

NEWSLETTER

of THE RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY Page 1

Volume No. 1

October, 1979

Patricia Millar, President
West Kingston, R.I. 02892

Virginia Arnold, Editor
Usquepaugh, R. I. 02892

WELCOME to a new year with the Richmond Historical Society.
Your President

FIELD TRIP TO Shannock Hill Area

Sunday, September 23rd at 2 p. m. members and friends of the Society are to meet at the Bell Schoolyard and a motorcade will proceed to Shannock Hill. A visit will be made to the Clark/Clarke cemetery and later there will be a light supper at the home of Carl and Carolyn Richard. And . . . for you home bakers, dessert would be very much appreciated. And . . . you are reminded to bring along your folding chair. And . . . be sure to wear comfortable shoes.

MEMBERSHIP

Have you forgotten?

To renew membership in the Richmond Historical Society and to receive further newsletters, send \$3.00 to Herbert Arnold, Treas. Usquepaugh, West Kingston, R. I. 02892

MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING:

Arnold, Herbert & Virginia
Arnold, John and Ruth
Bader, Ray & Ida
Barske, Edward & Joan
Blaine, Hope
Boucher, Henry and Emma
Britland, Edmund
Broomfield, Paul
Brunskill, Earl & Helen
Chatalian, Harry & Mildred
Edmonds, Charles J.
Gardiner, Robert & Grace
Handell, Clarence & Jean
Hawkins, Paul & Marion
Healey, Gwen (Mrs. Thomas)
Hoxie, Emily & Louise
Jordan, Elsie & Inez
Jordan, Robert & Carla
Joslin, Mrs. Robert

Kenyon, Stuart, & Betty
Kettlety, Reginald & Ann
Lees, Jennie
Lillibridge, Phillip
Markham, Harold and Jane
McElhaney, Gordon & Joyce
Millar, Richard & Patricia
Morgan, Roland & Grace
Pancierera, Mary
Rawlings, Rob Roy & Barbara
Richard Carl & Carolyn
Richmond, Roy
Smith, Earl & Eleanor
Stetson, William and Joanna
Warner, Marjorie
Wiley, Clyde & Jean
Williams, Frank & Virginia
Wilde, Don & Nancy

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gorman (Virginia Lacey) of Hoxie Road announce the birth of a son, John Paul Gorman.

NEXT MONTH is planned an historical POTPOURI to which you are invited to bring interesting items to show.

NEWSLETTER

of THE RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. XII No. 2

October 1979

Patricia Miller, President	Virginia Arnold, Editor
West Kingston, R.I. 02892	Usquepaugh, R.I. 02892

NEXT MEETING:

An Historical PotPourri, Tuesday, October 16 at 7:30 p.m. at Bell School. Members and friends are invited to bring old-time things to show, such as household utensils, wearing apparel, home work-shop hand-tools, etc.

Refreshment committee will include Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gorman as chairmen, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon McElhaney, Mr. and Mrs. Don Wilde.

PROGRAMS

- Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m.- presentation by an exchange student from The Netherlands.
- Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. Sunday, a joint meeting with the "Lincoln Group from Boston" to hear Richard Blake, an actor, on impersonations of Abe Lincoln.
- Jan. 13 at 2 p.m. Sunday- Chamber music is planned, harp, viola.
- Feb. 17 at 2 p.m. Sunday- "Your Childhood Toys and Games" are to be exhibited.
- March 18 at 7:30 p.m. - History of Shannock Fire Tower.
- April 15 at 7:30 p.m. -Parrier on "History of Horse Shoeing.
- May 20 -- Program to be arranged-
- June 17 at 6:30 p.m. - annual meeting, covered dish supper, and review of town's "Blue Laws".

It is realized that all programs are not interesting to everyone, but a variety has been planned and your continued support throughout the year is essential to the growth of the society.

It was very dissappointing that our field trip (September) was unattended in spite of lovely weather as well as the unsurpassed hospitality extneded by our hosts.

Your president thanks Carolyn and Dick for their preparations for the event and hopes busy schedules will allow more members to participate in the next meeting.

MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING: (continued)

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lillibridge, Marjorie | |
| Gorman, Paul and Virginia | Stoner, Martha |
| Schunke, Marjorie | Stedman, Oliver & Margery |

corrections from page 1:

- Healey, Thomas and Gwen
- Joslin, Robert and Miriam

Patricia Millar, President
West Kingston, R.I. 02892Virginia Arnold, Editor
Usquepaugh, R.I. 02892

RICHMOND'S RUBIES -Our Cranberry Harvest by Patty Millar

What do we have in our area that is a food, a medicine kit, dye, and once was used to placate a king?

