

# SELECTED HOUSE HISTORIES OF SMITH MILLS

## JOHN CUMMINGS HOUSE

# SELECTED HOUSE HISTORIES OF SMITH MILLS

## JOHN CUMMINGS WAS ONE OF THREE SONS OF BENJAMIN CUMMINGS

While they had their property separate from each other, yet all their different enterprises were operated in co-operation, so that Smiths Mills with four mills and two stores under practically one management became an important centre of trade. People from New Bedford found an advantage in buying at the Cummings store. Under such conditions these men were prosperous and accumulated fortunes large for those days.

WORTH, SM

Between 1823 and 1829 the other owners sold to the Cummings, and it became the property of John Cummings; and then Elizabeth S. Cummings, until in 1874 she sold the same to Phebe W. Seabury, wife of Warren.

## CUMMINGS FAMILY

During the active years of their career these men owned four mills at Smiths Mills beside two stores and a great part of the improved real estate of that locality. [REDACTED]

WORTH, SM

Advertisement

Date: Friday, September 24, 1824 Paper: New-Bedford Mercury (New Bedford, MA) Volume: XVIII Issue: 11 Page: 4

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Source: GenealogyBank.com

**WM. & JOHN CUMMINGS,**

**H**AVE just received, by the late arrival from New York, an additional assortment of *SEASONABLE GOODS*; among which are Leghorn Bonnets; black and assorted Bombazines; Waterloo Crape; black Circassian; black and colored Canton Crape; silk Cord, Ribbons, Gimp Trimmings; plain, fig'd, and twilled Bombazets; Calicoes; 4 4 Furniture Dimoty; Garment do.; Vestings; plain and fig'd Swiss Mull; Lace Veils; silk and kid Gloves; fine Book Muslins; do. Frills; German silk Hdkfs.; Bandanna and Flag do.; linen cambrick Pocket Hdkfs.; imitation do.; Gro de Nap Silks; bl'k Levantine; Linen Lace; Linen Cambrick; Bobbinet and Silk Lace; Merino and Cashmere Shawls; Zelia Hdkfs.; Shell Combs, Indispensables, Umbrellas, Parasols, superfine Broadcloths; do. Cassimeres—together with a great variety of

**DOMESTIC COTTON GOODS.**

Blue printed Tea Setts, China do.; Brass Fire Setts, Groceries, &c.

*Dartmouth (Smith's Mills) July 30th.*

# SELECTED HOUSE HISTORIES OF SMITH MILLS

1826

**Headline:** [Post Office; Smith's Mills; Dartmouth; North Dartmouth; Post Office; John Cummings; Post Master ]; **Article Type:** News/Opinion

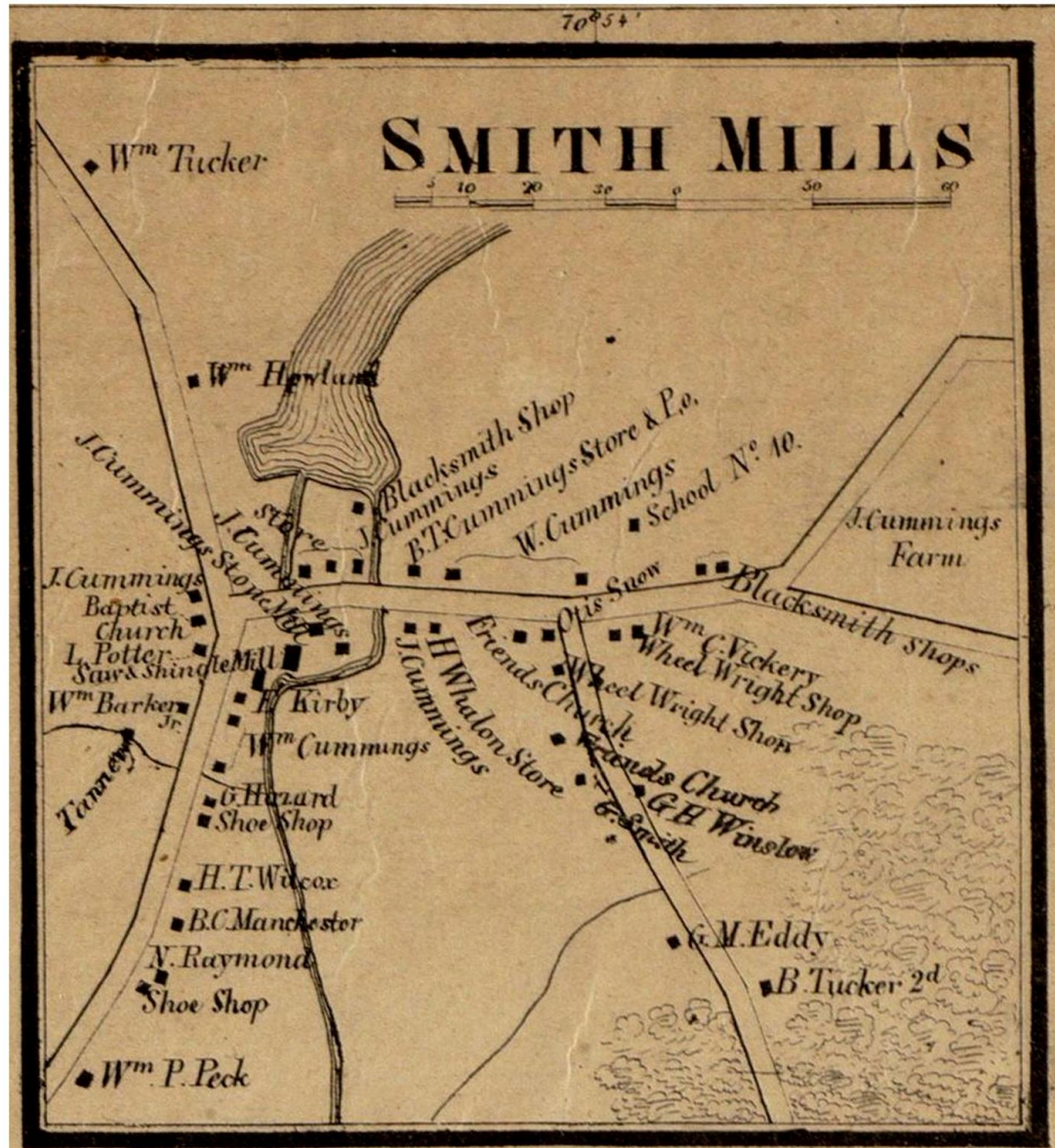
**Paper:** New-Bedford Mercury, published as New-Bedford Mercury.;

