

Vol. II No.1 L.R.Tootell,Wyoming,R.I.02898

JUNE 1969

#### FIRST RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The first annual meeting of the Richmond Historical Society will be held in the Richmond Town Hall, Tuesday evening, June 17th, at 8 P.M. All members are asked to bring any slide pictures which they have taken of the Society activities over the past year. Also bring any pictures for the SHOW & TELL TABLE. This would be a good time to bring a guest. They will be very astonished at what has been accomplished within such a short time.

#### COLLATION COMMITTEE

The Collation Committee for the next town meeting will be: Mr. & Mrs. Earl Smith, Co-Chairmen; Mr. & Mrs. Russell Kenyon, Jr.; and Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Robertson. Lucy Tootell will bring a table cloth and container for the liquid refreshments if needed. (See Volume I., page 11 for instructions).

#### NEXT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

The next Executive Council Meeting of the Richmond Historical Society will be held at the home of Lucy Rawlings Tootell on Tuesday evening, July 1st., at 8 P.M.

#### NEXT FIELD TRIP

The next Field Trip will be held on Sunday June 29th at 2 P.M. Interested persons will meet at the Richmond Town Hall. The public is invited to join the members.

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following members have been appointed by the Board of Directors to submit a slate of officers for election at the Annual meeting: Herbert Arnold, Chairman; Hope Blaine and Henry Boucher. The slate should include President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Other positions are appointed.

#### ANNUAL REPORTS

The following are asked to read annual reports at the Annual Meeting: -

President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Archivist & Historian  
District Chairmen

Reports will be brief.

RICHMOND HISTORY  
Lucy Rawlings Tootell  
Wyoming, R. I. 02898  
Family Dues - \$3.00

By

Patricia Smith Millar

Education has been vital to our country since its history began. Schools were soon deemed to be vital to public education and have continued to be a primary concern of all citizens since the classroom moved from private homes into its own building.

Educational materials and the buildings to house them have changed greatly over a period of a relatively few years. A simple primer taught us to read the paper and elementary math sufficient for our grandfathers to conduct a common business now takes our children through the second grade! An education deemed sufficient to see a resourceful person successfully through life fifty years ago would barely get today's student through the fifth grade. Greater involvement in world affairs, greater exposure to all facets of life, increased usage of higher mathematics, and vast scientific discoveries make education and learning a greater challenge than ever before.

But let us go back to where this all began in the one-room school houses in our town.

Bell School on Hillsdale Road, just out of Tug Hollow, deserves celebration. It is the oldest school in town and is still standing as a school building, unchanged by usage and time, but kept in some repair by the Division of Natural Resources under whose jurisdiction it presently falls. The school, called Bell because it was the first and only one in town to have a bell, was built in 1825 and served as a school for 110 - 112 years (the figures differ with sources). It did double duty as a Sunday School and community center for many years. It is well worth a trip to Hillsdale to view this bit of yesteryear. The town of Richmond sold the school at public auction for \$475 in 1938 to Howard Hitchcock.

A baby by comparison, but next in line chronologically, was the seventy-five year old Wyoming School, which was deeded to the town in 1868. This was sold to John H. (Smokey) Potter of West Greenwich.

Also sold on auction day of 1938 were the 1887 Beaver River School for ninety-five dollars to Walter Shute, heir to the property on which it stood; the 1865 Alton School to William Bitgood for ninety dollars; and the fifty year old Arcadia School for one hundred fifteen dollars. The story goes there was an added attraction to the Arcadia building--the outhouse sold for a record figure of \$5.25! It must have been at least a two-holer! The sixty-seven year old Carolina School, which had served the greater part of central Richmond and some of Charlestown in recent years prior to 1938, was the largest building and sold for nine hundred dollars to Roy Wright.

Six schools left from an original fifteen districts, each with remnants at least of its own school building, and an auction of these remaining six buildings by the town might indicate either a developing ghost town or a vast disinterest in education. But no! That was not the case at all! Demands of the times and a

(Continued page 3)

rapidly growing population, plus new transportation facilities (quite a jump from feet and buggy to a fleet of school buses) had brought to Richmond centralization and a consolidation of schools. With the Public Works Administration under the Roosevelt administration making such a centralized project feasible, a building committee was appointed consisting of the Hon. Roy Rawlings, Chairman; Howard Hitchcock, Clerk; Alfred C. Browning; Florence Clark; Arthur L. Gardiner; Omar R. McCoy, Superintendent of Schools; Fred W. Smith; and Chester A. Sherman. In 1935 the \$75,000 Richmond Consolidated Elementary School was dedicated in the heart of the town. The School was quite a modern facility with nine classrooms, a domestic science room, manual training workshop, auditorium, cafeteria, teachers' room, office, lavatories, fire alarm and dismissal bells. The grades were one through nine with arrangements made to tuition students who desired to attend high schools in neighboring towns. On top of all this, in a gold leaf trimmed cupola, hung the bell from Bell School which had already beckoned Richmondites to their studies for over one hundred years. It is a lovely bell and unhappily is only used to terminate an occasional fire drill. Why not brighten everyone's day within hearing and ring it to open school at 9 A.M.?

