

NEXT RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOWN MEETING

The fourth Town Meeting of the Richmond Historical Society will be held in the Richmond Town Hall, Tuesday evening, Aug. 20th, at 8 P.M. The theme of the program will be LOCAL INDIAN HISTORY which will include an illustrated talk on the NARRAGANSETT TRIBE by Lucy Rawlings Tootell. Members and friends are invited to bring artifacts, pictures, clippings or stories about Indians for the SHOW & TELL TABLE. This meeting is open to the public.

COLLATION COMMITTEE

The Collation Committee for the next town meeting will be: Mr. & Mrs. James Niles, Co-Chairmen; Mr. & Mrs. Earl Brunskill, and Mr. Charles Edmonds. (See page 11 for instructions)

NEXT FIELD TRIP

The fifth Field Trip of the Richmond Historical Society will take place on Sunday, August 25th at 2 P.M. The public is invited to meet at the Richmond Town Hall. From there the motorcade will visit Indian Historic sites of local interest and also visit the historic home of Mr. & Mrs. Milton J. Kelley and view their vast collection of local memorabilia. Comfortable clothes and cameras are recommended.

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, September 3rd at 8 P.M.

LAST TOWN MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

In spite of terrifically hot weather, twenty-five stalwart historians attended the last town meeting in the Richmond Town Hall. The discussion and comments were most interestingly punctuated by frequent resounding slaps on "too, too solid flesh" - the Richmond mosquitoes were a blood thirsty crew that night! Windows just HAD to be open but there are no screens!! - OH Citizens of Richmond!! - have pity on those poor Town Council Members and allot enough money to them to put screens as well as storm windows on the Council Chambers!

For some reason still unknown, the principal speaker on Kenyon Village failed to appear - probably melted from the heat - but fortunately Hazel Dyson brought a booklet, HISTORICAL SKETCH OF RICHMOND 1747 to 1876, written by James R. Irish, and she very graciously read excerpts concerning Kenyon from this booklet. We were lucky to have a humorous anecdote on BISCUIT CITY, written by that incomparable story teller, James Murtagh (See page 26). With additional facts from the audience, we learned enough about Kenyon to be eager to know more in the future.

The SHOW & TELL TABLE displayed the following items:

1. HOPE BLAINE displayed and told about her collection of silver spoons made by silversmiths of Newport and Providence, namely; Shaw, Mumford, B.F. Tisdale, H.W. Pray, etc. Were there any silversmiths in Richmond? (See page 28). Lucy Tootell brought a book

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about SILVERSMITHS IN LITTLE REST (Kingston, R.I.), by William Davis Miller.

2. RUSSELL KENYON JR. brought two old photos of Kenyon Mills in 1903 and a picture of the Railroad Wreck at Richmond Switch on May 10, 1863.

3. SALLY HOYLE brought a family bible which contained tintypes of some Teffts, Clarkes, and Perrys.

4. NANCY CROTTY brought a little book, AMERICAN HISTORY STORIES, Vol. 1. 1889 by Mara L. Pratt, M.D.

5. ESTHER KENYON brought two newspapers: (1) Providence Evening Press of July 8, 1861, containing a speech by President Lincoln, and (2) the New York Herald of April 15, 1865 prints an account of President Lincoln's assassination on the black-bordered front page.

Under business, Lucy Tootell, in the name of the Historical Society, wrote a letter to Mr. Charles E. Boyd, Director of the Department of Natural Resources on July 3rd, concerning the Old Baker Cemetery (See page 7) and stating that it was the feeling of the Richmond Historical Society Members that this cemetery should be cleared of the debris thrown there and maintained in reasonably good condition.

On July 9, 1968, Mr. Boyd answered the above letter of concern thanking us for bringing the condition of the Old Baker Cemetery to his attention:-

"We have made a preliminary investigation and, if we have the right cemetery, have corrected the situation. The state did not cut the trees--it was the result of a blow-down--and we had not completed the clearing of the area. This has now been completed."