**Date:** 03-10-1826; **Volume:** XIX; **Issue:** 35; **Page:** [3]; **Location:** New Bedford, Massachusetts

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**A Post Office has recently been established at Smith's Mills, in Dartmouth, to be designated the North Dartmouth Post Office, and John Cummings, Esq. appointed Post Master.**





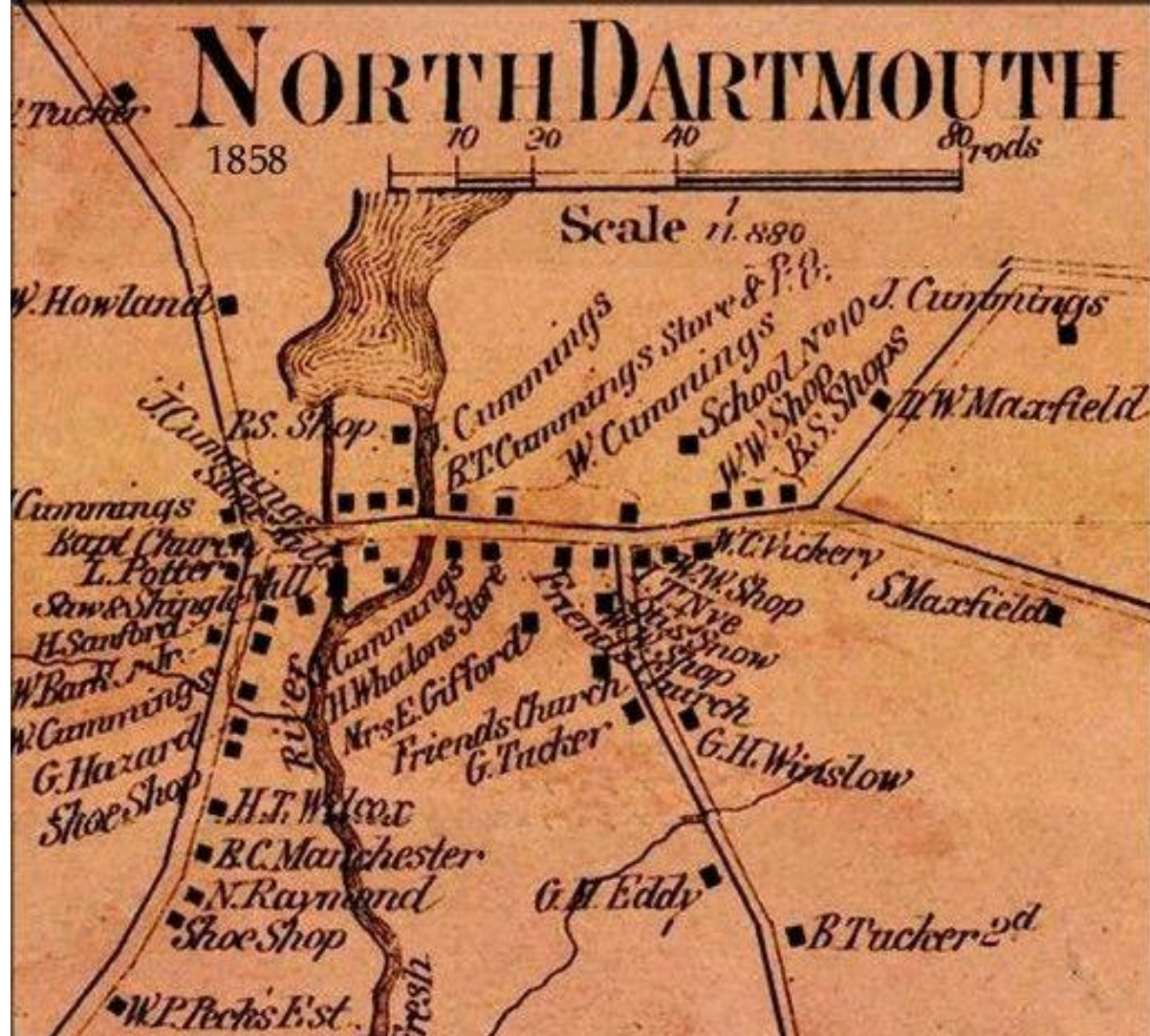
1858



John lived in Smiths Mills in the house opposite to the stone grist mill which he built, and east of it was the general country grocery store that he owned and conducted.

