

PADAN ARAM

HISTORY

BY

HENRY B. WORTH

(CIRCA 1908)

INTRODUCTION

The following was taken from a notebook, compiled by Henry B. Worth about 1908, located in the archives of the Whaling Museum, New Bedford. Mr. Worth was a title search lawyer whose business gave him an intimate knowledge of the Registry of Deeds and Court Records and whose hobby was the History of the Area. At least one of his papers was published by the old Dartmouth Historical Society.

In my search for the history of Padanaram, these notes have been most helpful and I have found those factual references which I have checked to be accurate. Since Mr. Worth's handwriting is somewhat difficult to read, I decided to commit it to type for others who might share my interest in Padanaram. This work was never completed or organized by Mr. Worth and hence it tends to jump around. I have tried to copy it exactly as he wrote it. The sketch maps have been added for clarity.

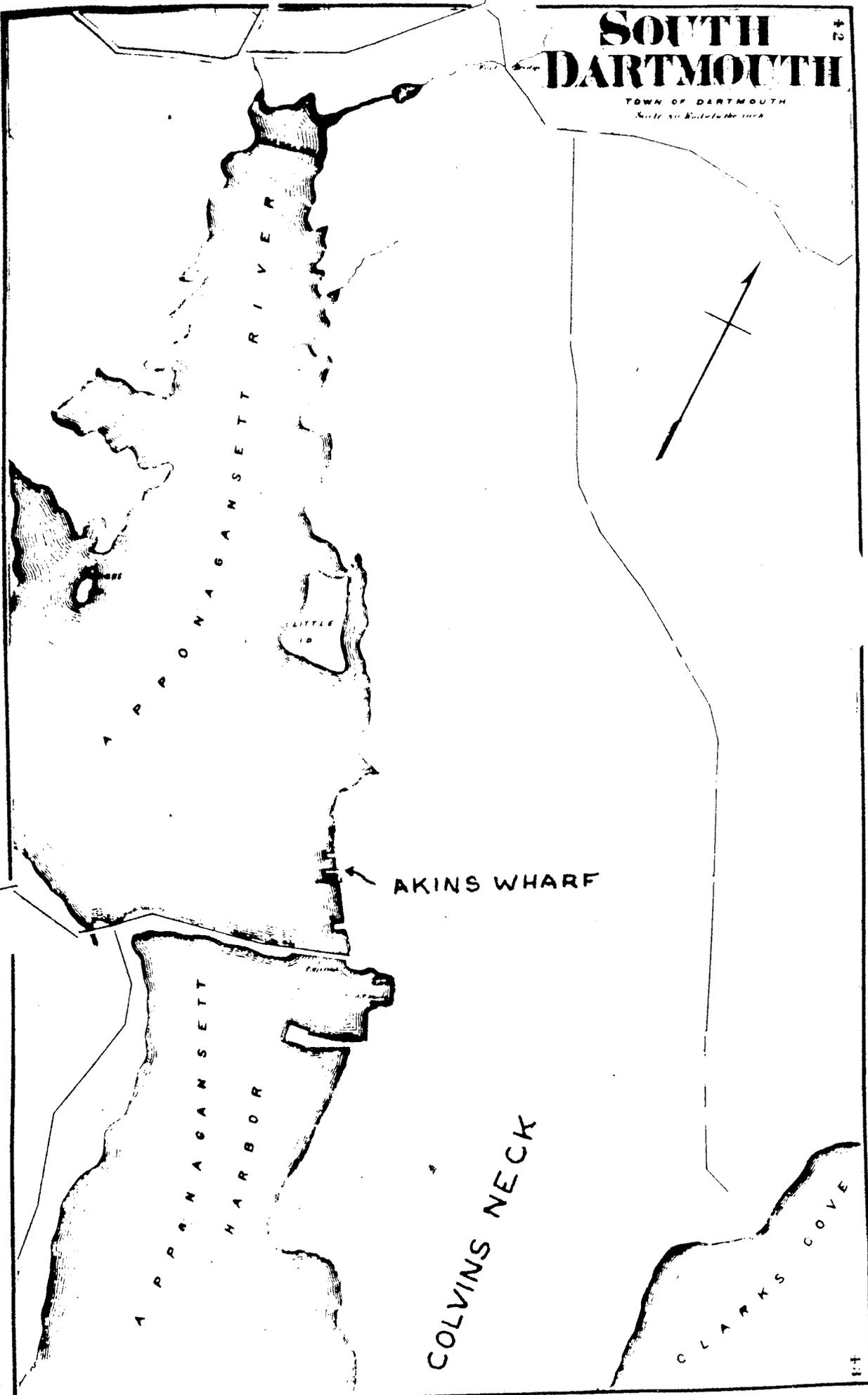
Richard C. Mulready
1978

SOUTH DARTMOUTH

TOWN OF DARTMOUTH

Scale to East of the town

24



T A U N A G A N S E T T R I V E R

AKINS WHARF

T A U N A G A N S E T T H A R B O R

C O L V I N S N E C K

C L A R K S C O V E

1:1

The region under consideration comprises the triangular neck measuring a mile and a half on each side, bounded West by the Apponagansett River, on the East by Clarks Cove and on the North by the Road from the head of Clarks Cove to the Tucker Road. Largely covered by wood this point had only two natural resources, one was the shore and the other a small brook crossing its Northwest Corner, and of sufficient strength to operate a water mill. Both the Cove and the River furnished good harbors but the swampy condition on the east side of the neck induced the inhabitants to settle on the West shore. Extending down the Neck in a Southeast direction was a ridge along the crest of which was an ancient path which became the way known as the "Old Neck Road" and later Rockland Street.

Before the Purchase on Buzzards Bay was constituted the town of Dartmouth(,) the description adopted in deeds was "Cushena, Ponagansett and Cooksett." This three-fold designation included the territory of three Indian Villages. If there were any lines of division between these sections they were not preserved by the English, but probably in the separation of Dartmouth in 1787 into three towns, Cooksett became Westport, Cushena was set off as New Bedford while the center which retained the original name of Dartmouth comprised substantially the Village of Ponagansett or as it was later known Apponagansett.

The meaning of this Indian name has not been satisfactorily explained. Its termination seems to denote land rather than water, but apparently the name was applied to the region bordering on the River. One student in the Algonquin language suggested that the name meant "at the place of the Oyster" and another "at the roasting place." While the Apponagansett River has always been excellent for culture of clams, it is doubtful if oysters were ever found there as there is no fresh water tributary of sufficient volume to maintain oysters. It has the same derivation as the Rhode Island name Appanog.

At one time this neck was called Colvins or Durfees Neck as the end was owned once by John Colvin and later Wm. Durfee. Then the farm was purchased by Wm. Ricketson and it took his name.

About 1800 there was an attempt to designate the Village by the name "Akins Wharf" because of the fact the Elihu and John Akin owned the wharf at the foot of (what is now) Prospect St. But this gave way to a singular Biblical name that it has held tenaciously for nearly a century. In 1800 the family of Thacher came from Cape Cod and settled on this

Neck. Among them was one named Laban and he was prominent in business, church and social life. Somebody discovered that Isaac the Ancestor of the Children of Israel married Sarah the sister of Laban who lived in Padan Aram in Syria. This name was applied to the Neck because here was the house of Laban Thacher, the only instance in modern times where this name has been used as a geographical designation. It was first recorded June 27, 1817 in a suit against David Thacher.

At this point the inquiry arises "when and by whom was this neck settled." In selecting their homes the English were governed by two considerations. They depended on the soil for support and hence they sought land suitable for cultivation. It was also necessary that their houses should be located on arms of the sea whither they could find refuge from the Red men. In this Neck was some land that satisfied these requirements. Thus only a few miles to the eastward on the Acushnet was the settlement of John Cook and his Pilgrim Associates where the first purchases located in the beginning.

While there is some very important evidence bearing on this question, there are also some difficulties to be encountered. The Town records of Dartmouth before 1678 have been worn out and lost. Thus the transaction of the town cannot be ascertained. In 1725 the Record of the Proprietors were burned and the proceedings of the land owners for seventy five years were destroyed. But from other sources it is clear that in 1663 John Russell of Marshfield purchased undivided lands in Dartmouth and in 1664 when the town was incorporated he was its first deputy to Plymouth. Probably he took his residence in Dartmouth about the time of his purchase. In 1675 he was living on this Neck and there is no evidence that he lived anywhere else in the town. The inference therefore is irresistible that here was his Homestead in 1667.

If Russell lived in Dartmouth before 1663 he resided on the Hamond Neck at Accushnet which he owned from 1661 purchased from Samuel Cuthbert.

Matthew Allen was an inhabitant of Dartmouth as early as 1668 and that year he bought half a share of Wm. Bassett. At his death in 1691 he owned a farm at the end of this Neck. Consequently it is probable that he settled here at the date of his purchase.

As will hereafter appear the Neck was divided into two parts, the South half was the Homestead of Matthew Allen and the North belonged to John Russell.