A committee was appointed to inspect the cemetery and the Society secretary, Patricia Miller, was instructed to write a thank you letter to Mr. Boyd for his prompt attention and answer to our first letter. Mrs. Miller also wrote a letter to the local area representative of the Arcadia Management area, Mr. Cliff Tiffany in which she mentions that, "Since receiving Mr. Boyd's letter several members of the Richmond Historical Society have revisited the site and found that the trees and branches have been tossed aside from the cemetery, but that brush debris remains, none of the stones have been righted and no raking done. . . . as a result of the investigation . . . several questions have arisen:-

1. The largest stone reads Caleb Barber. Could this be the Barber Cemetery rather than the Baker Cemetery?

2. There was another cemetery in the Baker Pines area which cannot be located. Do you know where it is?

3. There are many marble footstones with no marble headstones at the above cemetery. Have these perhaps been moved from their original ground? If so, where was the original ground . . . ?"

The letter in its entirety will be read at the next meeting. Because of the heat, the Society was doubly grateful to Hope Blaine and Natalie Taylor for the delicious refreshments and cool punch.

GIFTS TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

68.8.1 Bulletin on Thomas A. Tefft, Architect
Gift of Mrs. Donald Bradbury

LAST FIELD TRIP

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"Oh, what a beautiful morning! Oh, what a beautiful day!" Like the song from OKLAHOMA, such was the weather for the last Field Trip to the SAUGUS IRONWORKS RESOTORATION. Six carloads of twenty-four people braved the Sunday traffic and, with periscopes up, managed to keep Lucy's red car in view for a pleasant and uneventful two hour drive, with the possible exception of a slightly startled Carl Stoner when he suddenly drove into the pitch black darkness of the tunnel under Boston's busy streets!

Arriving at the Ironworks we had a leisurely picnic lunch on the Restoration Grounds; visited the carefully restored home of the Ironmaster with its Keeping Room, Great Room, Weaving Room, and antique furniture; the Museum which displayed relics from the excavation including part of the original water wheel, Bog Iron, Flux, Charcoal, and tools hammered from the Saugus made iron.

At 1:30 a guide gave a conducted tour and demonstration of the Blast Furnace, actually running the water wheel and the immense leather bellows. Nearby was the 300 year old Forge where cast iron SOW BARS were actually being reheated and beaten into wrought iron by a water-wheel powered Giant Hammer - fascinating and terribly noisy to watch! Some of the youngsters questioned the warmth of the red hot iron but a surreptitious touch of their fingers quickly transferred to their mouths verified the intensity of the heat!

A third building housed the rolling and slitting mill with its pair of powerful water wheels - a tribute to the ingenuity of our forefathers as the engineering principal of modern steel industry is fundamentally the same with the exception of the use of water power.

A most delightful and congenial adventure - there was something for all ages including slides, picture post cards, books, souvenirs, and settees under large shade trees. Many children had their pictures taken in the stocks and pillory. Every parent should have one!

FAMILY HISTORY

The Richmond Town Clerk referred Miss Marjorie Lillibridge of P.O.Box 105, New Hampton, Iowa 50659 to Lucy Tootell for information on the Lillibridge family. Miss Lillibridge drove here from Iowa to check on any family relatives and see the Thomas Lillibridge cemetery and the plantation once owned by the Lillibridges. This is her first time in Rhode Island. She is a secretary to the famous fiction writer, Frances Parkinson Keyes. Marjorie is a tenth generation descendant through Thomas, Thomas, and Champlain Lillibridge. Mr. Henry Kenyon willingly gave permission for Miss Lillibridge to cross his land in order to visit the Lillibridge cemetery where the first Thomas is buried. She has promised to send her family history to the Historical Society for filing under the Lillibridge Genealogy. She would be delighted to hear from any Lillibridge descendants. Why not write to her.

GIFTS TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- 68.9 Collection clippings & museum items (more details later).
Gift of Mrs. Lucy Avery James
- 68.10.1 Historical Scrap Book Cover
Gift of Lucy Rawlings Tootell
- 68.11 Pictures of Alfred W. Kenyon
Gift of Mrs. Virginia Kenyon Cottrell

By JAMES MURTAGH *

Years ago when the Kenyon Mills wove cotton and worsted cloth and help came from the other towns and mills, they were called TRAMP WEAVERS. These workers were highly skilled and, although they did not stay long in one place, there was always a weaving job to be found for them because of their skill.

When they first entered the town, these TRAMP WEAVERS banded together and found shelter under one of the bridges. Later, when they found work, they were taken into the village boarding house.

There was at least one Boarding House in every town. A man could obtain room, board, and washing for \$5.00 weekly. Sometimes one of the TRAMP WEAVERS would become known as the STAR BOARDER with special privileges.

These "Cowboys of the Railroad Track" arrived in Kenyon riding the rods under a freight train or a passenger train. Of course it was a dangerous way to ride but very few lost their lives or were injured at that time. As we would say today - it was a way of life.