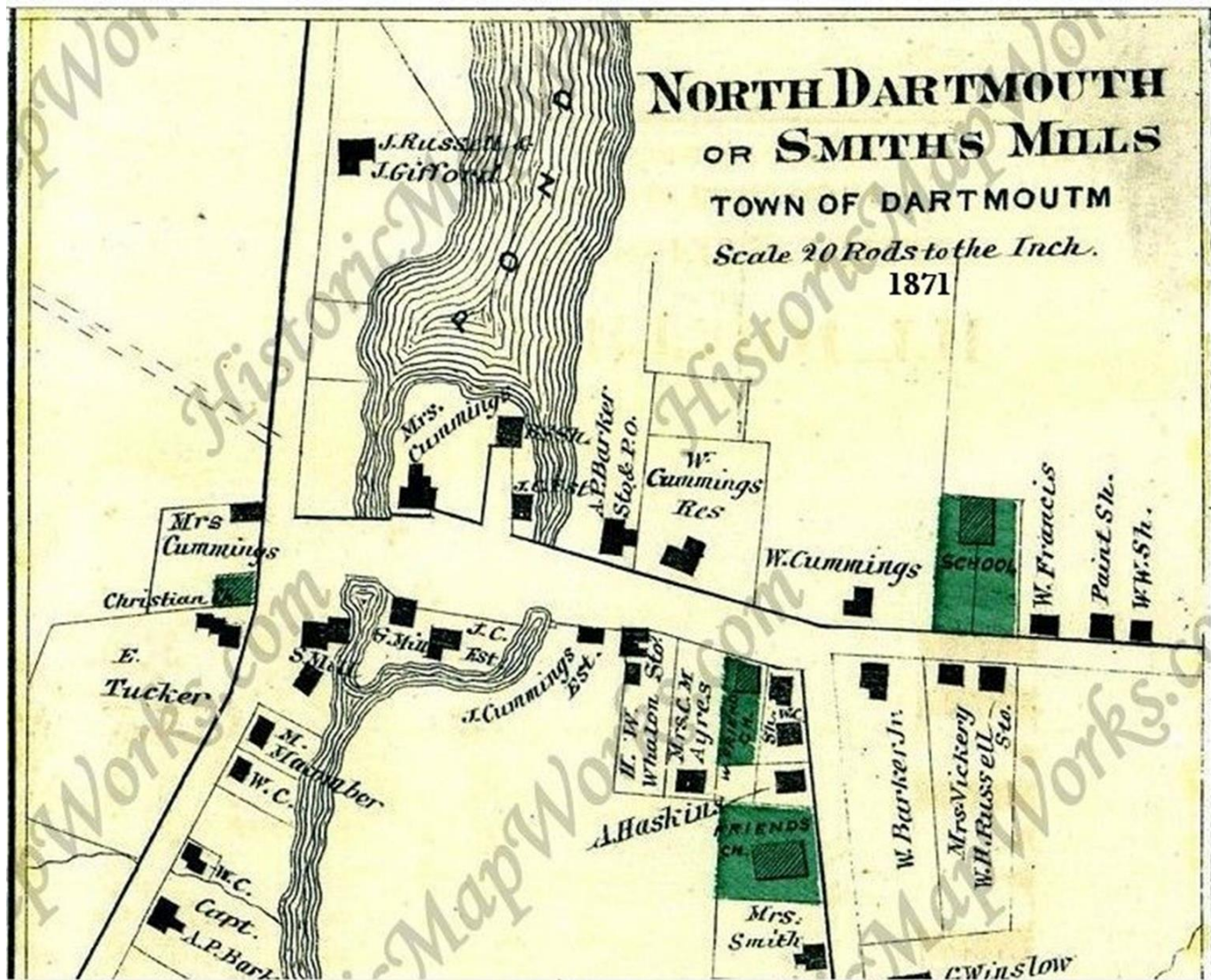
WORTH, SM





**NORTH DARTMOUTH  
OR SMITHS MILLS**  
TOWN OF DARTMOUTH

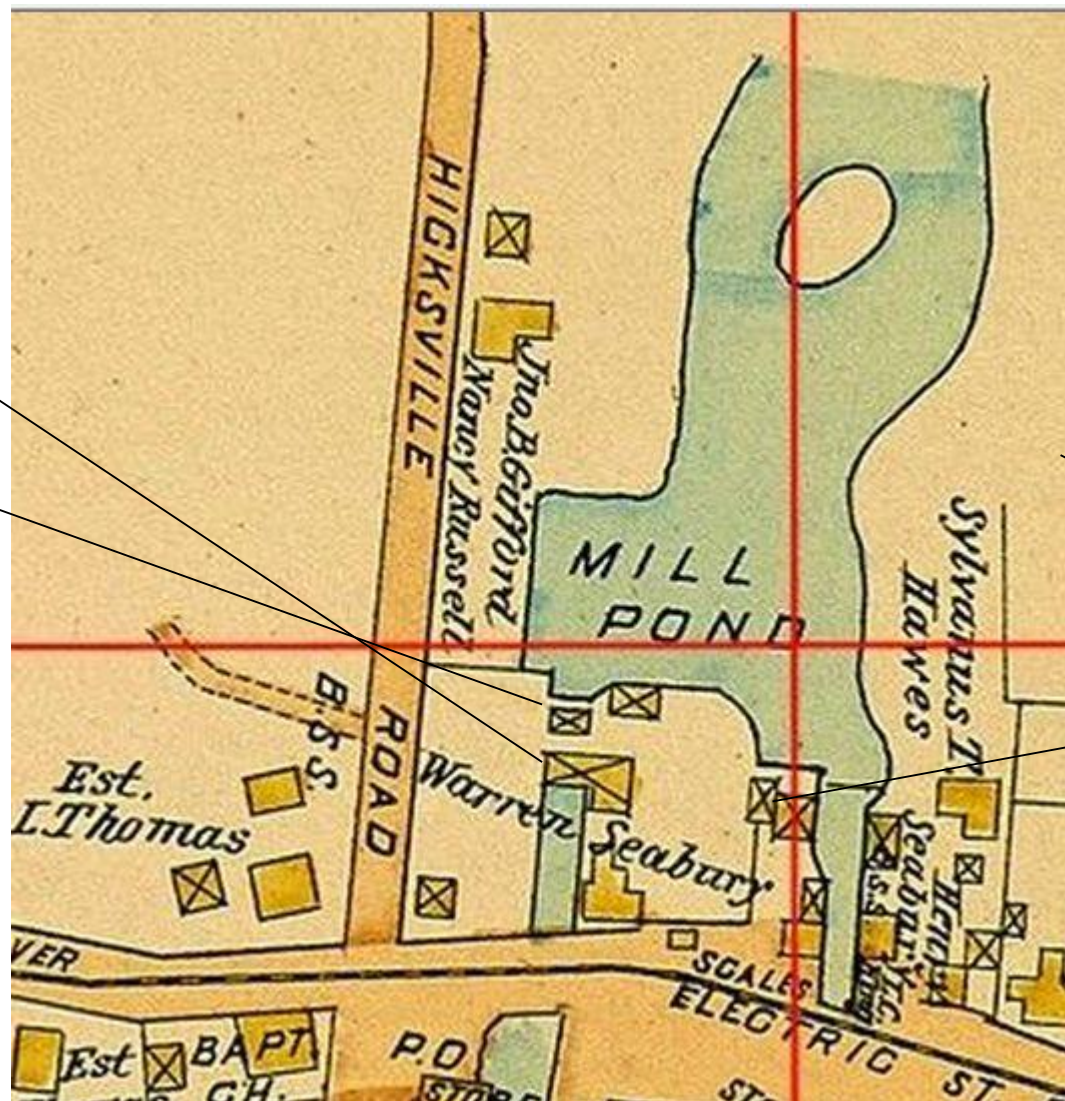
Scale 20 Rods to the Inch.  
1871





**1895 MAP  
SMITH MILLS**

SUMMER HOUSES



BARN

CORN  
CRIB

# SELECTED HOUSE HISTORIES OF SMITH MILLS

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CONSERVATORY

THE JOHN CUMMINGS HOUSE



HISTORY OF THE REAL ESTATE ACCORDING TO HENRY B.  
WORTH IN "SMITH MILLS" ODHS #20

Between 1823 and 1829 the other owners sold to the Cummings, and it became the property of John Cummings; and then Elizabeth S. Cummings, until in 1874 she sold the same to Phebe W. Seabury, wife of Warren.

# SELECTED HOUSE HISTORIES OF SMITH MILLS

ELL



PORCH,  
WESTERN  
SIDE

RESIDENCE OF JOHN & ELIZABETH CUMMINGS

Advertisement

**Date:** Friday, December 9, 1836 **Paper:** New-Bedford Mercury (New Bedford, MA) **Volume:** XXX **Issue:** 25 **Page:** 3

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*Source: GenealogyBank.com*

## NEW WINTER GOODS.

**J**OHNN CUMMINGS has just received from New York, a great variety of seasonable Goods, which he will sell at extremely low prices.

Dartmouth, Smith's Mills, 12mo3

Headline: [No Headline]; Article Type: Advertisement

Paper: New-Bedford Mercury, published as New-Bedford Mercury.;

Date: 11-02-1838; Volume: XXXII; Issue: 19; Page: [3]; Location: New Bedford, Massachusetts

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**SEASONABLE GOODS.—JOHN CUMMINGS** has just received a general assortment of seasonable Goods, among which are scarlet and black Merino Shawls—Brochi, Cashmere, Robroy and Higland do—English and French Merinos—English, French and American Prints—Hosiery—Muslins—Lawns, &c.  
