

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 Bagley 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)

(Continued) The present Grist Mill was built by a John Tarbox. Charles Henson owned it and it was bought from him in 1909 by C.D. Kenyon the First. Previously Mr. Kenyon had owned and operated a country store in the village. This store housed the Post Office where he was Postmaster for nearly thirty-four years. The meal business became well established and although not operated by any Kenyons now, it still bears the name.

Col. John C. James also had a store in the village in those early days. He said "politics" had been his avocation since he was "knee high to a cricket." He always attended State Democratic Conventions and once even won on the National level. It is said that he always wore a tall silk hat to those affairs. He lived with his housekeeper, 'Lissie Prue, in the Prue House.

The only church in the village, QUEEN'S RIVER BAPTIST, was organized in 1819 in Dugway near the Exeter line. It later moved down to Washingtonville. The original building, struck by lightning was burned in 1909, was replaced by the present edifice.

The village school-No. 4 Richmond Joint with No. 18 South Kingstown-was also in Washingtonville. In an 1883 school committee report it tells of a three months summer term from June through August. In the early 1920's the children were transported to Beaver River School by Mr. Fred Brown in a covered truck. One Father was a good rabbit hunter so his family of three children, in season, brought along a lard pail of rabbit stew which was put on the school stove to keep warm. No doubt the delicious aroma was tantalizing to all. Without a doubt this was the FIRST HOT LUNCH PROGRAM IN RICHMOND!

Among the family names of the village were BIGLEY, PALMER, PECKHAM, WHITEHORD, KENYON, ANTHONY, JAMES, WEBSTER, & LOCK.

Dr. Anthony visited his patients on horseback using saddle pecks for his supplies and medications. Later, Dr. Edward Kenyon visited his patients with horse and buggy before he drove cars. No doubt he brought some of you folks into the World. His father, A.W. Kenyon, was State Senator for fourteen years and Harbour Commissioner for twenty years.

Today the village numbers about a dozen homes, the Grist Mill, and a new enterprise - WOOD AND WAX WORKS.*

* WOW!!!.(Remarks of the Editor)

(Continued from page 39) This is called the SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF RICHMOND. (Read Cole, HISTORY OF WASHINGTON & KENT C.p.732)

Returning to Route 138 along the Beaver River Road, we stopped at the old SAMUEL HOXIE ESTATE and visited the original RAM with its metal dome and feed pipe used to pump water from Beaver River to irrigate the fields in cultivation.

Last but not least, we stopped at the Beaver River Grove where we walked over steps and down into the field still part of the Samuel Hoxie estate. There, among the bull briars, is another cemetery which includes the grave of Clark Tefft (d.1830 in his 69th year) who lived in the Hoxie House. The stone had been erected by his son, John Tefft who lived along the Old Stage Coach Road that crossed Wilbur Hill and came out at the conjunction of the Beaver River Road and Route 138.

This field trip would have been of interest to men interested in engineering and mechanical devices. Everyone learned something now. Many thanks to the Arnolds and Dawleys for the time spent in preparing this trip.

Compiled by Virginia Arnold

1819, October 24, the Queen's River Baptist Church was organized at the home of Brother Henry Hubbard in South Kingstown.

South Kingstown, October 24, 1819

"At a convention of a number of brethren in the above said town, at the dwelling house of Brother Henry Hubbard, Elder William Northrup and brethren for the examination of a branch of the North Kingstown Church to see whether there be a church, and if so, to set them apart as a church of our Lord Jesus Christ. After hearing the brethren of the branch go through declaring what the Lord had done for them, and their views of a church in that place, saw the union among them, and we, the representatives of the church, that is Elder William Northrup, Samuel Tillinghast, William Sweet, James Hendrick, with others, agree that the Lord had placed a candlestick there, and the brethren representatives of the church gave them fellowship in the Lord and fear of God.