How did Biscuit City get its name? This is the way I heard it -

After three or four of these men had washed, shaved and cleaned up, one of them would be chosen to look over the food situation. The system was for the CHOSEN ONE to go to the different homes and find the house where smoke was coming out of the chimney. This indicated that some Wife was making breakfast for her Men Folk to give them strength for the days work. Then a Days Work was a sixty hour week at nine to twelve dollars more or less.

These wives nearly always made biscuits for breakfast, and so, whenever a Tramp came looking for food, he usually received stale biscuits from the previous day - any day and every day it was Biscuits! Biscuits! Biscuits!

As the story goes, one morning, very early, a TRAMP WEAVER went to one of the houses where smoke was coming out of the chimney, it being nearly breakfast time. After knocking, the Good Wife opened the door and the Tramp said he was hungry and for God's Sake would she give him something to eat!

Being a frugal Yankee housewife, she gave him some very hard biscuits from the previous day.

After looking at them, he cried out in desperation, "Lady -- for Chr**t's Sake - will you put some butter on them!!!"

* James Murtagh lives in Biscuit City, Richmond, R.I. on the original old road now by-passed by the South County Trail - Route 2. This area lies roughly on both sides of the South County Trail north of the Kenyon Railroad Bridge overpass for Route 2.

GIFTS TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- 68.12.1 Picture of Dr. Frances Kenyon
Gift of Mr. James Niles
- 68.13.1 Picture of the Saugus Ironworks Field Trip Tour Group
Gift of Earl Brunskill

The Executive Council includes the Officers plus Chairmen of the 1870 School Districts and the lower Hope Valley area. Each Chairmen attends the Executive Council meetings and collects and files data of historical interest with the Society Archivist and helps the Council to prepare programs, exhibits, tours, and does research on the following: -

1. Reason for District Name
2. History and location of the schools
3. Early History - Indians - Land Sales - Early Settlers
4. Interesting buildings, sites, landmarks
5. Cemeteries
6. Family Histories - important people
7. Plantations (Lands & Estates)
8. Industries and business
9. Unique features
10. Stories - humorous anecdotes
11. Maps - pictures - clippings - scrapbooks
12. Boundaries - highways - transportation - post offices
13. Villages, development of

Below is listed the School Districts and names of the Chairmen. Several areas still need Chairmen. Would anyone like to volunteer? If so, call Lucy Tootell (539-7581).

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Pine Grove (Woodville) | ? |
| 2. Carolina | Charles Edmonds |
| 3. Shannock | ? |
| 4. Usquepaugh | Virginia Arnold |
| 5. Center (Quarrelsome Corners) | Lucy Rawlings Tootell |
| 6. Squirrelville (Kenyon Hill) | Carl Stoner |
| 7. Wyoming | Henry Boucher |
| 8. Teffts Hill | Billie Stetson |
| 9. Bell | Earl Smith |
| 10. Washington | Earl Smith |
| 11. Plainville (Alton & Wood River) | ? |
| 12. Hillsdale (Junction) | Earl Smith |
| 13. Arcadia | ? |
| 14. Boss (Beaver River area between
Usquepaugh & Kenyon) | Sally Stedman Hoyle |
| 15. Kenyon | Earl Brunskill |
| *16. Hope Valley | James Niles |

* Actually no number given to Hope Valley as children attended school in Hopkinton. Number used for reference.

MAPS FOR SALE

Black and white off-set copies of the 1870 Richmond School District Map are for sale at the monthly town meetings or contact Lucy R. Tootell. The price is 50¢ for Non-Members and 25¢ for Members. Dana Miller assisted by his sister Narda, found an error on the map - the Boss School District should be No. 14 and not No. 11. Also the date 1870 is missing.

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SILVERSMITHS & COUNTERFEITERS

Silversmithing and Jewelry holds third place among Rhode Island's Industrial BIG FOUR.

During the 17th Century Silversmiths were usually found near men of wealth. There being no banks, silver coins were converted into tankards, beakers, spoons, etc. more easily identified if stolen. Arnold Collins of Newport was the Colony's first silversmith.