Smiths mills, Dartmouth, 9 mo 19



Source: Lawrence B. Cummings-"Our Cummings Family" 3 volume  
typescript-v2:p186,187

*". . .May of 1830 John (Cummings) embarked on his own career in business. . .when he bought his brother William's interest in the store, with land and buildings on the north side of the highway in Smiths Mills, from the corner eastward almost to the river, and northward to the mill pond. . . .Soon after this purchase John erected two buildings which were important landmarks in his life- - one, his home; the other, his new store. It is likely that he built the house first, for he needed it at once for his increasing family, and the existing store could serve for a while longer. . . .*

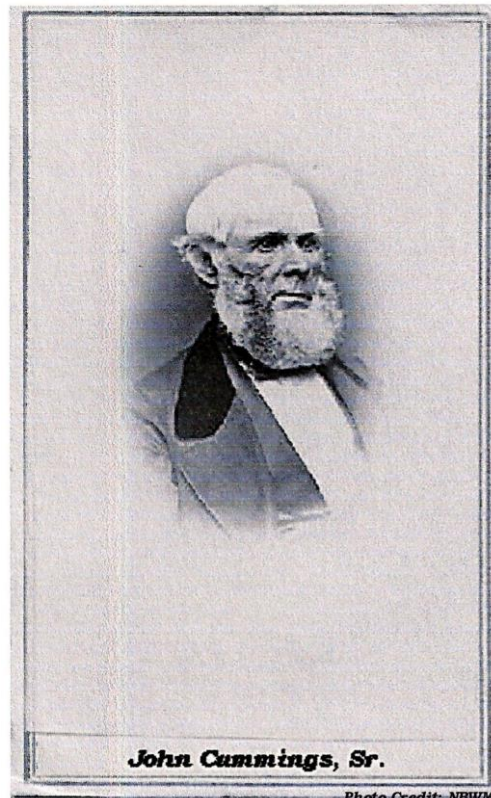


Photo Credit: NBWM

*The house which John built- - his home for the rest of his life and the birthplace of most of his children – still stands on the north side of the road on the east side of the west outlet of the pond, the mill-race or “sawmill privilege”.*



*John Cummings family portrait  
Elizabeth, Helen, Hetty, Benjamin, John Sr., Sarah, John Jr.,  
Nancy, Alice, Elizabeth S., Emma, William, & Arthur*



*It is a spacious frame-house, squarely built, two storys high with an extensive ell in the rear, then painted white, with green shutters. It had the typical arrangement of a central hall with two large rooms on each side, and a tall staircase curving to the hall and chambers above. A porch ran along the western side , and a “conservatory” extended from the eastern room.*