Long before Columbus came to the New World, the tangy cranberry grew wild on low vines in marshy areas. It had an important place in every day life here. The Indians used the berry as a dye and as a poultice dressing to treat poison arrow wounds. Pemmican, an Indian staple food was made pounding venison with fat and crushed cranberries. Although different tribes had various names for the berry, the Pilgrims are responsible for its present name; thinking the spring blossoms resembled the heads of cranes, the early settlers called the fruit cranberries. We are fortunate this early designation was corrupted no further than to its present day "cranberry!" In the course of history, families gathered to pick the fruit, fines were levied for greediness, a king was "paid".

From its beginning as food for Indians and early settlers, cranberries became a figure in "international events"; today producing this fruit is a multimillion dollar industry and they are sold from Japan to Sweden.

Quite a story, and an interesting one from Richmond is yet to come.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, November 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Richmond Town Hall, "HISTORY OF THE CRANBERRY".

Refreshment committee: Chairmen will be Harry and Millie Chatalian with Earl & Helen Brunskill, and Robert & Grace Gardiner.

All interested persons are invited to attend the meeting.

NEW MEMBERS: Mr. and Mrs. John R. Anderson

NOTES FROM SECRETARY'S REPORT, Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m. at Bell School

Pres. Patricia Millar called the meeting to order with 11 present.

Carolyn S. Richard was elected Secretary, since Jane Markham has resigned.

Carolyn, Archivist, reported that framed ordination certificates had been received from the widow of Marsden Whitford, an attendee of the Bell School. A thank you note has been sent.

Maps were received from Harold Kenyon via Ray and Ida Bader.

One of the maps, of State of R.I., has been hung in the north-east corner of the school room. Harold will receive a copy of the next newsletter thanking him for his donation.

Patricia Millar reported that she had received a box of photographs from Lawrence Edwards. Mostly professional photographs, the pictures had been collected and annotated by Florence Hoxie,

Executive Board meetings are set for the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m., to meet at various homes.

A Fair Chairman is being sought since Millie Chatalian has resigned.

Mr. Edward's grandmother. Mary Panciera of Carolina, a member of the Society, will help Pat identify some of the persons in the photographs. A painting (painted by Catherine "Aunt Kate" Baton) has been framed by Ray Bader. Ray used old floor boards from the Bell School. A label is to be affixed to the back of the painting, explaining the artwork and the framing.

Executive Board meetings are set for the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m., to meet at various homes.

A Fair Chairman is being sought since Millie Chatalian has resigned.

Pat reported that guests of Rita Kenyon Nuutilla had visited the Bell School on Monday, October 8. Pat used one of the newly acquired maps to give a brief Richmond history lesson. Both ladies are teachers: Edith M. Munuo from East Africa and Barbara Chilangisa from Central Africa.

Pat suggested that the Bell School be opened to visitors on a regular basis, but such an undertaking would require many volunteers.

The Historical Society will have use of the showcase at the Washington Trust Company from November 13 for about 2 weeks. Theme is to be "Bell School Remembrances". The model school and Aunt Kate's painting will be featured in the display.

Pat presented some figures for insurance coverage on the Bell School. It was voted to accept the quote from Babcock and Helliwell and allow Pat to purchase the insurance.

The Lincoln Group of Boston will join the Historical Society on SATURDAY December 15, 1979 at the Richmond School for a dramatic performance by actor Richard Blake. Mr. Blake presents impersonations of Abraham Lincoln. Performance is set for 2:00 p.m. Pat Millar, Joanna Stetson and Gwen Healy will provide refreshments.

Virginia Arnold reports on the receipts gained by programs at the Bell School from March through July, 1979:

March, quilting	\$10.90
April, wool working	2.44
May, lace	2.73
June, embroidery	.57
May, herb lecture	2.20
July, fair sales	1261
Total	\$142.45

Program for the evening: old artifacts, pictures and tools brought by members to show and describe.

Robert and Miriam Joslin were welcomed by the Society as new members. Pat Millar thanks her refreshment committee, Nancy Wilde.

A THANK YOU is extended for several old costumes given to the society by Bob and Carla Jordan, including an embroidered blue velvet robe, a lace bonnet and black silk stockings with clocks.

Genealogical Research Information -- if you are Irish!

If your family tree took root in Ireland, chances are you can trace the family name to an Irish coat of arms, and upon proof of lineage can obtain the coat of arms representing your family name.

