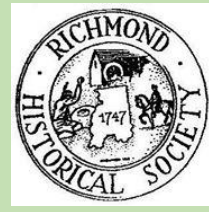


RICHMOND REFLECTIONS

The Richmond Historical Society Newsletter



Vol. 47 No. 4

December 2021

Greetings Members and Friends of RHS,

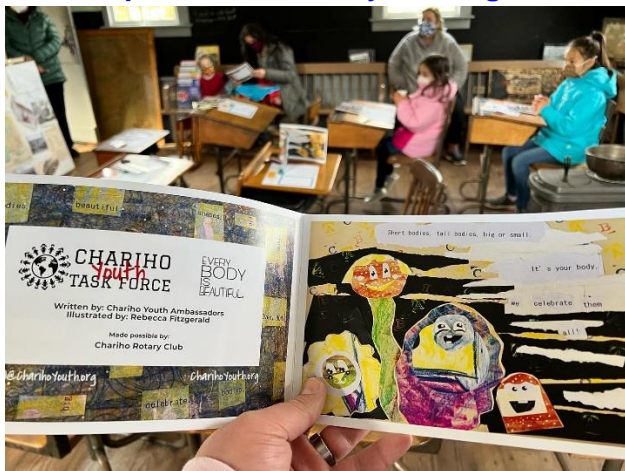
A lot of bits and pieces to report:

*In September the Bell School was open for visitors during **Richmond Food Truck night**. Several people toured the museum, and we even gained a new member, **Thea Brennan**, who already promises to be a very active member! Thank you to **Virginia Williams** and **Denise and Peter Stetson** for manning the museum. We plan to continue to be open on the monthly Food Truck nights when the season begins again in 2022.

*In October the school was again open on **HopArts weekend**. **Ron Mowchan**, **Thea Brennan** and her two little ones, and I worked shifts. We had a handful of visitors, but are sure to increase numbers next year as we have been invited to be a venue for artists on the HopArts Trail!

*It was our pleasure to host the **Chariho Youth Task Force** in the historic Bell School in early December as young children listened to Every Body is Beautiful and then participated in a craft project. As the school approaches its 200th birthday in 2026, it continues to serve schoolchildren! We look forward to partnering with CYTF again in the spring. Thank you to CYTF Executive Director **Dan Fitzgerald** and new member **Thea Brennan** for coordinating this activity.

Check out the CYTF website to learn more about this valuable community coalition which seeks to prevent substance abuse, promote mental wellness and healthy lifestyles, and help populations of need. <https://www.charihoyouth.org/...>



*We are continuing to seek funding for the **Bell School re-siding project** and are applying for a Champlin Grant as well as requesting increased funding from the town.

***Richmond's Beaver River Road Historic District** has been listed in the National Register! Learn more about this beautiful stretch of road [here](#).

*In this issue: Along with our regular Archives and book review columns (thank you **Richard and Johanna Wolke!**), you will enjoy the contributions from new member **Laurie Friel**; part 2 of **David Johnson's** research on the McInnes family, and more.

*Let's do all we can to prevent the spread of COVID so that we can all have a healthful and happy New Year, and see each other in person soon.

Kristen Chambers

RHS President

Fundraiser: Richmond, RI Historical Cemeteries



We are grateful for the generosity of Hopkinton Historical Association President **Lauri Arruda**, author of "Richmond, Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries", for donating several copies of her book so that we may sell them as a fundraiser. This meticulously researched book covers every historical cemetery and gravestone up until the time of its publication in 2018. If you or someone you know are a Richmond resident, a cemetery lover, have ancestors or loved ones buried in one of these cemeteries, or just enjoy history, you will want a copy of this book!

The books are a discounted price of \$30, all proceeds to benefit RHS. Cash or checks made out to *Richmond Historical Society* are accepted. Books may be bought at the Clark Memorial Library during library hours. Books can also be mailed to you for \$35; send a check to: Richmond Historical Society, PO Box 408, Wyoming, RI 02898. If you have questions please email rihiso@gmail.com.