Signed, in behalf of the convention,

"Elder William Northrup"

Names of the brethren and sisters that were set off as members of QUEEN'S RIVER CHURCH at the time of the foregoing convention: Elijah Wilcox, Henry C. Hubbard, James Smith, Noah Wilcox, David Shuman, Jr., Thomas B. Tanner, Peleg Slocum, Ira Boss, Joseph Belcher, Mary Hubbard, Hannah Tanner, Sibil Dewley, Mary James, Sarah Belcher, Hannah Shuman, Joanne Smith, Elsie Durfee, Mary Babcock, Amy Mory and Abigail Sweet. It would also appear that twenty names set off to form the new church were members of the FIRST NORTH KINGSTOWN CHURCH, although upon examination of their records, only ten of the names were found, viz: Elijah Wilcox, James Smith, Noah Wilcox, David Shuman, Jr., Thomas Tanner, Peleg Slocum, Joseph Belcher, Hannah Tanner, Hannah Shuman and Abigail Sweet.

1819, December 4, the first meeting for business was held at the home of Elijah Wilcox, situated on the west side of the highway, about three-quarters of a mile north from the Dugway Bridge, which in 1919 was owned by a descendant of his, John T. Wilcox.

1820, April 1, the second meeting was held at the Nazareth, commonly called the Dugway schoolhouse, making it a permanent place of worship for the church until October 24, 1840, a period of 21 years. During these first years, the church had no regular pastor.

1822, Henry Hubbard, one of the original members, was ordained to the ministry and became the church's first pastor.

1840, October 24, the church changed its place of worship to the Washingtonville schoolhouse at Mumford's Mills (now Usquopaugh) situated on the plot of ground (in 1919) owned and occupied by Joint School District No. 4 of Richmond and No. 18 of South Kingstown.

1841, May 9, Rev. Henry Hubbard was stricken while preaching and died in a few hours after a pastorate of 19 years.

1841, Brother Ezekiel H. Locke was given a license to preach since the church was without a pastor.

1843, January 26, Ezekiel Locke was ordained and became the pastor. During his pastorate of 25 years, there were added to the church by baptism, 147; by letter, 14; by experience, 6; a total of 167. (Continued on next page)

1848, the Washingtonville schoolhouse burned and the church was permitted to return to the Dugway schoolhouse. 39.

1849, the new church, in the process of construction for nearly six years, was completed at the cost of \$1,051.00. To pay the debt of building, pews were let for as much as \$2.50 a year.

1902, the whole interior of the church was remodeled, movable seats and new heating apparatus was installed at a cost of \$600.00.

1908, August 5, the building was struck by lightning and totally destroyed.

1909 - 1918, the church was being rebuilt for nearly nine years, at the cost of nearly \$3,000.00 during which time services were held in the vestry. Rev. C.H. Palmer was the pastor.

1918, a centennial celebration was held. Deacon Albert Hoyle who was the church clerk wrote the church history of 100 years, from which most of this material was taken.

Mr. Hoyle wrote of the church, "It is a glorious record, but the mill cannot grind with the water that is past, and the church cannot exist on its past successes or efforts. We face the problems of the present. If the light, that has kept burning for 100 years and has shown the way for four generations, is still to be kept burning, the people of this community must awake from their lethargy." Rev. A.A. Gaisford was pastor at that time.

Records since 1918 are not readily available, but many years ago, the church was wired for electricity; the beautiful and comfortable pews will seat about 100 people. An Estey pump organ is still used at Sunday services and an occasional hymn sing.

1963, a lavatory was installed in the basement, due to the work of a faithful friend.

1968, a gas stove and a refrigerator were given by another friend and have been installed in the kitchen.

It is recorded that the first minister of the church, Rev. Henry Hubbard, was a blacksmith and a manufacturer of fine hoes, axes, and other edged tools. During his pastorate of 19 years, 49 were added to the church. He was stricken while preaching on May 9, 1841. He believed he was dying and requested that his grave be simple and that it be located on the Tanner Farm. The grave was outlined in small field stones, and later a permanent marker was placed there.