During the Medieval Age in Europe when landed noblemen were ruling and often warring with one another, coats of arms were the shields of armor used in battle to distinguish armies, and became the ensignias symbolizing a particular family. Designs and inscriptions on coats of arms are different for each family, and usually represent some event or trait unique to that family.

Unlike other European countries where coats of arms can be claimed by only certain families (usually those who can prove a blood line to royalty), Ireland will bestow arms to any person whose immediate or known ancestors bore a common surname and inhabited the same locality in Ireland. And for a small fee, the Genealogical Office in Dublin will even undertake the search for documents needed for proof of lineage. To find out if you are entitled to 'bear arms', apply for a confirmation of such arms to The Chief Herald at Dublin Castle, Dublin, Ireland. Upon confirmation you will receive a coat of arms resembling a plaque and a pamphlet giving your family history and information about what the inscriptions on your arms means.

For others who are interested in tracing their family history, the Federal government has published two free publications giving genealogical information. The first, Genealogical Records in the National Archives (636G), describes libraries, societies and books helpful in tracing the history of a family. To obtain either publication, send a postcard to:

The Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, Colorado 81009

-- from Patty

NEWSLETTER

of The Richmond Historical Society page 6
Vol. XII No. 4 December 1979

Patricia Millar, President Virginia Arnold, Editor
West Kingston, R.I. 02892 Usquepaugh, R.I. 02892

THE SEASON'S GREETINGS ARE EXTENDED TO OUR READERS

"A Day with President Lincoln" NEXT MEETING:
Saturday, December 15, at 2 p.m. at the Richmond School
Auditorium

Through the courtesy of the Lincoln National Life In-
surance Company, The Lincolns Group of Boston, joined with
members from the Richmond Historical Society, will be treat-
ed to a special presentation of Richard Blake's one-man per-
formances of the President including
performance as President Lincoln. Mr. Blake has starred in well
over 2000 performances of the President including appearanes
on all major television networks and the Public Broadcasting
System.

Mr. Blake, who spent five years studying for his role,
will present a 45 minute one-man show which will be follow-
ed by an 1864 press conference with our members and other
guests free to ask questions. In this regard, you might be
thinking of at least one question which you would ask the
"President" during this press conference portion of the pro-
gram.

We feel particularly honored to share in the sponsor-
ship of this program and because it is a special presentation,
it is hoped that each member will make every effort to attend
and invite friends who would have even the slightest interest
in Abraham Lincoln.

A Christmas Tea will follow the program. Tea committee:
Mrs. William Stetson, chairman, Thomas and Gwen Healey, Rich-
ard and Patty Millar. (See page 7 on reservations).

A GENEALOGY REQUEST from member Marjorie C. Warner, Evans-
ville, Indiana --

"I am a granddaughter of Jennie Lillibridge of Richmond,
who married Charles Stevens of Norwich, Conn. and Boston,
Mass. She was the daughter of Vanton Lillibridge and Sarah
Ann Champlin of Richmond.

Can anyone in your Richmond Historical Society give me
information about PheBe Hoxsie, who married Amos Lillibridge,
and was the mother of Vanton Lillibridge?

NOTES:

It was voted at the November 12 Executive Sèssion that
the Society wishes to reproduce slides belonging to Society
members and friends who may have taken pictures of meetings,
outing, programs, etc, and to authorize the necessary funds
to pay for the work. Also,

should the Society purchase a slide projector?

Bell School open house days will be planned for March or April.

Pat suggested a Golden Ager program for May, 1980, Heritage month.

NOTES from Richmond Historical Society meeting Nov. 20, 1979

President Patricia Millar conducted the meeting held in the Bell School. Those attending were Herbert and Virginia Arnold, Ray and Ida Bader, Harry and Millie Chatalian, Gwen Healey, Richard and Patricia Millar.

Patty exhibited the brass hand-bell which had belonged to the late Phebe Richmond who taught school many years in Richmond. The bell was donated to the society by Harold Kenyon.

Reports were made that the lease of \$10.00 per year and the liability insurance of \$139.00 per year both on the Bell School had been made. Questions were raised as to whether the Society should be responsible for these since the property belongs to the State. This was followed by suggestions made on ways to have the Bell School turned over to the Society. Also, a suggestion was made that the Society find a way to acquire its own building.

Patty considered that since the Bell School had been used as a community center during its past (at its former site) that it might again be used for religious services, etc.

Harry Chatalian suggested that Richmond School teachers may conduct some classes in Bell School. After the business, Patty gave a very interesting talk on "Cranberries", which included some colorful slides showing plants, blossoms, berries and the harvesting of cranberries.

Refreshments of assorted cookies and coffee were served by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Chatalian and Earl Brunskill.