SOUTH DARTMOUTH

24

TOWN OF DARTMOUTH
Scale as Note for the 1000
CA. 1668

JOHN RUSSELL

MATTHEW ALLEN

APPONAGANSETT RIVER

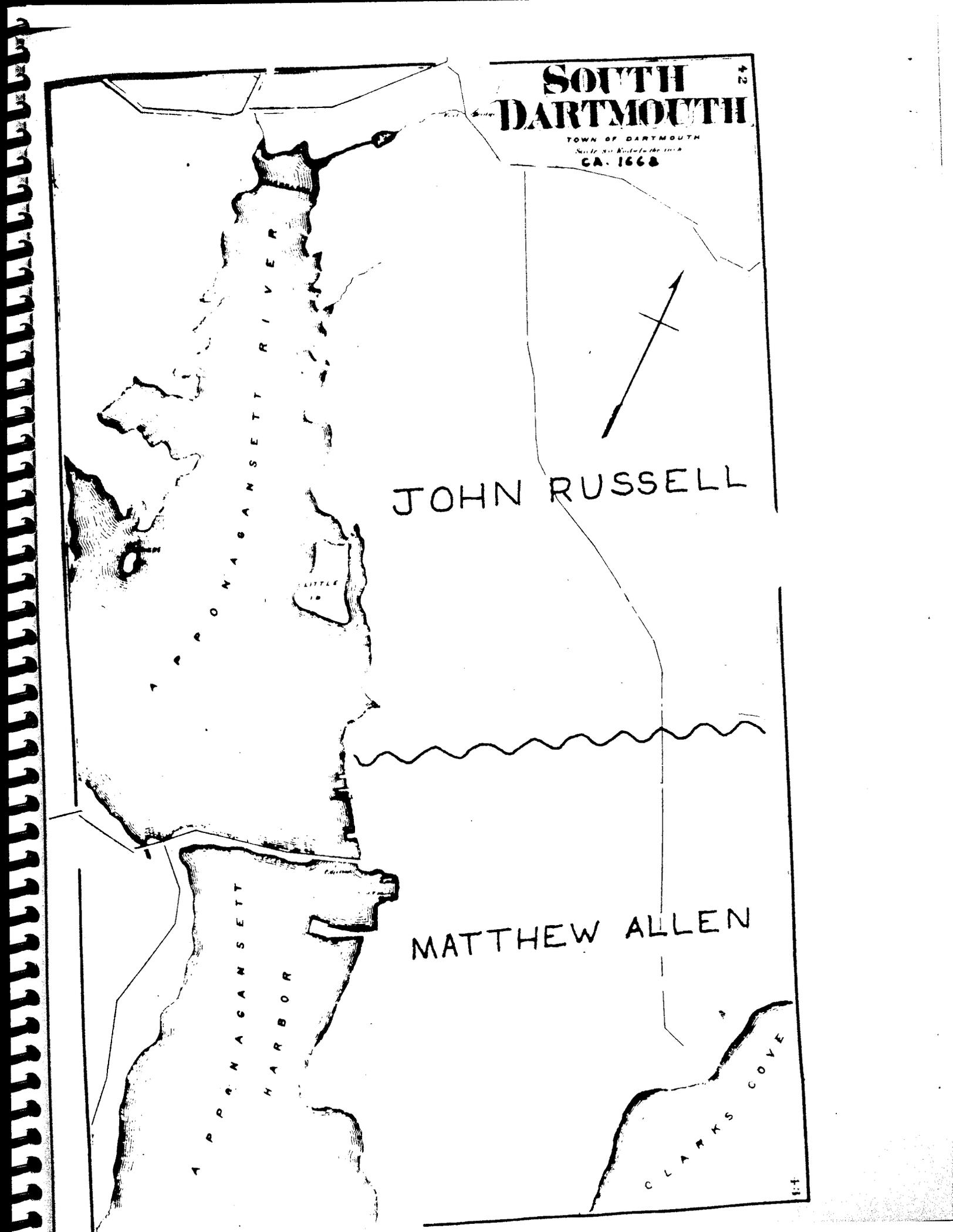
APPONAGANSETT

HARBOR

LITTLE ISLAND

CLARKS COVE

114



The division line was a short distance north of the Library. (about 270 feet.) In which section of his farm Matthew Allen had his house there is no way to determine except that it was probably near the shore of the River.

John Russell also lived near the West shore in the house known as "the Old Castle" or "Garrison House" which will be more fully described later.

These two families comprised all the Residents on the Neck before the King Philips War. During that eventful conflict many incidents occurred in this locality.

The war began in June 1675 and soon Russells House became a place of refuge and during the rest of the struggle the house was defended by Troops under the command of Capt. Samuel Eels of Hingham.

At that date, on the West side of the River was the Homestead of Ralph Earl and some of the Briggs and Shermans owned land on the West side of the River, but whether or not they were residents cannot be ascertained.

Very early in the Indian War Capt. Eels and Ralph Earl induced most of the Apponagansett Red men numbering 160, to surrender, upon promise of humane treatment. This course had the approval of Capt. Church, but when the captives were presented to Plymouth Authorities, they were sent away from the continent as slaves. Aside from the serious wrong accomplished by this decree, it had the beneficent result of freeing Dartmouth from further depredations for a year. In July 1676 it was learned that Philip was on his way to Dartmouth and the people at Russells Garrison sent to Plymouth for assistance. Capt. Church who had by that time had established his ability as an Indian fighter quickly responded with a force of 200. He came in touch with Philips Band near Bridgewater and obtained the lead, passing between Assomaquset and Long Ponds a few hours ahead. His course lay through Long Plain. Over the Acushnet at its Head over the region now New Bedford to the Head of Clarks Cove, along the Beach westerly to Bliss Corner and near that point they "crept into a thicket" for the night.

Very near them were some of the Indians but if they intended any attack on the Russell House it proved too strong for after stealing Russells pigs and shaking the apples from his trees they departed to North along the Slocum and Tucker Roads with Capt. Church in persuit. After a skilful march Church and his party hurried back that evening toward Plymouth with 120 prisoners among whom were the wife and son of King Philip, all captured in a swamp in Northern New Bedford.

SOUTH DARTMOUTH

TOWN OF DARTMOUTH
SOUTH OF BATTLE BRIDGE
CA. 1676

42

NATHANIEL HOWLAND

RUSSELL HOUSE

JOHN RUSSELL

ABRAHAM TUCKER

MATTHEW ALLEN

ABRAHAM TUCKER

1692 LINE

COLVINS NECK

PELEG SLOCUM

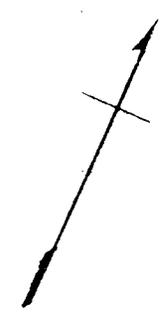
CLARKS COVE

81

MAGANSETT RIVER

MAGANSETT HARBOR

WATER



This episode terminated the war in Dartmouth and a month later Philip was killed.

For two years the inhabitants of Dartmouth had been scattered and now they returned to their former houses and with them additional residents came from different points. The Western part of the town especially increased in white population, coming mostly from the Island of Rhode Island. Soon after the Indian War all land in the Neck was assigned and occupied. In the North East corner was a tract bounded East by the Cove; North by the Road to the Head of Apponagansett, West by the modern Dartmouth Street and extending South to the farm of the late Edward C. Jones. This was allotted to Abraham Tucker.

In the South East quarter was a set off to Peleg Slocum included in the Rockland Farm and East of the Old Neck Road.

In the North West Corner along the brook was a tract assigned to Nathaniel Howland.

On the West side of the Neck Abraham Tucker had another tract, bounded East by the Old Neck Road; on the North by a line a short distance North of Bush Street and South by a line ninety yards North of Prospect Street.

All South of this Tucker tract and extending across the Neck except the Slocum lot at Rockland was given to Matthew Allen.

All of the Neck North of Matthew Allen land except the two Tucker tracts and the Howland lot, were comprised in the Homestead of John Russell. Neither Tucker, Howland nor Slocum occupied these tracts, although the sons of Tucker came here to live.

The facts relating to the end of the Neck are not as definite as could be desired and are somewhat a matter of conjecture. As already stated the North line of the Matthew Allen Homestead was about 90 yards North of the street that passes the Library east and West. The South line of the Homestead as it existed at Allens death in 1692 was about on the line of School Street. *Prospect St.*

South of this line was called Colvins or Calvins Neck. John Colvin married Dorothy a daughter of Matthew Allen. In 1683 Allen conveyed to Colvin and his wife 25 acres of land where they lived without description. In 1705 Colvin conveyed his lands in Dartmouth to Stephen Easton and there is no reference to any owner having anything to do with this Neck. Yet it is difficult to comprehend how this neck could be named Colvin unless John Colvin occupied it. Yet the fact cannot be established. In 1710 the point was named Durfee's Neck.

William Durfee lived there near the end of Rockland Street. Here again is a defect in the chain of transfers. It is not clear how he aquired it. In some way not apparent it seems probable that it was conveyed from Colvin to Durfee. The latter transferred it in 1726 to Henry Tucker: 1740 Thomas Akin and 1742 William Ricketson.

It continued to be known as Durfee's Neck until 1742 when it was designated Ricketson's Neck and this has continued to the present time, the farm being still largely owned in the Ricketson family.

While it is certain that Matthew Allen lived on this Neck, yet before 1700 the only dwelling that can be located is that owned by John Russell, some further consideration of which will now be presented.

This house stood on the East side of the Apponagansett River about one third of a mile South of the Town House where a brook crosses the road and joins the River. On the South side of the junction on a hillock is still the remains of the old cellar. Here was the Homestead house of John Russell for twenty years after 1663.

The first glimpses of life in Dartmouth are to be found in the History of the King Philips War. In the History of the Old Colony by Francis Baylis, a work that has perpetuated much mischievous error, is this statement:

"About this time [1675] Dartmouth was destroyed, many people killed, the remainder retired into Russells House at Apponagansett which was converted into a Garrison. After the destruction of Dartmouth, the Plymouth forces were ordered there and as the Dartmouth Indians had not been concerned in this outrage, a negotiation was commenced with them. By the persuasions of Ralph Earl and the promises of Capt. Eels who commanded the Plymouth Troops, they were induced to surrender their selves as prisoners and were conducted to Plymouth."

This work was written before the date when intellegent readers demanded references to original documents and the author does not furnish any notes. Under the scrutiny of modern criticism he has been found seriously indifferent to accuracy of detail and often stating as fact mere conjecture, that has proved to be error of a very misleading character. Consequently the facts stated in the above quotation should be corroborated before being accepted.

It is quite certain that most of the houses in Dartmouth were burned.

If "many were killed" among the inhabitants, it must have been because there were "many" residents and then there would be some references to their deaths either in the records of the Town or of the Courts in dealing with the estates. It should be understood that this same statement is made by Cotton Mather and by Capt. Church who must have written by report as he was not in Dartmouth until July of the next year.

Without quibbling over the word "many," some well authenticated facts should be considered.

1. The records disclose the names of only four persons who were killed.

William Palmer
John Pope
Jacob Mitchell and wife

all of whom were slain by local indians while they were in flight from Sconticut Neck to John Cooks house North of Oxford in Fairhaven. This appears in the affidavit of Dorothy Haywood dated in 1677 and published in the History of Bridgewater. No records indicate that any others were killed.

2. All others who are known to have been in Dartmouth before the war were residing there when the war was over, while the local records have been lost, some returns were sent to Plymouth, showing who were town officials before the Indian conflict. These persons continued to reside in the same place.
3. The best History of the War as a whole was written by Hubbard. He undertakes to record the names of all who were slain in each town. No mention is made of any massacre in Dartmouth.

