

Scituate was a cousin further removed. In South Scituate there had been a Dr. Otis for three successive generations.

George Otis was born in the very midst of the Revolution, in the year 1776, and although the father was still living as a gentleman on the old place at Scituate, the son could do nothing better than to apprentice himself to a carpenter. As every member of the old Plymouth Colony had been required to qualify himself for manual labor of some sort, it is not likely that this was as heavy a cross as it would be to an ambitious young man of to-day. With his coming of age he became a builder, or housewright as it was then called, a business which in those days united the function of the architect and builder for all works, not of a monumental or public character. He built many first-class residences, among others several on the slope of Beacon Street; and the house he built for himself, when he was twenty-five, still shows that he had forgotten none of the traditions of his ancestry. Quite early in life he became established in the lumber business under the firm name of Otis & Thaxter, their wharf being off Leverett Street; and for many years in later life he was Surveyor General of Lumber for the city, an office to which he was appointed by Mayor Quincy. He died in 1857.

Chambers Street has had a curious history. George Otis lived on Pitts Street when he first married, in 1798, but so well had his intelligence and industry been rewarded that he bought a block of land running from Chambers Street nearly to North Russell Street, where, in 1800, he finished this fine old-fashioned house with its large garden. Chambers Street had been cut through the old Chambers farm. No. 34, which