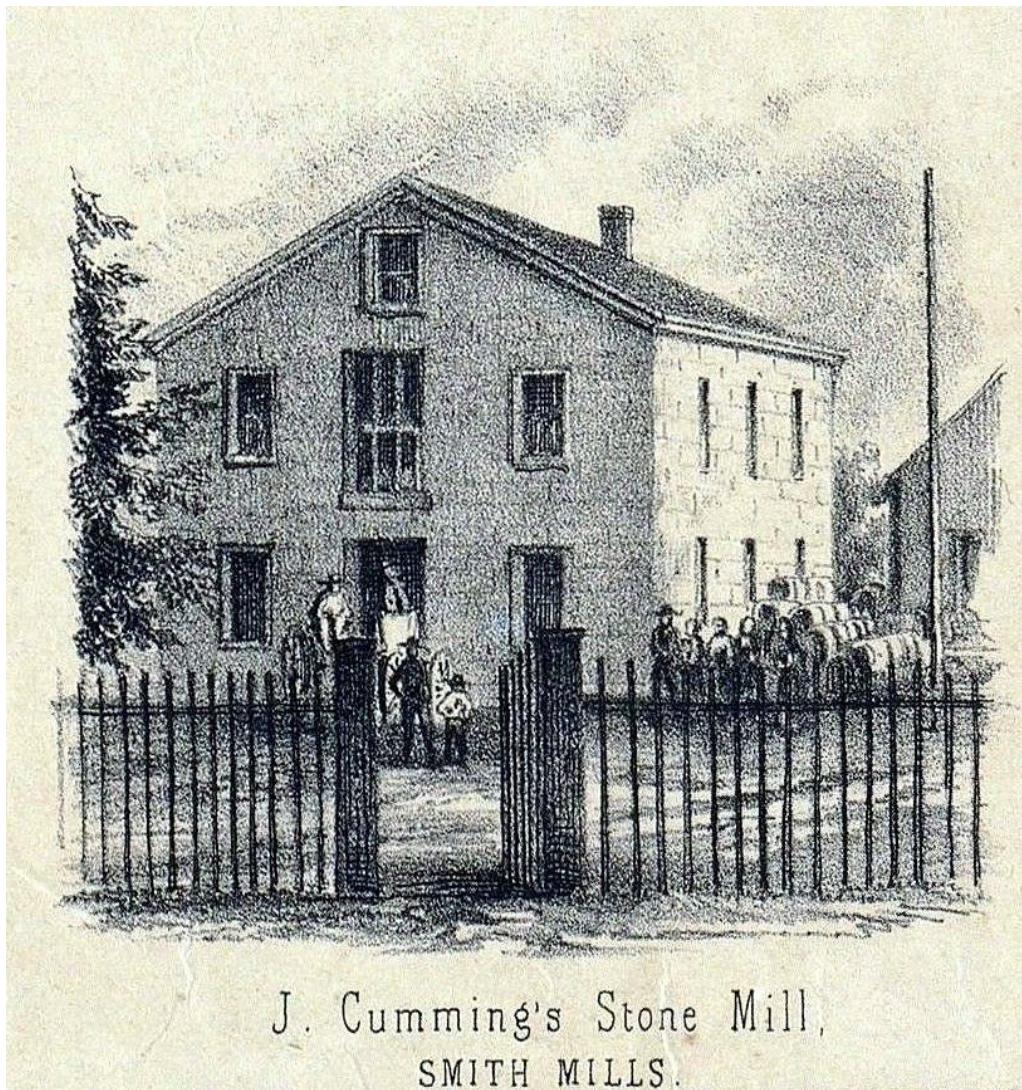
*When it was built , before the country road was widened into the present (1952) roaring concrete highway, lopping off the front yard, it was set well back from the road , behind an iron fence. A driveway ran from the road along the east side of the house, curving in a circle behind it to the barn that stood near the edge of the pond.*

*The mill race was walled with massive stones. Near the barn the corn crib spanned the stream, and east of the house two stone bridges, each bearing a “summer house”, led to the corner lot where John's famous flower-garden bloomed under the care of Jonathan Maxfield.*

The furnishings of the house were in the Victorian taste. Some pieces of the west parlor have survived – gracefully curved mahogany and stamped crimson velvet – and one sturdy dining room chair that could have been modeled by Duncan Phyfe. Brass andirons and the lovely blue of the Staffordshire china gave color. The silverware was heavy and of simple design. Little is left. Even the cradle in which each of the *eleven* children was rocked, has gone.”

In 1874 the three brothers and the sister had died and then all the real estate at Smiths Mills was sold and the name associated with that village for seventy-five years disappeared from its rolls.





Beginning at the south end of the Four Corners at the store, next east across the river is now a stone mill built by the Cummings about 1848.

**WORTH SM**



‘PROGRESS’  
IN 1970!!

*Mar 26, 1970*

OLD MILL IS GONE. Demolition started Friday on old stone mill building at Smith Mills and by end of day there wasn't much left of the old landmark. Stones will be used

for rip rap along banks of Paskamansett River and a commemorative marker may be placed to mark the site. (Chronicle photo)

# SELECTED HOUSE HISTORIES OF SMITH MILLS

## EDWARD TUCKER HOUSE

**“ A STAR-CROSSED HOMESTEAD ”**





## HENRY B. WORTH - BACKGROUND FOR THIS HOUSE

[REDACTED] The estate next south of the meeting house was the homestead of the late Edward Tucker. This was originally part of the Elishib Smith farm, and in 1717 was sold to Adam Mott, who built thereon a house. In 1773 Thomas Mott to John Smith; 1801, Jacob Anthony; then by intermediate deeds to the Packards, and 1847 to Luthan Potter; 1867, Edward Tucker. [REDACTED]



## DEED EXTRACTS

1718,18 DEC, (BCLR 13 557), ELISHIB SMITH, WEAVER TO ADAM MOTT, BLACKSMITH: PART OF HOMESTEAD OF ELISHIB SMITH "*WHEREON THE SAID ADAM MOTT IS NOW BUILDING A HOUSE*"; 2 POUNDS CURRENT MONEY

