

Wyoming, Rhode Island 02898

RHS NEWSLETTER

Patricia A. Millar, President
Hillsdale Road, West Kingston
RI 02892

Roberta Whelan, Secretary
Switch Road, Hope Valley
RI 02832

Vol. ~~XVIV~~, No. 1

October, 1986

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NEXT MEETING

Sunday, October 19, 1986

1:30 P. M.

FIELD TRIP

The officers of the Richmond Historical Society have traditionally had a yen for field trips in the Fall. What better time, both visually and psychologically, than October to visit cemeteries?

On Sunday, we will meet at the Wood River Baptist Church parking lot; from there travel to two nearby cemeteries which have been prominently called to our attention this past year.

The first is unmarked, but was rediscovered and cleared by Jerry Bowser last spring. This site is a little distance off Bakers Pine Road, west of Rt. 3 on State Reservation property.

The second cemetery is designated No. 10, the Kinyon Lot. This particular cemetery was offered to the Richmond Historical Society by the property owner late this past summer. The cemetery is part of a small land-locked parcel of land with no right-of-way other than through the cemetery which is walled and open only onto yet another piece of property. The present owner's desire was to be rid of this useless piece of real estate, but to have the cemetery maintained. He was not interested in establishing a trust fund for this purpose which is the usual procedure in such cases. Your Executive Board decided it would be unadvisable to become involved in real estate ownership at this particular time. However, the cemetery has been cleared within the past two or three years, is in quite good condition, but old, and large. The earliest clearly visible date is 1795. There are about 30 stones there, many of which have incipations that are weather-worn to near obliteration. Bring stone rubbing materials with you!

CALENDAR FOR THE YEAR

October 19 - Cemetery Field Trip

November 18 - Executive Board meeting, Bell School

December - no meeting

January 20, 1987 - We are endeavoring to get the Revolutionary War film, "Hard Winter"

February 17 - Executive Board meeting

March 17 - Celebration on Richmond's Irish heritage

April 21 - Board

May - Annual Heritage Month observance

June 16 - Annual Meeting with a State House historian

The above may be subject to change as final arrangements fall into place.

1986-7 MEMBERSHIP

M/M Herbert Arnold	M/M Carl Rupprecht
M/M Ray Bader	Mrs. Marjorie Schunke
M/M Mason Bennis and Joyce Bennis	Mrs. Eleanor Smith
M/M Edmund Britland, Sr.	Mrs. Roberta Whelan
M/M Charles Dyson	M/M Bruce Whitt
M/M James Fiori	M/M Frank Williams
Mrs. Jeanne Lees	Dr./M Richard Wolke, Jennifer and Jessica
Ms. Marjorie Lillibridge	
M/M Rob Roy Rawlings	

For those of you whose names do not appear here, this will be your last newsletter unless we receive your renewal request. Dues are \$3.00 per year.

This list is to serve as a reminder and as such functioned well. It contained a note to me that my dues were not yet paid! I'm sure that I was not alone in this oversight!

Act now so that you won't miss some of the interesting items that are scheduled to appear in this year's NEWSLETTER.

RHODE ISLAND STYLE

"Is There a Rhode Island Style?" is a statewide series of public library programs exploring Rhode Island's heritage. The series has been in progress since early September, with Kingston Library

being our most local host. The next program scheduled for Kingston is titled 20th Century RI Women and will be Thursday, October 16 at 7:30 P. M.

The major topics are Women, Politics, and Printing. If you are particularly interested in any of these subjects as they were viewed in the 18th, 19th, and 20th Century, please call me at 884-2671 or 295-8411 during the week-day and I will be happy to provide more information as well as dates and location.

OUT OF HOME, OUT OF TOWN, OUT OF STATE

Some of you may not know that we Millar's sold my family homestead early this summer. Our intention is to build elsewhere on the property on Hillsdale Road. Things move slowly, however, and it will probably be spring before groundbreaking. In the meantime, we are living in the Millar family "summer place" on the western end of Beach Pond. This puts us out of state, just over the line into Connecticut.

If anyone needs to reach me, a day-time call to my office will probably be most likely to reach me and be less expensive for you. Office hours are 8:30 - 4:30. Errands often keep me from reaching the office much before 9:00. If all else fails, our temporary number is (203) 376-5341. We have a recorder which has been a tremendous boon to us in keeping in touch with people. Please don't hesitate to leave a message.

A RICHMOND FAVORITE SON - DON BOUSQUET

Four or five weeks ago the Sunday Journal Magazine featured a Rhode Island cartoonist who is rapidly gaining fame world-wide. Not everyone saw the article so we thought to share some of it with you.

Although not born in Richmond, Don spent most of his growing years here in town with his parents, Donald Sr. and Eleanor Bousquet. According to his mother, Don was always drawing and had a fantastic imagination. Those, without a doubt, are criteria for one who was destined to make the quahog famous.