During the 18th Century Newport Silversmiths included Isaac Anthony, John Coddington, Benjamin Brenton, Daniel Russell, Jonethan Otis and Samuel Vernon. Little Rest (now Kingston, R.I.) Silversmiths were John & Joseph Waite, Nathaniel Helme, Joseph Perkins, Gideon Casey and his brother, the notorious but most talented Samuel Casey who turned counterfeiter. Providence, a less wealthy community than Newport at this time, had John Hancock and Jonathan Doenne.

During the 19th Century, Providence came into its own with the establishment of Gorham's by Jabez Gorham.

Did Richmond ever have any Silversmiths? According to Carl Stoner, it not only had silversmiths but counterfeiters as well!!

During the Revolution, William Reynolds, who ran a grist mill in Tug Hollow, was a silversmith and also made counterfeit money. He was finally caught, tried, convicted and sentenced to be cropped and branded. This charming practice consisted of cutting off a part of each ear and branding each cheek with a hot iron, usually one cheek was branded with the letter R for Rogue and the other cheek branded with the letter C for Counterfeiter. Williams' wife stood near with a lotion to apply to the burned spot on each cheek hoping to remove the scar.

Williams's son, Robert Reynolds, followed in his footsteps but escaped being cropped and branded by means of a thousand dollar bribe in counterfeit money.

Does anyone know of any other Richmond Silversmiths?

NEW MEMBERS (includes entire family)

- 20. Mr. & Mrs. Rob Roy Rawlings
- 21. Mr. & Mrs. James B. Langworthy
- 22. Mr. & Mrs. Russell B. Hoxie
- 23. Mr. & Mrs. James Niles
- 24. Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Kenyon
- 25. Mr. & Mrs. Fred W. Smith
- 26. Mr. & Mrs. John C. Hoyle
- 27. Mr. Daniel James
- 28. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dyson
- 29. Dr. & Mrs. George Young
- 30. Mr. & Mrs. William Stetson
- 31. Mr. Paul Broomfield

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

*Mr. & Mrs. Frank Dawley
109 Weymouth Street
R.I. 02898
R.I.*

BE A CHARTER MEMBER

Join before Sept. 1st.

\$3.00

Charles J. Edmonds, Treasurer
Caroline, Rhode Island



Vol. 1 No. 7 L.R. Tootell, Wyoming, R.I., 02898 SEPTEMBER 1958...

NEXT RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOWN MEETING

The Fifth Town Meeting of the Richmond Historical Society will be held in the Richmond Town Hall, Tuesday evening, Sept. 17th, at 8 P.M. One of our Charter Members, MRS. ESTHER L. KENYON, will tell us some facts of interest about USQUEPAUGH, R.I. Members and friends are invited to bring items of interest for the SHOW & TELL TABLE. Some people had items to show at the last meeting which they did not have an opportunity to show. Please bring them this time. This meeting is open to the public.

COLLATION COMMITTEE

The Collation Committee for the next town meeting will be: Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Kenyon, Co-Chairmen; Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Arnold, and Mr. & Mrs. Frank Dawley. Lucy Tootell will bring a table cloth and container for the liquid refreshments if needed. (See page 11 for instructions)

NEXT FIELD TRIP

The Sixth Field Trip of the Richmond Historical Society will take place on Sunday, September 22nd, at 2 P.M. The public is invited to meet at the Richmond Town Hall. The Motorcade will visit points of interest in the USQUEPAUGH AREA. Wear comfortable clothes and bring your camera.

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, October first at 8 P.M.

LAST TOWN MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Around thirty people attended the last town meeting at which time, Mrs. Tootell showed her slides of the NARRAGANSETT INDIANS (See page 31), and George Knowles, Fairgrounds Road, West Kingston, R.I., brought some dozen boards wired to which were some of his fabulous collection of artifacts gathered over the years from this area and the United States. His father and grandfather collected before him from New York and other areas of the United States and Canada. I believe he said that his grandfather was friendly with General Custer.

To quote Virginia Arnold's article in the Westerly Sun:-
 "George Knowles, of Liberty Lane, West Kingston displayed part of his extensive collection of stone tools made and used by Indians. Many were dug during plowing in this area and some from other states. Mr. Knowles explained the use of each which included arrow heads, knives used for many purposes, crushing bowls made of stone, hatchets and others. Mr. Knowles noted that the Narragansetts were a proud race. He also mentioned that after a battle, when a white village was wiped out, it was recorded in history as a massacre, but when Indians were killed, it was referred to as a fight."
 (Continued on Page 30)

LAST FIELD TRIP

Lucy must apologize to the members of the Historical Society for the long length of the last field trip. It was not intended to be so extended in time - a case of three prima-donnas when any one of them could have furnished the entire program.