The graves of Henry Hubbard and his wife Mary were recently located in Historical Cemetery No. 54 in South Kingstown on the "Tanner farm." Nearby are the graves of Thomas B. Tanner and his wife Hannah, who were also original members of the church.

Next year, on October 24, 1969, this church will observe the 150th anniversary of its founding.

(Continued from page 40) once known as the Ned Shed Farm, where Frank showed us the oldest irrigation system in the town and the remains of the old overdriven irrigation pump, the barrel shape and metal gears still to be seen. This is known as a free flow pump. We also drove up to the old Shed homestead now owned by Mr. & Mrs. Ed. Trottier.

Returning to the South County Trail we continued south to MIXANO GROVE and followed the old road which runs along the back side of the Park. If the visitor walks into the woods directly opposite from the Mixano Grove Sign, he will come to a few foundation stones scattered over the ground. These were once part of the Boss Church where Elder Boss was minister. About fifty yards to the northwest of the Church location is a small walled square plot where Elder Charles Boss and his wife are buried. The Boss Church Congregation moved to Shannock and built the Church on the Shannock-Kenyon Road just south of the Railroad overpass. (See page 37)

LAST FIELD TRIP

About eight cars, twenty-five people and one bicycle were guided on a field trip to the Usquepaugh and Boss School District areas of Richmond by Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Arnold and Frank Dewley. Through to Usquepaugh the motorcade stopped to visit the Quaker Cemetery now owned by the town of Richmond. Unfortunately for posterity, the Quakers did not believe in marking their stones but, in the far northeast corner, is a cenotaph to one of Richmond's early pioneers who sold his home in Little Rest in 1714 and migrated to Richmond. This cenotaph reads:

FREEMAN OF THE TOWN OF WESTERLY, 1728

IN MEMORY OF

JOHN MOORE & HIS WIFE MERCY EASTON

PIONEER SETTLER OF ENG. BIRTH WHO BOUGHT

LAND IN NORTHERN PART OF THIS TOWN, 1704

DIED & WAS BURIED THERE 1753

THIS CENOTAPH GIVEN 1903 BY GR. GR. GRANDSON

BENJAMIN BARBER MOORE

MOORE

In Usquepaugh, the Arnolds pointed out the location of the several mills built by Mumfords and James B.M. Potter along both sides of the dam on the Queen's River. Master Arnold had cut away some of the briars and branches so that the group could walk up to the dam and foundations. From this angle, the pond is lovely for swimming and boating. Various buildings were pointed out and the stone marker and location on the bridge where the Richmond store (now gone) where the bar was partly in Richmond and partly in South Kingstown - very convenient for staying within the law.

A unique and charming experience was the visit to the Queen's River Baptist Church which will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 1969 with its still usable seventy year old Estey Organ. At the request of the guests, Virginia Arnold played the old organ and her husband, Herbert Arnold, led us in singing some good old Baptist hymns. This developed into quite a concert - Herbert Arnold has a very powerful and pleasing voice - I would consider him the Ezio Pinza of Usquepaugh - to me a delightful surprise. Oh I enjoy good singing. As the music floated heavenward from the throats of some sinners who probably had not been inside a church for years, it was undoubtedly a delightful surprise to God, as well! Just goes to prove another good reason for a historical Society!

After church, Frank Dewley took over! And does that man know his local history! Believe me, he really, really does! We were first escorted to the fields behind the Chase Farm, originally the Boss Estate where Frank pointed out the Boss Cemetery with stones as early as 1720 and where Peter Boss was buried in 1851. The original Boss House was out in the field as well as the first Boss District School house. On this same property was evidence of at least three Indian villages, a pit of unfinished arrow heads apparently where children were learning to make these artifacts and another stationary mortar similar to the one on the Meadowbrook Gold Course.

