Missions in 1871, nine years before she married Frank Garner

WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS.
(Acting with the American Board of Foreign Missions.)

This Certifies, That by the payment of **TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS.**
Twenty-five Dollars
Flavia Bliss is constituted a
LIFE MEMBER of the Woman's Board of Missions.

Flavia Bliss Treas.
Boston, *Sept 3/71* 1871.

Document E

Walter Bliss' obituary indicates his extreme dedication to the Longmeadow community during his lifetime.

WALTER BLISS DIES AT 78 IN SOMERS, CONN.

Had Served Longmeadow as
Selectman, School Board
3/12/39 Chairman

Walter Bliss, 78, who formerly was selectman in Longmeadow, also town clerk, chairman of the school board and for 25 years a deacon in the Longmeadow First Church, died in his home in Somers Street, Somers, Conn., last night, after an illness of some years due to high blood pressure and heart trouble.

From Old Family

A direct descendant of Margaret Bliss who came to Springfield from Hartford in 1640. Mr. Bliss also traced his ancestry to Quartermaster George Colton who settled here in 1644. Mr. Bliss was born in Longmeadow in 1861, the son of William E. Bliss and of Longmeadow and Mary Elizabeth Wood of Wilbraham. Walter Bliss was named for his grandfather, one of the substantial men of Longmeadow. An uncle, James Elliot Bliss, was killed in the battle of White Oaks, Va., in 1864 in the Civil War. Another uncle, Spencer H. Wood, late of New Britain, also served in the Civil War.

Educated in Longmeadow and Springfield schools, including old Springfield High School, Mr. Bliss was 19 when his father died. The son, the oldest of seven children, at once undertook the management of the farm and was accounted one of the successful farmers of the then thriving agricultural community. In 1884 Mr. Bliss became agent of the New Haven Road at Longmeadow when that station was regarded as one of the best paying for the size of the community anywhere along the line between Springfield and New York. He was also agent for the Adams Express Company.

Held All Town Offices

At one time or another Mr. Bliss filled about all the public offices in

Walter Bliss

Continued From First Page

Longmeadow, served as deacon in the church and sang in the choir.

In September, 1894, Mr. Bliss married Mary Louise Bliss of Longmeadow who survives him. He also leaves two sons, Harvey Bliss of Windsor, Conn., and Colton Bliss of Somers; a sister, Mrs. Louise (Bliss) Gunderman of Springfield and three brothers, Fred, Elliot and Clinton Bliss, all of Springfield.

After leaving Longmeadow Mr. and Mrs. Bliss made their home in Wilton, N. H., and in Enfield, Mass., before removing to Somers, buying a home in Somers Street. This winter they made their home with Miss Mabelle Avery of Main Street.

Document F

When compared to the 663 of today, this photo, which was taken in the early 1900's and shows the Bliss boys sitting on the porch, indicates the extensive work done on the house in the last century.



Document G

These pictures of Charles McQueen, along with his diary available in the McQueen family records in the Storrs' house, allow one to better visualize what life might have been like for a young man of the era.