Did you know...

...that when you buy a reusable **Community Bag** at Stop and Shop you can support the Richmond Historical Society? Simply purchase the bag for \$2.50, go online and enter the code on the tag, and you can choose RHS as the recipient of a \$1 donation. Each dollar adds up- thank you for your support!
<https://stopandshop.bags4mycause.com/>



A Case of Mistaken Identity: War - Medal - Friendship – Family

By Laurie A. Friel

This story has twists and turns and a huge surprise at the end. The pandemic that we all have been living through has slowed my life down enough that I've been able to look into my family genealogy in a way that I hadn't been able to in a very long time. My dad also got the genealogy bug and has been digging and pulling out family treasures. Well for the most part they were family treasures. This is probably where I should begin.

I call my dad almost every night and on this particular night he had some exciting news to share. He had come across his great uncle George's medal that was awarded to him for his WWI service. After describing it to me he turned it over to read his great uncle's name, George A. Gardiner and to his BIG surprise it was someone else's name, John Kineary! Who was that? The hunt was on for John Kineary and, if possible, why my great, great uncle, had the medal in his possession.



Identifying John Kineary proved to be a challenge. His name had been recorded with different spellings from Kineary to Kenery. At Hazard School on a memorial, the names of our veterans are listed. At this point John's name is spelled "Kineary." I felt it fitting to see how close John and George's names were on it. Next I went to the Federal Census records and Rhode Island State Census records on Ancestry and found John on High Street in Peace Dale in the years 1915 and 1920 and George in 1915 and 1920 on Austin Street which is a side street off of High Street. There was about a 6 year age difference between the two men, though they probably knew each other. Even after John's father died and his mom remarried he remained on High Street for some time.

When the United States entered the First World War, George was first to enlist and was at the US Naval Training Station on Coasters Harbor Island, Newport according to Rhode Island State Archives records. He trained and moved up in rank to a Machinist Mate 1st class and was assigned to the USS Sacramento. John enlisted a year later and also went to the US Naval Training Station and became a 3rd class Fireman. It seems likely that their paths would have crossed. John was here defending the home front and George was at sea on the Sacramento.

Once the war was over George married and started a family on Austin Street in Peace Dale, while John was living with his mother Lena and his stepfather Jerald Nichols on High Street. Did John marry? Was this the time that John gave George his medal? Did they stay connected? I found John's birth and death dates and that he was buried in Riverside Cemetery, Wakefield.

Remembering all the information in the Narragansett Times's database on the South Kingstown's Public Library's website I went back to search for John. This is where one of those twists occurred! I found John's obituary and as I was reading it, I came to John's late wife's name, Mrs. Marion A. (Bedard) Kenery. Wait, what!?! Her name jumped off the page because Marion is my maternal great

aunt!! I hadn't been able to find much information on Marion prior to this. I couldn't believe it. My grandmother's half-sister is John's wife!!

The obituaries for Marion Kenery and her mother, Mrs. Eldora Benoit, confirmed the family connection. So through friendship on my dad's side and family on my mom's side, John Kineary/Kenery was found! By this time the spelling of his name had settled for the most part on Kenery even though Kineary would still pop up now and then. The more I thought about it I realized my father might have even been in his presence at Marion's funeral since she died in 1964! I might even have been in *his* presence at one time or another!! Kind of mind blowing when you think of it.

The last question was about the medal itself. It was designed and made at the request of Caroline Hazard for the South Kingstown and Narragansett veterans returning from the War. In the case of the South Kingstown's medal it had the inscription "South Kingstown To Her Crusader 1917-1918". These medals were presented to the veterans and the families of those who perished at a "Welcome Home" celebration. A parade led by the Wakefield Military Band, dignitaries and the veterans marched from Wakefield to Narragansett on July 10, 1919. So many came and celebrated! I can almost picture John and George sharing this day together. Check out the South Kingstown's Public Library website to read in detail how our town honored their Crusaders.