From there we drove to the old Heaton Orchard and on the South County Trail, (See page 39)

00 - \$3.00
 96820 R.I. 02898
 Nancy Rawlings Tootell
 RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. I No. 9 L.R. Tootell, Wyoming, R.I., 02898 NOVEMBER 1968

NEXT RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOWN MEETING

The Seventh Town Meeting of the Richmond Historical Society will be held in the Richmond Town Hall, Tuesday evening, Nov. 19th, at 8 P.M. We are fortunate in having as our guest speaker, Mrs. Eva Hinchliffe, Librarian of the Clarke Memorial Library in Shennock, R.I. who will talk on THE STORY OF THE PAWCATUCK RIVER which will include comments on the local industrial development along this important boundary line dividing Richmond from her sister town Charlestown. Those who enjoyed listening to Esther Kenyon will certainly want to hear Mrs. Hinchliffe.

COLLATION COMMITTEE

The Collation Committee for the next town meeting will be: Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dyson, Co-Chairmen; Mr. & Mrs. Russell Kenyon, Jr.; and Mr. & Mrs. Fred W. Havens. Lucy Tootell will bring a table cloth and container for the liquid refreshments if needed. (See page 11 for instruction)

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, December third at 8 P.M.

LAST TOWN MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At the October Town Meeting, Lucy Rawlings Tootell talked about two of her pet subjects i.e. GEORGE WASHINGTON IN SOUTH COUNTY (See page 43) and RHODE ISLAND HERITAGE MONTH (See page 42). On the SHOW & TELL TABLE, Carl Stoner displayed an artistically arranged collection of old nails taken from various old houses. This collection will be on display at a future exhibit on Local History.

We were very sorry that the Collation Committee was under the weather healthwise. In spite of illness, they furnished refreshments and only failed to be able to be present at the meeting. This shows the calibre of the Richmond Historical Society Members - this is the loyalty that makes an organization prosper and grow. We are proud of Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Handell and Mrs. Olga Nimmo and regret that we assigned these duties to them at this inauspicious time. Many thanks!

NEXT FIELD TRIP

The Seventh Field Trip of the Richmond Historical Society will take place on Sunday afternoon, November 24, 1968, at 2 P.M. The public is invited to meet at the Richmond Town Hall where comfortable clothes, walking shoes, and a camera are recommended. Earl Brunskill, Chairman of the Old Kenyon School District No. 15, is arranging an interesting tour of that area and will act as our official guide.

42.

RHODE ISLAND HERITAGE MONTH

The Rhode Island Heritage Month Committee, Inc. (Room 209, Roger Williams Bldg., Providence, R.I.) is a statewide organization whose members are officials of historic and preservation associations in Rhode Island. Through their efforts the annual observance is undertaken and the program of events is coordinated. It was first started in 1956 as HERITAGE WEEK to include and honor May 4th, 1776, the date Rhode Island became the first State to proclaim her independence from Great Britain thereby becoming the first free Republic in the New World. By 1966 the Statewide Observance was expanded into HERITAGE MONTH to facilitate better programming of Rhode Island's vast historical resources.

Each year the Rhode Island Heritage Month Committee and the Rhode Island Development Council publish a pamphlet which is mailed to libraries, museums, archives, and other public organizations and interested persons within the State as well as to interested Out-of-Staters who might like to visit Rhode Island at this time. For this reason, the Heritage Month Program should have appeal to the visitor and stranger of Rhode Island History - in the words of the Rhode Island Car Registration Plates - help them to DISCOVER RHODE ISLAND.

The Pamphlet selects a theme (See below)* and a Calendar of Events for the month of May. It also lists points of historical interest under the name of each town. For thirteen years there has never been one item of interest mentioned for Richmond - let's do something about this! Also let's have something to offer under the CALENDAR OF EVENTS for 1969!

Lucy Rawlings Tootell, present Vice-Chairman of the Rhode Island Heritage Month Committee is slated to become State Chairman for 1969. She hopes to have for the theme -

C A P I T O L C O U N T D O W N
FIVE TO ONE

This theme would emphasize the unique fact that the smallest State in the Union has had the most Capitols at any one time! To be specific, there have been five i.e. 1. Newport, 2. Providence, 3. Kingston, 4. East Greenwich, and 5. Bristol.

