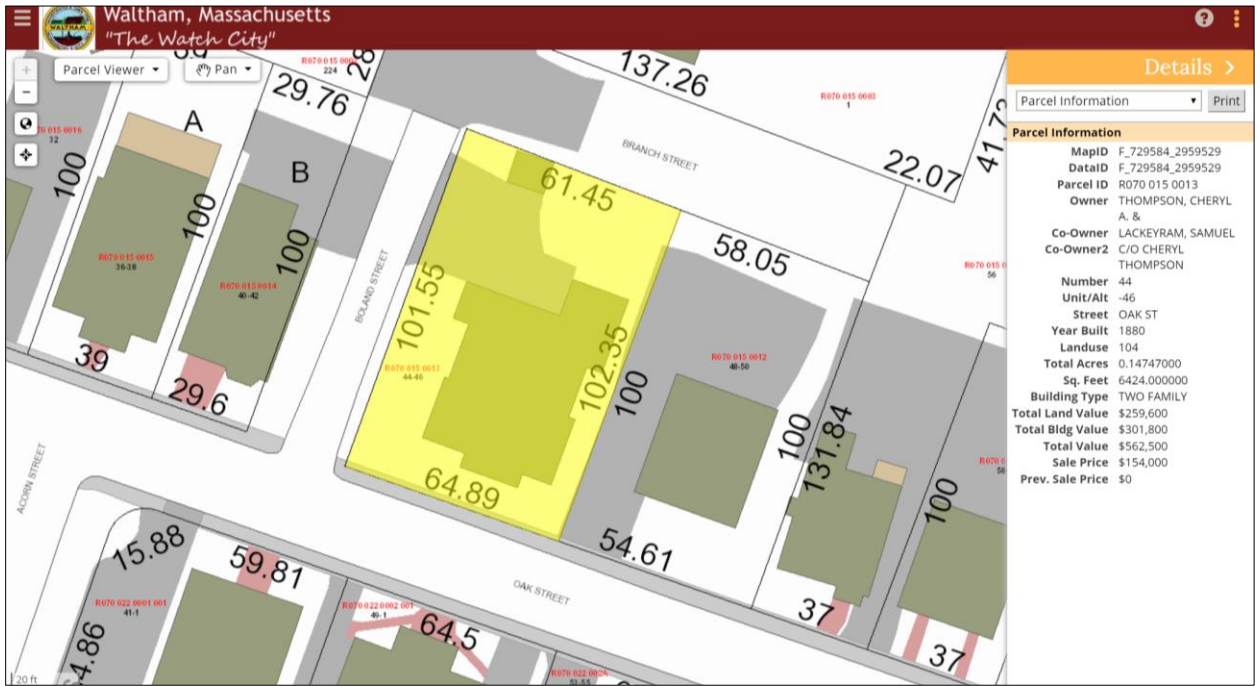


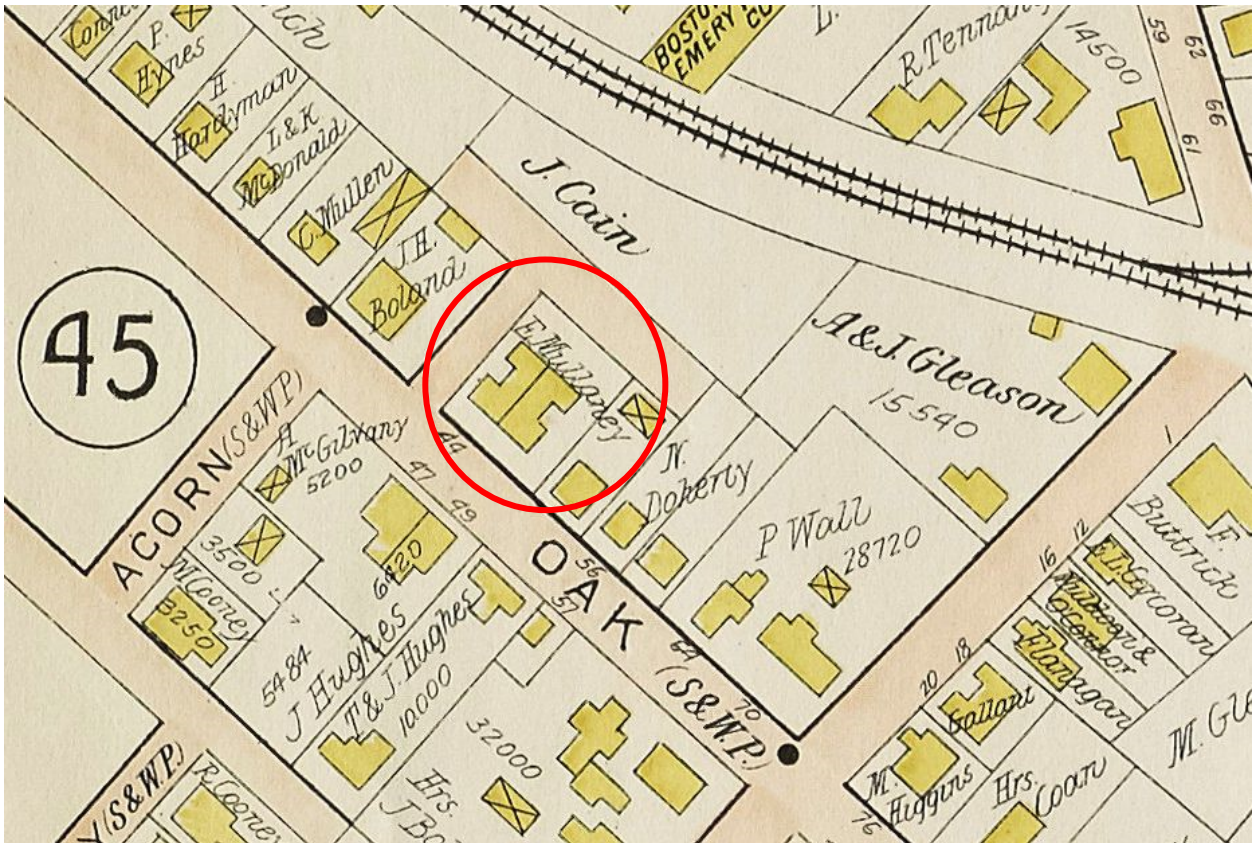
44-46 Oak Street