Lucy Tootell took the motorcade to the following sites of interest: Stationary Mortar on the Meadowbrook Golf Course; Shannock Falls Marker; Indian Meeting House; King Tom Home and Coronation Rock; Fort Ninigret; Royal Indian Burial Ground; through the original path to Pequot (several non-Indians reneged on this end and met us at the other end); past Notoriope His Wigwam; Worden's Pond; Ministerial Marker; South Kingstown Town Pound and the Franklin Milestone; and on to visit the garden of Soan Mahngotaysee

Soan is a Cherokee Indian Sachem who lays out his garden in true Cherokee fashion and who has built his own home which includes many original ideas of his own. The group spent at least two hours under his guidance. We learned and observed his many talents among which being his writings, and paintings and ingenuous creations. Vistors come from all over New England to see this unique setting of Indian Lore.

The Cherokee Indians (Uplanders) are the largest and most important Indian tribe originally east of the Alleghanies, perhaps the highest in culture and intellectual receptivity north of Mexico. They are remotely related to the Iroquois. They were located in Tennessee, Cumberland Pass area, Georgia, and North Carolina. They had many villages of well-built log houses and were agriculturists, raising corn, beans, and pumpkins and were hunters. They sided with early colonists. After 1758, slaughter of some of the Cherokees at Fort Duquesne for horse stealing caused an Indian War to break out. In 1804 the tribe was christianized and in 1827 they became the Cherokee Nation. (Continued page 32)

LAST TOWN MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (Continued from Page 29)

The THUNDER GOD was really active during the evening of this program - flashes of lightning could be seen through every uncurtained window of the Council Chambers. Just as Mr. Knowles touched the wire holding an artifact to his exhibit board, lights flashed through all windows as well as inside the Chambers and a very loud clap of thunder roared forth! Everyone jumped!! By coincidence, a newspaper photographer took a flash picture at the same moment as the thunder and lightning and, for some reason, it looked as though a flame had sprung from the pointing finger of Mr. Knowles!

Granted the program was overly long and some people had to leave. However this always happens with Indian History. There is so much of interest, it is always difficult to cut down on the time. There was so much of interest and so educational that those who did stay, had difficulty leaving when they did, and Mr. Knowles is a walking encyclopedia of Indian Lore. He is the type of person who should be teaching this subject to College Students - how some professors can make these subjects so dry, I'll never know! The Society was fortunate to have Tommy as our guest.

Delicious cookies and punch was served by the Collation Committee: the Niles, the Brunskills, and Charles Edmonds.

By Lucy Rawlings Tootell

Before the arrival of the English, there were two kings ruling over the Narragansett Tribe, Canonicus and Mascus. The Sachem of the Wampanoag Tribe was Massasoit. At this time there were about 30,000 Indians in this area.

The Wampanoags were once the most powerful tribe but when the English appeared the Wampanoags had become the vassals of the stronger Narragansetts, a plague having sadly depleted Massasoit's followers. Fearing the Narragansetts, Massasoit became friendly with the English in the hope that they might help him to regain his former prestige. Canonicus and Mascus did not approve of this new found friendship of their rival. They kidnapped Squanto, the Indian interpreter for the English, and later took Massasoit himself. Sachem Canonicus sent to the English, a bundle of arrows tied in a snake skin but the English, not to be intimidated, returned the snake skin filled with powder and shot.

Most of the Narragansett warriors wished to accept this challenge. However, Canonicus, a wise and peace-loving Sachem, whose home was around the cove of Cocumscussoc (Wickford), insisted upon peaceful relations.

Peace was short-lived and again Canonicus prepared to lead a large force against the English and Wampanoags. This time they were saved by the warlike Pequot Indians who had recently driven a wedge through the middle of the Niantic Tribe dividing them into the Western Niantics (Old Lyme, Conn.) and the Eastern Niantics (Westerly area). The area around New London became known as Pequot. The insatiable Pequots prepared to march against the Eastern Niantics and on toward the Narragansett Country. Canonicus immediately cancelled his plans to attack the English and went to the assistance of the Eastern Niantics. The Pequots were pushed back across the Pawcatuck River by a very able General Sassawaw. As a reward, Sassawaw was made Sachem of the conquered territory of the Niantics which became a buffer state between the Pequots and the Narragansetts.