Eventually these Capitols became County Seats. Not until January 1901 did the State Legislature meet in one Capitol, the present beautiful State House in Providence.

This theme would aptly cover the political development of Rhode Island's Five Counties with its many ramifications. 1969 is a good year to make the public aware of the great heritage rightfully belonging to Washington County!

* DATE	CHAIRMEN	THEME
1956	David Patten	
1957	John T. Murphy	
1958	Ellsworth S. Harding	
1959	Same	
1960	Same	Flags Over Rhode Island
1961	Same	Independence and Union
1962	Same	Architecture and The Arts
1963	Dr. William D. Metz	Ships, Sailors and Seaports
1964	Same	Pioneers, Planters & Patriots
1965	Same	Words & Music
1966	Same	Merchants & Manufacturers
1967	Ellsworth S. Harding	Proudly We Hail
1968	Roswell S. Bosworth, Jr.	Front Page News

GEORGE WASHINGTON IN SOUTH COUNTY

43.

In writing about a County History, the first item of interest would be WHY THE NAME? Why WASHINGTON COUNTY?

George Washington traveled through Rhode Island four times, in 1756, 1776, 1781, and 1790. This Third Trip, in 1781, was on horseback through South County then called KINGS COUNTY in honor of Charles II of England.

Fortunately for historians, Washington kept meticulous records of his expenses. Tench Tilghman, his aide de camp, kept a memorandum of expenses on this 1781 journey from New Windsor to Newport and return and shows the following places where money was spent: Vendenburgs, Morehouses, getting a horse out of Bulls Falls, Litchfield, Farmington, Hartford Ferry, Bolton, Traceys at Norwich, Lothrop's at Norwich, Norwich Ferry, Preston, KENNIONS, Potters at Little Rest, Narragansett Ferry, Conanicut Ferry, and Newport. (Read WRITINGS OF WASHINGTON, p. 328, note 87-Dec. 1780-April 1781- Edited: George Washington Bicentennial Commission, U.R.I. Library 308 W277 V.21)

It would be fascinating to trace the exact route that George Washington took through South County.

After he left Preson, Conn., he stopped at KENNIONS. Was this in Richmond?

According to tradition, Washington traveled through Hopkinton City. Janetta Lillibridge Brown claimed her family said he traveled by way of Quarrelsome Corners over the old Stage Coach Road via Kenyon Hill and Wilhour Hill. Frank Dawley's family told that he stopped at Kenyon's House now the home of Mr. & Mrs. Richard Millar on the Hillsdale Road. Tradition also claims that he passed by the old Merchant House located just across from the entrance to the Great Swamp Fight Monument.

This KENNIONS referred to had to be somewhere between Preston, Conn. and POTTERS AT LITTLE REST which was the Thomas Potter Tavern in Kingston, R.I. once a gambrel roof building situated in the northwest corner lot at the intersection of Kingstown Road and North Road in Kingston Village.

George continued on east where Jeffrey Watson made an interesting entry in his journal of March 6, 1781: "General Washington rode by our house with about twenty soldiers for a guard about ten o'clock." The Narragansett Ferry was the later named SOUTH FERRY (site of U.R.I. Oceanography Buildings). He continued on to Conanicut or Jamestown Ferry and landed at LONG WHARF in Newport. LONG WHARF is still so named.

The citizens of South County or KINGS COUNTY had become sick of English Kings by this time and, as they loved their new hero, George Washington, changed the name of their area, after this 1781 trip, from KINGS COUNTY to WASHINGTON COUNTY.

Knowing the exact route of George Washington is a very important part of the heritage of a county named for him. It is to be hoped that everyone will try to do some research on this so that we will have something specific to offer the public by May 1969, the next Rhode Island Heritage Month.