To make the coffee, Earl and Herbert filled the coffee urn at the outside Town Hall water faucet in the light of a cigar lighter. The Bell School has bowed to modern electrification but as yet does not boast a water supply! (Installation of a well, plumbing, electric pump, and a septic system, which is required in Richmond, would seem a costly project for the society to sponsor on State owned property. - Editor)

RESERVATION FOR LINCOLN PROGRAM - Dec. 15 at 2 p.m.

In order to plan for food and seating, the committee would appreciate knowing how many will attend.

Please call Carolyn Richard at 539-2497 before Friday, (December 14) for reservation. Admission is free.

Here are a couple of cranberry recipes:

CRANBERRY NUTBREAD

Combine 2 tbsp. shortening
 2 cups flour
 1 cup sugar
 1½ tsp. baking powder
 ½ tsp. baking soda
 ½ tsp. salt
 2 tsp. grated orange peel

Add juice from 1 orange plus water to make ¾ cup liquid.

Blend only until flour mixture is moistened.

Combine

1½ cups shredded cheddar cheese
 1 egg, beaten
 1 cup cranberries, halved
 ½ cup chopped walnuts Fold into flour mixture.

Bake at 350° for 60-70 minutes. Let loaf stand 768 hours before cutting.

CRANBERRY MUFFINS

¾ cup cranberry halves	½ tsp. salt
½ cup powdered sugar	4 tbsp. sugar
2 cups flour	1 egg, well beaten (or 2 med)
3 tsp. baking powder	1 cup milk
4 tbsp. shortening, melted	

Mix cranberry halves with the powdered sugar and let stand while preparing muffin mixture. Sift dry ingredients, add egg, milk and shortening; then add the sugared cranberries. Mix but do not beat. Bake in a moderate oven (350° F.) for 20 minutes. Makes med. muffins. (12)

And - then one starts to think of those that hardly anyone makes anymore, such as :

CRANBERRY CAPE COD DROP CAKES,
 CRANBERRY STEAMED PUDDING,
 CRANBERRY UPSIDE DOWN CAKE.

NEWSLETTER

of The Richmond Historical Society page 10
Vol. XII No. 6 February 1980

Patricia Millar, President Virginia Arnold, Editor
West Kingston, R.I. 02892 Usquepaugh, R.I. 02892

NEXT MEETING:

Sunday, February 17 at 2 p.m. in the Bell School.
The program will be "Toys from Your Childhood". This may be a good time to do the job you have thought about for years, check over those long-ago, packed-away items and enjoy them all over again! Bring your favorites for a Show & Tell afternoon. Interested persons are invited to attend the meeting.
Refreshment committee: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jordan, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Barske, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Richmond.

RECENT PAID UP MEMBERS: Mr. and Mrs. William Hopwood, Jr.

LAST MEETING

Andree Doherty of Richmond and David Pugh of Hopkinton sang, played guitar, banjo and violin for 27 people at the Bell School January 13. They presented more than a dozen selections of Anglican and American folk music.

President Millar opened the brief business meeting by ringing Phoebe Richmond's school teacher hand bell.

A copy of "A Stroll Through Memory Lane" was given for the archives. Author Oliver Stedman and wife Margery were in attendance. They are charter members of the society.

Patty Millar requested and was granted permission to use the Bell School for an area 4-H meeting on January 28.

President Millar again noted that the society wished to copy slides and pictures of the society's activities and will assume cost of the work, and return slides, etc. to owners.

JANUARY EXECUTIVE MEETING was held at Carolyn Richard's at Shannock, January 14.

Ways to acquire the Bell School and land around it were considered. (The State of R.I. still holds title) Herbert Arnold agreed to work with a committee on this. Ray Badernoted one reason for this is to assure that the building would be kept repaired, inside and out.

FAIR COMMITTEE this year will be made up of executive committee members since Millie Chatalian resigned as chairman.

FAIR DATE is July 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with rain date on July 13. It is planned that participants in the FAIR will be charged a nominal fee for space rather than on a percentage basis as in the past. Also, local artists and antique dealers will be invited to participate in this year's event.

Ida Bader is chairman for the FAIR BAKE TABLE. All members of the society are invited to contribute to this and all funds realized from the bake sale will go to the treasury.

The next Executive session was scheduled for Feb. 11.

COOK BOOK FUND balance was reported by treasurer Herbert Arnold as \$1,398.04. This project, started several years ago, has quieted lately and Patty has expressed interest in arranging a meeting on it in the near future.