1773, 25 MAR, (BCLR 10 118), THOMAS MOTT TO JOHN SMITH 2<sup>ND</sup> , 105 POUNDS LAWFUL MONEY, 1 ACRE + 30 RODS ON W SIDE OF ROAD AND  $\frac{3}{4}$  ACRE ON E SIDE OF ROAD, WITH ALL APPURTANCES (WHICH I GOT BY INHERITANCE)

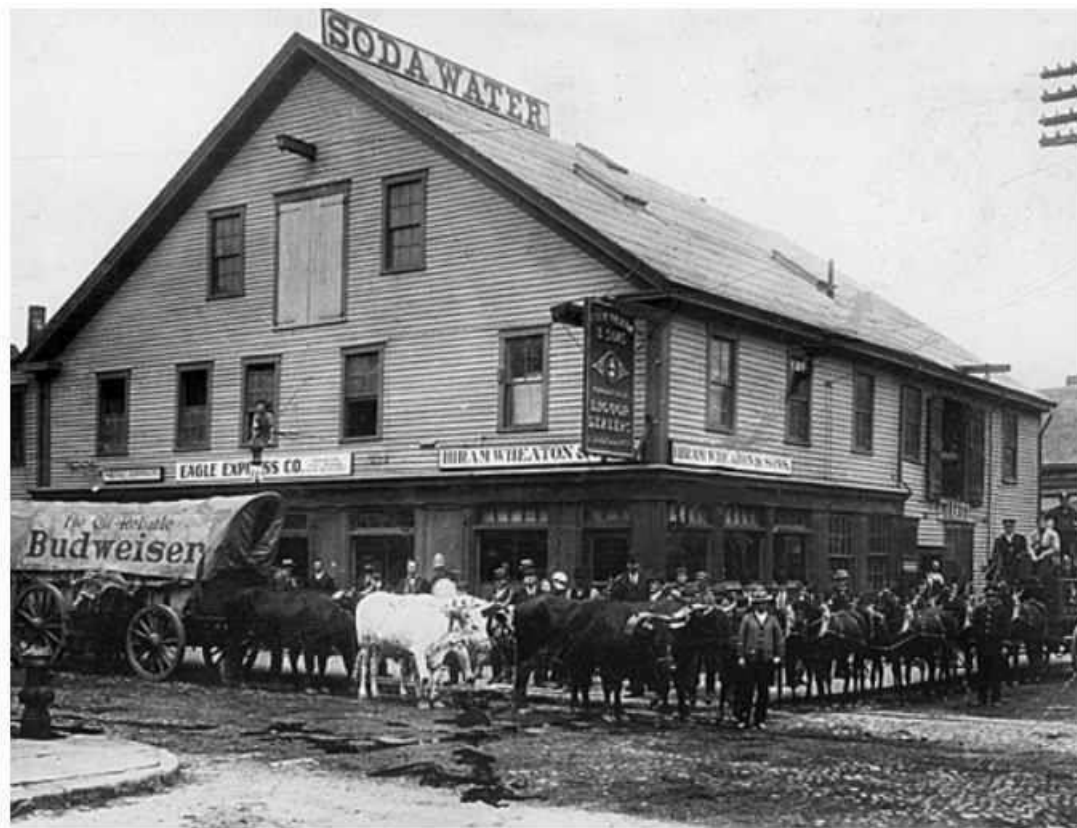


## DEED EXTRACTS

1849 (BCLR 18 26), BY THE ASSIGNEES OF CHARLES T & HENRY S PACKARD TO LUTHAN POTTER; 11 ½ ACRE LOT WITH BUILDINGS THEREON, BEGINNING AT A CORNER OF BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE LOT, \$4,000; (ASSIGNEES: WILLIAM TUCKER, LEMUEL MOSHER, PELEG PECKHAM, FRANCIS CARRUTH?, HENRY H. CRAPO)

1867, 30 APR, (BCLR 62 374), LUTHAN & PATIENCE POTTER TO EDWARD TUCKER, \$3,600, 5 ACRES + 100 RODS, WITH BUILDINGS THEREON

AFTER 1899 THIS HOUSE WAS ACQUIRED BY THE CLARENCE A. WHEATON FAMILY



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HIRAM WHEATON & SONS BOTTLING HOUSE. MR. A. C. WHEATON IN CENTRE.



FINE OLD IMPORTED  
**Ports and Sherries.**

PORTS from—Hunt, Roope, Teagle &  
Co., Oporto, Spain.

SHERRIES from—Wm. Henry Marks  
& Co., Jerez, Spain.

Direct Importation. Quality Guaranteed.

CHOICE WHISKIES, BRANDIES, GINS,  
CLARETS, CORDIALS, SAUTERNES,  
SCOTCH and IRISH WHISKIES, Etc.

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45 to 51 SCHOOL STREET,  
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# BAVARIAN BEER