After 1950 Grade Nine was no longer taught at Richmond.

Time passed and war came and ended and population exploded. A high school of our own was needed. The seemingly insurmountable prospect of building another school was being faced by neighboring towns at the same time. History was really made when Charlestown, Richmond, and Hopkinton joined committees and purses to build a centrally located regional high school. A large plant to be named Chariho for the three towns was built in Woodville in the long abandoned Plainville No. 11 District. The Chariho Regional Junior and Senior High School was dedicated in 1960.

Although the Junior High School provided some relief for the elementary school for a few years, its walls were soon bursting again, with several classes in each of the six grades. A new building committee was appointed consisting of Robert H. Lowry, Chairman; Marion E. Downey, Clerk; Hazel M. Ballard; Harry E. Downs; Harold E. Downey; William P. Ironside; Senek Newman; Herbert R. Drake; Roger L. Searles, Superintendent of Schools. This committee oversaw the construction of a new wing on each side of the present school. Extensive renovations were made in the cafeteria-auditorium section of the building, converting them to classrooms. Two kindergarten classes have been added. In 1967 these additions and improvements to Richmond Elementary School were dedicated.

In 1960, thirty years following centralization, regionalization made new inroads. A Chariho Regional Vocational-Technological School was dedicated. This building is adjacent to the Chariho High School. In it are taught vocational skills to all interested and qualified students in the South County area. These students requiring liberal subjects to round out their curricula may study them at their own area high schools.

(Continued on page 6)

4. THE SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF RICHMOND  
SHANNOCK, RHODE ISLAND

By  
Marion Dawley Hawkins

On November 14, 1773, in the evening, a few freemen who felt the need of a place to worship in their town, held their first meeting at the home of William Tefft in Richmondtown. Seven brothers were present, namely, Pardon Tillinghast, Robert Kinyon, Harper Rogers, William Tefft, George Nye, Jeremiah Crandall and Nathaniel Perkins.

This meeting was called as a result of discontent and difference of belief about worshipping God, in the middle 1700's, in South Kingstown and other southern Rhode Island towns. Much discussion took place at this meeting and a second meeting was called for Nov. 20th, about a week later, at which time the number was increased by the presence of the following people: Mial Salisbury, Jeremiah Tefft, William Bentley, Charles Boss, and females Mary Tefft, Content Boss, Elizabeth Clarke and Abigail Niles.

As the people were from different churches, or no church, their greatest desire was to unite for the glory of God, and their own happiness. To endeavor to take labor, to enquire into one another's minds, to see if they are agreed in points of principle and practise. Then to put their proceedings to writing.

Questions presented at the meeting were such as this:  
"Who hath a desire to build the cause of God in this part of the land?" All present did have the desire.

"Why may not we the subscribers unite together to build the cause of God?"

At the December meeting of the same year (1773), it was concluded the first thing, or labor, was to give each other the means of fellowship by giving a Relation of the Dealings of God with them in moving them forward to this work which labor was attempted by some.

The first covenant meeting was held the third Seventh Day of the month of June 1774. The brethren provisioned for the communion table by providing two platters and two beaker glasses for the use of the church, and also a book for records.. (Nathan Perkins appointed Clerk...) Members wrote to Solomon Sprague, Simon Brown, and Ebenezer Brown of South Kingstown, R.I. together with their churches, to come and behold our order, and do as the Lord might direct on the first day of August 1774.

The Church of Christ, as it was referred to at that time, united with the General Conference at the Stonington Association of Eastern Churches on October first, 1776.

An item of special interest to me was that on September 15, 1776, "the Church received into Special Covenant and Watch Care our beloved brother Frank, a negro slave." Then on July 11, 1778, the records read, "Suspended from our Communion our brother Frank, a negro, for leaving his master and going to the British Troops, enemies to our State, then lying in Newport Harbor."

