

Paddock Family Brought First Pre-Fabricated House to City

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(This is the ninth in a series of articles on the proprietors who settled the City of Hudson in the 17th century. The first article depicted the early life of Jan Frans Van Hoesen, a Dutchman, whom historians believe was the first white man to purchase Indian lands for Claverack Landing which later became the City of Hudson.)

THE name of Paddock is another mentioned frequently in the annals of old Hudson, and is that of a family regarding which some interesting information is available.

To Stephen Paddock belongs the somewhat unique distinction of having brought to Hudson the first pre-fabricated house to be erected in that city. This house was brought by the Paddocks when they arrived at Hudson in 1784, and was erected somewhere along what is now South Front Street. This was the first home of the Paddocks in this area. This old Paddock house was later incorporated into another building and no one today can say with any degree of surety whether or not it is still standing. While this house was being erected, the Paddocks lived aboard the vessel that had brought them from Nantucket to their new home at Claverack Landing.

Two of the younger generation of the Paddock family who could well have made the journey from Nantucket to Hudson in 1784 were Judah and Laban, sons of Stephen. Both of these men followed the sea, both rose to the rank of command, both

achieved distinction, and one figured in a chain of events that reads more like a chapter of fiction than a page from real life.

As time wore on, Captain Laban Paddock was able to retire from active business and remain ashore. He erected a home on the south side of Union Street at present Number 117. Here the retired mariner spent his declining years, the sea was in his blood, however, and, in the back yard of his home the old-timer had a lookout tower erected from which he could watch for his ships making their return voyage up the Hudson.

Some stories have it that a house, at or near this spot was built by Jared Coffin, another of the old-timers. Whether these are the same building, or two different structures standing near one another would be difficult to say.

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CAPTAIN JUDAH PADDOCK engaged in trade with divers ports on the globe, the West Indies, Liverpool, and Russia all knew his vessels and, on one occasion, he and his crew were able to render badly needed assistance to a Russian vessel in distress. In appreciation for this he and his crew received the warmest expressions of gratitude from the Russian Crown and the Captain, a hand-some sword presented by the Empress Catherine. This sword was later presented to the Masonic Lodge at Hudson.

Sometime, not too long after the year 1800, Captain Judah Paddock and his crew figured in one of those occurrences wherein, strange to say, truth oftentimes proves far more thrilling and interesting than mere fiction ever could.

On April 3rd, 1800 the Captain and his crew were shipwrecked off the Barbary coast, and, despite all adverse conditions, were finally successful in landing some water, food, and a few necessities. The little party struck out overland for the port of St. Cruz hoping to be able to contact the Consul there and obtain assistance getting home.

Instead they were captured by Arab slave traders and, after enduring hardships such as fall to the lot of few people of to-day or any other time, finally persuaded their captors to take them to St. Cruz for ransom.

This was finally arranged through the services of the British Consul, who also managed to reassemble the greater number of the captain's original crew which had been badly scattered among the slavers. The expense of this entire transaction was gladly repaid by the United States Government. This may have been a period in history when relations between England and the Colonies she had so recently lost were none too cordial in the general sense; Captain Paddock, however, had passed himself off as an Englishman, knowing that there was no American Consul at St. Cruz, and the English Consul, evidently acting upon the principal that white men should stick together, had cooperated to the fullest extent of his ability.

Captain Paddock reached his home at Hudson just one year after he had left it to begin his fateful voyage.

This man's home was somewhere in the vicinity of the old Van Hoesen house in the Bunker's Bridge area, where Route No. 66 crosses the Claverack Creek. No trace of it can now be identified.

ANOTHER OF THE FOUNDING Fathers was Squire Shubael Worth, also hailing from Nantucket. This old-timer is said to have been rather short in stature and heavily built. He is said to have also boasted a head of really red hair. This Founding Father is said to have been a man of unimpeachable honesty and integrity and, also endowed with a goodly fund of excellent common sense. However he is said to have been "rather odd" in some ways and very outspoken. There is one story of record regarding the time Squire Worth sat for his portrait. When shown the result he objected strongly to the manner in which the artist had rendered the color of his hair. According to the good gentleman, he had been made to look "like a house with its chimney on fire".

Red hair and eccentricities notwithstanding, Shubael Worth played a very active and prominent part in the affairs and doings of the new city of Hudson. He was one of the signatories of the petition submitted to the Grand Lodge in 1786 which resulted in the founding of the Chapter of Masons in Hudson. He sat as a member of the first jury of the old Mayor's Court in 1785, and was also active in business circles, his store was located on the northwest corner of what are now Warren and Second Streets.

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ANOTHER OLD TIMER was Captain John Hathaway, of English Puritan background, whose name ap-

pears in the records at a very early date. According to one entry in the old city records Captain Hathaway owned property on the west side of what is now South Front Street, between "Cherry Alley and the corner" as early as 1807. Records also have it that this man and his family lived at 310 Main Street at one time.

This worthy old citizen was said to have been a great sufferer from asthma, and also an excellent judge of what is now South Front Street, between "Cherry Alley and the corner" as early as 1807. Records also have it that this man and his family lived at 310 Main Street at one time.

David Lawrence of Providence is said to have been considered a very keen observer and a man gifted with a ready and, at times biting, wit. He was an individual of strong likes and dislikes and, as the hand of age began to press more and more heavily upon him, given more and more to sarcasm when criticizing the doings, and mis-doings, of others. When told that the bank of Nantucket had been robbed he is quoted as having observed tartly that "They had probably left the latch-string hanging out".

(To be continued)