The search for John's identity uncovered a lifelong friendship that developed into a family relationship between John and George. I still can't help but wonder when he gave this medal to George. I wish I knew, yet as it is I know so much more than when I started and I'm pleased with that. What started as a case of mistaken identity, brought another family member into our family tree! A man who stepped forward when his country asked. A man I am very proud to call family. Only in South County.

McInnes Family Chronicles, Part II: Duncan McInnes (1815-1895)

A fresh new start in America

By David G. Johnson



We left the Duncan McInnes Family in Part I of this series on 4 September 1850 as they are listed in the 1850 US Census, having emigrated from Scotland the previous year. Upon arrival, a residence for the family was found on the Richmond side of the Village of Carolina Mills, close to where Duncan would secure work as a machinist in the new Woolen Mill, established on the Pawtucket River by Roland Hazard.

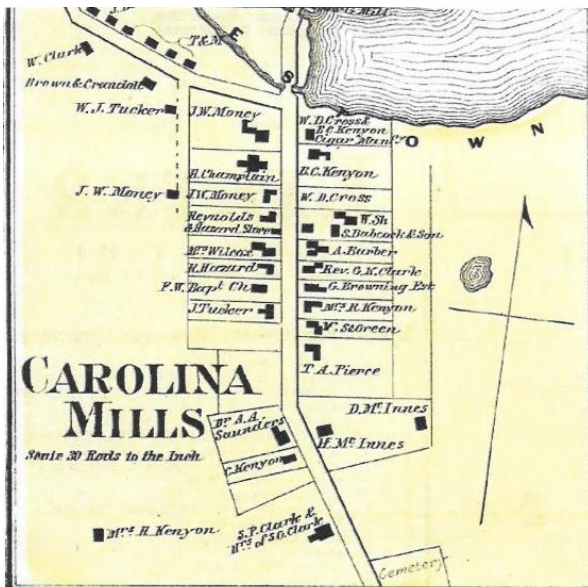
For the next 10 years, the family prospered and grew as shown in the **1860** US Census. The family had moved to the Charlestown side of the village of Carolina Mills, Duncan was working as a Spinner in the woolen mill to supplement his income as a machinist, and the family had four new members, namely, daughter Agnes, age 8, son John, age 5, daughter Isabella, age 2 and

Caroline, age 1. Daughter Sarah, age 14, son James, age 12, and daughter Ellen, age 10 attended school with their younger siblings, Agnes, and John. Duncan and family rented since no real estate value is reported in the census. Private property value was reported to be \$300. Of note is that Duncan applied for and became a naturalized citizen in August of **1862**, appearing at the Washington County Supreme Court. His naturalization document was witnessed by Martin Lillibridge and Oliver H. Perry.

Further changes in the family dynamics took place as reflected in the **1870** US Census for Charlestown. The Duncan household now had older son William H. and his wife Hannah living with them, the couple having arrived recently from Scotland. Duncan now owned land and a house in the Village of Carolina Mills. His real estate holdings amounted to \$1400, and his personal estate was valued at \$100. Many of his family members were employed as weavers in the village's woolen mill. The family group in 1870 and their occupations follow:

- McInnes, Duncan. Age: 56. Occupation: Machinist.
- McInnes, Agnes. Age: 53. Occupation: Keeping House.
- McInnes, William W. Age: 32. Occupation: At Home.
- McInnes, Hannah. Age: 29. Occupation: At Home.
- McInnes, James. Age: 22. Occupation: Weaver Woolen Mill
- McInnes, Ellen. Age: 19. Occupation: Weaver Woolen Mill
- McInnes, Agnes. Age: 18. Occupation: Weaver Woolen Mill
- McInnes, John S. Age: 16. Occupation: Work Woolen Mill
- McInnes, Isabella. Age: 12. Occupation: At School.
- McInnes, Carolina H. Age: 11. Occupation: At School.
- McInnes, Jennie. Age: 7. Occupation: At School.