DARK



EXPORT



## Imperial



## Brewing

THIS BEER IS MADE  
OF THE CHOICEST

MALT AND HOPS  
AND WARRANTED PURE

SOLE AGENTS



### HIRAM WHEATON & SONS,



45 & 47 SCHOOL STREET,

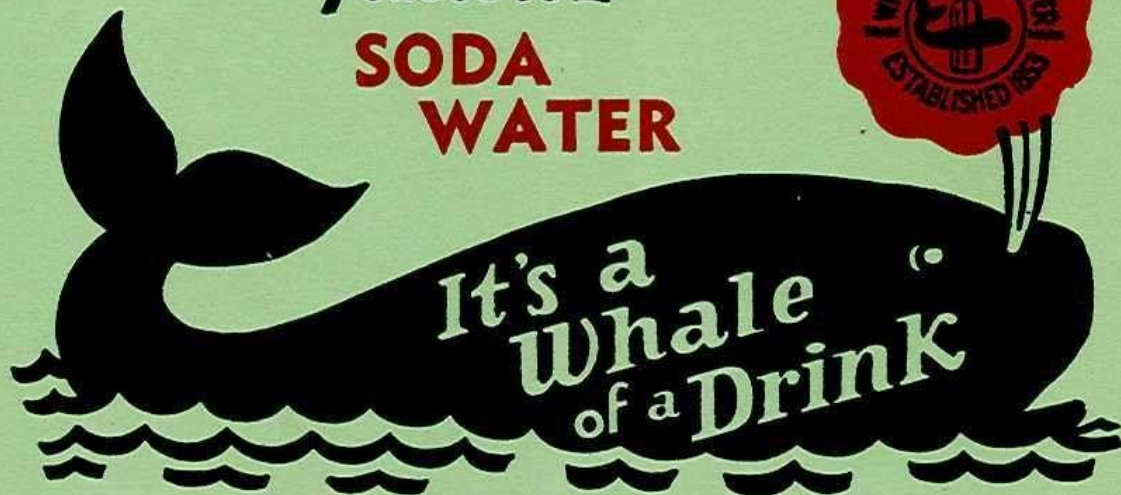
NEW BEDFORD, MASS.