Evidently the Pequots must have made great inroads into South County as evidenced by a stone marker located in the village of Shannock between the Pawcatuck River and the Railroad overpass which reads - "1636-1936 SHANNOCK FALLS - Here the Narragansett Indians won a fierce battle against the Pequot Indians for possession of the Fishing Falls."

Fishing was important to the Indians and once there was salmon in these streams. MISQUAMICUT is named for the Indian word "salmon" and "Shannock" comes from MISHANNEKE meaning "Squirrel." Once it was MISHANNEKE FALLS, SHANNEKE RIVER, THE SHANNOCK PURCHASE (town of Richmond), and finally the village of SHANNOCK.

The book PICTURESQUE RHODE ISLAND states that "Of Indian relics which one may legitimately see . . . is a STATIONARY MORTAR, of which several are to be found . . . in the town of RICHMOND . . . As its name signifies, it was used by the aborigines for crushing corn and seeds."

Today the Pharmacist still uses a bowl or mortar and a blunt end stick, called a Pestle to mix his medicine. This same process

(Continued on Page 32)

32. INDIANS IN RICHMOND (Continued from Page 31)
of mortar and pestle crushing and mixing was used by the Indians and many of these artifacts have been found, usually made from wood or stone.

Obviously a STATIONARY MORTAR would be one which could not be moved. Then I remembered my Mother telling me that Janetta Lillibridge Brown once had a vast collection of Indian artifacts collected from the Lillibridge Plantation, especially around the area of Meadowbrook. Janetta took my parents to visit where now lies the most westerly path from the No. 1 Green to No 2 tee on the Meadowbrook Golf Course and proudly pointed out this granite rock, in the top of which had been laboriously hollowed out a perfectly shaped round bowl. This was one of RICHMOND'S STATIONARY MORTARS which indicated that this spot was probably a winter time encampment for some Indian family, ideally located near a fresh water stream and protected from the storm's icy blasts by the heavy growth of thick evergreen trees.

It is a tribute to our local Indians that their method of survival in the great outdoors is still followed by the twentieth Century Indians such as the Girl and Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. George Knowles, West Kingston, R.I. stated that there is another stationary mortar off North Road, Shannock, R.I.

Of course there must be other Indian sites of interest in Richmond - it is to be hoped that people will inform the Society of these.

Read: SOUTH COUNTY MAGAZINE, eighteenth edition, 1965
PICTURESQUE RHODE ISLAND (in Shannock Library)

LAST FIELD TRIP (Continued from Page 30)

By the time the tour group reached the home of Mr. & Mrs. Milton Kelley on Rodman Street, Peace Dale, R.I. they were starved. By luck, Leona Kelley had refreshments ready and sitting down in her charming colonial living room, not a cookie, piece of apple-sauce cake, or frosted cup cake was refused by anyone, dieters or non-dieters. The Punch in the wash bowl of an old fashioned console set was repeatedly replenished - the thirsty wayfarers would have drained the bowl even if the liquid had been served in the part of the console set usually found under the bed!

Leona's yard looked beautiful and she has one of the best kept old cemeteries in South County - Oh, that all old family cemeteries could look like this one where the Northups are buried.

Leona McElroy Kelley is the author of SOUTH COUNTY SCRAPBOOK published in the Westerly Sun and the Narragansett Times. She has written about her charming Colonial home which was once a school house. She showed the group some of her hand finished furniture, her historical library, her silver pieces made by local silversmiths - her glass bottle collection - and many other antique household objects too numerous to publish including a recently acquired antique car which brought a gleam into the eyes of her two sons, Charles and John. The Society is very grateful to Mr. & Mrs. Milton Kelley for allowing them to visit their lovely home and most, most, most grateful for chairs and refreshments. We are very happy they are members of our Society.

Vol. I No. 8 L.R. Tootell, Wyoming, R.I., 02898 OCTOBER 1968

NEXT RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOWN MEETING

The Sixth Town Meeting of the Richmond Historical Society will be held in the Richmond Town Hall, Tuesday evening, Oct. 15th, at 8 P.M. The program will be based on FACTS OF LOCAL INTEREST ABOUT GEORGE WASHINGTON and the 1969 Rhode Island Heritage Month Program. Members and friends are invited to bring any stories, facts, or items which could tie in with the above topic for our SHOW & TELL TABLE. As usual, the meeting is open to the public.