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With the help of Solomon Sprague, Simeon Brown, Eliezer Brown, Elisha Green with messengers from several churches, they appointed Brother Charles Boss as the first minister to have pastoral charge of the flock, around April 1781. He was ordained and set apart to the work of the ministry. He served the church for seven years and one month.

Referring back to January 1775, nineteen members, with Charles Boss' name heading the list, the church drew up and adopted seventeen "articles of travail," so called. These articles are fully recorded in the original records, and each Article is followed by several references of scripture. As these Articles are rather lengthy and difficult to read, due to the different type of writing in those days, I have found it easier to give the revised Articles, which were revised and recorded in 1836, under the pastorate of Rev. David Bennett.

Article 1 ---The Godhead ---Father, Son, Holy Ghost.

Article 2 ---Depravity ---Created in image of Christ, but due to mans downfall, lost His image.  
(Sinners)

Article 3 ---Divinity and Atonement of Christ.---Giving life again through Faith.

Article 4 ---The Holy Ghost---Agent by whose power sinners are regenerated and sanctified.

Article 5 ---Obligation of Sinners de.---Duty to believe or be condemned.

Article 6 ---Regeneration---Change from spiritual death to spiritual life.

Article 7 ---Perseverance---Kept in newness of life through faith.

Article 8 ---Election of sovereignty---Chosen by God, not by good works

Article 9 ---Justification---by Faith through Jesus Christ.

Article 10---Sanctification---Begun in regeneration and is a progress work.

Article 11---Christ the Head of the Church---Only Lord, law giver with no defect.

Article 12---Baptism---Immersion in water.

Article 13---The Lord's Supper---To perpetuate the memory of His suffering.

Article 14---Good Works---A saving faith in the Lord will manifest itself by good works.

Article 15---General Judgement---God will judge the world.

The Church of Christ in Richmondtown was founded upon six principles:

1. Repentance from dead works
2. Faith towards God
3. Doctrine of Baptism
4. Laying on of hands (this is the sixth principle)
5. Ressurrection of the dead
6. Eternal Judgement

(To be continued)

6. (Continued from page 3)-RICHMOND SCHOOLS

Our educational needs, propelled by increased population, inspired by young inquiring minds, jettied by scientific research, broadened by expanding history, demand greater facilities, highly qualified teachers, a greater array of teaching materials, and buildings to house them all. The building would seem to be the least important of these inspirations, yet as years pass it seems that we become most nostalgic for that school building--"my desk," "my chair," "my favorite coat hook or locker," regardless of how many feet and coats have passed that way.

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RICHMOND GRANGE NO. 6

(Continued from Volume I, page 75)

Following are a few interesting facts about the Grange:

Dec. 4, 1913-Past State Master-Frank E. Marchant laid cornerstone for the Hall.

The Grange men did the work of building the hall while the women served them meals.

Thirty-five days later, the hall was completed but not a finished product.

On Jan. 8, 1914 officers were installed in their new hall with Helen H. Smith Cottrell assisting.

They used lanterns to see by, had boxes and planks to sit on, bagstacked to windows for curtains, tables borrowed from Queen's River Church, and a portable organ lent to them by Rev. C. H. Palmer.

Later, in 1922, they raised and lengthened the hall, Brother Jed Champlin donating the lumber.

In October 1932, a \$700.00 mortgage was cleared up.

As of now, there is no mortgage on the property and many improvements have been made through the years, on both the hall and grounds.

The Grange meets on the first and third Friday of every month, and all members are invited to attend.

Anyone interested in joining the Grange should contact the Master, J. Jesse Cottrell, Jr., 783-3464.

We are community minded, farm, family organization, always happy to have new members join, and delighted to have visitors attend any of our meetings.

"A Friend in Need is a Friend indeed - that's a Granger"

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It might be well to change the meeting date of the monthly town meetings of the Society from the third Tuesday of the month to some other night as this conflicts with the meetings of the Pettequamscutt Historical Society which started before we did. Many members belong to both groups. The Board is open to suggestions from the Members as to a desirable time.

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JULY 1969

#### NEXT RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOWN MEETING

The fifteenth town meeting of the Richmond Historical Society will be held Tuesday evening, July 15th. Members and guests will assemble at the Richmond Town Hall at 7:30 P.M. From there, they will drive to the home of Leona Kelley, Peace Dale, R.I. Leona has plans for us which she will not divulge until we arrive. Bring a folding chair, insect repellent, and wear comfortable shoes and clothes. Bring a sweater or jacket. For the benefit of those who do not or cannot walk, this will not be a hike but you will be out of doors part of the time. Be prompt as the calvalcade leaves promptly at 7:30 P.M. Bring the family - this is informal.