NEW MEMBERS

46. Misses Emily & Louise Hoxie, Peace Dale, Rhode Island

GIFTS TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PAMPHLETS FROM THE OLD STONE BANK
GIFTS OF: Mr. Frank Dawley

- 68.16.1a The Cove
 68.16.1b Washington's Third Visit to Rhode Island
 68.16.1c Washington's Fourth Visit to Rhode Island
 68.16.1d The Episcopal Church in Rhode Island
 68.16.1e The Early Catholic Church in Rhode Island
 68.16.1f Rhode Island and the Telephone
 68.16.1g Fish and Fisheries of Rhode Island
 68.16.1h The Blizzard of '88
 68.16.1i Fenner Castle
 68.16.1j The Political Saviour of Rhode Island (Samuel Gorton)
 68.16.1k Admiral de Ternay
 68.16.1l The White Man Conquers
 68.16.1m A Yankee From Cranston (Israel R. Potter)
 68.16.1n Fire! Fire!
 68.16.1o A Man of Action (Oliver Hazard Perry)
 68.16.1p Builders of Pawtucket
 68.16.1q The Old Market House
 68.16.1r Newport and Our Navy
 68.16.1s An Unknown Destination (The French in the Revolution)
 68.16.1t Awashonks and Church
 68.16.1u Silas Talbot
 68.16.1v A Terrible Man of War (Captain John Dennis)
 68.16.1w Washington's Second Visit to Rhode Island
 68.16.1x Huguenots in Rhode Island
 68.16.1y Rhode Island Ferries
 68.16.1z The Middle Campus
 68.16.1aa Post Roads and the Mails
 68.16.1bb Early Printing in Providence
 68.16.1cc The First Rhode Island Elections
 68.16.1dd Odd Characters of Old Narragansett
 68.16.1ee Fort Ninigret
 68.16.1ff Indian Traits and Customs
- 68.17.1 Article on Rhode Island
 National Geographic Reprint, September 1968
 Gift of: Rhode Island Development Council
- 68.18.1 SOUTH COUNTY MAGAZINE 1965
 Article: "Rhode Island's Last Frontier"
 Written by Lucy Rawlings Tootell
 Gift of: Lucy R. Tootell
- 68.19.1 Community Service Report 1957
 Richmond Grange No. 6
 Gift of: Mrs. Richard I. Millar
- 68.20.1 Views taken after Foundry fire in
 lower Hope Valley.
 68.20.2 Same.
 68.20.3 Same.
 Gift of: Mr. Earl Smith

THE SHANNOCK PURCHASE

45.

The disposition of lands in the town of Richmond seems to have been a difficult matter for years, and the general assembly appointed a committee to dispose of vacant lands held by authority of the Colony. This committee sold a large tract June 28, 1709, known in the records as the SHANNOCK PURCHASE. This tract extended from Exeter line on the north to Pawcatuck River on the south; on the east it was bounded by Beaver River, and on the west, by a meridian passing at the west end of the cemetery at the Wood River Church.

BOUNDED:

North - Exeter Line
South - Pawcatuck River
East - Beaver River
West - Meridian passing at east end of cemetery at Wood River Church.

The purchasers of this tract were twenty-seven in number, among whom were:

PURCHASERS:

	(Alphabetical Order)
1. James Adams	1. James Adams
2. John Tifft	2. George Babcock
3. Daniel Wilcox	3. Daniel Brown
4. Thomas Utter	4. Joseph Brown
5. Peter Parker	5. Weston Clarke
6. Eber Crandall	6. William Clarke
7. Daniel Tennant	7. Francis Colgrove
8. William Utter	8. Eber Crandall
9. Samuel Lewis	9. Jeremiah Crandall
10. John Enos	10. John Enos
11. Nicholas Utter, Jr.	11. George Foster
12. Daniel Brown	12. William Gibson
13. William Gibson	13. Samuel Lewis
14. Weston Clarke	14. Peter Parker
15. William Clarke	15. Samuel Perry
16. George Babcock	16. Daniel Tennant
17. George Foster	17. John Tifft
18. Samuel Perry	18. Nicholas Utter
19. Joseph Brown	19. Nicholas Utter, Jr.
20. John Witter	20. Thomas Utter
21. Nicholas Utter	21. William Utter
22. Francis Colgrove	22. Daniel Wilcox
23. Jeremiah Crandall	23. John Witter

