

THE STEPHEN THOMPSON HOUSE
 (The Smith Family)
 1760

At 298 Hemingway Avenue stands the Stephen Thompson house built in 1760, known in late years as the "Jim Smith house". For the past two generations this house was owned and occupied by Mr. James Smith son of Mr. Henry Smith. "Jim" as he was known to everyone, held the deep respect of all ill-doers as he was the constable and represented the Law in all its majesty for many years.

The builder of this house, Stephen Thompson, was injured in an accident occurring when he and two others fell while placing the last window cap over one of the upper windows in the Old Stone Church in 1774. However Mr. Thompson was fortunate enough to regain his health after a considerable period of suffering. He was the father of four sons and his son Stephen occupied this house upon its completion.

This house was supposed to have been occupied by descendants of the early Thompsons until Nov. 12th 1844 when the property was bought from Ransom Thompson by Mr. Henry Smith.

At this present day it is owned by the heirs of the late Jim Smith and has until 1934 been occupied by the brother of Constable Jim, Mr. Montague Smith. Mr. Montague Smith, now in his ninety third year, has been the last occupant of the house which is now vacant.

This house is of the story and a half type with the walls at each end made of stone and mortar. About seventy years ago the north end was clapboarded. In this house the chimneys are of stone and placed at each end after the same manner of the Amos Thompson house opposite this house on the east side of the Green.

An old newspaper clipping has come to light recently that was taken from a New Haven newspaper issued on May 12, 1879 regarding the occupants of this house and the Amos Thompson house. It was written at the time of the death of Sally Hemingway Thompson. She was the wife of the late Capt. Orrin Thompson. It states that Sally Hemingway, the daughter of Eleazer Hemingway the occupant of the Stephen Thompson house a century ago, was the second cousin of the man she married. Orrin Thompson was born and lived his entire life in the Amos Thompson house. Both Orrin's and Sally's great-grandfather was Stephen Thompson the builder of these two old Colonial houses.