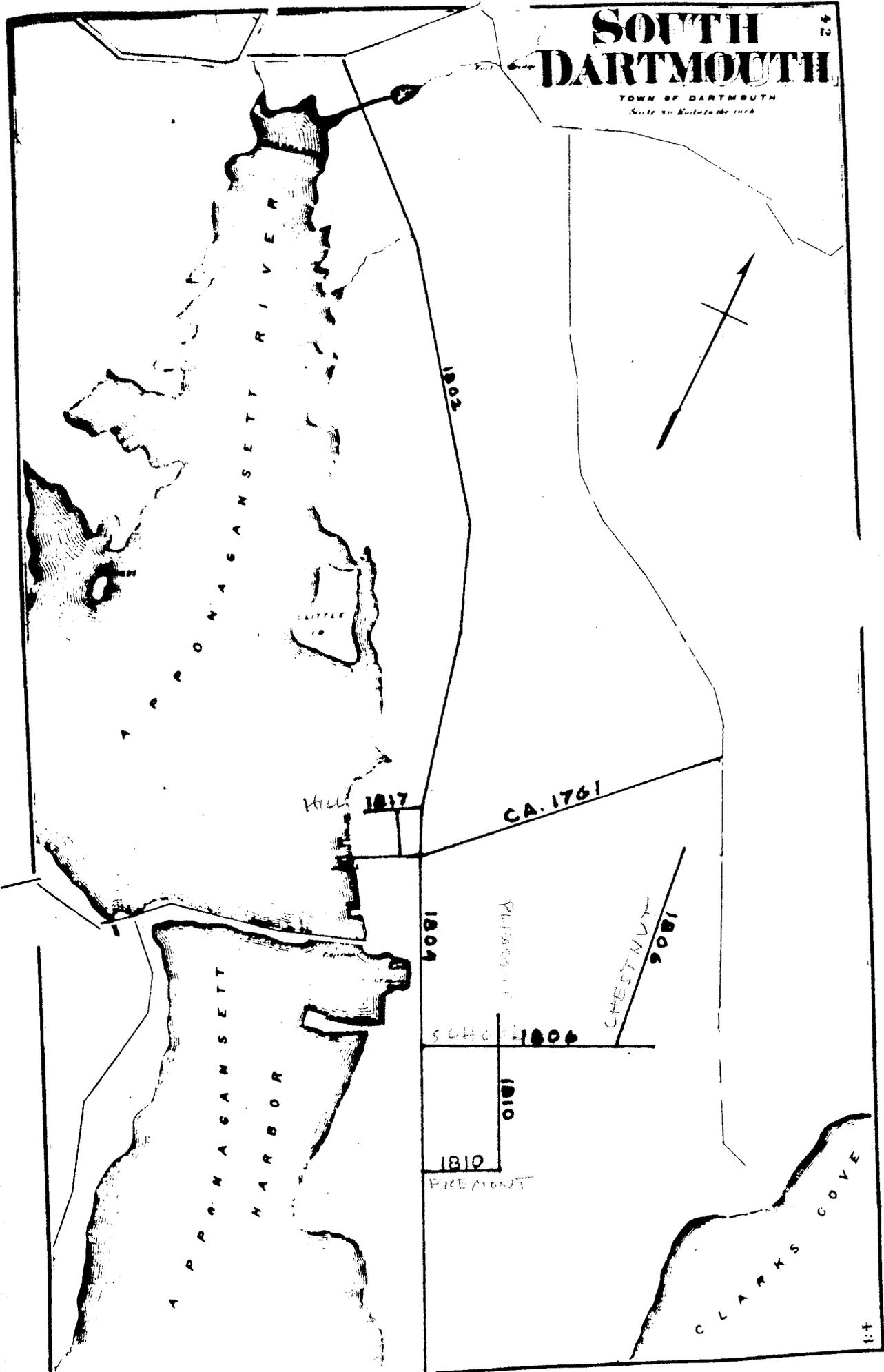
Therefore the story about the Dartmouth Massacre is an exaggeration. The statement concerning the efforts of Ralph Earl and Capt. Eels is in accord with the records although the suggestion that Dartmouth Indians were not concerned in the outrage is at variance with authentic history. Among those who surrendered were the men who killed the four people in Fairhaven and these Indians were executed.

This discussion has been made this particular because the paragraph contains an important fact that all the inhabitants

SOUTH DARTMOUTH

TOWN OF DARTMOUTH
Scale as indicated by inch

24



24

who were not slain returned to Russells House which had been converted into a Garrison. If this statement is to be judged by the accuracy of the rest of the paragraph, the result will be in doubt. At best it is exaggerated because, the entire town except the four that were slain could not live in a house such as was common in those days. The fact is that the inhabitants did not hold a Town meeting for two years and the probability is that they were scattered, temporarily living wherever they could find a refuge.

Russells house is called "the Old Castle," "the Garrison" and by Capt. Church it is called "Russells Orchard," a curious expression as though fruit trees had been formed into a stockade or some other defense. The fact seems to be certain that the affair was of sufficient strength to withstand the attack of Philips warriors in July 1676. It would be interesting to learn who were the occupants of the garrison that long year; what they did, how they lived and subsisted during the two summers and one winter; whence came their food and what military forces aided them in defense. All this is a closed book.

Abraham Sherman was a trader who kept a country store at the head of Apponagansett River and he died in 1772. In the Inventory of his estate is the item:

"A gun which is said once killed an Indian across Apponagansett River from ye old Castle on Russells land to Heathen Neck 14 Shillings."

Heaths Neck is the spot South West from the site of the Garrison on the West side of the River where is located the House and buildings of the late Capt. Schultz.

Until about 1800 the old Neck Road answered every purpose because all the farms bordered thereon. A private road built by the Akins extended to their wharf along the line of the modern Prospect Street. These were the only roads in the Neck.

In 1802 Elm Street was laid out from the Clarks Cove Road to the (current location of the) Library and in 1804 was continued south to its present extent. The activity in business in this neck at this date resulted in the sale of small house lots and hence there was demand for streets. In 1806 David and Laban Thacher gave the land for School and Chestnut Streets and these were accepted. Pleasant and Freemont Street as one street was laid out in 1810. Hill Street was accepted in 1817 and the short street West of the Library which has not been furnished a name. (Sanford St.) This was the year that the most important road in

the Village was accepted. It began at Akins Wharf West of the Library and extended to the New Bedford line and formed the modern Prospect and Dartmouth Streets. Prospect Street had been opened some years between the wharf and the Neck Road, but Dartmouth Street was a new way. In 1822 the town laid out the south section of High Street and Bridge, Water and Allen Streets. Two years later Water was accepted further North.

In 1833 Middle Street was laid out beginning at the South West corner of the Wind Mill lot which was at the corner of School Street. In 1836 Summer was built and in 1844 the North part of High and the east section of Fremont. (Also) Bush Street was laid out and Pleasant Street and Franklin.

According to Wallings map of 1856 these streets had not been named but in 1871 the forgoing names had been designated. During the years before they received their names they were described from the well known buildings or homes which they passed. The Old Neck Road was named Rockland Street when the other Village ways received their names.

It seems that when the compilers of Beers Atlas of 1871 were making their surveys, the inhabitants of Padanaram were called together and the Assembly voted on the street names that have been retained since that date. No other action was taken to name the streets. In the selection of names general designations were adopted. Fremont may have been proposed by some enthusiastic early Republican. Sanford was the name of a family that lived for many years on the East side and Allen may have been suggested to perpetuate the name of the first settler of that locality.

The first known occupant of this Neck was John Russell who came here in 1661 and was the first Russell to settle in Dartmouth. He was one of the leading men in the town from its incorporation. In 1661 he purchased half of the share of Samuel Cuthbert and in 1664 the share of Myles Standish. This gave him extensive rights and as a land owner he ranked with Slocum, Kempton and Ward. Russell was the first Deputy to Plymouth and during the next twenty years he served four terms. His popular rival, John Cook served twelve years during the same period.

During his residence in Dartmouth, which comprised the last thirty years of his life there was no established church and his tendencies in matters of religion cannot be known. His decendants for several generations formed a strong element in the Dartmouth Society of Friends. Enterprising in business, many of them succeeded in a high degree in the accumulation of wealth.

SOUTH DARTMOUTH

TOWN OF DARTMOUTH
Scale 30 Feet to the Inch

JOHN RUSSELL
CA. 1676

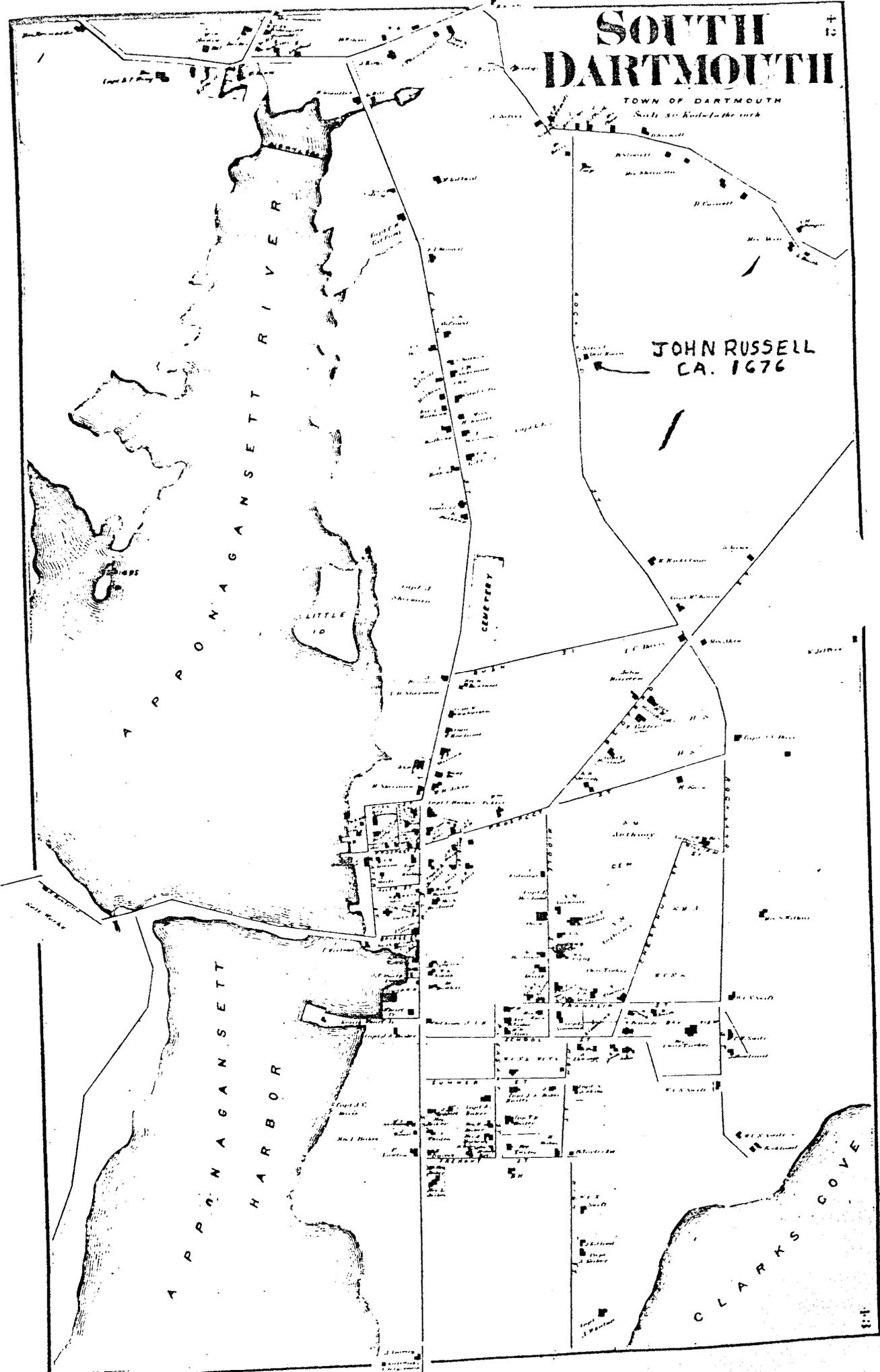
TAPSCOTT RIVER

TAPSCOTT HARBOR

CLARKS COVE

CEMETERY

LITTLE ISLAND



The homestead of John Russell comprised over 400 Acres and included over half the South Dartmouth Neck.