#### COLLATION COMMITTEE

The Collation Committee for the next town meeting will be: Mr. & Mrs. Milton J. Kelley, Co-Chairmen; Lucy Rawlings Tootell.

#### NEXT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

The next Executive Council Meeting of the Richmond Historical Society will be held at the home of Lucy Rawlings Tootell on Tuesday evening, August 5th, at 8 P.M.

#### FIELD TRIP

There will be no planned Field Trip this Month. If there should be one, a notice will be placed in the Westerly Sun or the Bulletin HERE AND THERE IN SOUTH COUNTY.

#### COMING EVENTS

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| July 15            | Richmond Historical Society Town Meeting   |
| July 22            | Charlestown Historical Society Meeting   |
| July 27            | Hopkinton Historical Society Picnic  |
| Aug. 10            | Indian Pow Wow in Charlestown  |
| Aug. 10            | Model A Club of R.I. meets at home of Leona Kelley<br>-Visitors welcome after Lunch to see cars. |
| Aug. 15<br>(16,17) | Washington County Pomona Fair  |
| Oct. 18            | Fall Tour League of Rhode Island<br>Historical Societies to<br>Moshassuck Valley.                |
| 1976               | '76 Bicentennial<br>Observance Nation's 200th<br>Birthday.                                       |

#### FREE PUBLICATIONS

- 1969-70 State Highway Map: Write  
Map Desk, R.I. Development Council  
Roger Williams Building, Hayes Street  
Providence, R.I. 02908
- 1969 Edition HISTORIC HOUSES AND MUSEUMS OF N.E.  
Write: Museum Guide Dept. MG  
The New England Council,  
1032 Statler Office Building  
Boston, Mass. 02116

## 8. TOWN MEETING - FIRST ANNUAL MEETING - SECRETARY PATRICIA MILLAR

Lucy Tootell presided at the first annual town meeting. Seventeen members and friends were present. The annual reports were given orally by the officers. These reports will appear in the Newsletter. Eleanor Smith, Historian, showed the files and Scrapbook which represented the greater part of her work.

Charles Edmonds made a motion that the Executive Board be empowered to draw up and have printed permanent charter member and regular membership cards. Hope Blaine seconded the motion which was voter approved.

A letter was written to the Rhode Island Hospital Trust Company concerning the condition and future of Bell School. It was read for public information. No action was taken as no responses had as yet been received.

Herb Arnold, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, was absent as he was attending a Washington County Town Council meeting. Henry Boucher reported the committee had drawn up the following slate of officers: Lucy Rawlings Tootell, President; Carl Stoner, Vice-President; Charles Edmonds, Treasurer; Patricia S. Millar, Secretary, which would mean a continuation of the present slate. As no nominations were offered from the floor, Henry moved the secretary cast one vote for the proposed slate. Earl Brunskill seconded the motion. Vote was affirmative.

On the SHOW & TELL TABLE were pictures and items from the Tercentenary Exhibit which we had in Westerly: Six pictures of Wyoming, gifts of Yvonne Dawley, an interesting old scrapbook which was owned by the Keaney family of Kingston and contained advertising cards from such long-gone places as the G.E Green Drug store and Seagers Dry Goods, both in Hope Valley. They were loaned by Dorothy Covell.

Slides taken by our members on field trips during the past year were shown and narrated. Lucy Tootell, Earl Smith and Marion Hawkins were chief contributors.

Yvonne Dawley made and decorated a lovely birthday cake. Cake and Hawaiian Punch with lemonade was served on T.V. tables. A bouquet of red roses was presented to Lucy Tootell for founding our group

### PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT - LUCY RAWLINGS TOOTELL

One of the most important functions of an organization President is to try to accomplish the aims set up by the Society at the beginning of the year. In the case of the Richmond Historical Society our aim was RICHMOND HISTORY - to make the public more aware and more appreciative of its local heritage. To do this we have had monthly town meeting, monthly Executive Board Meetings, monthly Field Trips, map publications, collected old manuscripts, documents, etc. which are being systematically and excellently recorded by our Archivist and Historian, Eleanor Smith and will be eventually filed in the Town Hall, a most valuable contribution to future research. Also the members are gradually doing research on items of local interest such as

(Continued on page 9)