Son Hugh McInnes is not listed in **1870** since he is now married, has established his own family, and is living nearby in Carolina Village. Hugh, like many of his fellow young men in the village are veterans of the Civil War (**1861-1865**). Hugh was seriously wounded during the war, having lost part of an arm. More about Hugh's war adventures will be explored later in this series.



An **1870** map of the Charlestown side of the Village of Carolina Mills reveals the location of the McInnes Family Properties (Duncan and son, Hugh) on the east side of the highway, immediately adjacent to the property belonging to Thankful A. Pierce.

In the **1880** US Census we find a considerable reduction in family size for the Duncan McInnes household. Duncan, age: 64, continues as head of household and employment as a machinist. Wife Agnes, age 61 continues in her role of keeping house; however, she is now dealing with a serious health problem: cancer. The only children remaining at home are Caroline H., age 21 and Jennie, age 17, who works in the cotton mill in the village, the processing of cotton having replaced wool cloth production. One year later, 24 Jan 1881, Agnes Black McInnes succumbed to her cancer and was buried in the family plot at the White Brook Cemetery in Richmond, RI.

Duncan carries on and is listed in the **1885** RI US State Census as being 70 years of age, a Widower, Head of household for 3 others (not listed) and continues employment as a machinist. Duncan continues until 1895, passing away on 7 December of that year and joins his deceased wife at the family plot at the White Brook Cemetery in Richmond.

TikTok Something Important

Kally Hanifin is a Hopkinton resident, history buff, Chariho Youth Task Force member, artist, and those are just a few of the hats she wears. She has started a TikTok site called [Something.important](#), with the tagline “Something important happened here. Let me tell you about it.” Kally records short videos, two minutes or less, of often lesser known local historical sites, and her soothing voiceovers describe what happened there and why we should be aware of it. Hopefully she will add more videos to the current repertoire, among which include Reuben Crandall of Carpenters Mills (Hope Valley), the Fort Griswold Massacre, and a Revolutionary War farm field in Sterling, CT, just one of many sites where Rochambeau and George Washington and their troops encamped on a 680-mile march to Yorktown. Check out [Something.important](#) and you will be sure to learn something new!

FROM THE ARCHIVES

By Richard Wolke

The Archives has recently acquired the 1894 edition of James N. Arnold’s, “Vital Records of Rhode Island: 1636 – 1850” Volume V, Washington County, First Series, Births, Marriages and Deaths, A Family Register. This is a valuable addition to our Genealogy section and has recently been put to good use.

[Ed. Note: Out of curiosity I looked up James Arnold, 1844-1927, whose Vital Records books are frequently cited in genealogies. His interesting life is related in his [obituary](#) on Find a Grave.]

Our Dell computer, which is only used for recording accessions in the Past Perfect program, has had some problems recently so it has received a new, solid state, one gigabyte hard drive. It is now working well and is very fast.

Over the last two years we have divided our work in the Archives into three areas, Accessioning, Digitization and Filing. Denise Stetson and I can handle the first two, but we are in sore need of someone to help us reorganize and set up the filing system. So, I make a plea for volunteers. The pay is poor (maybe a cup of tea with the Library Ladies) BUT, the hours are excellent. Volunteers can come at their convenience, whenever the library is open.

House Hunting

By Kristen Chambers

My first cousin Joe Myers is our family genealogist. His mother and my father were siblings, and we share the same grandparents, Otto Palme and Eleanora “Nora” Wallner Palme. A man of many talents, Joe took on the task of researching both sides of his family tree to the nth degree around 20 years ago, and continues to dig ever deeper.