COLLATION COMMITTEE

The Collation Committee for the next town meeting will be: Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Handell, Co-Chairmen; Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hawkins, and Mrs. Olga Nimmo. Lucy Tootell will bring a table cloth and container for the liquid refreshments if needed. (See 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, November 5th at 8 P.M.

RICHMOND SCHOOL PTA SPONSORS HISTORIC FIELD TRIP

Mrs. Allan C. Warren, North Road, Shannock, R.I. announces an Historic Field Trip under the sponsorship of the Richmond School PTA Association for the benefit of the children and parents as well as the teachers and any historically minded adults who would care to join the group. The motordace will meet at the Richmond Town Hall on Saturday afternoon, October 19th at 2 P.M. Among the places of interest will be a visit to the Grist Mill in Usquepaugh. It is always advisable to wear comfortable shoes and bring a camera.

FORTY-FIVE FAMILIES HAVE BECOME CHARTER MEMBERS

The Charter Members listed on page 33 mentioned only forty-four Charter Members. This was in error and we apologize and immediately correct this grave error. May we proudly present No. 45. Mr. F.H. Houghton, Haversham, Westerly, Rhode Island.

DR. WILLIAM D. METZ TO SPEAK TO RICHMOND PTA ASSOCIATION

Dr. Metz, Department of History at the University of Rhode Island and President of the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society will talk on ASPECTS OF RHODE ISLAND HISTORY at the Richmond School Auditorium on Wednesday evening, November 13th at 8 P.M. I believe that the talk will be given before the business meeting so that grand parents could come and still have time to catch up on their beauty sleep. The public is welcome.

TODAYS EVENTS BECOME TOMORROWS HISTORY - HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

The Arbutus Garden Club is pleased to announce that HAPPY HOLIDAYS 1968, an idea show of holiday decorations, will be held on Saturday, November 16th at the Charho Regional High School, Wood River Junction, R.I. Doors will be open from 1 P.M. to 6 P.M. Donation is fifty cents - school children free.

36.

LAST TOWN MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The featured speaker of the evening spoke to a packed house at the last Richmond Historical Society Meeting. All credit for this interest in USQUEPAUGH goes to Mrs. Esther L. Kenyon who gave an eloquent and very instructive talk on her home village. Her own story (Read below) will aptly give the reader an idea of how interesting her discourse really was. With additional comments from Frank Dawley, Hope Blaine, and others, there were some very amusing comments on some of the local characters of a generation or two ago which do not bear repeating in this News Letter. The spontaneous laughter from the audience including the younger set indicated that this was the most relaxed and enjoyable program to date. Many thanks to Esther for her talk and article. Again the refreshments were ample and adequate due to the efforts of the Stuart Kenyons, Herbert Arnolds, and Frank Dawleys.

USQUEPAUG

By Mrs. Esther L. Kenyon

On the eastern edge of our town of Richmond is the small village of Usquepaug. It lies partly in Richmond and partly in South Kingstown. According to an 1850 map of the town, this village does not encompass a very large area. The map shows that it extends from the Begley place (now Parson's home) to Mrs. Hannah Palmer's (now MacLaughlin's). The area directly out of Usquepaug and in South Kingstown along what is now route 138 was known as WASHINGTONVILLE.

It is hard to realize that such a small area was such a thriving place and carried on so much enterprise. Originally it was called MUMFORD MILLS. It was possibly named this for Silas Mumford who had a "large estate" in the village, built a grist mill and later a carding mill. He invented a machine to take the burrs out of cotton. It was the first machine of this type! It is further recorded that the straight pin was invented in this village.

When the name was changed to USQUEPAUGH, does not seem to be on record. In the beginning it was spelled without the "h" which it acquired, so the story goes, when some postmaster had the "h" added on a cancellation stamp. It is a word without any change from the tongue of the Narragansett Indians meaning "good whiskey."

Because the natural water power of Queen's River was readily available, it was a likely mill site. This river rises in West Greenwich and flows along under various names until it flows into the Pawcatuck River, thence to the Ocean. Many mill wheels turned and several owners amassed riches manufacturing a cloth made mostly of cotton for the southern market for slaves clothing. During this era the village even boasted of a hotel owned by a James Webster. Over the bar a sign read, CASH OR BARTER. The Potter Mill raised on July 4, 1836, was called INDEPENDENCE MILL until the establishment of a Post Office in the village when it became known as USQUEPAUG MILL. This mill burned in 1866. The carding mill was not rebuilt so business was at a stand still and mill workers moved away. (Continued on next page)