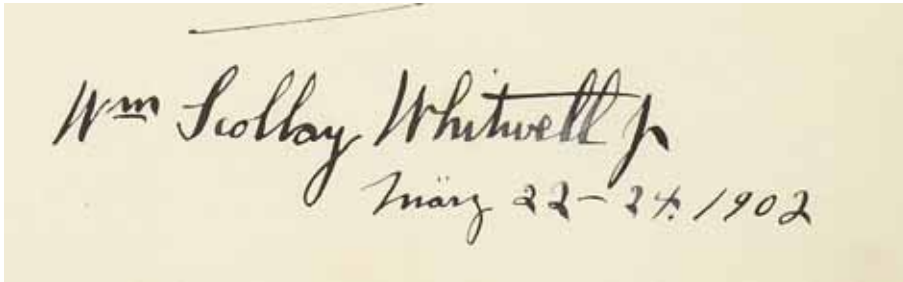


William Scollay Whitwell jr



Wm Scollay Whitwell jr
März 22-24/1902

Gästebücher Schloss Neubeuern Band IV

Aufenthal Schloss Neubeuern:

10. August – 13 September 1901 / 7. – 11. November 1901 / 22. – 24. März 1902 / 18. – 19. Juli 1902

By the recent deaths of **William Scollay Whitwell** and **W. Scollay Whitehall, Jr.**, the famous **Scollay family** so - prominent a hundred years and more ago, but which has gradually passed away has become practically extinct. A few descendants are still with us, however, and although the name itself has ceased to exist, yet **Scollay** square is the token that is left of the memory of the founder of the family. Very little has been written about the **Scollays**, but I have gathered together some interesting facts from newspaper clippings and various other sources, which may be acceptable to lovers of traditions of old Bostonians.

Before sketching the history of **Scollay's** building, I would like to mark out, as clearly as possible, the condition of the surrounding land about the latter half of the eighteenth century. South of the building, including the entire street known as Tremont Row, to the opening to Pemberton Square, west side of Tremont street to Beacon street, stood a row of fine residences, with gardens between and behind them. For its whole length it was known as Tremont street, but that part now called Tremont row was also sometimes laid down on the maps as Pemberton hill.

The residence of **William Powell** was on the corner where the Hemenway building now stands. The upper covered end of what was then Cornhill was then covered with buildings, and the street itself formed part of numerous back yards. A narrow lane, then called Hillier's ladle, was all that marked the after-course of Brattle street.

In the centre of the space bounded by Court and Tremont Streets stood a long row of buildings, of which **Scollay's** building was the largest. At the eastern end of that structure stood a wooden building, two stories high, of irregular form, being wider at its point of contact with the brick building than at the end nearest to the present once of the United States Trust Company. It was owned by **Colonel Scollay**, and was regarded as a part of the block which formerly bore that name. It was occupied by one Turell for a museum. It was in a central location, light and airy, and filled with curiosities.



Etching included in Mr. Porter's paper

Scollay's building proper was a two-storied structure of brick. It was then occupied above for offices and on the basement floor by merchants. Here was, for a long time, the greatest tea store in Boston. Beyond, to the westward, were several buildings in a row, known as the Bridge estate, and one or two others, the whole being terminated by a wedge-shaped structure, one story and stretching out to a sharp point at the in height, head of Hanover street, directly opposite Concert hall On the Tremont row side it was simply a dead wall, but on the Court street side were the entrances to little location, was light and toy shops and other small trading stands. The intermediate buildings were occupied at various times for dwellings and for stores.

The title to the property was, in 1774, in **Joseph Russell**, and was deeded to him in that year to **William Vassall**. I have not been able to discover with any degree of certainty who **Joseph Russell** was, but he is supposed by some to have been a near relative of **Benjamin Russell**, printer of the *Columbian Centinel*, early Boston newspaper. The deed, still in the possession of a descendant of **Colonel Scollay**, with other subsequent deeds, mentions a building as standing on the lot, and the price paid for the whole property was 300 pounds. **Mr. William Vassall**, to whom it was sold, was at the time a resident of Cambridge and a rich land-owner. The house of **Professor Longfellow** stands upon a part of his Cambridge estate.