For the benefit of those who did not see the Journal article, some direct quotes will be shared here.

"...Six years ago Bousquet quit a secure job as a vocational counselor to stake his future on getting laughs the hard way: by putting personality into the quahog. Actually, he says, all he did was highlight the personality that is Rhode Island's." When public response was greatest for quahog cartoons, he drew them more often.

"He deadpans: 'I have tremendous respect for the quahog. Do you know anybody else who could live in Narragansett Bay? And

they love it! They get as big as three-story houses. I've got to respect an entity that can live in coliform bacteria.'

Bousquet says that he developed a sensitivity to Rhode Island way while he was in the Navy, when he saw enough faraway places to realize that his home state was, well, different.

So his cartoon world is peopled with tiny-headed, walrus-bodied folks (he doesn't know why they look like that, but he even draws himself that way), who are constantly ordering 'cabinets' and 'grinders' in restaurants; who think they should pack a suitcase if they have to drive from Pawtucket to Cranston; who talk funny; and who, most of all, go down to the sea in quahog skiffs.

Don makes his home at Bonnet Shores, with his childhood sweetheart from Chariho High, the former Laura Partelo, and their two sons, Nathan Patrick, 5, and Michael, 2.

His quick eye, and ear, for Rhode Islandisms began to develop when he was an 18-year-old sailor ordering a 'cabinet' in a Chicago restaurant: 'The waitress looked at me like I had just ordered frog heads or something.' At the time, Bousquet, who says he has been drawing since he was 3, was developing a serious interest in cartooning. And it occurred to him as a homesick youth that there was a lot of unique material in his own little state.

Since then, he's managed to identify and capture so much of Rhode Island that the state House of Representatives marked his birthday last year by inviting him over and presenting him with a citation.'He lets us laugh at ourselves.'

Bousquet says that a lot of his work contains what he sees as private jokes between him and his Rhode Island audience. 'I mean grinders, snail salad, corn dogs--these are funny names,' he says 'We don't stop to think how funny these words sound to people from out of state. So when you poke fun at these Rhode Island oddities, they suddenly seem funny--they become inside jokes.'

They are jokes that have delighted Bousquet's Rhode Island audience --and that are reaching a wider market now that his New England-flavored cartoons appear often in Yankee, whose publishing arm will bring out another book of his works, early next year.

The Bousquet style also enhances 21 of Rhode Island's smaller periodicals, and now the germ of an idea for syndication is taking form.

Bousquet, who has no professional art training, got a C in the only art course he ever took--because, he says, he 'couldn't stand the regimentation' of someone else telling him how to draw.

His college degree, earned at URI ON THE GI Bill, is in anthropology, an outgrowth of a lifelong interest in history. But when he went to work, Bousquet ended up at Vocational Resources

Inc., a United Way agency in which he helped find jobs for the handicapped. After six years of commuting from Narragansett to Providence, though, he began to chafe; and so, bolstered by encouragement from his wife, Laura, he one day told his boss that he was leaving in six weeks to take a stab at cartooning.

Bousquet came home that day to a surprise: his wife announced that their first baby was on the way. Blanching, Bousquet considered asking for his job back. But after an all-night discussion, the couple decided that they had saved enough to finance a six-month trial period of cartooning.

Looking to start at the top, by mailing cartoons to the sophisticated New Yorker, he had soon amassed 'enough rejection slips to paper my studio.' Reversing direction, he then knocked on local doors, and finally sold his first cartoon to a small magazine in Newport --with 4½ months of his trial period used up. Soon thereafter, local newspapers began buying bousquet's material, and so he had made a modest beginning.....

Bousquet says that though he isn't getting rich in the vocation he went tout on a limb to pursue, he's making appreciably more than he would have had he stuck to his office job.

And though he is diversifying his humor, producing New England-oriented material to sell outside Rhode Island, Bousquet still gets a kick out of sharing Rhode Islandisms with his readers."

We must remember Don's younger brother, Steve, another Chariho graduate, who, for several years was the nightbeat reporter for Channel 10 News. Steve moved "up" to a Channel 10 out of Florida. AT 32, Steve now writes for the Miami Herald.

Eleanor Bousquet, proud mother of these famous brothers, works at the University of Rhode Island and has served for a number of years on the Richmond and Chariho School Committees.

CEMETERY RECORDINGS

Here are a few tips for gravestone buffs. Ed Connely, Director of Rhode Island Veterinary Cemeteries, suggests that photographs may be more helpful in recording stones than rubbings.

Select a bright sunny day, between 11 and 2 for photographing because the sun's angle at these hours provide the best shadows created by engravings. Slate and marble offer the best opportunity for rubbings; other stones become too worn for clear impressions.