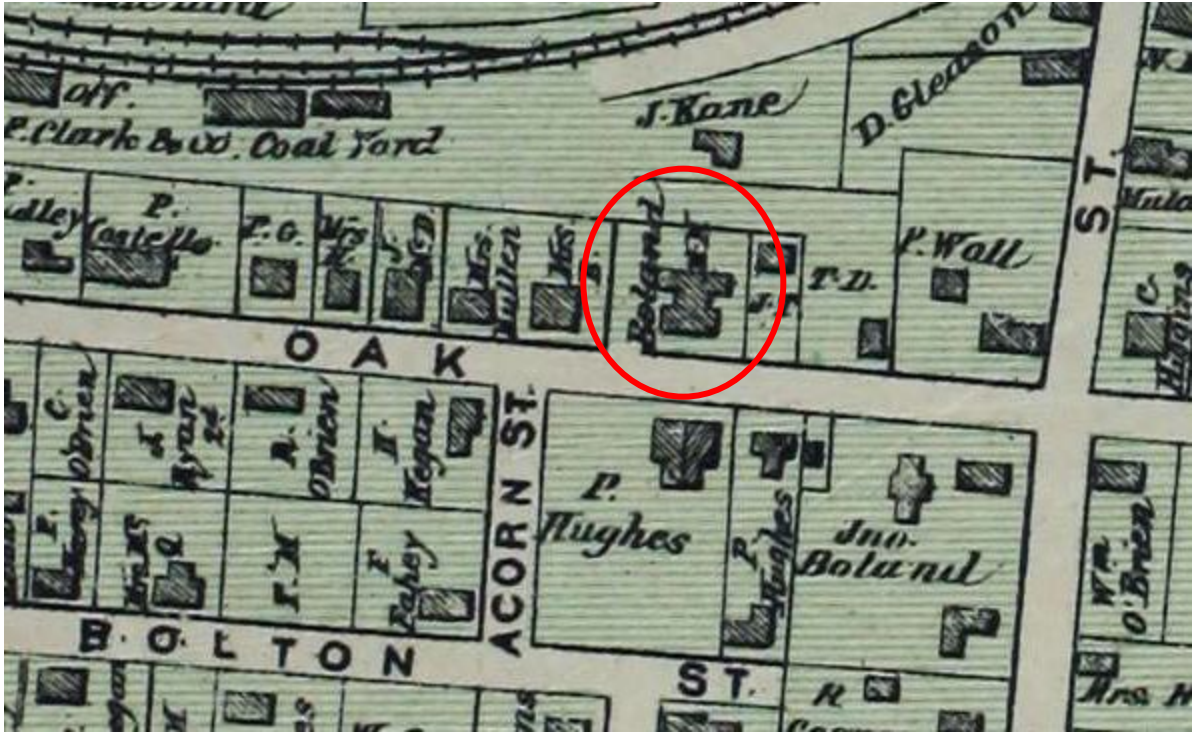
Google Satellite



Google Street View



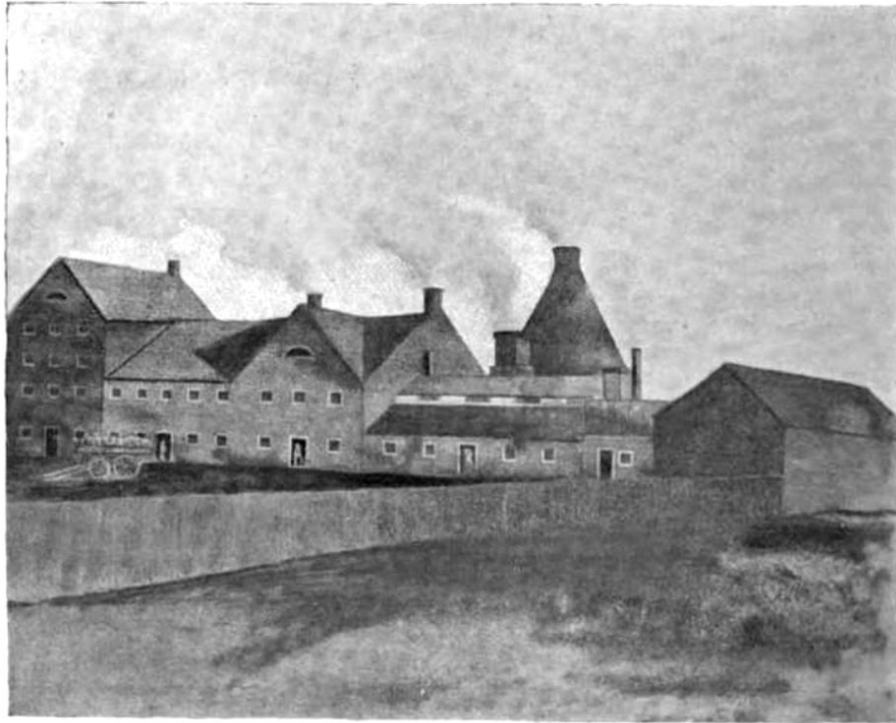
1900 map



1875 map

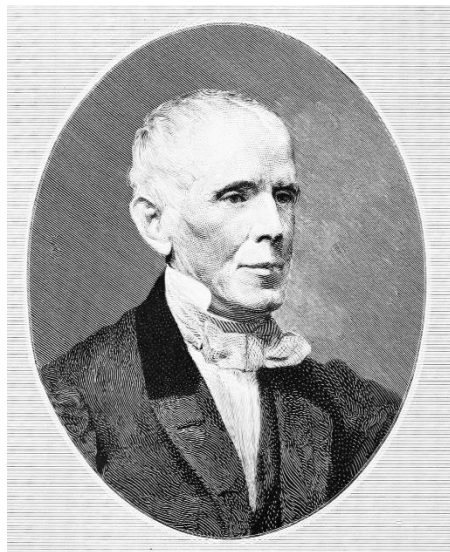


1854 map



WORKS OF THE NEWTON CHYMICAL COMPANY IN 1830.

