

**WILLIAM GRAY, OF
SALEM, MERCHANT: A
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH,
1914**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649734085

William Gray, of Salem, Merchant: A Biographical Sketch, 1914 by Edward Gray

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EDWARD GRAY

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH,
1914**



W. Gray

WILLIAM
G R A Y

Of Salem, Merchant

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH BY

Edward Gray

With PORTRAITS and other ILLUSTRATIONS



BOSTON and NEW YORK
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY

The Riverside Press, Cambridge

1914

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Published July 1914

FIVE HUNDRED COPIES PRINTED AT THE RIVERSIDE
PRESS, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, U. S. A. NO. 66

FOREWORD

WHEN I undertook to write a life of William Gray, I knew that all his papers with the exception of one letter-book, from which many of my ideas of his commercial transactions are taken, were destroyed in the Boston fire of 1872, and that I should have to rely on contemporary notices in the newspapers and in diaries of individuals for facts; but I little realized what else was in store for me. In 1782 there were three William Grays in Salem. The one here discussed was known as William Gray, Tertius, and not to be confounded with William Gray, the sea captain, who made a brilliant record as captain of privateers during the Revolution. In 1798, at which date our William Gray was known as William Gray, Jr., the confusion is even worse. There were then at least five William Grays in Salem. I find in the Laws and Resolves of Massachusetts, February 5, 1798, chapter 37, that "William Gray the fifth of Salem in the county of Essex, son of William Gray the third of said Salem, be empowered to take the name of William Shepard Gray"; also in 1802, June 23, chapter 14, "that William Gray, a minor, son of William Gray Junior of Salem be allowed to take the name of William Rufus Gray." In writing this sketch, I have tried to err always on the safe side, and not credit my subject with anything which refers to a William Gray about whose identity I am at all doubtful.

The portrait of Mr. Gray reproduced here was painted
by

by Gilbert Stuart in 1807, and his signature is taken from a letter to Mr. John Quincy Adams dated August 4, 1809, in the Adams Papers. My thanks are due to all who have so kindly assisted me, and particularly to Mr. George Francis Dow, of the Essex Institute, Mr. Worthington C. Ford, of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and Mr. John Chipman Gray.

E. G.

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 1913.

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From a water-color by Anton Roux, painted at Marseilles, 1815. In possession of the Peabody Academy of Science.