As soon as the King Philips War was over he built a new house on the hill on the east side of the Old Neck Road and this dwelling remained until it was torn down in 1873 by Capt. Jacob A. Howland who then built his new house.

John Russells will dated in 1687 was probated in 1695 and his estate consisted largely of lands. Beside gifts of fifty acres each to his grandsons John and Jonathan, the most of his property went to his son John.

At his house occasional Town Meetings were held. He was surveyor of highways and assessor and nine times elected selectman.

The inventory of his estate mentioned silver money 16\$, pewter vessels valued at 1\$, a warming pan, lanthorn (lantern), one Bible and other books.

His son John survived him only a year and his will probated in 1696 gave the Russell Homstead to John Russell the 3d.

This John left a will which was probated 1747 and his Homstead was devised the North half to son Job and the South to son Jacob. He left a large estate, the personal was valued at 12650\$ and the real estate at 9670\$. He had a son Jonathan to whom he gave the farm at Mischam Point. His dwelling house was the old Homstead on Rockland Street.

The sons Jacob and Job divided their farms by sale or inheritance into smaller tracts. Jacob Russell left an estate in 1774, the largest of any Dartmouth Resident up to that date according to the estimates in the appraisal. The personal property amounted to 21000\$ and the real to 18700\$. This however may have been stated in a currency of less value than the figures would indicate. Continental Currency was greatly debased.

The north part owned by Job Russell went partly by sale and part by inheritance to his son Ezra who disposed of all that came to him. Before 1800 the whole of the original Russell Homstead was owned by men of other names.

Matthew Allen who lived South of the Russell farm died in 1694 leaving a will by which he left his farm equally to his sons Samuel and Matthew. His estate was considered of small moment as the inventory estimated real estate at 70\$ and personal at 57. In the schedule made, one Bible, two oxen, one old mare and colt, warming pan and brass kettle. Samuel

sold his half to Matthew. There is no record to indicate where in this farm Matthew Allen lived. His North line was about 90 yards North of Prospect St. and his south line about in the line of School Street.

Very little is known about this branch of the Allen family.

In 1696 the town of Dartmouth received a protest signed among others by Joseph, Ebenezer and Matthew Allen against being taxed for building a jail at Bristol but the tax for the jail was collected.

Neither Matthew nor his sons ever served in any town office. In 1712 Matthew Allen conveyed the Homestead at Durfee's Neck to Capt. John Akin, one of the most prominent men in Dartmouth of his day.

John Cook and John Russell, the leaders during the first half century of the towns existence, had passed away. A new doctrine and a new faith had appeared and taken strong root in Rhode Island and the south part of the Old Colony. It was promulgated by a Sect calling themselves the Society of Friends and exerted a powerful effect not only on local religious affairs but in matters of Education and politics. It became very strong in Dartmouth where its adherents were in a large majority of the inhabitants. In 1700 the Friends had built their famous Meeting House North of Russells Mills.

The great controversy between the Dartmouth Quakers and the Puritans will be found explained at length in the work on that subject.

The Central figure in that long struggle was Capt. John Akin. His title suggests some military service not exactly in accord with Quaker practices and precepts. This is explained in the work before referred to.

When he first came to Dartmouth Capt. Akin lived in the great farm on the east side of Smiths Neck between Round Hill and Nonquit which is described in the work on Smiths Neck. This first Homestead went into the hands of sons of Akin.

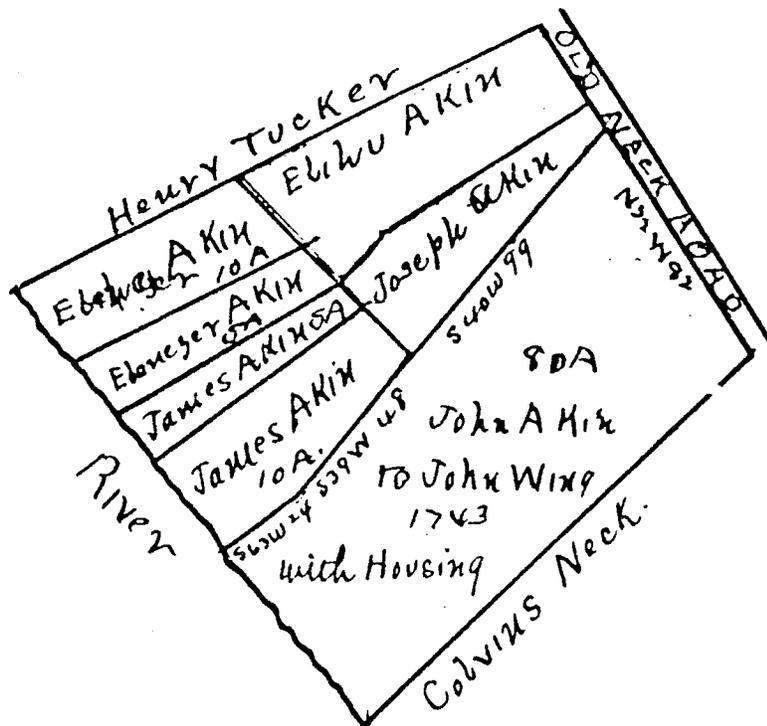
Much of the Matthew Allen land lay on the east side of the Neck Road. As soon as Capt. Akin had completed his purchase from the Allen owner, he transferred all east of Old Neck Road to Peleg Slocum together with a strip six rods wide along the North side of Akins Homestead from the Old Neck Road to the Apponagansett. This was intended to provide a direct right of way from the Slocum land east of the Neck Road to the River. Possibly the transfer of so much of the Allen land to Slocum may have been an indirect way for Capt. Akin to pay for the balance.

Before the crises had been reached in the affairs between Quakers and Puritans John Akin was a leader in Dartmouth. His first recorded appearance was in 1692 when he purchased from Lot Briggs 1/4 of a share of Land. In 1696 he had married the daughter of the wealthy Thomas Briggs whose Homestead is the village of Nonquit and from his wifes Father he purchased 20 acres of land on the east side of Smiths Neck. After other purchases Capt. John Akin became proprietor of 3/8 of a share of land and had the extensive farm on Smiths Neck comprising over 300 acres. Here he lived and here were born to him ten children. After 1708 his wife Mary died and later he married Hannah Sherman daughter of John who lived at the Head of Apponagansett.

In 1712 he bought the Allen farm at Padanaram for 550\$. How soon this became his home cannot be known, but in 1722 he transferred the Smiths Neck farm, the north part to his son James and the south to his son David.

In 1743, he sold the south two thirds of the farm to John Wing and the same was then transferred in 1745 to Wm. Ricketson who had already purchased the Neck to the South.

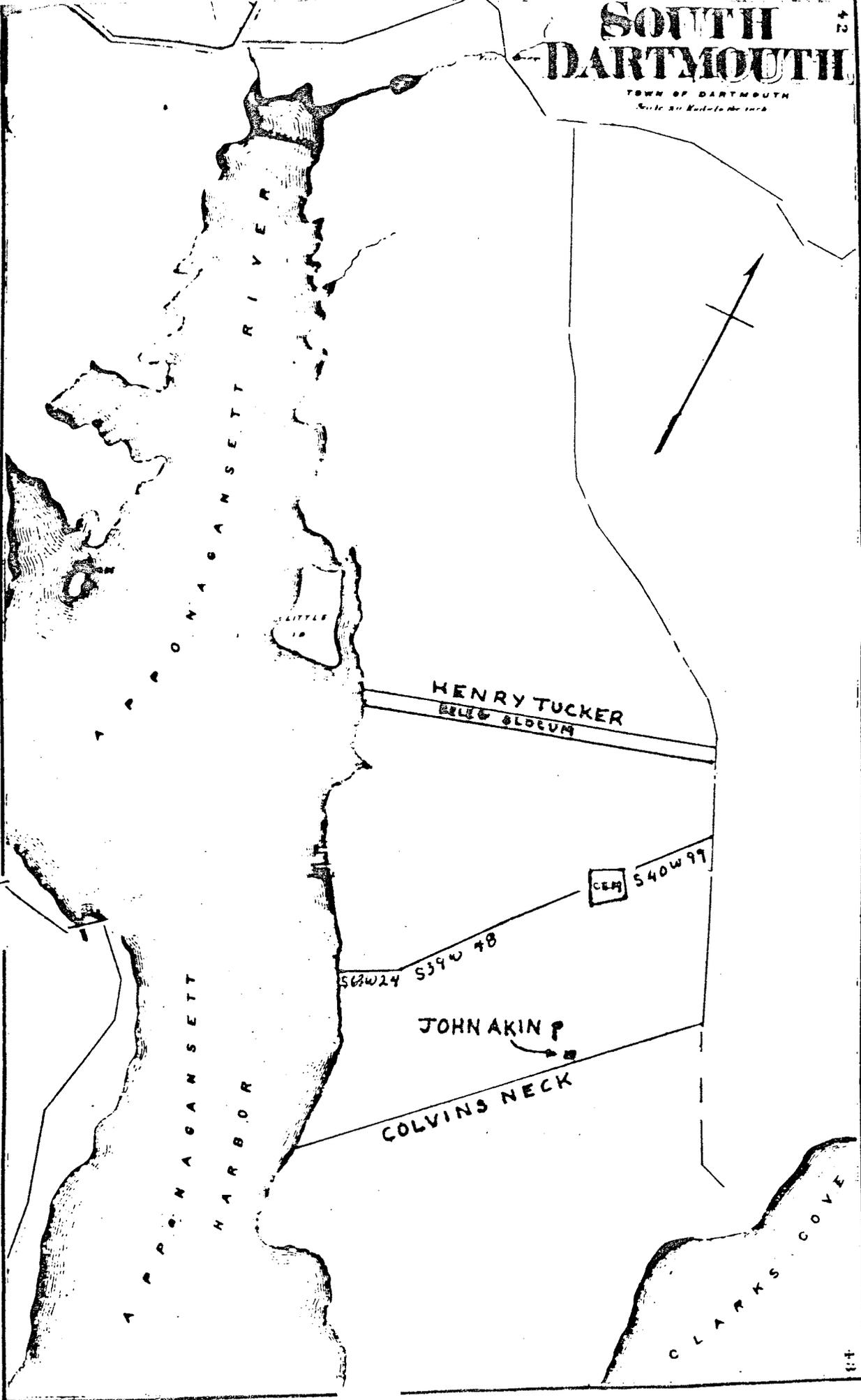
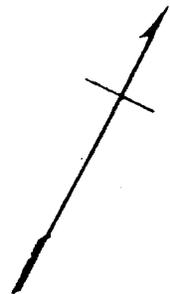
Captain John Akin died in 1746 aged 83. The division of his homestead is (was) as follows:



SOUTH DARTMOUTH

13

TOWN OF DARTMOUTH
Scale 20 Miles to the Inch



14

(In) 1747 Ebenezer conveyed his tracts comprising 15A (acres) to his brother Elihu. Captain Johns estate was personal 270 pounds and house and lands 1330\$.