In 2006 he sent family members a three-volume draft of the genealogy, (including the Myers side of his family), on CDs. He also sent my dad a 244-page paper copy of the second volume. The genealogy covered births from 1435 to beyond 1965 C.E. It contains not only detailed information, relationship

charts, and photographs of ancestors and relatives, but also as Joe explains, “I’ve included a smattering for each generation about the historic context of the generation, along with lists of notable historic figures of the era, as well as works of art, literature, music, philosophy, religion, science and technology.”



Both of my paternal grandparents, Otto and Nora, were first generation Americans. The parents of my grandfather were born in Bohemia in the mid-1800’s, while the parents of my grandmother were born in Austria during the same era. The families of my great-grandparents on the Palme side emigrated in 1883 and settled in New Bedford, while great-grandfather Anton Wallner arrived solo in New Bedford in 1882. Anton was a baker, and eventually opened his own bakery, Wallner’s Bakery. Great-grandfather Joseph Palme had a grocery and delicatessen. At some point Anton and Anna Wallner and their nine children and Joseph and Julianna Palme and their seven children became acquainted, eventually leading to the marriage of Otto and Nora in 1920. *(Picture, left)*

This past summer Joe, who lives in Georgia, emailed me and my siblings in NY/New England as well as his siblings in CA and NC about his intention to write a book that goes further into our grandparents’ story, including the love letters that Otto sent Nora while he was in the Navy during WW1. He wanted to include photos of the buildings where the Palmes and Wallners had lived or worked in New Bedford and Fall River, which were many as they seemed to move to a new dwelling each time a baby was added to the family. The businesses moved several times as well.



Left: One of 3 houses that Nora’s family lived in at various times on Davis St, New Bedford

Joe had a list of the multiple buildings associated with each family, noting which were still standing as far as he was aware. He included maps and also photos of those that were on Google Earth street views. Because of copyright, those photos could not be used in his books, so he asked if my sister Eleanor, aka EI (named after Gramma Palme) and I could take a trip to photograph the extant buildings for him. EI lives in Little Compton so is more familiar with the FR/NB area than I.

So on two gorgeous sunny October days, armed with maps, descriptions, and good old GPS, EI rode shotgun with maps and info in hand as I drove us around “the big city”, parking and hopping out with my phone to take photos of places that were part of our family’s history. A couple of the buildings that were thought to be still standing were gone; others still remaining looked much the same as in old family photos. Only at one house did I have interaction with someone who was living there who happened to be out front. When I explained what we were doing and that our great-grandparents and their children had lived in that house, they were interested and we had a short conversation. After each of our forays, EI and I rewarded ourselves with a nice lunch out, at Ricardi’s in Fall River after our first expedition, and at the Boat House in Tiverton after the second.



Left- 58 Washburn St, New Bedford, where Otto lived most of his boyhood with his 8 other family members

So on two gorgeous sunny October days, armed with maps, descriptions, and good old GPS, El rode shotgun with maps and info in hand as I drove us around “the big city”, parking and hopping out with my phone to take photos of places that were part of our family’s history. A couple of the buildings that were thought to be still standing were gone; others still remaining looked much the same as in old family photos. Only at one house did I have interaction with someone who was living there who happened to be out front. When I explained what we were doing and that our great-grandparents and their children had lived in that house, they were interested and we had a short conversation. After each of our forays, El and I rewarded ourselves with a nice lunch out, at Ricardi’s in Fall River after our first expedition, and at the Boat House in Tiverton after the second.