But **Vassall** was an adherent of the King, and, during the Revolutionary war, fled to England. The Property stood in his name, nevertheless, until 1795, when he sold it to **Patrick Jeffry** for 160 pounds. This second deed does not mention any house as standing on the lot conveyed, and it is not improbable that the building mentioned in **Russell's** deed was of wood, and had been destroyed by fire some time during the twenty-one years it had been the property of **Mr. Vassall**.

Mr. Jeffry sold the estate before the beginning of the century, the building afterwards known by his name, but undoubtedly put up by **Mr. Jeffry**, and as he originally constructed it, was then upon it. The title remained with **Colonel Scollay** and his heirs until Jan. 7, 1868, when it was transferred to **Mr. Arioeh Wentworth** for \$100,000. Several years later he sold to the city of Boston for \$200,000 and the building was torn down.

The **Scollays** were an old Scotch family, and came from the Orkney Islands, but it is not easy to ascertain when the first of the name emigrated to this country. **John Scollay** is mentioned in Drake's History of Boston as having leased the Winnisimmet Ferry for one year, as early as 1692, and in 1695 it was again leased to him for seven years. **John Scollay**, the father of **William Scollay**, was the first of the name who attained much prominence in Boston. His portrait, painted by **Copley**, and that of his wife, a crayon by the same artist, are now in possession of **Miss Mary Bigelow**, a great granddaughter. He is represented as a portly and florid man in a plain, brown dress, and with a powdered wig, seated, and his hand resting on a book, near which is an inkstand and pen.

He is mentioned by **Drake** as having signed a petition to the King in 1761 with about fifty others of the principal merchants of the town of Boston, to complain of the illegal action of the revenue officers of the Crown. In 1764 he was chosen the third of seven Selectmen, a board in which he was afterwards brought into prominence. The records do not show, however, that he was re-elected the following year. In 1747 he was elected one of the Fire-wards of the town, which shows him to have been a man of public spirit and coolness, in the opinion of his townsmen. In March, 1784, the town voted "Thanks unto **John Scollay**, Esqr. for his good and faithful Services as a Fire Ward for thirty-five years past." At a subsequent period in his life, in 1788, he was chosen President of the Scots Charitable Society. Among the prominent men mentioned by Frothingham in his *Siege of Boston*, **John Scollay** is spoken of as a man "of much public spirit, energetic and firm." He was again elected to the board of Selectmen in 1773, and the following year became chairman, which position he held during the whole of the Revolution and until 1790 or for a period of sixteen years, and up to the time of his death. At the beginning of the siege he, with others, sent a note to **General Washington**, then in Cambridge, to request some favor in the name of Colonel Howe, the British commander, but the note was returned with an unfavorable answer.

At the evacuation, he was among the prominent men of the town in the rejoicings of the people at the deliverance of Boston, and his social correspondence with **General Washington** on that occasion is still preserved in the family.

Colonel William Scollay, son of **John**, derived his title from his commission as Colonel of the famous Boston Regiment, which included most of the military companies of the town, to which position he was elected Aug. 20, 1792. His name and address are Contained in the first Directory of Boston, published in 1789. His occupation was that of an apothecary and druggist, and his place of

business was at No. 6 Cornhill, now Washington street.

He was chosen one of the Clerks of the Market in 1788, Selectman 1792-95 and Fire-ward annually from 1792 to 1806 inclusive. In 1796 he received a vote of thanks from the town " for his good services as a Selectman a number of years past," and in 1807 a similar vote was passed recognizing his service as Fire-ward.

Quite early in life, however, he abandoned trade and gradually became an extensive operator in real estate. His home was at first on or near the spot where the Boston Museum formerly stood, north of King's Chapel burying-ground, and his garden extended back to near the line of Court square. He afterwards removed to the Bussey house, in Summer Street, and while there was associated with **Charles Bulfinch** and other prominent men of the town in the improvement of Franklin street. That enterprise was originally started on the Tontine plan, which would give to the last survivor of the owners a title to the whole property; but owing to some difficulties the temporarily popular plan was abandoned.