To record a cemetery, prepare a grid sheet, then measure off the cemetery, placing the stones in the correct location on the grid sheet. This would make a particularly valuable document of old, neglected cemeteries, or those which might be threatened by development.

RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Meeting Notice

Tuesday January 20, 1987 7:30 PM

Location: Richmond Elementary School Library

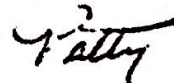
We are presenting an exciting video program about the Revolutionary War from a civilian perspective -- a less familiar slant than we usually see or hear.

Hard Winter is not just another story rehashing the military history of the American Revolution. It is a painstakingly accurate and heretofore-neglected account of the hardships thrust upon the civilian population. The program focuses on a small New Jersey settlement that suddenly finds Washington's Continental Army camped on its doorstep during the harshest winter recorded in the 18th century.

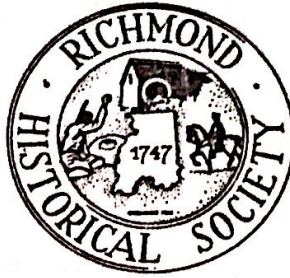
The issues, crises and inner turmoil facing the residents of Morristown, New Jersey, during Washington's winter encampment of 1779-80 are depicted through the experiences of the Reverend Ebenezer Bradford, a bold and courageous parson, who must eventually realize that survival is personal, that liberty is not easily won.

Hard Winter holds a special significance for Americans in all parts of this country. It is the story of a brave, young nation struggling to emerge from the shadow of an oppressor -- it is your story...it is my story...it is their story.

Even though arrangements for this video have made our notice late, we hope you will make a special effort to join us for this special program.



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NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 17, 1987

Bell School

7:00 P. M.

Come help us celebrate the wearing of the green (or the orange if your allegiances warrant it)!

We will be taking a look at some of our Irish ancestors and those who came to settle in Richmond. Although St. Mary's Church is in Charlestown, it was founded primarily by the Irish Catholics who lived in the Carolina area and served both Charlestown and Richmond residents from its start. We will be reviewing some of that history as well.

Bring your Irish legacies (family anecdotes, photographs, genealogies, recipes, needlework) to share. B'gosh and B'gorrah, come join the fun!!

MEMBERSHIP

My apologies. In the October issue were listed the names of paid up members. My attention was called to the fact that the Nitzs and the Handells were omitted. They are indeed members in good standing and supporters of Society activities.

New Members

Mr. and Mrs. Prescott Little of Greensboro, North Carolina
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Burgert of Canob Lane, Wyoming, RI

Poet's Corner, Westerly Sun, April, 1970:

A timely reminder from Richmond (Wyoming) resident, Mazie Gardiner

Spring Call

I heard the magic call of spring
Sweet music filled the air
The sound of blue bells ring
Joy is everywhere.

The rippling stream is on its way
O'er the meadow green
Mellow little breezes play
While the sunlight gleams.

Buds are bursting on the trees
As the gentle raindrops fall
Sweet perfume is on the breeze
Again I hear the springtime call.

A bluebird bursts forth with song
And from his little throat
Comes a springtime melody
From every little note.

Springtime steals across the land
With warm and gentle kiss
Trees bend as with waving hand
Spring, you're a shy little Miss!

RHS

A graduate student at the University of Rhode Island, department of Textiles, Merchandising and Design is doing research on rural clothing worn in southern New England between 1790 and 1830. There is nothing in our textile and costume collection that dates that far back.

If anyone has any such garments in their family collection or attic, please contact Patty Millar. That is, only if you are willing to allow this student to examine the garments. We will set up a meeting at Bell School if there are any garments available for study.

RHS

The Society A request has been submitted to the Richmond Town Council for a line item allocation of \$100.00 in the annual town budget. The Council has considered the request and is including the item for voter approval at the upcoming Financial Town Meeting.

Your support of this request will be greatly appreciated. Get out the vote!

HISTORIC OBJECTS

"Home canning jars haven't always looked exactly as they do today. Like all products, jars have changed with consumer demand and have been improved with new technology." Over the years the function of canning jars has not changed much; but there have been subtle changes in jar line and design.

"Perhaps the first jar Ball manufactured using the now-famous BALL script logo, this jar was probably manufactured in 1893 or 1894. It used the script without an underscore. By this time, Ball was using John L. Mason's patented date or at least his name on almost all Ball jars. Mason, a New York tinsmith, revolutionized food preservation when he patented the screw-top jar closing on Nov. 30, 1858. The Ball brothers didn't begin producing the historic Mason jar until the 1880's, when Mason's patent expired. Although Mason never worked for or with the Ball Brothers, the Ball and Mason names became, and still are, a famous pair in the minds of home canners and jar collectors the world over."



---from Food Preservation News 'n notes by the Ball Corporation.

RHS

Some time ago a collection of old Town Warrants and related papers came to light. They contain many old Richmond names and give some insight into life in the Town.