Col. John Slocum, Alexander Tefft, as well as buildings, sites, and folklore. I feel that the Society has accomplished much in their first year, something having been done under each aim as well as cooperating with the Rhode Island Heritage Committee by Historic Markers, special programs i.e. Wood River Sixth Principle Baptis Church Ceremony, and cooperation with the Westerly Tercentennial Committee with an exhibit in Willard's Hardware Store on Richmond History and a week long exhibit in the Richmond Town Hall. As President I would like to thank all the members of the Society who have been so faithful and worked so hard to make our first year a most saitsfactory one, and, especially to Carl Stoner who has been so generous with his time and written data on Richmond Cemeteries. Many thanks to Virginia Arnold for her excellent reporting of the Society affairs. Last but not least, I would like to thank the Society Members for the beautiful bouquet of red roses which they presented to me at the Annual Meeting. This was indeed a surprise!! Red roses are my favorite flowers and doubly so when they come my favorite people!! A friend is one with whom you can be YOURSELF - I am proud and honored to consider all the members of the Richmond Historical Society MY FRIENDS! This year has been a lot of fun and I look forward to a second year just as interesting. PAX VOBIS CUM.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER - CHARLES EDMONDS - June 17, 1969

RECEIPTS

Dues	196.85	
Donations	5.00	
Publication Fund:	11.70	
Maps	2.20	
Post Cards	1.65	
Donation	7.85	
	<u>11.70</u>	
	<u>TOTAL</u>	213.55

EXPENSES

Newsletter & R.I. Heritage Month Publications	80.05	
Historic Markers	<u>11.00</u>	
	<u>TOTAL</u>	91.05
Balance on hand June 17, 1969		<u>122.50</u>

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY - PARTICIA SMITH MILLAR

On April second, 1968, an organizational meeting to form a Richmond Historical Society was held at the home of Mrs. Lucy Rawlings Tootell. The persons attending were very enthusiastic about the project and had many suggestions to offer. A second  
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10. (Continued from page 9) ANNUAL REPORT OF SECRETARY

organizational meeting was held on May 7 at which time officers were elected and plans for a public meeting made. The Society has progressed enthusiastically ahead, digging into Richmond's past.

Dispensing with the reading of the minutes has enabled me to freely write at length at both the Board and Town meetings, hopefully adding color and depth to our business transactions. Included are snatches of conversations, bits of personal histories, anecdotes (some of which have been printed in the newsletters), thoughts and opinions, all aimed at future historians so that they may have greater insight into our approach to history, our attitudes, and way of life. Also, I have a tendency to be wordy and the "no-minutes" policy has given me free reign without boring my audience. The Secretary's books are available at any time should anyone desire to read them. The minutes are in longhand. If I ever acquire a typewriter, I shall be happy to type these pages for easier reading.

Each new member has received a membership card. A family membership record is being kept complete with notes on public service and Historical Society participation.

Letters of thank you, protest, and inquiry have been written. A few hours have been spent on research. The fun has been great, the expenses few (\$3.22).

An average attendance of 20 has marked the public meetings. There has been a slight decline in participation the second half of the year, however, we feel this has been due to illness and business of our members rather than a decline in program interest. The Board meetings were attended regularly by an average of 8 people. Active members have participated willingly and generously on collation committees and projects.

To everyone who has given me interesting things to write, thank you.

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LAST FIELD TRIP - LUCY RAWLINGS TOOTELL

On Sunday June 29th, the Richmond Historical Society joined with the Charlestown Historical Society on a conducted Field Trip over the Indian Reservation in Charlestown, R.I.

It was a terribly hot day which discouraged many from attending but the hardy members dressed comfortably and knew that the trees would make the area cooler as well as being near the ocean. Historically it was an extremely educational experience. Reverend and Mrs. Mars, in Indian costume, told about the Indian Church while the guests sat on the hand hewn seats. The rear of the church is supposed to be the wall of the original church on the same site. The 1869 bible was on display. Unfortunately vandals have stolen the candleabra and old light fixtures. Vandalism is a very serious problem for historic buildings and sites, so many are off in the wilderness by themselves. Just recently, the sign at Queen's Fort has disappeared.

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Other spots visited were family home foundations, the Indian Spring with clear cool water on top of which was floating a watermelon - luckily for the Boy Scout consumers, not a historic watermelon! Also visited were the CHILD CRYING ROCKS, a cluster of glacier stones where tradition claims sick or dying children were taken and abandoned - there are also other versions. The site of the Council Rocks and the Old Indian School near Cocumpeug (Old School House Pond) was revisited. The only building left in connection with the school is the "Necessary." Why that is not also considered a fire hazard, I can't understand - if this little building is impervious to fire, it should be included among the Civil Defense Shelters - same difference!