On the crescent of Franklin place was erected the first block of buildings built for himself a dwelling-house on this new street, and lived there up to the time of his death, which in Boston occurred in 1809. He had been interested in the development of South Boston; was one of the advocates of the Federal-Street bridge, which was at the time successfully opposed – and owned a large tract of land in South Boston, upon and near Dorchester Heights. He had at one time intended to build a dwelling-house for himself on that eminence, had already excavated the cellar, but he afterwards abandoned the project. Some time after his death, however, about the year 1815, the family moved to South Boston. **Colonel Scollay** was the youngest but one of eight sons of **John Scollay**, who also left several daughters; one of those daughters married **Colonel Thomas Melville** who was known as "the last of the cocked hats."

Colonel Melville was one of the Boston Tea Party, and **Mrs. Melville** suspected that her husband had some important business on hand, and as he lay sleeping the morning after the Party, she discovered tea in the shoes he had worn. This she carefully kept without asking as she was wise enough to know that secrecy was imperative, and when she heard of what had happened, she naturally realized that her husband had been one of the "Mohawks." These tea-leaves were preserved in a bottle, which was in the possession for a long time of the family, but later on, it is said, found its way to the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester. **Colonel Scollay** and **Thomas Melville** were both members of The Lodge ; the former was its presiding officer 1788-91 , and also held prominent offices in the Grand Lodge.

William Scollay was the only one of the eight brothers who left sons to arrive at manhood, and both of the two who survived him died without leaving children. It therefore happens that there is no family now living who bears the name of **Scollay**. One of **Colonel Scollay's** daughters was the wife of the late **Dr. Jacob Bigelow**. **Sir Robert** the celebrated engraver, and **Malcolm Laing**, who made himself famous in Scottish literary circles in the eighteenth century, were connections of the **Scollay** family in the old country.

The corner-stone of the State House was laid with Masonic rites on the 4th of July, 1795, and among the names inscribed on the silver plate was:

Right Worshipful **Wm. Scollay**
Deputy Grand Master.

Colonel William Scollay had a sister named **Mercy Scollay**, who lived in Medfield. She was a close friend of **Benedict Arnold**. **Arnold** was very much interested in the three younger children of **General Warren**, and they were placed in the care of **Mercy Scollay**. On July 15, 1778, he wrote a letter from Philadelphia, informing her that he was trying to have an order passed by the Government providing that the three children should be cared for and educated at public expense, and when of age the sum of 1000 pounds should be given as a portion to each. Furthermore, he said in his letter that if the order was not passed he desired that the children should remain in her care, that he alone would bear the whole expense of their support and education.

The first of the row of buildings between Tremont row and Court street to yield to the demand for more room was Turell 's Museum, which was sold to the town and pulled down about the year 1814. This was probably done in consequence of the proposition to cut through the street now known as Cornhill. That thoroughfare was laid out about the year 1816 or 1817, and was at first called Market

street. In 1828, when North and South Market streets had been laid out, the name of Market street was changed to Cornhill.

Tremont street originally reached only to Winter street; the continuation as far as Boylston street, then Frog lane, was Common street, and beyond Frog lane it was Nassau street. Common street is now nowhere near the Common, and Nassau street is the name applied to a small street off Harrison avenue. Marlboro and Newbury streets, in the Back Bay, are names recalling those once given to parts of what now constitute Washington street. Brattle street was opened a few years after Cornhill, the old line of Hillier's lane being adhered to. The opening of this street was the original cause of the removal of the long line of buildings from the Bridge estate to Hanover street.

There was, about the year 1841, an agitation in favor of the demolition of the whole row, and an earnest effort was made to secure an appropriation of \$10,000 for that purpose. The scheme was, however, strenuously opposed. The pretext for the removal was that the heavy omnibuses and stage coaches, some-times four and six-horse teams, entering and coming Brattle nest of hotels and street, then boarding-houses, did not have room to turn, and the city was asked to afford relief in the interests of the traveling public. The movement failed, and the buildings stood for a long time thereafter.