From a painting in the possession of J. F. Moore.



Dr. Samuel Luther Dana

Timeline

- 1846 Deed, Francis C. Lowell to Newton Chemical Company [MLR 478/80 & 81] no buildings mentioned; two parcels on "lately laid out" Oak Street
- 1861 Matthew Mullaney, enlistment, Company K, Massachusetts 16th Infantry Regiment on 02 Jul 1861. Mustered out on 29 Oct 1862. Enlisted in Company K, U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps 10th Infantry Regiment on 23 Aug 1864. Mustered out on 24 Jun 1865. Occupation blacksmith.
- 1871 Deed, Newton Chemical Company to William O'Brien [MLR 1157/242] buildings mentioned
- 1871 Directory, William O'Brien, plumber in chemical works, house Oak, near Newton
- 1872 Deed, William O'Brien to Mary Duffy [MLR 1241/183]
- 1877 Directory, Michael Duffey, laborer, house Oak, near Newton
- 1877 Deed, Mary Duffy to Matthew J. Mullaney [MLR 1452/146]
- 1880 Directory, Matthew J. Mullaney, supt. free public bath house, house 14 Oak
- 1880 Census, Matthew Mullaney, police officer
- 1886 Directory, Matthew J. Mullaney, truant officer & supt. Public bath house, Moody, h. Oak, nr. Acorn
- 1890 Death, Matthew J. Mullaney, constable
- 1890 Veterans Census, Ellen Mullaney, wife of Matthew J. Mullaney, private, Co. K, 10th Mass. Vols.
- 1897 Directory, Ellen Mullaney, widow of Matthew J., house 46 Oak
- 1900 Census, Ellen Mullaney, owns, Thomas Ryan, rents, laborer RR
- 1910 Census, Ellen Mullaney, 46 Oak, owns; Michael Burke, stone mason, 44 Oak, rents
- 1911 Death, Ellen Mullaney, widow of Matthew J. Mullaney
- 1911 Deed, Mary Kelliher (daughter of Matthew J. Mullaney) et al to John Moran [MLR 3640/231] (probate of Matthew Mullaney)
- 1912 Deed, John Moran to Mary Moran [MLR 3734/201]
- 1915 Deed, Mary Moran et al to Aniello Parella [MLR 4007/565]
- 1925 Directory, Biagio Crescenzo (Rose), laborer, h. 46 Oak; Anella (Mary m.n. Scrocco) Parella, laborer, 50 Oak
- 1927 Directory, Biagio (Rose) Crescenzo, laborer, 46 Oak
Directory, Salvatore (Teresa) Crescenzo, barber, 44 Oak
Directory, Salvatore (Mary) Crescenzo, laborer, 46 Oak
- 1927 Death, Aug. 24, 1927, Biagio Crescenzo
- 1929 Deed, Estate of Biagio Crescenzo to Michael Scrocco [MLR 5350/112]
- 1929 Mortgage, Michael Scrocco to Watertown Co-operative Bank [MLR 5350/114]
- 1930 Census, Joseph (Margaret) Falzone, laborer, general contractor, 46 Oak, rents
- 1931 Foreclosure deed, Michael Scrocco to Watertown Cooperative Bank [MLR 5549/156]
- 1940 Census, Carmel (Salbatrice) Falzone, machine operator, woolen mill, 44 Oak St., rents
Census, John (Lillian) Dennison, unemployed, 46 Oak St., rents
- 1942 Deed, Watertown Co-operative Bank to Giovanni & Michelina Maragliano [MLR 6641/261]
- 1943 Directory, Alexander Maccio, laborer, 44 Oak; John (Lillian) Dennison, B & M, 46 Oak
- 1947 Death, Jan. 23, 1947, Giovanni Maragliano
- 1954 Deed, Michelina Maragliano, widow of Giovanni Maragliano, to City Construction Corp. Parcel 2. [MLR 8372/366]
- 1955 Deed, City Construction Corp. to Louis & Catherine Kahlenbeck [MLR 8479/314]
- 1962 Directory, Louis C. (Miriam) Kahlenbeck, heat treater Metal Bellows, 44 Oak
Directory, Louis H. (Catherine) Kahlenbeck, maintenance man, Harts Mason, 46 Oak
- 1963 Deed, Louis H. & Catherine Kahlenbeck to Michael & Mary McNeil [MLR 10373/79]
- 1965 Directory, William Hart, Reece Corp., 44 Oak; Michael (Isabel) McNeil, custodian, 46 Oak
- 1969 Deed, Michael & Mary McNeil to Edgar & Florine Robichaud [MLR 11690/273]