The cemetery in back of the Indian Church covers a very large area. Rubbings of these stones still legible should be made before they become too badly eroded. This could be a fun project or an art project and also an asset to the historical records of the Indian Heritage of Rhode Island.

Another guide on our tour was Mr. Joseph Hazard, obviously a very well informed historian on his Indian ancestors and the Charlestown area. Before we returned home, we stopped at the intersection of Routes 112 and the South County Trail to view a very huge STATIONARY MORTAR in back of the home of Gertrude Brown. However, don't go visiting without permission from Gertrude as her dog - or Wolf - might sink his teeth into you. I was thrilled as this was another bit of history of which I was not aware. It was wonderful that the Reverend Mars thought of asking Joseph Hazard to join the group. Everyone, including the automobiles, was dirty, hot and thirsty, by the time they reached home but it sure was worth it! Richmond thanks the Charlestown Historical Society for a splendid Field Trip. We all made sure that the darling baby of Tall Oak and his attractive wife was not left behind in the CRYING ROCKS! Some adults groaned a bit as they pushed through the branches but the baby didn't say a word!

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(Continued from Vol. II., page 5)-SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF RICHMOND

On November 8, 1787 a meeting of the Church of Richmond under Elder Charles Boss was held to discuss building a meeting house. The House was to be set on land then belonging to Perry Watson, on the ground nearest to Robert Stanton's northwest corner of land, to be obtained for that purpose. A house of the following dimensions was to be erected, 36 feet by 20 feet, and of the usual height. Subscriptions for work and material contributions were gratefully acknowledged by the church. Sixty-two pounds or \$310.00 was received, and whether this, plus labor, was all is not known. Perry Watson gave the land and the deed was executed December 13, 1787, and about 40 other names are listed as donating generously.

The following trustees were appointed and instructed to procure and hold the lot and erect the house: Elder Charles Boss, William Browning, David Clerke, Gideon Babcock, Sands Perkins, Robert Champlin, and John Stanton. (Continued on page 12)

12. (Continued from page 11) SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF RICHMOND

The trustees covenant was read, approved, signed and ratified by the parties, and ordered to be registered in the town records of Richmond together with the deed for the church lot, June 7, 1788.

Elder Boss passed away July 27, 1788, in his 41st year. Elder Oliver Knight was the second pastor, but was relieved of the pastorate in 1805 as a disorderly walker.

Many meetings were held regarding the conduct of Elder Knight, and his attitude toward a certain lady of the congregation, to which he admitted, and though he promised to refrain from such conduct, he was repeatedly accused of continuing in his misbehaviour, and also lying about it. He was causing a great deal of dissention among the members of the congregation, and was finally dismissed as pastor.

Referring back to the time when Elder Boss was pastor, and the brethren were busy planning to build a church house, several articles of interest were adopted, which are not only interesting, but will probably be helpful in making the church people of today understand why it is the desire of this church to support its work by tithing, and free will offerings, rather than by holding public sales, auctions, etc.

In 1783 the records state, "We believe that God in His Word has commanded us to support the Gospel by our free contributions, they that preach the gospel, and all houses built for the purpose of worship, call for support, and should be supported by freely contributing publicly or privately as the circumstance of the case may call for, and those that neglect to contribute to either of these, according to their ability, God reserves the punishment of those that neglect. . alone to Himself, and has never left it to men to force it from them by rates or fines or prisons." (Ex.36.3, ---2 Kings 12:9,10---Romans 15:26,27---2 Cor: 9; 5-13)

On April 19, 1783 the church agreed that each one contribute an equal sum upon every hundred dollars, as he shall think himself to be worth at the time of contribution, and that this method be established as a rule of the church. (The amounts were often paid in produce, corn being especially mentioned.)

It was also decided in 1783 that if anyone had burdens, they were to bring them before the church to be removed. It appears in the records that many people had burdens, (even as they do today), and much time was spent in meetings airing the numerous grievances and attempting to dissolve them. These meetings seem to have a resemblance to court scenes, with plaintiff and defendent each given time to express his opinions, or burdens, with the church board acting somewhat like a jury and the pastor as a Judge. Usually the burdens were settled satisfactorily, but the records also show that in many instances, several members would leave the church, either by choice, or by request, as they could not continue to travail with certain people in the church.

(To Be Continued)

Vol. II. No. 3 L.R. Tootell, Wyoming, R.I. 02898

AUGUST 1969

## NEXT RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOWN MEETING

The sixteenth Town Meeting of the Richmond Historical Society will be held Tuesday evening, September 9th at 8 P.M. To date it is planned to hold the meeting in the Town Hall but watch the Westerly Sun for any change of building.