The wall at the pointed end of the row was low, and a person standing on the sidewalk, just east of where Copeland's store was - the upper side of the street was higher then - could look over the wall and see the people on the opposite sidewalk, near the Oriental Tea Store. When the colored population of the city used to celebrate West Indies Emancipation, by a procession on "Bobolition Day," as it was called, the line, led by **Peter Gus**, always passed through Court street at a fixed hour. The boys regularly collected on the Tremont row sidewalk in swarms, and testified their gratification at the abolition of slavery by souvenirs in the shape of potatoes, rotten lemons, eggs and other missiles of the kind. All this abusive treatment ceased with the demolition of the buildings, about the year 1848. At the same time, the Bridge estate was purchased by the city.

Scollay's building was originally only two stories high on the upper or south side. Some time after it was erected the idea was conceived of digging a cellar, the building having been at first without one. This was dug smaller than the building, and walls were built up to protect the foundations from caving. When the grade of Tremont row was changed, at the time of the Pemberton square improvement, the land about the south side of the building was dug away and thus for the first time the basement floor became available and desirable for business purposes.

Among the occupants of the building about this time, and before, were the **Hon. James Savage**, who had his law office there; **Mr. John H. Rogers**, who removed to the opposite corner after the improvement of Pemberton square, and in the basement was the famous barber shop of Bob New. New's sign was an immense painted caricature of the hair-dresser's profession, and New himself, was the Boston **Joe Miller** of the period. In the same building, or in one of those in the row, was the largest thread store in the town. **Mr. Joseph Bridge** kept a grocery store in which he also sold plants and seeds. For some time before the portion opposite Concert hall was demolished, one of the engines of the Boston Fire the basement was the famous Department was stationed there.

Still later the whole of **Scollay's** building was leased to a **Mr. Dimmock** for a term of years. The lessee proposed to add two stories to the building. The heirs of **Colonel Scollay** employed two practical mechanics, one of them **Mr. William Washburn**, examine the structure to see whether it would be safe to more weight to the foundations. They reported that it was "fully able to carry two more stories," and pronounced the foundations entirely safe, notwithstanding the excavation of the cellar. **Mr. Dimmock** then proceeded with the work.

In spite of its central location and its light and airy situation, **Scollay's** building was never a favorite with tenants of any kind. The rooms were small and uncomfortable, and owing to the isolated position of the building, access to it was difficult across the crowded streets that surrounded it. It does not appear, from examination of the records, that any men very famous in the history of Boston or in national affairs, excepting **Mr. Savage** and **Mr. Rogers**, have ever occupied offices in it. The historical associations were altogether with the building itself.

William Scollay was born Nov. 24 1756 and married **Catherine Whitwell** Oct. 5, 1780. She was born in 1760. They had: **Catherine**, born July, 1781; died August, 1781. **Catherine**, born Feb. 27, 1783 ; died 1863. **William**, born February, 1785 ; died September, 1813. **Lucy Cushing**, born I 788 ; died September, I 883. (She married **Benjamin Whitwell** in 1808, and the mother of **William S. Whitwell, Sr.**) **John**, born 1789 died 1790. **Mary**, born January 1793, died 1882. (She married **Dr. Jacob Bigelow** in 18 I 7, whose daughter, **Bigelow**, is now living in Boston and is in perfect health at

the age of 82, and whose grandson, **William Sturgis Bigelow**, is living in Boston.) **Anne Wroe** born November, 1794 ; died 1845 . (She married **Charles P. Curtis**.) **Elizabeth Hamilton**, died aged 11 years.

William S. Whitwell, Sr., was born May 23, 1809, and died Oct. 31, 1899. He had a sister, now **Mrs. William Parker**, who is still living and is enjoying perfect health and activity at the ripe age of 95 years. She lives in Brookline and seems to be in the fullness of life. **William Scollay Whitwell** died a few months ago, leaving a widow (Blanche Bonestelle) and three sons, **William Scollay Whitwell, Jr.**, **Cutler Bonestelle Whitwell** and **Sturgis Bigelow Whitwell**. His sisters, Miss **Mary H. Whitwell** and Mrs. **William Tudor** and reside in Boston.

For much of this information I am indebted to Mrs. **William Parker**, Miss **Mary Bigelow**, Mrs. **William Tudor**, and Mr. **Charles P. Greenough**.