There is no positive record where on (the) slope between the Old Neck Road and the River stood the house of Capt. John Akin. There was a house on the south part which in 1743 was sold to John Wing. In this section, on the North side of School Street, East of Middle and opposite the lot of the old School House was an old cellar in 1818 according to a deed given by David Thacher to John Southworth. Here may have been the house of Capt. John Akin before 1743. There is no record whether Capt. Akin engaged in any maritime venture or in whaling.

His religious affiliations are not easy to define. There is absolutely nothing to indicate that he participated in the affairs of the Presbyterian Church at Acushnet nor does he appear to be connected with the Baptist Church near Poganset Pond on the edge of Tiverton. And of necessity he must have sympathized with the Society of Friends. Indeed in 1723 he was willing to undergo imprisonment rather than coerse the Quakers. But if this was his personal conviction, it had developed from a different condition of mind. For there is a record that in 1709 he had "impressed into the Queens service in Canada John Tucker, John Lapham and Deliverance Smith, three Dartmouth Quakers and the same year he placed Nathaniel Howland under arrest for refusing to perform military duty and started with the culprit to Bristol, but liberated him at Stone Bridge, a performance not easily explained.

In affairs of the town he took a prominent part and served in many offices. His first election being in 1692 as Selectman and he served in that office in 1710, 16, 19, 21, 22, 24 and 1725. He was town clerk 1695, 1704, and 1715 and Representative 1707, 20, 29 and 1736. The last mention of his name in Town Meeting records was in 1738 when he served as Moderator.

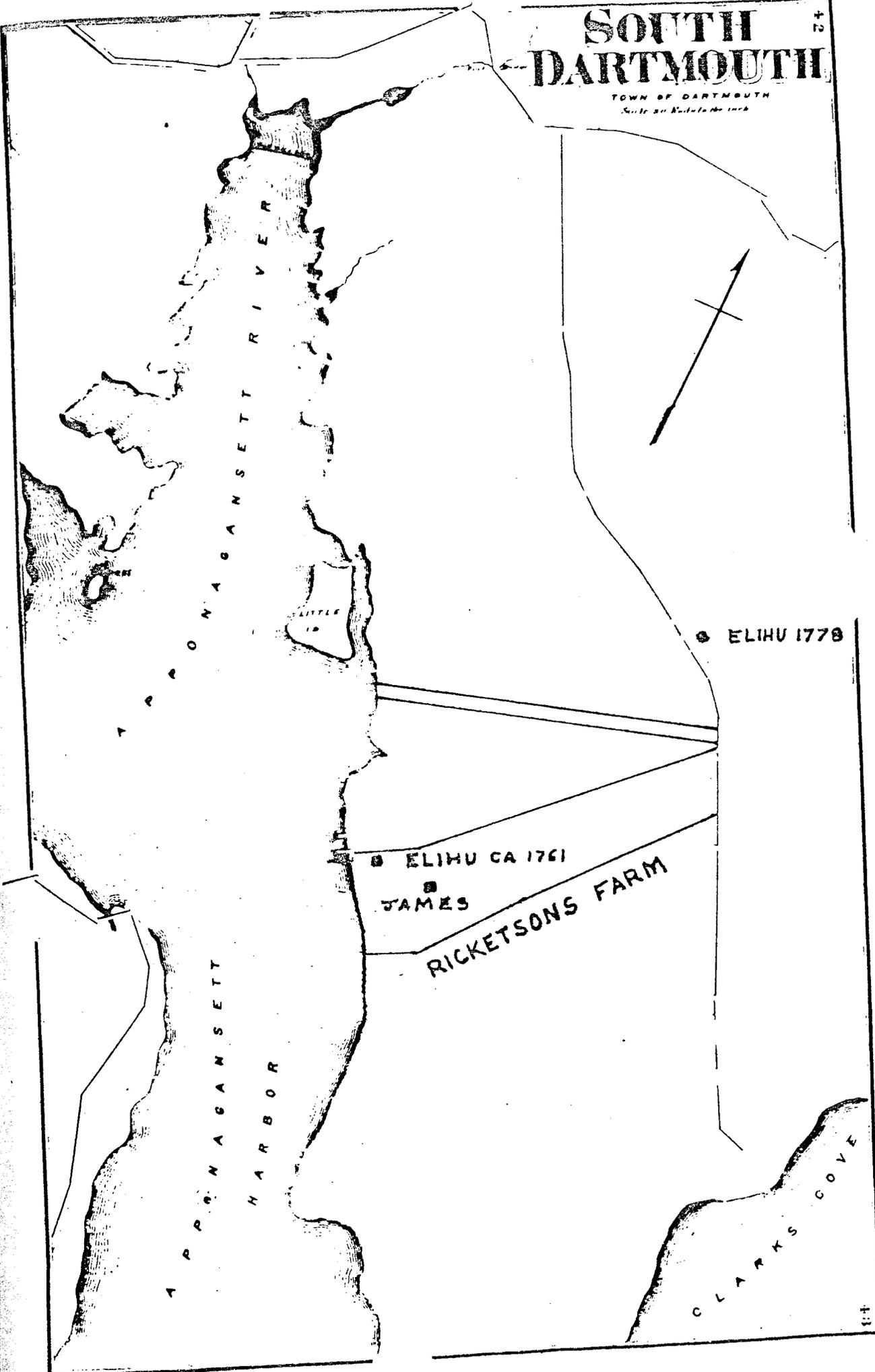
His will was a very lengthy document dated 1743 and approved in Sept. 1746. He is described as "Gentleman." Some of his property had been given to his children years before and this was treated as their portion. He left surviving children six sons and six daughters and one daughter had died before him. His gun and great Bible went to his son James who was his Executor.

According to the custom of that period the real estate divided to the sons and the personal to the daughters.

SOUTH DARTMOUTH

13

TOWN OF DARTMOUTH
Scale as before



ELIHU 1778

ELIHU CA 1761

JAMES

RICKETSONS FARM

CLARKS COVE

13

In all the records his title of Capt. is always given, a reminder of the military career of over a half century before his death and suggesting that if he sympathized with the Quakers he could not be considered one of their members. Apparently he attended the Meeting at Apponagansett as his name appears on a marriage certificate in 1700.

According to the regulation of the Friends Discipline of that period no stone marked his burial place and it is now unknown. In the absence of any evidence it may be presumed to have been somewhere on his Homestead farm, and if his family followed a common custom prevailing in New England, it would be expected that his grave would be a short distance from his House.

Assuming that his dwelling house stood on the old cellar near the corner of School and Chestnut Streets, somewhere in that vicinity would be the spot. On a breezy hilltop a few rods west of the house of the late Stephen M. Anthony is an acre of land wall(ed) in, containing many graves none of which are marked. A certain proof that the occupants had some relation to the Society of Friends. By tradition this has always been called the Akin Cemetery. It was on the Homestead farm of Capt. John Akin and is now owned by his descendants. It would be in accord with all the customs of that day and the traditions perserved in the family, if in this enclosure was the last resting place of Capt. John Akin and many of his descendants.

The sons who were identified with Padanaram Neck were James and Elihu.

The line between the Elihu and James Akin Homesteads on the North and Ricketsons farm is approximately the following. Begin at the Old Neck Road or Rockland Street and continue southwesterly to the North of Stephen M. Anthonys House to a creek that nearly reached Elm Street south of Bridge St. and in the same direction to two Boulders in the River known as "Two Brothers Rocks."

Elihu Akin aquired the tracts that were left to Ebenezer and Joseph and build his house on the South West corner of Prospect (and) water. This was burned by the English in 1778 and his son Abraham built the present house on the same foundation when his house had been burned. Elihu Akin lived the remainder of his life in the old house at the top of Potters Hill at the corner of Rockland and Dartmouth streets.

The loss by the British raid was a severe blow to Elihu Akin from which he never recovered. His wharf at the foot of Prospect Street and his ship yard and other property were burned as a retaliation for his zeal in the course of the Continental Revolution.

At his death in 1794 he left an estate of only 150S devided among his four sons, John-Abraham, Jacob, Joseph and Ebenezer.

James Akin also suffered from the British Raid in losing his house which stood on the same spot now occupied by the house of Charles C. Stearns on the east side of Elm St. This was on the North edge of his 15 Acre Homstead. James Akin died in 1804 leaving an estate of \$2500 to his son Richard and upon the decease of the latter in 1809 the estate was sold in small parcels to settle his estate.

The enterprise of the Akin family in establishing a wharf at the foot of Prospect Street and engaging in Ship Building before the Revolution resulted in naming the village Akins Wharf for over twenty years after the war. But the dominance of the Thachers who came about 1800 overthrew the attempt to preserve the name of Akin and substituted for it Padanaram.

For over half a century there has been among the land owners of this Neck no person by the name of Akin, the members of that family to be found in this region being residents of New Bedford and Fairhaven.

Some of the Akins joined the emigration that left Dartmouth and settled in Dutchess and Rensalaer Counties New York. David, Josiah and Ebenezer Akin were in the number.

The triangle in the Northeast corner of the Neck laid out to Nathaniel Howland on both sides of the Brook and bounding on the River went from him to son James and 1745 Benjamin Allen; 1766 to John Wody. This will be fully considered in the work on the Cove Road.

As already stated Abraham Tucker had two tracts on this Neck, ^{to us ?} one in the North East Corner bounded by Dartmouth Street on the West and the Jones farm on the South, the other South ^{John Tucker} of Bush Street. ^{Tucker Lane} Tuckers Homstead lay between the Tucker and Slocum Roads and on both sides of Allen Street and these tracts in the Neck were intended to include his share of shore front. They were occupied somewhat by his descendants. He gave the Clarks Cove tracts to his son Jonathan and the parcel on the West side of the Neck to his son Henry the North to Joseph the South half

The Clarks Cove farm, largely woodland [ends in mid sentence] The parcel on the west side of the Neck was transfered as follows: In 1745 Holder Slocum purchased from Henry Tucker the North half and 1771 it was conveyed to Peleg and Christopher Slocum who in 1775 sold it to John Ricketson. This tract lay on both sides of Bush Street.