We are very honored in having Mr. Joh Rego, State Director of Natural Resources as our Speaker of the evening. His subject will be CONSERVATION IN RICHMOND AND PRESERVATION OF THE BELL SCHOOL HOUSE. The public is invited to attend this valuable informative talk.

## COLLATION COMMITTEE

The Collation Committee for the next Town Meeting will be: Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Arnold, Co-Chairmen; Mrs. Esther Kenyon, and Mr. & Mrs. William Ironside. See Volume I - page 11 for instructions.

## NEW MONTHLY DATE FOR TOWN MEETINGS BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER

Last year the monthly town meetings were held on the third Tuesday of each month. This conflicts with the meetings of the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society which started before our organization. Since so many members of the Richmond Historical Society also belong to the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society, it was felt that a change should be made and hereafter the Richmond Historical Society will meet on the second Tuesday of each Month. Thus:

Second Tuesday - Richmond Historical Society  
 Third Tuesday - Pettaquamscutt Historical Society  
 Fourth Tuesday - Charlestown Historical Society  
 Thursday - Hopkinton Historical Society  
 Thursday - Westerly Historical Society

## NEXT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

The next Executive Council meeting of Richmond Historical Society will be held at the home of Lucy Rawlings Tootell on Tuesday evening, September 2nd at 8 P.M.

All designs for a Society Seal should be submitted to the Board prior to this meeting so that a final decision can be made at that time.

## JOIN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dues - \$3.00 Family membership  
 Jan. 1 - \$1.50  
 Mar. 1 - \$3.00 includes next year.

14.

REGRETS!!

REGRETS!!

REGRETS!!

The Richmond Historical Society is very sorry to have to do this but postage is so expensive for a poor Society to handle, it cannot afford to continue sending the NewsLetter to those members who have not paid their dues. The Board decided to mail the New Letter for three months and then stop delivery after that date. The new year began June 1st. News Letters have been mailed to all members for June - July - and August. So - with many tears of regret, this will have to be the last copy of the News Letter you will receive unless you have already renewed your membership for which we thank you. SO-----

BE A GOOD SPORT AND PAY UP!!

IT'S ONLY \$3.00

#### TOMB STONE RUBBINGS ON DISPLAY

On the first floor of the Library at the University of Rhode Island are displayed TOMB STONE RUBBINGS made by Kathleen Schlenker and her daughter. Perhaps we can persuade Kathleen to talk to the Society some time and take us on a field trip to show the members how to make these rubbings.

#### CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION

The Richmond Historical Society has qualified for exemption pursuant to the provisions of the Rhode Island Sales and Use Tax Act, Chapter 18, Title 44 of the General Laws of 1956, as amended, and is accordingly exempt from the payment of the sales tax on sales made to it and from the use tax on the storage, use of other consumption of tangible personal property by it.

If you itemize your deductibles on your Federal Income Tax, your dues to the Society can be included.

#### ANONYMOUS GIFT

The Richmond Historical Society is thrilled to have received an anonymous gift of a metal four drawer file which Earl Brunskill picked up with his truck and delivered to the Town Hall where the Town Council has given permission to place in the Town Clerk's Office. Markers have already been placed on each of the four drawers i.e.

1. HIGHLIGHTS
2. GENEALOGY - FAMILY HISTORY
3. LAND - BUILDINGS - SITES
4. OFFICE FILE

This gift is a tremendous saving to the Society and a most considerate and thoughtful gesture on the part of the Anonymous Givers. The members are most appreciative and send you many heartfelt thanks.

#### VICE-PRESIDENT UNDER THE WEATHER

Our official CEMETERIAN, Vice-President Carl Stoner is in the Veteran's Hospital in Providence. I am sure that he would be delighted to hear from the members. Being in a hospital can be very boring, especially to a man who has been as active as Carl.

October 18, 1969 - LEAGUE OF R.I. HISTORICAL SOCIETIES FALL TOUR.

Vol. II. No.4    L.R.Tootell,Wyoming,R.I.02898    SEPTEMBER 1969

#### NEXT RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOWN MEETING

The seventeenth Town Meeting of the Richmond Historical Society will be held Tuesday evening, October 14, at 8 P.M., in the Richmond Town Hall. Mr. & Mrs. Peter Merrifield, Carolina, R.I. will show their vast collection of United States Flags and talk on FLAGS OVER RICHMOND. The public is always welcome.