It is to be regretted that so little has been written about the **Scollays**, and that the information which can be obtained, treating directly of this fine old family, is so meagre. But, if the students of history will trace out its different collateral branches, their work will be one of absorbing interest, and it will be found that John Scollay's descendants have been true to their ancestry. By their loyalty and conservatism they have always been honored citizens, and have taken the first place in every movement that would promote the welfare of the community in which they have been so beloved.

Quelle: <http://www.bambinomusical.com/Scollay/Porter1906.html>

The Scollays and Scollay Square

One of the most frequently asked questions about **Scollay Square** (aside from the ones about **Sally Keith's** tassels), concern the Square's origin. Just where did the name **Scollay** come from? Did the family who provided the name do anything besides that? Do any family members still live today, and if they do, what do they think of their family's namesake? One of the members of the Sons of Liberty was a man named **John Scollay**. While we know that his family came to Massachusetts from Scotland's Orkney Islands, members of the **Scollay** family place his precise lineage in question. It had been written - and accepted as fact - that John's father, also named **John**, had leased the Winnisimmet Ferry in 1692, and ran it for several years, but according to one family researcher, "it's possible that the ferry owner was "actually a son of **William Scollay** (brother of **James Scollay**) who also emigrated to Boston." We hope to help the Scollay family find the answer.

Meanwhile, let's get back to **John Scollay**. John obviously achieved some stature in Colonial Boston, as he was elected Fire Marshall in 1747, a position he held for thirty-five years. In 1761, along with about fifty other men, he signed a petition which was sent to **King George III** protesting the illegal actions of the British revenue officers. A strong supporter of colonial claims against the empire, he was chosen to Boston's board of Selectmen in 1764. The honor was repeated in 1773, and the following year he was made chairman, a title he held until 1790. Although his participation in the Revolution was historically overshadowed by that of the more prominent and outspoken revolutionaries such as **Adams, Otis, and Hancock**, **John's** contribution was nevertheless important. Without individuals like **John Scollay** supporting the cause, resisting the British might not have been possible.

John Scollay had ten children, eight of them boys. The youngest, named **William**, was also active in the community, becoming Clerk of the Market in 1788 and Selectman from 1792 to 1795. Following in his father's footsteps, he acted as Fire Marshall from 1792 to 1806. On August 20, 1792 he was named a colonel in the Boston Regiment, a title he is said to have carried proudly.

William Scollay's profession was listed in the town records as an apothecary and druggist, occupations which he practiced from a store on Cornhill. But his biggest contribution to the

city (and to the title of this book) was in real estate. During the latter part of the eighteenth century, **William Scollay** lived on Bussey Street near the home of Charles Bullfinch, Boston's most influential architect of the time. They became friends and soon were involved in a joint real estate venture. Along with several other businessmen, they built the first block of buildings in Boston. Located on what is today Franklin Place, this curving row of buildings, designed by Bullfinch, was to be financed under a tontine Plan, which led the developers to name it Tontine Crescent. According to the rules of the plan, the last surviving member of the original group of investors would own the entire property. Problems with construction caused members to abandon the tontine aspect of the project, although the buildings were eventually built. (Today Franklin Place still follows the original curve of Bullfinch's plans.)

The Scollay Building

In the middle of Court Street, at the intersection of Court and Tremont Streets, were a series of buildings which extended down Court Street to the head of Hanover Street. Nearest the intersection was a two-story brick building. The rest of the property, which narrowed as it extended west toward Hanover Street, was covered with wooden structures one or two stories high. Here one of the oldest printing houses in Boston, **Green & Russell**, transacted business around 1755. Part of this property also included some land at the base of Beacon Hill, on which stood a three story mansion.

Russell, who had become owner of the property in the 1760s, sold it to **William Vassall** for three hundred pounds, in 1774. **Vassall** moved into the mansion where he lived for two years, when, following the British evacuation of Boston, the loyalist was forced to make a hasty retreat of his own. **Patrick Jeffrey**, a real estate investor, was able to buy the property for a little more than half of what **Vassall** had paid, about one hundred and sixty pounds.