The other half passed from Joseph Tucker to his son Joseph and from the later to his daughters Mary the wife of Peleg

Howland and Anna the wife of Reuben Russell. Mary Howland took the North Part and Anna Russell the south and the same was by them conveyed in small lots to different persons.

When Capt. John Akin in 1712 purchased the Matthew Allen lands in the Neck as a contemporary part of the transaction he sold all of the same east of the "Old Neck Road" to Peleg Slocum. This tract with others that were set off to Slocum comprised over 300 Acres. This section was bounded West by the Old Neck Road, North by a line drawn from the top of Potters Hill east to the Cove and on other sides by the Salt Water. It was mostly swamp and wood land and was never occupied by Slocum whose Homestead farm was south of Russells Mills. The Cove land descended to Joseph Slocum who in 1740 conveyed it to Henry Hedley and he in 1741 transferred it to Peleg Sherman of Portsmouth R.I. Later it came into the possession of Salisbury Sherman, Blacksmith who occupied it as a Homestead. He died in 1774 and devised it to his sons Richard and Tisdale Sherman who sold it to persons outside of the family.

Wm. Ricketson and his descendants have been the longest in possession of the original lands of all the Padanaram land owners. Starting in 1742 with the purchase of the end of the Neck and later adding to it a large tract purchased from Capt. John Akin by John Wing also large tracts on the east side of the Neck Road later called "Rockland," he was the largest land owner of his day. He possessed to a high degree the faculty of accumulating property. The inventory of his estate in 1796 showed personal estate of over 2700 pound(s) and comprised notes for money lent to many people. Among them were David Gifford, Wm. Sanford, Holder Slocum, Peleg Sanford and Benjamin Chase. His Homestead was devised to his sons John and Benjamin and the former before 1800 acquired the whole of it.

John Ricketson also acquired in 1780 the land between the Neck Road and the Apponagansett River and on both sides of Bush Street.

In 1800 he gave deeds of these tracts to his sons.

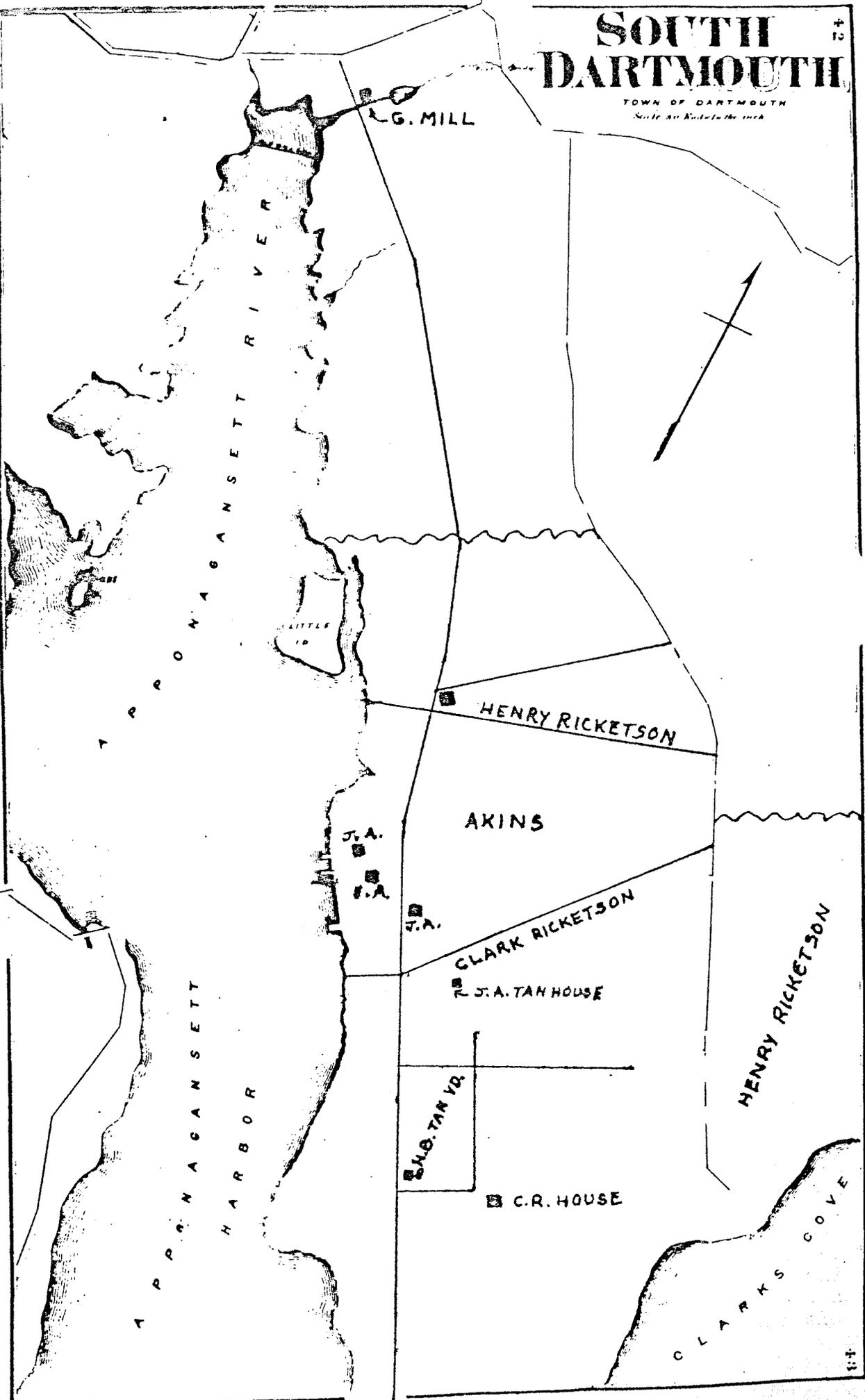
To Clark Ricketson he gave all that lay west of the Old Neck Road and south of Elihu and James Akin. The North line of this tract began at the mouth of the Brook on the West side of Elm Street South of the Bridge extended North easterly, slightly to the North of the house of the late Stephen Anthony.

To His son Henry he gave the farm where Henry lived on Bush Street and all the land East of the Old Neck Road and included in the Rockland farm. During the early years of the salt industry, Henry sold all of his land at the end of the Neck and during the same period, Clark Ricketson sold the part of his land North of Fremont Street. *Esther Walter's*

SOUTH DARTMOUTH

42

TOWN OF DARTMOUTH
Scale as Noted on the map



1:1

The dwelling house of William Ricketson was probably the same as Wm. Durfee. *(Near end of Rockland St. (Beckman's?))*

That of Clark Ricketson was built by him shortly after 1800 at the foot of Pleasant St. on the South side of Freemont. *Mrs. Stocum's*

Henry Ricketson's house was on the East side of Elm Street South of Bush Street. *Break in ridge Marshall?*

Considering the extent of the Neck at South Dartmouth it was the location of more industries than any other section on Buzzards Bay. So vigorous were these activities and so enterprising were the residents that they had fair hopes of surpassing New Bedford in amount of wealth and numbers of inhabitants. The result however proved that many small industries might prove disastrous if not balanced by some one solid enterprise. The sanguine expectations of the people near Akins Wharf were shattered by several failures, that reduced it to a residential village.

During the century after the arrival of John Russell in 1661, the occupation of the inhabitants must have been farming. In the North West corner of the Neck on the Brook may have been a Water Mill after 1700 but it was a small concern during its best days. *Water Mill Anne Stuyvesant's*

In the deed given in 1743 by Capt. John Akin to John Wing, one of the land marks mentioned is the tan house of James Akin. From the description it seems that the location was not far from 400 feet from Elm Street, about in line of Pleasant, measuring easterly from a point opposite from the Brook house now occupied by Thomas D. Allen.

Tan houses were located where spring water could be obtained in abundance which was the condition at this location. The only other material required was oak bark.

James Akin's tan house seems to have been a temporary affair as in 1808 it was no longer in existence as appears by the agreement between David and Laban Thacher in 1808 fixing the Division line. This line extended on the South side of the Brook House and then to the Northerly of the Two Brothers Rocks, that are a short distance from the shore in the river. *South beyond parking lot*

In 1808 Hezekiah Babcox purchased from Clark Ricketson a lot on the East side of Elm St. ninety feet North of Freemont and operated a tan yard thereon. In 1827 he sold it to Washington Snow who continued the same business, during the whole or a part of the next twenty years. *with?*

Business activity in those days was always accompanied by the instituting of public houses. In mere farming communities the licensed public house was unnecessary and unknown, but when some other lines of business collected men into villages, then the demand for liquor arose and the licensed Tavern or Inn was the result. Reasoning from effect back to cause when there were licensed places, the existence of some mercantile business may be inferred at the same date. Bristol County Court Records disclose the fact that licensed places were conducted by James, Elihu and John Akin, beginning with 1761 and continuing, some or all during subsequent years. Some line of business therefore had been established in 1761 in the present village of Padanaram where all these licensees lived.

James Akins House stood on the east side of Elm Street opposite the Post Office as it existed in 1908 on the site of the Charles C. Stearns house.

Elihu Akin lived on the south side of Prospect St. at the head of Akins Wharf. He was a brother of James.

John Akin a son of Elihu lived to the North of Prospect on Water Street. *Wardwell*

From his business activity in later years, it seems probable that whatever the business may have been it was also conducted by some if not all of the Akin family. It is sure that in Sept. 1778 when the British Raid took place, Elihu Akin had a ship yard where a vessel had been nearly completed. In 1747 Elihu in a deed is described as a ship wright living in Newport. His property burned by the English included house, wharf, the brig almost ready to launch and the ship yard, all located near the foot of Prospect St. Probably Elihu Akin began ship building about 1761 at the Apponagansett. Ten years earlier there is good evidence of ship building and fitting of whaling vessels at the Head of the Apponagansett by Daniel Wood and John Wody and there was ship building near the Head still earlier. So while there is in existence no certain evidence to that effect, there is a strong probability that in 1761 Elihu Akin had begun ship building at the foot of Prospect St. where he later had a wharf, in consequence of which in 1800 the place was called "Akins Wharf."

The burning of his property by the British was a staggering blow from which he never recovered. He lived until his death in the house on Potters Hill and left an estate valued at only 150 pounds. There is no indication that any of the Akins started the ship yard after the war. For years there was no commerce in America and no incentive to build vessels. Consequently that industry probably ceased until revived by different men.