#### COLLATION COMMITTEE

The Collation Committee for the next Town Meeting will be: Mr. Charles Edmonds, Chairman; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dyson, and Mrs. Olga Nimmo. Lucy Tootell will bring a table cloth and container for liquid refreshments if needed. (See Volume I., page 11 for instructions).

#### NEXT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

The next Executive Council meeting of the Richmond Historical Society will be held at the home of Lucy Rawlings Tootell on Wednesday evening, October 22nd at 8 P.M.

#### NEXT FIELD TRIP

The next Field trip will be held on Sunday October 12th at 2 P.M. Interested members and friends are invited to meet at the Richmond Town Hall where they will join the Bell School House Committee in looking over the area around the Richmond Town Hall to consider an ideal location for the Bell School House and then to drive up to the present location of the School and visit and inspect the interior of the building.

#### BELL SCHOOL HOUSE COMMITTEE

The Bell School House Committee is as follows: Rob Roy Rawlings, Chairman, William Ironsides, Herbert Arnold, Leona Kelley, Charles Edmonds, and Henry Boucher.

#### HISTORICAL MARKERS COMMITTEE

The members of the Historical Markers Committee are: Messers Earl Smith, Chairman, Henry Boucher and Charles Edmonds.

#### JOIN OR REJOIN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mail your check to  
Charles Edmonds, Treasurer  
Carolina, R.I.

Dues            \$3.00 Family membership  
Jan. 1           1.50  
Mar. 1           3.00 includes next year

#### LEAGUE OF R.I. HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

1969 Autumn Tour-Sat. October 18  
\$5.00

Places still available.  
Relax on the bus-enjoy good food

RICHMOND HISTORY  
Lucy Rawlings Tootell  
Wyoming, R.I. 02898

16. ABSTRACTS FROM LAST TOWN MEETING BY PATRICIA MILLAR, SECRETARY

A communication from Leonard Panaggio of the R.I. Heritage Month Comm. asked for volunteers to help host the exhibition booth at the Eastern States Exposition, Sept. 12-21. This is about the only income the committee has. (Mrs. Tootell, Mrs. Blaine, Mr. Charles Edmonds, and Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Taylor spent one day there).

On the SHOW & TELL TABLE were: an 1849 New England Directory of Rhode Island owned by Lucy Avery James; a pamphlet, HISTORIC HOUSES AND MUSEUMS OF NEW ENGLAND, available from the New England Council; and zerox pictures of the old Richmond Schools, fifty cents for a set of four or fifteen cents each. Also Mr. Harold Kenyon made a gift of an 1816 certificate for a carriage made out to David Clarke.

Mr. Rob Roy Rawlings was recognized as having been recently appointed to the Advisory Council for the Rhode Island Department of Natural Resources.

A tribute to our recently departed Vice-President, J. Carl Stoner, included a reading of NO MAN IS AN ISLAND and the presenting of an honorary resolution by President Tootell. Town Council President Herbert Arnold moved acceptance of the resolution to be followed by several seconds and was passed unanimously.

A letter pertaining to the Bell School House from Captain Marcus Whitford was read.

John L. Rego, Director of Natural Resources was introduced as the guest speaker. Mr. Rego's first purpose was to discuss the present precarious situation of Bell School House. There has been vandalism at the school; it should probably be moved to be properly protected. If we wanted it moved to a location on State property it could be moved. The State would move it. "Let's do it now if we are going to," Mr. Rego enthused. There was discussion about movability, foundation stones, new locations, a desirability of moving as apposed to fenced preservation on original site, deeds, etc.

Motion: that it is the sentiment of the group that Bell School be moved to a safer location. Motion carried.

Motion: to request the State of R.I. Department of Natural Resources to move Bell School House and the foundation stones to a site adjacent to the Town Hall on State owned property. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: that the President appoint a committee to work with the Natural Resources people to determine exact site for re-location of the Bell School, research the deeds, and arrange all details pertaining to this action. Motion carried.

Volunteers for the Bell School Moving Committee were: Mr. Rob Roy Rawlings, Henry Boucher, Leona Kelley, Charles Edmonds, Bill Ironsides, and Herbert Arnold. Rob Roy was appointed Chairman.

Director Rego stated, "If this is your wish, the building can be moved and turned over to the Richmond Historical Society for its headquarters for as long as it is needed, but it would remain State property. Don't let this hang in committee, DO IT!"

(Continued on page 17)

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FREE FILMS AVAILABLE FROM LIBRARY LOAN SERVICE (See page 17)

America's Cup Races: 1964                      twenty-eight minutes long.

America's Cup Races 1967                      twenty-eight minutes long.