The Scollay Building (Courtesy of the Bostonian Society / Old State House)

The source of **Jeffrey's** money deserves some discussion, as it was the cause of some titters among Boston society around the time of the Revolution. A woman named **Mary Wilkes Haley** had arrived in Boston to inspect the property of her deceased husband, **Alderman Haley**. When this seventy-year-old woman married the thirty year old **Jeffrey** (who was in charge of the estate), Boston was both shocked and amused. No one was surprised, however, when the marriage broke up and **Mrs. Haley** returned to England. **Jeffrey**, now quite well off following the union, was able to make purchases such as the **Vassall** estate. In 1795 **Jeffrey** sold the Court Street property (which included the buildings in the middle of the street) to **Colonel William Scollay**. **Jeffrey** kept the Beacon Hill estate for a few more years, eventually selling it to Gardiner Greene. (There will be more about Greene and his property later) **Scollay** moved into the brick building nearest Tremont Street, and rented out the others. He named his new home on Court Street **Scollay's Building**, although the name also came to apply collectively to the other, smaller wooden structures on the property.

Considering the infamy a soon-to-be constructed Athenaeum on Howard Street would have, it is interesting to learn that the more intellectually motivated Boston Athenaeum (which now resides on Beacon Hill) was located in Scollay's Building from 1807 to 1809. The Provident Institute for Savings had its first branch here from 1823 to 1832. The building was also a popular location for lawyers since it was so close to the Court House, which had been built nearby on Court Street (near the old State House) in 1810.

The grade of Court Street was so steep at this time that someone walking on the Beacon Hill side of the street could see over the lower buildings on **Scollay's** property to the other side. When Court Street was leveled, **Scollay's** building gained a basement. There, a popular barber of the early 1800s named **Bob New** practiced his trade with great success, and Boston's best tea shop, its largest thread store, and a toy store all did business. **William Scollay** had willed the buildings to his heirs and upon his death in 1809 they leased the property to a **Mr. Dimmock**. After having the two story brick building inspected by two engineers, who pronounced the foundation safe, **Dimmock** had two stories added, making the structure four stories tall. **Scollay's Building**, now one of the tallest in Boston, became the centerpiece for this part of town which, thanks to a growing transportation system, would evolve into a bustling commercial center.

How Scollay Square Got its Name

Public transportation in Boston after Independence consisted mostly of stage lines which ran to and from the "suburbs." As mentioned before, the Square was centrally located near the docks, Beacon Hill, and downtown. The intersection of Court and Tremont streets became a transfer point for early nineteenth century commuters. The Charlestown line ran every seven minutes and ended its run in front of the brick building owned by the **Scollays**. So did the Dorchester, Malden, and Cambridge coaches. Since there was no official designation for the stop, conductors merely used the name of the building to indicate where the trolley had stopped. "Last stop, Scollay's Building! Everybody off," they would shout. Travelers on these lines would often tell their friends to meet them at "**Scollay's Building**," and after a while the area became known as **Scollay's Square**. In 1838 the popular designation was turned into an official one when Boston gave the name **Scollay Square** to the intersection of Court and Tremont Streets.

Ironically, improvements to **Scollay Square**, combined with increased congestion in the area, did more to threaten the existence of **Scollay's** buildings than enhance their profitability. The traffic that had given rise to the name **Scollay Square** became the reason that some people wanted to tear the buildings down. Large stage coaches and omnibuses, some of them led by four? and six-horse teams, were having trouble making the turn from Brattle Street onto Court Street. In 1841 a group of citizens unsuccessfully attempted to appropriate \$10,000 to buy the

buildings and have them removed to remedy the problem. But by the 1850s, thanks to their age and general disrepair, all the original wooden buildings had been torn down, leaving the four story stone **Scollay Building** to stand alone in the Square. This was not the first or last time that traffic jams would plague **Scollay Square**. In 1784 the town was petitioned to widen Court Street near the old Concert Hall at Hanover Street. The petition read, in part: It is still so narrow that two carts cannot pass with safety and as there are several shops opposite belonging to the town, much out of repair, the town is asked to widen at this point which will make the shops more convenient and fetch equal rent (The **Scollay's**, 1906). The petition was not granted, although public pressure forced the city to widen Court Street between Sudbury Street and Bowdoin Square in 1807. (Future traffic woes would later create the need for electric trolleys and eventually the first subway in America in **Scollay Square**.) On January 7, 1868 the **Scollay** family ended its association with the **Scollay** building when they sold it and the property on Court Street to **Arioch Wentworth** for \$100,000. Three years later **Wentworth** sold the building to the city for twice what he had paid the **Scollays**. That year, the city finally granted the wishes of many traffic-weary citizens when it tore the remaining **Scollay's** building down, leaving the Square completely open.