In the year 1800 the situation at South Dartmouth was not propitious. Its thrifty promise under the enterprising efforts of the Akins was not being continued. Ship building had fallen to decay because during the war there was no demand for ships and for years after, the business of the country became stagnant and no ships were required. Hence the Akin ship yard was abandoned and the business never revived. At the opening of the new century there was no business in the Neck. New leaders were needed and new industries.

The only highway into the Neck was modern Rockland Street. On the east side were the farms of the Shermans, and Sanfords which will be hereafter examined in detail. On the West side along the River North of the present Village were farms of Sandfords and Akins. The land occupied by the Village was owned, the North part by Tuckers, the center by the Akins and the South by the Ricketsons, while the Point which was south of Freemont St. was owned by Clark Ricketson who had just received it from his father. Who created the stimulating interest is not known, but about this time there came from Cape Cod a marked immigration though not large, yet embracing a number of families. A few years earlier a few families of Weeks came from Falmouth and settled at the Head of Apponagansett, but probably these were of no effect in bringing the others. But in the few years after 1800 there arrived practically together the Thachers from Yarmouth, the Smalls, Smalleys, Matthews and Sears from the same section of the Cape. These settled in Padanaram. On the West side of the Apponagansett River settled four Bakers, Ezra, Ensign, _____ and _____ all of whom came from _____.

The Bakers were farmers although their descendants spread out into all the surrounding towns.

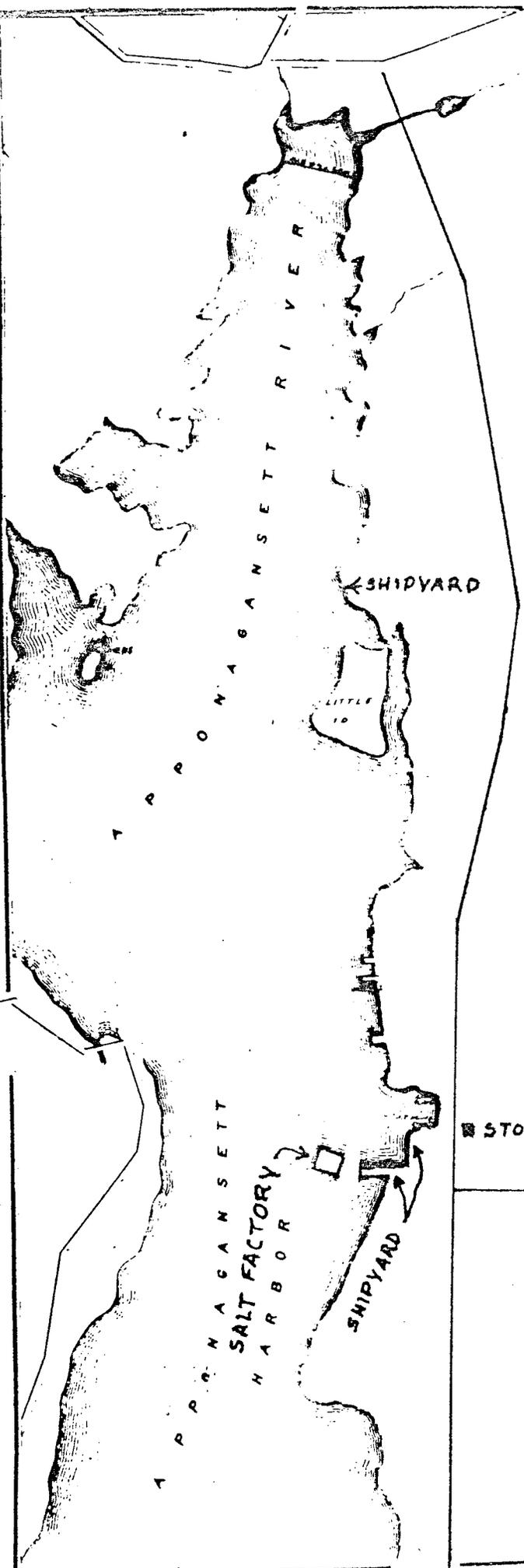
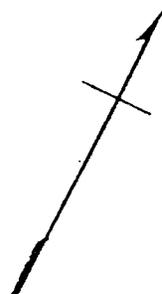
The Thachers engaged in ship building and had two yards, one at High Point and the other at the foot of School Street. Samul Crowell, Isaiah Smalley, Ezra Small, Stephen Taylor, Isaac Whelden and Prince Sears bought land on the shore and started salt works. David Thacher built a Wind Mill at (what is now) the corner of Middle St. and School. Two of the Thachers started a Magnesia Factory and Clark Ricketson had on his land a Rope Walk. All these different enterprises were in operation between 1800 and 1812 and under the management and control largely of these Cape Cod men.

Whoever investigates the History of the villages on the Apponagansett for the half century after 1800, will at the outset become impressed with the great influence of these Cape families on the business, religious, and social activities of this section.

SOUTH DARTMOUTH

TOWN OF DARTMOUTH
Scale as indicated by bars

42



■ STORE

■ WIND MILL

■ SCHOOL

■ LABAN THACHER

CLARKS COVE

43

How general and extended this influence became may be appreciated by a glance at the Atlas of 1856 when it will be apparent that the families from Barnstable Countys had taken the place of the Akins, Russells and Tuckers of 1800.

These Cape Cod men brought to their new home a zeal and energy that seemed ready to engage in any business and the catastrophies that befel some of them, were due to their over sanguine dispositions that expected nothing but success.

These men will be further described in the examination of the different lines of business in which they engaged.

It was a custom of men who formerly drew deeds to add to the names of the parties some designation indicating their business or social rank. Thus in 1802 when William and Laban Thacher came to Southern Dartmouth, they are described as "shipwrights," and David Thacher a relative was called "Esquire." Each of the ship builders established a separate ship yard. Laban Thatcher settled south of School Street. His residence is the House called "The Elms," on the East side of Pleasant ^{Street} Street South of School and later owned by Bradford Howland Thomas Howland and Wm. C. N. Swift. Wm. Thacher's yard was on the shore of the North side of the Wharf and in front of (where) the Pavilion (now stands) in 1908. His purchase of land was in 1802 and as early as 1811 he had built his wharf and was building vessels. ^{Parkin}

On the East side of the street opposite the Pavilion he had a store.

The wharf with the clam bake building at the end is not now as originally planned. The wharf was much shorter. Then there was built in the River a stone island called a pier. On this was erected a two story building for a curious mechanical purpose. The coarse salt obtained on Ricketsons point had to be ground for domestic use. So this building was prepared for that purpose. In the lower story was machinery to grind salt. The upper story was devoted to a large tank into which water was pumped from the River. It was intended to use this water to operate a water wheel that was to work the machinery. But it was found that the time required to fill the tank was much greater than was occupied in emptying the same and that the hydraulic contrivance was a dismal failure. But the building built before 1817 was a very substantial structure. According to the Land Records it was built by David Thacher and was attached for his debts. Later this pier and the building were connected to the wharf or made into one wharf and in recent years has been used for clam bakes. For some reason not apparent this building has been known as Labans Folly although Laban Thacher was not the owner according to the Land Records.

In 1802 Wm. Thacher and all his children moved to So. Dartmouth. He bought the Sandford farm that lay between the Old Neck Road and the River and its North line was the Jonathan Akin farm and the Old Garrison Lot and its south line was South of Shipyard Lane. He opened a lane to the River and called it Shipyard Lane. It began across the *Oliver Daley's* road from the Stall house. At its foot at High Point he established a ship yard and with him was associated Freeman Ryder and Charles Matthews. In 1826 Wm. Thacher seems to have been obliged to dispose of much of his land and he sold the same in small parcels. At his death in 1830 his estate comprised \$550 in real and \$270 in personal estate and was insolvent. One line of the Inventory was the following: "1 Book Universal History 25 cents; 1 file 10 cents." His children were Laban, William, Judah and Gorham: Mehitable wife of Benjamin Kelly and Thankful wife of Ebenezer Hawes. It seems to have been the universal rule that the ship builders of Apponagansett died poor. Possibly the loss of his property by Wm. Thacher may have been connected with the disastrous failure of his son Laban only a few years later.

On one of the corners of Ship Yard Lane and the Main Road was a country store kept by _____ . This neighborhood was called Thachertown.

The sons of William Thacher were all shipwrights and lived on different parts of the farm near High Point. Gorham owned the place later owned and occupied by Pardon Wing and Giles S. Gifford.

Laban Thacher lived in the Village of Padanaram which received that designation on account of his name about 1817. His land transactions show him to have been a man of over sanguine temperament and ready to engage in a variety of enterprises. The same year that his Father settled above High Point Laban located South of the Bridge. In 1802 he purchased a tract of over forty Acres that extended from the River East to the line of High Street. Its North line was the Brook that emptied into the River South of the Bridge and its South line was Fremont Street. (In) 1804 David Thacher had a liquor license.

In 1805 Clark Ricketson also sold to David Thacher "Esquire," 30 Acres between the Laban Thacher purchase and the Old Neck Road. The same year Laban Thacher sold to David one half (of) the wharf which Laban had built. The career of these two men was rapid and varied and in both cases ended in financial disaster.

David Thachers relation to South Dartmouth seems to have been only of a transitory character because in a few years he had sold all of the thirty acre purchase.

At the N.E. corner of School and (what is now) Middle Streets he built a Wind Mill which in 1814 he sold to Josiah Sturtevant and Capt. Isaac Whelden and the latter soon acquired the whole. In 1830 it was purchased in part and operated by Isaiah Smalley. In 1847 it was sold to Michael Baker and removed nearer the shore to the South West and about _____ was demolished. The Wody Mill on the brook near the present town house satisfied the needs of the Community until a *smaller structure* local mill was no longer required.