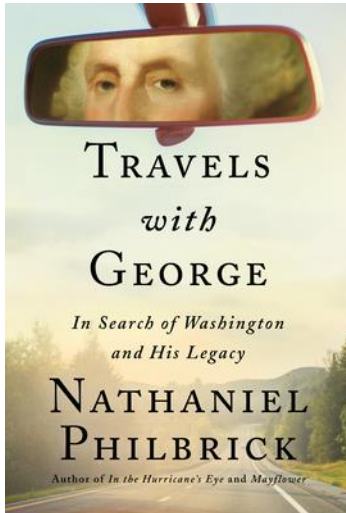
Nora and Otto were the only grandparents I knew, as my maternal grandparents had died young. I have fond memories of near-weekly Sunday visits to their big yellow house in Rumford. Nora died when I was 13, and Otto when I was 17, days after my high school graduation. I knew them through a child’s and teenager’s eyes, and as is often the case now wish that I had paid more attention to their life stories before it was too late. Lucky for my family, Joe has done and continues to do the heavy lifting of research. Driving the streets of our grandparents’ cities, viewing the houses they had lived in and the stores that their fathers had worked in, gave us a glimpse of their early lives. Though the view is certainly a distorted one since the locations, and the world, have changed so dramatically since their time.

Below: Otto’s father Joseph Palme at his deli at 1067 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford, ca. 1916. This is in the section of Acushnet that was razed in 1964 and replaced by the interchange of routes 18 and I-195.



Joseph Palme outside Deli in New Bedford

BOOK REVIEW by Johanna Wolke
Travels with George: In Search of Washington and His Legacy
Written by Nathaniel Philbrick



For those of us who enjoy reading, it's sometimes a challenge to find just the right book at the right time. I was lucky enough this past month to find such a book, 'Travels with George', by Nathaniel Philbrick. I originally listened to the book while driving. Since I don't drive that much, I also read it. The book has a number of photographs and a map, obviously lacking in the audio version.

Philbrick writes about the trip Washington took when, "– the United States of America was still a loose and quarrelsome collection of states."

Washington embarked on his journey shortly after he became President. Philbrick, his wife and dog take the same route as Washington. GPS and modern modes of travel are markedly different than those with which Washington had to contend. How to get anywhere in the 1700s was a monumental task. Awful roads and poor weather conditions made travel dangerous and unpleasant. The experiences of both, the author and

Washington, while on their journeys are informative, horrifying, and sometimes amusing.

Philbrick is a wonderful award-winning writer. He points out, apropos the present situation, that America was also a divided nation in the 18th century and yet, with the guidance of our first President, the United States of America was formed.

This book is an easy and enjoyable read for anyone interested in the history of our country.

SERENDIPITY

You recall the article in the September issue, co-authored by Jodi Brusseau LaCroix and Alex Amalfitano, about their genealogical searches that led to the discovery of their cousinship. Totally coincidentally, we received an email within a few days of the newsletter's publication from Nancy in North Carolina who said she is a descendent of Hannah Church, who had a Richmond connection. Nancy was seeking information about her from RHS to prove Mayflower descendancy, and Hannah is the 'missing link'.

It's fortunate that Jodi and Alex's article was so recent that the Church name was still in my head because of their descendancy from a branch of the Church family, so I contacted Jodi to ask what she knew about Hannah. Well- she knew everything, of course! Both Nancy and Jodi were fine with me giving each the other's contact info, and both Jodi and Alex ended up talking with her so that they could sort through the connections together. And indeed they are all related. As Jodi explains the genealogic tree she sent, "We are related via Caleb Church and Rebecca Brand Church (who comes from Richard Warren's daughter Elizabeth who married Richard Church). Caleb had a son Joshua and a son Samuel. Joshua is my 4th great grandfather. Samuel married Hannah Rogers and had a daughter Hannah. If you keep following the daughter's line down, you find Nancy."

We would love to hear YOUR family stories and searches as well! See contact info on last page.

RHS Membership September 2021

Next issue will contain a list of current members as of publication, along with their emails. Memberships are accepted any time of year. If you know anyone who would like to join RHS please direct them to download the membership form at <https://www.richmondrihistoricalsoc.org/join-us>

RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Website: <https://www.richmondrihistoricalsoc.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RichmondRIHistoricalSociety/>

Email: rihiso@gmail.com

Snail Mail: RHS, PO Box 408, Wyoming, RI 02898

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Volunteers Needed!