

In 1666, Proctor moved to Salem^[2] and leased a 700 acre estate known as Groton farm (aka Downing Farm^[2]) in Salem Farms, the section of Salem Township just to the south of [Salem Village](#).^[1] The farm was leased from Emmanuel Downing, brother-in-law to [John Winthrop](#).^[3] In 1668, Proctor received his first license to operate a tavern here and the license was renewed annually.^[3] The Inn was located on Ipswich Road about a mile south of the [Salem Village](#) line.

[Thorndike Proctor](#) purchased the Groton Farm from the Downing family of London, England, following the hanging of his father. The farm was renamed Downing Farm. Thorndike subsequently sold nearly half of Downing Farm to his half-brother Benjamin. Eight generations of Proctors resided on the Downing farm, until 1851.

LUCY WINTHROP DOWNING

(1600–1679)

Lucy Winthrop was a sister of John Winthrop, one of the founders of the Massachusetts Bay colony. She was born on January 9, 1600, at Groton Manor in the Suffolk district of England. Her father was Adam Winthrop and her mother was the former Anne Browne.

Lucy stayed in England for eight years after her brother came to the New World in 1630. She married Emanuel Downing on April 10, 1622, in Groton. Emanuel had been married before and had three children with that wife; they were John, Susan and Mary.

As time passed, Lucy and Emanuel had children also—nine in all. They had a son named George born in 1623, a daughter Lucy born in 1625, twins Joshua and Nicholas, born in 1627, Robert born in 1628, Adam and Henry, also twins, born in 1630, daughter Anne born in 1633 and Martha in 1636.

Emanuel Downing was working as a lawyer in Dublin, Ireland, when John Winthrop left England in 1630. Emanuel was an attorney of the Inner Temple in London, having graduated from the law school at Cambridge University.

Lucy had no great desire to bring her family to join her brother and his family in Massachusetts, but John kept pressuring Emanuel to emigrate.

Lucy wrote Margaret, John's wife, in 1636: "I harty-lie thank

you for all the expressions of your love and desires of our company. I know not yet how it will please God to dispose of us ... my present condition is unfit for changes....”

To her brother John she wrote: “but I must deal plainlie with you, and let you know that many good people here, and some that understand New England reasonable well, both by sight and relations of friends, that are able to judg, they do much fear the country cannot afford subsistence for many people, and that if you were not supplied of incomes from hence, your lives would be very miserable....”

Near the end of 1636, as Governor Winthrop apparently increased the pressure to join him and his family in New England, Lucy wrote: “George [her son] and his father complye more cordially for New England; but, poor boy, I fear that journey would not be so prosperous for him as I could wish in respect that you have no societies ... for the education of youths in learning; and I bless God for it, he is yet reasonable hopeful in that way. ... [I]t would make me go far nimbler to New England if God should call me to it than otherwise I should, and I believ a colledge would put no small life into the plantation.”

Lucy’s letter must have had some influence, for on October 28th of that same year, the General Court of Massachusetts agreed to allot 400 pounds to establish a “schoole or colledge” in Newtown nearby. Newtown would also be the name of the school.

Two years later, in 1638, the name was changed to Cambridge, and soon after that they decided the college “shall be called Harvard College.”

In November of 1638 Lucy and Emanuel arrived, with their children, in Salem, Massachusetts, on the *Thomas and Francis*. Emanuel lost no time in buying 300 acres of land in the Peabody area of the Salem colony, and he had a house built on it for his family. They called the estate “Groton,” after Lucy’s old home in England

Young George Downing enrolled in Harvard College, and graduated in 1642. He was second in his class of nine in academic standing. He returned to England three years later and became a

spy for Lord Oliver Cromwell, who would later be named Lord Protector of England.

When King Charles I of England was executed by his enemies in 1649, during the English Civil War, Cromwell hoped to establish a new dynasty. He succeeded, but after Cromwell died in 1658, his son, Richard Cromwell, resigned as his father's successor. As a result, King Charles II came to the English throne in 1660.

Meanwhile, in the Massachusetts colony, Lucy Downing and Margaret Winthrop continued their correspondence between visits. Lucy wrote Margaret to thank her for gifts of rosemary and apples, and added, "Your lemmons were allmost as rare as drops of life. I am all the more sensible of your deprivation of them."

The Downings' home in Peabody was destroyed by fire in 1645, along with a large store of the colony's gunpowder on the property. As soon as possible, Emanuel rebuilt their home for his family, as well as houses for workmen and tenants. Since coming to Massachusetts, Lucy had given birth to three more children, John and Dorcas (1640), and Theophilus (1644).

Lucy's letters showed her sense of humor at times, as when she said she would prefer her next child to be born an "Indyan than a London Coknye."

Emanuel was allowed to distill "strong water" in 1648, and he used a house nearby on old Ipswich Road for a tavern.

Lucy wrote,

Our stilling I think might be pritty strong, but that all the rye was eaten up almost before the Indian (corn) was gathered. Could you teach us how to kern (grind) rye out of the seawater? That I question not would make the still vapor (go) as far as Pecoite (Pequot), and the Indians I believ would like that smoak very well, for the English have but two objections against it. One—it's too dear (costly) and two—there's not enough of it. Cure these and we might all have employment enough at Salem, and as it is we could have custom ten times more than pay.