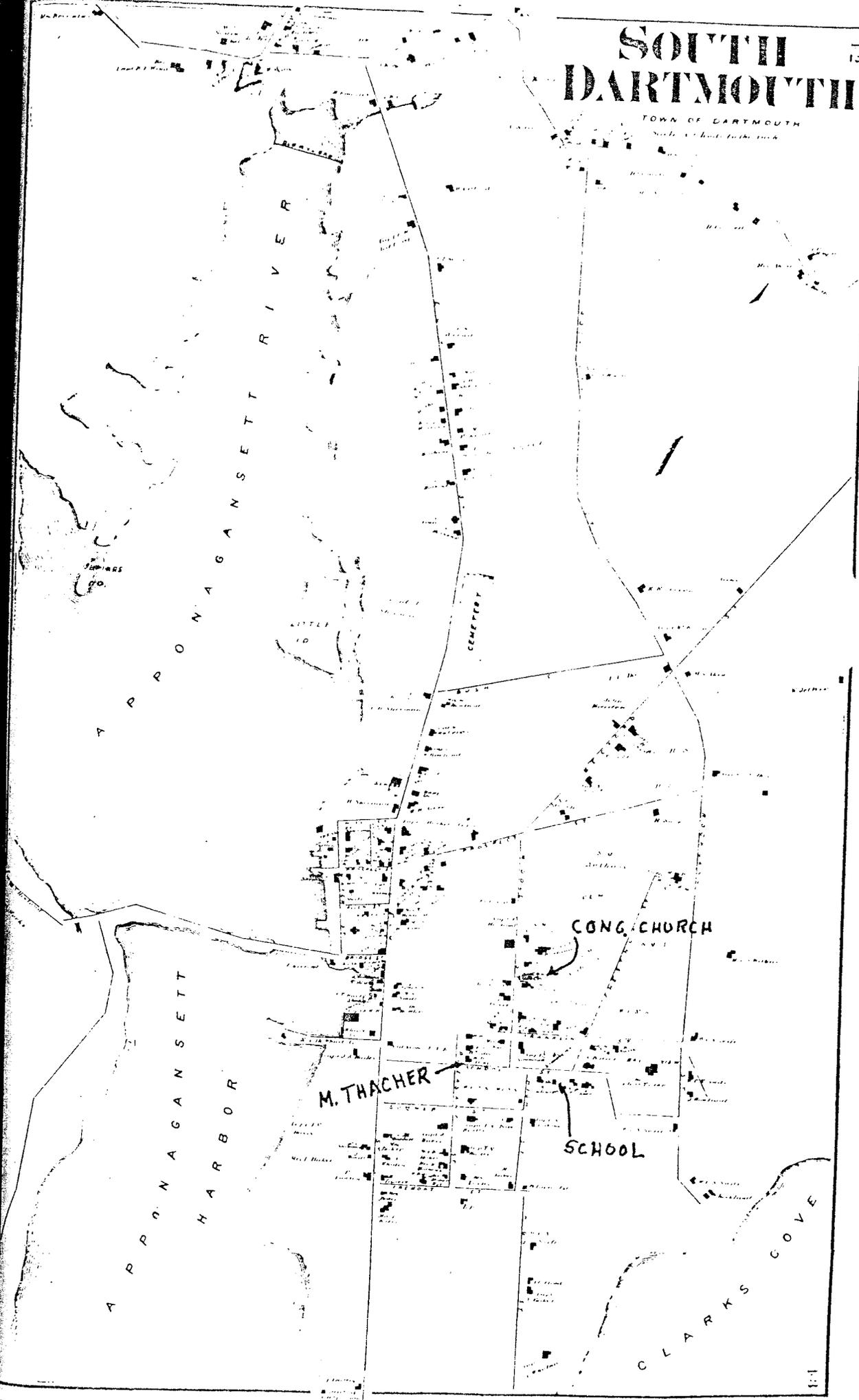
Under the influence of the Thachers there was an imediate development of a street system in South Dartmouth which suggests a possible speculative tendency. Having laid out, surveyed and opened the streets the town seemed very willing to accept them. The street names were not adopted until about 1870 when the publishers were preparing the Atlas of Bristol County. They invited the residents of South Dartmouth to assemble in Village Hall and then and there were adopted the names by which these streets have since been known. The streets of this Village were accepted as follows; although they were opened and used years before.

Elm Street	1804
School and Chestnut line between Laban and David Thacher,	1806 being on the they gave the land.
Pleasant and Fremont Street	1810
Prospect East of Elm	1817
Dartmouth St. to New Bedford	1817
Hill Street	1817
Sanford Street	1817
High Street - south section below Fremont	1822
Bridge, Water and Allen	1822
Middle Street	1833
Summer Street	1836
Fremont Street and North Section High	1844

SOUTH DARTMOUTH

TOWN OF DARTMOUTH
Scale of 1 inch to the mile

12



APPONAUGANSETT RIVER

APPONAUGANSETT HARBOR

M. THACHER

CONG. CHURCH

SCHOOL

CEMETERY

CLARKS COVE

12

With the exception of the recent extension of Bridge Street East of Elm, the Roads of South Dartmouth are substantially as they were surveyed and opened under the influence of the Thachers a century ago.

The way named School Street was thus designated because for many years a school house was maintained by a District and later by the Town on the lot on the south side of the street next East of the corner of High and now owned by Mrs. M. R. Hitch. As early as 1806 a school house had been located on this corner, but how it was conducted cannot be learned by any record except by inference. The land was part of the tract purchased by David Thacher in 1805. There are two deeds on Record in 1814 from David Thacher one to Josiah Sturtevant and the other to Thomas Cushing, each covering "ten shares in the New School House." This subject will be discussed in considering the schools of the village. But in these deeds is a glimpse of the early arrangement to provide educational facilities for the section. The leading man of the locality donates the land and the householders of the place subscribe towards building a school house. Some provision was made by the Town for a School Master. Years later by a seeming natural transition the District including that spot, assumed control over the institution and by a like change, when School Districts were abolished about 1868, the property was taken by the Town and sold. The credit of establishing this School belongs to David Thacher in a large degree, but as all records and documents are gone, the details of its origin cannot be known.

Not far from 1810 David Thacher removed from Dartmouth to Boston but he retained his shore property at Padanaram and engaged in three new enterprises.

The Salt Industry had been established at the end of Ricketsons Point by several different men, and among them Abraham Sherman had 4 acres devoted to that business, at the extreme south west edge of the Point. This in 1813 was purchased by David Thacher.

The year before this date David and Lathrop Thacher, Benjamin Gorham and Wm. Dunn, Druggist all of Boston formed an association to manufacture Magnesia and they obtained from Clark Ricketson a lease for 14 years of land at the end of the point. In April 1814 Gorham and Dunn had withdrawn from the concern.

Not far from this date David Thacher built the pier off the end of the wharf with the salt factory thereon. Evidently about this date Thacher was becoming financially embarrassed for in 1813 he mortgaged one piece of real estate to Gennaliel Bryant of New Bedford. The crash in his affairs came in 1816

when a number of his creditors had recovered judgements against him and then proceeded to levy on his South Dartmouth Real Estate. In one place he is described as residing in New Jersey and in another in parts unknown. In those days the laws permitted arrest for debt.

Thomas Cushing of Boston who had a claim of \$50000 proceeded to seize all property he could find in Padanaram. Beside tracts of Cedar swamp and wood land there was one half Thachers wharf held in common with Laban Thacher, the half valued at \$500; the pier with salt mill thereon, \$1000; one half of the Wind Mill \$380; ten shares school house and lot \$50; 4 acres on the North east corner of Elm and School Streets; lot and building formerly used as Candle Works, probably near the South end of High Street on the east side, with several other small tracts in the Village. Evidently Thachers failure so seriously involved Cushing that he also was overwhelmed and in 1818 one Joseph Hurd of Boston seized all of these tracts from Cushing. The Magnesia Works were on leased land, but Cushing succeeded in reaching fifty-shares of the stock. This concern was probably never afterward operated. The works was totally destroyed in the Sept. Gale of 1815.

One of the inevitable results of this calamity would be an indirect effect on Laban Thacher. If this conjecture is correct its appearance was postponed several years. In 1819 Laban Thacher had his ship yard, one half of the wharf and a country store on the North East corner of Elm and School St. At this date there was associated with him, Solomon Matthews and they did business as Laban Thacher and Co. His Homstead was a fine estate bounded by Elm, School, High and Summer Streets. The House on the East side of Pleasant is one of the fine dwellings of Padanaram. Matthews died between 1825 and 1831 and his estate had a large claim against Laban Thacher and took all real estate which the later had not already sold. In 1828 the wharf was transferred to Bradford Howland who had aquired the half that belonged to David Thacher. So passed out of the business life of Padanaram the man for whom the Village was named. He moved to New Bedford and engaged in the Grocery business.

The Thacher family was prominently identified with the Congregational Church at So. Dartmouth. Laban gave the land on which it stands and his Father was the first Deacon.

Matthew Thacher, probably a son of William and known as Deacon Thacher was also a Deacon of the Congregational Church. His name suggests some connection with the Matthews family also of Yarmouth. Like all the Thachers he too was a shipwright. In 1811 he purchased the farm on the West side

West.

1860

1860

Wm. Matthews says:

Matthews Thacher, a brother of Laban
asso. of point after death of Wm. Thacher
and also had yard adjoining with side
of Laban's Thacher retired, a son of
Charles Matthews, his former partner, joined
with John Messer, a colored, ex-slave, and
formed a shipping business that lasted
till 1860.

of the River Road, North of the Garrison lot and built the house lately owned by Capt. Charles H. Gifford. In 1855 he sold this place to Capt. Gifford and moved to the N.E. corner of School and Pleasant.

In his numerous real estate transactions he was associated with Charles Matthews who lived in Thachertown. Among other purchases made by them was the Ship Yard property at High Point where they carried on building of vessels after the death of Wm. Thacher. They also conducted the same business on the North side of Thachers wharf where Laban Thacher started.

Deacon Thacher avoided financial disaster which befel his predecessors in ship building in Padanaram.

But he was not the last to engage in this business. About the time that he retired there started a firm composed of Alonzo Matthews, a son of Charles Matthews, James M. Bobbitt and John Mashow, a colored man, once a slave. It is said that the later learned his trade with Laban Thacher. It is said that they started about 1845 and they were certainly in business in 1853. They became insolvent in 1860 and went out of business.

The ship builders on Buzzards Bay gained the proud distinction of constructing the staunchest vessels that were ever launched. Their whale ships were not only the safest but except for some unusual calamity they continued on the sea as many years as were spanned by a human life. Built throughly and on honor, yet these builders died poor men. Their associates who provided spars, sails, boots, iron fittings and rigging grew rich. The reason is not difficult to solve. One strong hull in its career would receive many times its cost in appliances. It was far more profitable to provide these fittings than to build the hull.

During all these reverses of the Padanaram merchants and those already mentioned do not complete the list, none by the name of Ricketson is concerned either in the ventures or the failures. While one enterprise after another yielded to the viscissitudes of trade, yet the Ricketson property remained unaffected. Clark Ricketson was willing to lease his land for salt works and Magnesia Manufacturies, but he engaged in neither. His farm remains today in the possession of his wealthy descendants while the name of Thacher has disappeared from the Neck.

There is one industry concerning which very little can be ascertained. On the shore between the South end of Elm Street and the Travers house was once a Rope Walk on land owned by Clark Ricketson. As he never sold or leased it, the inference might arise that he was the owner of the factory. How long it operated or by whom has been forgotten. The only fact is preserved in the deeds of the Travers lot beginning with 1810 and they mention the Rope Walk as a bound.