Summary

The Newton Chymical [sic] Company was founded in 1825 in the section of Newton that later became Waltham in 1849. Dr. Dana was a Waltham physician who experimented with chemistry, and developed a process of producing sulfuric acid for the bleaching of textiles. Among the investors were officials from the Boston Manufacturing Company, including Patrick Tracy Jackson and John Lowell. The company manufactured concentrated sulfuric acid ("oil of vitriol") used in the bleaching of cotton. The Newton Chymical Company purchased about 40 acres of land between the river, Newton Street and Hall Street, and the chemical works were located in the vicinity of the current Taylor Street. (The original manufacturing buildings are no longer in existence, since the company closed in 1872, and the buildings were removed and the land sold for house lots.) In 1846, the Newton Chemical Company purchased land on either side of the "lately laid out" Oak Street from Francis C. Lowell (Francis Cabot Lowell II – 1803-1874). Many of the Irish inhabitants, the Rogers, Bolands, and Muldoons of Oak Street are recorded in this area in the 1850 census. The 1854 map shows the house belonging to the Newton Chemical Company. So the house at 44-46 Oak Street was probably built to house company employees soon after 1846. Unlike the Waltham Watch Company, or even the Boston Manufacturing Company, very few houses for employees of the Newton Chemical Company were built and/or survive to this day. There were three houses on Oak Street that were identified in the 1854 map as belonging to the Newton Chemical Company. One across the street is listed in the MACRIS inventory. Another building may be at the current address of 14 Oak Street. So the house at 44-46 Oak Street was probably built ca 1846 and is one of the few surviving houses, or even buildings, of the Newton Chemical Company.

It is impossible to determine with accuracy exactly who lived in the house between 1846 and 1871. One building in the 1855 census shows four families living in one house. The building very likely housed Irish immigrants who worked for the Newton Chemical Company. In 1871, the failing Newton Chemical Company sold the house to William O'Brien, who worked as a plumber for the company. O'Brien sold the house in 1872 to Mary Duffy, who sold the house to Matthew J. Mullaney in 1877.

Matthew J. Mullaney was a disabled Civil War veteran and a member of the 16th Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteers, who was wounded at the Battle of Glendale in 1862. He was a blacksmith and lived in Newton and Waltham until he purchased the house at 44-46 Oak Street in 1877. By 1880, he worked for the police department as a truant officer and he was also the superintendent of the public baths on Moody Street, an occupation he kept until his death in 1890. He had been widowed twice and married three times. His third wife, Ellen, died in 1911, and the house and land were sold by his daughter, Mary Kelleher, to John Moran in 1911. Mary Moran sold the house to Aniello Parella in 1915. The house was subsequently owned and occupied by a number of working class people, laborers, construction workers, mill workers and custodians. No one of historical significance lived in the house.

The significance of the house is derived from the fact that it is one of the very few remaining buildings of the Newton Chemical Company, founded in 1825, which was an industry associated with the historically significant Francis Cabot Lowell Mill and the Bleachery.