

THE SAMUEL BRADLEY HOUSE
(Mrs. John Tyler)
1715

At 214 Main Street is the Samuel Bradley house known in later years as the John Tyler house. This house was built about 1715 or a few years earlier. Its builder Samuel Bradley, a locksmith, married Sarah Robinson in 1715. Their son Simeon Bradley born in 1731, lived in this house all of his life. He married Abigail Dennison in 1759 and their daughter Mable, born here in 1763 married one John Tyler of Branford in 1786. They continued to occupy this place and their son William Tyler born 1799 married Julia Thompson in 1853. They in turn lived in the house and it was their son John Tyler born in 1837 that was known and respected by so many of the present generation. Mr. Tyler married Jane Thompson on June 3, 1866 and she is now the present owner of the property. Thus for the past two hundred and twenty years this old house has remained in the name of two of East Haven's old families.

The original chimney made of stone and brick with four fine large fireplaces is still in the house. The chimney at the base measures ten feet by twelve feet and where it passes thru the roof it measures forty inches by forty four inches. The chimney passes thru the roof behind the ridge pole as was customary of the houses built in the early Colonial period from 1700 to 1750. The beautifully carved panel work in this house has been much sought for by dealers in antiques. It is a marvel to find so well preserved such examples of handcarving of those early days. There is to this day the old fashion small front hall with its steep winding staircase to the second floor.

There is an interesting tradition in connection with an old wooden hogshead still in the attic of this house. At the time of the British invasion, in 1779, the family of Simeon Bradley when alarmed of the approach of the enemy placed their valuable silver and china in this old hogshead with many of their other precious family heirlooms and then filled the cask to the top with grain. This enabled them to deceive the enemy scouts who are said to have searched hurriedly the houses in the village on that memorable day of July 5th 1779.