Here and in future Newsletters we will be printing them, reading the wonderful old penmanship to the best of our ability.

"Kings County ss (?)

To the Town Sergent of Richmond in s County
Greeting etc.-----

You are hearby required in his Majts Name George the Second King of Great Brittan etc to Summons Elizabeth Lewis the wife of James Lewis of Exeter, Benjamin Petty Hannah Mosher the wife of Thomas Mosher, Hannah Barber the wife of Ezekiel Barber, James James JW (?), Benjamin Baker, Jonathan Irish (?), and Willian Petty, all of the Town of Richmond

in said County to appear at the swelling house of Mr. William Potter in Richmond on the first monday of December next by ten o clock of said day in order to give their evidences concerning John Webbs keeping an irregular tavern. Whereof you are not to fail but true (?) return to make hearof (?) as you answer (?) the contrary. Given under my hand in Richmond per order of the Town Council at their session held the fourteenth day of November AD 1753.—

Test John Tefft JW To Clerk"

"Kings County ss (?) to the Town Sergent of Richmond in s. County greeting etc-----

You are hereby required in his Majesty's name Geroge the Second, by the grace of God, King of Great Brittan. To give timely notice and legal warning to all the freemen and free holders belonging to said Richmond that they meet eogether on the third Wednesday in April next at the dwelling house of M. George Debbs in t. Town by ten o clock in t. day in order to hold a Town Meeting to put in their proxsies for general officers and to elect and choose two deputies representatives for t. town to sit in the General Assembly at Newport on the first Wednesday in May next and also to consult the making of a rate and further to do anything or things that may be forthe well ordering of the prudencial affairs of t. Richmond. Whereof you are not to fail but true. Return to make of this warrant with your doings hereon as you andwer the contrary hereof . Given under my hand and Seal in Richmond in the County afore this 12 day of March inin the 32th (?) year of his said Majesties reign and in the year of our Lord AD 1759-----

John TEfft JW Town Clerk"

RHS

The Clark Memorial Library is getting a computer through a grant proposal prepared by librarian Catherine Hull. Patty Millar is looking into getting the appropriate software to start doing an extensive genealogical record of the Town of Richmond. Eventually we would also hope to have our entire collection catalogued on the computer.

This is an ambitious project for so small a Society and will require a great deal of volunteer time. It will also require input from all of us to make the genealogical record as complete as possible.

Let's all dig in and do some research!



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NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, May 26, 1987

Bell School

7:00 P. M.

We are honored because our friend and member has been honored.

Frank Williams, one of our members, has had a life-long interest in Abraham Lincoln. In recognition of Frank's extensive work, Lincoln College of Lincoln, Illinois, recently conferred on Mr. Williams an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Frank was guest speaker at Lincoln College commencement ceremonies earlier this month.

We are excited and pleased to have Frank as guest speaker for the Richmond Historical Society at this May meeting which is being held in recognition of Heritage Month.

This year of One thousand nine hundred and eighty-seven marks the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of these United States. Frank will celebrate this historic event and his own consuming interest in Lincoln by talking about Lincoln and the Constitution.

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn something new about our history.

Early photos and literature of Richmond will also be on display.

See you there!!

AROUND AND ABOUT TOWN

On the residential property westerly adjoining that of Richmond Elementary School, stands a neat modern structure: the home of James and Jean Fiore. The land at its right slopes toward Meadow Brook and supports flowers and shrubs reminiscent of earlier times. It wears an older look as though it contains knowledge of other eras. Hidden from public view are the foundation remains of structures built long ago.

Indeed there was a structure of two there; one of which was the house in which Jim grew up. Although he was forced by economics to have the house razed quite a number of years ago, Jim still cherishes memories and memorabilia connected to that house and to his ancestry.

The house was owned by JOHN WELCOME SAUNDERS, M.D., one of the best-known physicians in southwestern Rhode Island at the turn of the century. He was born in the town of Hopkinton June 3, 1863.

Looking back further:

William B. Saunders (born, Hopkinton) m. Sophia Witter
removed to Waterville, N. Y.; a life-long farmer

Rev. Joel G.

Andrew J.

Milton P. b. Waterville, NY; moved, Richmond, RI

Michael

Henry

Mary

Jennie

Milton learned the carpenter's trade with Charles Maxson, of Westerly, RI, and was foreman of his shop for twelve years, then engaged in the building business for himself in Richmond where he died March 27, 1888. A staunch Republican, he was active in town affairs, and served as town sergeant.

m. Abby A. Prosser, daughter of Welcome Prosser

Abby Prosser Saunders died December 25, 1904 on the Prosser homestead where she was born and had always lived. She was a fine family person, neighbor, and friend, ministering to all as one in times of need and sharing in their joy in times of prosperity.

Three children issued from this marriage:

Mary L.

John Welcome, M.D.

Charles Milton