Patricia Millar, President
West Kingston, R.I. 02892

Virginia Arnold, Editor
Usquepaugh, R.I. 02892

NEXT MEETING:

FARRIERS AND HORSE CARE - two persons will participate in a program on modern horse shoeing and such Tuesday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bell School Museum.

Those attending are encouraged to bring any horse shoes or blacksmithing implements to show and tell.

The refreshment committee: Ray and Ida Bader as chairmen; Frank and Virginia Williams, Rob Boy and Barbara Rawlings.

The public is invited to attend.

NEW MEMBER: Winifred Bennis

HIGHLIGHTS OF FEBRUARY MEETING

President Patty introduced newest members Patrick, Jennifer and Dacia Maini of Usquepaugh, Winifred Bennis of Wyoming.

Seventeen persons attended the meeting including photographer Dan Dunn from the Chariho Times. A picture and caption appeared in the next edition. Photo was of President looking at exhibit of toys.

Plans for the eighth annual FAIR were explained. The Society will charge a flat \$10.00 fee for vendors this year instead of taking a commission on sales. A flyer is being prepared to be distributed to former participants, with a self addressed stamped envelope.

Treasurer, Herb Arnold, reported expenditures for the month totalling \$ 9.27.

Secretary has forwarded a communication to the R.I. Heritage Commission stating our intention to participate in the R.I. Heritage month activities. Among projects being considered are photographic displays and an open house at the Bell School. Pat asked for suggestions from members.

The next executive board meeting will be held March 10 at home of Ray and Ida Bader.

Members displayed OLD TOYS, many of which had been in the same family for generations. Virginia Arnold showed a child's toy swing that had belonged to Judith Kenyon of Usquepaugh. She also had a miniature sideboard complete with china, pottery which had been her mother's (around 1900). Also, there was a small tray of dishes crafted from peach pits which had belonged to the mother of the Perreault family of Richmond (dated 1898).

Herb Arnold reported that he did not have toys with him and noted that few toys were bought when there were ten youngsters in a family. He did recall the small lead soldiers given at Christmas.

Oliver Steadman presented Volume II of the book "A Stroll o Through Memory Lane" for which the Society thanked him heartily.

Ida showed a small toy car of her son's, and a miniature cedar chest, a gift of her mother.

Mary young showed small cast iron kitchen pots and several dolls including a Shirley Temple doll.

Carolyn Richard showed two toys from the archives, an alephabt whose head and tail moved and a toy spool knitter.

Patty displayed toys from her family, many of which had been sent to the meeting by Eleanor H. Smith, her mother. One was a Sliding Sam, a dowel toy which slid back and forth on a rope and made by Patty's father in law; a Kewpie Doll, a book of Doris & Julie, hand made doll blankets some of Eleanor's wooden, lettered blocks stone building blocks (made in East Germany) which belong to Dick Millar, a woodburning kit, puzzles including one of "About a Million Marbles".

Since our March program has to do with "horses" it seems suitable that a few "horse" thoughts from an old book should be included -

RIDE AND TIE

This was a clever, economical mode of journeying in good old times, when we could boast of rigid honesty among men.

If two young farmers both wanted to go to town at the same time, having but one horse between them, and no buggy, the first fellow would mount the saddle and ride on while the second man set off on foot.

Having rode a few miles, the first made fast the bridle to a post or tree and then became the pedestrian in his turn. The first walker coming up, took his turn to ride a bit, and in this way of ride and tie they effected their journey with ease and safety. Horse stood perfectly safe and secure with the saddlebags across him, holding the cold junk and bread and cheese on one side, and a stone to balance on the other.

Such a thing as stealing was not thought of.

How would such a project answer now, when a man must watch his coat in his own entry, to have it safe against pilferers!

Alas, for the degeneracy of the times!

RHYME FOR ROPE SKIPPING

My father has a horse to shoe,
How many nails do you think will do?
One, two, three, four, etc.

WILLING HORSES

A Horse trader in Willow Falls was so smooth of tongue and wit that no one could get the better of him. He sold a man a pair of horses guaranteed to be willing horses. The horses were very poor at working and the buyer complained to him.

"I thought you said these horses were willing".

"So I did", replied Perkins, "and so they are. One's

willing to stop and the other one's willing to let him".

Rub plenty of neat's-foot oil into harness leather, particularly the traces, to keep it supple, and don't let your horse stand without a blanket.

THE SAILOR'S GRACE -

Old horse, old horse, how came you here?
 From Sacarap' to Portland Pier.
 I carted stone this many a year,
 Until, worn out by sore abuse,
 They salted me down for sailors' use.
 The sailors they do me despise;
 They turn me over and damn my eyes,
 Cut off my meat and pick my bones,
 And heave the rest to Davy Jones.