(REFERENCE: Cole, HISTORY OF WASHINGTON & KENT COUNTIES, page 705)

DATES OF TOWN INCORPORATIONS:

1669 - Westerly

1738 - Cherlestown

1747 - Richmond

46. DO WE NEED A VIGILANTE CREW TO OUTRACE THE WRECKER???

In the Providence Journal, November 7, 1968, it stated, "Remnants of an Indian schoolhouse on YMCA-owned land in Charlestown, demolished several weeks ago by contractors working on orders of YMCA officials, will be salvaged and restored on property owned by the Narragansett Indians, it was announced last night after a meeting between tribe members and a YMCA official."

If the local historical societies had had a volunteer group of strong men and trucks ready to dash in and save the above building before the wreckers arrived, much of the old Indian School House could have been moved. Many people were interested but there was no time to contact and seek out these individuals in time to salvage this historic landmark. This is an obvious example that some group has to be ready on a moment's notice to go right in and take over. This same thing is happening time and time again to old buildings in South County. If money is not easily available, what other choice is there? The only answer is volunteer labor and "minuteman astuteness" and a very active grapevine system.

Now is the time for all towns to list and record any places or buildings still in the community which should be preserved and now is the time to ascertain that these historic places are going to remain standing under the present ownership. If not, some action should be taken - it is too late to wait until demolition begins - the time is NOW! The time is NOW to organize a VIGILANTE CREW!! Let's get going!

One wonderful thing has come of this tragic happening - the town of Charlestown has formed a Charlestown Historical Society. They held an organization meeting at the home of the President of the Richmond Historical Society, Lucy Rawlings Tootell, and they have elected a most charming, enthusiastic, and able President, Mrs. Brenda Brophy. Richmond welcomes her Sister Society and wishes her the best of success!

Mrs. Tootell is hoping that all local societies in the County will be willing to send a representative to a group to be organized in the near future which will correlate the interests of the entire County, possibly to be called WASHINGTON COUNTY HERITAGE COUNCIL. This Council would be helpful for R.I. Heritage Month programs and might be responsible for the VIGILANTE CREW. The history of our County is so interrelated, it would seem that such a Council is feasible and practical for arranging programs, tours, and future publications.

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

Vol. I No.10 L.R.Tootell, Wyoming, R.I., 02898 DECEMBER 1968

NEXT RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOWN MEETING

The Eighth Town Meeting of the Richmond Historical Society will be held in the Richmond Town Hall, Tuesday evening, Dec. 17th, at 8 P.M. All members in the audience are asked to participate in the theme CHRISTMAS MEMORIES by bringing old time tree decorations, Christmas Cards, or unique presents and to be prepared to tell briefly about how YOU CELEBRATED CHRISTMAS AT HOME OR AT SCHOOL WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG. Herbert and Virginia Arnold will lead us in Yuletide Songs. The Collation Committee will be: Mr. & Mrs. Richard Millar, Mr. & Mrs. Earl Brunskill, Mr & Mrs. Carl J. Stoner, and Lucy Tootell. There will be no field trip this month.

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, January 7th at 8 P.M., at which time, other Washington County Historical Society Presidents will be invited to join with them to form a County Heritage Council and plan for Rhode Island Heritage Month in May 1969. Lucy Rawlings Tootell is now official Chairman of Rhode Island Heritage Month.

LAST TOWN MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

By Patricia Millar, Secretary

Lucy Rawlings Tootell, President, has succumbed to HONG KONG FLU which is sweeping the country this year. J. Carl Stoner, vice-President, presided.