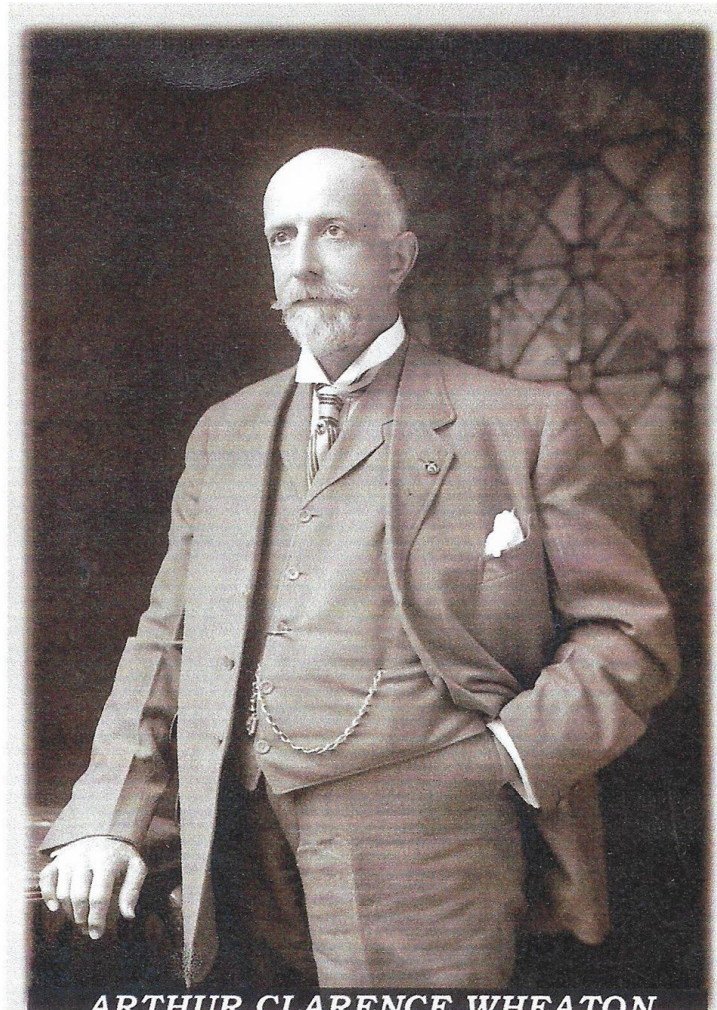
**WHEATON'S**

*Famous*

**SODA  
WATER**



**HIRAM WHEATON & SONS INC. — NEW BEDFORD, MASS.**



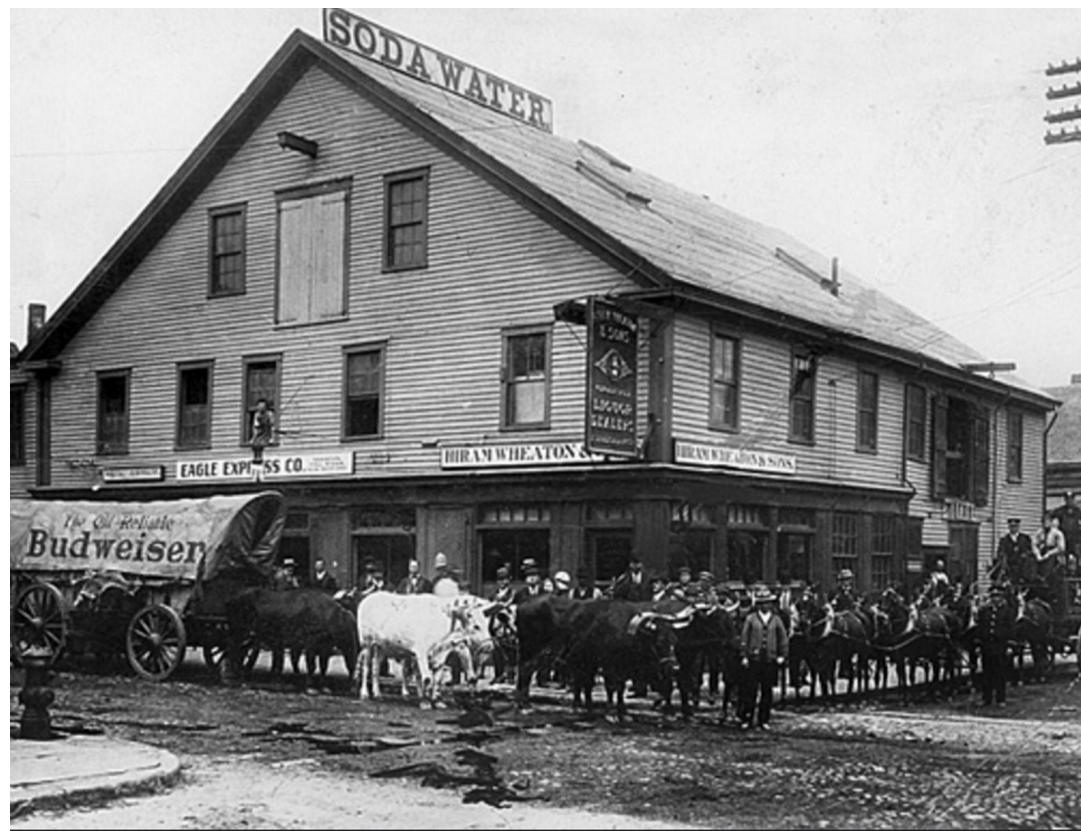
**ARTHUR CLARENCE WHEATON**

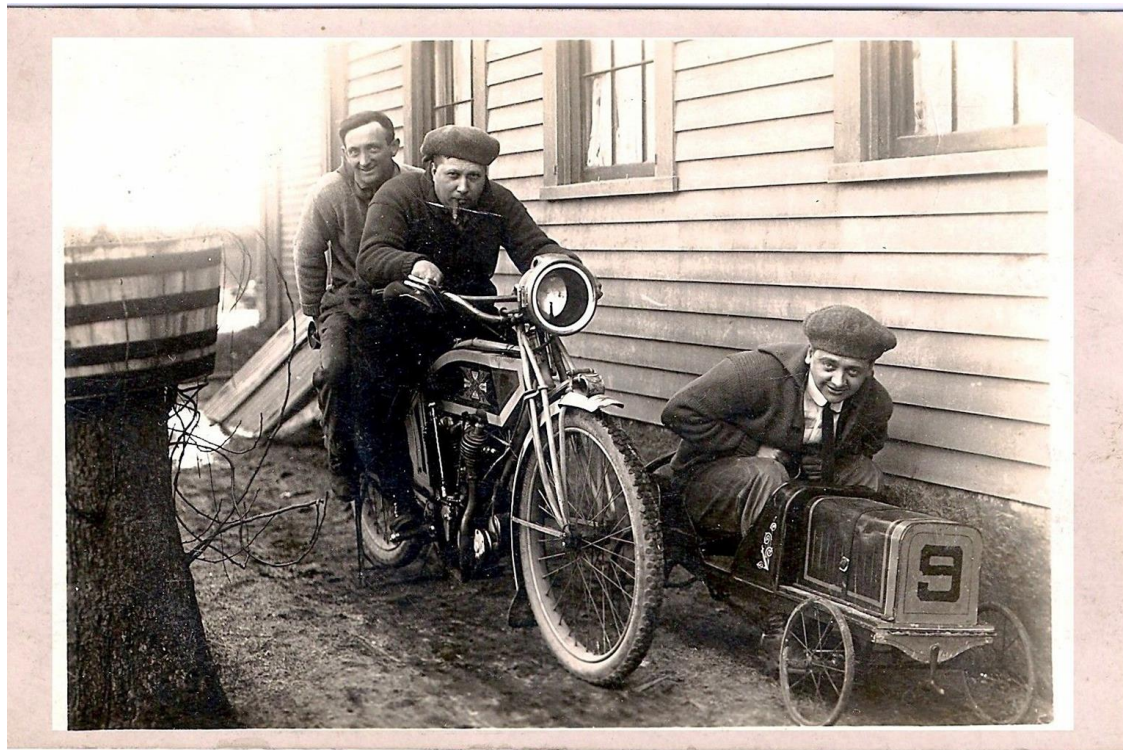
*h OF MARY MACOMBER KEEN, f OF CLARENCE  
ARTHUR , EDNA KEEN & ARTHUR CLARENCE, JR.  
& son OF HIRAM WHEATON & ANNA ADAMS  
CODDING*











**BOYS WITH THEIR TOYS**  
**UNCLE BILL FOLEY, GRANDPA WHEATON AT THE WHEEL**  
**&UNCLE ? FOLEY**





V BEDFORD, MASS., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1913.

## FIRE AT SMITH MILLS.

ENGINE FROM NEW BEDFORD SAVED  
THE VILLAGE.

Clarence A. Wheaton's Barn and Five Horses Burned—  
Paskamansett Hand Engine Did Valuable Work—Mrs.  
White Fainted on Doorsteps.







CLARENCE A. WHEATON with  
horse from Dandelion Stables



Photo Credit Wheaton Family Collection



**PASTURE, WHEATON FARM, LOOKING NORTHWESTERLY-  
SITE OF FUTURE PASKAMANSETT GOLF COURSE**





Tucker/Wheaton Homestead at Smith Mills

SMITHS MILL.





## FATALLY HURT WHEN MILK TRUCKS COLLIDE

[Special Dispatch to The Herald]

NEW BEDFORD, April 16—Clarence A. Wheaton of Smith Mills, Dartmouth, died at noon today from injuries he received early today when he was struck by a motor truck on Liberty street. He was standing on the back steps of a milk wagon when a truck came suddenly around a corner and ran into the wagon.

Mr. Wheaton was employed by Levi King. The truck which ran into him is owned by Victor W. Gibbs and was driven by Antone L. Sequira of Mattapoisett. Mr. Wheaton was 42 years old and is survived by a widow and seven children.



**CLARENCE ARTHUR  
WHEATON**





**CONTRIBUTE FOOD FOR ISRAEL**—Three-year-old Miss Suzanne Carol Silverman, left, and her mother, Mrs. Philip Silverman, of 133 Stadium pl., ready their food bag for next Sunday's pickup by Volunteer Food for Israel Workers.



MAJOR FIRE – INJURIES & LOST RACE HORSES 1913

WORK ACCIDENT- LEAVING WIDOW & 7CHILDREN 1924

MURDER OF TEEN - AGED DAUGHTER & SUICIDE 1954

QUESTIONS??