TIMELY TIPS FOR GARDENERS, (from an old collection) -

For an old-time, non-polluting, self-destructing insecticide, dilute one part molasses with 50 parts of water, then spray, squirt, or splash on vegetable plants.

Soap, water, cigar butts marinated in water makes an insecticide. [See page 14]

Epsom salts sprinkled around shrubs will enhance the color.

A snake made of a length of rubber hose, wrapped with tape, a tennis ball mounted on one end with eyes drawn on, and a hair-pin inserted as antennae, will keep birds away from fruit trees.

Keep onions away from beans -- and glads at least 20 feet from strawberries.

Grow garlic among roses to keep away aphids.

To keep birds away from corn, get some seven-inch^{paper}/cups. As soon as the corn appears, slip a cup over each ear. The birds will feel frustrated, and you'll save your corn. This may be a good way to keep the ear worm away from the silk, too.

To Keep worms out of cauliflower - when heads are still small, one to two inches in diameter, put each one in a nylon stocking and tie it Below the head. When the heads get too big, remove the stocking.

When planting sweet corn in your back yard garden, be sure to tamp down or better yet, jump on each hill till its packed hard. The birds really become discouraged in trying to pull the seed out by the new green shoots.

To ripen peaches, put in a brown paper bag along with an apple. The apple will release ethylene gas and ripen the peaches in a couple of days.

Have mothballs hanged in peach trees, and - - nasturtiums growing up apple tree trunk to keep away aphids.

Patricia Millar, President
West Kingston, R.I. 02892

Virginia Arnold, Editor
Usquepaugh, R.I. 02892

CORRECTION:

In the March NEWSLETTER, page 13 under "Timely Tips for Gardeners", the second tip has been noted by one of the URI Master Gardeners who has pointed out that tobacco will carry the MOSAIC disease among plants so - -

Please, cross out and ignore: "Soap, water, cigar butts marinated in water makes an insecticide".

NEXT:

Sunday, April 13 at 2 p.m. a field trip is planned to the Shannock Fire Tower but - this is depending upon two consecutive days of good burning weather (Saturday and Sunday) otherwise the Forest Ranger is not on duty at the tower.

Anyone may call 539-7676 between 12:30 and 1 p.m. that day for last minute chick on the trip.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bell School Museum for general business of the Society.

Refreshment committee: Mr. and Mrs. Richard Millar; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Joslin.

NEW MEMBERS: Dick and Christine Kenyon of Usquepaugh.

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"THE PAPERS OF ANDREW JACKSON"

at the Hermitage, Tennessee has notified the archivist of a request for letters to or from Jackson, speeches, accounts, checks, military and legal papers.

Xerographic or photographic copies with permission to use in a comprehensive microfilm edition and publication of papers of the president are needed for the project.

Contact Archivist Carolyn Richard for further details.

HIGHLIGHTS

of March 18 meeting at Bell School, Patty Millar presiding

Seventeen persons attended, seven were visitors.

Secretary Carolyn S. Richard was absent due to another committment. Virginia Arnold took minutes of the meeting.

The secretary's report of April meeting was approved.

Treasurer's report by Herbert Arnold was read and accepted.

FAIR COMMITTEE REPORT: July 12 at Bell School grounds from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (rain date July 13). Carolyn has prepared a flyer on the annual Fair which will be sent with an

invitation to prior participants. A fee of \$10.00 will be asked and participants are to be responsible for set-up of table, umbrella or canopy, etc. Ida Bader, chairman for the Society Bake table suggested that ~~cash~~ cash donations would be acceptable from those who do not wish to bake.

Patty announced that a letter had been received from the R.I. HERITAGE COMMISSION on the celebration from March to November of 1980 of "participation of the French forces under Comte de Rouchambeau".

Also, announced was the "WICKFORD HOUSE TOUR" with five homes open to the public on May 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tour is sponsored by LINKS (Laymen in Service to North Kingstown Schools).

Patty suggested the Society have notepaper with sketch of the Bell School available for sale at annual Fair. She is getting prices on this.

HERITAGE MONTH IS IN MAY. Patty again mentioned the photo display and toy exhibit planned to be held in the Bell School. Ray and Ida Bader offered their collection of silles on the Society's Fairs, etc.

Charles Edmonds inquired about sales of "DRIFTWAYS INTO THE PAST" to which Patty reported "did well at Christmas and has slowed down since".

MARCH PROGRAM SPEAKERS were "A Modern Blacksmith-Farrier" Michael McMinn and Prof. Ray Hinkson of URI.