The featured speaker, Mrs. Eva Hinchliffe, spoke on THE STORY OF THE PAWCATUCK RIVER, describing the early mills which were established on this small but busy river which bounds the southern edge of the town of Richmond. Mrs. Hinchliffe's practical comment sense of humor lightened the facts of yesteryear considerably. Some of these mills represent family genealogies, as the businesses passed from relative to relative.

The group was pleased with a little light hearted, romantic, bantering between Dan James and Mrs. Hinchliffe (both octogenarians), when Dan suggested she should have made herself more available when he was paddling his canoe down the Pawcatuck River in his earlier days. It seems that Dan and a young friend would annually prove their stamina by traveling from Providence to the Atlantic Ocean at Watch Hill by canoe, portage, rail and again by canoe; the Pawcatuck being their most strenuous bit before the ocean itself. Danny told of favorite resting places and his tone intimated that more than one young lady had admired his prowess with the paddle and suggested that Mrs. Hinchliffe had missed out on a gay ride or two, by not being around. Mrs. Hinchliffe, of course, responded with quick witticisms and wondered how he got back home; which question prompted Danny to tell of canoeing steadily from Watch Hill to Wickford in the rolling ocean. He said they were tired boys when they landed ashore! The cookies and coffee were good.

THE PAWCATUCK RIVER STORY

By

Eva Hinchliffe

Many of you, I am sure, have read or heard about a book called THE TOWN THAT SAVED A STATE, which tells the story of how the inhabitants of Westerly, years ago, stubbornly withstood the demands of Connecticut on one side and Mass. Bay Colony on the other, and allied themselves with the Colony of Rhode Island, thus guaranteeing its boundaries.

If a town could save a State then this story is how a river, the Pawcatuck, helped build that State all along its course; for our particular interest in this story, that section that lies along the banks of the river separating Charlestown and Richmond.

In that period when vast glaciers swept over New England and changed the face of the land; down here in our locality, between cracks in the surface, flowed a small stream running out of a larger body of water which we now call GREAT or WORDEN'S POND. That was our river. It has had various names: Pawcatuck was the original Indian name, given it by the Narragansetts: Dr. John Clarke, associate of Roger Williams, called it THE NARRAGANSETT: the local Indians had their own special name, THE SHANNUCK, meaning "squirrel": less than fifty years ago maps designated it as the CHARLES RIVER: but it seems now to have settled back to its original, THE PAWCATUCK. It is only a stream of a few miles in length, but oh such a busy and useful stream. Before the white people came into this section, the Indians over-ran the land. They were the Niantics, and the river was their source of food and water and their means of transportation. They were often at war with other tribes, especially the Pequots who then held sway over most of the Connecticut land. Each claimed fishing rights to the Pawcatuck and history tells us of many fights between them. One that was known and has been recorded on a marker to be seen to this very day, was at the Shannock Ford in that village. The tribes fought savagely for many hours, we know that many chieftains were killed and were given burial in a large gravel pit just beyond the River Ford. When the present railroad was built in the early 1800's, then called the Providence & Stonington Railroad, it passed almost directly over this same ford. Much gravel was removed from the pit for use in construction and while digging, the workers uncovered the relics of many Indian Braves, the bones still fastened to posts so that the bodies could be buried in an upright position, a custom reserved for Indian royalty.

Our first records of the white people coming into the southwestern part of the R.I. Colony were about 1630. A tract of land was purchased (Roger Williams insisted that the natives be paid in some way for the land taken), a tract comprising all of what is now the combined towns of Westerly, Hopkinton, Charlestown and Richmond. This big area was called MISQUAMICUTT. Nearly a hundred years later, in 1709, a portion of land on the north side of the PAWCATUCK RIVER and including practically all of what is now the town of Richmond, was bought and settled by a group of twenty colonists. The list included many well-known family names: Utter, Babcock, Clark, Brown, Crandall, Green. This was called the SHANNOCK PURCHASE. (Continued on page 49)