Scollay Square in the 1880s, minus William Scollay's building
(Courtesy of the Bostonian Society / Old State House)

The removal of **Scollay's** Building created a problem for topographers, those students of the city's natural and man-made features. "The open space is known as **Scollay Square**, although it is in fact the most irregular of triangles," one wrote soon after the building was torn down. "Two of the sides, and those two which form almost a right angle with each other, are in Court Street, and the third is Tremont Row. The removal of the buildings has left one of the most remarkable cases of confusion in street nomenclature anywhere to be found" (Memorial History of Boston, 1881). Despite this intellectual confusion, there was no attempt to rename the intersection, and Scollay Square remained, at least in name.

The Scollay Family

Of **John Scollay's** other children, two have stories worth mentioning. **Pat Long**, of Buy Orkney.com tells us of this remarkable branch of the **Scollay** family tree: "**William's** sister **Priscilla** married **Thomas Melville**, one of the Boston [Tea Party] Indians, and their son

Allan was **Herman Melville's** father." (Imagine that! **Scollay** Square has a connection to the author of *Moby Dick*, arguably one of the great American novels.) Okay, back to **Priscilla**. The story goes that the morning after the Tea Party she found tea leaves in the shoes he had worn the night before, but maintained her silence once she realized her husband's life hung in the balance. **Priscilla** did save the tea leaves, however, which were preserved and given to a local historical society. (Another quick aside is worthy here, as Pat proudly tells us that "the extent of American literature's debt to Orkney is quite astonishing. **Washington Irving's** father came from the Orkney island of Shapinsay, **James Russell Lowell** had an Orcadian grandfather and great-grandfather and **Robert Frost's** mother came from the Orcadian Moodie family, though I haven't pinned down the connection exactly yet.")

Okay, back to the descendants of the Boston **Scollays**; Another daughter, **Mercy Scollay**, was a close friend of **Benedict Arnold**. He had taken an interest in the children of the late **General Warren**, who were under her care, and was attempting to raise money from the new government to support their education. In correspondence with Mercy he wrote that if Congress did not oblige he would provide whatever money was needed to raise the children. (Perhaps his plea for funds would have been successful if he hadn't changed sides before the war ended.)

William Scollay was the only son to reach manhood and none of his sons lived to have a family. There are people today, however, who can trace their heritage back to the **Scollays** of Boston. In 1987, while working to have Government Center renamed **Scollay** Square, radio talk show host **Jerry Williams** received this letter:

I am a direct descendent of the **Scollay** who gave the square its name. While the surname "**Scollay**" rarely appeared after the death of **William Scollay**, one lineage has been carried on through his daughter **Lucy C. Scollay** who married **Benjeman Whitwell**. Their daughter, **Lucy Cushing Whitwell** married **William Parker**. Their son, **William Whitwell Parker** married **Harriet Esther Bell**. Their son, **William Bell Parker** married **Helen Sutliff**. I am their son, **Scollay Cortlandt Parker**. Consequently I am in the fifth generation of that lineage (Letter from Scollay Parker to **Jerry Williams**, January 4, 1987).

Fred Scollay, a television actor, is also a direct descendant of **John Scollay**, although while being interviewed by **Williams** he said that he prefers to place a slight French accent to his name "to keep people from misspelling and mispronouncing it!" That's undoubtedly a good idea, since the name of the Square is constantly being mispronounced as "Scully" even by those (including this author) who claim to be experts on the subject.

To the **Scollays** we owe more than just thanks for giving the Square its name. **Both John** and his son **William** were civic minded men who risked everything in their pursuit of American Independence. Today, if you visit the Massachusetts State Capital building, you will see inscribed on the cornerstone, along with other, more familiar names from the Revolution, the name of **William Scollay**.

Quelle: <http://www.bambinomusical.com/Scollay/Family.html>