Ray Bader stoked up the wood fire a bit-

Patty opened the program with reading "The Village Blacksmith" by Henry W. Longfellow.

Prof. Hinkson readied his slides and showed comparisons of sizes and colors of various horse breeds including Arabians shorter than Appaloosa and Quarter horse, a little taller than Appaloosa. The Appaloosa is about 15 hands (one hand = 4 inches). The draft horse or work horse of 17 or 18 hands includes Belgian and Clydesdale.

He showed that yesterday's horse was very small, about two hands. The legs have changed. The horse of today walks on one toe - used to have five (we are told). About 50 million years ago there were four digits. He explained that now the hoof is what, through evolution, was once the middle toe or the longest toe and compared it to the human hand. Around 1650 B.C. in the time of Caesar, the horse was used in western Europe but more for agriculture and in the 19th century was being used a great deal for agriculture and today is used more as a pleasure horse.

"BLACKSMITHING IS VERY HARD WORK" according to the local farrier Michael McMinn. He noted that there are numerous horse shoeing schools around the country today. He added that the use of horses had peaked about 1919, but around 1960 had picked up since horses are used more for pleasure.

The farrier carries a gas forge in his motor vehicle as he travels from farm to farm. He exhibited several types of shoes including racing shoes of aluminum.

He showed by charts styles of ancient horse shoes such as the grass sandals developed by Egyptians, also a leather sock to be tied on the foot after which it was dried for better fit. The Romans later styled the iron hippo sandal which was tied with raw hide. Primitive shoes were fastened without nails.

Michael noted the blacksmith was necessary to settle the West and was a traveling man who worked in shops making nails.

He said that many horses are now being used for food which is sent overseas.

He ~~said~~ cautioned that the horse should be viewed from the base (foot) to the head but people are inclined to be influenced by the pretty head rather than sound feet.

Following the program, Ida Bader and Virginia Williams served hot coffee and delicious home made cakes.

Patricia Millar, President
West Kingston, R.I.

Virginia Arnold, Editor
Usquepaugh, R.I.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Bell School Museum, regular meeting of the Society. Program will be a slide show of historic field trips taken by the Society.

The meeting and program will take place amidst the Historical Photo Exhibit which will be shown in the school during the week.

HERITAGE MONTH

is being observed by exhibits at the Bell School.

TOY EXHIBIT

featuring antique and collectible toys which bring back memories of a youthful past whatever your age, opened Sunday, May 4 from 1-4 p.m. and shown the rest of the week through Saturday, May 10.

HISTORICAL PHOTO EXHIBIT

nostalgic faces and scenes from the past; a portion of the sizable collection now owned by the Society.

- May 18, 1980 - opening of show, 1 - 4 p.m.
- May 19, Monday - by appointment
- May 20, 7:30 p.m. - regular meeting of Society
- May 21, open 7 - 9 p.m.
- May 22,23 - by appointment
- May 24, Saturday - open 1 - 4 p.m.

Appointments may be made by calling 539-7676; best time around 5:30 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING

in June will include a program to honor senior citizens of over 70 years. They will be invited to dinner and given certificates of recognition.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

April 14, 1980, a report was made on acquisition of the school and property. It seems that the State can sell the property outright; the building would supposedly be sold at public auction. (Disposal of such property actually depends on how it was acquired in the first place).

Recently, when Ray and Ida Bader went to the school to arrange tables for exhibits, they found the roof had leaked considerably (shingles had blown off). Water was on the floor, the stove was rusty and the ceiling was in bad shape. Ray went to the attic, tore out insulation, mopped up water and then repaired the roof.

The Ex. Board feels that "we have to know where we stand" with the property and recommends that the State should pay for material and labor in such instances as the roof repair work.

NEWSLETTER

of The Richmond Historical Society

June 1980

Vol. XII No. 10

page 18

 Patricia Millar, President Virginia Arnold, Editor
 West Kingston, R.I. Usquepaugh, R.I.

ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, June 17 at the Carolina Fire Station:

6 p.m. - covered dish dinner, with Hank Handell making jonny cakes,

7:15 p.m. - business meeting and election of officers,

8 p.m. (sharp) - program with Jim and Vetta Scudder on

ANTIQUES.

Those attending the 6 o'clock DINNER are requested to bring a favorite dish to share AND individual place setting to consist of plate, cup, and silver. Beverage will be provided.