Lucy was a tidy, industrious woman and a good housewife, but she criticized her step-daughter Mary's ineptitude in caring for

More Colonial Women

Mary's brother's laundry. Fortunately, before conditions became too unpleasant, Mary married Anthony Stoddard; he was considered to be a very good choice.

When John Winthrop, Jr., came back to New England, Emanuel invested in his ironworks, lead mines and saltworks.

From 1646 to 1656, Emanuel and Lucy lived with their children in a house in Salem. Later Governor Simon Bradstreet and his family lived there from 1676 to 1697.

Emanuel went back to England in 1656, leasing his farm and tavern to John Proctor. He had owned the property since his arrival in 1638.

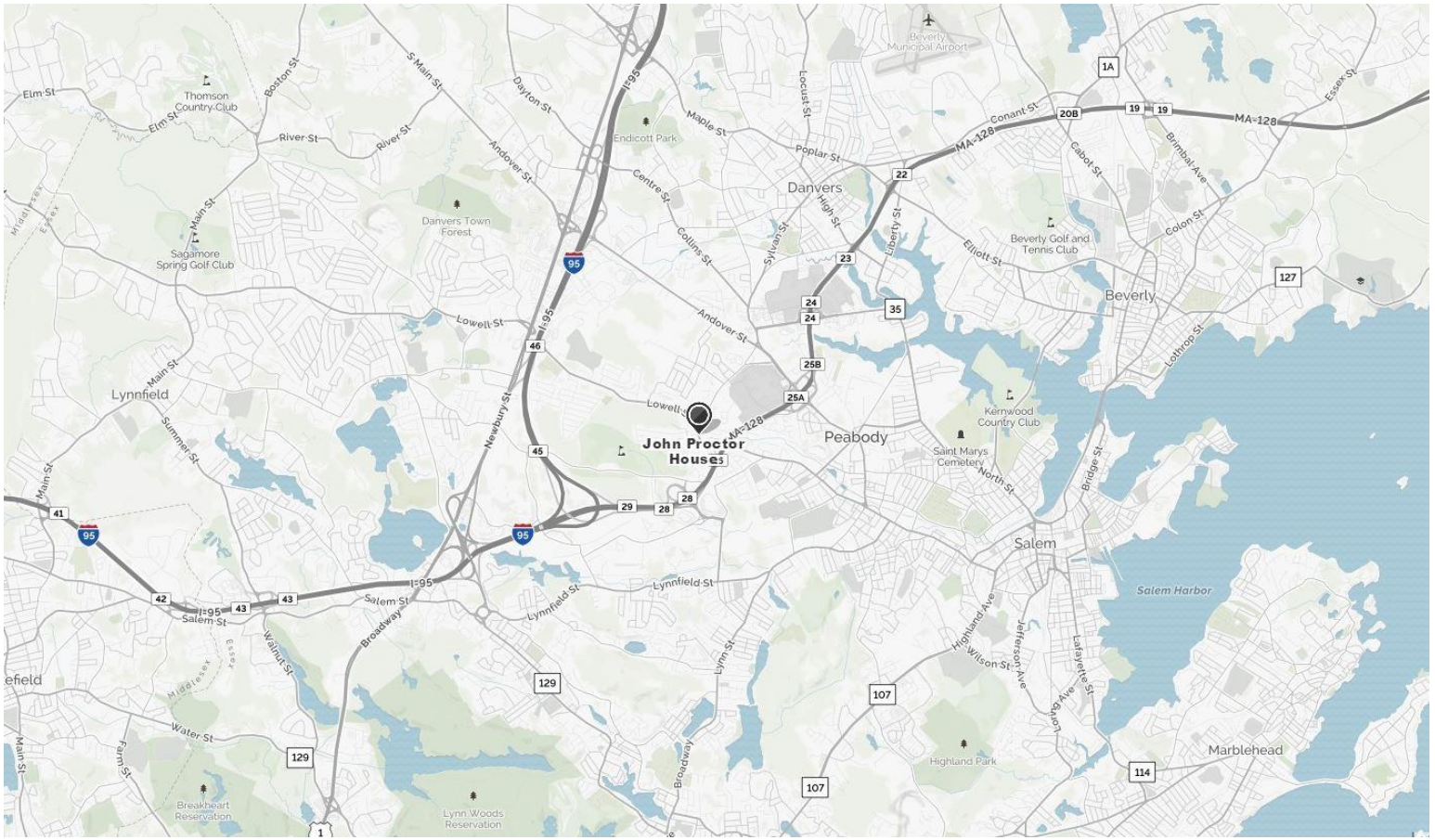
After Emanuel had made his ninth voyage back to England in 1656, he received an appointment as Clerk of Council of State in Scotland. He and Lucy remained in Edinburgh, until he died on September 26, 1660, at age 75. He was returned to London for burial.

Several months after his death, Lucy also returned to England to live, and her son George provided her a home in East Hatley. She died on April 10, 1679, at age 79 and was buried in England.

Bibliography

Earle, Alice Morse. *Margaret Winthrop*. Williamston, Mass.: Corner House, 1975.

Web Site: [www. downingfamily.org Emanuel1%20Downing.htm](http://www.downingfamily.org/Emanuel1%20Downing.htm)



John Proctor's house at 348 Lowell Street in Peabody Ma in 2012 (although some sources indicate it may have instead been built by his son Thorndike Proctor in the 1700s)

