

ELISHA ALVORD.

Who formerly owned the land in Northampton on which the Court House now stands, and also the land under the Old Town Hall?

Answer.—Elisha Alvord, son of Joseph and brother of Stephen Alvord. [See Alvord No. 95.

The town has built a new Town Hall on another site.

What can the land or buildings thereupon be used for?

Sept. 23, 1767. A warrant was issued for a town meeting, to be held Sept. 28, 1767, at 9 A. M., then and there to determine whether the town will grant any sum of money towards purchasing Elisha Alvord's house lot for the town's use, and particularly for the purpose of setting the New Court House on, which is soon to be set up.

After considerable debate and conversation about the clause in the warrant. The question was put whether the town would grant any sum of money towards purchasing Elisha Alvord's house lot, with a view of setting the New Court House, soon to be erected, on a part of the same, and it passed in the negative. [Abstract. Joseph Hawley, Moderator.

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*Deed of Elisha Alvord of Northampton to sundry persons.*

To all People to whom these presents shall come, Greeting ;

Know ye, that I Elisha Alvord, of Northampton, in the County of Hampshire, & Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, Shopkeeper, for, and in consideration of the sum of One hundred and thirty pounds lawfull money, to me in hand, before the Ensealing hereof, well and truly paid by Ebenezer Hunt, Timothy Dwight Jun<sup>r</sup>. Seth Pomeroy, Caleb Strong, Solomon Stoddard, Samuel Clarke, Epraim Wright, William Lyman, Seth Lyman, John King, Samuel Parsons, Jonathan Allen, Selah Wright, Joseph Allen, ———, Joseph Cooke, Joseph Lyman, Benjamin Sheldon, Jun., Quartus Pomeroy, Elisha Lyman, Gideon Clarke, George Hodge, Hezekiah Russell, Thomas Bridgman, Elijah Southwell, Asahel Clapp, Abner Barnard, Daniel Hitchcock, William Mather, Levi Shephard, Eliphaz Strong, Seth Clapp, Aaron Wright, Eliphaz Clapp, Elnathan Wright, Joseph Parsons, Simeon Parsons, Haines Kingsley, Aaron Kingsley, Timothy Parsons, Enos Kingsley, Asa Wright, Josiah Parsons Jun, Titus King, Oliver Lyman, Elihu Lyman, Elkanah Burt, Ebenezer Clapp, Elihu Clark, Pliny Pomeroy, Abijah Wait, John Parsons Jun. Simeon Clapp, Joseph Clapp, Joseph Hutchings, Lemuel Lyman, David Lyman, Elias Lyman Jun. and Asahel Danks all of Northampton aforesaid, and Samuel Fairfax of Hatfield in the county and province, aforesaid ; generous Subscribers of the Consideration above mentioned ; for the purchase of the premises hereinafter described for the public use of erecting a Court House thereon for the sole use and benefit of the Inhabitants of the county of Hampshire, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge and am therewith fully satisfied and contented have given, granted bargained, sold, alienated, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents do freely, fully, and absolutely, give, grant bargain, sell, alien, convey & confirm unto the Inhabitants of the county of Hampshire aforesaid and their successors forever a certain small tract or parcel of land in Northampton aforesaid, situated near the meeting house ; there in quantity about seventy three rods ; being the houselot where I now dwell ; surrounded and described by the following lines and bounds, viz ; beginning at a

young buttonwood tree in a corner of said houselot standing east thirteen degrees & thirty minutes south of the south east corner of the Belfrey & at the distance of one chain & twenty three links of Gunter's chain therefrom, & from said tree runs east, forty three degrees north, one chain and one link; thence north, ten degrees and thirty minutes east, two chains & forty seven links; thence west thirty five degrees north, one chain and twenty links; thence South twenty four degrees West, one chain and thirty three links; thence south twenty six degrees and thirty minutes west, one chain and sixty two links; thence south twenty six degrees east, twenty five links; thence east forty degrees south, one chain and twenty links to the button wood tree abovesaid; always excepting, and reserving to myself, the several buildings standing on the same land, with liberty of egress & regress for the purpose of taking down said buildings, and removing the materials thereof, which is to be done with all convenient speed.

To have and to hold the said granted premises with the appurtenances (saving only the buildings standing on the same as above excepted & reserved and liberty to demolish them and take off the materials) to the proper use of the Inhabitants of the said County of Hampshire, in succession for the Term of & so long as Courts are or shall be held by law in said town of Northampton, for the purpose of a green or common & for the erecting a Courthouse or Courthouses thereon as shall be ordered by the proper authority for setting up and erecting the same; and whensoever that term shall cease and determine, and the Courts are removed & shall be held at some other town or place pursuant to law, which are now held there then the same premises shall be and remain as an open uninclosed common for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of the said town of Northampton in succession for ever; for erecting any meeting house for public worship, or town house for town affairs, or meeting and for no other purpose whatsoever;

And I the said Elisha Alvord for myself & my heirs, executors, and administrators, do covenant and grant to, and with the said inhabitants of said county of Hampshire, and their successors that before, and at the ensealing hereof I am the true sole & lawfull owner of the above bargained premises and am lawfully seized and possessed of the same in my own proper right as of a good and absolute estate of inheritance in fee simple & have in myself good right to sell and convey the same as aforesaid, and that the same shall & may be held by the said inhabitants of said county of Hampshire in succession for the use and pur-

pose aforesaid and enjoyed by them free and clear of, and from all manner of let molestation or incumbrance whatsoever that might in any measure make void or obstruct this present deed; and I and my heirs, &c., will at all times for ever hereafter warrant and defend the same to them and their successors for the use and purpose aforesaid.

In witness whereof I the said Elisha Alvord have hereunto set my hand and seal this sixth day of October in the seventh year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third over Great Britain France and Ireland, King, &c. Ano Dom̄ 1767.

Sam<sup>l</sup> Mather.

ELISHA ALVORD.

John Row.

I Mary Alvord wife of the above named Elisha Alvord in consideration of what is acknowledged to be received above do relinquish and give up to the said inhabitants of said county all my right of dowers in the above described premises and do hereby absolutely debar myself from my demand thereof forever hereafter.

In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal the day and year above said.

MARY ALVORD.

Signed sealed by the said Elisha and Mary in presence of

Samuel Mather

John Rowe.

[Copied from a deed in the office of Clerk of Courts—Northampton, Mass.

At a town meeting held Northampton, Sept. 3, 1852, The question of the removal of the Old Town Hall being brought before the town and freely discussed by several gentlemen, Dr. Allen presented the following vote:

“Voted, That the Town will remove the Old Town Hall, and give the land under it to the Inhabitants of the County of Hampshire, to be used forever for the purposes mentioned in the deed of the Alvord lot, dated A. D. 1767.” The above vote was rejected by five yeas and eighty nays.

The following preamble and votes were then submitted to the town and passed by a large majority:

Whereas, a petition is pending before the County Commissioners, requesting some action in reference to the revocation of a license to erect a Town Hall on the Alvord lot, so called, and a removal of the build-

ing; and whereas, there is a difference of opinion as to the rights of the Town in the premises, and as to the location of the Alvord lot, and whether said building is upon it—

“Voted, That the Town, not conceding any rights or title already gained, and not admitting the building to be in any part upon said Alvord lot, hereby declare, that the lapse of time hereafter shall not operate to give the Town further title than is already acquired, or to deprive any party adversely interested of title to the same, provided the County or County Commissioners take no measures to deprive the Town of possession or to eject them.”

It would improve the appearance of the village of Northampton if the Old Town Hall was moved off of the Alvord lot, and the land, under and around it, was used for a Green.

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