The BUSINESS MEETING at 7:15 p.m. will include two proposed changes in the Society's by-laws as recommended by the Executive Committee at their May 14 session:

Article V - Quorum -

"SEVEN members shall constitute a quorum for the election of officers and the transaction of other business at any regular or special meeting". --- (changed from fifteen ---

Article VII - Executive Committee -

There shall be an Executive Committee composed of the officers and three other members elected for three year terms, except that of the three first elected, one shall serve for one year and one for two years. This Committee shall be responsible for administering the business of this society including the appointment of all committees, AND INTERESTED MEMBERS WHO SHALL BE DESIGNATED BY A NOTE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING. (The capitalized section has been added to the original article).

ALSO, a slate officers for election will be presented by the nominating committee Ray Bader, Robert Jordan, and Carla Jordan.

The PROGRAM will start at 8 o'clock SHARP. Jim and Vetta Scudder of Carolina will speak briefly on "ANTIQUES", and display several items as they explain comparisons in antiques and reproductions. They have agreed to appraise objects brought in by members as to the area of age, or whether an item is "choice" or just "every day". They do not appraise paintings or oriental objects or rugs.

ANNUAL DUES

ARE NOW PAYABLE. Send \$3.00 to treasurer, Herbert L. Arnold, Usquepaugh, R.I. 02892.

EXECUTIVE MEETING (from secretary's notes)

A special Executive meeting was held May 26 at the Bell School and attended by President Patty Millar, treasurer Herb Arnold, Virginia Arnold, Ray Bader, Ida Bader and Secretary Carolyn Richard.

Patty noted that \$100.00 for Heritage Month has been received from the State Heritage Commission.

Carolyn read a letter which described proposed nomination of Hilldale mill area to the National Register of Historic Places. It was voted to respond favorably to the request for comment in the letter (to the Historic Preservation Commission, 150 Benefit St. Providence, R.I.). The Historical Society will indicate in the letter that artifacts and information gleaned will be appreciated by the Society.

Pat stated that Johanna Stetson was employed at the Slater Mills in Pawtucket. She suggested planning a program around the Slater Mill. Mrs. Stetson could be asked to talk and bring a display or a field trip could be planned to the site.

Patty suggested that the Society rent or lease the film "In the Wake of '38" a documentary about the days following the 1938 hurricane. The very interesting film had been shown at the mid-winter meeting of the League of Rhode Island Historical Societies. Richmond School was suggested as a site for the showing with a coffee hour and discussion following the film.

Pat is to call Sonja Kenyon about the care of the Memorial Garden. It has not been mowed or weeded this year and is rather unsightly compared to the rest of the grounds. The Society can take it over if the Garden Club is no longer interested in its maintenance and care.

Carolyn suggested the following schedule for Society meetings

September: Executive Board meeting
 October: General meeting
 November: Executive Board meeting
 December: General meeting
 January: Executive Board meeting
 February: General meeting
 March: Executive Board meeting
 April: General meeting
 May: Executive Board meeting
 June: General and Annual meetings
 and any other such special meetings as may be required. This would require less burden in planning interesting public programs and would also allow plenty of time between board meetings and general meetings to advertise, plan and compile the newsletter.

Ray suggested a family picnic or outing if the Society wanted to meet in the summer months.

RECENT GIFTS

to the Society include four exhibits of handwriting as in (1864 -66) as taught in the Bell School given by Helen Hulda (Smith) Cottrell of West Kingston. The letters were written to C.G. Cottrell and Caleb T. Cottrell, who were father and grandfather of the late John J. Cottrell.

ALSO, a half-pint cream bottle from the old "HORSE SHOE FALLS FARM", Shannock (burned several years ago) is given by Mrs. Vivien Rathbun of Wyoming.

THE 8TH ANNUAL FAIR

of the Richmond Historical Society will be held on the Bell School grounds, Saturday, July 12, 1980 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.

RAIN DATE is Sunday, July 13, 1980.

This year, a vendor's fee of \$10.00 will be taken, but the Society will not take a commission on sales.

Flyers on the Fair and application blanks have been mailed to past participants and other persons who have indicated an interest in taking part in this year's event.

If for some reason, you have not as yet received an application blank, please contact Carolyn Richard, secretary or another member of the Richmond Historical Society.

Application blanks should be returned by June 27.

This year, a number of new ideas have been considered including antiques and zebras!

Hope to see you at the FAIR.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITS

The Richmond Historical Society is grateful to all who contributed to the toy and photo exhibits held in the Bell School Museum during May, Heritage Month.

Special thanks are extended to those who went to the "attic" and then loaned their valuables for the exhibits; and to the members of the Society who spent many hours on duty to explain and point out the "why-fors" of the various items and some of the "who" in the photos.

Last, but not least, the exhibits would not have been successful without the public who visited, so - thank you all.
